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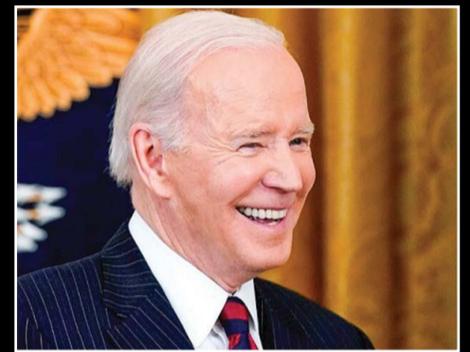


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- Lilaphalapha challenges Mavele to a boxing bout
- Putin's back is against the wall - Biden



BORN ON THIS DAY

March 24

- 1896 - William Morris, British poet, novelist, textile designer, translator, he played a major role in reviving the traditional British textile arts and various methods of production
- 1897 - Wilhelm Reich, Austrian psychoanalyst and doctor of medicine, credited for showing innovations like body psychotherapy
- 1965 - Mark Calaway, American professional wrestler, widely regarded as one of the greatest wrestlers of all times
- 1973 - Jim Parsons, American's highest-paid TV actor, played a major role in determining his success as a TV actor
- 1975 - Brennan Elliott, Canadian actor well known for his portrayal of Dr Nick in medical drama series
- 1976 - Peyton Manning, American quarterback footballer, played 14 seasons with Indianapolis Colts thus becoming the only person to achieve the feat
- 1997 - Mina San, American-born singer, recognised as a member of the South Korean girl group - Twice

NewsBriefs

Matekane unveils political movement

- Industrialist promises to rescue Lesotho from financial impasse
- The movement pledges to root out corruption among others



Leader of the Revolution for Prosperity, Sam Matekane

MATHATISISEBUSI

MASERU – Prominent businessman, Sam Matekane, on Tuesday announced the formation of a new political outfit that he says is the beginning of a process of changing the country's economic system.

Matekane said his movement would rescue Lesotho from its current financial quandary and the possibility of turning into a failed state. He said this movement would also restore the nation's hope in democracy.

The new movement, named Revolution for Prosperity, claims it will root out corruption, nepotism and also ensure equality of opportunities and inclusiveness.

The movement's registration process with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is underway, and will with immediate effect go on a nationwide crusade to gather the electorate's opinions to enable it to construct its manifesto.

Announced as the team behind formation of the new movement are Lebona Lephema, Toloane Matekane, Talane Tekane, Mokhethi Shelile, Nihati Moorosi, Thabo Mofosi, Thabo Moretlane, Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, Metsing Lemphane, Tlohang Sekhamane and Nthomeng Majara.

Lesotho Council of Tourism Revived

MASERU – The revival of the Lesotho Council of Tourism (LCT) is expected to safeguard the operations and growth of the sector.

Representatives of 13 tourism and hospitality associations have formalised the LCT under the auspices of the government of Lesotho and the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC).

LCT has been lying dormant since its initial establishment in 2009 and has not contributed much to the growth of the industry.

The Chairperson of the LCT board, Advocate Makhetha Motšoari said the re-establishment of the LCT was a show of confidence by the LTDC in local tourism industry practitioners to the growth of the industry.

He said the LCT board, together with the hired consultant, identified areas of concern that hindered the growth of tourism and came up with a benchmark that would enable the sector's development.

"We realised that tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors that has the potential to contribute immensely to the country's GDP," Motšoari said.

He said Lesotho is one of the top five travel destinations in Africa but local players are not engaged in a meaningful way.

"We have therefore decided to re-establish the LCT as a body that will look at these issues, among others," Motšoari said.

Some 13 tourism and hospitality associations have been identified to form the initial cohort of the LCT but any sectors that have a role in the growth of the sector would be incorporated.

Among the organisations under the banner of the LCT include tour operators and guides associations; hotels and hospitality establishments; parks and wildlife association; catering and liquor services providers; event management companies, chefs' associations; hiking clubs, travel agents and other outdoor activities.

Motšoari said lack of funding had impacted on the LCT previously, hence he welcomed the involvement of government.

Of immediate concern is the capacitation and skills development of local players in the industry. CAJ News

FastFACTS

Thailand has a festival to appreciate their monkeys

Every last Sunday of November, this festival in Lopburi celebrates the Monkeys in a Monkey Buffet Festival. According to Sanskrit folklore, a heroic Monkey helped Prince Rama save his bride-to-be from the clutches of a ten-headed demon.

The resident monkeys of the Phra Prang Sam Yot temple are treated to 4,000 kilograms of fruits, vegetables, and Thai desserts – what a spread! Locals also dress up as monkeys and perform for their esteemed guests as they gobble down their royal feast.

This event is open to the public but visitors be warned – the monkeys can get aggressive and will steal anything they get their hands on!

On This Day in History

1989



March 24

The Exxon Valdez oil spill

On March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil spill occurred in Prince William Sound, Alaska. The Exxon Valdez, an oil supertanker owned by Exxon Shipping Company bound for Long Beach, California struck Prince William Sound's Bligh Reef, 1.5 miles (2.4km) west of Tatitlek, Alaska at 12.04am and spilled 10.8 million US gallons (257 000bbl) or (37 000 tonnes) of crude oil over the next few days. The Exxon Valdez oil spill is the second largest in US waters, after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in terms of volume of oil released.

Prince William Sound's remote location, accessible only by helicopter, plane or boat made government and industry response efforts difficult and made existing response plans especially hard to implement. The region is a habitat for salmon, sea otters, and seabirds. The oil extracted from the Prudhoe Bay Oil Field, eventually affected 1 300 miles (2 100km) of coastline, of which 200 miles (320km) were heavily or moderately oiled.

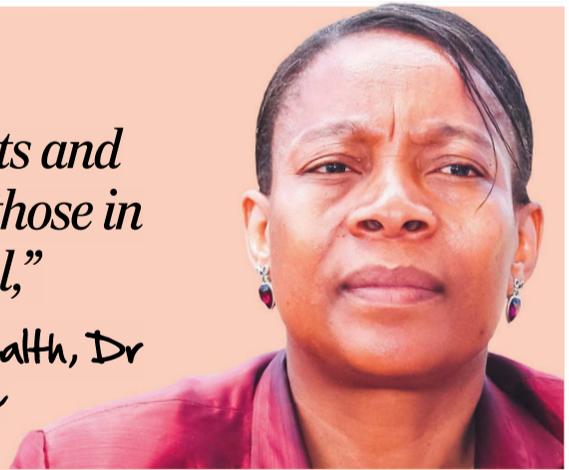
ALL JOKES ASIDE

A lady goes to the doctor and complains that her husband is losing interest in sex. The doctor gives her a pill, but warns her that it's still experimental. He tells her to slip it into his mashed potatoes at dinner, so that night, she does just that. About a week later, she's back at the doctor, where she says, "Doc, the pill worked great! I put it in the potatoes like you said! It wasn't five minutes later that he jumped up, raked all the food and dishes onto the floor, grabbed me, ripped all my clothes off, and ravaged me right there on the table!" The doctor says, "I'm sorry, we didn't realize the pill was that strong! The foundation will be glad to pay for any damages." "Nah," she says, "that's okay. We're never going back to that restaurant anyway!"

Quotes & Quips!

"We are in a campaign to ensure adolescents and young children are also reached - not only those in schools but even those that are out of school,"

says the Director General in the Ministry of Health, Dr 'Nyane Letsie on the launch of the Global Vaccine Access (Global Vax)



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Std Lesotho Bank plants M200 000 worth of trees

4 ●

Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	20.61
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.75
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	16.19
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.31
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.12
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	19.47

STOCKS

S&P500	4,487.73
NASDAQ100	14,566.14
Nikkei225	28,040.16
Dow Jones30	34,563.30
FTSE 100	7,468.71
JSE	74,871.00
Hang Seng	22,154.08

COMMODITIES (Rates in Us Dollars)

Gold p/ounce	1,930.90
Platinum p/ounce	1,021.50
Silver p/ounce	24.96
Copper p/ounce	10,341.00
Brent Oil p/barrel	121.64

EQUITIES

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	M18.40
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M18.55
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M18.85
Paraffin p/litre	M13.90
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 has failed - Matekane

...as business mogul eyes economic growth

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Lesotho has failed to take full advantage of international economic opportunities that would have otherwise contributed massively to the growth of the country, says Sam Matekane, leader of the newly formed political party, Revolution for Prosperity.

During the launch of his political party on Tuesday, Mr Matekane told a media briefing that some of the main challenges facing Lesotho included the poor performance of the textile and clothing industry and heavy reliance by government on outside sources of income.

Lesotho exports clothing and textiles mainly to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) agreement and receives a huge chunk of its budget from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) pool comprising Lesotho, South Africa, Namibia and Eswatini.

Mr Matekane said it was difficult to understand why the country's currency, loti, was still pegged to the South African rand almost 60 years after independence.

"These are some of the things that the party will be looking at to transform if voted into power in the upcoming general elections later this year," he said.

"With more than 20 years since the AGOA agreement with the US, we still have only one Mosotho business man who is able to exploit that market in the textile industry while all the benefits

are enjoyed by foreigners.

"There are similar opportunities also in the European Union (EU), which allow us to export products duty free, but we are failing. That means we are a country that fails to take advantage of opportunities."

AGOA is a United States (US) Trade Act enacted in 2000. The legislation significantly enhances market access to the US for qualifying Sub-Saharan African countries.

The main attraction of AGOA is the duty-free and quota free access to the US market that least developed countries like Lesotho currently enjoy.

Only one local textile company, Afri-Expo textiles has taken a bold step to venture into the textile industry competing with other foreign companies.

Also, Mr Matekane said there were challenges surrounding diamond, water, wool and mohair industries in the country.

"If we can utilise these resources good enough, we can win the fight against hunger and poverty and improve our economy," he added. He said his party would ensure good governance, rule of law, transparency and declaration of assets, adding that inclusiveness and equal opportunities to all would be priorities during his tenure.

Born 64 years ago in Mantšonyane in the rural district of Thaba-Tseka, Mr Matekane is a well-known business mogul in Lesotho rising to fame in the early 1990s when he registered the Matekane Group of Companies (MGC).

From there he went on to become one of the most successful business leaders in the country with investments in South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and India amongst others.



Leader of the Revolution for Prosperity, Sam Matekane

His business interests include property, aviation, mining and cannabis. He has won several local and international awards including Forbes.

Members of the newly formed Revolution for Prosperity include former

Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) Governor, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, former Minister of Finance, Tlohang Sekhamane, former Chief Justice Nthomeng Majara, businessman Thabo Maretlane and communications specialist Nthathi Moorosi among others.

Std Lesotho Bank plants M200 000 worth of trees



The Standard Lesotho Bank Tower in Maseru

- 43 villages identified for planting of trees in all 10 districts
- Tree planting forms part of the bank's SEE strategic imperative

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Standard Lesotho Bank has committed M200 000 to planting 100 000 trees this year with a total of

10 000 to be planted in each district.

The initiative is done in partnership with the Ministry of Forestry, Limomonane Foundation and other corporate sponsors including Vodacom Lesotho and Metropolitan Lesotho.

On Monday, the bank said the nationwide tree planting rollout also marked the International Day of Forests, which coincided with the global commemoration held in Ha Ntsane, Thaba-Bosiu.

The global celebrations follow the resolution of the United Nations (UN) in 2012 to observe the International Day of Forests.

About 43 villages have been identified for the planting of trees this year in all the 10 districts of Lesotho.

Acting Head of Marketing, Manyathela Kheleli said tree planting formed part of the bank's Social, Economic and Environmental (SEE) strategic imperative.

Under the strategy, he said the bank promoted initiatives geared towards the management and control of greenhouse gases and the sustainability of the green environment.

"As a responsible corporate citizen, Standard Lesotho Bank is equally concerned with massive deforestation and the impact this has on the environment," said Mr Kheleli.

"These efforts help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and a transition towards low-carbon and green

economies. Even in our lending to entities, we are careful about projects that can harm the environment such as mines. It's part of our process to approve such loans after we have checked the environmental impact assessment was done to ensure that there's no harm to the environment."

The global theme for this year's commemoration is Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption, which advocates for global citizens to manage forests in a sustainable manner.

Mr Kheleli said the bank's involvement in this initiative was part of the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the bank and the forestry ministry last year.

Under the MoU, the bank has committed to support initiatives to participate in the reforestation of Lesotho and to promote food security through the planting of forest and fruit trees.

Later in the year, the next phase will be the planting of fruit trees with the bank also advocating for government to reinstate the National Tree Planting Day.

Previously, this day was declared a national holiday to encourage communities to dedicate one day to plant a tree.

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Worn out tyres a hit with tourists

...scrapyard a goldmine



Sankonyane Molibeli's tyre sandals

KABELO MASOABI

QUTHING – Worn out car tyres crafted into shoes are a hit here with tourists willing to pay for recycled trash that usually ends up in the

scrap heap. The tourists are obviously happy for their souvenirs made by Sankonyane Molibeli to take back home. He skillfully cuts the old tyres,

glues and sews them together in various sizes and the tourists just love them. Molibeli from Seapala has been doing it for the past years and says scrap yards have been his profitable

goldmine to earn a living. Apart from local tourists as far as South Africa, he also attracts local clientele to his workshop in the Lower Moyeni market street.

"Actually, it wasn't this kind of job I started with," Molibeli told Metro in an interview.

"I was into tailoring; however, a condition I encountered made me switch to carpentry. Because my family was not financially balanced then, I was obliged to make ends meet and that's when I saw a lucrative opportunity in a massive demand for kitchen tables and stools in my area."

The 37-year old father of two girls says as a teenager, he used to do little carpentry work in his house, like making small stools and his skill has since developed.

However, rapid advancement in technology soon kicked him out of business. The introduction of complex and expensive machinery he could not afford made his simple tools obsolete.

Lack of training also hindered him from designing and producing sophisticated furniture desired nowadays.

"I thought this century might be an interesting turning point in mankind's way of handling million tons of waste," he says, adding he then saw an opportunity to transform old tyres into unique and endearing sandals.

"Tyres are among the largest and most problematic sources of waste," Molibeli says.

"Due to their shapes and sizes, the tyres occupy a lot of valuable space. But they are some of the most reusable kinds of waste material because the rubber is extremely resilient and it can be used in a number of ways."

After he gave up woodwork in 2018, he was unable to secure employment for quite a while. He then visited a friend in the Eastern Cape, who took him in and taught him how to make fancy sandals from old tyres.

"I just started my business last year and it was difficult getting things in order," he recalls.

"Finding sources of new materials as well as a new place of operation was another hustle."

Asked where he projects himself in five years?

The high school dropout says he wants to see himself having capacity to produce in bulk.

"At the moment, finding a consistent and a bigger market is still a challenge," he adds.

Elsewhere, several small entrepreneurs are now turning used tyres into various art forms just like Molibeli. A group of young people in Leribe has established a workshop where workers transform old tyres and other recycled waste materials into weatherproof outdoor furniture.

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Comments & Letters

Matekane, a game changer

The Editor,

Politics is part of our lives and will always be here. We love politics and hate it all the same and I can't imagine life without politics. The caliber of those that we vote into power determines how we want our country to be run.

So, Sam Matekane's move into politics and those who have joined him can only explain what the future of this country is going to be like. Maybe it is also time we became particular about the credentials of the rest of politicians in order to get the best out of them while still in public office.

Our future could well be dependent on Matekane's emergence into politics to change the status quo. We know what he can do, his milestones and achievements. We just hope politics won't change him in the radical landscape of Lesotho's politics.

Morongoe Khobatha
Thetsane, Maseru

We can do away with Covid masks as well

The Editor,

If COVID-19 statistics we receive every day are correct, there's no reason why we should still be having our masks on, especially outdoors. Statistics prove that there is no longer any COVID-19 in Lesotho.

If we could be allowed or given the freedom to walk around with our masks off and without police officers asking us to put them on, we would truly be grateful.

South Africa, our only neighbor, has done away with the masks. If they can do it, so can we. They have a bigger population, we are a couple of million people and our humble request to the authorities is to change the Covid-19 laws so we can go back to our normal lives.

We have been patient enough with the masks on and it's about time we let go. COVID-19 regulations have disrupted our lives long enough.

Relebohile Rampeo
Lefikeng, Roma, Maseru

If South Africa coughs, Lesotho catches a cold

The Editor,

Lesotho, completely surrounded by South Africa, catches the cold if the big neighbour coughs. Our country has been hard hit by floods and so has our neighbor. The only difference is that they have the money we don't have to repair the damaged infrastructure.

Climate change has changed lives of the people in both countries, from shocks to economy to health.

Whatever is best South African politicians can do for their people, our politicians can learn the best practices too to overcome our challenges.

We need similar poverty alleviation initiatives to fight hunger in our country too. We need to improve the living conditions of our people and promote our country for investment in both public and private projects.

We need programmes that will contribute to economic growth and social development.

Ntebaleng Shale
Mohalalotse, Maseru

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Matekane owes it to the voters

Arguably Lesotho's richest man, Sam Matekane made the news headlines this week venturing into politics. He is admired by many as a business leader but it remains to be seen if he will command the same amount of respect in the political arena.

Already, haters are yelling at his flaws and are trying to take his skeletons out of the closet.

In the West, many successful business people have made successful presidents and many Basotho are pinning their hopes on Matekane to achieve a similar streak.

Basotho mentality and, by extension, collective society, expect the business mogul to bring change in the sterile Lesotho political environment. Morally and ethically they would love to see him root out corruption should he come into power. Yet, the power to even prosecute politicians or demand extradition of criminals seems to have eluded the incumbent and most recent prime ministers.

But he has made his choices with whom he should manage his political stable. The best choice is none other than Nthomeng Majara, who was appointed the Chief Justice of Lesotho in September 2014.

Majara took over from Justice Tseliso Monaphathi, who had been the Acting Chief Justice since April 2013.

As of June 2017, Majara was one of 12 nominees for an election of six judges to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to represent the African States regional group. In October 2017, the controversial Majara was living in a "lavish Maseru mansion" sub-let from High Court judge Teboho Moiloa, despite government internal auditors having condemned the arrangement six months earlier.

When the end came, it was also not cheap in a court settlement of an estimated M9 million in an offer for an early retirement. So, the other part of Matekane's preparation could not be without the roping in of former central bank governor Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane. Dr Matlanyane has had an illustrious career as both an academic and a central banker. She has basically juggled an unstable political environment with price stability and if anyone is suitable to run the economy of this country, it is Dr Matlanyane. She took reasonable care of the monetary operations in the country so that we could achieve a stable exchange rate and inflation. She has been instrumental in the development of capital markets, specifically the equity market. From introducing Central Securities Depository System (CSD) to treasury bonds, Dr Matlanyane was relentless to further develop capital markets beyond treasury bonds, resulting in the introduction of the Capital Markets Regulations 2014.

She was cautious not to suffocate the market with strict regulations, but to promote and nurture market fairness, orderliness and efficiency through minimum disclosure requirements.

Before she could leave office, Dr Matlanyane made sure Lesotho's maiden stock exchange was up and running with the listing of a property management company RNB Properties.

She has set the foundation and the tone of a platform that should unlock this country's fortunes in trading shares, bonds and derivatives.

It is the business and corporate leaders who should now bring the change in this country's political landscape. They owe it to the voters of this country to bring back Lesotho to its former glory where real politicians have failed dismally.

For migrants, enjoying human rights in South Africa is a foreign concept

The name Ernesto Alfabeto Nhamuave may not ring bells for most, but this is the man who was beaten, stabbed and set alight in the Ramaphosa informal settlement in Ekurhuleni, becoming the first person killed in xenophobic violence in 2008.

One would have thought that the images of his charred flesh and of him falling to his knees as the life drained out of him would have been enough for us not only to hang our heads in shame, but also to ensure that those responsible were dealt with swiftly and the abhorrent behaviour thwarted.

It is now 2022 and the world is experiencing unprecedented turmoil and uncertainty wrought partly by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, but also because human rights remain on the back burner – to our detriment.

As we look towards 21 March, 62 years after the Sharpeville Massacre in which 69 people protesting apartheid pass laws were killed by the police, Human Rights Day offers an opportunity not only to reflect on how well we're doing in the upholding of these rights but also to measure how actively these rights are promoted and embedded in our society.

South Africa's xenophobic violence seems to have as its lynchpin the scapegoating and targeting of migrants. The state continues to renege on its constitutional obligations to provide services to poor communities. Xenophobia has become so brazen that our leaders loudly declare and execute their intentions, but there is no sanction or mitigating action from the police.

A Human Rights Watch (HRW) report warned in 2020 that xenophobic violence was an area of great concern. The African Commission on Human and People's Rights wrote to President Cyril Ramaphosa, highlighting this vulnerability and urging him to address it. The HRW report said that law enforcement officials often responded with indifference, provided inadequate remedies to xenophobic attacks or participated in the harassment and attacks.

And so, who is to say that the burning alive of people will not become normalised, as the state remains mum in the face of this brutal rampage?

We should ask ourselves why xenophobia does not evoke a similar rebuke to racism? What makes it less of a crime when it is based on similar tenets of discrimination and persecution based on perceived difference? This week is also Antiracism Week, which has "Unite and act against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances" as its theme.

But it seems that human rights and social justice mean different things to different people and at different times.

Worryingly, it seems that for immigrants and asylum seekers, the enjoyment of basic human rights is becoming increasingly foreign in

South Africa. As a result, they find themselves abused and excluded from social justice.

For those who may not be aware, people who are immigrants are also protected by the country's Constitution and have the right to peace and security. International Human Rights Law, to which SA is

subject, says, "All persons in South Africa share a certain set of basic human rights under international law, regardless of their immigration status."

"Refugees have, in addition, rights based on international refugee law and the principle that persons should not be returned to a country where they fear

persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, or which they were compelled to leave owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order."

How, then, do immigrants find themselves literally fighting for their lives?

Perhaps this Human Rights Day should be used not only to commemorate those who gave their lives for us to enjoy the fruits of their blood, but also to place an obligation on us to not be blind or silent in the face of injustice.

The day should inspire us to action in our communities and in the country, to denounce what is wrong and to closely examine some of the worrying behaviours that are creeping into South African society.

A quote from musician and civil rights activist Nina Simone comes to mind as I write this:

"I wish I knew how it would feel to be free
I wish I could break all the chains holding me...
Remove all the bars that keep us apart
I wish you could know what it means to be me
Then you'd see and agree
That every man should be free."

The words of this song illustrate that everyone has a desire to live free of persecution – whether it be from war and strife in their own countries or xenophobic violence in the countries they flee to for sanctuary. In South Africa, we pride ourselves on being a progressive country built on democratic principles. Nowhere in that is a commitment to "driving out foreigners" and to use them as a way to channel our frustration with the failures of our country's government.

If the charred body of Ernesto Nhamuave was not enough to move us to say, "This stops here!", what will be enough?

DM168

SUSTAINING QUALITY

PEACE & RESILIENCE

ZUKISWA PIKOLI



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Numbers speak louder in business - Kobeli

- Jobs in Lesotho are more than the jobless
- Kobeli's major market is the US and SA with a population of more than 60 million people

STAFF REPORTER

MASERU – Teboho Kobeli, founder and Managing Director of locally owned clothing and textile factory, Afri-Expo that specialises in the manufacturing of Jeanswear says numbers in business speak louder.

"If the population is growing, it's a sure sign that there are many opportunities for business to thrive," Kobeli says.

The 58-year-old entrepreneur employs over 500 workers in his firm located at the Tikoe Industrial Estate, where 90 percent are women.

His major market is the United States and South Africa with a population of more than 60 million people, where he sells jeans to chain stores of the two major markets.

The chain stores sell their products to most countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region, including Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland and Eswatini.

"These jeans are also sold back in Lesotho through big South Africa's chain stores," Mr Kobeli says.

"Having a market in South Africa is a good opportunity to boost Lesotho's ailing economy. I am fully booked this year and beyond."

A week ago local industrialist, Sam Matekane donated uniforms to the Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS) and the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) manufactured by Afri-Expo, another feather in the cap for the local manufacturer.

However, Mr Kobeli says manufacturing both police and army uniforms was nothing but a drop of oil in the ocean for his factory adding he would have preferred to extend the tender to Basotho women who were trained in making uniforms.

"But manufacturing uniform is not as simple as one would think," he says. "It needs special skill of someone familiar with how the sector operates. For example, the kind of threads needed to make uniform together with the zips."

The South African market, he says is more lucrative and sustainable, adding it is pointless that Basotho are stuck in poverty and jobless.

"There are more jobs in Lesotho than there are jobless people," he says.

Mr Kobeli entered the textile industry, the second largest employer after government, on noticing it was run by foreign investors, especially the Chinese and Taiwanese.

"That's when the seeds of this business were planted in me," he notes. "There was no time to waste but to roll back my sleeves and get my hands dirty."

Kobeli says there is nothing fundamental the Chinese and Taiwanese investors have done for Lesotho, arguing there is no guarantee they will operate in the country permanently.

"The foreign investors have been coming and going," he says.

"Every time they have accumulated enough money, they go to their respective countries leaving Basotho jobless. The logic is to make money and go back home. It's a time ticking bomb."

Kobeli says he mobilised a number of people to pool their resources together when he started the business but he warned them of the potential dangers associated with the manufacturing business.

"They did not want to taste the poison," he recalls.

With an intrinsic passion to help the jobless Basotho, Mr Kobeli says the bulk of orders by



The founder and Managing Director of Afri-Expo, Teboho Kobeli

South Africa's security companies and retail stores is testimony that the neighbouring South Africa is a major market.

"Afri-Expo never retrenched a single employee at the height of the biting COVID-19 pandemic when most factories shut down, resulting in more than 10 000 people losing their jobs," he says.

Instead, he says the pandemic was a shot in the arm with massive orders from South Africa to manufacture the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

At the time, Afri-Expo did not retrench employees but had two shifts so that people could not be in one place in large numbers to observe social distancing.

Mr Kobeli is worried foreign investors are leaving following the COVID-19 pandemic and insists they cannot help the industry but want to leave now because they have filled their pockets.

He further says another issue that might pressure Asian investors to leave Lesotho is trade unions that demand better living wages for the workers.

Although Lesotho's textiles and apparels industry sells mainly to the US through African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) - a trade preference regime between the US and selected African countries that include Lesotho - Mr Kobeli says his secured market is SA.

Lesotho, he says is best positioned to have a meaningful share of the business opportunities accruing from South Africa.

With skills in the textile and clothing industry, he says he is willing to partner with the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) to localise the industry. The Mokhotlong-born entrepreneur notes that he is always looking for business opportunities that can help drive and stimulate the local economy.

"Diversification is a way to go as long as there's demand in the market," he says, adding that he has assisted several Basotho businesses with numerous business opportunities around the world, especially China.

"Many of these people are doing well in business and have different entrepreneurial aptitude with more business ventures to explore. I wish to see Basotho grow from strength to strength in business."

Back in 2005, Mr Kobeli opened a global branch of Kobeli Business Services in China, Global Sourcing, to facilitate business opportunities for Lesotho entrepreneurs.

"Many products are from China," he states. After attending the Dubai Expo 2021, the

astute business man says he noticed a plethora of job opportunities existed for Basotho, where innovation, technology, art, and culture offer great experience.

"There are a lot of untapped opportunities in Lesotho," Mr Kobeli adds.

New Shoes, New You

Tekkie Town

Next Adventure Sports

Lapis La Zuli

Sneaker Planet

Ellen Bee

Studio 88

The Hanger



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MASERU - Lesotho has failed to inoculate the majority of people living far away from hospitals and clinics with the COVID-19 vaccines due to their inaccessibility, says the Director General for the Ministry of Health, Dr 'Nyane Letsie.

Last week, Dr Letsie said the launch of the Global Vaccine Access (Global Vax) would help the government reach these people residing in the mountain areas with the use of transport and other means in order to access the far placed residents.

Global Vax is the US government's initiative in partnership with Lesotho meant to boost the COVID-19 vaccination coverage.

"We are in a campaign to ensure adolescents and young children are also reached - not only those in schools but even those that are out of school," said Dr Letsie.

She further noted that the initiative was going to help reach the targeted 70 percent of the population, adding the country's vaccination programme was a success story because of the similar partnerships.

"There are many vaccines coming from the US because of the partnerships," she said.

"As we struggled with implementation, particularly inadequate human resources, the U.S partners were there for us to make sure we saved lives."

Dr Letsie said strategies implemented together with the Ministry of Health and the government would ensure accessibility of vaccines by every citizen.

US Global VAX programme is expected to help meet the global goal to vaccinate 70 percent of the world's population against COVID-19 in 2022, including Lesotho.

US Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide an additional US\$6.2 million (M93 million) to Lesotho on

US Global Vax to vaccinate 70 percent for Covid-19

- Programme is meant to reach far-placed communities
- Govt has implemented strategies for every citizen to be vaccinated



The US ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer

top of the US\$12.4 million (M186 million) that has already been allocated towards the response of the COVID-19 pandemic locally.

The funding will support activities such as bolstering cold chain supply and logistics, addressing vaccine confidence and demand, and increasing the accessibility of vaccination sites.

The US ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer said Global Vax's efforts were underway to incorporate financial, technical, and diplomatic engagement in an initial group of 11 countries with significant need and potential for rapid progress.

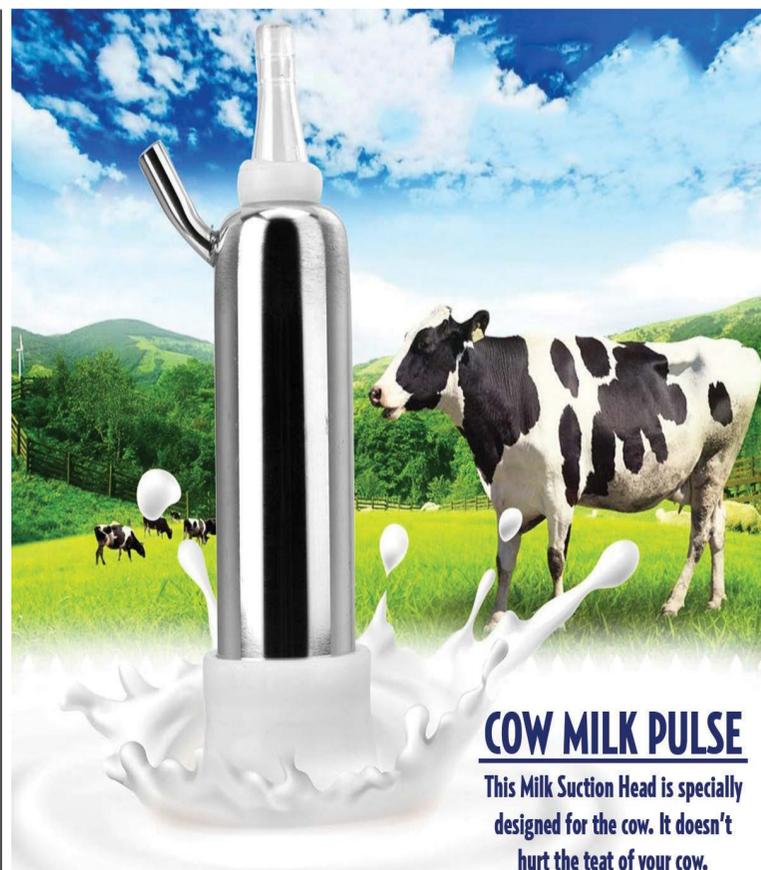
"As part of this critical effort, we are pleased to announce that the US agency will provide new resources to

support Lesotho's COVID-19 plans," she said.

The Executive Director of the Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL), 'Makatlheho Mohasi said the body was committed to ensuring that every Mosotho had access to healthcare services, including COVID-19 vaccination to prevent the spread of the virus in the country.

She said the initiative would expand assistance and enhance coordination to identify and overcome vaccine access barriers that the country was facing.

So far, Lesotho has made tremendous progress with its COVID-19 vaccine campaign with an estimated 40 percent of the population already vaccinated.



COW MILK PULSE

This Milk Suction Head is specially designed for the cow. It doesn't hurt the teat of your cow.

Vitamin K - Your savoir in osteoporosis

Vitamin K, best known for its blood clotting properties, is a great remedy for treating porous or weak bones. It helps in building new bone cells and works in collaboration with Vitamin D to regulate production of osteoclasts (cell that remove old bone cells to create space for the new ones). Vitamin K helps in binding calcium and other important minerals with the bone, making them way too stronger.

What's the Average Height of Men and Women?

When it comes to height, what counts as average? In the United States, the average man over age 20 is 5 feet 9 inches tall. U.S. women over 20 are 5 feet 4 inches tall on average. This varies from country to country depending on genetics and nutrition; the tallest men on average are the Dutch,

who stand about 6 feet tall. Latvian women are the tallest on average at 5 feet 7 inches. The shortest men on average come from Timor-Leste (5 feet 3 inches), and the shortest women are Guatemalan (4 feet 11 inches). Although these are averages, many people fall above or below the average height line.

How does your height affect your health? For the most part, your height alone doesn't cause any particular health problems. But taller and shorter people are more at risk of certain health conditions. Read on to learn what health concerns are more common for taller and shorter people.

WHO calls for investment against TB

- COVID-19 has had a negative impact on children and adolescents with TB
- Investments in TB programmes have demonstrated benefits not just for people with TB

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BUTHA-BUTHE – The World Health Organisation (WHO), a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN)

responsible for international public health has called for an urgent investment of resources, support, care and information into the fight against tuberculosis (TB).

TB is a bacterial infection spread



WHO Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

through inhaling tiny droplets from the coughs or sneezes of an infected person. It mainly affects the lungs, but it can affect any part of the body, including the tummy (abdomen), glands, bones and nervous system. Urgent investments are needed to develop and expand access to the most innovative services and tools to prevent, detect and treat TB that could save millions of lives each year, says WHO Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Dr Ghebreyesus said in a statement this week that the investments offered huge returns for countries and donors, reduced health care costs and increased productivity.

“Investments in TB programmes have demonstrated benefits not just for people with TB but for health systems and pandemic preparedness,” the WHO boss said in the statement.

“COVID-19 has had a further negative and disproportionate impact on children and adolescents with TB or at risk, with increased TB transmission in the household, lower care-seeking and access to health services.”

WHO has urged countries to restore access to health services for all people with TB, especially children and adolescents on the World TB Day.

WHO's global TB programme said children and adolescents with TB were lagging behind adults in accessing TB prevention and care, where WHO

guideline is also a game changer for children and adolescents.

It helps them get diagnosed and access care sooner, leads to better results and cuts transmission.

WHO said the priority was to rapidly expand implementation of the guidelines across countries to save young lives and prevent suffering as TB remains one of the deadliest infectious killers.

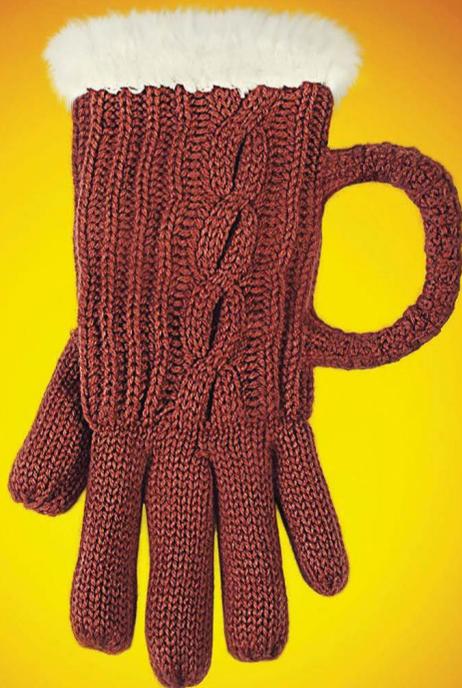
WHO calls on individuals, donors, communities and governments to do their part to end TB.

World TB Day is commemorated on March 24 every year to raise awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

The theme for 2022 TB Day is: Invest to End TB - Save lives, which conveys the urgent message to pool resources to ramp up the fight against TB and achieve the commitments by global leaders to end TB.

Most people infected with the bacteria that cause TB do not have symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they usually include a cough (sometimes blood-tinged), weight loss, night sweats and fever.

Treatment isn't always required for those without symptoms. Patients with active symptoms will require a long course of treatment involving multiple antibiotics.



Instant Aha

Children face Covid-19 risks - Ntoi

- 77 215 children have been vaccinated against the virus
- Vaccinating every person is the best way to prevent future variants

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BUTHA-BUTHE – The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National COVID-19 Secretariat (NACOSEC), Thabo Ntoi says children are at risk of getting COVID-19 and has appealed to parents and guardians to ensure that eligible children from the ages of 12 to 17 are fully vaccinated.

He told a media briefing this week that 77 215 children had been vaccinated against the virus.

“Vaccinating every person is the best way to prevent future variants that could threaten the health of global villages and effect the economy of the world,” Mr Ntoi said.

In the past four weeks, he said hospitalisation remained at four percent, adding this was an indication that COVID-19 was currently under control while the positivity rate remained at one percent.

A Butha-Buthe teenager, Mosa Lira told Maseru Metro that as the virus continued to spread across the world, young people faced multiple new stresses, including physical and psychological health risks, schools and businesses closures, family confinement and economic vulnerability.

“As we continue to navigate the rapidly evolving situation, it is essential to stay informed on the latest news, updates and resources about the virus and its effects on children, and information to protect us from COVID-19 and the related risk of violence,” Lira said.

Research shows that young people and children’s lives have been turned upside-down by the COVID-19 pandemic with remote schooling and playdates being cancelled.

Despite the achievements of past decades, the future of children today is more uncertain.

The pandemic has exposed inequalities-tolerated by societies until now, not only in terms of health, but also in social and economic areas, resulting in a greater impact on vulnerable populations.

COVID-19 vaccination is now authorised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for children aged five and older.

Getting young people vaccinated helps them and the people around them. Getting all recommended doses provides good protection against severe illness from COVID-19.

Any child between five and 11 years old can receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Medical journals show that if a child is four years old, a parent can only be able to get them vaccinated after their fifth birthday.

In preparation for children to get vaccinated, they should be informed about the vaccine close to the actual day of the vaccine.



The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

MATLAMA QUEENS & SOLO PROMOTIONS PRESENT

MATLAMA QUEENS PRE-CHAMPIONS FUNDRAISING Event

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NYAIZEN SNACK BAR

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LELE KHESUOE - DJ LIBTEE - SENTS'O

UNDER COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The world in 10 minutes

CHINA

China plane crash rescuers find charred personal belongings

Rescuers at the site of a plane crash in southern China found burnt wreckage and personal belongings of those on board, but no sign of any survivors. China Eastern flight MU5735 was carrying 132 people when it nosedived 30 000ft into hills in Guangxi.

The cause of the Boeing 737-800's crash is being investigated. Recovery work has been hampered by difficult terrain. There has been an outpouring of grief in China, where families of those on board are waiting anxiously for news. Although the search for survivors is continuing, there has been no word of anyone found alive, while neither local media nor the authorities have reported any finding of human remains.

Hundreds of responders have been sent to the crash site in Wuzhou to scour the steeply forested slopes where debris from the crash was strewn. Rescuers have so far found parts of the 737's wreckage. State broadcasters showed images of the charred remains of letters, bags, wallets and identity cards belonging to those on board.



NICARAGUA

Nicaragua opposition leader, Cristiana Chamorro sentenced

Nicaraguan opposition leader Cristiana Chamorro has been given an eight-year sentence after being found guilty of money-laundering. Ms Chamorro says the charges were politically motivated and designed to stop her from running in November's election, which saw President Daniel Ortega win a fifth term in office.

She was one of seven presidential hopefuls detained ahead of the poll. The 68-year-old is expected to be kept under house arrest. Ms Chamorro was seen by many in the opposition as their best hope of defeating Mr Ortega in the election.

She comes from one of Nicaragua's most influential families. Her father was the editor of the newspaper La Prensa, which opposed the autocratic Somoza family that ruled Nicaragua for decades. He was assassinated in 1978. Her mother, Violeta Chamorro, won the 1990 election to become the first female president in Latin America, putting an end to Daniel Ortega's first 11 years as president.



SWEDEN

Suspect arrested after two teachers murdered at Malmö school

An 18-year-old student was arrested at the scene on Monday in Sweden's third-largest city, police confirmed on Tuesday. The victims were two women in their 50s, police added. The suspect wasn't previously known to the police and had no criminal record.

"For now it is far too early to comment on that," Malmö Police Chief Petra Stenkula told a news conference. We can't say today whether he had any connection with the teachers," she added.

Stenkula said officers found the suspect and two victims on the third floor of the central Malmö Latin School, adding that the situation was then "under control".

Police said in a statement that they were called shortly after 17:00 on Monday, and cordoned off the building as armed officers arrived at the scene. The two women were taken to hospital but were later confirmed to have died. The 18-year-old is being held on suspicion of murder. Searches are being carried out at the suspect's home in the nearby town of Trelleborg, according to investigators.



RUSSIA

How hackers are trying to undermine Putin

The Anonymous hacktivist collective has been bombarding Russia with cyber-attacks since declaring "cyber war" on President Vladimir Putin in retaliation for the invasion of Ukraine. Several people operating under its banner spoke to the BBC about their motives, tactics and plans. Of all the cyber-attacks carried out since the Ukraine conflict started, an Anonymous hack on Russian TV networks stands out. The video began circulating on the 26 February and was shared by Anonymous social media accounts with millions of followers. "JUST IN: #Russian state TV channels have been hacked by #Anonymous to broadcast the truth about what happens in #Ukraine," one post read.

The stunt has all the hallmarks of an Anonymous hack - dramatic, impactful and easy to share online. Like many of the group's other cyber-attacks it was also extremely hard to verify. The hack was captured in a short video clip which shows normal programming interrupted with images of bombs exploding in Ukraine and soldiers talking about the horrors of the conflict. But one of the smaller groups of Anonymous hackers said that they were responsible, and that they took over TV services for 12 minutes. That first person to post the video was also able to verify it was real. Eliza lives in the US but her father is Russian and called her when his TV shows were interrupted.



SUDAN

Sudanese barricade streets as strike over protest deaths begins

Protesters have erected barricades across roads in Sudan's capital Khartoum and some shops and offices were shut as a two-day general strike and civil disobedience campaign began in response to demonstrators' deaths. Neighbourhood resistance committees and political parties called the strike starting on Tuesday after seven people were killed in Khartoum on Monday in one of the deadliest days to date in a series of demonstrations against a military takeover on October 25.

Protesters are demanding the military, which had been sharing power with civilian groups before the coup, quit politics completely.

"It is our duty to resist them until we are victorious or they rule an empty country after they have killed us all," the Khartoum State resistance committees said in a statement. Police confirmed the seven deaths on Tuesday, saying they used minimum force and had faced "systematic aggression". Military leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan promised an investigation. At least 71 people have been killed and more than 2,000 injured by security forces since the coup, according to medics aligned with the protest movement.

"Shop closed for mourning," said a series of small signs posted on the closed outlets at the sprawling Sajay construction supplies market in Khartoum. One of the merchants, Othman el-Sherif, was among those shot dead on Monday.



AUSTRALIA

Australia state MP charged with sexual abuse

A former minister in Australia's New South Wales (NSW) state government has been charged with sexually abusing a man and a teenage boy. Gareth Ward - now an independent MP - is alleged by police to have committed the crimes in 2013 and 2015. Mr Ward, 40, denies the charges.

"I will be instructing my lawyers to seek to bring this matter before the courts as quickly as possible and I look forward to demonstrating my innocence there," he said on Tuesday. Mr Ward has been accused of five charges in total. The most serious - one charge of sexual intercourse without consent - carries a maximum jail term of 14 years. Police will allege in court that the man indecently assaulted a 17-year-old boy at [NSW suburb] Meroo Meadow in February 2013, and sexually abused a 27-year-old man in Sydney in September 2015," NSW Police said in statement, without giving further details.

Mr Ward revealed he was being investigated by police last year, prompting him to resign as minister for families, communities and disability services. He also stopped sitting with the ruling Liberal Party in parliament. On Tuesday, NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet said he would move a motion to remove Mr Ward from parliament if he did not resign.

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Be Car-Smart

Take breaks while driving long distances

On long drives, take at least one 10-minute break every two hours. The combination of tight hamstrings and the pumping of your foot can stretch your sciatic nerve and lead to chronic pain. Muscles are meant to stretch - nerves aren't. As tempting as it is on a road trip to stay behind the wheel for those extra few hours in order to get to your destination as quickly as possible, driving for long stretches of time without a break can be really dangerous.

Driving takes a lot of concentration, skill, and control that is difficult to maintain for hours on end, making frequent stops invaluable to maintaining a high quality of safe, efficient driving.

As a general rule, it's best to take a break

of at least 15 minutes every two hours, and to not drive for more than eight hours in a day, to ensure you stay alert and avoid the associated risks of driving for too long without a rest. These risks include falling asleep at the wheel, running out of fuel, and reduced reaction times.

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

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

Our internal body clocks are naturally

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

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

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

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

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

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

Always check the precautions printed on the packet, which should let you know whether you're safe to drive and for how long. emergency only - use a bluetooth device, so your hands are free.

There are accessories that can help, including mobile phone car cradles and mounts. However, it's still dangerous to use voice commands and bluetooth while driving, so please use them sparingly.

13. Use rideshares

Not driving is better than driving while distracted. Consider using a rideshare company if you're going to be texting, emailing, shopping, etc.

Breaking habits is hard, but it's not impossible. And the facts around distracted driving are sobering. Experiment with incentives and routines to figure out what works for you, and remember that change is a journey worth taking.

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



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

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

"We are ecstatic about the national sales

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

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

2020 with a record of 2 032 units.

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

"During all this time, we were facing significant challenges. Lockdown restrictions tightened again, there were severe disruptions

and looting in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng and Transnet saw its ports shut down owing to cyber-attacks.

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

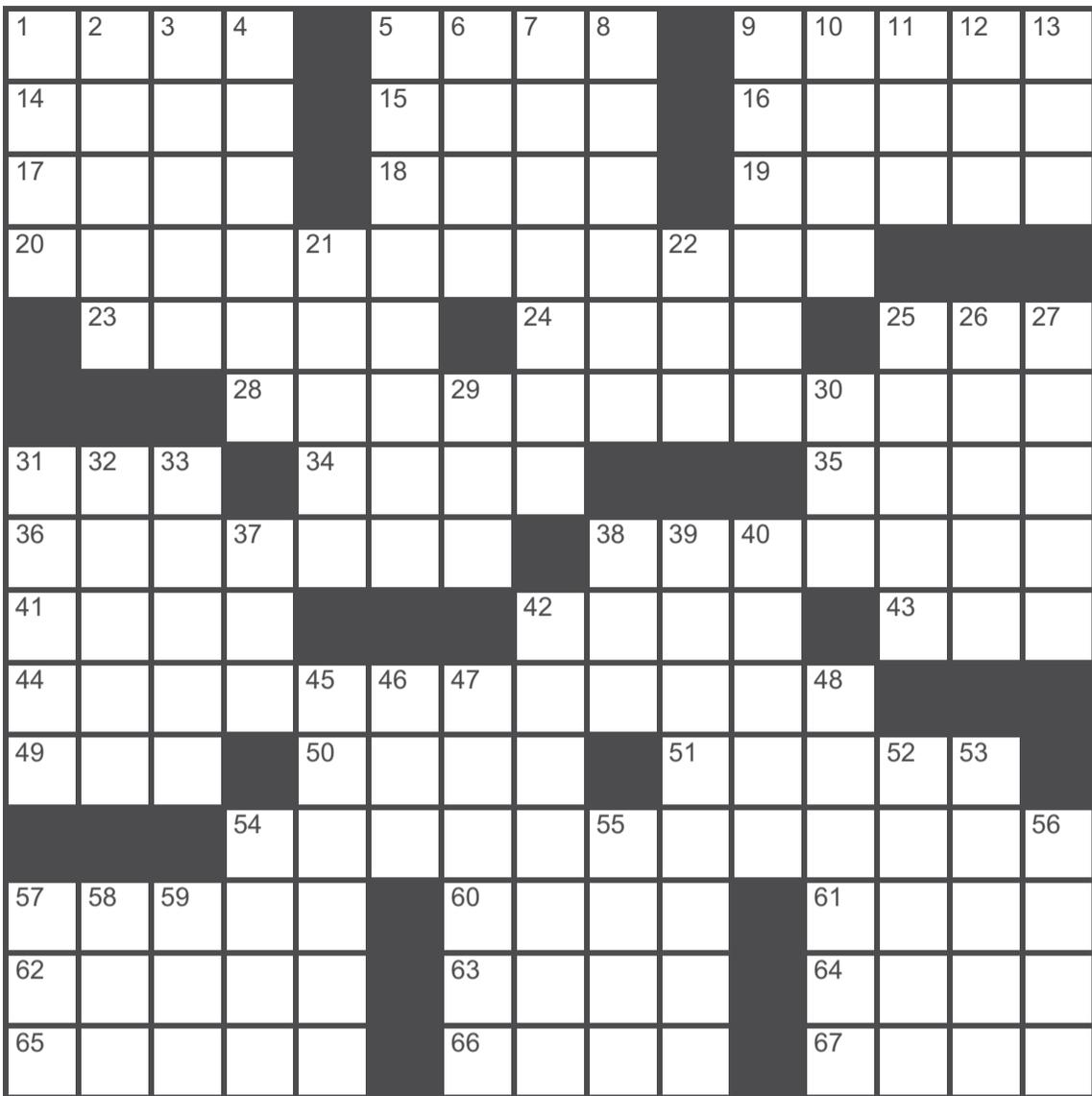
With total sales of over 3 000 units, Suzuki now represents 7.2% of the South African market, the company's highest share to date. If one removes the 82 Super Carry units sold in September, then Suzuki represents 10.3% of the passenger vehicle market. Equally impressive, was the fact that Suzuki sold over 1 200 new vehicles for rental and government fleets. This not only signifies the return of this important vehicle buying segment to the market, but it exceeds Suzuki's previous fleet sales record by over 50%.

Several Suzuki units contributed significantly to the overall sales record. Suzuki delivered close to 1 000 new Swift models to customers (935 units) and 504 customers chose the S-Presso as their vehicle of choice in September. The Vitara Brezza, India's top-selling vehicle, found 455 new owners and the ever-popular Ertiga was delivered to 387 new homes. Naamsa, the automotive industry council, reports that the industry has been recovering slowly, but surely since the lifting of the most restrictive lockdown restrictions. In September, the industry sold 43 130 units, representing a local market growth of 15.8% over the previous year, when lockdown restrictions were stricter, and demand was low.

"We are extremely proud of our 75 dealer partners who have supported us throughout this period. We realise how extremely difficult it is to keep customers happy when you have trading restrictions, limited stock and other COVID-related disruptions.

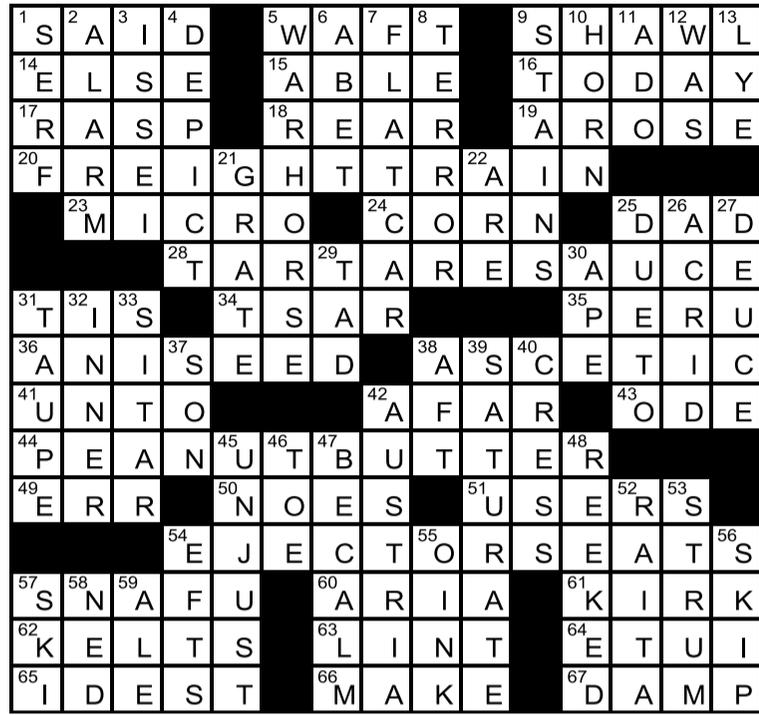
"All our dealers have gone out of their way to help customers, find vehicles, provide technical support and keep the doors open for customers at odd hours. We will carry this renewed focus on our customers forward, even when all the restrictions are lifted and trading

General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Unit of fat
 - 5. Come clean, with "up"
 - 9. "I _____ return"
 - 14. Etna output
 - 15. Suggestive
 - 16. Home on the range
 - 17. Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
 - 18. "_____ go bragh"
 - 19. Eagle's home
 - 20. Corporate ID
 - 23. Sedate
 - 24. Gangster's blade
 - 25. Health resort
 - 28. Of sound mind
 - 31. Econ. indicator
 - 34. Suds
 - 35. Hankerings
 - 36. Attire
 - 38. Mollify
 - 41. High school breakout
 - 42. Ranch newborn
 - 43. Bon _____
 - 44. Picture taker
 - 49. Ages and ages
 - 50. Hockey score
 - 51. Plays
 - 54. Sending messages
 - 57. Fifth wheel
 - 60. Monopoly acquisition
 - 61. Fox or turkey follower
 - 62. Astrological ram
 - 63. Earthen pot
 - 64. Tooth trouble
 - 65. Piercing wounds
 - 66. Fable
- Down**
- 1. Clump
 - 2. Part of the mandible
 - 3. Nautical "Stop!"
 - 4. Lunatic
 - 5. Released from slavery
 - 6. Listening devices
 - 7. Clip
 - 8. Adjusts in time
 - 9. Famish
 - 10. Take note of
 - 11. Spring mo.
 - 12. Floral necklace
 - 13. General in gray
 - 21. Weeper of myth
 - 22. Ability to hit a target
 - 25. Fulton's power

Last Week's Solution

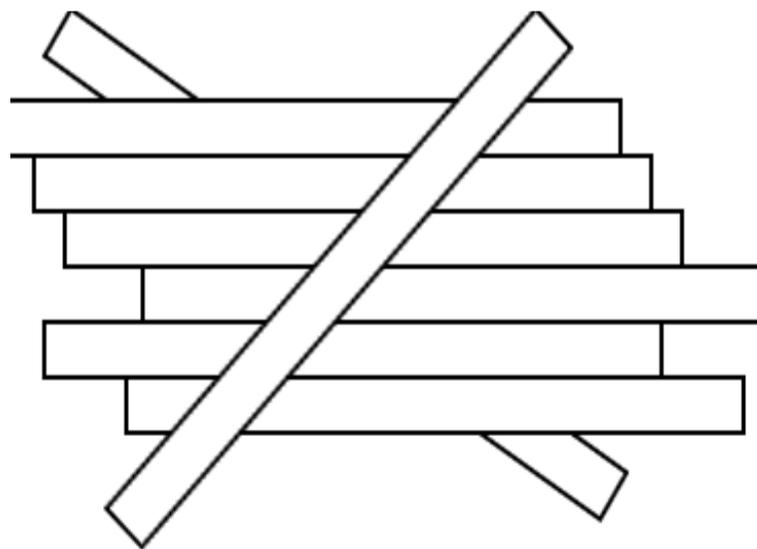


- 26. It's spotted in westerns
- 27. Money in the bank, say
- 29. Favorite
- 30. Big Apple inits.
- 31. Vineyard fruit
- 32. Cheesy snack
- 33. Assign to, as blame
- 37. Big Apple attraction, with "the"
- 38. Daddy-o
- 39. Hoity-toity
- 40. On one's toes
- 42. Incorrectly
- 45. Fairy tale monster (f.)
- 46. _____ few rounds (2 words)
- 47. Scattershot
- 48. Drumming
- 52. Parade
- 53. Hello or goodbye
- 54. Christmas decoration
- 55. Defrost
- 56. One-dish meal
- 57. Droop
- 58. Country club figure
- 59. Cause of inflation

So You Think You are Genius

Question (Answer next week)

Take away eight of the matches below and leave one matchstick behind. There are no hidden matchsticks.

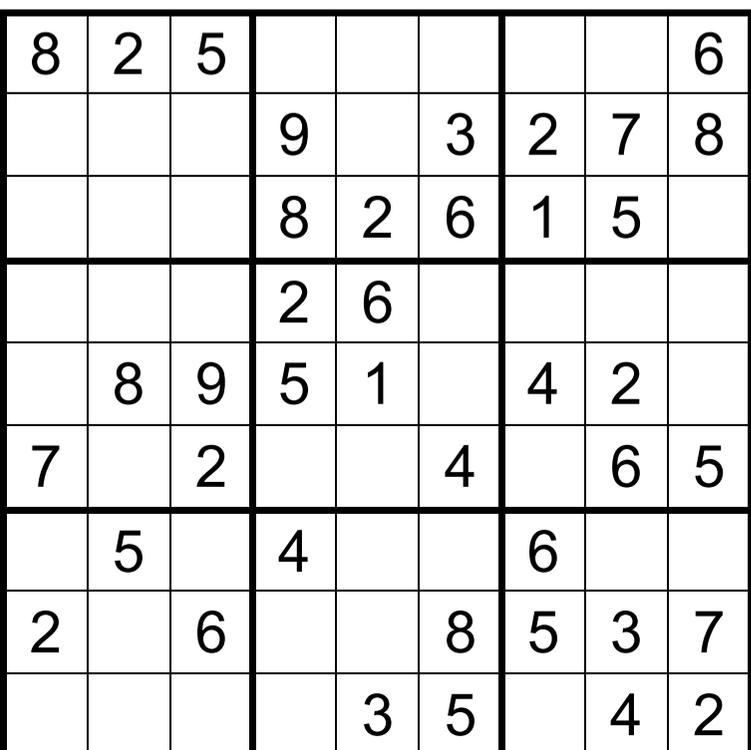


Last Week's Answer



Inches in a mile: there are 63,360 inches in a mile and about 52,000 Sundays in a thousand years.

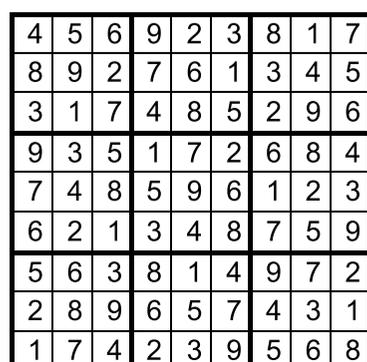
Sudoku Puzzle



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





Sera breaks silence on club, national team

- The striker is excited about the call in Likuena
- Sera says the matches against Seychelles are too important



Top Likuena striker, Motebang Sera

MASERU - Likuena striker, Motebang Sera has finally broken his silence since leaving Royal AM for Golden Arrows in the South African DSTV Premier League.

The former Matlama striker left AM, who purchased status of Bloemfontein Celtic, to reunite with mentor and countryman, Lehlohonolo Seema at Arrows.

Speaking on his selection in the final Likuena squad for the two upcoming matches with Seychelles, the 26-year-old admitted that he is grateful that his country still appreciates his services despite the challenges his career

has faced in recent months.

"I am really excited and grateful to have been given a call-up despite the challenges I have been experiencing at club level in recent months," Sera said.

"It shows that my country appreciates me even in the difficult times. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of the team."

The lanky marksman also spoke about Likuena 2023 Africa Cup of Nations back-to-back preliminary matches against Seychelles.

"The two matches against Seychelles are very important to us as we want to qualify to

the group stage of the Africa Cup of Nations," the striker said.

"We know that the performance hasn't been good in recent years and we have to go all out to restore the pride of our country.

"We owe it to Basotho and the football fraternity in the Mountain Kingdom. A good result can work magic for all of us," he said.

Seychelles hosted the first leg match at the Cote D'OR Stadium in Mauritius on Wednesday while the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) will host the second leg meeting at the Dobsonville Stadium in Gauteng province, South Africa on Sunday, March 27.

The winner of the two-legged affair will secure a place in the group stage of the

continental tournament qualifiers to be staged in Ivory Coast in 2023.

Lesotho and Seychelles are among a host of countries in the continent that will have to stage their international matches in neighbouring countries.

This is after the Setsoto Stadium was listed among stadiums suspended by the Confederations of African Football (CAF), as it does not meet required standards to host international matches.

The Minister of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation, Likeleli Tampane recently told the media that the government was too broke to finish the renovations at Setsoto Stadium as well as funding Likuena in their two matches against Seychelles.

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Tšotleho reminisces on his football career

The attacking midfielder has won 11 caps with Likuena



MASERU - Jane Tšotleho fell in love with football at the tender age of four, playing alongside his older brother in the dusty streets of Semphethenyana on the outskirts of Maseru. But little did he know that his football journey would take him to far away countries such as the United States of America and Cambodia in Asia.

The 30-year-old attacking midfielder, who is currently playing for the defending league champions, Bantu, has also won 11 caps for the national squad, Likuena, having made his debut against Liberia in 2014.

"I love my football journey. Football was always my first love and will always be. I had the chance to play in four different continents and it's a blessing, but I'm not done yet," says Tšotleho.

"It all started at home, where I used to play in the dusty districts of Semphethenyana with my brother and his friends. I'm proud to say, I'm not a product of any team or anyone, but a product of my own blood and family. My brother is the one who taught me everything and helped me be the player that I am today."

From being developed and nurtured by his brother, Tšotleho went to join Rangers FC in his neighbourhood before joining Qoaling Emmanuel and ultimately, Hunters FC, who in those days served as the development team for Premier league giants, Lioli.

"I played for Rangers FC, who are right next door to my house, but I later moved to Emmanuel in Qoaling and from there I got a

chance to play for Lioli development team called Hunters," the attacking midfielder recalls.

"I give Hunters all the credit for the opportunity that I got and the exposure because if it were not for them, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to the USA, to showcase my skills across the world.

"I will always be thankful to them for that and everyone that was involved in my move to the USA at the age of 13-years old.

"Sunny", as the left footed midfielder is affectionately known in the football circles, states that former Likuena goalkeeper and captain, Thabane Sutu, who is still in the US, played a major part in him moving to America as a teenager," he said.

"Rapelenag 'Shane' Van Tonder was the coach when I was at Hunters and the move to the USA occurred through Ntate Thabane Sutu and Ntate Khethang Khohlooa's connections," Tšotleho explains.

"Playing in the USA was quite an experience. The move helped me a lot mentally and physically as a player. I learnt that football is played with the mind and the feet are just the tools to help you do what you are thinking."

Tšotleho also feels that playing in the US equipped him with tools that will come in handy when he finally retires from the game as he also studied there, although he is yet to complete his studies.

"It is important to have something to fall back on when our playing days are over. I mean, a lot of players leave college early to go professional, but they do online

courses on the side-lines. I left college early to go professional and did some courses online and right now, I have about five classes to finish. I have to be there physically for that course as it can't be done online," he says.

"The best part of my scholarship is that it's for a lifetime and I once I decide to hang my boots, I can go back to finish any time I want."

Tšotleho, who was in the Likuena provisional squad for the two games against Seychelles, states that he is still hopeful of adding to his 11 caps and one goal for the national team.

"Representing one's country is always an honour and a big achievement any player wants to have in their resume. It has been an amazing experience. I haven't achieved everything I wanted with the national team and hopeful will

still get more chances to do that," Tšotleho says.

Coincidentally, the midfielder's first and only goal for the national team came against the same opponents that Likuena will be playing in 2023 Africa Cup of Nations preliminary round qualifiers.

He was among Moses Maliehe's charges who clinched a 2-1 victory over Seychelles at Setsoto Stadium on March 29, 2016.

The match was part of the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

He states that former Nigerian Captain, Jay-Jay Okocha was his big inspiration as he grew up.

"When Okocha retired, I fell in love with Argentinean superstar, Lionel Messi.

"I would say those are the players that I looked up to and loved watching," he concludes.

