

We offer loans of up to **M250k** to civil servants, and also assist employees of parastatals and municipalities

Visit us at one of our branches or **WE CAN COME TO YOU!**

Prompt attention and quick turnaround time on loan applications

**CONTACT US NOW**

**HLOTSE** Phone: 22400180

**MASERU** Phone: 22329731

**QUTHING** Phone: 22750180

**MAFETENG** Phone: 22701180

**QACHA'S NEK** Phone: 22950109

[www.lesana.co.ls](http://www.lesana.co.ls)

**Mothæ Mine reduces debt**  
.. as average prices achieved for the mine favourably have been impacted by recovering diamond market **4**

**SA lawyer paid a fortune in Lesotho** **7**



**FREE**



**Metr**

CELEBRATING **5** YEARS ANNIVERSARY

*News you can use*

**Brown targets golden boot in Bolivia** **15**

**Treason case against Kamoli continues** **2**

**Majoro bemoans climate change effects** **5**

THURSDAY November 4 - 10, 2021 | Tel.: 266 2232 5494 | editor@maserumetro.com | sales@maserumetro.com | Est. 2017

**LESOTHO DEBT PORTFOLIO WORSENS**  
...the increase represents 22% higher than previous figure of M15 870billion **3**



**HONGHOS**  
Flame-grilled goodness!



**NOW OPEN IN LESOTHO**  
Mafafa Center, Kingsway, Maseru Lesotho - TEL: 5653 7564  
Next to Enrich Store

**Mokhothu encourages people to take Covid vaccine** **9**

# Regulars

# Get your own NEWS everyday

**READ Online** [www.maserumetro.com](http://www.maserumetro.com)

- LeNA staff bids farewell to former editor
- Hawks investigating 'Malema-linked' fuel tender



## BORN ON THIS DAY

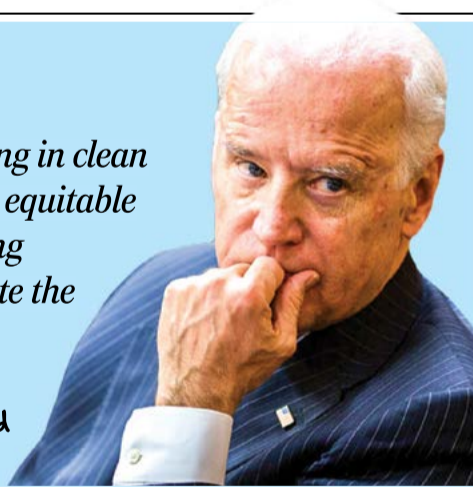
November 4

- 1770 - Carlos Antonio López, 1st President of Paraguay (1844-62), born in Paraguay
- 1797 - Aleksander Bestuzhev-Marlinsky, Russian author, born in Russia
- 1914 - Carlos Castillo Armas, President of Guatemala (1954-57), born in, Guatemala
- 1920 - Georges Papy, Belgian mathematician (Numbers Game), born in Belgium
- 1923 - Freddy Heineken, Dutch beer brewer (Heineken), born in Amsterdam (d. 2002)
- 1931 - Bernard Francis Law, Disgraced American cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church
- 1936 - Didier Ratsiraka, President of Madagascar (1975-93), born in Vatovandri
- 1948 - Amadou Toumani Touré, Mali politician, President of Mali (2002-12), born in Mopti
- 1972 - Tabu [Tabassum Hashmi], Indian actress (Maachis), born in Hyderabad, India

## Quotes & Quips!

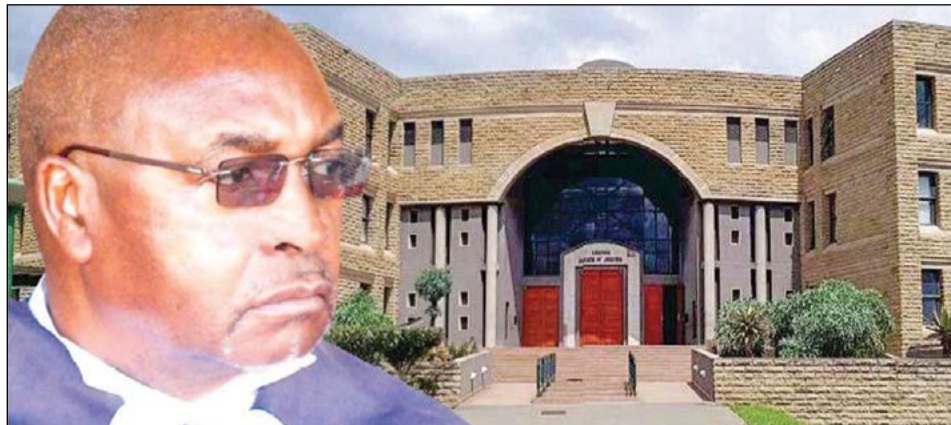
*"By closing South African coal plants ahead of schedule and investing in clean power alternatives for the people of South Africa and supporting an equitable and inclusive transition in South Africa's coal sector, we are following through on the pledge the G7 partners made in Cornwall to accelerate the transition away from coal in developing countries,"*

says US President Joe Biden, after SA secured a multibillion-billion-dollar deal with developed nations that is essential to curbing its high emissions and reducing its reliance on coal



## NewsBriefs

### Judge Hungwe contract expires



**MASERU** – Zimbabwean judge, Justice Charles Hungwe who presided over the case in which nine soldiers are accused of the murder of the former army chief, Lieutenant General Maaparankoe Mahao might have to return home because his contract has expired.

That is provided the Government of Lesotho does not renew his contract that expired on October 31

Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane explained on Monday that the judiciary is on an uncharted territory in respect of the matter as the Crown is not in a position to honour its financial obligations.

He said although Justice Hungwe (pictured) is available and willing to continue with the trial, but the current situation is beyond his control.

"As the Chief Justice, I have tried to assist in solving the matter, but my efforts have been unsuccessful," Justice Sakoane said, adding that parliament holds the purse and not the judiciary.

He said he deliberately announced the development in open court in order to avoid any

misrepresentations.

"Everyone is entitled to their opinions, but whatever one says should be based on facts," he said adding that the accused soldiers are facing capital offences.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane asked the court to give her time to consult the Attorney General on the matter. The accused in the matter include Motsamai Fako, Motšoane Machae, Tšitso Ramoholi, former LDF commander, Lt Gen Tlali Kamoli, Litekanyo Nyakane, Haleo Makara, Lekhooa Moepi, Marasi 'Moleli and Mohlalefi Seitlheko.

They face multiple charges including attempted murder, theft, obstruction of justice, damage to property, aggravated assault and risk of injury or death. Most of these crimes allegedly occurred in Ha Lekete and Ha Ratjomose in Maseru on June 25, 2015, the day on which Mahao was killed.

LeNA

### Treason case against Kamoli continues

...as the former army boss awaits trial behind bars

**MASERU** – FORMER army chief, Lieutenant General Tlali Kamoli who is accused of the 2014 murder of police Sub-Inspector Mokheseng Ramahlolo will know his fate on December 6 when his treason case continues.

He is charged along with three other soldiers including Captain Litekanyo Nyakane as well as Lance Corporals Motloheloa Ntsane and Leutsoa Motsieloa.

It is still not clear as to what direction the trial will take after it suffered a lengthy delay due to an application filed by Mothetjoa Metsing and Selibe Mochoboroane who are challenging their joinder in the case.

The two political leaders accuse the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Advocate Hlalefang

Motinyane of failing to follow due process when filing the matter against them.

Metsing who is the former Deputy Prime Minister is also the leader of the Lesotho Congress of Democracy (LCD).

Mochoboroane who is the Minister of Development Planning is also the leader of the Movement for Economic Change (MEC).

The accused are alleged to have killed Sub-Insp Ramahlolo during an incident that occurred at the police headquarters on August 30, 2014.

LeNA

## FastFACTS

**Indonesia is home to some of the shortest people in the world**

Though there are short people and tall people everywhere, Indonesia is home to some of the shortest people in the world, according to data compiled from various global sources by the Telegraph in 2017.

When taking both genders into account, the average adult is around 5 feet, 1.8 inches. People in Bolivia don't tend to be much taller, with an average adult height of 5 feet, 2.4 inches. The tallest people among us live in the Netherlands, where the average adult height is 6 feet.

## On This Day in History

### 2008



### November 04

#### Barack Obama elected as America's first Black president

On November 4, 2008, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois defeats Senator John McCain of Arizona to become the 44th U.S. president, and the first African American elected to the White House. The 47-year-old Democrat garnered 365 electoral votes and nearly 53 percent of the popular vote, while his 72-year-old Republican challenger captured 173 electoral votes and more than 45 percent of the popular vote. Obama's vice-presidential running mate was Senator Joe Biden of Delaware, while McCain's running mate was Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska, the first female Republican ever nominated for the vice presidency.

Obama, who was born in 1961 in Hawaii to a white woman from Kansas and a Black man from Kenya, graduated from Harvard Law School and was a law professor at the University of Chicago before launching his political career in 1996, when he was elected to the Illinois State Senate. He was re-elected to that post in 1998 and 2000. In March 2004, he shot to national prominence by winning the U.S. Senate Democratic primary in Illinois, and that July he gained further exposure when he delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, which included his eloquent call for unity among "red" (Republican) and "blue" (Democratic) states. That November, Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate in a landslide.

On February 10, 2007, in Springfield, Illinois, Obama officially announced his candidacy for president. A victory in the Iowa caucuses in January 2008 made him a viable challenger to the early frontrunner, Senator Hillary Clinton of New York, whom he outlasted in a gruelling primary campaign to claim the Democratic nomination in early June 2008.

## ALL JOKES ASIDE

### Sleepy girl answers questions in class

Josey wasn't the best pupil at Sunday school.

She often fell asleep and one day while she was sleeping, the teacher asked her a question. "Who is the creator of the universe?"

Josey was sitting next to Josey and decided to poke her with a pin to wake her up. Josey jumped and yelled, "God almighty!" The teacher congratulated her.

A little later the teacher asked her another question, "Tell me who is our lord and saviour?" Josey poked Josey again and she yelled out, "Jesus Christ!" The teacher congratulated her again.

Later on the teacher asked, "What did Eve say to Adam after their 26th child?" Josey poked Josey again and she shouted, "If you stick that thing in me again, I'll snap it in half and stick it up your ass!"

**If it matters to you, it matters to us.**



# Give us NEWS TIPS

Send an email with your contact details and phone number to:

@ [editor@maserumetro.com](mailto:editor@maserumetro.com) or

WhatsApp on 266 62 005494.

- Newspapers
- Pamphlets
- Directories
- Newsletters

E-mail: [tmg@thabure.com](mailto:tmg@thabure.com)  
Phones: 266 22 3254 94



## Mothae Mine reduces its debt 4

# Metro BUSINESS

## CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.45
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.45
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.89
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.42
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.14
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	21.10
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	11.49
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.99
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	11.46
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.038
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.026
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.33
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.98
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.21
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	4.12
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.93
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.73
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.21
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.21
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.36

## COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,630.65	Gold p/ounce	1,776.12
NASDAQ100	15,972.49	Platinum p/ounce	1,044.39
Nikkei225	29,520.90	Silver p/ounce	23.46
Dow Jones30	36,052.63	Copper p/ounce	4.40
FTSE 100	7,242.66	Brent Oil p/barrel	83.06
JSE	68,442.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	24,974.04	Bonds	18.44
		Treasury Bills	3.67
		Interest Rates	91

## AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

## ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

# Lesotho debt portfolio worsens ...the increase represents 22% higher than previous figure of M15 870billion

particulars of outstanding external and domestic loans. The external loans are raised from bilateral, multilateral and commercial sources while domestic loans are raised by the sale of development sticks, treasury bonds and through banking institutions.

The Minister of Finance is empowered by the Loans and Guarantees Act, 1967 to raise loans internally and externally for financing development projects.

Section 116 of the Constitution stipulates that all debt charges for which Lesotho is liable should be a charge on the consolidated fund.

According to the Constitution, debt charges include interest, sinking fund charges, the repayment or amortisation of debt and all expenditure in connection with the raising of loans on the security of the consolidated fund and the service and redemption of debt created thereby.

In its 2020 edition of the International Debt Statistics report, the World Bank showed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the external debt stock of low and middle income countries rose, on an average of 5.3 percent in 2020, about the same pace as the two prior years.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, rising public debt levels and heightened debt vulnerabilities were already a cause for concern in many of the world's poorest countries, and these have been further exacerbated.

And the rise in external indebtedness, the World Bank says was not matched by gross national income (GNI) and exports growth.

billion as well as the negative impact on exchange rate applied on closing balances.

"The opening debt stock was M12 661 billion and closing balance was M15 632 billion as at March 31, 2020," the Acting Auditor General Monica Besetsa revealed in her report.

The Auditor General report presents the results of audit of the consolidated financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020 and various other audits undertaken in ministries, departments, agencies and statutory bodies subject to audit.

The consolidated financial statements for the year under review further shows the opening balance of M3 209 billion for domestic debt and new issues of treasury bills, treasury bonds and fiscal bills amounting to M2 508 billion while principal repayments were M2 029 resulting into a closing balance of M3 688 billion. Interest paid on domestic debt amounted to M265 million.

Under domestic debts for instance, treasury bills were recorded at a closing balance of M875 675 during the year under review, while treasury bonds closed at M2 382 619 and fiscal bills at M430 000.

The public debt liability is a major Government liability and a key sustainability issue for the Government. It requires comprehensive, accurate and timely records for good management.

The public debt statement shows the

financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020.

The increase represents 22 percent higher than the previous figure of M15 870 billion. The significant increase is on long-term debt.

"There was an expansion on external debt and the contributing factors are new borrowings of M4 702

Acting Auditor General, Monica Besetsa

### NEO SENOKO

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

**MASERU** – Lesotho debt portfolio magnitude has increased significantly, ending at M19 320 billion as at March 2020.

This is according to the report of the Auditor General on the consolidated

# Business

## Mothae Mine reduces its debt

.. as average prices achieved for the mine favourably have been impacted by recovering diamond market

### NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – Mothae Diamond Mine, a high value kimberlite diamond mine located in the highlands of Lesotho has reduced its debt to the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa by \$ 1.1 million (M16, 951, 198) in the third quarter.

The average prices achieved for Mothae have been favourably impacted by the recovering diamond market, with

year to date prices of US\$ 765/carats being 88 percent ahead of those achieved in the prior year comparative period.

The cutting and polishing partnership continues to deliver additional margins to the mine with many stones awaiting sale or still in the manufacturing stage.

“Lucapa continued to deliver against our strategic priorities, and we are satisfied with the results and production records, particularly as we faced some operational headwinds. The market for diamonds continued to be buoyant in a

constrained rough supply environment with prices at levels not seen since 2012. As a result, we have upgraded our full year guidance,” Lucapa Managing Director, Stephen Wetherall said.

Mothae is owned by its operator, Lucapa Diamond Company at 70 percent while the Government of Lesotho holds 30 percent shares.

Lucapa revealed that the Mothae mini and processing operations improved during the quarter, with the plant achieving record throughout for a quarter



Lucapa Managing Director, Stephen Wetherall

of 344, 978 tonnes and its highest average feed rate post the plant upgrade.

This was achieved despite ramp up, inclement weather, challenges relating to electricity supply and unscheduled plant downtime. With many of the concerns addressed and warmer weather approaching, it is expected the plant ramp up in the fourth quarter will deliver against plan.

During the quarter, Mothae recovered 9 567 carats and delivered a monthly record in August with 3 776 carats recovered. The largest diamond recovered during the quarter was 51 carats, with fancy light pink and yellow also recovered. There were 208 diamonds greater than 4.8 carats and 60 special stones recovered during the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the mine will be carrying out trials to determine if continuous miner technology can mine and deliver a fine feed envelope of ROM ore to the plant which Lucapa believes will result in meaningful increased efficiencies and cost reductions.

The expansion project at Mothae was completed in March this year and the mine began to operate at new expanded capacity from the beginning of the second quarter of 2021.

The expansion project was focused on increasing nameplate capacity by 45 percent from 1.1 million tonnes per annum to 1.6 Mtpa.

In December 2020, Lucapa sold six percent of its company stock to Graff subsidiary Safdico, to secure the funds for the expansion. The mine has an off-take agreement with Safdico under which the manufacturer purchases 100 percent of the rough from Mothae for a period of two and half years.

The increase meant Mothae would upsurge output by 45 percent while also raising its ore-processing capacity to 1.6 million tonnes per year from 1.1 million tonnes.

**THE Family MEAL**

1 full chicken, large chips,  
4 buns & 1.25L Coo-ee

**149**

**+10** 2L Pepsi,  
1.5L Coke

### take two COMBOS

**45** Two schwarmas  
Chicken & Cheese

**55** Two Chicken,  
Cheese &  
Pepper Burgers

**50** Two Chicken  
& Pepper  
Burgers

**50** Two Jumbo  
Beef & Cheese  
Burgers

**45** Two Regular  
Beef & Cheese  
Burgers

**49** Two Cheeky Bowls  
Chicken Strips  
Served With Rice  
\*Choose 1 Cheeky  
Bowl & 1 Cheeky  
Livers instead

**HONCHOS**  
FLAME-GRILLED GOODNESS  
www.honchos.co.za



Mafafa Center, Kingsway, Maseru Lesotho  
Next To Enrich Store  
TEL: 5653 7564



Pictures are for illustrative purposes only. E&OE.  
Prices are subject to change without notice.

# Majoro bemoans climate change effects

*...as he calls for financial assistance to fight climate change*

**NEO SENOKO**  
business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – In a move that seeks to fight climate change and its challenges, provision of up-scaled predictable financial resources by developed countries is key to Lesotho and the sustainability of her adaptation actions, Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro has said.

He said this on Monday during the 26th conference of parties to the United Nations (UN) framework convention on climate change that technology and capacity building support for adaptation actions at national and local levels in Lesotho are needed.

“Also the adaptation modalities, procedures and guidelines need to comprehensively include measures to address the social impacts of climate change. The financial commitments made so far will fall short of what the world needs to save itself from climate warming,” Dr Majoro said before other world leaders.

The event which commenced on Monday is expected to run until

November 12 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Dr Majoro noted that sustainability of climate friendly actions in developing countries will depend on the literacy of future generations on climate change.

“As a result, strengthening scientific knowledge in a manner that informs climate services and support decision making is necessary for Lesotho,” he said.

Research centres, he added, should be strengthened and supported financially, technologically and technically.

“Clearly we are not in a position to quarrel with scientific enquiry because their predictions have come to bear in our communities. We are disappointed that others feel we still have time, notwithstanding scientific conclusions that we must act now, decisively and ambitiously.

“For us developing countries, and Lesotho in particular, the present level of global warming should be ultimate cap on warming. Based on our anemic response to climate change so far, it is folly to experiment with and accept higher greenhouse

concentrations,” he said.

The global temperature has increased by more than one degree Celsius since the pre-industrial period from technologies that have dangerously changed the ecosystem.

The impact is dire in that communities are now experiencing frequent flooding, planting seasons have shortened as rains have delayed, droughts are more frequent and blistering, warm temperature are more frequent.

Cold spells occur during summer seasons and roads, houses, fields, burial places all get washed away.

These changes have negatively impacted all facets of life including access to food, water, energy, health and education.

“But there are no fiscal resources in the country or from international funds for adaptation and restitution. National reserves have been depleted by responses to the COVID-19 pandemic while access to global climate finance mechanisms remain effectively shut,” Dr Majoro further bemoaned.



Prime Minister Dr Mœketsi Majoro

## Still baking & delivering your essential

# BLUE RIBBON

## during lockdown.



TRUSTED QUALITY  
PROUDLY LESOTHO



TRUSTED QUALITY  
PROUDLY LESOTHO

# Comments & Letters

## We are graduates and need jobs

### The Editor,

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a huge impact on the availability of employment for graduates as well as the application process.

But as graduates, we need to know if there is hope for those seeking work in 2021 and beyond.

We will be entering a challenging career environment in the next few months and applying for employment.

Many organisations are still actively recruiting, and the value of graduate recruitment has not changed.

As graduates, we are essential candidates for employment in any business, as we have what it takes to help shape the future of companies.

For many employers, innovation in areas such as digital transformation and cloud computing will be key to adapting to the COVID-19 crisis. In that sense, graduates can play an important role in bringing new ideas to the table.

Samuel Hlongwane  
Lithabang, Maseru

## Is it Witchcraft or dementia?

### The Editor,

The World's population is ageing, which increases the number of those at risk of dementia. Mental health and physical diseases that affect behaviour have often been associated with witchcraft. Accusations of witchcraft leave individuals vulnerable and at risk of physical harm.

Elderly women are some of the most vulnerable members of society who are at risk of being accused of witchcraft or perceived to have outlived their usefulness.

Community accusations of witchcraft correspond with direct or indirect harm to others, such as road accidents, unemployment, infertility, and physical and mental health problems. Being accused of witchcraft has many negative connotations, as those who hold these beliefs, also believe that it is acceptable to dehumanise a witch and act violently towards them. There is need for dementia awareness campaigns for all members of the community across the country, including faith and traditional healers as well as healthcare professionals to support pluralistic healthcare provision.

Maseitebatsi Nkaile  
Tsakholo, Mafeteng

## How is COVID-19 related to beer?

### The Editor,

At the height of the COVID-19 crisis, people significantly changed their drinking habits and switched their drinking holes for drinking from the comfort of their homes. For many people, alcohol is an integral part of their social life, a life that has been rudely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lockdowns are far from over as another one is believed to be on its way. One would think that by now people would be used to the lockdowns but always being locked up in one's home has its negative sides too.

Always being told what to do or not to do is not so pleasant.

Like it happened before, it is believed that the imminent lockdown will see another ban of alcohol in a bid to restrict people's movement. The country is currently on the blue colour code with positive cases and COVID-related deaths at relatively low levels. As our lawmakers continue to extend these lockdowns, will our businesses ever get a chance to generate income like they are supposed to?

Thulo Thulo  
Ha Tsolo, Maseru

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Government in crises over debt

While the Government of Lesotho has been struggling to manage its debts, the COVID-19 pandemic presents even more challenges in line with debt management mechanisms. Operational challenges, liquidity and funding risks have escalated to unprecedented levels in these trying times.

Debt management preparedness to respond to these challenges is critical in supporting the efficacy of the government's emergency response.

The pandemic poses significant challenges for public debt management resulting in sudden and significant increases in borrowing needs as well as some temporary mismatches in fiscal cash flows.

This has been evidenced by the recently release report of the Auditor General which painted a bleak picture on the country's public debt position.

The report reveals that Lesotho debt portfolio magnitude has increased significantly, ending at M19 320 billion as at March 2020.

The increase represents 22 percent higher than the previous figure of M15 870 billion. The significant increase is on long-term debt.

With this scenario in mind and the fact that the Government is struggling to remain sustainable and below the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s 55 percent of GDP and the 60 percent SADC policy guideline, the Government should find other financing alternatives to remain sustainable and able to borrow.

With the debt burden flying above these thresholds, it means that the country will be at risk of experiencing debt distress, thus making it difficult to borrow from development partners. For a country's debt to remain sustainable, SADC advises member states to maintain a public debt to GDP ratio of no greater than 60 percent.

One advice we would give to the Government would be that it should find ways to reduce its spending and put more focus on supporting private sector growth among others in order to remain sustainable during this difficult period.

Even a delegation from the IMF did recommend in its visit last year that the Government spending should be refocused in order for the country to remain sustainable.

The team revealed in its assessment that Government finances have eroded after several years of relatively low inflows from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), with the Government incurring new domestic arrears.

Again, the Government could find ways to reduce its wage bill which has been escalating over the years and currently putting Lesotho amongst the highest spenders in the world.

## Municipal Elections 2021: What the Dickens just happened

The final results from these elections will determine whether we are living through the age of wisdom or are stuck in the age of foolishness. This is the time we will witness whether we are heading towards an era of certainty or one of doubt. These elections will tell future generations a tale of our resolve as a people.

If called upon to describe the time of South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, I am certain that those who lived and experienced the period leading to the watershed elections, the two days of ballot casting and post-election activities, are likely to borrow the iconic opener from Charles Dickens' novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

I was a teenager who did not bother much about the euphoria that was a "democratic vote" as I believed that nothing would change. I read a lot at that time and this led me to believe that the promises by political parties, especially the ruling party which appeared to be in a scramble for power, were just misty paintings of a castle in the sky that would disappear once all the euphoria had settled. I owe my enlightenment for that period to Bab' Ngcobo, a man I had come to stay with during my high school years. He taught me to listen and critique what politicians promise.

The period – for those who can recall – was marred by "us and them" political-speak, promises of lives "like those of white men". We can never forget the political intolerance and the violence it brought. Worse was the doubt about the process of voting, the monitoring and the impartiality of results.

In his seminal opener, Dickens, in his plot leading to the French Revolution, wrote: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." This is a fitting description of the period we are experiencing in South Africa's sixth local government elections. Although not as highly decisive as the national elections that set the tone for which party will run national affairs and put forward the presidential candidate, the final outcome of this year's municipal elections are the best and yet the worst of our time since the advent of democracy. These results will determine whether we are living through the age of wisdom or are stuck in the age of foolishness. This is the time we will witness whether we are heading towards an era of certainty or one of doubt. These elections will tell future generations a tale of our resolve as a people.

The first resolve is that of deciding whether to cut the umbilical cord of abuse or to stay under years of neglect, being witnesses to unabated corruption and other political misnomers by the party that they had entrusted with their vote for years and termed it their "liberator" (although records will prove that this is a self-given title by the ANC).

In the run-up to the elections, I was invited to provide analysis for a television station. This was because the community of Pimville, Soweto, had shut down the voter registration station in protest. Their grievance was that they have had no electricity for 14 months. In my analysis, I

asked how come an area with a politically mandated councillor is living in a state of being forgotten? Pimville was no exception.

In certain areas, those who were campaigning for the ANC were seen to be chased away by the communities: even the president of the party (and head of state) had to, at some point, cancel his visit to communities.

During the weekend of the special vote, I drove through the

MY  
TAKE  
THAMSANQA D MALINGA



townships of Soweto – debris was strewn on main roads and one of the busiest intersections for public transport in

Soweto (corner Mooki Africa and Sofasonke Road in Orlando East), remains closed in protest. This has been the scene in many other areas around the country. To compound matters, there have been murders of contesting ward councillors. A day before the elections, Police Minister Bheki Cele stated that KwaZulu-Natal had "128 high-risk voting stations (which) will be monitored". To borrow from Dickens, it is our worst of times.

It is also our best of times in that we had a record number of people standing as independent candidates. The electorate is not only beholden to parties and their rhetoric. This is our best time to test electoral mandates outside of party political structures which have held South Africa to ransom. We know that the ruling ANC has used the issue of social grants, food parcels (via government departments), late delivery of services such as electricity, water and other infrastructure as electioneering machinery. Having independent candidates is best for our politics and these elections will serve to confirm that.

The second critical resolve that will speak volumes to future generations is that of whether we moved to the season of light and got stuck in the season of darkness. For me, this talks to the independence of our electoral system: does it move us into the light or keep us – like the state electricity entity – in the dark in favour of the status quo.

In the run-up to these elections, amid all the chaos that ensued about the ANC missing the submission date for its candidate list and the court case involving one of the contesting political parties, ActionSA, I remembered the words uttered by one political commentator about the Electoral Commission. Scathing and yet horrifying, the commentator remarked, "the independence of the Electoral Commission (IEC) will be tested the day the ANC loses elections".

Whatever the outcome, these elections proved to be a Dickensian moment for South Africa and the hope is that the parties, Electoral Commission and the electorate reflect on that as we prepare for the national elections in 2024. DM

## CONTACT US

### GIVE US NEWS

If you have any News Tip you would like to share with us, send an email with your contact details and phone number to: editor@maserumetro.com.

### Florida Industrial Park, 5 minutes drive from Maseru border.

Ha Hoohlo, P.O. Box 14129, Maseru 100  
Tel: 266 22 325494  
E-mail: circulation@maserumetro.com  
SUBSCRIBE TODAY

### Website:

www.maserumetro.com  
ADVERTISING SALES  
E-mail: sales@maserumetro.com

### Editorial Team

**Business Reporter:** - Mr Neo Senoko (business@maserumetro.com)  
**Health Reporter:** - Ms Lineo Mabekebeke (health@maserumetro.com)  
**Football Reporter:** - Mr Teboho Jafeta (sports@maserumetro.com)  
**Chief Sub-Editor:** - Mr Leboela Motopi (news@maserumetro.com)

**Graphics Director:** - Mr Mthobi Malope (graphics.d@thabure.com)  
**Graphic Designer:** - Ms Ellen Ramangoela (graphics.l@thabure.com)

**Circulation Director:** - Mr Zacharia Liporo (logistics@thabure.com)

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



Facebook:  
Metro News



Twitter:  
@MaseruMetro



Instagram:  
maserumetro



YouTube:  
Maseru Metro news

**Metro**

**abc**

The Audit Bureau of  
Circulation Certified  
publication

# SA lawyer paid a fortune in Lesotho

## ...SC Abrahams collects M20 000 a day for a High Court appearance

**MASERU** – Senior Counsel Shaun Abrahams, a South African lawyer who has been engaged by the Lesotho Government to prosecute some of the high profile cases in the country is paid M20 000 a day, to appear in the High Court of Lesotho.

This development was revealed on Thursday in the National Assembly by the Minister of Justice and Law, Advocate Lekhetho Rakuoane.

The minister who was responding to a question and answer session said SC Abrahams is paid M15 000 to make an appearance in the Magistrate's Court.

Abrahams is a South African lawyer and the former National Director of the Public Prosecutions (NDPP) at the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

Prior to his appointment in 2015 when Mxolisi Nxasana stepped down as NDPP, Abrahams had been a senior state advocate in the Priority Crimes Litigation Unit.

Adv Rakuoane said for perusal, preparation, consultation-charge per hour or part thereof, Abrahams charges the state M2 500.

He was quick to note that the amount of money that the South African lawyer has been paid to date since 2018 is M7 924 220.28, adding that the Government still owes him a certain amount of money.

Rakuoane said foreign judges are also paid huge sums of money for their legal services in the country, adding that he is already working on this challenge together with the Attorney General.

The Minister was responding to questions asked by the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), Tšelisio Mokhosi who wanted him to shed some light to the house on Abrahams' contract with the Government.

Abrahams was engaged as the lead prosecutor in some high profile cases against some members of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) who face among others, murder charges in the High Court.

He also prosecutes cases against some political leaders like Mothetjoa Metsing and Selibe Mochoboroane who face

charges of arson.

Metsing who is the former Deputy Prime Minister is also the leader of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD).

Mochoboroane who is the Minister of Development Planning is also the leader of Movement for Economic Change (MEC).

Some of the cases that Abrahams is prosecuting include the one in which some soldiers are charged with the murder of former army chief, Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Maaparankoe Mahao on June 25, 2015.

He is also prosecuting the matter in which some members of the LDF are charged with multiple counts of attempted murder which emanated from the 2014 bombings of some residences in Maseru.

Abrahams is also the lead prosecutor in the case in which four police officers are charged with the murder of their colleague, Police Constable Mokalekale Khetheng in March 2016. LeNA/Metro



Lead prosecutor, Senior Counsel Shaun Abrahams from South Africa

**ENO**

**WORKS ON 6 SYMPTOMS OF HEARTBURN FAST**

PM-ZA-ENO-21-00006

# SUMMER SHOPPING AT MASERU MALL

Ackermans

Ellen Bee

Legit

PEP

Studio 88

The Hanger

Lapis La Zuli



MASERU  
— MALL —





# Metro HEALTH

health@maserumetro.com



NEW

Visibly reduces  
**10** years  
of dark marks  
in 4 weeks

## Mokhothu encourages people to take Covid vaccine

*...as the infection rate declines to 0.8 percent in the past weekend and Govt implements use of vaccination cards to access certain services*

**MASERU** – Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu says the COVID-19 vaccine is essential in saving lives, encouraging people to vaccinate.

This, he said on Sunday night updating the nation on the progress made on the national vaccination campaign.

Mr Mokhothu said the vaccine has benefits which include among others, protection against severe illnesses and prevention of death, reducing burdens at health centres, easing of COVID-19 restrictions and the negative impact on the country's economy.

He said if people get vaccinated, that will help open all movement as well as get both the economy and life back to normal.

He said Lesotho is exemplary because as soon as they started vaccinating they saw the infection rate declining tremendously.

He said by Sunday, the infection rate had declined to 0.8 percent, adding that to ensure it stays that way, the Government has therefore strengthened all protection protocols.

Among others, he noted that as of November 1, vaccination cards will be required for access of services at some service providers which include night clubs, taverns, political rallies, public gatherings, parks and restaurants.

The DPM therefore warned people to always be in possession of both their vaccination cards and identification cards in order to access the above mentioned services.

The two cards, he however showed will not be required to attend both funeral and church services.

Over 500 000 people have been vaccinated since the campaign began and the target is to vaccinate about 1.6 million people by December.

The COVID-19 vaccine first arrived in Lesotho on March 3 and the vaccination campaign was launched a week later at Scott Hospital in Morija on the outskirts of Maseru.

His Majesty King Letsie III and His family were the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The vaccination campaign soon after rolled out for all health workers in all the 10 districts from March 15 and the health professionals were the first group to be vaccinated.

According to projections by an Oxford University COVID-19 database, Our World in Data, Lesotho is the only country in sub-Saharan Africa that is on track to meet the target of inoculating 40% of its population with at least one dose of the vaccine by the end of this year. LeNA/Metro



Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu

## Blood bank runs dry

*...as donors are reluctant to donate blood since the advent of COVID-19*

**MASERU** – Lesotho Blood Transfusion Services (LBTS) Manager, 'Maleqhoa Nyopa says the blood bank is running dry as few people donate blood.

She said 70 percent of local donors only donate blood for their relatives who are in desperate need of blood while only 30 percent donate voluntarily.

"I therefore appeal to members of the public to donate blood as it has been a month since the majority of people vaccinated against COVID-19 because they are not allowed to donate after vaccination," Mrs Nyopa said.

In a bid to reach out to the LBTS, members of the Lesotho Volley Ball Association (LVBA) donated blood at the LBTS offices on Saturday in commemoration of the association's 30-year anniversary.

LVBA Secretary General, Thabelang Leokaoke said the gesture forms part of their social responsibility of giving back to the

community.

"In recent times, a lot of people are reluctant to donate blood yet the demand remains high in hospitals. I therefore urge members of the public to join the association and donate blood in order to save more lives," he said.

At least 2 500 people are said to be regular blood donors in the country as they donate blood two to three times a year and 20 hospitals in Lesotho rely on the LBTS for blood supply.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) suggests that providing safe and adequate blood should be an integral part of every country's national health care policy and infrastructure.

LBTS is a department within the Ministry of Health which collects blood from non-remunerated blood donors. It supplies various government and private hospitals as well as clinics. LeNA



FANTASTIC SEKOTING, UPPER THAMAE BOX 114

CALL : +266 57853530/ 62853530  
WHATSAPP : +266 62853530  
EMAIL : mnthabane90@gmail.com

### Our Services

- Property Management
- House Maintenance (Painting, Tilling and Ceiling installation)
- We buy and sell sites.
- House Rentals

### Sites available for sale

- Motheo 2 -600sqm = M 245 000.00
- Masowe 2 -600sqm = M 230 000.00
- Sehlabeng -30x20m = M 40 000.00
- Ha-Mabote -25x22m = M 90 000.00
- Ha-Foso -30x25m = M75 000.00

If you are looking for a site, a house, or any of our services, Contact us on the following numbers:  
00266 62853530 / 00266 57853530

# The world in 10 minutes

## NETHERLANDS

### Dutch university's rare 'penis plant' blooms

A rare flower nicknamed the "penis plant" bloomed at a Netherlands university's botanical garden, a rare occurrence in Europe.

The University of Liden said the penis plant, known scientifically as *Amorphophallus decus-silvae*, blooms only once every two decades, and the university's botanical garden hasn't had one of the plants bloom since 1997.

The flower is known as a "penis plant" due to the phallic shape of its bloom.

The school said it is rare for the Indonesia-native plants to bloom in Europe due to the vastly different climate and weather conditions.

The plant that bloomed this month is 6 years old, and researchers noticed it was budding in mid-September. The university made arrangements to allow the public to see the blooming flower and experience its famously foul odour, which often is compared to rotting flesh.



## UGANDA

### Uganda to deny unvaccinated MPs access to parliament

Unvaccinated Ugandan MPs will be denied access to the country's parliament building.

Deputy Speaker Anita Among said the move was to "demonstrate a good example in support of the government's public health policy".

The privately-owned Nile Post website reported that Uganda's parliament becomes the third state institution to ban non-vaccinated people following similar moves by the Ministry of Health and the government-run National Medical Stores.

President Yoweri Museveni has said that many Ugandans were hesitant to get the jab but expressed hope that some 12 million residents would be vaccinated by the end of December.



## EGYPT

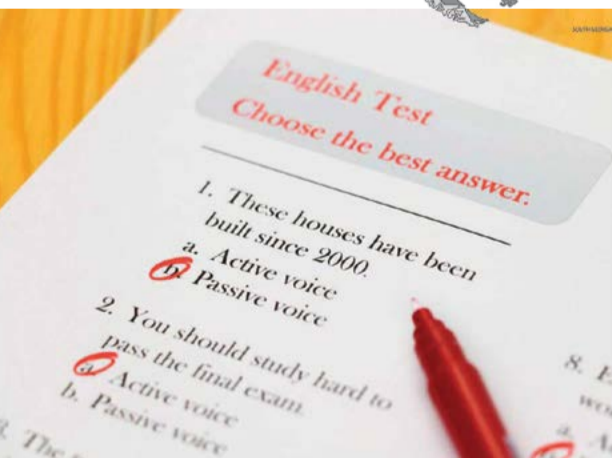
### Backlash as Egypt boasts of 'world's largest prison'

Pictures of a revamped facility which Egyptian authorities are calling the world's largest prison have angered some online.

Wadi el-Natrun prison is notoriously where political prisoners, including those from the Muslim Brotherhood, are held. Its expensive facelift is being publicised on local media.

Some Egyptians on social media have complained that the publicity is boastful and distasteful, and criticised the government for not providing more funding for schools instead.

Egypt's government has also been criticised for violating human rights and mistreating political prisoners. The US decided to partially suspend its aid to the country unless improvements were made in this respect.



## KENYA

### Kenya nurses fail English test for UK jobs

Dozens of Kenyan health workers failed English language tests that would have helped them get opportunities to work in the UK's National Health Service (NHS).

Kenya's Health Minister, Mutahi Kagwe, said only 10 out of 300 health workers who applied for the jobs with the NHS passed the exams.

Kenya signed a deal with the UK in July that would allow its unemployed nurses and other medics to work in the UK.

A Kenyan nurse has told the BBC of his "total embarrassment" after failing to pass an English language test that would have helped get to work in the UK's National Health Service (NHS).

Moses Riyanga Onkenke, a nurse from Kisii in western Kenya, said he speaks English fluently but did not pass because of the way the exam was conducted.

The English language test cost him \$290 (£210) and the certificate given to those who pass expires after two years, he said.



## RWANDA

### Belgium hands over Rwanda's colonial-era songs

Belgium's ambassador to Rwanda has handed over a digital copy of traditional songs, music and stories recorded during colonial rule to officials in the capital, Kigali.

It includes more than 4,000 recordings made since 1954, mostly by former Belgian officials which have been kept at the Royal Museum of Central Africa in Belgium's capital, Brussels.

"This is the first step, we expect more materials and objects of our heritage from Belgium," an official from Rwanda's cultural heritage academy told BBC Great Lakes.

Belgian forces occupied Rwanda, which had been part of German East Africa, during World War One.



## COLORADO - USA

### Three-legged dog learns how to walk upright like human after car accident

Dexter had to endure major surgery and rehabilitation to learn how to walk again after losing a limb - but just look at him now.

A dog has learned how to walk upright like a human after losing one of his legs in a car accident.

Dexter, a three-legged dog, shocked his owners when he began walking around the house on just his hind legs.

The six-year-old dog was sadly involved in an accident with a car and needed five surgeries in his first year followed by rehabilitation training to learn how to walk again after losing a limb.

He has become somewhat of a social media star with 634.6K followers on TikTok watching his day-to-day musings via his account, @dexterdogouray.

## Ministerspokes scoops gospel award in FS ...as singer competed against top names in the gospel genre from Lesotho



Local gospel musician, Poloko Mohlapiso aka Ministerspokes

### KABELO MASOABI

**LERIBE** – Ministerspokes, an upcoming gospel singer from Semonkong, in Maseru has brought glory home after scooping the hotly contested Artist of the Year Award in the South Africa's (SA) Free State Gospel Music Awards, (FREESGOSMA 2021).

The awards ceremony was held on Saturday in Bloemfontein, under the auspices of Dups Tee Foundation – a company founded in 2020 and led by 'Molotsi Medupi.

Ministerspokes real names, Poloko Mohlapiso from Ha Tsoinyana was competing with established names from Lesotho but against all odds, he won in his category.

The other 10 local artistes who battled against him included Katleho Moshe, Rorisang Motsamai, Majara Majara, Pastor M. Busa, 'Marefiloe Bale, Tšepo Kherenchane, Mosito Sentšo, Khahliso Mphophuka, Lerato Mothobi and Tšitso Chalatsi.

At the classy event held at the Ilanga Estate, Lesotho artistes also teamed up on stage and sang in tribute of the late jazz and gospel guru, Tšepo Tshola.

Renowned musician and former member of Sankomota,

Tshola, who was born and bred in in Lesotho, died in July from COVID-19 related complications aged 67.

After receiving the award, a triumphant Ministerspokes said he felt honoured to be the one of the winners, adding that the award means he is now well-recognised.

"I feel so overwhelmed. The victory will offer me great exposure to ensure that my music gets known. I am happy for my compatriots from Lesotho who were also nominated. Together we are going to hold a big show to thank our supporters for their votes as well as thank God for the award we brought home. It is a win for all of us, the 10 artistes who represented Lesotho in the competition," he also said.

About his music journey, Ministerspokes says he was raised in a Christian family and started singing in church at a tender age.

"When I arrived in the city (Maseru), I found my way into a then prominent gospel group called Yadah Praise Family and this is where my proficiency was honed and where I also gained a lot of experience. Sharing the stage with accomplished artistes such as the late Sefiso Ncwane, Joyous Celebration members and

Lebo Sekhobela really gave me the much needed exposure," he says.

In 2018, he recorded his debut album titled "The Genesis" which has 18 tracks.

"I am in no hurry to release follow up albums as I'm presently marketing this album because it takes time to penetrate the market," he explains.

For those who would like to follow his footsteps, the soft-spoken musician notes that some of the essential traits required in the business are a clear vision, a well-balanced mind, good support and connections in order to get airplay on various radio stations for ones' music.

"Unlike other gospel artistes who mix their music with other genres like Afro-Jazz, I stick to gospel because to me it is more

than a gift but a calling. In future I would like to work with the likes of Benjamin Dube from SA," he says with great confidence.

The founder and organiser of FREESGOSMA, Medupi, says their goal is to encourage hard work and high standards among gospel artistes from the Free State – to also promote and expose their talent.

"We are united for a common goal of celebrating the gospel creativities," he also says.

Some of the categories in the competition included - Best Producer, Best Gospel Radio Show, Best Female Artist, Best Gospel Group, Best New Comer, Best Single of the Year, Best Album of the Year, Best Clap and Tap of the Year and many more.

South African artistes nominated included Sello Maletle,

Teboho Moloi and Musa Sithole.

One of the province's top gospel artistes, Tebogo Nkone won the Gospel Song of the Year award with his popular song "Jeso Mopholusi wa ka".



NUL SRC & SOLO PROMOTIONS  
PRESENT

# FRESHERS Ball

**SAT 13 NOVEMBER**  
MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTER (GROUNDS) | 10AM

**M100 TAG**    **M250 VIP**    **M500 VVIP**

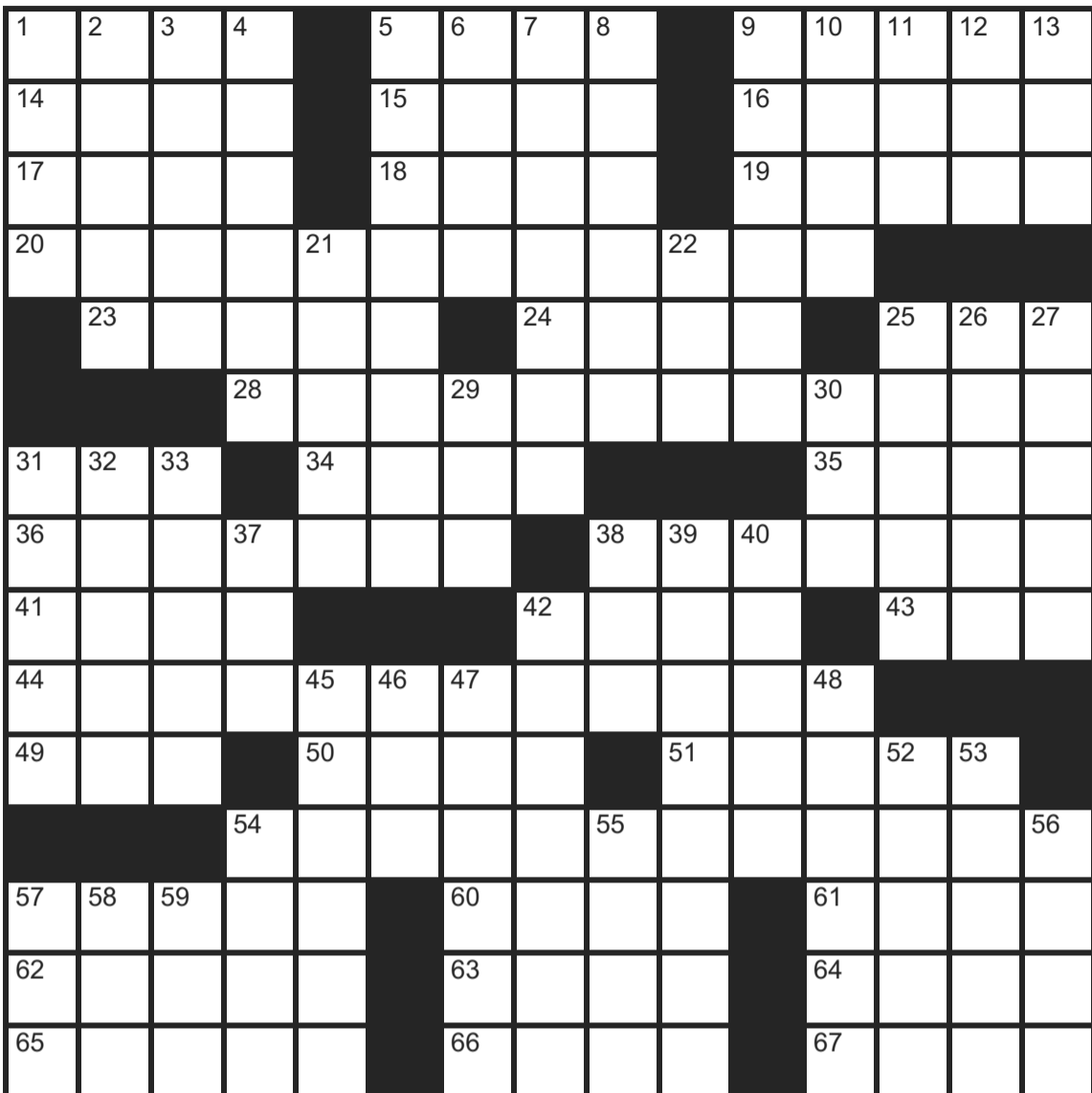
FEATURING **Lady Du (SA)**  
Saucy - Beatz - Smallz - King Kris  
Sparta - Locco - Mike Webb - Zeeper  
Lanie - Warrys - Megz - Leeber  
MC : Kat-Afro & Tracey

TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA MPESA  
ALL TICKETS INCLUDE TRANSPORT FROM ROMA

ALL COVID19 PROTOCOLS OBSERVED

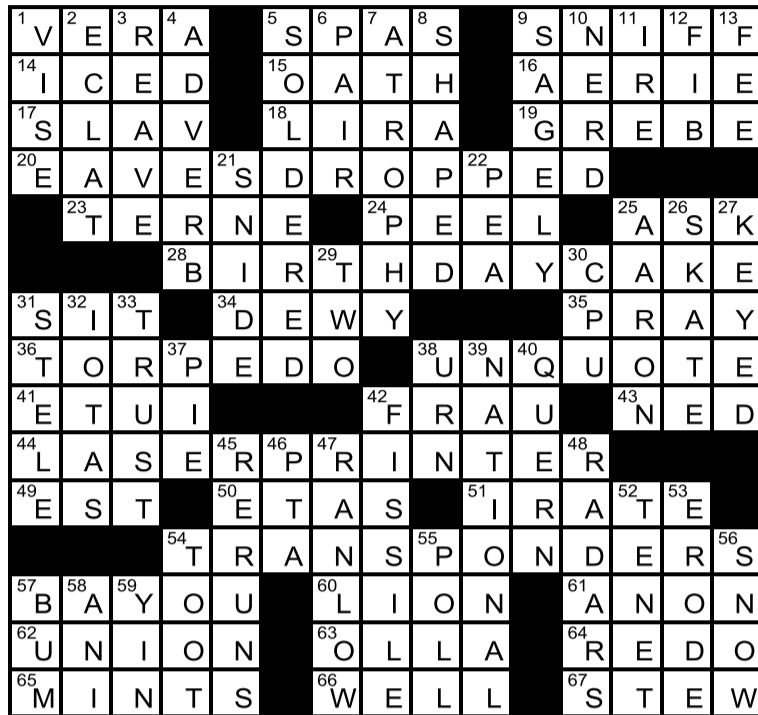
LINFORD VODKA    lechoi    Rock & Roll    big6    LAM    vedcom m-pesa    Lubbani    Kazi Keta

## General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. "Hamlet" has five
  - 5. Russian legislature
  - 9. Mayhem
  - 14. Good shot
  - 15. Food thickener
  - 16. "Farewell, mon ami"
  - 17. Profligate
  - 18. Some bent pipes
  - 19. Get on \_\_\_
  - 20. Inflammation in the gut
  - 23. Old photo color
  - 24. "Put a lid \_\_\_!"
  - 25. Health resort
  - 28. Altruism
  - 31. Warmed the bench
  - 34. Stem
  - 35. Great Salt Lake's state
  - 36. Life estate
  - 38. Shell filled with minced foods
  - 41. Chills and fever
  - 42. Himalayan legend
  - 43. Dash lengths
  - 44. End of services
  - 49. Bard's "before"
  - 50. Back
  - 51. Run out, as a subscription
  - 54. Passed around
  - 57. Complain
  - 60. Hip bones
  - 61. Endangered
  - 62. Lustrous fabric
  - 63. Adolescent
  - 64. \_\_\_\_\_Kringle
  - 65. Jittery
  - 66. Coffee dispensers
  - 67. Hunt for
- Down**
- 1. Site of the Taj Mahal
  - 2. Some apartments
  - 3. Hosiery shade
  - 4. Catches some Z's
  - 5. Father of Icarus
  - 6. Wrinkly fruit
  - 7. Activist X
  - 8. Colorless poisonous gas
  - 9. Sisters' dresses
  - 10. Hullabaloo
  - 11. By the agency of
  - 12. "\_\_\_\_\_the land of the free..."
  - Something to chew on
  - Family girl

## Last Week's Solution



- 22. "My country" follower
- 25. Caterpillar hairs
- 26. Sacred hymn
- 27. Grate expectations?
- 29. Bug out
- 30. Center
- 31. Daunt
- 32. Plumber's snake
- 33. Armistice
- 37. Course requirement?
- 38. Gymnast's goal
- 39. Residents of Milan
- 40. Where "Otello" premiered
- 42. Swiss singer
- 45. Climb
- 46. A sib
- 47. Undisturbed
- 48. Flashes of light
- 52. Gaze
- 53. Bone-chilling
- 54. Honoree's spot
- 55. Demeanor
- 56. Education station
- 57. Fed. construction overseer
- 58. Sought office
- 59. Giant slugger Mel

## So You Think You are Genius

### Question (Answer next week)

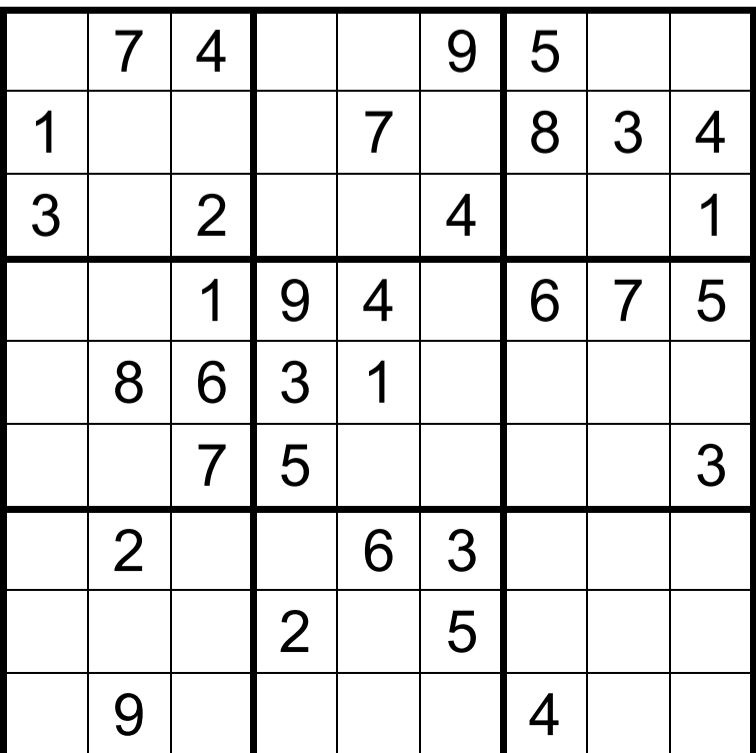
Suppose I flip two coins, without letting you see the outcome, and I tell you that at least one of the coins came up heads, what is the probability that the other coin is also heads?



### Last Week's Answer

1/3. You might initially think that the answer is 1/2, but not so. For two coins, there are four possible outcomes: HH, HT, TH, TT, since we know that at least one was a head, we can eliminate TT. Of the remaining three possibilities, only 1 allows the second head: HH.

## Sudoku Puzzle



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

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

### Last Week's Solution

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

# Metro Motoring

For everything Car in Lesotho

E-mail: [motoring@maserumetro.com](mailto:motoring@maserumetro.com)

Tel: 266 2232 5494

## Be Car-Smart

### Servicing your Car 101

Owning that first car and not having to rely on anyone else to get you to where you need to go, is a true rite of passage. However, as Spiderman's Uncle Ben said: "With great power comes great responsibility". Owning a car is a great responsibility, and maintaining it should be a priority.

Keeping your car in tiptop condition is as important while you are driving it, as it is when the time comes to sell it. A properly maintained car, and one with a complete and detailed service history will always be more valuable than one that's poorly looked after.

The first item of business for any dealership or prospective buyer at trade-in or sale time, is a car's service book, and some might dismiss a car completely if the service history is incomplete or patchy. Have a look at the second-hand cars for sale on any reputable dealer's website and the term 'FSH', or Full Service History, is often listed ahead of any other features or extras. As the leading provider of vehicle and asset solutions, WesBank offers some advice

on factors you, as the consumer, should understand when it comes to servicing your car.

Though these may differ slightly from car to car, every vehicle on the road comes with a manufacturer's recommended service schedule. These are generally in the form of time and distance intervals between workshop visits, such as 'one year or 15,000km', whichever comes first, as an example. It's important to know that adhering to these intervals is not optional, and especially not on cars that are still covered by warranties. Skipping a scheduled service can have serious repercussions, such as the voiding of warranties or even mechanical failure.

Familiarise yourself with your car's schedule in order to prepare for upcoming services, whether your car is covered by a service/maintenance plan or not. This can generally be found in the physical or digital service book that comes with the car, and should be stored somewhere for safekeeping. Some vehicle models indicate and record service schedules

digitally within their infotainment systems. Also, some cars have built-in service timers to notify you ahead of the scheduled maintenance work, but it's always better to check than to rely only on these. If you struggle to understand your schedule, or have trouble finding it, call the service department at your dealership to ask for assistance. Have your car's current mileage and the details of the last known service handy, as this will assist them in guiding you. It's also a good idea to have your car's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on hand, as this is the quickest way for a dealership to identify the specifics of your particular vehicle model. This can be found on your licence disc, or stamped onto the body of your car – often, but not always, visible through the bottom corner of the windscreen.

Getting back to the regular maintenance of your vehicle, there are three basic categories of a car service to consider:

Basic service - this type of service is the most common and is routinely performed. In most cases it includes an oil change and oil filter, air filter and fluid checks, and is usually scheduled at 10,000km or 15,000km intervals. However, you should always refer to your car's service book or speak to your Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) franchise dealer for information. Advanced service - this service is generally set at further distance and time intervals, and can include the replacement of spark plugs, fuel filter, and pollen (cabin air) filters among other things.

Major service - This is performed at even greater time and distance intervals. Major services can include the

replacement of critical items such as timing belts and/or timing chains, and a detailed inspection of various mechanical components in your vehicle. Aside from the actual work performed, a service is also an opportunity for the technician or mechanic to inspect things that you as the owner may not be aware of. Compare it to a visit to the doctor: you can either go when you have an illness, or you can go for a regular check-up and see if they pick up a problem. As the saying goes, prevention is often better than cure, and this can apply to both people and cars.

"Servicing your vehicle means that you will always be aware of the condition of your vehicle. For example, you may not know if your car needs a new wheel bearing or shock absorber, or that your brakes are nearing replacement time. Regular services allow the technician or mechanic to check for and inform you of any problem or issue before it becomes costly to replace or even fails completely, which could place both the vehicle and your safety on the road at risk. Mitigating risk at every turn is your responsibility as a vehicle owner," says Kutlwano Mogatusi, WesBank's Communications Specialist.

"As we celebrate Transport Month in October, we continue to enable our customers to get on the road through our innovative vehicle solutions. We also want to ensure that their ownership and driving experiences are seamless, safe and problem-free. Unpacking the basic elements of servicing your car speaks to WesBank's dedication of supporting our customers along the entire vehicle ownership journey."

## Land Rover Defender V8 is here!

... The fastest and most powerful Defender ever made available in both 110 and short-wheelbase 90 body designs

The most potent Land Rover Defender ever made is now available in South Africa.

Boasting a 5.0-litre supercharged engine with 386kW and 625Nm, the new V8 Defender builds on decades of Land Rover V8 heritage and compliments the existing Defender range of Ingenium petrol, diesel and advanced plug-in Hybrid powertrains.

Available in both 110 and short-wheelbase 90 body designs, the new V8 Defender delivers heightened performance without compromising Defender's legendary capability. Engineered to be the fastest and most engaging production Defender ever, it delivers unrivalled agility and driver appeal. As with all new Defenders, drive from the engine goes through a standard eight-speed automatic transmission, with permanent drive to all four wheels. Its hefty outputs enable the Defender 90 V8 to accelerate from 0-100km/h in 5.2 seconds and on to a top speed of 240km/h, while the 110 achieves 0-100km/h in 5.4 seconds with the same max speed.

Unique suspension and transmission tuning includes bespoke spring and damper rates and a new Electronic Active Rear Differential, to deliver more agile and engaging handling with improved body control. Larger-diameter and solid anti-roll bars help reduce body roll while cornering, and a unique Electronic Active Rear Differential introduces a Yaw Controller that allows fine control of cornering attitude as the Defender reaches and exceeds the limit of grip.

A new Dynamic program in Terrain Response 2 affords a more playful and responsive character. In this setting, a sharper throttle response and bespoke tuning for the Continuously Variable Damping combine with stiffer suspension bushes for more immediate steering responses.

The exclusive new Defender V8 Carpathian Edition is the ultimate expression



of performance, durability and design, and represents the very pinnacle of the Defender range. Finished exclusively in Carpathian Grey, it's set apart by a Narvik Black contrast roof, bonnet and, for the first time on New Defender, taildoor. Other visual highlights include V8 Carpathian Edition badging finishes, Satin Black towing eyes and distinctive Xenon Blue brake calipers.

The Carpathian Edition's exterior is finished with Land Rover's Satin Protective Film. This recyclable PU-based wrap is applied to external bodywork to give the Defender a contemporary

semi-matte finish that also protects against everything from car park scratches to off-road bramble rash.

Inside, the Defender V8 Carpathian Edition features the same upgrades as the V8, with seats finished in Miko Suedecloth and Robustec accents, an Alcantara-wrapped steering wheel and illuminated treadplates.

Defender V8 customers can also select the new Extended Black Pack as an option. This provides a Gloss Black finish for the front and rear skid plates, grille bar, bonnet chequer finisher, badging, lower body cladding and

wheel arches for a stealthy and purposeful appearance.

Defender V8 prices  
Defender 90 V8 R2,359,300  
Defender 110 V8 R2,432,900  
Defender 90 V8 Carpathian Edition R2,454,700

Defender 110 V8 Carpathian Edition R2,528,300

All prices include VAT but exclude CO2 tax. All Land Rover vehicles come with standard 5-year/100,000km Land Rover Care Warranty and Maintenance Plans.

## Maliehe speaks on Sera situation at Royal AM ...as Coach John Maduka fails to field the talented striker this season

STAFF REPORTER

**MASERU** – Former Likuena coach, Moses Maliehe feels it is time the national team striker, Motebang Sera left Royal AM to join a team that will appreciate his abilities.

Sera is yet to feature in the John Maduka's coached side this season and has only managed to make the match day squad for three games out of the nine played thus far.

The 26-year-old forward hit the ground running in his first season in South Africa while still in the books of Bloemfontein Celtic under the mentorship of former Likuena captain, Lehlohonolo Seema.

However, Sera has struggled for game time since Seema left Celtic and things have gone from bad to worse after Phunya Sele Sele were sold to Shaun Mkhize to become Royal AM.

"I think it's time for Sera to leave Royal AM and look for a new club in South Africa. He has done very well since he moved there and won't struggle to get admirers for his signature," Maliehe stated.

"The clubs in South Africa know very well about his abilities. He proved himself in his first two seasons that given a chance, he will always score," he also said.

The former Matlama striker, who was handed his debut for the senior team by Maliehe in 2016, registered seven goals from 20 appearances in his first year in the South African Premier League.

In the last season, he made 20 appearances in all competitions and managed just two goals.

"I have concluded that as a coach, Maduka does not believe in Sera's abilities as a player. There should be trust between a coach and



Motebang Sera behind Njabulo Ngcobo of Bafana Bafana

his player for the latter to deliver on the field," the former Likuena coach said.

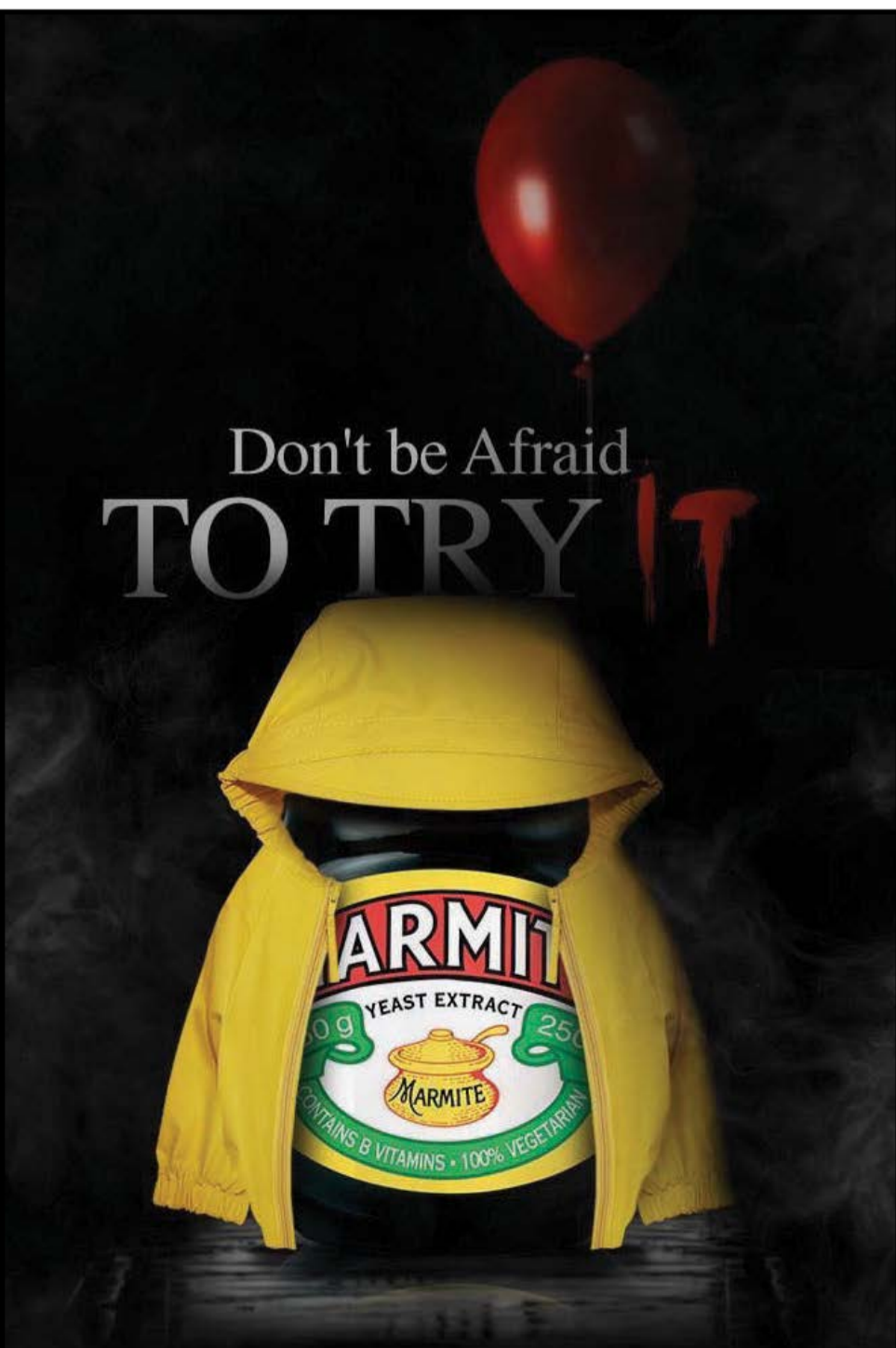
"If the player knows that the coach trusts him then you will see that with his performance on the field and in Sera's case it will be the goals, which were there when he was given a chance.

"His current coach doesn't know his strengths and the best thing for him now is to join a team that will give him game time," he said.

Earlier this year, Sera became Lesotho's all-time top goal scorer with six goals at the COSAFA Cup after netting a brace past Mamelodi Sundowns and Zambia goalkeeper, Kennedy Mweene, at the 2021 edition of the tournament in Gqeberha, South Africa.

The lanky forward has scored in each of the regional tournaments since making his debut in 2016, when the tournament was hosted in Namibia.

Former Likuena coach, Moses Maliehe





# Brown targets golden boot in Bolivia

**MASERU** - Likuena striker, Thabiso Brown has his eyes on winning the golden boot after hitting the ground running with Empress Minera Huanuni in the on-going play-offs to win promotion to the Bolivian Premier League.

The forward has been hogging the headlines for the right reasons in the South American country as he leads the goal scoring charts with 12 goals in nine matches.

Brown (pictured) is vying for the golden boot with Argentinean Matias Vicedo and Colombian Yerson Gutierrez, who are on 10 and eight goals respectively.

"I would be very happy to win the race for the golden boot, but my main focus now is to help my team advance

and eventually win promotion to the premier league," he said from his Bolivian base.

"If my goals or assists can be that important to the success of the team, then I'm happy if they can play a role in helping us succeed in our mission," he added.

The 26-year-old former Kick4Life marksman has also played his football in Peru since leaving Lesotho in 2017.

He was part of the Likuena squad that played at this year's edition of the COSAFA Cup hosted in South Africa in July and was used as an impact player coming from the bench in most of the games.

"We are playing the first leg of the quarterfinals this Saturday in the playoffs for promotion, and it would be a

bonus to add another goal to help my team advance," he also said.

"It won't be easy, but with hard work anything is possible. Being the top goal scorer with 12 goals in nine games is huge motivation for me and will be looking forward to continuing where I left.

"It is a do or die for us because winning promotion is our biggest goal as a team. We want to win promotion to the premier league," he said.

Brown has been capped seven times for the senior national team and scored his first goal against Botswana in 2015, which helped Likuena eliminate the Zebras from the African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers.

# Lesotho weightlifters to compete at world championships

... duo failed to qualify for the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games



Lesotho weightlifters at the African tourney in Kenya

**TEBOHO JAFETA**  
sports@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – Top local weightlifters, Machachamise Ntšinyi and Thapelo Sebota will lift the national flag at the 2021 World Weightlifting Championships to be held from December 7-17 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Ntšinyi will compete in the 73kg division while Sebota will participate in the 61kg weight class.

Nthabiseng Shale, the Lesotho Weightlifting Federation (LWF) Public Relations Officer, said the championships will also be held as qualifiers for the Commonwealth Games set for Birmingham, England in July next year.

She said Sebota is currently number 15 while Ntšinyi is ranked 14th on the African continent in their respective weight classes, adding that the duo should fit into the top 10 to qualify for the Commonwealth Games.

Ntšinyi told Metro that they have been training hard under the mentorship of Relebohile Motjamela since returning from Kenya where they competed at the 2021 African Senior Men and Women Gold Olympic Weightlifting Qualification Championships in May.

They however, failed to qualify for Tokyo Olympics held in Tokyo, Japan in July.

Additionally, the International

Weightlifting Federation (IWF) will on December 20 until 21 hold its elective congress in Tashkent, Uzbekistan where the new leadership of the global weightlifting body will be roped in.

Shale said the nomination time elapsed a long time ago, adding that federations are allowed to send through their nominees via the email and post services.

"We were only given a week to submit the names of our nominees but we couldn't do so. It was too much of a problem. So we are going there to vote in December. Lesotho is eligible to vote as a full member of the IWF," she added.

According to the IWF 2021 electoral congress agenda, there will be presentations and approval of the annual report and approval of the audited financial accounts among other items to be discussed as per the IWF constitution.

The congress will also deal with the presentation and approval of any reports submitted by any IWF Commission and any IWF Committee.

All Executive Board Members will be elected.

The IWF is currently under the leadership of Dr Michael Irani from India who is acting as the Interim President.

Dr Irani is the former Chairman of the anti-doping Commission of IWF and a former member of the IWF Medical Committee.





**TEBOHO JAFETA**

sports@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - 'Mammuso Rannana, assistant head coach at the Plettenberg Bay Tennis Academy in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa is one of Lesotho's most revered female lawn tennis coaches.

Born and bred in Ha Ratjomose, Maseru, Rannana however, gained a lot of acknowledgement both as

a tennis player and later as a coach in the neighbouring SA than in her native Lesotho because she spent most of her adult life in that foreign country.

Her adeptness on the court is legendary in the southern African region.

She is the 2015 Botswana Open Senior tournament doubles champion after winning the award alongside Nthabiseng Nqosa.

She went on to win the 2017

edition of the same tournament with Pulane Monyatsi and each walked away P4 000 richer.

While the duo represented Lesotho in the female category, their male counterparts included Neo Makhakhe, Kukutla Motlojoa, Bishop Mosebi and Paseka Motsamai.

Born on November 12, 1990, 'Mammuso Rannana is the daughter of Molahlehi and 'Makananelo Rannana. She is the second born in a family of

three, two girls and a boy.

She did her primary education at the Boitelo Primary School in Katlehong, Maseru. Then she proceeded to Matlosane Secondary School in Klerksdorp, North West province in South Africa where she only went as far as Grade 11 before she dropped out of school because of family matters.

Her love for tennis began as a Standard 2 learner at the age of eight. Once she started hitting tennis balls with a racket, she never stopped.

But during her high school days, she was an all-rounder who played tennis along with netball and soccer.

"After I realised where my true potential lied, I shifted my full attention to tennis and the rest as they say is history," she says.

She represented Lesotho at the 2004 International Tennis Federation (ITF) Under-16 tournament held in Egypt but was knocked out in the pre-quarterfinal stage. The following year, she won a silver medal at the ITF Under-16 tournament in South Africa. She is also a qualified tennis coach who holds a Tennis Play and Stay qualification and an ITF Level 1 Coaching certificate obtained in 2016.

She raised the national flag at several international tournaments where she forged a name for herself as a formidable contender.

Before she became a fulltime coach, Rannana joined the Klerksdorp tennis team, then the Mpumalanga team before she moved to Plettenberg Bay.

Between 2018 and 2020, she worked as a coach at the KPM Academy in Mpumalanga before landing the job she currently holds at the Plettenberg Bay Academy.

She has trained under some of the best coaches in Lesotho and she looks up to those men as her role models.

"I was introduced to professional tennis by the former national coach, Sekhobe Moshoeshe. My other valuable mentors

include the Gauteng-based coach, Lebohang Tšasanyane and Mojalefa Mothibe who is currently working at the ITF Africa Centre in Morocco," she adds.

Rannana regards competing at any international competition as a huge challenge to any player from a poor country.

"There is so much pressure competing against highly experienced foreign players. In a year, I used to compete in a maximum of three tournaments, while my opponents from other countries enjoyed much more international exposure because they were sponsored," she recalls.

She adds: "As a coach, it is not easy to teach a beginner at a young age. Coaches have to keep young players happy and entertained so that they don't lose interest in the sport."

She regards international travel as the highlight of her career as it enables her to see the world, meet new people and learn new cultures.

"My best moments as a coach include seeing my players perform well in tournaments," she says, adding that it is also gratifying to see happy looks on parents' faces when their children develop as players.

Her former coach, Mothibe, describes her as one of the best female players from Lesotho.

"She was simply one of the best, she enjoyed working hard at practice, ever so disciplined. I had a great time working with her. Today she is an amazing coach who is doing a great work in South Africa. I am very happy with the way she has turned out," he proudly says.

Rannana also enjoys reading, especially tennis magazines and watching tennis documentaries to keep up to date with the latest developments in the sport.

"I also enjoy spending quality time with family and friends. I love challenging myself in order to further hone my abilities and coaching skills," she says.

