

FREE Metro

News you can use



Miss Lesotho 2020 on the cards

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EVERY THURSDAY

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LESOTHO ATTEMPTS TO SCALE-UP BEEF PRODUCTION

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WiseWORDS: There are two types of people who will tell you that you cannot make a difference in this world: those who are afraid to try and those who are afraid you will succeed. ~ Ray Goforth

The Metro, Florida Industrial Park, Ha Hooхло, Maseru. P.O.Box 14129, Maseru 100, Lesotho.



On This Day in History



1952
Military seizes power in Egypt
 In Egypt, the Society of Free Officers seizes control of the government in a military coup d'état staged by Colonel Gamal Abdal Nasser's Free Officers. King Farouk, whose rule had been criticized for its corruption and failures in the first Arab-Israeli war, was forced to abdicate and relinquish power to General Muhammad Naguib, the figurehead leader of the coup. The revolutionaries redistributed land, tried politicians for corruption, and in 1953 abolished the monarchy. In 1954, Nasser emerged from behind the scenes, removed Naguib from power, and proclaimed himself prime minister of Egypt.

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- WASCO: 22262000
- LEC: 52100000
- Police Station: 22317262
- Airport: 22350777
- MRTD: 2232 5494
- Ombudsman: 22316425
- Metro News Tips: 2232 5494
- Border Control: 22325740

Essentials

- Trader's License: M1000/-
- Company Certificate: Free
- Travel Passport: M130 - M400
- National ID: Free
- Driver's License: M200
- Car Registration Certificate: M135 - M265
- Number plate: M60 - M400
- Special permit: M60 - M400
- Fitness: M120 - M400

Technology



New view of nature's oldest light adds fresh twist to debate over universe's age
 From a mountain high in Chile's Atacama Desert, astronomers with the National Science Foundation's Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) have taken a fresh look at the oldest light in the universe. Their new observations plus a bit of cosmic geometry suggest that the universe is 13.77 billion years old, give or take 40 million years. The newly calculated estimate precisely matches the one provided by the "standard model" of the universe and measurements of the same light made by the Planck satellite.
 "The standard model, the one behind Jim Peebles' Nobel Prize, comes through with flying colours," said Lyman Page, Princeton's James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Physics, who was the ACT's principal investigator from 2004 to 2014.
 This adds a fresh twist to an ongoing debate in the astrophysics community, said Simone Aiola, a visiting research collaborator (and former postdoctoral researcher) at Princeton who is the first author of one of two new papers released today on the findings. Along with the papers, the researchers are also sharing years of ACT data and sophisticated software tools on NASA's LAMBDA archive. The controversy: In 2019, a research team measuring the movements of galaxies calculated that the universe is hundreds of millions of years younger than the Planck team predicted. That discrepancy suggested that a new model for the universe might be needed and sparked concerns that one of the sets of measurements might be incorrect.
 "Now we've come up with an answer where Planck and ACT agree," said Aiola, who is also a researcher at the Flatiron Institute's Centre for Computational Astrophysics in New York City. "It speaks to the fact that these difficult measurements are reliable." Princeton University

Lesotho attempts to scale-up beef production



NEEDED: Meet producing cattle

KABELO MASOABI
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MASERU – The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in collaboration with Kerchin consultancy recently held a virtual conference to establish possibilities of setting up a meat production farm in Lesotho.

According to the principal livestock development officer, Matšepo Mohai, the conference was based on the feasibility study that the ministry undertook regarding red meat production, as agriculture is identified as the priority in economic growth under National Development Strategic Plan (NSDP) II.

She said the study will help the ministry to make informed decisions on livestock trading, adding that the focus is on beef production. Mohapi further mentioned that the study was done on the agro-ecological zone, which represents highlands and lowlands of the country, highlighting that breeding of red meat production will be across the country.

As per agreement between the government and the investor, the latter had proposed to slaughter 500 cattle per day for beef production, hence, the feasibility study which aims at establishing if the ministry has capacity to meet the proposed standard of the investor.

Mohapi said the study will also serve as a guide as to how many

cattle to be used per day, adding that currently the country cannot produce the 500 as proposed, but the study will pin a way forward.

She said the ministry will purchase breeding cows for the establishment of the breeding centres in the country, adding that farmers will be trained on breeding production and management of such breed.

She noted that this project is aimed at changing the livelihoods of Basotho farmers and the economy of the country.

Other stakeholders who attended the meeting were representatives from various government ministries including Development Planning, Finance, Trade and Industry, Small Businesses Development, Cooperatives and Marketing, Home Affairs as well as the private sector, farmers and Kerchin Meat Industry Lesotho (PTY) LTD.

A memorandum of understanding between the Lesotho government and Kerchin Meat Industry Lesotho was signed on April 1, 2019. The Ministry of Agriculture shows that currently beef is the most-consumed source of animal protein in the country followed by pork.

The ministry further notes there is a lack of accredited abattoirs, with most meat being supplied through informal slaughter facilities.

Apart from a few isolated instances, neither export nor

import of beef takes place, and there is limited capacity in the pork production value chain.

This situation looks set to change, with the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), also, presently finalising plans for a large integrated piggery project, having sealed a deal with South African company Number Two Piggeries.

The corporation is also involved in a project to scale-up the production of beef.

Making up approximately 62 percent of agricultural GDP, the livestock subsector in the country comprises primarily cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry.

Cattle are raised mainly for subsistence, draught power, milk, fuel (dung) and meat, while pigs are reared solely for food. Sheep are kept for meat production and wool as well as hide production with goats a source of meat as well as mohair and hides.

Livestock farming – in particular wool and mohair – has been singled out as one of the country's most important value chains.

The success of the project is also pinned on the management of Lesotho's rangelands as imperative for supporting livestock development and the production of red meat, hides, wool and mohair.

Well-managed rangelands also help to protect wetlands and recharge water resources.

38 million
Fast FACTS
 38 million children under the age of 5 were overweight or obese in 2019. In 2016, more than 1.9 billion adults, 18 years and older, were overweight. Of these over 650 million were obese.
 Most of the world's population live in countries where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight. Over 340 million children and adolescents aged 5-19 were overweight or obese in 2016. Kuwait has the highest number of obese women adult population aged 18 and over at 45.6% in the world as per 2016 figures.

Jargon Buster

Financial system
 The firms and institutions that together make it possible for money to make the world go round. This includes financial markets, securities exchanges, banks, pension funds, mutual funds, insurers, national regulators, central banks, governments and multinational institutions, such as the IMF and World Bank.

Cracks

The Bishop's Confession
 A story is told of a delegate of priests headed by a bishop. In the aircraft in which they were travelling were other diverse people. Suddenly there was a problem: one of the aircraft's engine stopped working. Everybody was gripped with fear. Nobody wants to die. After a while another announcement was that the second engine has stopped working too, that all should prepare for anything. Instantly, there was a long queue of people confessing their sins. The priests and the bishop also confessed to each other. Third announcement was that all is well again: the engines are working now. The bishop quickly and quietly went to the priest who heard his confession and said to him: "I did not mean all that I told you, I was only joking!"



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- Covid-19 related deaths mounting
- Judiciary confirms case of Covid-19
- U.S. helps Africa CDC deliver COVID-19 test kits to Lesotho



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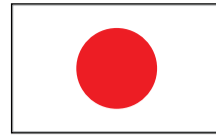
American Dollar
US\$16.50



Europe's Euro
€18.93



British Pound
£20.96



Japanese Yen
¥0.15



Chinese Yuan
¥2.37



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COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS	PRICE (US\$)
S&P500	3,235.44
NASDAQ100	19,792.00
Nikkei225	22,717.48
Dow Jones30	26,623.60
FTSE 100	6,263.36
JSE	56,265.00
Hang Seng	25,057.99
PRECIOUS METALS	PRICE (US\$)
Gold	1,815.54
Platinum	849.50
Silver	19.74
Copper	6,474.11
Crude Oil / Brent Oil	42.99
EQUITIES	PRICE (US\$)
Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	7.67

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	M15.00		

ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M11.40
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M11.60
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M11.95
500PPm p/litre	M11.95
Paraffin p/litre	M6.85
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

Tobacco price doubles

...leaving low income groups vulnerable



DOUBLES: The price of tobacco products

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – Scarcity of tobacco has attracted skyrocketing prices amid Covid-19 impact on the business between Lesotho and the neighbouring South Africa.

Since South Africa introduced a ban on the sale of tobacco when it imposed national lockdown that also led to the closure of almost all border gates it shares with Lesotho, it has become difficult to access cigarettes imported from SA with normal prices.

At the beginning of the national lockdown

that commenced in April in Lesotho, most ordinary smokers relied on low-priced illicit tobacco sold by street vendors on the pavements of the country's towns.

But stalls selling these wide ranging brands mostly smuggled from South Africa soon ran out of stock, following closure of borders separating the two countries.

According to Morabe Monyakane, an economist and public speaker, that pushed for businesses to take advantage of the high demand in the market by raising prices of remaining genuine brands that are still in

circulation.

"For example: a carton of Peter Stuyvesant (10 boxes of 20 sticks in each box) used to sell below M500 but now it goes for unregulated price of between M950 and M1 200. A loose stick that used to be M3 is now sold for M5 and M6 varying with places.

"The pinch of this excessive charge is mostly felt by the poor because the illicit tobacco trade often has the biggest impact on individuals in low socio-economic groups, as these smokers are most sensitive to prices.

"Even with these high prices, addicted smokers fail to give up, and inaccessibility to cheaper cigarettes leaves their families financially compromised. The government was also losing money in uncollected tax on illicit cigarettes while the tobacco industry was suffering from unfair competition," he indicated.

In a statement of March 2, the British American Tobacco (BAT) which is a leading tobacco and nicotine products group said it is estimated that illicit tobacco products make more than 15 percent of the total tobacco products in Lesotho.

BAT further showed that the Lesotho government lost about M17 million from illicit cigarette sales in 2019 alone.

"Cigarettes will be smuggled from all over the low taxed jurisdictions within the region, including South Africa and sold in the informal markets of Lesotho. The government is set to lose at least M93 million per annum in taxes,"

the company also warned.

In 2018, the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) confiscated 38 boxes of RG cigarettes containing 380 000 sticks worth over M1.1 million at the Maseru Bridge. RG was reported as an illicit cigarette as it is usually sold below the M20 threshold of the packet of cigarette.

The cigarettes that were confiscated were smuggled by hawkers and were not declared. No excise duty was paid either, LRA said in a statement.

The illicit trade in tobacco products poses a serious threat to public health because it increases access to tobacco by making cigarettes more affordable.

People who otherwise might have quit smoking continue to smoke, and people who might never have started smoking initiate a habit that will cause them harm, and that they are likely to regret in the future, warned International Agency for Research on Cancer.

When he was the Minister of Finance, Dr Moeketsi Majoro who is now the Prime Minister had said, "The problem the country is faced with is that of taxpayers who are already paying for medical expenses arising from tobacco-related illnesses".

He spoke of the government's proposed tobacco levy to discourage people from smoking.

"The levy is the government's belated attempt to begin to share the costs of dealing with tobacco-related medical expenses and possibly to lower tobacco use within our people," he said.

However, in their statement, BAT had argued that the proposed tobacco levy will enable massive lucrative opportunities for smugglers whilst punishing taxpaying enterprises.

Legal and external affairs manager of BAT, Nelson Jequé said, "The levy will push up the pricing of legal cigarettes thereby creating bigger opportunities for illegal industry in Lesotho."

The firm's main argument was that Lesotho was paid a lot of money from the SACU pool in 2018/19 Financial Year – 35 percent of the country's revenues.

"The cigarette sales within SACU contributed over M15 billion of the total SACU revenue pool. A levy of 30 percent on cigarettes will mean that the price payable on a pack of 20s cigarettes that are legally sold in Lesotho increases to M53.50 per pack. Meanwhile, the illicit cigarettes will remain at M20 per pack," attested Jequé.

Other experts showed that, since illicit cigarette trafficking is also a cross-border issue, a regional strategy for affected countries is needed.

It should provide for joint law enforcement operations, intelligence sharing and better legislation to curb the production and smuggling of illicit cigarettes. This would enable a concerted effort from the region to tackle this growing form of organised crime.



NEO SENOKO

Consumer unit calls on govt on surging food prices

MASERU - Local retail outlets mainly run by Chinese and other Asian nationals, should be brought under control by the Ministry of Trade against the continuous surge in food prices, the local Consumer Protection Association (CPA) has warned.

Since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic in Lesotho, food prices have been on the rise, resulting in a serious panic on the side of consumers.

Notably, maize meal and bread flour prices have almost doubled in recent months and prices keep surging. This is despite the fact that government has been consistently calling for food and commodity prices to stay normal.

The CPA has pointed a finger at the Ministry of Trade to take action against quite a small group of Chinese supermarkets that has been taking advantage of the prevailing situation.

"Under normal circumstances it is not a good thing to regulate the market because we do not want to be a command economy. But with the current situation, the Ministry of Trade should really take action to protect consumers," CPA executive director, Nkareng Letsie said in an interview with Metro on Wednesday.

This, he said is because it will be difficult for government to even think of food subsidy because it is broke. Subsidising certain products, he said, will mean that government may have to look into external borrowing, a decision that can be detrimental in the long run.

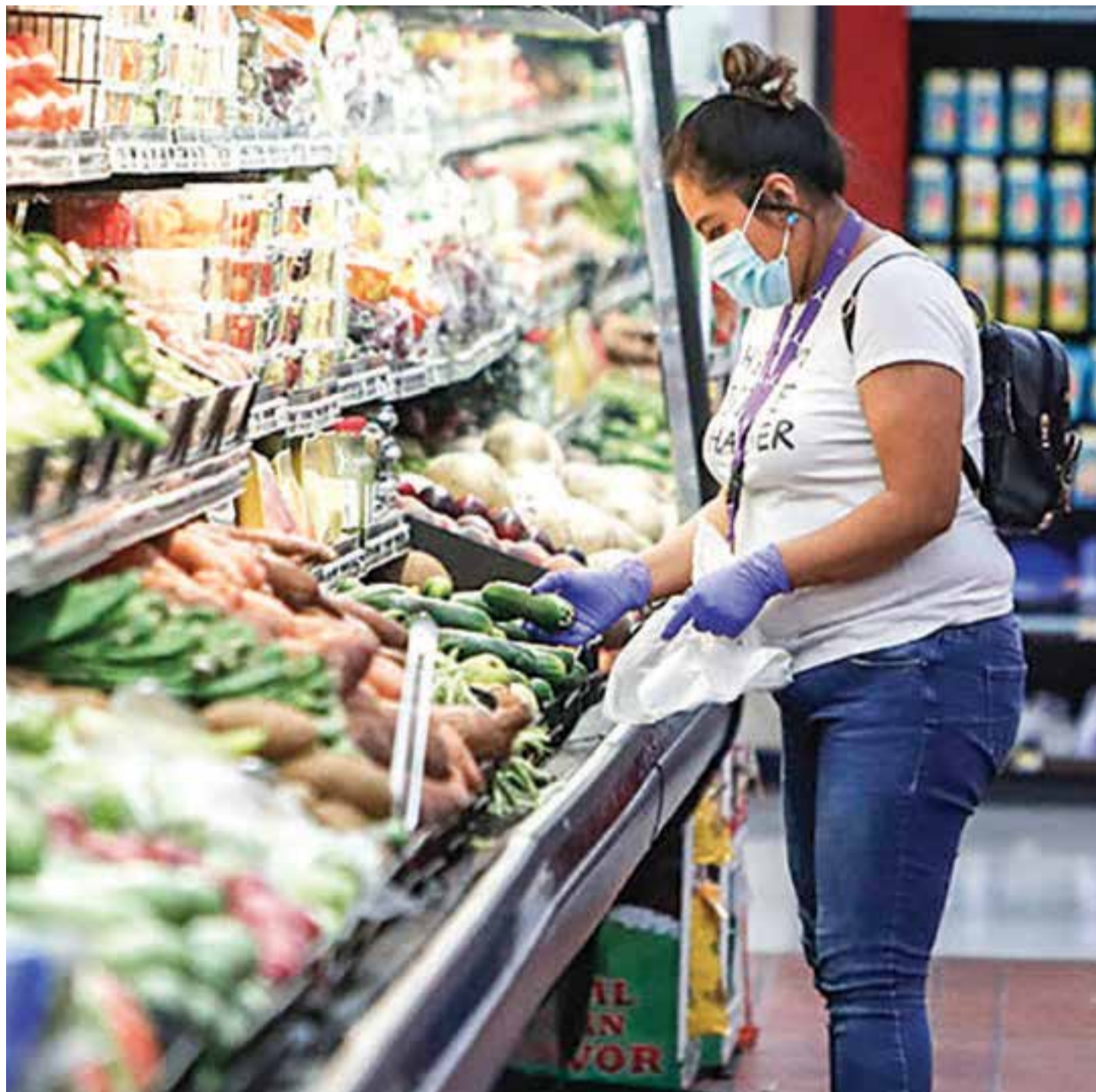
"Economic conditions have deteriorated, not only in Lesotho but across the world. That means it would be difficult for government to meet consumers halfway because even the Ministry of Finance has since explained that there is no money.

"The best way forward is that government should deal accordingly with these supermarkets because they are taking advantage. It is just a small group that can be easily dealt with," he added.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Trade had previously told this paper that it is difficult to control commodity prices as almost all of the products are imported prices.

The ministry revealed, however, that the matter is being discussed at a regional level to try and control the situation as it is not only happening in Lesotho.

Price controls would mean a direct economic intervention by government to manage the availability of certain goods though on the other hand the economy should keep going even under these tough conditions.



SURGING: The prices of food in Asian owned retail outlets

Prime Minister raises hope for local farmers



PROMISING: Premier Dr Moeketsi Majoro

GERALD MOLUPE

MASERU - The government has once again solemnly pledged to buy grains from local farmers to ease the grip of hunger and poverty as there is a mounting frustration among the nation triggered by the Covid-19 surging figures.

A narrative from the government that it would buy the locally produced grains to satisfy the market during this pandemic is a trite phenomenon.

In March when the government called for a total national shutdown, former Prime Minister Motsoahae Thabane said the government would buy from the local farmers to assist the masses affected by hunger induced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Now the Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro has uttered the same sentiments in his speech delivered through state media on Saturday night.

The premier's press attaché Mosito Moqhekoana says the government promises to buy maize and beans from local farmers and grind that maize into mealie meal while the beans will be packed.

He says the products will later be donated to the nation badly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, adding that farming is the best way to fight poverty.

Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA) became proactive and took to the communities NUA 45 beans which are locally produced.

The association gave these beans to the pupils in schools who were badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as part of their food parcels.

The initiative is to make this locally produced product known to the nation so that they can support the local market.

Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of people tremendously. Lesotho has 359 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 pandemic and six deaths officially registered while there are only 69 recoveries recorded.

The Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU) programmes manager Khotso Lepheana says local farmers will be able to supply the demand but is not sure to what extent given the rate at which food parcels are being distributed to the nation at this time.

He says they have been struggling to get

market for ages but hopefully they have now finally secured one from the government.

In the past local farmers had an informal market that could not sustain them for a long time because it was too limited.

"What the Prime Minister has said is a motivation for us," Lepheana says, but adds it seems they will not be able to supply for the market because the Covid-19 pandemic had not been planned for and the produce may not meet the expected demand.

He says in any given commercial farming, one has to search for the market and produce later knowing exactly what quantity is needed in the market.

Lepheana says Dr Majoro has already met them pleading with them to produce in large quantities in the coming summer cropping season so that they can be able to satisfy the local demand.

He, however, could not confidently promise to satisfy the local demand, adding that this is a lesson that they should produce more in the next ploughing season.

Currently, food prices, especially the staple foods are seen shooting up making it difficult for many poor households to buy.

Basotho miners dying of Covid-19 in SA

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Basotho miners working in South Africa have started to die due to the Covid-19 pandemic, reports have shown.

Metro has it on good authority that the pandemic has recently killed at least two miners, one from Mafeteng and another from Leribe.

The paper has established that the pandemic is currently wreaking havoc to many lives in different mines in South Africa. Almost every day there is a report of a Covid-19 related death in the mining industry, even those that are coming from other neighbouring countries.

With these developments, the Ex-Miners Association of Lesotho has expressed deep concern over the level of awareness and the way information is being disseminated through the mining industry.

The association confirmed to Metro that indeed Covid-19 related deaths have been reported, saying that due to the level of illiteracy among Basotho miners, education that is being provided about the pandemic may be difficult to comprehend.

"Most of these people did not go to school at all and are therefore away from all the structures that are being employed to create awareness and provide updates on the pandemic.

"We can also confirm having received reports of Covid-19 related deaths among Basotho miners. We always receive reports on a regular basis. Even those who are coming into the country through illegal ports of entry normally report to us when they get home," the representative of Ex-Miners Association of Lesotho Rantšo Mantsi said in an interview with this paper on Tuesday.

Mantsi said his association should be capacitated financially to be in a position to provide education about the pandemic to Basotho miners in the diaspora.

According to him, only his association can help miners to understand what Covid-19 is, as they both speak the same language.

“

We can also confirm having received reports of Covid-19 related deaths among Basotho miners.

"We are the ones who can help these people during this tough situation because we understand them better. This should be done using the language they can easily understand. Relevant methodologies should be employed with regard to education and dissemination of information provided to these people.

"It should be noted that most of them cannot read and hardly listen to the radio and very unfortunately no one wants to give us a chance to help our people. It is therefore safe to say that to date, many of them still do not know what is happening," Mantsi further explained.

The association went further to take a jibe at government, saying that the latter disregards miners in this country.

This, the association shows is despite the fact that the miners also represent a large part of the population, particularly in rural areas of Lesotho.

"The people that are running the government do not care about us at all. We do not exist in their vocabulary and that is another worrying factor. Even civil society organisations are not willing to help us despite the fact that we are card-carrying members of such organisations," Mantsi said.

The association likened the pandemic to the 1980s when HIV/AIDS first came into picture in Lesotho.

Basotho miners ended up contracting the disease due to lack of education as well as being neglected by the authorities.

Many of them died and families were left suffering, Mantsi recalls.



PERISHING: Basotho miners in South Africa of Covid-19

sheet•street

Introducing
THE ECO RANGE

In addition to our initiatives, we're excited to be launching our range of eco-friendly products, all made with the environment in mind.
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50 stores nationwide

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3. Percale Pillowcase Continental R99.99

Smallholder tree producers grappling for market

MASERU - Winter is almost over and spring is upon us and ideally thousands of smallholder farmers specialising in production of trees would be smiling all the way to the bank as thousands of their trees would be bought and planted around the country.

In recent years, the sale of trees from nurseries of small farmers around the country has nose-dived deeply leaving scores of farmers reeling from the unexpected withdrawal. The main buyers of farmers' trees over the years have been the government through the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security as well as a number of international and local non-governmental organisations.

For many years, Lesotho has been hailed as the next big thing in the production of quality fruits be it apples, grapes, peaches and other varieties of fruits that are suitable for Lesotho's temperate weather.

However, very little has been done to exploit that potential to the maximum. Lesotho's fruit industry market is still predominated by imported fruits mainly from the neighbouring South Africa. Despite the relatively underdeveloped fruit industry in Lesotho, there are some farmers who have made baby steps to explore the Lesotho's virgin market. For example, in 2012, Likhothola Fruit Farm based in Mahobong was born. The farm is one of the flagship projects that give one a rare glimpse of the largely untapped potential of the fruit farming in Lesotho. The farm produces peaches, plums, apricots and apples and exports to South Africa; thanks to the generous support by the World Bank. However, the farm's impact in minimising the large influx of South African fruits is a drop in an ocean considering that it covers less than 20 hectares of land.

Despite having huge potential of creating jobs, the government seems to have no clear strategy of managing the industry. For over a decade, the government invited small farmers to supply the government with trees to supplement the overstretched supply from government nurseries. Initially, many small farmers benefitted



GRAPPLING: Local tree producers for market

substantially but with each passing year, it has become more complicated for small farmers to sell their trees to government.

According to Toka Khesa, a pensioner who has a small nursery in Toll Gate, Nazareth, and the process is unpredictable.

"I have over 3 000 peach trees ready for planting this spring- they have been ready for the past two years. Officers from the Ministry of Forestry came and selected over 100 trees and promised to come back but it's been two years since that promise - no call, no visit from any officer till now."

Khesa is even planning to withdraw from producing trees altogether because he feels that the government has let him down.

His frustrations are shared by one veteran farmer, Phatela Thamae of Ha Ntse whose farm produces over 7 000 different tree plants per year.

Thamae is also a budding wine-maker who is fast making inroads in Lesotho's non-existent wine industry. According Thamae, the procurement process of buying trees is mired with fraud and nepotism.

"As small farmers whose livelihoods are entirely dependent on tree production, we are in direct competition with senior government officers who also have their own orchards and nurseries. Instead of supporting us, they become our competitors," he says.

According to Thamae, growing trees is a painstaking process.

He adds: "It takes two full years to grow a fruit tree before you can sell it. Along the whole process you have to hire people whom you have to pay at the end of each month. The last thing you want after such a frustrating process is to go up and down looking for buyers."

Lack of transparency is exacerbated by the fact farmers are not organised - there is no umbrella organisation that engages with government to ensure that there is transparency, fair pricing and quality control.

Thamae notes: "We used to have an association as tree growers but it never reached its full maturity. Fruit industry should learn from wool and mohair farmers - this industry needs firm government control to reach its full potential. We need representatives to negotiate with government on our behalf; we cannot go anywhere as long as we work in silos."

It is still a struggle also for



farmers

who specialise in indigenous trees such as 'Cheche' and other shrubs to sell to government. This is despite the fact that the government made a clarion call that indigenous trees and shrubs be planted in large numbers to replace large tracts of indigenous forests and shrub land destroyed by excessive use for biomass, overgrazing and climate change. There are more than 400 forest reserves established under the Lesotho Woodlot Project and some are in danger of disappearing due to encroachment by human settlement with thousands of trees cut down without being replaced.

Reports indicate that out of 10,362 ha of woodlot established until 1992, only 60% or 6,131 ha are stocked at present (60%). Replanting of 4,231 ha is required to re-establish the originally planted area.

Ironically, the vision of the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation is that the Ministry "...shall be a well-focused institution, equipped with competent professionals guided by client needs and led by research in executing duties geared towards sustainable land management".

There are many reasons why the ministry, as well as other ministries, might have failed to effectively coordinate key activities that might have

helped it realise its vision chief among them being successive fragile governments that have been bedeviling Lesotho since 2012 and in the process changing ministers in no less than four times in the space of seven years.

According to experts, fully exploiting value chain of tree planting has huge potential of opening other avenues of job creation as well. For example, in South Africa as a result insatiable need for fresh fruits in the market, "fruit orchards across South Africa are expanding rapidly, and it is estimated that the number of beehives available for pollination will have to double over the next decade to meet demand. Calculations have shown that 65 000 hives are required for the deciduous fruit industry as it stands, with additional 30 000 needed during the next decade as new orchards come into production. The seed and berry industries collectively require 50 000 hives over the next 10 years.

The macadamia industry needs 160,000 beehives to optimally pollinate the 40,000ha of macadamias, yet the industry is set to

double in size over the next decade" ("Making agriculture more bee-friendly", Farmer's Weekly July 8, 2020). Similarly, commercial bee-rearing in Lesotho is still concentrated on few individuals whose hives are already not enough for the few orchards already existent in Lesotho. Thus, there is need to diversify investment in tree planting to create the scarce job opportunities in Lesotho.

Lesotho is classified as one of the least treed countries in the world and the need for more trees cannot be overemphasised. There is an urgent need for government to help tree growers to organise themselves into one unit that will actively work towards farmers' interests while at same time helping the government to achieve one of its main objectives which is to increase the area of land under cover (exotic and indigenous trees) established and owned by local people either individually or communally including business sector. Most importantly, there should be clear cooperation between all concerned ministries that are directly and indirectly involved in the production of trees in general.

This coordination of activities between ministries will be made easier if there is an updated inventory of woodlots as well as private orchards.

SA extends its longest economic slump since 1945

PRINESHA NAIDOO

The South African economy extended its longest downward cycle since 1945 as restrictions to curb the spread of the coronavirus weighed on output and are set to hurt household finances even more.

The economy entered the 80th month of a weakening cycle in July, according to data in the Reserve Bank's Quarterly Bulletin released Thursday last week. That's after a nationwide lockdown that started on March 27 shuttered most activity

and weighed on output. Business and consumer confidence languish at multi-year lows, with many firms having closed permanently and thousands of jobs lost.

Household finances that deteriorated in the first quarter are likely to get much worse. Net wealth fell to 330% of nominal disposable income, compared with 360% in the three months through December, according to the report. That's as a sharp drop in share prices due to virus-related panic trading weighed on the value of

assets held by households, the central bank said. South Africa's main stock index declined by 22% during the period, the largest decline since the third quarter of 1998.

Portfolio outflows surged to M97.56 billion (\$5.85 billion), the highest level on record. That's due to the net sales of debt and equity securities by non-residents, as well as the redemption of a \$1.6 billion international government bond, the central bank said.

About 3 million fewer people

were employed in April, according to a National Income Dynamics Study-Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey. A third of all income earners in February weren't paid in April because they lost their jobs or were furloughed, the study showed.

Growth in nominal remuneration per worker slowed to 4.1% in 2019 compared with 4.9% a year earlier, central bank data showed. That the lowest since 1970.

Public sector nominal wage growth per worker more than halved to 6.6% in 2019 from a recent

peak of 13.7% in 2010.

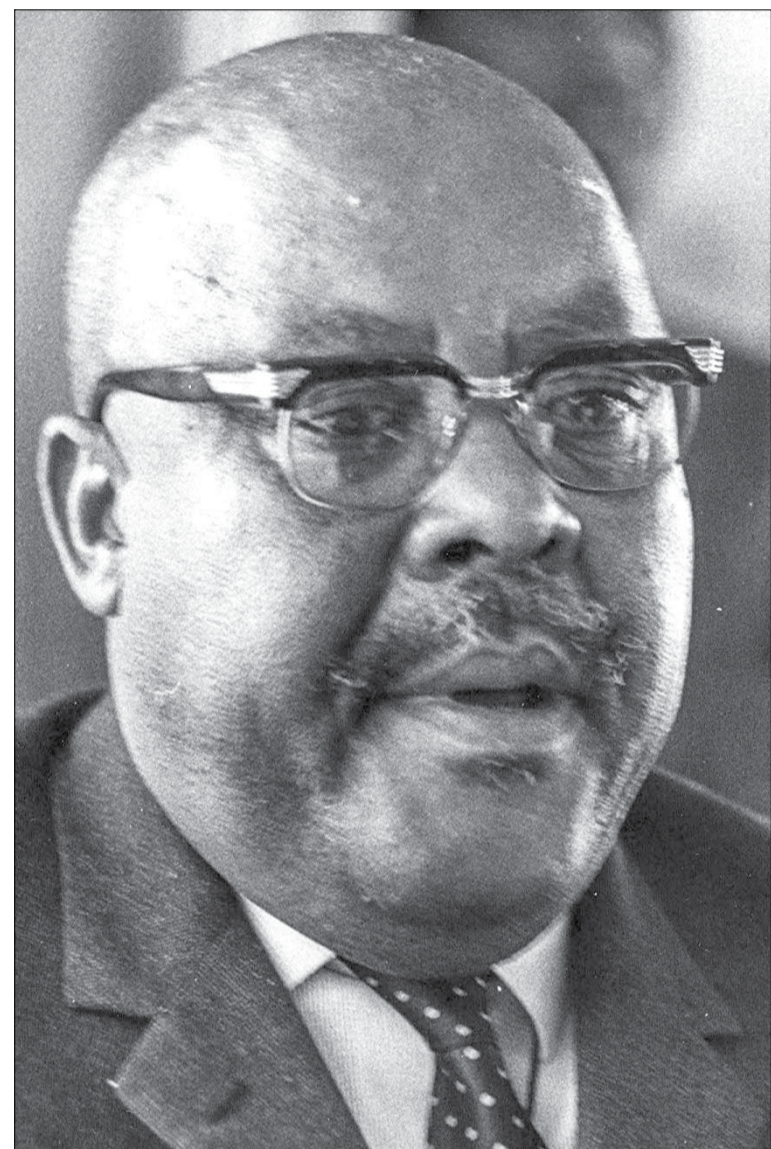
"Household finances ought to be affected by both an increase in unemployment and a loss of income as the salaries of some employees, in particular in the non-essential industries, were reduced during the lockdown with knock-on effects such as debt repayments," the Reserve Bank said in an emailed response to questions. "The effect on household income will likely impact overall demand in the economy."

Bloomberg

The Lesotho Economy and Its Discontents

"Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days."

(James 5:3 - New International Version)



Former Prime Minister the late Chief Leabua Jonathan

Warm greetings fellow Basotho and our guests from faraway lands who reside in our beautiful Mountain Kingdom!

I am privileged to have been offered this platform to contribute to the national conversation on issues pertaining to Lesotho's economy. I am neither an economist nor a major in business administration. I am simply a curious Mosotho woman who reads widely about various topics not limited to my chosen profession.

I also happen to lecture in the Law of Business Associations and in Labour Law in the Faculty of Law at the National University of Lesotho to final year LLB students.

championing in this column is that of viewing Lesotho, not as a country per se, but as a publicly listed corporate entity, let us call it Lesotho Inc, where every single Mosotho, man, woman and child, is a shareholder. For far too long, Basotho have been excluded from enjoying the spoils generated by their economy, such as it is.

Our welfare as the citizens of this country has been sacrificed to a poorly articulated developmental agenda that has resulted in nothing but economic marginalisation for most Basotho. Our economic development agenda is poorly articulated because it is not authentically Basotho, for Basotho,

Community (SADC) and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and continental bodies like the African Union (AU) whose precursor was the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) also have an impact.

Why, even international businesspeople allegedly connected to international criminal syndicates have had a hand in some rudimentary form of economic policy formulation! Our enclave economy status means that our economy has also been impacted by developments in the country inside whose belly we geographically exist, the Republic of South Africa. I grew up in the Eastern Cape town of Butterworth, in the former Republic of Transkei and have lived and worked in various parts of South Africa.

I have family scattered all over South Africa and in some parts of the SADC region. I am a realist and a pragmatist and know that our geographical location means that, to a large extent, economic policy formulation for Lesotho and Basotho cannot happen in a vacuum that disregards the fact that we are an enclave economy.

Not only that, the global economic structure and its imperatives means that Lesotho is constantly balancing several competing interests in order

to maintain some level of economic functionality.

These competing interests range from worker collectives such as trade unions, to domestic capital and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and everything else in between including our membership of the regional, continental, and international bodies some mentioned above.

The sophistication of this circuitry is enough to make one's head spin, and yet, we all, regardless of our level of formal, Western education, need to grapple with certain features of our economy, well, because, in the infamous words of former US President Bill Clinton's election campaign strategist, James Carville, "It's The economy, Stupid!" Instead of "stupid" I will use a Sesothoism and say, "It's The Economy Nnuku!"

We complain daily about the lack of basic service delivery and the lack of a proper healthcare system (whose discontents are now quite apparent in this COVID-19 era). We are flabbergasted that our youth who have been graduated from our tertiary institutions have, for the past 15 years, been caught in the grip of a graduate unemployment crisis the likes of which we have never witnessed as a country.

We have uninformed debates

about why the BCP government of the early 1990s offloaded and semi-privatised the crown jewel legacies of Morena Leabua Jonathan's BNP government.

We have such embarrassingly uninformed discussions not knowing that a suit from the World Bank came in and out in a jiffy, stayed in a luxurious suite at the former Lesotho Sun and imposed on that government an economic blueprint that should have been titled, "How To Stifle The Economy of a Least Developed Economy To Death."

Well, it was not quite so dramatic! The larger point I am making is that we are tragically uninformed about our economy, the very "thing" that decides the bread and butter issues that affect us daily.

We should, in fact, be obscenely obsessed about the Lesotho economy, its circuitry domestically and beyond, and work towards owning it via Lesotho Inc. Let us journey together and explore what prospects Lesotho Inc has for us Basotho #ForGodAndCountry. I thank you!

Mothepa Ndumo is a Legal Academic at the National University of Lesotho, Industrial Sociologist and Certified Executive Coach. www.higherselfcoaching.org

BUSINESS UNUSUAL

MOTHEPA MAKHELE-NDUMO



I cannot hope to instruct our future leaders in those courses if I do not have an appreciation for the broader economic context and landscape shaping the regulatory choices that our august Parliament makes year in and year out. It is an entire ecosystem that decides what you and I are going to have for lunch.

We should therefore be concerned about the economy and the circuitry that constitute our economic system such as it is.

One of the ideas that I will be

by Basotho.

No sir, no madam, instead, from the pre- and post-colonial periods up till now, we have had injections of policy formulation shots from different external stakeholders.

These external stakeholders range from international agencies belonging to the United Nations (UN) family, to international aid agencies with enough clout to even dare try and dictate an economic trajectory for us. Regional bodies like Southern African Development

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This is Lesotho...

... In News



HAILED: His Majesty King Letsie III

His Majesty King Letsie III has been hailed as the supreme bond for the nation after he handed over a M2million cheque for the fight against the Corona virus.

This was after the national celebrations for the King's birthday on July 17, were cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The rotational national celebration was to be held in Berea this year. The King, however, urged all responsible to use the money effectively in mitigating some of the challenges that Lesotho has faced since it registered the first patient to now where the numbers are in their hundreds.

Basotho have expressed fury and huge concerns as the government tries to put in place new regulations to effect some restrictions as a way of curbing the corona virus spread in the country. Amongst the most unfair calls, they have mentioned restrictive numbers of only up to 10 mourners in funerals as well as five people for weddings, meaning the pastor at the ceremony or marriage officer, the bride and groom as well as their witnesses (maid and best man). The government is yet to intensify the laws as it fears the worst in the surge of the virus spread.

... In Politics



THREATENED: AD leader Monyane Moleleki

The Alliance for Democrats (AD) has refuted reports that there is a leadership scuffle in the party that could even see the ousting of the founder leader, Monyane Moleleki.

At a press conference this week, deputy leader, Prof. Ntoi Rapapa said the unfounded allegations were being brewed by AD's enemies to disrupt the current growth rate and trend at the party.

AD has seen significant growth in recent times managing to get two ABC MPs to cross to them in Parliament. Recent reports also show that the BNP's youth league's deputy secretary general as well as the former deputy leader, Chief Joang Molapo are likely to defect to AD in the coming weeks.

MoneyMatters make it count

How Aliko Dangote became the richest person in Africa

WARREN CASSEL JR.

At the age of 21, Aliko Dangote borrowed \$3,000 (M50 000) from his uncle to import and sell agricultural commodities in Nigeria, his native country. His business venture quickly became a success, and as a result, he managed to repay the entire loan within three months of starting operations. For the ninth time in a row, Dangote was the richest man in Africa in 2020, with an estimated net worth of \$10.1 billion (M172 billion). The business empire he began to build more than three decades ago, Dangote Group, is one of the largest private-sector employers in Nigeria as well as the most valuable conglomerate in West Africa.

Dangote's business interests encompass many industries, including oil and gas, consumer goods, and manufacturing. About 80% of his conglomerate's revenue comes from Dangote Cement. According to Forbes magazine, the subsidiary produces 44 million metric tons of cement every year and operates in 10 African countries.

Dangote also owns the world's third-largest sugar refinery, and together, all of his publicly traded companies make up a quarter of the market capitalization of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

Aliko Dangote turned a local commodities trading businesses into a multibillion-dollar corporation. Here's how he did it:

Born in 1957, Dangote grew up in an entrepreneurial household in Kano State, Nigeria. He was raised Muslim and lived an upper-class life. Dangote's grandfather, Sanusi Dantata, was once named one of the wealthiest people living in Kano. He made his fortune selling commodities like oats and rice. Dantata became Dangote's guardian in 1965 after the death of his father.

Having spent much of his childhood with his grandfather, Dangote quickly became interested in the world of business, once saying, "I can remember when I was in primary school, I would go and buy cartons of sweets [sugar boxes] and I would start selling them just to make money. I was so interested in business, even at that time."

At age 21, Dangote graduated from Egypt's Al-Azhar University, considered one of Islam's most prestigious universities. It was there the budding entrepreneur furthered his education in business.

After graduating from college in 1977, Dangote managed to convince his uncle to lend him money to start a business. The funds from the loan allowed him to import soft commodities at wholesale prices from international suppliers. Two of his main imports were rice from Thailand and sugar from Brazil. He then sold those items in small quantities to consumers in his village at a lucrative mark-up. The venture quickly became successful and turned into a cash cow. In an interview with Forbes, Dangote claims that on his best days, he was realizing a daily net profit of \$10,000 (M170 000). That allowed him to repay his uncle in only three months.

Cutting Out the Middleman

In 1997, Dangote realized that acting as a middleman was a very costly endeavour, so he built a plant to produce what he had been importing and selling for the previous 20 years: pasta, sugar, salt, and flour. Around the same time, Dangote was awarded a state-owned cement company.

Dangote significantly expanded the operations of the company in 2005 by constructing a multimillion-dollar manufacturing plant. The construction was financed with \$319 million of Dangote's own

money in addition to a \$479 million loan from the International Finance Corporation, a sister organization of The World Bank.

Each of his manufacturing divisions has since been separated into publicly traded companies: Dangote Sugar Refinery PLC., National Salt Company of Nigeria PLC., Dangote Flour Mills PLC., and Dangote Cements PLC.

Dangote has always reinvested the majority of his profits back into his businesses - one reason the company has grown so much since inception. During an interview with Al Jazeera News, Aliko Dangote explained, "We [Dangote Group] are not doing like other Africans who keep most of their money in the bank. We do not keep money in the bank. We fully invest whatever we have and we keep on investing. (sic)"

Unlike many wealthy Nigerians who made their fortune in oil, Dangote initially chose to go down a different path, but he has since entered the oil and gas industry. In an effort to put some of his cash reserves to work, Dangote purchased an oil refinery in Lagos in 2007. He hopes the refinery, which is scheduled to be at full capacity by the end of 2020, will significantly reduce Nigeria's reliance on international suppliers for oil and gas. The \$10 billion refinery in Nigeria is expected to produce 650,000 barrels of oil per day.

Aliko Dangote's journey to fortune is not a rags-to-riches story. He came from a wealthy family that was able to provide financial assistance to start his business. Over the years, Dangote has expanded into new business segments, including telecommunications, real estate, and steel manufacturing. Today his holding company, Dangote Group, is the largest conglomerate in West Africa. His title as "richest man in Africa" seems only to be one he'll hold for years to come. Investopedia

Out of The Ordinary

Cuban dons full-body cardboard shield against coronavirus

Ever since the novel coronavirus reached Cuba, a tall cardboard box with arms and legs can be seen tottering around a Havana suburb, popping into the bakery or butchers, or browsing the newspaper stand.

This is Feridia Rojas, 82, who decided to build and wear mobile housing to shield herself from the virus that is particularly deadly to seniors in a country where personal protective equipment is not sold at stores.

"I am at home, what about you?" reads a message on her box, in a witty nod to Cuba's coronavirus slogan "Stay at home."

The widower, whose daughters both live in the United States, said that with no one to run her errands she had to find a way to do so safely by herself, illustrating the resourcefulness and humour for which Cubans are renowned.

"I was worried about the asymptomatic cases who could cough just as I passed," she said. "So I thought: I'll do a little house with a cardboard box and wear it."

The retired Cuban nurse salvaged the box from the pharmacy in her Palatino neighbourhood and cut arm holes and a window



for her face that she covered in clear plastic.

On top, she glued cake boxes to make it look more like a house with a roof than a flat-topped apartment building.

"She's very creative," chuckled her neighbour Zayda Echemendia, adding that Rojas still helped locals with injections at home and the like.

While her mobile home may be less necessary as Cuba's outbreak appears to have come under control, Rojas said it still provided necessary comic relief.

"In the midst of this pandemic, this stress and anxiety all the time, my little home makes people laugh," she said.

Reuters

Metro HEALTHY Living

Govt. strengthens fight against Covid-19

MASERU - Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro has commended the National COVID-19 Secretariat (NACOSEC) for the impressive role it is playing towards fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his national address on Saturday night, Dr Majoro said a new Covid-19 response strategy has been successfully drawn and will be the basis for actions and restrictions to be imposed at different levels of the pandemic spread.

He said so far the country has registered six deaths, adding that there could be many others out there, as some may have not been reported.

However, he said the government is in discussions with Ministry of Home Affairs and mortuaries to report cases they come across.

He said the country imposed a total lockdown while there were no confirmed cases to protect Basotho.

This he said, however, had a negative impact on the economy of the country at the time.

Following this, Majoro said the government decided to implement some protective measures before returning things to normal.

The new government, he said through the office of the Deputy Prime Minister held some consultations to map the way forward. He said those consulted include some experts from within the country and beyond our borders.

He said as a strategy, Lesotho will continuously calculate the

reproduction rate of the Corona virus spread, through which the country will at least know how many people are being infected by one positive person.

He noted that the government plans to have a reproduction rate of less than one person, stating that if it continues to be above one, the country will be in a state of crisis.

He introduced new levels which will assist the nation to understand this pandemic more clearly.

These include green level, below one (which is the government goal), blue level, between one and 1.5 (some measures to be implemented to go back to green level), purple level, between 1.5 and two, orange level - between two and 2.5 and red level, which is above 2.5 infection rate.

The Prime Minister said currently, the country is in the orange level (at 2.04 rate), therefore pleaded with the nation to strictly follow some measures that include avoiding gatherings of more than 50 people, especially at funerals and weddings.

In this orange stage, the government is also banning all political rallies and public gatherings, unless, such are meant for the fight to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government he further showed will produce a gazette which is expected to be put in place immediately after being issued this week.

He stated some expectations will be to have only a couple, best man

and bride's maid and the pastor at the wedding.

Funerals he said should be held in an open space, attended only by family members and 10 men expected to assist at the graveyard.

The funeral service he said should be over by 10am.

He said the government prohibits people to attend among others schools, initiation schools, churches, sport, political and public gatherings expect those intended to disseminate COVID-19 information.

He also said as Thaba-Tseka is the only district that has not registered any case thus far, there is going to be movement restrictions between districts except those intended to disseminate COVID-19 information or for essential services and trips.

Dr Majoro said there inmates will not be visited except for health purposes.

He said the government has also among others restricted international travel, adding that upon arrival in Lesotho people from other countries will be screened and quarantined.

He further asked for cooperation of all as they are to register while accessing services so as to enable their easy tracking if need arises.

He said factories are expected to put in place two shifts, so as to divide workers or engage them in halves.

On the issue of public transport, Dr Majoro said minicabs (4+) should ferry three people, mini taxi



RARING TO FIGHT: Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro

(15 seater) nine people, sprinter (22 seater) 13 people, while a bus (65 people) will ferry 35 people.

He added that the driver and conductor are responsible for social distancing, fumigate the vehicle and open windows for ventilation.

Mines are encouraged to ensure that there are camps and screen workers regularly.

Government further encourages people to use internet and other new technologies to exchange money to avoid cash exchange as it could also

be a super-spreader of the virus.

To address poverty, the premier said farmers have been engaged by being urged to produce more food for public consumption. Government promised them that they will start by buying their products.

During his address, the Prime Minister presented before the public both the Minister of Health Motlatsi Maqelepo and NACOSEC chairperson Thabo Khasipe as the leadership of the country in the fight against COVID-19.

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No racism here, but brown is better than white

Diabetic and can't do without rice? Ok don't ditch it completely but at least switch to its brown variant. Brown rice is a whole grain and is low in glycemic index. As opposed to white rice it does not spike the glucose levels in blood rapidly after the meal.

Tennis Elbow

Tennis elbow is an overuse injury that may be associated with playing racket sports. Plumbers, painters and those in similar professions are also at risk. Tennis elbow involves inflammation of the tendons on the outside of the elbow caused by small tears. Tennis elbow causes pain and may be associated with a weak grip.

Development, growth and reproduction

Development is all of the changes the body goes through in life. It includes the process of differentiation, in which unspecialised cells become specialised in structure and function to perform certain tasks in the body. Growth is the increase in body size. Reproduction is the formation of a new organism from parent organisms.

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

Menstruation has nothing to do with Covid-19

LINEO MABEKEBEKE

Having periods is healthy and normal, it is not a sign of illness, but there are many myths surrounding menstruation and Covid-19 circulating around the world such as it is a symptom of the diseased.

Another common myth is that women on menstruation are more likely to infect others.

Puleng Tjopa says such myths have no medical explanation but can increase the stigma of menstruation.

She says menstruation supplies are essential items, and economic disruption can lead to women and girls losing access to hygiene

products, including sanitary towels as well as tampons.

Tjopa is working on a project which aims to help provide teenage girls and young women with sanitary towels.

She notes: "We are dedicated to ensuring that women living in poverty have access to the knowledge and products they need to manage their periods, teaching them about menstrual hygiene, and warning against the dangers of using a cloth."

For many women, their periods are a time of embarrassment, fear and shame, she says, adding that it is still considered a taboo in many cultures, leading to a lack of knowledge and

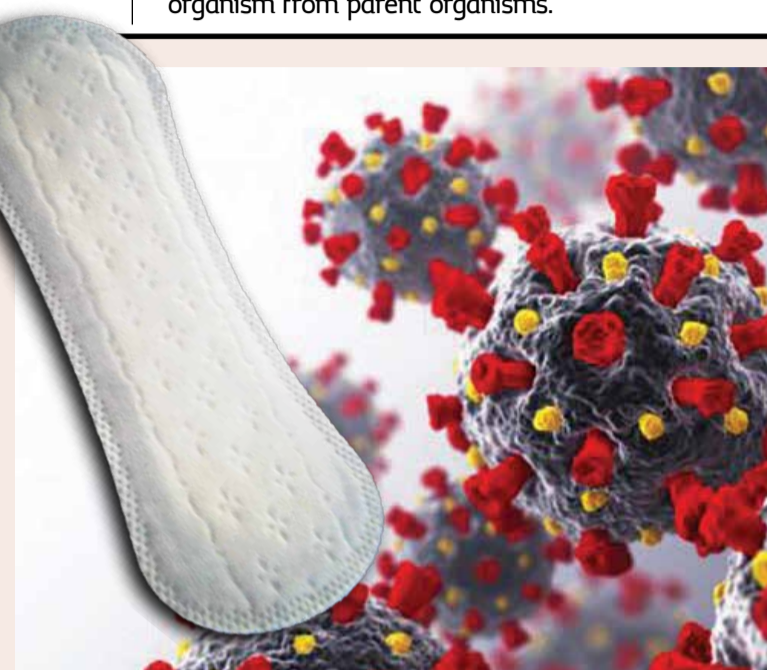
unhygienic practices.

Managing periods during school hours can be difficult, even with access to sanitary products.

Tjopa says she is aware that in Lesotho, young girls often share their sanitary towels with their mothers or other women in the household.

"Affordability is a barrier, for many low-income households, the cost of sanitary towels makes them unattainable - in some cases women are not aware of them at all," she explains.

She further shows that affordability, culture and lack of health are just some of the barriers preventing women from accessing



them, slamming that as all bad news.

According to UNICEF, poverty makes it harder to access menstrual hygiene supplies and care.

People living in poverty already face barriers to obtain menstrual hygiene supplies and related health services.

During the pandemic, the

vulnerability of people living in extreme poverty and crisis settings is increasing.

UNICEF, UNFPA and partners are on the ground ensuring safe environment during the COVID-19 response, dispelling myths and providing accurate information about menstruation health and COVID-19.

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HIV self-testing should be the new norm

...in the age of physical distancing and era of social restrictions

LINEO MABEKEBEKE

MASERU - PSI Lesotho, with the support of the Ministry of Health believes that with the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever for Basotho to continue to access various HIV/AIDS services and to know their status whilst still maintaining recommended standards and behaviours of social distancing in order to minimise the risk of the spread of the corona virus.

With the generosity of UNITAID, PSI Lesotho and the Ministry of Health have been involved in a multi-year, regional programme, Self-Testing Africa Initiative (STAR), which encourages and provides kits for individuals to screen themselves for HIV, using portable self-test kits that can be used anywhere by the client as they wish.

Speaking on the importance of self-testing, PSI Lesotho's programme director Dr Cyril Nkomo said in the 19 years of PSI operating in Lesotho towards the improvement of the health of Basotho, they have committed remarkable resources with the generosity of various donors and partners to ensure that all Basotho know their status, get on ART and remain on long term treatment.

Dr Nkomo said HIV self-test strategy and product, allows them to achieve this even more effectively, with individuals being able to get a self-test kit for free, test in their own

privacy or with a trusted person and start to enjoy the importance of knowing their HIV status as well as getting on treatment if need be.

He said in these days of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is even more important for people to make use of the self-test tool, as all are encouraged to maintain strict physical distancing.

He said that means their work as PSI Lesotho in the communities, of testing people in mobile sites work has stopped for the time being.

He, however, showed that it is still imperative that people get to find out their status and immediately get treatment if they need to.

HIV self-test kits are distributed in partnership with the Ministry of Health and can be accessed free of charge at all major government health facilities as well as PSI's new start sites across various districts in the country.

With the corona virus seemingly affecting those with compromised immune systems with much greater intensity, PSI Lesotho strongly urges Basotho to make use of the HIV self-test product, so that if need be, they get initiated on treatment as soon as possible and boost their immune system to give themselves a fighting chance against the opportunistic pandemic.

PSI Lesotho also urges Basotho to remain faithful and compliant with all national guidelines regarding prevention of the spread of Covid-19.

It also appeals to them to access the HIV self-test kits at facilities,

Challenging cultural norms in Lesotho

... Removing stigma is key to confronting rape culture

MASERU - The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed and given rise to a new, deeply concerning wave of rape culture in Lesotho. Although the true extent is not known yet, we have noticed concerning reports that the onset of the pandemic has worsened sexual violence with more women and girls being confined to small living places whilst social tensions are exacerbated.

According to Senior Inspector Malebohang Nepo, from the Child and Gender Protection Unit, under the Lesotho Mobile Police Service (LMPS), two weeks into the lockdown she said 18 cases of sexual assault had been reported, which was usually high.

This new wave includes distressing reports of many Basotho women who, when the lockdown restrictions came into place, had to leave their roles as domestic workers in South Africa entrenching them back into a system of poverty that forced them to return to Lesotho.



Former gender minister Dr Mahali Phamotse

However, after having to illegally return to the country, the majority were raped and tortured by security and border officials.

Most of these distressing

accounts have not been officially reported due to fear, prejudice and societal stigma - the same reasons why many rapes in our country go unseen. In the few cases where

reports have been made, no action has been taken against the perpetrators. These are the same men entrusted by the government to provide security to our nation.

But let's be clear, this is not a new issue or phenomenon. Even prior to the pandemic, the prevalence of rape in Lesotho was extremely high.

Last year, the then Gender Minister Dr Mahali Phamotse noted that 90% of male prison inmates had been imprisoned for sexual offence charges (a survey conducted whilst she was Justice Minister) and a report by NGO Gender Links in 2014 found that 62% of women surveyed had experienced intimate partner violence, with 8% reporting that they had been raped by a non-partner in their lifetime.

Only a few weeks ago, a twenty-year-old woman who was nine months pregnant was admitted in my facility with bruises on her back and shoulders, indicating that her husband had physically abused her.

The increasing prevalence of rape in our society means we have to act now. Education and awareness are key to tackling this problem head on. Technology is an especially powerful mobilisation tool to achieve this, especially during the pandemic, and I have been using social media to highlight the impact on women's rights. It gives me the opportunity to amplify women's stories of sexual violence and spread awareness of the issue to a wider audience.

Most importantly however, I'm currently hosting online education and awareness sessions with men in rural communities who are largely illiterate and have patriarchy deeply rooted in their behaviour and thoughts. This attitude is highlighted during our conversations when many say that rape is the victim's fault and that her choice of clothing "forced" her to be raped.

Concerningly, the 2014 Gender Links report found that 39% of men said rape survivors could have been responsible for their ordeals because they may have been promiscuous.

These sessions, which will take place in person later on in the year, are designed to challenge this thinking and encourage men to uproot their traditional masculine attitudes and behaviours. I've also had informal conversations about rape with men whilst on duty as part of my role as a midwife, where many don't understand the concept of women's rights.

If we are to bring about change, we need men to start respecting a woman's right to choose and to realise that her choice of clothing is by no means an invite for her to be raped.

However, my actions and those of my peers alone are not enough, more is needed. To truly remove entrenched rape culture from our societies, we need a unified approach between governments, justice systems and community organisations that will ensure sexual violence perpetrators are held accountable.

We need to work together so that women are not afraid to come forward and share their stories. We need change in the perceptions of what traditional masculinity is so

NDSO receives PPE from local companies

LINEO MABEKEBEKE
health@maserumetro.com

MASERU - The government through the National Drug Service Organisation (NDSO) received Personal Protective Equipment, from different local Basotho companies, which is said to have been ordered since March to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

When receiving the equipment, the chief executive officer of the National COVID-19 Secretariat (NACOSEC), Thabo Khasipe, said with the new gear, it means the government will be responding to some of the health workers' demands.

He said the country needs the PPE more than ever, as every health worker desperately needs the equipment.

The contributions Khasipe does not end the demand to secure more as they will quickly need to go back and order some more as soon as they can, hopeful there will be no more delays.

He further noted that because health professionals rely on PPE every single day to protect themselves and their patients from the spread of the germs and



NACOSEC boss Thabo Khasipe

infectious diseases, now with the coronavirus pandemic spreading, the PPE is more important.

He appealed to those who are responsible to ensure that the equipment gets to the facilities as quickly as possible so that the necessary work will be done to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

Deputy Minister of Health, Nto Moakhi, said it is understandable

that it is a difficult time for many workers, especially healthcare providers, hoping the delivered equipment will be a more valued safety resource during this period.

For his part, the logistics manager of NDSO, Nkome Thejane, said after they receive equipment, all they do is to follow the organisation's processes, which are to check whether it is appropriate to be delivered to the facilities, in terms of quality, its documentation readily available for delivery, together with the invoice, which they were yet to confirm.

When that is done, he said they then put the products into the system.

He said from there the team will sort the equipment accordingly, compare it against invoices, put it into the system and wait for a sales requisition from the supply chain, which will be sent to NDSO, in customer service department, where the product will be captured, as an instruction that the warehouse has to process the products.

He said it is only then that they will be able to deliver the products to the facilities.

The equipment which was ordered in March included plastic aprons, face shields, surgical masks and surgical aprons.

OPINION

MAMELLO MAKHELE



Whilst the pandemic has served to expose and exacerbate this problem, rape culture has existed throughout generations and societies. It is a culture that typically permits men to exercise power and masculinity over women to ultimately deny their basic rights to bodily autonomy. It is language and behaviours that encourages men to justify sexual violence. For decades, rape has been viewed as a weapon of oppression to silence and degrade women.

As a midwife, I know only too well the far-ranging consequences that sexual and physical violence has on the lives of women and girls.

that victims are not blamed. We need allies to mobilise political and financial support.

Covid-19 has presented many challenges of our country and the fight to defeat this destructive disease is not over yet, but throughout this a woman's right to decide must be prioritised, maintained and respected. She must have the right to safety, information and healthcare. These are basic human rights. Without Question!

IPS
Mamello Makhele is a midwife and SheDecides 25x25 young leader.



Kenyan border gate

States prepare for open borders

Some countries have announced the reopening of their borders, and when.

July 10-16

Kenya announced a phased reopening of the country, including the resumption of international flights from August 1. Domestic flights will resume on July 15.

The Seychelles will open its borders to visitors from low- and medium-risk countries from August 1. For visitors from low-risk countries, either a negative COVID test or a rapid antigen test must be provided - but for those from medium-risk countries, only a negative COVID test will be accepted.

Maldives reopened to

international tourism on July 15. Travellers will not have to enter into mandatory quarantine on arrival, nor will they need to produce proof they have tested negative for COVID-19.

Norway reopened its borders for tourism on July 15 for most European countries, including the UK. However, residents of Portugal, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria and Luxembourg are excluded due to the high rate of COVID-19 infection in those countries.

Puerto Rico formally reopened for inbound tourism on July 15, and travellers are required to present a negative COVID-19 test to enter.

Malta reopened for tourism

on July 1, allowing visitors from a number of countries to enter without an isolation period or testing. As of July 11, many more countries have been added to the approved list.

Dubai reopened to international travellers on July 7. Tourists are required to present a recent COVID-19 PCR test negative certificate done within 96 hours of departure, or undergo testing at the airport on arrival.

Turks and Caicos will reopen to tourism on July 22. Travellers will be required to take a COVID-19 PCR test within five days of travel. Children under the age of 10 do not have to be tested. *Travelnews*

Recipe Of The Week

Sweet Garlic Grilled Chicken Drumsticks

Unbelievably delicious grilled chicken drumsticks marinated and then coated in a homemade sweet garlic sauce.

Ingredients

10-12 chicken drumsticks
 Sauce/Marinade:
 6-8 lg cloves of garlic pressed
 ¼ cup brown sugar
 2 Tbsp honey
 1/3 cup soy sauce
 3 Tbsp white vinegar
 ½ cup water
 2 Tbsp olive oil
 Plus ½ Tbsp corn starch for thickening the sauce
 Optional: green onions for garnish

Instructions

Combine all the ingredients, except corn starch, for marinade in a bowl and whisk them together until fully combined.

Place your chicken drumsticks in a gallon zip-lock bag. Pour marinade into the bag as well and close it. Make sure to get the air out of the bag as you close it.

Place the bag into another large dish or a bowl with the zipper up so you don't get any accidental leaks. Place it in the fridge to marinate.

Let the chicken marinate for a couple of hours OR even overnight. (You can also prep it quickly in the morning for dinner time.)

Prep the grill and get it nice and hot.

Take the chicken out of the marinade, spray it with some cooking oil spray and grill. (Save the marinade.)

(Set your coals as low from the

grate as possible so you let the chicken cook instead of burn. I even cook it on the warming rack, with lid closed, to give chicken some extra distance from the coals.)

Cook chicken for 15-25 minutes, depending on the thickness of the chicken drumsticks. (Until thermometer reads 185 degrees, inserted into the thickest part.)

For the coating sauce: use the marinade that you've set aside. Add corn starch, mix it well and bring to simmer either on the grill or on the stove. If using the grill to heat the sauce, make sure to use a small, thin, metal pot. Cook the sauce, stirring often, until it is thickened. Take off heat once thickened.

Place cooked chicken drumsticks in a bowl and toss them with the thickened sauce.

Garnish with chopped green onions and serve.



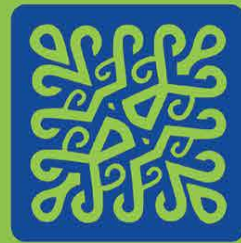
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game



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METROPOLITAN LESOTHO

Miss Lesotho 2020 on the cards

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – Organisers of the annual and prestigious Miss Lesotho pageant have released the names of nominees for the 2020 edition of the competition.

However, the organisers were reluctant to explain in details as to how the event will be carried out during these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, whereby social events have been suspended.

Similar events have had to be postponed or canceled in recent times with some organisers even attempting to hold virtual competitions but hitting a hitch in terms of sponsorship.

Palesa Makara was crowned Miss Lesotho 2019 at the Avani Maseru Hotel, on March 2.

Through support of her family, friends and fans as well as the crowd that constantly cheered her, she walked through the event confidently before she scooped the coveted crown.

Makara is a student at the National University of Lesotho (NUL).

The grand finale of Miss Lesotho 2019, hosted by Mojabeng Senekal-Ndebele and Lilaphalapha (Bofihla Hlabauje Neko), had a bevy of 12 beauties competing for the coveted Miss Lesotho crown.

In a highly contested competition of similarly aspirant gifted young ladies, Makara's combination of a well-structured body, cat walk skills, brilliant art of answering questions, cheerful dark face with white teeth, stole the judges' hearts.

The 24-year old beauty queen is a former Miss Lesotho Agricultural College and a former Miss Itsekeng High School.

The First Princess accolade went to Michelle Dyamdeki while the Second Princess was Refiloe Pitso.

In the previous year, Rethabile Thaathaa from Maseru was crowned Miss Lesotho 2018 in a grand event at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre.

She succeeded Mpoi Mahao who represented the mountain kingdom at the 2018 Miss World beauty pageant.

Lesotho has competed several times in past Miss World competitions, but has never achieved any meaningful success to date.

Hence, Thaathaa has the chance



BEVY OF BEAUTIES: Top 15 local models

to create history by winning the first ever placement for Lesotho at the lucrative Miss World competition.

A model by profession, Thaathaa is not new to pageantry.

She was crowned the first Miss Queen of Tourism Lesotho in 2015. Later she went on to become the second princess at the Miss NUL

beauty pageant.

In 2017, Mahao was crowned Miss Lesotho after defeating 25 other contenders.

At the same pageant, the first princess was Lintle Masasa while Pitso was the second princess.

Mahao who was confident throughout the event, had previously

won the 2016 Miss NUL and Miss Intersivity crowns.

She later revealed that her previous victories never gave her an edge over the other girls in the contest as she thought all of them were well-groomed and posed stiff competition.

She thought the competition

was pretty tough with a number of experienced beauty queens in the line-up.

But through support of her family, friends and fans as well as the crowd that constantly cheered her, she walked through the event confidently before she scooped the coveted crown.

Rapelang Mokhahlane

Reverend Mokhahlane was a true servant

Reverend Rapelang Mokhahlane was not just a man of the cloth, but was a real servant with an amazing gift and desire to serve. He died on July 7 at the age of 67 and was laid to rest on July 18.

In his lifetime, this true son of the soil did not only portray real leadership skills but most importantly he showed a penchant to serve.

The late reverend was well known for his powerful prayers and was popular for praying for everybody even at the ministry where he worked.

Speaking at her father's funeral service held in Thaba Qhalasi, Mohale's Hoek last week Saturday, Dr Ntoetse Mokhahlane said the deceased had been living with flu for several years until his body could no longer sustain the depredations of the disease.

The late pastor who was based at the Lesotho Evangelical Church of Southern African (LECSA) in Morija on the outskirts of Maseru was the second child of the late Stephen and Mathabo Adel Mokhahlane.

He was born on August 9, 1953, he did his primary education at the Matsatseng Primary School before he proceeded to Mohale's Hoek Primary School where he completed his primary education.

He thereafter went to Bonom High school where he did his Form E.



When he left high school, Rev Mokhahlane entered the civil service and briefly worked for the Ministry of Agriculture.

He then left Lesotho for South Africa to work in the mines. During his time as a miner in the neighbouring South Africa, he realised his calling to serve the Lord.

He therefore quit his job and entered a Theology institution to study for a diploma in theology between 1977 and 1981.

He married 'Makhotso Phera the same year he completed his studies and the couple had three children.

Between 1981 and 1985, he was mandated to administrate the Mokhotlong Lesotho Evangelical Church (LEC) parish. He was later appointed the administrator of the LEC congress, a position he held for 12 years.

He was then appointed to manage the KEL Radio and KEL media before he became the Commissioner at the Local Government and Chieftainship Ministry. He worked at the ministry until he met his death. The late reverend is survived by his wife, three children and four grandchildren.

Rev Mokhahlane served at the highest level of local religious bodies in LECSA. He worked as the administrator of the church at the national level for quite some time. His leadership prowess convinced the government to recall him to the Local Government and Chieftainship Ministry while he was following his religious calling in 2015.

His colleague in government described him as one of a kind and a true civil servant.

His funeral was graced by the presence of among others the Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu and other cabinet ministers as well as the top LECSA officials.

The late reverend was well known for his powerful prayers and was popular for praying for everybody even at the ministry where he worked.



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ZOOM-MEETING
WITH PASTOR JOSEPH

TIME: 12:00pm
DATE: 25 July 2020
PLACE: Harvest World Church Maseru

#Vessel_of_honour
#we_flow
#by_the_Spirit

Revealing The Glory Of God In Your Life

Marriage Seminar

Sat, 1 Aug 2020 14:00 - 16:00

Theme: A Marriage worthy of Legacy

HOSTS
REV TEBOGO & MRS M MPA

Speaker: P's Sepeng
God's Purpose for Marriage

Speaker: Mrs Mositwane
Topic: Need For Marriage Revival

Location: Zoom | Meeting ID: 857 4281 1995 | Password: 946257 |

RSVP/Enquiries: 072 863 6086

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<p>Save R2</p> <p>R30 410 g</p> <p>Rhodes Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce</p>	<p>No V.A.T</p> <p>Save R6</p> <p>57⁹⁹ 10 kg</p> <p>Top White Super Maize Meal</p>	<p>No V.A.T</p> <p>Save R10</p> <p>89⁹⁹ 10 kg</p> <p>Sasko Cake Wheat Flour</p>	<p>No V.A.T</p> <p>Save R7</p> <p>25⁹⁹ 2 kg</p> <p>Spekko Parboiled Rice each</p>	<p>No V.A.T No V.A.T No V.A.T</p> <p>Save R12</p> <p>R100 combo</p> <p>D'lite Cooking Oil 2 L + Top White Super Maize Meal 5 kg + Tastic Parboiled Rice 2 kg</p>
<p>Save R10</p> <p>54⁹⁹ 1.2 kg</p> <p>Kellogg's Corn Flakes each</p>	<p>Save R8</p> <p>27⁸⁹ 750 g</p> <p>Ellis Brown Coffee Creamer each</p>	<p>Save R18</p> <p>136⁹⁹ 10 kg</p> <p>Selati Brown Sugar each</p>	<p>No V.A.T</p> <p>Save R6</p> <p>38⁹⁹ 2 L</p> <p>Sunfoll Sunflower Oil each</p>	<p>Save R8</p> <p>29⁹⁹ 2 kg</p> <p>Surf Hand Washing Powder each</p>
<p>No V.A.T</p> <p>Save R35</p> <p>R200 combo</p> <p>Ace Super Maize Meal 10 kg + Sunshine Brown Sugar 2 kg + Sunfoll Sunflower Oil 2 L + 2x Coca-Cola Soft Drink 2 L + Knorrox Stock Cubes 12's + Rajah Curry Powder 100 g</p>	<p>Save R6</p> <p>148⁹⁹ 5 kg</p> <p>Gold/Rania Frozen Mixed Chicken Portions each</p>	<p>Save R1</p> <p>R33 360 g</p> <p>Glenryck Pilchards Assorted</p>	<p>Save R5</p> <p>R18 175 g</p> <p>Lifebuoy Bath Soap Assorted</p>	

Home of Quality Meat.

<p>19⁹⁹ 1 kg</p> <p>Cambridge Food French Polony each</p>	<p>24⁹⁹ per kg</p> <p>Frozen Offal Ox Kidney</p>	<p>26⁹⁹ per kg</p> <p>Frozen Chicken Gizzards</p>	<p>26⁹⁹ 1 kg</p> <p>Cambridge Food Red Viennas each</p>	<p>29⁹⁹ per kg</p> <p>Frozen Chicken Feet</p>	<p>29⁹⁹ per kg</p> <p>Frozen Turkey Wings</p>
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Promotion Dates: Valid from Thursday 9 July to Tuesday 28 July 2020

SASSA Payout Dates: 3rd August 2020 - Older person's, disability and Child grants. 5th August 2020 - All other grants

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Fastback 9 Strip/Tape Binding Machine - FB9

Condition: Brand new. Was bought in 2018 and only used once to bind samples.

Specifications: 3.5 times faster than traditional punch-and-bind systems. Binds both soft and hardcover books. 250 sheet binding capacity. Machine Dimensions: 19.5"W x 11"H x 13"D. Maximum weight: 17 lbs (7.7 kg). Spine Lengths: 8.5", 11", A4, A5. Spine Thickness: Narrow, Medium.

Application: The Powis Fastback 9 binding machine is one of the most compact and affordable systems on the market. With a footprint of just 13" x 19.5", it's a perfect choice for even the smallest work desks, whether in a copy shop or at home. The Fastback 9 is suitable for both tape binding and hardcover book binding, and has a binding time of 35-45 seconds - 3.5 times faster than traditional punch-and-bind systems.

Price: POA

The equipment will be sold to the highest bidder. For viewing, and in order to place your bid for this equipment, please contact the owner:

WhatsApp: +266 5180 1574



**GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
LESOTHO MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY (LMDA)**

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES

LEAST COST SELECTION

**PROVISION OF DISEASE VECTOR/PEST CONTROL SERVICES
EWM-B-002-21**

- The Government, acting through the Lesotho Millennium Development Agency - LMDA ("the Client"), intends to apply Government of Lesotho (GoL) funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Letter of Invitation (LOI) is issued. Payment by GoL will be made only at the request of Lesotho Millennium Development Agency, and will be subject, in all respects, to the provisions of the MCA-Lesotho Authority Act No. 1 of 2008 as amended by MCA-Lesotho Authority Act (Continuation) notice No. 151 of 2013, including any restrictions on the use of GoL Funding and conditions for the disbursements.
- This Letter of Invitation (LOI) is restricted to Service Providers who are entities registered in Lesotho and have minimum majority shareholding of 70 percent. The majority shareholders constituting 70% should be Basotho of Lesotho descent.
- The LMDA invites Service Providers to submit proposals (Technical and Financial) for **Provision of Disease Vector/Pest Control Services**. More details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR) found in Section I of the Letter of Invitation (LOI).
- The requirement is packaged into **three (3) Lots**. More details are provided in the TOR found in section I of the LOI.
- Service Providers are required to submit financial proposal in **Maloti** using the proposal submission form provided in Section II B of the LOI. The technical proposal must include a brief proposed technical approach, methodology and work plan for undertaking the assignment.
- A Compulsory pre-proposal meeting** shall be held on **July 31, 2020 at 09:00 am**, (Lesotho Local Time). The pre-proposal meeting will be in the form of video presentations. The connection details to the presentation will be shared by emails to all Service Providers that have shown interest by indicating by email their desire to participate in the presentation. LMDA shall verify either through electronic means or by email communication that the prospective Service Providers have participated in the pre-proposal meeting by watching the video. A prospective Service Provider who will be found not to have watched the video will be excluded from further processes in the procurement. Further clarifications on the video presentation shall be sent as part of clarifications.
- Sites Visit is non-Compulsory**. However, Service Providers who want to undertake sites visit to get familiar with the locations of the Health Facilities where services are required are welcome can do so. Locations and districts of the facilities corresponding to the respective lots are shown in Section I of the LOI under TOR. The Service Provider who chooses to conduct site visit should request (via email, refer to **paragraph 13 below**) a letter of introduction from LMDA in order to obtain access to the facilities. The Service Providers shall bear the costs of the site visits.
- Public Bid opening will not take place due to precaution in accordance with COVID-19 safety procedures.
- The Service Provider may **request clarification** on any aspect of this LOI, at the address indicated in **paragraph 13 below**, on or before **August 06, 2020**. Request for clarification will not be accepted after this date. The **Client shall respond to your request for clarification** no later than **August 10, 2020**.
- The **deadline for submission** of proposals is **August 18, 2020 at 10:00 am** (Lesotho Local Time). A Link for submission of proposals will be sent to prospective Service Providers who will be found to have watched the compulsory pre-proposal meeting video. **Annex IX** found in **Section II B** of the LOI outlines steps to follow when submitting the proposals. Service Providers must submit their proposals in PDF, JPG and TIFF formats with a covering letter for both financial and technical submissions together with at least one of the following: signature, and/or letterhead on every page of the financial proposal. Service Providers must also submit signed power of attorney or a letter from the company authorising a person who has signed a proposal to sign and submit the proposal on behalf of the Service Provider. **Only electronic submissions through the link will be accepted. The proposals shall be in English.** The proposal should be downloadable and easy to open. LMDA shall not be responsible for a proposal that cannot be downloaded and such proposal will be rejected. Service Providers must indicate to LMDA by email on the addresses in **paragraph 13 below** before the proposal submission deadline that it has submitted the proposal through the link referred to above.
- The Client is not bound to accept Service Provider's proposals and may cancel the procurement process at any time without providing any justification.
- "LMDA staff, LMDA Board of Directors, Government Officials, civil servants (Individuals and Entities in which they have shareholding or they are partners) are not permitted to tender or participate as Service Providers and as key personnel for the bidder under this LOI"
- Additional information may be obtained at the emails below:
Lesotho Millennium Development Agency (LMDA)
5th Floor, Post Office Building,
Kingsway Road
Maseru, Lesotho
Tel: +266 22317017
E-mail: moum@lmda.org.ls and chalatsek@lmda.org.ls with a copy to: lmda.procurement@gmail.com and sefalislmda.org.ls.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
LESOTHO MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY (LMDA)**

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES

**PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE (HCRW)
MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

EWM-A-001-21

- The Government, acting through the Lesotho Millennium Development Agency - LMDA ("the Client"), intends to apply Government of Lesotho (GoL) funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Letter of Invitation (LOI) is issued. Payment by GoL will be made only at the request of Lesotho Millennium Development Agency, and will be subject, in all respects, to the provisions of the MCA-Lesotho Authority Act No. 1 of 2008 as amended by MCA-Lesotho Authority Act (Continuation) notice No. 151 of 2013, including any restrictions on the use of GoL Funding and conditions for the disbursements.
- This Letter of Invitation (LOI) is restricted to Service Providers who are entities registered in Lesotho and have minimum majority shareholding of 70 percent. The majority shareholders constituting 70% should be Basotho of Lesotho descent.
- The LMDA invites Service Providers to submit proposals (Technical and Financial) for **Provision of Health Care Risk Waste Management Services**. More details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR) found in Section I of the Letter of Invitation (LOI).
- The requirement is packaged into **three (3) Lots**. More details are provided in the Terms of Reference found in section I of the LOI.
- Service Providers are required to submit financial proposal in **Maloti** using the proposal submission form provided in Section II B of the LOI. The technical proposal must include a brief proposed technical approach, methodology and work plan for undertaking the assignment.
- A Compulsory pre-proposal meeting** shall be held on **July 29, 2020 at 09:00 am**, (Lesotho Local Time). The pre-proposal meeting will be in the form of video presentations. The connection details to the presentation will be shared by emails to all Service Providers that have shown interest by indicating by email their desire to participate in the presentation. LMDA shall verify either through electronic means or by email communication that the prospective Service Providers have participated in the pre-proposal meeting by watching the video. A prospective Service Provider who will be found not to have watched the video will be excluded from further processes in the procurement. Further clarifications on the video presentation shall be sent as part of clarifications.
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- Public Bid opening will not take place due to precaution in accordance with COVID-19 safety procedures.
- The Service Provider may **request clarification** on any aspect of this LOI, at the address indicated in **paragraph 13 below**, on or before **July 31, 2020**. Request for clarification will not be accepted after this date. The **Client shall respond to your request for clarification** no later than **August 05, 2020**.
- The **deadline for submission** of proposals is **August 17, 2020 at 12:00 mid-day** (Lesotho Local Time). A Link for submission of proposals will be sent to prospective Service Providers who will be found to have watched the compulsory pre-proposal meeting video. **Annex IX** found in **Section II B** of the LOI outlines steps to follow when submitting the proposals. Service Providers must submit their proposals in PDF, JPG and TIFF formats with a covering letter for both financial and technical submissions together with at least one of the following: signature, and/or letterhead on every page of the financial proposal. Service Providers must also submit signed power of attorney or a letter from the company authorising a person who has signed a proposal to sign and submit the proposal on behalf of the Service Provider. **Only electronic submissions through the link will be accepted. The proposals shall be in English.** The proposal should be downloadable and easy to open. LMDA shall not be responsible for a proposal that cannot be downloaded and such proposal will be rejected. Service Providers must indicate to LMDA by email on the addresses in **paragraph 13 below** before the proposal submission deadline that it has submitted the proposal through the link referred to above.
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- Additional information may be obtained at the emails below:
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5th Floor, Post Office Building,
Kingsway Road
Maseru, Lesotho
Tel: +266 22317017
E-mail: moum@lmda.org.ls and chalatsek@lmda.org.ls with a copy to: lmda.procurement@gmail.com



**GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
LESOTHO MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY (LMDA)**

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

PROVISION OF LMDA HQ ICT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

ICT-B-002-21

- The Government, acting through the Lesotho Millennium Development Agency - LMDA ("the Client"), intends to apply Government of Lesotho (GoL) funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Letter of Invitation (LOI) is issued. Payment by GoL will be made only at the request of Lesotho Millennium Development Agency, and will be subject, in all respects, to the provisions of the MCA-Lesotho Authority Act No. 1 of 2008 as amended by MCA-Lesotho Authority Act (Continuation) notice No. 151 of 2013, including any restrictions on the use of GoL Funding and conditions for the disbursements.
- This Letter of Invitation (LOI) is restricted to Service Providers who are entities registered in Lesotho and have minimum majority shareholding of 70 percent. The majority shareholders constituting 70% should be Basotho of Lesotho descent.
- The LMDA invites Service Providers to submit proposals (Technical and Financial) for **Provision of LMDA HQ ICT Support and Maintenance**. More details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR) found in Section I of the Letter of Invitation (LOI).
- The requirement is packaged into **three (3) Lots**. More details are provided in the Terms of Reference found in section I of the LOI.
- Service Providers are required to submit financial proposal in **Maloti** using the proposal submission form provided in Section II B of the LOI. The technical proposal must include a brief proposed technical approach, methodology and work plan for undertaking the assignment.
- A Compulsory pre-proposal meeting** shall be held on **July 28, 2020 at 09:00 hrs**, (Lesotho Local Time). The pre-proposal meeting will be in the form of video presentations. The connection details to the presentation will be shared by emails to all Service Providers that have shown interest by indicating by email their desire to participate in the presentation. LMDA shall verify either through electronic means or by email communication that the prospective Service Providers have participated in the pre-proposal meeting by watching the video. A prospective Service provider who will be found not to have watched the video will be excluded from further processes in the procurement. Further clarifications on the video presentation shall be sent as part of clarifications.
- Sites Visit is non-Compulsory**. However, Service Providers who want to undertake sites visit to get familiar with the locations of the Health Facilities where services are required can do so. Locations and districts of the facilities corresponding to the respective lots are shown in Section I of the LOI under TOR. The Service Providers who choose to conduct site visit should request (via email, refer to **paragraph 13 below**) a letter of introduction from LMDA in order to obtain access to the facilities. The Service Providers shall bear the costs of the site visits.
- Public Bid opening will not take place due to precaution in accordance with COVID-19 safety procedures.
- The Service Provider may **request clarification** on any aspect of this LOI, at the address indicated in **paragraph 13 below**, on or before **July 31, 2020**. Request for clarification will not be accepted after this date. The **Client shall respond to your request for clarification** no later than **August 04, 2020**.
- The **deadline for submission** of proposals is **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 am** (Lesotho Local Time). A Link for submission of proposals will be sent to Prospective Service Providers who will be found to have watched the compulsory pre-proposal meeting video. **Annex VII** found in **Section II B** of the LOI outlines steps to follow when submitting the proposals. Service Providers must submit their proposals in PDF, JPG and TIFF formats with a covering letter for both financial and technical submissions together with at least one of the following signature, and/or letterhead on every page of the financial proposal. Service Providers must also submit signed power of attorney or a letter from the company authorising a person who has signed a proposal to sign and submit the proposal on behalf of the Service Provider. **Only electronic submissions through the link will be accepted. The proposals shall be in English.** The proposal should be downloadable and easy to open. LMDA shall not be responsible for a proposal that cannot be downloaded and such proposal will be rejected. Service Providers must indicate to LMDA by email on the addresses in **paragraph 13 below** before the proposal submission deadline that it has submitted the proposal through the link referred to above.
- The Client is not bound to accept Service Provider's proposals and may cancel the procurement process at any time without providing any justification.
- LMDA staff, LMDA Board of Directors, Government Officials, civil servants (Individuals and Entities in which they have shareholding or they are partners) are not permitted to tender or participate as Service Providers and as key personnel for the bidder under this LOI.
- Additional information may be obtained at the emails below:
Lesotho Millennium Development Agency (LMDA)
5th Floor, Post Office Building,
Kingsway Road
Maseru, Lesotho
Tel: +266 22317017
E-mail: moum@lmda.org.ls and chalatsek@lmda.org.ls with a copy to: lmda.procurement@gmail.com and sefalislmda.org.ls.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
LESOTHO MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY (LMDA)**

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

PROVISION HEALTH ICT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE AND VOIP

ROLL-OUT TO HEALTH CENTERS

ICT-A-001-21

- The Government, acting through the Lesotho Millennium Development Agency - LMDA ("the Client"), intends to apply Government of Lesotho (GoL) funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Letter of Invitation (LOI) is issued. Payment by GoL will be made only at the request of Lesotho Millennium Development Agency, and will be subject, in all respects, to the provisions of the MCA-Lesotho Authority Act No. 1 of 2008 as amended by MCA-Lesotho Authority Act (Continuation) notice No. 151 of 2013, including any restrictions on the use of GoL Funding and conditions for the disbursements.
- This Letter of Invitation (LOI) is restricted to Service Providers who are entities registered in Lesotho and have minimum majority shareholding of 70 percent. The majority shareholders constituting 70% should be Basotho of Lesotho descent.
- The LMDA invites Service Providers to submit proposals (Technical and Financial) for **Provision of Health ICT Support and Maintenance and VOIP Roll-Out to Health Centers**. More details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR) found in Section I of the Letter of Invitation (LOI).
- The requirement is packaged into **nine (9) Lots**. More details are provided in the Terms of Reference found in section I of the LOI.
- Service Providers are required to submit financial proposal in **Maloti** using the proposal submission form provided in Section II B of the LOI. The technical proposal must include a brief proposed technical approach, methodology and work plan for undertaking the assignment.
- A Compulsory pre-proposal meeting** shall be held on **July 27, 2020 at 09:00 hrs**, (Lesotho Local Time). The pre-proposal meeting will be in the form of video presentations. The connection details to the presentation will be shared by emails to all Service Providers that have shown interest by indicating by email their desire to participate in the presentation. LMDA shall verify either through electronic means or by email communication that the prospective Service Provider have participated in the pre-proposal meeting by watching the video. A prospective Service Provider who will be found not to have watched the video will be excluded from further processes in the procurement. Further clarifications on the video presentation shall be sent as part of clarifications.
- Sites Visit is non-Compulsory**. However, Service Providers who want to undertake sites visit to get familiar with the locations of the Health Facilities where services are required can do so. Locations and districts of the facilities corresponding to the respective lots are shown in Section I of the LOI under TOR. The Service Providers who choose to conduct site visit should request (via email, refer to **paragraph 13 below**) a letter of introduction from LMDA in order to obtain access to the facilities. The Service Providers shall bear the costs of the site visits.
- Public Bid opening will not take place due to precaution in accordance with COVID-19 safety procedures.
- The Service Provider may **request clarification** on any aspect of this LOI, at the email addresses indicated in **paragraph 13 below**, on or before **July 30, 2020**. Request for clarification will not be accepted after this date. The **Client shall respond to your request for clarification** no later than **August 03, 2020**.
- The **deadline for submission** of proposals is **August 13, 2020 at 10:00 am** (Lesotho Local Time). A Link for submission of proposals will be sent to Prospective Service Providers who will be found to have watched the compulsory pre-proposal meeting video. **Annex IX** found in **Section II B** of the LOI outlines steps to follow when submitting the proposals. Service Providers must submit their proposals in PDF, JPG and TIFF formats with a covering letter for both financial and technical submissions together with at least one of the following signature, and/or letterhead on every page of the financial proposal. Service Providers must also submit signed power of attorney or a letter from the company authorising a person who has signed a proposal to sign and submit the proposal on behalf of the Service Provider. **Only electronic submissions through the link will be accepted. The proposals shall be in English.** The proposal should be downloadable and easy to open. LMDA shall not be responsible for a proposal that cannot be downloaded and such proposal will be rejected. Service Providers must indicate to LMDA by email on the addresses in **paragraph 13 below** before the proposal submission deadline that it has submitted the proposal through the link referred to above.
- The Client is not bound to accept Service Provider's proposals and may cancel the procurement process at any time without providing any justification.
- "LMDA staff, LMDA Board of Directors, Government Officials, civil servants (Individuals and Entities in which they have shareholding or they are partners) are not permitted to tender or participate as Service Providers and as key personnel for the bidder under this LOI."
- Additional information may be obtained at the emails below:
Lesotho Millennium Development Agency (LMDA)
5th Floor, Post Office Building,
Kingsway Road
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Tel: +266 22317017
E-mail: moum@lmda.org.ls and chalatsek@lmda.org.ls with a copy to: lmda.procurement@gmail.com and sefalislmda.org.ls.



Be Car-Smart

Keep the car Covered

This may seem like a very easy tip, but it has a major impact on maintaining your car. Keeping your car out of the reach of the sunlight, trees, and birds can help your paint and interior remain in good condition. Harmful radiation, weather, and nature can take its toll on your vehicle.

Washing your car regularly and using protectant on plastic and rubber parts is important but this will only do so much. To keep your car looking its best for years to come a car cover is a good investment.

If you have a garage or

carport cover this can help as well.

So cover your car when not in use and try to keep it in your garage whenever you can.

Why Buy A Custom-Fit Car Cover? To help protect your investment and keep your vehicle looking show-room new. Keeping your vehicle covered with a car cover can: Prevent unsightly dents, dings and scratches; shield it against finish-destroying man-made and natural hazards; act as an excellent theft deterrent; put a barrier between your paint and

damaging weather.

Dents, Dings and Scratches Reference

There's a certain feeling you experience when you discover that first dent, ding or scratch on your new vehicle. Unfortunately, they're a fact of life and nothing short of covering your vehicle with reactive tank armour will truly prevent them.

However, using a car cover adds a layer of protective padding to cushion against runaway shopping carts, absent-minded car doors or other blows.



Mercedes-AMG GLA45 S 4Matic+ review



PAUL HORRELL

Another smokin'-hot AMG?

Yup, AMG remains determined to put chilli up the chuff of pretty much every Mercedes. Although not everyone. They've realised that a 400-plus horsepower track-ready version of the B-Class minivan isn't really a thing that'd have buyers queuing. Nor of the seven-seat GLB.

This, though, is a thing. The GLA 45 S 4Matic+, and it's a potent rival to the Audi RS Q3 and... oh, that's about it. BMW doesn't do an MX1. Ford isn't up for a Kuga RS. Honda passes on the chance to give us a HR-V Type-R, there's no Jeep Cherokee Trackhawk, and Toyota similarly resists a Gazoo Racing C-HR.

Are those other absentees doing the right thing by staying away, or has AMG found a seam worth mining?

In the sense that there is real

driver appeal in the AMG GLA45, yes. And in the sense that it's usefully roomier and more practical than the hot-hatch AMG A45 on which it's based, also yes. So, with reservations, I guess that's yes-squared.

Run through the mechanics could you?

Sure. It's a four-cylinder engine, all new for this generation of small AMGs. Power is a frankly astonishing 421bhp from 2.0 litres. It has a twin-scroll blower. It's fuelled both by direct injection for emissions and economy, and also port injection for power. It has a complex cooling system with separate pumps so the head can run cool (lower emissions) and the block warmer (lower friction). The turbo shaft runs in roller bearings. Like Ferrari's.

The transmission is an eight-

speed double-clutch job. The rear differential isn't a diff in the usual sense, but has an electronically controlled clutch pack for each wheel, in the Focus RS manner.

That allows, once you've dialled up the settings on the nerdily complex mode system, a bit of driftiness. (Those clutch packs are denoted by the + in the 4Matic+ badge.)

There's more. Brakes have grown. In search of steering precision the body is reinforced with an under-engine shear plate plus bay braces, and the subframes are rigidly bolted to the underside.

It has bucket seats, track telematics, yadda yadda. Pretty much everything from the A45 S hatch is here. No shortcuts in dynamics for the crossover.

The crossovery bits?

Well, 4WD and ground clearance tick the crossover boxes, but track-biased tyres don't. It looks taller and bulkier than the first-generation GLA, which actually was no taller than a Focus.

The dash is deeper and boxier than in an A-Class, to match your higher throne. It's really handily roomy front and back, despite having no more wheelbase than the A hatch. So it's a family car. But if the family's on board don't take corners at this car's max.

What's max cornering like?

On dry roads, I didn't find out. The grip's colossal, front and back, and I didn't manage to breach it. Winding up the modes takes you through 'advanced' to 'pro' to 'master' which would probably get a wriggle on if it's wet or you're in a track chicane. But all I got was lots of grip, progressive if slightly dead steering, and good balance. A little body roll is the main feedback. It's enjoyable, if in a rather stern way.

And the engine?

Far more interesting than most four-cylinder turbos, because of the way the power doesn't just flatten off, but keeps rising with revs. Go to 5,000 and it's rapid, to 6,000 and it's seriously fast, to 7000 and it's brutal. If you can find 4.3 seconds to spare in your busy life, it'll get from rest to 62mph.

You can separately configure engine mode from chassis mode, so I kept the engine and exhaust in normal (no need for farts and pops) and the damping on the softer side

(it was bumpy thereabouts) but the vectoring a little more edgy. There's a handy mode switch on the steering wheel, but once set up that way I didn't feel the need to switch between modes for different roads. It adapts itself to the conditions.

But you said 'with reservations'?

Well, although the ride is fundamentally more supple than many hot hatches, you suffer from a lot of lateral head-toss because you sit higher. And the road noise is terrible, even at town speeds. Coarse motorways are a real ear-bender, ruining the excellent stereo's efforts.

The double-screen dash system has so many configurations you'll give up and settle on one. Then accidentally brush the steering-wheel touch sensors, change it, and nearly crash trying to find your old setting again. It's even worse than the normal small-Mercedes, because you have more options. Track apps in a crossover - sheesh.

Most of all, it's expensive. It's £58,755 as pictured, or you can add a Plus pack with extra equipment and a crazed aero kit of front blades and a monster roof spoiler. That's £64,755, but hey you do get both a + and a Plus in its name.

Still, you can get a bigger, better resolved Porsche Macan Turbo for that. Just saying. **Score: 7/10**





Topcar Magazine Test: Volkswagen Polo 1.2 TSI

The Best Online Car Magazine Car Test
The starved minds of government officials do love to engross themselves in a witch-hunt, especially if the witch-hunt alleviates taxpayers of yet more of their hard-earned income. On September 1st 2010 the government implemented its long-intimated motor vehicle CO2 emissions tax.

The levy was set at R75 (now R90) for every gram over a 120g/km threshold. Motoring enthusiasts and manufacturers alike, who'd for decades fixated on 0-100kph and top speed, suddenly had a new statistic to ponder. But timing wasn't great for Volkswagen's Uitenhage plant that had just begun production of the current Polo (AO5), persisting with locally manufactured EA111 MPI engines for SA consumption. It would take four years before a TSI course correction could go ahead in the fifth-generation facelift.

Just as the fifth-gen Polo evolved from the value-for-money ethic of the preceding Polo, so the carefully considered facelift car tested here seeks to raise the quality and premium feel yet further. This it accomplishes without conspicuous exterior trinketry. It's still a Polo but subtly enhanced with inched-up wheels and chrome cursive on the nose for people to take notice.

Refreshingly, however, the Polo is still



ubiquitous enough to hide in plain sight, making it a small car devoid of social climbing ambition. Something I value greatly in a modern hatchback. Nowadays you'd be forgiven for assuming there is real integrity to the Polo. Then you grab hold of the door pull to climb inside and that action reinforces the sentiment tenfold. This is a high-quality small car.

So good so nice

A firm thud as the door closes behind you is genuinely pleasurable as it quells all outside noise. It just feels so robust and well screwed

together. The cabin isn't cavernous but the ambiance is uncluttered and there's a pleasant synergy of shapes to relax the eye.

Every contact surface the driver has with the car is well considered. The front centre arm rest, while appearing intrusive at first is not only useful with its storage box but helps maintain an intuitive ten-and-two hand position on the tactile leather steering wheel.

The soft leather wrap on the gear knob demands much fondling, too. It might sound coy but I even like the rear view mirror: thin framed and wide in angle, it amplifies your

view out the back superbly. The steering wheel audio controls are a little counter intuitive for the 'everything-in-its-place' Germans. Track up/down on one side with (optional) cruise control, while volume up/down mixes it with the trip computer buttons on the other. The standard sound system is powerful, comes with a USB port, and is operated through a five-inch touchscreen that takes pride of place in the middle of the dashboard but needs a surgeon-steady hand to navigate accurately. All in all though, the ergonomics on offer for a humble B-segment car are second-to-none.

Highly maneuverable in tight city car parks and clogged urban streets; the Polo feels like it can outmaneuver other good small cars at the drop of a hat. The Polo rides firmly, sportily even, with its new 16-inch wheels a constant presence of the road can be felt through the seat and steering feedback. The power steering is electro-mechanically assisted but not variable ratio, which leaves it feeling a little 2010, but while you do apply more steering lock than you would in a Golf it is unquestionably accurate. I was surprised by the sportiness over the test period, but ride quality wise, the MQB platform from the Golf has moved the game along for VW as far as damping sophistication goes. There is progress to be made in making a more compliant, cossetting ride in the sixth-generation Polo.

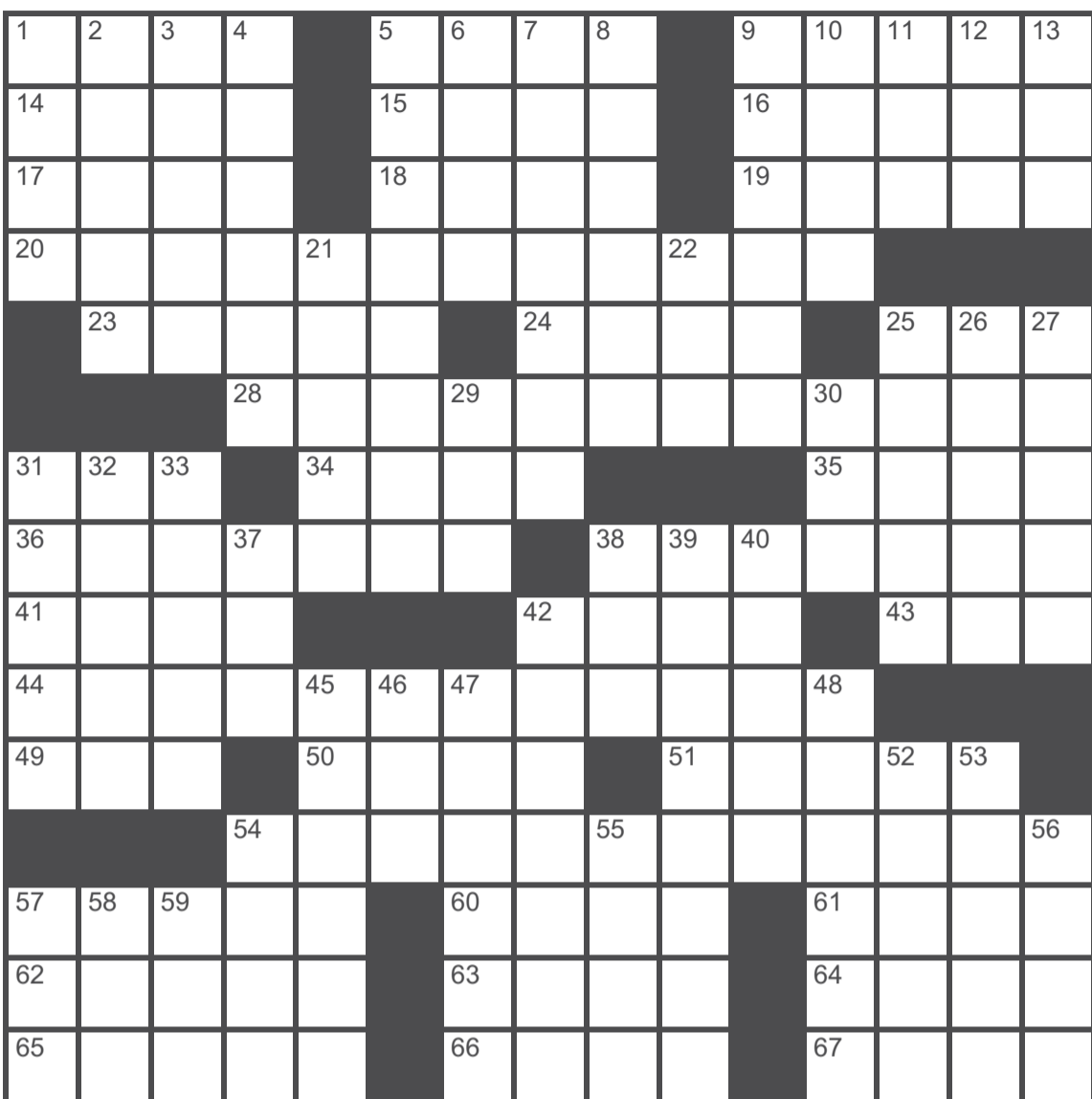
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General Crosswords



ACROSS

- 1. Remnant
- 5. Madam
- 9. Kind of beam
- 14. Attorney General Janet
- 15. Pinocchio, at times
- 16. O. Henry device
- 17. Blame
- 18. Provocative
- 19. Spanish diacritical mark
- 20. Diplomat
- 23. Bizarre
- 24. Zero
- 25. Egyptian boy king
- 28. Manifest Destiny
- 31. Greyhound, e.g.
- 34. Colored eye part

- 35. Neighbor of Yemen
- 36. All together
- 38. Proclamations of love
- 41. Yemen's Gulf of _____
- 42. One of the Three Bears
- 43. Salon application
- 44. Numerosity
- 49. Fixed
- 50. Face-off
- 51. Yorkshire city
- 54. Post-twister spot
- 57. Place to lounge
- 60. Trim
- 61. Pigeonhole
- 62. Kind of artery
- 63. Snaky swimmers
- 64. Not for here

- 65. Blotto
 - 66. Squirrel's nest
 - 67. Matter
- DOWN**
- 1. Let go
 - 2. Freshen
 - 3. Habituate
 - 4. Shoot the breeze
 - 5. Shake maker
 - 6. Opera set in Egypt
 - 7. Dog's tail
 - 8. Plant disease
 - 9. Refuse
 - 10. Song for Carmen
 - 11. Costa del _____
 - 12. Denouement

Sudoku Puzzle

	2		8	7	3	5		
3	5	6			9		7	4
			5	6	4		3	
		4				1		
7			9	5			2	
2	3				6	9		5
	1	2				3	5	
9		3			5		4	
8	4				2	7	9	1

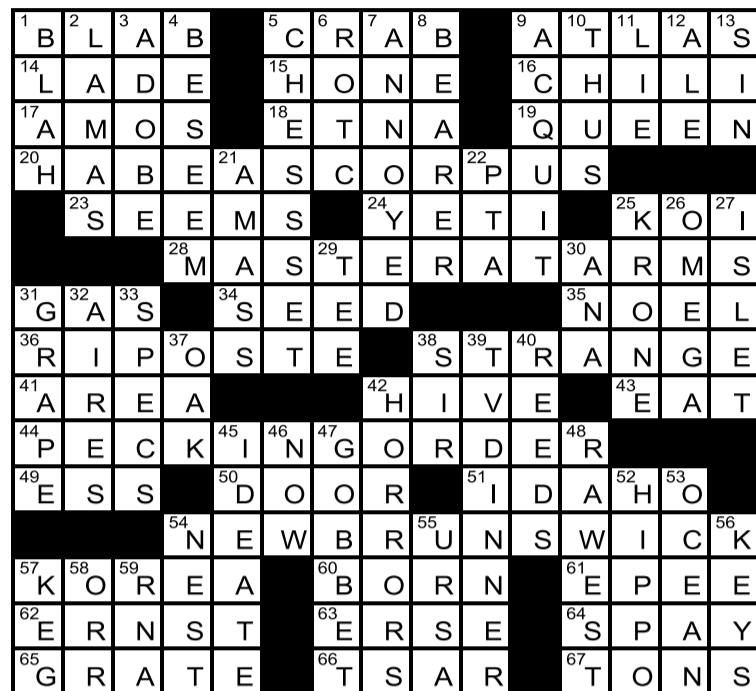
Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contain all the from 1-9

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurr: target time, ten minutes.

Last Week's Solution

1	5	2	9	6	4	3	8	7
4	9	6	8	7	3	5	1	2
3	7	8	1	5	2	4	6	9
6	1	3	7	9	5	2	4	8
5	4	7	2	8	6	9	3	1
8	2	9	3	4	1	7	5	6
2	6	5	4	1	7	8	9	3
7	8	4	6	3	9	1	2	5
9	3	1	5	2	8	6	7	4

Last Week's Solution



- 13. Deli loaf
- 21. Gold braid
- 22. _____ Maria
- 25. Runner's lap record
- 26. Single
- 27. On edge
- 29. Game piece
- 30. Bon
- 31. Rays of light
- 32. Excessive
- 33. Refine, as metal
- 37. Aardvark's morsel
- 38. Fond du _____, Wis.
- 39. Seizure disorder
- 40. Spud
- 42. Light lager
- 45. Extreme stupidity
- 46. Frequently sour
- 47. Let
- 48. Frothy
- 52. Drivel
- 53. Twilled fabric
- 54. "Buenos _____"
- 55. Mah-jongg piece
- 56. Bit of physics
- 57. Barbecue site
- 58. Muhammad _____
- 59. Service award

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

Below are ten words which have been split in half. The first column has all of the starts and the second column has all of the ends. Can you pair the letters and remake the ten words?

- BO AF
- BR RE
- FO NE
- GO AF
- HO KE
- JO EW
- LE IN
- LO AM
- LO MB
- SO PE



Last Week's Answer

4 minutes. In 24 hours, the cold tap could fill 120 baths, the hot tap could fill 288 baths and the plug could drain 48 baths. Therefore, in 24 hours, we have 120 + 288 - 48 baths full = 360 baths. Therefore each bath would take 4 minutes to



Econet to renew premier league sponsorship



PLMC publicist- Moeketsi Ramakatsa

TEBOHO JAFETA
sports@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) has confirmed it will renew its contract with the elite local football league and will continue the sponsorship though the final details are yet to be agreed to and formalised.

The decision comes as the ETL and premier league sponsorship agreement ends this year. ETL chief executive officer Dennis Plaatjies said the company has decided to extend sponsorship for the premier league but they are yet to discuss the way forward in respect of the next season.

"This is our last year of sponsoring the premier league as per our contract, but we have decided to continue with the sponsorship," Plaatjies told a media briefing held last week at the Bambatha Tsita Sports Arena.

He said the fact that COVID-19 has affected football and fans can no longer watch games in Lesotho has also negatively impacted several jobs. "ETL tries by all means to minimise costs during this situation. We have decided that end of the season accolades will still be awarded to all EPL teams as initially planned," he said.

Plaatjies further showed that offering those awards will ensure that teams help their players through this difficult time.

"We were supposed hold the Econet Soccer Spectacular sooner than it is usually the case as a way of raising funds. The event was cancelled due to the prevailing Covid-19 outbreak," plaatjies added.

For his part, LeFA secretary general Mokhosi Mohapi applauded ETL for its contribution towards the development of football in Lesotho.

"I wish we had a chance to celebrate the winner, but that would be done at the most suitable time as we are now living in an unusual situation.

"At its meeting held on July 15, LeFA national executive committee made a resolution that the 2019/2020 season ends on July 31 and the log standings of the Premier league, A Division and Women Super League be confirmed as final as at the date of the suspension of the leagues by LeFA," he said.

The NEC further resolved that Bantu FC be declared champions of the 2019/2020 Econet Premier League and that the team shall represent Lesotho in the CAF Champions League. It also decided that Manonyane FC and CCX FC being leaders of the southern and northern Streams respectively be promoted to the premier league without relegating any team in EPL and A Division.

The body further resolved that two teams from the B Division be promoted to the A Division. The NEC resolved that LDF Ladies FC be declared winners of the Women Super League and no relegation apply in the league. "PLMC has requested to add premier league teams to 16 for the 2020/2021 season and LeFA NEC is considering that," Mohapi added.

PLMC spokesperson Moeketsi Ramakatsa confirmed that premier league teams will be 16 starting from next season going forward. ETL's league current sponsorship agreement began in 2017 and was a three years deal worth M2million with champions pocketing M500 000. Before the ETL penned the premier league sponsorship agreement in 2017, the league was sponsored by

Swimming has attracted many, Mokupo

TEBOHO JAFETA
sports@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Even though several people are still not familiar with swimming sport, but the Lesotho Swimming Association (LSA) publicist Tebello Mokupo says swimming attracted a huge crowd in 2019.

In an interview with Metro, Mokupo said a lot of people showed interest in the sport during the national championships held in Mofale's Hoek last year.

"More than 100 swimmers were identified at the past national championships in Mofale's Hoek," he said.

Mokupo said the championships were used as qualifiers for the World championships even though Lesotho did not participate due to lack of finances notwithstanding local swimmers had already being selected for the competition.

The sport he said is still developing as currently there are 11 clubs located in

Mafeteng, Mofale's Hoek, Quthing, Berea and Leribe.

Due to the prevailing the Covid-19 pandemic, he said there are no swimming activities as the association is still waiting for funds in the form of yearly subvention from the Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC).

"We have not received any relief fund from our international body International Swimming Federation (FINA) and the African Swimming Confederation (CANA) to compensate the swimming family affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, but we only received the survey questions from CANA inquiring as to how we have been affected at both club and competition levels and how can they assist us in that regard," he said.

Mokupo said they responded to the questionnaire and submitted it to CANA, adding: "We are awaiting further communication from CANA, maybe they will

provide something. In swimming, if an athlete spends a long time without training, their fitness level deteriorates badly and it costs that athlete a lot of time to get back to the required fitness level."

The swimming association Mokupo also said had planned to partake in various competitions but their schedule was affected by Covid-19 such as the CANA Zone IV Swimming championships which was scheduled for Gaborone, Botswana from February 20-23, but was cancellation.

The competition which was expected to be hosted by the University of Botswana swimming club was meant to attract around 320 athletes, coaches and officials from 13 countries in southern Africa.

Lesotho swimmers have a good record internationally. Mokhoro Makara completed 50 metres freestyle in 55:80 record time in the 2015 World Championships held in August in Kazan, Russia.

Mocheta Makara completed 50 metres breast stroke in 49:87 time and 100 metres breast stroke in 1:55:91 time at the same event, while Ntseke Setho managed a 3:05:18 national record time in 200 metres breast stroke at the 2014 Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, in United Kingdom.

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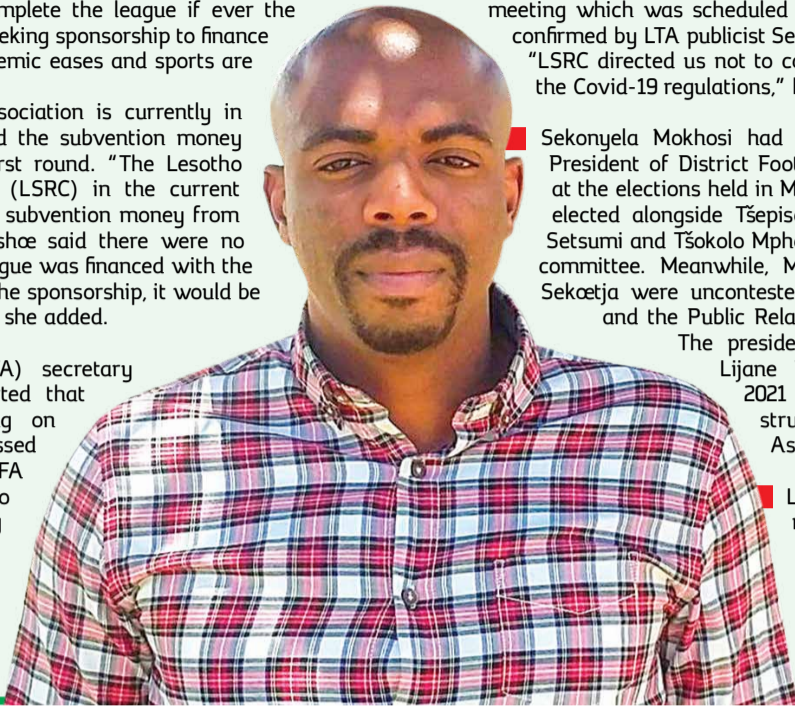
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News in Sports

While sports activities are under suspension in Lesotho due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Lesotho Netball Association (LNA) is taking advantage of the break to seek sponsorship for the netball league. LNA publicist 'Mamakebe Moshøeshøe said the executive committee is currently seeking sponsorship to complete the league if ever the pandemic eases. "We are currently seeking sponsorship to finance our league if ever the Covid-19 pandemic eases and sports are given green light," she said. She further mentioned that the association is currently in financial calamity because they used the subvention money to support the league during the first round. "The Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC) in the current financial year has not yet granted us subvention money from the government," she said. Moshøeshøe said there were no league sponsors previously as the league was financed with the subvention money. "If we could get the sponsorship, it would be easier for us to complete the league," she added.

Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) secretary general Mokhosi Mohapi has reported that he attended FIFA virtual meeting on Tuesday whereby the meeting discussed the Covid-19 Relief fund. He said FIFA clarified that it is not compulsory to give teams relief funding adding that the fund is not for the teams but is meant to be used as per the Member Associations (MAs) executive committees' discretion. Mohapi further said the money is



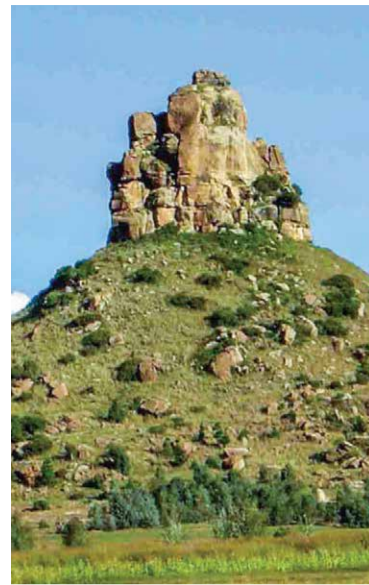
permitted to relief clubs but not compulsory.

Lesotho Sports and Recreation Commission (LSRC) has directed Lesotho Tøekwondo Association (LTA) to postpone its elective annual general meeting which was scheduled for July 18 in Maseru. This was confirmed by LTA publicist Sekhokhe Molikøe on the same day. "LSRC directed us not to continue with the meeting due to the Covid-19 regulations," he added.

Sekonyela Mokhosi had been elected as the first Vice President of District Football Association (DIFA) Maseru at the elections held in Mazenod on Sunday. Mokhosi was elected alongside Tšepiso Khali, Morake Keketsi, Hoohlo Setsumi and Tšokolo Mphoto as members of the executive committee. Meanwhile, Mosamane Liphoto and Thabiso Sekøetja were uncontested as the second Vice president and the Public Relations Officer (PRO) respectively. The presidency position currently held by Lijane Nthunya would be elected in 2021 as per the new DIFA executive structure issued by Lesotho Football Association.

Lesotho Football Association referees' instructor technical Rethusitsøe Lebaka will undergo a two-day Confederations of African Football (CAF) Futuro III online course scheduled for August 8-10.

National Weather



MASERU

FRIDAY 18°C / -1°C	SATURDAY 17°C / -1°C	
	SUNDAY 21°C / -2°C	

MAFETENG

FRIDAY 13°C / 2°C	SATURDAY 12°C / 2°C	
	SUNDAY 18°C / 0°C	

MOHALE'S HOEK

FRIDAY 18°C / 0°C	SATURDAY 17°C / -2°C	
	SUNDAY 19°C / 2°C	

QUTHING

FRIDAY 18°C / 0°C	SATURDAY 17°C / -2°C	
	SUNDAY 19°C / -2°C	

QACHA'S NEK

FRIDAY 19°C / 1°C	SATURDAY 20°C / 3°C	
	SUNDAY 21°C / 4°C	

THABA TSEKA

FRIDAY 10°C / -2°C	SATURDAY 11°C / -2°C	
	SUNDAY 16°C / -3°C	

MOKHOTLONG

FRIDAY 15°C / -6°C	SATURDAY 15°C / -7°C	
	SUNDAY 21°C / -3°C	

BUTHA BUTHE

FRIDAY 14°C / 2°C	SATURDAY 13°C / 1°C	
	SUNDAY 22°C / 1°C	

LERIBE

FRIDAY 20°C / -1°C	SATURDAY 18°C / -3°C	
	SUNDAY 24°C / 0°C	

BEREA

FRIDAY 13°C / 1°C	SATURDAY 12°C / 0°C	
	SUNDAY 19°C / -1°C	

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Motene - the new women football president



OPTIMISTIC: The new women football president Baholo Motene

TEBOHO JAFETA

MASERU - Women football has elected Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Ladies FC and Mehalalitoe midfielder Baholo Motene as the new women football president during the weekend in Maseru.

In an interview with Metro, Motene said she believes that her campaign strategy assisted her to outshine her competitor.

"I strategised my campaign by telling people who I am and where I come from, telling them my journey in sports administration," she said.

She further mentioned that it was not an easy task since she competed with the best candidate in Puseletso Mokhosi who is her

predecessor.

"I started football administration back in 2016 during the formation of LDF Ladies FC where I became both player and administrator at the club. I have been holding both roles since 2016 to date," she said.

She further said she formed LDF Ladies FC and managed it until the team accomplished all the successes seen today.

"I convinced Ketsibile Phatšoane, the owner of Likhosatsana FC to take the team to the barracks and Likhosatsana FC status was finally sold to Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Ladies FC," she added.

In her administration, Motene said her club LDF Ladies FC won the women super league and the

top 4 trophies for three consecutive times in 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 football seasons.

She further said where there is good administration, the team's performance will be outstanding.

"LDF Ladies are where they are today due to good administration," she showed.

"Having served as the women super league secretary and Mehalalitoe manager, people realised my potential and recommended me to contest for presidency. I thought about that for some time until I considered the recommendation. I stood for the challenge and tried my luck, fortunately I won," she said.

Motene said as Mehalalitoe

manager, the senior women football team played well and did not lose badly while they were using majority of local players playing in women super league.

"As a team manager, I always encouraged my charges in the national team to be patient and focus on playing football during the time when we delayed to get finances while on national duty," Motene noted.

As a soldier, she says she will take orders from the people who elected her in working towards achieving the growth in women football.

"I will take orders and mandate from the women football family being the people who elected me,

but I still have my own goals which I would like to attain," she said.

Motene said among others, she will focus on seeking sponsorship for the women super league, and the top 4 tournament and will also encourage women super league teams to have their own sponsors.

She further pledged to ensure the creation of another tournament, the Top 8 cup for which her committee will also seek funding.

"I have a big responsibility of transforming women football to professional level so that women footballers can earn a living from football," she said.

Motene also promised to align her committee plans to the current women football strategic plan.

Matlama challenge LeFA resolutions on 2019/20 season

MASERU - Premier league giants, Matlama, have challenged a resolution taken by the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) to declare Bantu as the Econet Premier League champions for the 2019/2020 season that was disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

LeFA in March suspended all football activities in the country with Bantu enjoying an 18-point advantage over second placed Matlama in the race for the Econet Premier League title and M500 000 first prize money.

Last week, LeFA announced at a press conference that its executive committee had taken a resolution to declare Bantu as champions of the league after almost a month of consultations between them and the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC).

This was after PLMC had twice met with its 14-member premier league teams, who had requested

LeFA to end the season as it was, due to the prevailing circumstances regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, Matlama have since challenged the resolution in a letter submitted to the football mother body on Tuesday.

The statement from Matlama says: "As Matlama Football Club, we have learnt of the resolutions by the Lesotho Football Association NEC that states, amongst others:

The 2019/2020 season ends henceforth.

The log standings are as at the date of the suspension of the leagues by the Lesotho Football Association.

That Bantu are declared the champions of the 2019/20 Econet Premier League and shall represent Lesotho at the CAF Champions League.

That for the competitions that arise as a result of the log standings (i.e. Top 4 and Top 8) the log standing at the time of the

suspension of the leagues shall be used as a determining factor.

That there will be no relegation for the current season.

That as of the 2020/2021 until any other decision is to be taken; the premier league shall have 16 teams with two teams from the A-Division being promoted. That at the end of the 2020/2021 season, there will be two teams that will be relegated.

Kindly note that Matlama Football Club does not accept the aforesaid resolution and finds the same to be arbitrary, irrational, fails to ensure football fairness and merit, and is in complete violation of the Lesotho Premier League and A-Division Rules and Regulations 2019 (as amended). Thus, Matlama Football Club formally challenges the aforesaid resolution on the following grounds:

1. The decision to end the 2019/2020 Premier League Season henceforth and declare Bantu Football Club as

Championship is contrary to article 3.1 read with article 22.1 to 22.3 inclusive of the Lesotho Premier League and A-Division Rules and Regulations 2019 (as amended).

2. The decision to the effect that there will not be any relegation for the current season is contrary to the article 2.1.3 of the Lesotho Premier League and A-Division Rules and Regulation 2019 (as amended).
3. The decision to promote and end the A-Division season and promote two teams to the Premier League is contrary to article 2.2.1 read with article 22.1 to 22.3 inclusive of the Lesotho Premier League and A-Division Rules and Regulations 2019 (as amended). The decision further undermines the provisions of article 3.9 of the same Rules and Regulations.
4. The resolution entirely undermines the spirit of football fairness and merit.
5. The resolution entirely was

made arbitrarily and irrational without the consideration of other reasonable alternatives. The NEC has basically decided to pick and choose certain parts to recognize and not others.

6. On the basis of the foregoing, Matlama Football Club finds the decision by the Lesotho Football Association to be invalid and kindly request your office to transmit our dispute in this regard to the Disciplinary and Protests Committee for determination in terms of Article 32 (2) (ii) of the Constitution of the Lesotho Football Association.

7. In order not to undermine the dispute resolution process, we request both the Lesotho Football Association and the Lesotho Premier League to put the implementation of the resolution in abeyance pending the final determination of the matter," the statement said.

Results are not achieved by luck - Kopo



Fourteen years down the line, his record still stands. The only Mosotho to win a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games and no Mosotho boxer has broken that record to date, not only in boxing fraternity, but in the entire Lesotho sports industry.

There is no doubt that Kopo could have even done better in Melbourne, Australia all those 14 years ago, had he not ruptured an eardrum in one of the fights.

The untimely injury ultimately forced him to forfeit his final bout against Britain's Simon Russan, to settle for the silver medal.

The former Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) boxer and the Melbourne, Australia Commonwealth 2006 Games silver medalist, was also nominated as the best boxer of the International Military Sports Council (CISM) tournament of Eastern and Southern Africa.

In 2006, Kopo brought Lesotho the silver medal from the Commonwealth Games, fighting in the light welterweight (64 kg) division.

This was a third Commonwealth Games medal after legendary marathoner Thabiso Moqhali won gold in 1998 Malaysia Commonwealth Games and fellow boxer Ezekiel Letuka walked away with bronze at the 2002 Manchester, England Commonwealth Games.

Kopo is the son of the late 'Malebohang and Thabo Kopo. Born on March 28, 1970, he was raised in Phaphama, in the Botha-Bothe district.

He did his primary education at the St Stephens Primary School before he proceeded to St Paul High School.

He started boxing from a very young age

when he was only in Standard Five.

After he started to box, Kopo trained for a year and one month before he began competing.

He first started boxing for recreation in primary school. Later when he joined the LDF, he boxed as part of his job and later coached the army boxing team as part of his managerial duties in the army.

By the time he competed at the Commonwealth Games in 2006, he was already a serious threat to many local and international contenders.

Kopo recalls exchanging blows with Black Marthenge of Kenya in the men's light welterweight division (64kg) Semi-final bout at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre during day eight of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games March 23, 2006. He went on to win that bout.

He later dropped out of the national boxing squad which competed in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, India, after it emerged he had been skipping

training.

He was replaced with his teammate Kokole Paneng from the army stable in the same weight division.

But he, however, refutes allegations of skipping training saying he believes he was only chopped from the team because the final squad was selected in his absence on July 19, 2010.

Kopo who retired earlier this year holding the rank of Lieutenant says at the time of trials, he was engaged in army operations, in preparation for His Majesty's birthday celebration.

According to him, when the trials were being held, he was in Thaba-Tseka with other soldiers when he received information about trials for the national team final selection.

"For that reason, I was not able to show up, but allegations that I was left behind because I had skipped training are definitely not true," he says.

He says the boxing association failed to respond to his request for release from army duties to attend the trials.

"That was a hint to me that I was no longer wanted in the national team despite my having made those previous big wins internationally," he says.

In 2010, while still working for the army, he enrolled at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting.

Upon arrival in varsity, the formidable boxer coached NUL boxing club and the team went on to win the intervarsity championships three times.

He also coached the Makoanyane boxing club and

produced some of the country's greatest boxers such as Kokole Paneng and Moroke Mokhotho who are now representing Lesotho in international competitions.

When he first started to box, Kopo says boxing standards were at their highest level in Lesotho as compared to today where they have declined tremendously.

He recalls former local boxers who achieved great things during their heydays.

He mentions boxing giants like the deadly Mosolesa Tsie who was affectionately known as "Fire" and Letuka.

"During our time, we could not represent Lesotho at an international event and return home without victory, but nowadays our boxers cannot even win a three-bout match in international competitions," he says.

After he retired from the army this year, he became a fulltime businessman.

Kopo's interest in business developed back in 2001 when he enrolled at the Centre for Accounting Studies (CAS) where he obtained a Technician Accounting certificate.

He is married with three daughters.

At his prime, he competed in various boxing tournaments in both Lesotho and in South Africa and believes that to achieve good results, athletes should be determined and work hard as good results are not achieved through sheer luck.

He joined the army in November 1996 and served the nation as a soldier in different ranks from Private to Lt.

When he finally hung his boxing gloves, Kopo entered the Lesotho Boxing Association (LeBA) elections and was elected as the president.

He in 2019, he resigned from that position to focus on other aspects of his life.

During his tenure as LeBA president, a total of 18 local coaches underwent training

and are currently working fulltime as coaches in different boxing clubs across the country.

Among his accolades, Kopo received the Khau ea Ramatšatsana Award, one of the highest honours awarded to local heroes by His Majesty King Letsie III.



BLOW BY BLOW: Moses Kopo (in blue) in action in Melbourne 2006



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