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LRA NEEDS M63

MILLION ... as the body finalises a tax modernisation project

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- Ministry recalls vehicle number plates
- Accountants support taxi fare hike
- Two nabbed for trafficking Lesotho woman



NewsBriefs

DDP accused of political chicanery



DPP, Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane

MASERU - King's Counsel Motiea Teele has taken a shot at the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane, accusing her of playing political games using the influence of her office.

KC Teele who represents Mothetjoa Metsing and Selibe Mochoboroane in an application against Adv Motinyane said the latter's decision to summarily indict his clients in the High Court is politically motivated.

He made these comments on Tuesday when addressing Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane on the merits of the case.

He further slammed the DPP, saying what she did is abuse of process.

Provisions of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (CP&E), he showed do not provide for a joinder, adding that his clients can therefore not be joined in a pending trial.

He argued that under that law, certain criterion which must be met is not present in the case, adding that the prerequisites of the section are not fulfilled.

The two political leaders are in the application seeking a review and setting aside of the procedure to summarily indict them. They are asking for the procedure to be declared wrong.

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

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

The two have been unsuccessfully trying to secure immunity from prosecution.

If joined, they will be charged alongside soldiers who are accused of the murder of Police Sub-Inspector Mokheseng Ramahlolo at the police headquarters on August 30, 2014.

They also face treason and attempted murder charges.

FastFACTS

Ever wondered about what is the longest river in the world?

(It's not so easy to define how long a river is. If a number of tributaries merge to form a larger river, how would you define where the river actually begins?)

River lengths or river-length data are affected not only by some of the natural and artificial causes, but also by the precision of various techniques of measurement, by the scale of available maps or aerial photographs, and by somewhat arbitrary decisions. For example, the length may be considered to be the distance from the mouth to the most distant headwater source (irrespective of stream name) or from the mouth to the headwaters of the stream commonly identified as the source stream.

Nile River is estimated to be the longest river in the world. It tops the chart with its 6,650 km length. Therefore Nile River of North-East Africa is the lifeline of a number of countries. Eleven countries, namely, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt share its water.

On This Day in History

1945

September 2

Japan surrenders, bringing an end to WWII

Aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan formally surrenders to the Allies, bringing an end to World War II.

By the summer of 1945, the defeat of Japan was a foregone conclusion. The Japanese navy and air force were destroyed. The Allied naval blockade of Japan and intensive bombing of Japanese cities had left the country and its economy devastated. At the end of June, the Americans captured Okinawa, a Japanese island from which the Allies could launch an invasion of the main Japanese home islands. U.S. General Douglas MacArthur was put in charge of the invasion, which was code-named "Operation Olympic" and set for November 1945.

The invasion of Japan promised to be the bloodiest seaborne attack of all time, conceivably 10 times as costly as the Normandy invasion in terms of Allied casualties. On July 16, a new option became available when the United States secretly detonated the world's first atomic bomb in the New Mexico desert. Ten days later, the Allies issued the Potsdam Declaration, demanding the "unconditional surrender of all the Japanese armed forces."

Failure to comply would mean "the inevitable and complete destruction of the Japanese armed forces and just as inevitable the utter devastation of the Japanese homeland." On July 28, Japanese Prime Minister Kantaro Suzuki responded by telling the press that his government was "paying no attention" to the Allied ultimatum. U.S. President Harry S. Truman ordered the devastation to proceed, and on August 6, the U.S. B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing an estimated 80,000 people and fatally wounding thousands more.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

10 paces behind or 10 paces ahead?

An investigative journalist went to Afghanistan to study the culture and was shocked to discover that women were made to walk ten paces behind the men. She asked her guide why and he said, "Because they are considered of lesser status."

Outraged, the journalist went home. A year later she returned covering violence in the region and was surprised to see the women walking ten paces ahead.

She turned to her guide and this time asked, "What has changed?" The guide answered, "Land mines."

BORN ON THIS DAY

September 2

- 1982 - Joey Barton, English footballer
- 1982 - Mandy Cho, Hong Kong actress
- 1982 - Jason Hammel, American baseball player
- 1983 - Mark Foster, English rugby player
- 1984 - Jack Peñate, English singer and musician (Matinée), born in London, England
- 1987 - Spencer Smith, American rock drummer (Panic! at the Disco)
- 1988 - Ishant Sharma, Indian cricket fast bowler (102 Tests, 306 wickets; 80 ODIs)
- 1989 - Alexandre Pato, Brazilian footballer
- 1989 - Ishmeel Singh Sodhi, Indian Playback Singer (d. 2008)
- 1990 - Marcus Ericsson, Swedish Racing Driver

Son wants mum body exhumed

MASERU - The son of a factory worker who was shot during a salary protest in May and later died in hospital has asked the High Court to allow him to exhume his mother's body in order to conduct another postmortem by an independent pathologist.

In his application filed on Friday, Teboho Ramanase has cited as respondents, Tšépong (PTY) LTD, Netcare Lesotho (PTY) LTD, Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital, Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Commissioner of Police, Attorney General and the Maseru Private Hospital.

He wants some of the respondents to be restricted from interfering, expunging any documents, tampering or dealing in any manner whatsoever with documents showing the cause of his mother, Motšelisi Ramanase's admission to hospital, the nature of injuries she sustained on May 25 and the cause of her death, pending finalisation of the matter.

Ramanase alleges that a medical form from the Maseru Private Hospital where the police reports that his mother was taken before being transferred to Tšépong reflects that she suffered gunshot wounds whereas the police contend that she was cut with a sharp object.

He says the respondents refused to hand over his mother's medical file and medical certificate of the cause of death.

He insists that some of the respondents are hiding the two documents because they want to hide the real cause of his mother's death.

He states that he stands to suffer irreparable harm if the order is not granted.

Factory workers in Maseru and Maputsoe went on strike in May demanding salary increase.

Two people were shot during the demonstrations that ensued, one in Maseru and another in Maputsoe.

Quotes & Quips!

"The USA ended 20 years of war in Afghanistan, the longest war in American history. The women and men of the US military, our diplomatic corps and intelligence professionals did their job and did it well. It was time to end this war,"

said U.S President Joe Biden, praising the efforts to get more than 120 000 Americans and allies evacuated to safety out of war-torn Afghanistan



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Investment moves to Butha- Buthe

4

Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	23.22
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.67
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.31
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.27
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.18
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.70
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.88
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	10.90
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.04
Loti/Kwaza	Angola's (Kz)	0.02
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.32
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.95
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.20
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	3.91
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.55
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.82
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.00
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.40

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,525.73	Gold p/ounce	1,809.06
NASDAQ100	15,551.38	Platinum p/ounce	1,014.80
Nikkei225	28,089.54	Silver p/ounce	23.94
Dow Jones30	35,406.39	Copper p/ounce	0.22
FTSE 100	7,098.95	Brent Oil p/barrel	71.85
JSE	67,344.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	25,769.77	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	M15.25
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M15.15
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M14.85
Paraffin p/litre	M10.50
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

LRA needs M63 million

... as the body finalises a tax modernisation project

NEO SENOKO

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MASERU - The Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) needs a supplemental financing for its tax modernisation project to enable the full implementation as originally envisaged.

An African Development Fund (ADF) loan amounting to USD 7.1 million (M107.1 million) was approved on November 22, 2017 to finance the Lesotho Tax Modernisation Project (LTMP) before it became effective on April 19, 2018.

The project is expected to deliver quantifiable results including an increase in tax to GDP ratio from 23.8 percent to 26 percent. It is also intended to increase revenue collection from small tax payers from M12.6 million in 2015 to M0.5 billion in 2022 as well as reduce cost of compliance and time to register for tax from 164.6 hours to just 12 hours, and time to pay tax from 16 hours to six hours.

These will be achieved through installation of a new e-taxation and Value Added Tax (VAT)

compliance technology, adoption of e-taxation and VAT compliance regulations as well as enabling legislation for small tax payers and adoption of streamlined tax procedures and strengthening of human resource capacity.

While the project has made considerable progress, current estimates indicate that the LRA now needs a total of around USD 11.3 million (M170 million) as the cost to completion. This is against the initial financing of M107.1 million.

In an appraisal report on the supplemental financing of the (LTMP), the ADF has revealed that in order to complete the project, supplementary funding requested is estimated at UA 3.0 million (M63 million).

The government of Lesotho has

therefore requested additional financing to support the successful implementation of the tax modernisation programme, which includes the procurement of hardware and software and professional services to consolidate the gains made under the ongoing project as well as support the LRA to effectively respond to the Lesotho post COVID-19 recovery plan.

The ADF states that the UA 3.0 (M63 million) will be drawn from the ADF Fund 15-country allocation of UA 15 million.

"The supplementary financing would therefore allow LRA to procure the software and critical consulting and non-consulting services required for the implementation of VAT compliance solutions, (E-invoicing) for collecting VAT related information from both wholesalers and retailers, e-payment integration between LRA systems and commercial banks and mobile money providers," the ADF reports shows.

The total cost of the project is envisaged to increase from M107 million to M170 million, hence the need for the additional estimate of M63 million.

Due to the COVID-19 impact which has led to reduced domestic

revenue collection, the government has been unable to identify alternative sources of financing for the unfunded activities.

The impact

of the supplementary funding will be that the project will be able to complete and deliver its e-taxation and VAT compliance solution reforms.

These will enhance the LRA's capacity by expanding the tax base, and modernising collection and compliance procedures.

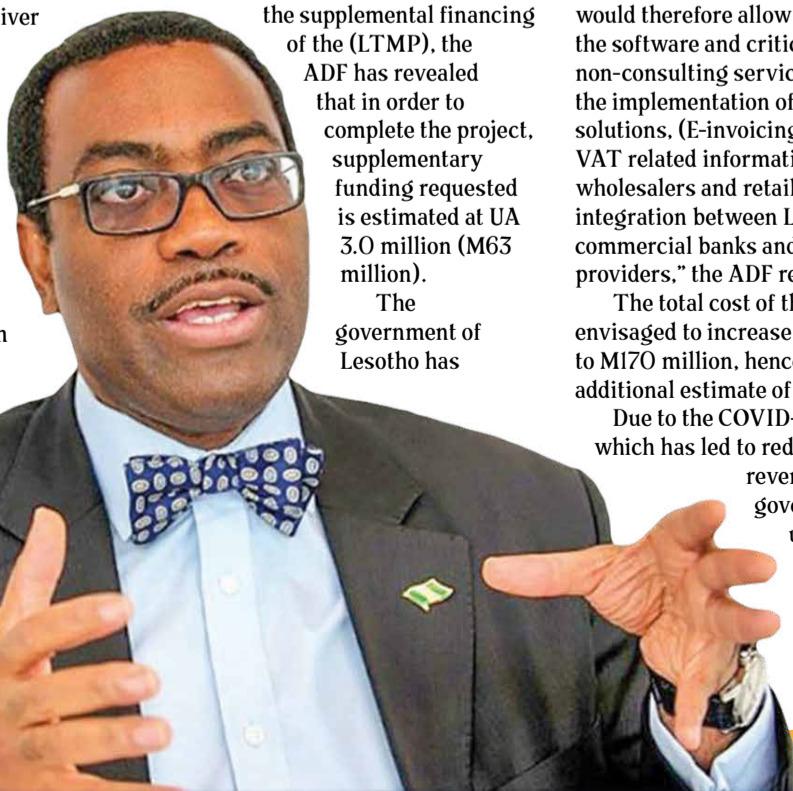
Notwithstanding the challenges, the ADF applauded the LRA for a remarkable progress towards achieving its development objectives.

"Despite initial delay in the procurement of hardware and software, the project has made remarkable progress, including the adoption of change management and communication strategy, client education strategy and gender equity strategy and action plan. The finalisation of draft legislation including Tax Administration Bill, which covers Small Business Tax, Income Tax Amendment Bill, Value Added Tax Amendment Bill and Point of Sales Regulations.

"The progress made further includes capacity building training in the areas of gender equity, tax audit on special sectors such as banking, insurance and telecom, as well as the supply and installation of hardware and the development of e-taxation including e-filing, e-registration, e-payment and the business requirements for e-invoicing to enhance VAT compliance," the ADF report also says.

Nevertheless, the ADF warns that more effort is required to improve efficiency and effectiveness to deliver better services and enforce compliance.

President of ADB, Dr Akinwumi-Adesina



Business

Investment moves to Butha-Buthe

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Job creation and private sector growth have been at the heart of Lesotho's development agenda for a long time and recently, Butha-Buthe has been earmarked as the next investment hub, particularly for the textile and apparel industry.

Situated in the northern part of Lesotho, about 160 km from Maseru, the district has allocated for that business endeavor due to its proximity to the Durban depot in South Africa and more compatible nature than the capital city, among other things.

Due to poor planning, Both Thetsane and Tikoe industrial areas in Maseru do not allow for more development to take place, making life difficult for both residents and factory businesses in the area.

Among other things, the two industrial sites are highly congested, leaving little space for road construction, water installation and extension of factory shells for more production.

Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro pledged during the official launch of the electrification project at Belo Industrial Area on Friday last week that investment in the textile sector is headed to Butha-Buthe.

"Investors are interested in this area because they say it is more compatible to the type of business they do and also very close to Durban and therefore allows for easier movement of goods," he said. The \$55.5 million (M800 million) Ha Belo industrial estate

project is set to create more jobs for Basotho, with the first phase of the project scheduled to deliver 16 factory shells which are expected to employ over 14 500 people upon completion of the construction.

Subsequent phases of the project will create an additional 41 000 jobs from 51 shells.

The government-owned project is being developed by the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), with Unik Construction Engineering as the main contractor.

The project was supposed to have been delivered in January 2021, but it is only 81 percent complete at the moment. Among others, the delays were caused by resurveys and digital terrain modeling of the project site.

"Before end of this year, in October, the building construction will be completed in this area. This project is tied to the other two components of electrical installation and access to water," Dr Majoro noted.

He said the area will need more electrical power that firms will be able to use properly.

A total of 1200 families, 11 schools as well as other 21 businesses, the premier said, will also benefit from the electrification project.

He therefore appealed to community leaders in the area to ensure proper land planning, particularly with places surrounding the industrial area to avoid any unnecessary inconveniences in the future.

He said enough land should remain available for the construction of more factories as government plans to build more firms in the area.



Prime Minister Dr Mæketsi Majoro

Land should also be made available for the construction of other developmental projects such as health care centres, road construction, schools and taxi ranks among other things, he said.

The apparel industry accounts for most of the jobs and exports in manufacturing, however, further development in the industry is currently under pressure.

Exports to the United States (U.S) market for instance, have been falling as the country struggles to compete with other low cost producers.

Banks scrap use of cheques ... as they go electronic

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Local commercial banks will cease issuing and accepting cheques effective from September 30, marking a death knell to the once popular method of payment.

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) announced on Tuesday that local banks will no longer accept any cheques for deposit or encashment after the above mentioned date.

"The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), Payments Association of Lesotho (PAL) and the Bankers Association of Lesotho (BAL), jointly wish to inform the public that both the issuing and the acceptance of cheques will stop, effective from September 30," CBL said on Tuesday.

The decision, the bank said, was taken due to the numerous challenges associated with the usage of cheques, including the lengthy processing period, fraud perpetrated through the issuing of cheques as well as its expensive nature as a payment instrument.

Other challenges include the restricted acceptance of cheques, declining usage, limited education and protection for the customers as well as the outdated cheque processing system.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has also been labeled as another challenge.

"In this regard, Lesotho banks will not accept any cheques for deposit or encashment after September 30, 2021. Banks will communicate extensively with their clients leading up to and beyond the discontinuation of cheques, and will furthermore educate their clients on alternative electronic payment methods that may be used," CBL added.

The regulator further warned that affected stakeholders and clients are requested not to write or accept cheques after September 30. Cheques that have already been issued will not be redeemed after September 30.

Clients are encouraged to approach their banks on the alternative electronic payment methods or to direct any queries they may have related to the process of termination of the usage of cheques.

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Liqhobong Mine resumes operations

BUTHA-BUTHE – The reopening of the Liqhobong Diamond Mine will add value to the economy of Lesotho as the government is in fear of the shrinking revenue pool due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu says. He made the comments on Thursday during the official reopening of the Liqhobong Mining Development Company in Butha Buthe. This, after the diamond mine was shut down two years ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the company's operations.

Mr Mokhothu said by December, the mine will be in full operation with plans to engage almost 300 workers apart from those employed on a contractual basis.

He lauded the mine on the good relationship it has with the Liqhobong community, saying the affiliation is a pillar on which the mine will stand.

"It is crucial for the mine to maintain a healthy relationship with the community around it," he added. Commenting on the issue of social corporate responsibility, the DPM said it is essential, adding that if it is not explained thoroughly there will be misunderstandings. He urged the Ministry of Mining to work with the mine on the employment policy, saying the first 100 employees should be drawn from communities around the mine with the rest from other parts of Butha Buthe and the rest of the country.



REOPENED: The Liqhobong Diamond Mine in Butha-Buthe

He said the mine should develop a Mining Development Fund which will entail awarding scholarships to at least five students every year from communities around the mine, who will study in fields such as engineering, water related courses and wool and mohair to mention a few.

"Those children will come back to develop the community after they complete their studies," he said.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Minister of Mining, Serialong Qoo said as the mine resumes duties, it will pay royalty points and ground rent to mention a few while it looks into settling its debts first.

He said the investors will ensure that the operations are running smoothly first before they start investing. Mr Qoo promised that by December, two more mines will be

opened in the country.

Echoing similar sentiments, Member of Parliament for Motete constituency, Tumahole Lerafa said the reopening of the mine is a major economic development, adding that its closure had caused a huge knock on Lesotho's economy.

"They are going to complete whatever they were engaged in, such as finishing the homes for local

communities," he said."

For his part, the Chief Executive Officer of Liqhobong Mining Development Company, Paul Bosman said most of the employees are back at their work stations and ready to start work.

He said the workers have already received their COVID-19 jabs, hopeful that will help keep the disease away from the mine. LeNA

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Comments & Letters

Criminalisation of sex workers should stop

The Editor,

Although sex workers across the world lobby for decriminalisation, stigma remains a mark of disgrace and social discrediting. Sex workers are human beings who deserve the same dignity and respect given to non-sex working people. Society has historically used respectability politics (ideas of what is and isn't "socially acceptable") as an excuse for tolerating the abuse, murder, and criminalisation of sex workers.

We firmly reject the idea that a person is undeserving of respect because of their involvement in the sex trade, and we dedicate ourselves to ending discrimination against sex workers in all of its many forms. We recognise that no one story represents sex work and we honour the vast variety of experiences that people in our communities have lived. Narratives of sex work as undesirable and sex workers as disposable victims are heavily steeped in our cultural imagination. No little girl grows up wanting to be a sex worker, thank heavens, can our society value and respect our work!

T. M.
Ha Maphothoane, Leribe

COVID-19 vaccine should be compulsory.

The Editor,

A sharp upturn in COVID-19 infections simply means the ongoing government vaccination programme should be mandatory to all. Getting as many people vaccinated is a way to go if we are serious about resuscitating the economy. Anything less than mandatory vaccination simply means more suffering to the economy. Different sectors of the economy are banking on vaccination programmes as a clear pathway to recovery. Even the Central Bank of Lesotho has said on several occasions that vaccine programmes will go a long way towards the country's economic recovery. This will, among other things help us retain Foreign Direct Investors currently in the country and potentially open doors for more investment in the long run. Jobs will also be saved and education will continue. Yes, I know we all have a right to decide as to whether to take a job or not, but at this point, we are dealing with a world crisis. We are dealing with a world pandemic and any decision not to get the job will certainly prove to be detrimental to the already struggling economy. The consequences of such decisions will affect us all and we shall perish, this time not only because of the pandemic but extreme hunger and poverty as well. For this, and many other reasons, I say the government should tighten the rope and ensure that the entire population is vaccinated before the end of this year as earlier promised.

William Seoka
Ha Tsosane, Maseru

Can the wool, mohair promotion project be extended?

The Editor,

The Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP) is designed to boost resilience to the adverse effects of climate change and economic shocks among poor rural people across the country. WAMPP is scheduled to reach completion in December 2022. Cognisant of this, the project was designed with a view to ensure sustainability of its outcomes.

It is important to ensure that the work and fruits flowing from the project continue to be reaped by beneficiaries even after the project has been completed.

As farmers, we would like those who are in charge, especially funders to extend the project life so that it continues benefiting us in the many ways that it has always been doing.

WAMPP is active in all 10 districts of Lesotho with focus on the rangelands that cover more than two thirds of the country's surface.

Activities target smallholder farmers and other poor rural dwellers, giving special attention to poor rural women and young people in the project area.

Tau Hlao
Majakaneeng, Quthing

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Resumption of work at Lihobong Mine brings great economic hope

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought several challenges, chief among which are deaths of scores of people and the closing down of numerous businesses across the globe. The impact of the deadly virus has also had notable consequences on the economic environment of all countries including Lesotho, with businesses in various sectors forced to either close shop or retrench workers due to poor markets both on the home front and internationally.

The Government of Lesotho imposed the first national lockdown on March 29, last year, in a bid to curb the spread of the deadly virus. Many businesses were closed down as per the government's order, but the Lihobong Diamond Mine, which is located at the head of the Lihobong Valley in the Maluti Mountains in the northern district of Butha-Butha, had by then already made plans of its own.

The mine that is operated by Lihobong Mining Development Company (LMDC), which is 75 percent owned by Firestone Diamonds and 25 percent owned by the Lesotho Government announced four days before the lockdown began that it would suspend operations for at least three weeks.

The reason behind was to safeguard the mine's over 500 employees and surrounding community from the pandemic.

Only essential care and maintenance services as well as security personnel were left behind at the mine compound.

But a year and a couple of months later, the mine still remained closed to only resume operations last week.

The impact of the closure was not only felt in the country but even beyond Lesotho's borders where the mine's precious stones are normally auctioned.

So the resumption of operations at the mine has been welcomed in all quarters across the globe, as it brings hope to the country's distressed economy.

Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu says the reopening of the mine will add value to our economy as the government is apprehensive about the dwindling revenue pool owing to the pandemic.

Mokhothu who spearheaded the official reopening of the mine last week Thursday pledged that by December, the company will be in full operation with plans to hire about 300 more workers besides those already engaged on a contractual basis. There is no doubt that the presence of the mine in area has brought a positive impact on the community around the mining site. It has a good relationship with the community and has enriched the quality of the people's lives through improved health care services, education and better employment opportunities.

Resumption of work at the mine further offers hope that there will be a complete turn-around in the staggering unemployment rate in Lesotho.

Lihobong brings the total number of major diamond mines operating in Lesotho to five, inclusive of Letšeng, Kao, Kolo and Mothae.

Vaccination will not make you a crocodile

HOWARD ARMSTEAD

When was the last time you crossed a busy highway without looking both ways before you stepped into traffic?

You might be lucky enough to make it across without a scratch, or all cars might come to a screeching halt to let you pass. However, there is a good chance you would be hit, injured, or killed. The same holds true with the COVID-19 pandemic. The only difference is that with the new, doubly contagious, more dangerous delta variant, sometime in the next two years, you are almost guaranteed to be hit with this potentially fatal infection. You will get sick. If you are not vaccinated, you are likely to end up in a critical-care bed in the hospital - if one is available - or dead. If you are vaccinated, you might not get sick at all. Or you may experience cold or flu-like symptoms and spend a few feverish, aching days in bed. Ask yourself, can you afford the medical bills for a month's hospital stay? Are you ready to give up everything you own or have worked for your whole life - and your family - forever, to reside in a box six feet under? Or would you rather get a free life-saving vaccine jab? Now is the time to decide. Once you get sick six days, weeks, or months from now, it is too late. Get the jab now!

Recently, a popular, conservative radio talk-show host in America died of COVID-19. He had told his radio audience they really did not need to get vaccinated. He claimed even if he got infected, he would have only one chance in a hundred of dying. The immune system God gave him was strong, so he had no fear. Wrong, wrong, and wrong. Maybe he forgot the chapter in the Bible where God sent the deadly plagues unto Egypt. Killer epidemics have haunted humanity every century from the beginning of civilisation. COVID-19 is just the latest.

As the song from 1968 by Jerry Butler suggests, "only the strong survive". Today, only those smart enough to get vaccinated will survive unscathed. If you are not vaccinated, be sure your burial plan is paid, and last will and testament notarised. You are likely to need both sooner than expected. For people a bit more lucky, 50 percent of those hospitalised with COVID-19 will suffer long-term health consequences with long-COVID.

Almost everyone with serious COVID-19 suffers some degree of long-term loss of lung capacity.

Facts are facts. However, legions of people on social media are trying to confuse others with distorted information. Do not be fooled by scammers, fools or fanatics. Believing them will kill you. Some misinformation is crazy, like when the President of Brazil claimed a vaccine would turn a person into a crocodile - or a chimpanzee. President Bolsonaro caught COVID-19 after he

refused to wear a mask or get vaccinated. Despite the best medical attention, he ended up hick-upping uncontrollably for 10 days. Not getting vaccinated turned him into a horse's ass. The president of Tanzania died after he refused to get vaccinated or wear a mask. The virus does not discriminate.

Too many have died already. In one week in July 2021 two people, I really liked, passed away. One was the car guard at the parking lot where I work. Bongani was almost 50. I shared many lunches with him, and he always waved as I entered and left the lot. I was shocked when he died. That same week one of my favourite pharmacists, Danny passed away. When I learned he was 84

MY
TAKE
HOWARD ARMSTEAD



years old I was surprised because he was lively and fit and sharp as a tack. Somehow, he had believed the antivax junk on social media and failed to get vaccinated. He was

a highly intelligent, successful man. The virus took him in two weeks. But it was really the lies and distortions on social media that killed him. He did not have to die. Neither did the American radio host or the Tanzanian president. All were victims of anti-scientific propaganda. Do not let this happen to you.

Every mother knows that babies need their shots. In past centuries millions of children died annually of childhood diseases. Now, because of almost universal vaccination, few do. Maybe that is why women are more inclined to get vaccinated than men. Is it possible grown men fear a vaccine shot - the same thing they received when they were babies? Hard to believe. Now is the time to man-up to protect your own life, your family, friends, and co-workers. Only the smart survive. The strong, strong-headed and confused but unvaccinated may not. Which side will you be on? Pick fast. When COVID comes calling - which it will soon - it will be too late. Get vaccinated today. For some people, next month will not be soon enough. What would your family do without you?

Vaccinations have saved lives for over 200 years. Chinese gave the first inoculations about 1500, for smallpox. In 1778 Englishman Edward Jenner perfected the system of using scabs from cowpox survivors to inoculate against killer smallpox. That inspired the word vaccine, from vacca, the Latin word for cow. Louie Pasteur of France developed vaccines against cholera in 1897, and anthrax in 1904. Today there are vaccines against tetanus, diphtheria, rubella, rabies, measles, mumps, chickenpox, polio, hepatitis-B, influenza, and numerous other infectious and contagious diseases.

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.

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Farmers happy with agricultural subsidy

Poultry farmers urged to up production

BEREA - TKM Agricultural Solutions (TAS) has strongly encouraged Berea poultry farmers to maximise the local production in order to meet market demands and enhance job creation opportunities.

TAS Director, Tšiu Malefane made these remarks on Friday when awarding certificates of attendance to a group of 14 poultry farmers from Berea, after completing a week-long training on proper management of poultry.

The workshop was held at the Teyateyang LECSA primary school.

Mr Malefane said chicken meat is one of agricultural products which are on high demand in the local market, adding it can be afforded by most consumers.

"But even people who have enough skills are suffering the impacts of poverty and hunger while they are still waiting for donations, hence the initiative to empower them so that they can improve their livelihoods," he said.

He noted it is time to work in partnership to support local production rather than let the escalating rate of cash flowing to South Africa.

He said there is a need to think out of the box and consider production of chicks.

He said local farmers have to invest in the establishment of slaughter labs and improve packaging of chicken products as part of increasing sales, adding that the government is also considering the strategies of reviving eggs selling cycles.

One of the participants, Tseko Mphole said as a retrenched south African miner, doing poultry farming was something he never thought about, but having gained farming skills from KAS trainings has changed his mindset.

However, he said the lack of partnership among Basotho is killing many local businesses, adding that they have now been equipped with effective means of advertising their businesses in order to increase sales.

He urged fellow farmers to try to separate their family funds from business coffers, saying otherwise that would negatively affect the growth of their businesses.

In a bid to motivate the newly trained farmers, 'Manketsi Thulo from the Leribe Poultry Cooperative Society (LPCS) said after receiving similar trainings, they have gained momentum in the poultry business as they now own their own slaughter lab in Mampitsoe.

She said the fact that their Berea counterparts have ventured into the poultry farming project implies a new beginning of their partnership.

Mrs Thulo said through such association, they will no longer find themselves running a loss as a result of people who buy on credit.

Meanwhile, a similar training programme has been scheduled for poultry farmers in Maseru. LeNA

MASERU - Farmers have welcomed the government's decision to subsidise summer cropping on seeds and fertilisers with 60 percent in a bid to boost food security in order to fight poverty and hunger in the country. The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Likopo Mahase (pictured) on Friday advised farmers to take advantage of the subsidy and start cultivating their fields in full force.

He said they should make better use of the moisture left by the recent torrential rains.

He however, noted that only farmers who have contracts with the government will be able to get the farming inputs in Ha Foso, Butha-Butha, Maputsoe and Mohale's Hoek.

The rest of the farmers, he said will get seeds and fertilisers from local traders at stipulated prices.

He further urged the farmers to visit nearest health centres to get their respective COVID-19 jabs, blaming the pandemic for the poor harvest in the last farming season.

A crop farmer from Machache in Maseru, Tlotlisang Sefali said while he appreciates the government's initiative, he however, questions the decision to make the seeds and fertilisers available to them only on Wednesdays.

"It feels like the government is putting the cart before the horse, which is not necessary for proper time management," he said.

But another Maseru farmer, Motlohi Sekoala commended the government for the subsidy, saying the resolution will go a long way towards promoting food security.

However, he felt that the government should have also included cultivation costs in the subsidy, showing that only a few farmers own machinery.

He said the other farmers who do not have the equipment are largely compromised and therefore need assistance urgently.

He believes that the government's dream of improving food security will not be readily realised given that the majority of farmers do not own proper farming implements.

Mr Sekoala said the government still owes some farmers for using their machinery in the last season, adding that if they are not paid on time,

they will not easily get involved in the current summer cropping.

Timing, he said is of essence in farming, hence if the farmers will only have access to the seeds and fertilisers on

Wednesdays, they will end up being late for the summer cropping.

"Besides, it means farmers will gather in huge numbers at the selling points, defeating the call for physical distancing as a way of combating the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

LeNA



GUCCI
FIND YOUR MAGIC

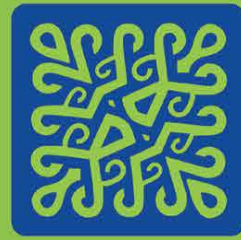
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‘Nothing wrong with Covid jab’

LINEO MABEKEBEKE
health@maserumetro.com

MASERU - The Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle says three of the five people who recently died in Leribe after receiving their COVID-19 shots, had cardiovascular, sugar diabetes, HIV/ AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) comorbidities.

He was speaking at press briefing on Wednesday in Maseru where

he presented a final report on investigations into the five deaths that were associated with the COVID-19 vaccination programme, particularly with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Mr Sekatle said the deaths were well investigated by two special groups of health gurus, that included epidemiological and public health experts, adding that both parties' findings show that there was nothing wrong with the vaccine used.

The first batch of experts, he said visited the homes of the victims, to establish their health histories before the vaccination.

He said they also investigated the health centres where the vaccinations were conducted along with other people who received their jabs at the same centres and on the same days.

The second batch of experts, he said was composed of local health experts, personnel from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the African Union (AU) and leading experts on allergies after

vaccination from Australia.

He said after examining the bodies of the deceased, their samples were transferred to South Africa at independent laboratories for further investigations.

“There was nothing wrong with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine and nothing was found to be amiss with the vaccination programme or the vaccination centres,” he said.

“Three of the five dead people were found with comorbidities - COVID-19, heart problems, sugar diabetes, HIV/AIDS and TB.

“The fourth person suffered a shock, which is said to be a rare condition, while the fifth died from high blood pressure and heart diseases. It was also discovered that the person was not using their medical prescription properly,” he said.

Dr Richard Banda from WHO congratulated the ministry for coming out openly and conducting the investigations.

He confirmed that as WHO, they have been following up on the investigation process and have full details of what transpired, adding they were content with the findings.

Govt launches medical oxygen generating plant

LINEO MABEKEBEKE
health@maserumetro.com

MASERU - THE World Health Organisation (WHO) representative to Lesotho, Dr Richard Banda says the installation of a medical oxygen generating plant in the country is a significant milestone in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was speaking at the launch of the plant on Friday at the Motebang Government Hospital in Leribe.

“Not only will the plant help with the COVID-19 treatment, but it will also assist strengthen the country's health systems beyond COVID-19, including saving lives of many newborns and children who require oxygen to survive,” Dr Banda said.

WHO and partners, he said are doing everything they can to find ways of scaling up therapeutics, adding that they remain committed to providing the needed, relevant and timely health information, advice and guidance to the Government of Lesotho in order to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Banda said the world is

going through a crisis that must be managed with the greatest urgency, while ensuring that it does not continue to happen.

The launch was spearheaded by Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro.

Speaking at the same event, the Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle appealed to everybody to quickly visit the nearest health centres whenever they have symptoms of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said the government is delighted to have been able to set-up oxygen plants in regional health centers. The ministry, he said intends to fit piped supply and system of oxygen into the hospitals, close to the patients' beds.

He said in the past, oxygen was always an issue in Lesotho, adding that the government always secured oxygen from Afrox, a company that works with energy supply among other things.

“We are proud that we will now have oxygen supply of our own,” Mr Sekatle also said, thanking all partners who contributed towards the success of the project.

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*Germs that cause plaque, gingivitis and bad breath

The world in 10 minutes

ZAMBIA

Zambian president replaces army and police chiefs

Zambia's new President Hakainde Hichilema has replaced the country's top military commanders and the head of the police - and signalled a focus on the security forces being more accountable to the citizens.

The president announced new commanders of the Zambian army, the air force and the national service and their deputies, as well as a new inspector general of police.

All regional police commissioners have been relieved of their duties but their replacements have not been named.

Mr Hichilema said the new office bearers "must have the interest of the people at heart and serve the country diligently while ensuring human rights, freedoms and liberties are respected".



KENYA

Kenya gridlock leaves drivers stranded overnight

Nairobi is notorious for its traffic jams but this was the worst many residents can remember. Frustrated drivers in Kenya have been venting their anger after spending hours overnight in an enormous traffic jam in the capital, Nairobi.

"Ridiculous that I'm getting home at 4am" after an 11-hour journey, tweeted lawyer Pauline Otsyula. Other commuters explained that they arrived home in the early hours just in time to leave for work once again. Videos and photos showed irritated drivers still stuck on one of the city's main highways, Mombasa Road, on last week Friday morning. One tweeter said that people had parked at the roadside to sleep in their cars. The gridlock happened on a stretch of road where a massive new expressway is being built but the traffic jam was reportedly made worse by a road accident.

Some called for the contractors to provide alternative routes while the work was being carried out.



MALAWI

Malawi ex-minister arrested over honeymoon hotel bill

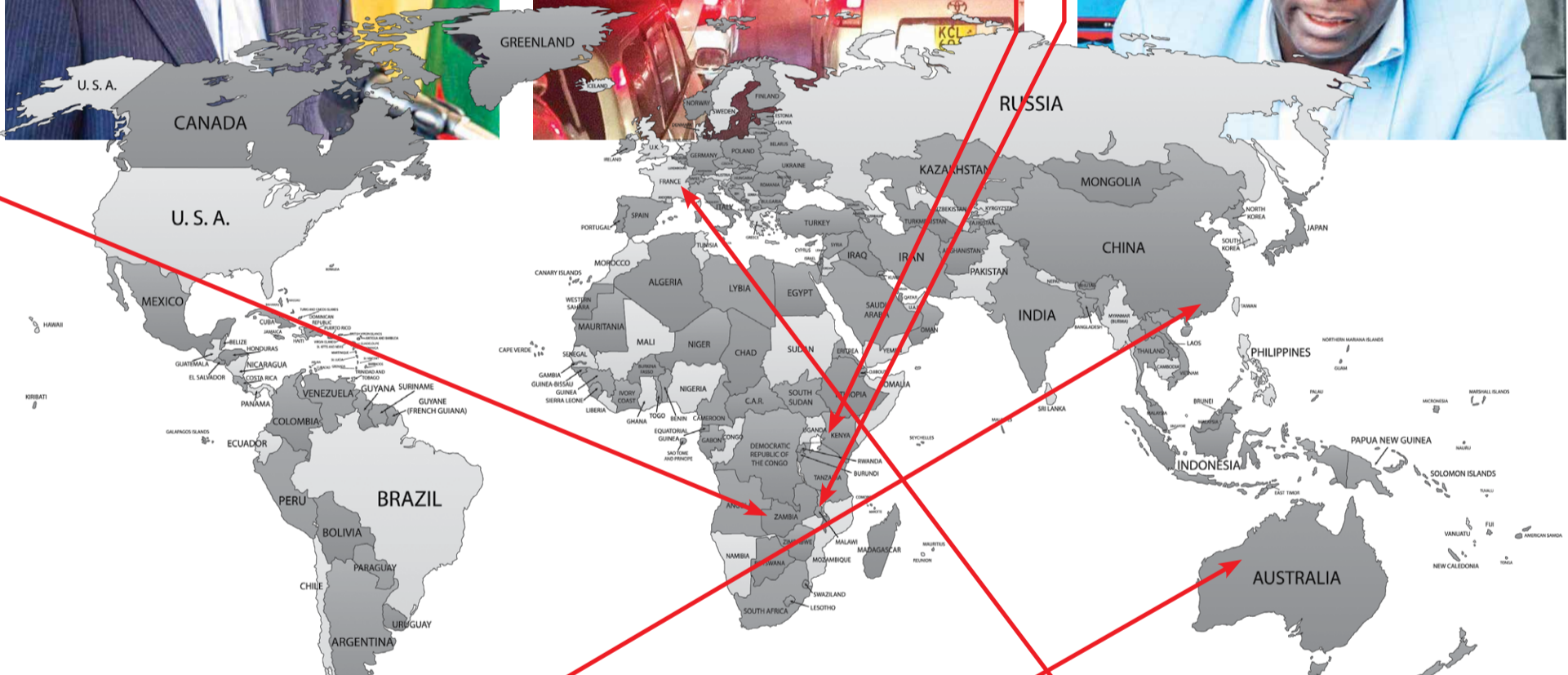
A former minister in Malawi has been arrested for allegedly paying for his honeymoon with public funds.

Charles Mchacha, who was the irrigation minister in ex-President Peter Mutharika's administration, is alleged to have used ministry money for a top hotel suite for him and his bride in Blantyre after their wedding.

Malawi's Nation newspaper tweeted that two other senior government officials were also arrested by the anti-corruption agency: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested former Minister of Irrigation and Water Development, Charles Mchacha, Principal Secretary for Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development, Henrie Njoloma and Moses Mwenye, Acting CEO for Lilongwe Water Board.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) says all three will be charged with abuse of office, neglect of duty and theft.

They have all denied any wrongdoing.



CHINA

China bans exams for six-year-old school children

China has announced a ban on written exams for six and seven-year-olds. It's the latest effort to try and relieve pressure on parents and students in a highly competitive education system.

Students used to be required to take exams from the first year of primary school, up until a university entrance exam at the age of 18.

But the education ministry said the pressure is harming the "physical and mental health" of pupils.

In a statement, the ministry said: "Exams are a necessary part of school education.... [but] some schools have problems like excessive exams, that cause excessive burden on students...this must be corrected."

The rules also limits the number of test and exams a school can set per term.

"First and second grades of elementary school will not need to take paper-based exams. For other grades, the school can organise a final exam every semester. Mid-term exams are allowed for junior high. Localities are not allowed to organise regional or inter-school exams for all grades of primary school," the Ministry of Education (MOE) added.



AUSTRALIA

Australian farmer draws heart with sheep in tribute to aunt

Like so many families separated during the pandemic, Ben Jackson wasn't able to say goodbye to a loved one.

The Australian farmer was 400km (248 miles) away in New South Wales when his Aunt Debby lost her two-year cancer battle in Queensland. Restrictions forbade him from travelling to Brisbane to attend her funeral.

So he turned instead to his own sheep and pasture to show his love, laying out grain in the shape of a heart.

He aimed to scatter the grain so that when he released his flock, thousands of sheep would stream into the paddock and fill up the vast shape.

After a few uneven attempts and a "bit of guesswork", he nailed the outline. Then he let the animals roam.

The result was captured on video by a drone - it's gone viral after Mr Jackson shared it online.



FRANCE

French woman arrested over jewellery thefts from coffins

When a grieving family saw an unknown mourner at the funeral home in northern France where their relative was lying at rest, they thought nothing of it.

The woman, in her sixties, said she was a friend of the deceased, so they left her to pay her respects at the open coffin - or so they thought.

But when they came back later, the deceased had been stripped of her jewellery: her necklace, ring and earrings had all vanished, French media reported.

The family raised the alarm with the police, who investigated and soon identified a suspect: a woman living not far from the funeral home, in the town of Liévin. They detained her and found the missing jewellery in her possession.

But that was not all. They were soon able to link her with the theft of a wallet from the body of a man at the same funeral home, earlier on the same day.

Modeling is a lucrative career - retired model

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – In today's world, modeling as career is one of the most lucrative as well as exciting professions available to the youth, according to retired local model, Seipati Mokobocho.

A model is a person who poses or displays for the professional objective of art, fashion, or other products or advertisements.

Equipped with near perfect bodies and flawless skins, models are able to attract everybody's attention and make heads turn.

"Yes, we are talking about the glamorous world of modeling," Mokobocho says.

The giant strides taken by local designers like Miss Jay Clothing, Dunns and Jet stores have also contributed immensely towards the development of the industry in Lesotho.

Owing to further growth of consumerism and media, there has been a remarkable boost in this industry. This along with global expansion of fashion industry has made modeling an attractive profession.

For example, Quthing-born beauty, Limakatso Falatsa recently signed up with the Sebatatso Lanolin brand as a new brand ambassador to advertise their products.

Items she is going to promote include body lotion, petroleum jelly and other cosmetic products in their wide range.

Falatsa was the second princess at the prestigious Miss Culture Lesotho Popularity beauty contest 2022, among 58 contestants.

"Modeling is the art of learning how to walk, how to move and show off clothing to the best possible way to assist create a demand for it. When potential customers look at a model, they commonly imagine themselves in that outfit.

"Modeling is, certainly a glamorous field, which offers tremendous opportunities to take trips and meet a different people from all walks of life. Moreover, once established, in other countries it is a high paying job," explains Mokobocho.

She says there is no specific academic qualification required to enter the profession.



New Sebatatso Lanolin brand ambassador, Limakatso Falatsa

"To begin with, one can approach reputed modeling agencies with a portfolio of their recent photographs or can apply for contests sponsored by various magazines, clothing manufacturers and cosmetic companies, etc.

"Personal attributes are the most important factors for the success of any model. Key attributes required to become a model include a good and healthy complexion coupled with lustrous hair. Female modeling aspirants should ideally be at least 1.7 metres tall - which is a major challenge for Lesotho's short beauty queens. As for men, the taller they are, the better for them," she adds.

However, not all winners are tall. From modeling to acting and everything in between, Cara Delevingne, 29, is an English model, actress, and singer who has proved that height means little when you have talent. What makes Cara stand out from other models, according to international model agents, is her charisma, sense of humour and her ability to adapt in the fast changing industry.

Being photogenic is also one of the key attributes. Camera friendly attitude, plenty of self-confidence and grace while showcasing the products, are all essential in earning a name in this profession.

Local author launches two best sellers



Bothata Kennedy Silase's two best selling novels

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – Guest speakers at the launch of two novels, The Recoil 2 (Days of the Hunting Past) and Against All Odds, authored by Lesotho Defence Force (LDF)'s Private Bothata Silase, have been announced.

The event, which also includes the launch of The Save Lesotho Campaign, is set to take place through a fanfare occasion scheduled for October 2 at the Victory Hall (Mojalefa Lephole) in Maseru.

Professor Patrick Loch Lumumba, the founder of the Plo Lumumba Foundation and the Advocate of the Courts of Kenya and Tanganyika, will be the keynote speaker in the theme: Lesotho - what now? Way forward informed by historical lessons from the five erstwhile leaders of Africa including King Moshoeshoe I, Dr Kwame Nkrumah, Captain Thomas Sankara, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and Dr John Pombe Magufuli.

Other remarks are expected from but not limited to among others Professor Calvin Motebang, leading Lesotho entrepreneur and business magnate Sam Matekane, Ministry of Education and of Tourism, LDF's Major General Matobakele and the Deputy Director of the Plo Lumumba Foundation Lesotho Chapter along with Private Silase himself.

About the 'The Recoil' novels, its

first edition was published in 2019 and its powerful suspense birthed the second edition. It attracted the market in Kenya, Uganda, Europe and Canada.

"THE RECOIL' left readers fervent of what to expect next in the story and therefore inspired THE RECOIL 2," Silase says.

The book explores the journey of the main character Masilo Mokoena, whose intellectual strength was not well yoked as a result of the bad company he kept.

Mokoena had forgotten about his contemptible conduct during his days at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) when his life was inclining towards a different path. But because there is no bad deed that ever goes unpunished, his previous crimes resurface and impact significantly on his life.

Again in the story, there was a raid conducted by police at a prestigious night club where he had caused trouble. There are now diabolical machinations from his past life which place his destiny at stake.

With the upcoming edition, Silase says readers can expect more about Mokoena's troubled past.

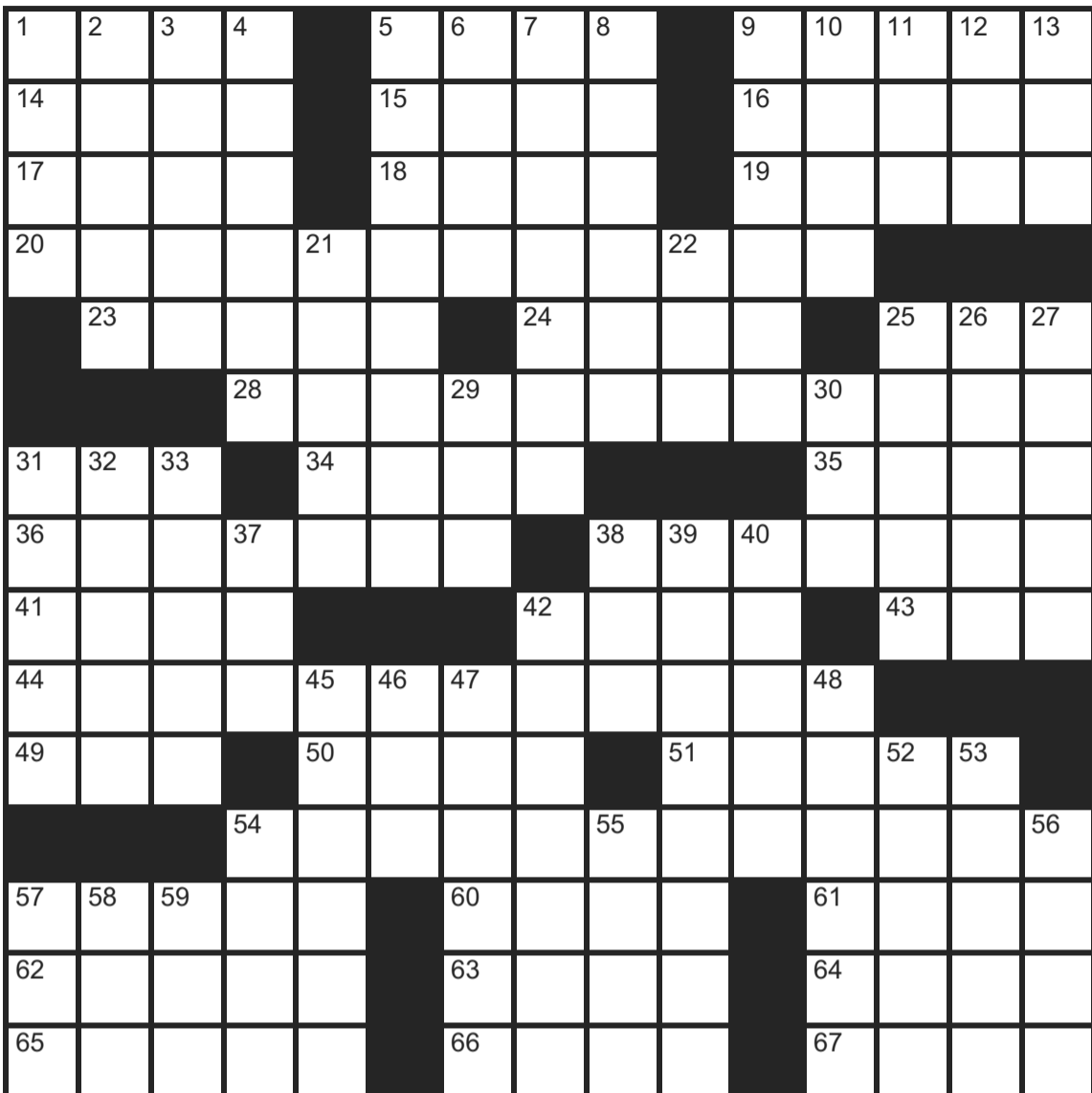
The author leaves his readers on a cliffhanger on what happens after the discovery of Mokoena's ugly past.

The novel is published by Reach Publishers.

SKIN UNDER CONSTRUCTION



General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Remnant
 - 5. Madam
 - 9. Kind of beam
 - 14. Attorney General Janet
 - 15. Pinocchio, at times
 - 16. O. Henry device
 - 17. Blame
 - 18. Provocative
 - 19. Spanish diacritical mark
 - 20. Diplomat
 - 23. Bizarre
 - 24. Zero
 - 25. Egyptian boy king
 - 28. Manifest Destiny
 - 31. Greyhound, e.g.
 - 34. Colored eye part
 - 35. Neighbor of Yemen
 - 36. All together
 - 38. Proclamations of love
 - 41. Yemen's Gulf of
 - 42. One of the Three Bears
 - 43. Salon application
 - 44. Numerosity
 - 49. Fixed
 - 50. Face-off
 - 51. Yorkshire city
 - 54. Post-twister spot
 - 57. Place to lounge
 - 60. Trim
 - 61. Pigeonhole
 - 62. Kind of artery
 - 63. Snaky swimmers
 - 64. Not for here
 - 65. Blotto
 - 66. Squirrel's nest
 - 67. Matter
- Down**
- 1. Let go
 - 2. Freshen
 - 3. Habituate
 - 4. Shoot the breeze
 - 5. Shake maker
 - 6. Opera set in Egypt
 - 7. Dog's tail
 - 8. Plant disease
 - 9. Refuse
 - 10. Song for Carmen
 - 11. Costa del
 - 12. Denouement
 - 13. Deli loaf
 - 21. Gold braid
 - 22. _____ Maria
 - 25. Runner's lap record
 - 26. Single
 - 27. On edge
 - 29. Game piece

Sudoku Puzzle

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

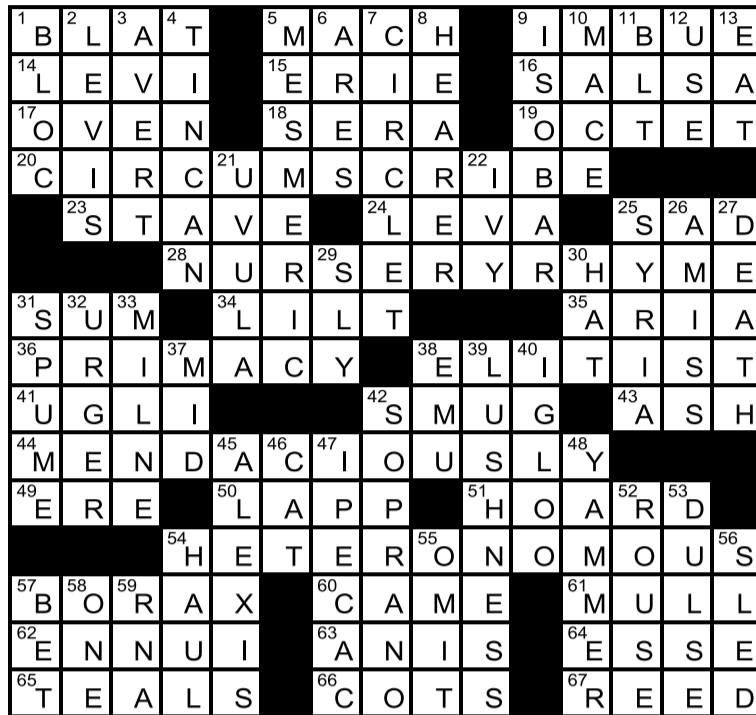
Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contain all the from 1-9

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

Last Week's Solution

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

Last Week's Solution



- 30. Bon _____
- 31. Rays of light
- 32. Excessive
- 33. Refine, as metal
- 37. Aardvark's morsel
- 38. Fond du . Wis.
- 39. Seizure disorder
- 40. Spud
- 42. Light lager
- 45. Extreme stupidity
- 46. Frequently sour
- 47. Let
- 48. Frothy
- 52. Drivel
- 53. Twilled fabric
- 54. "Buenos_"
- 55. Mah-jongg piece
- 56. Bit of physics
- 57. Barbecue site
- 58. Muhammad_____
- 59. Service award
- 59. Biochemistry abbr.

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

Would you believe that this amazing sentence contains ninety two letters, one comma and a single question mark?



Last Week's Answer



14285: 714285 = 5 * 142857.

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Be Car-Smart

Deal with a Deer in the Road

... How to steer clear of a common, large - and moving - hazard

Don't take radical evasive action to avoid a collision, which is more likely to cause you bodily harm than making contact with the animal will. Plus, you're facing a wild animal, and there's no way to tell in which direction it will flee.

If you have time, flash your headlights to try to scare the creature out of your path. If a collision is imminent, brake with your steering wheel straight. At the last possible second,

steer away from the animal's midsection to prevent the animal from crashing through your windshield and landing on your lap.

As the deer populations grow and urban habitats continue to encroach upon rural environments, there has been an increase in deer-car collisions. Deer-vehicle collisions are dangerous and costly so, though collision with an animal is covered under the comprehensive portion of your auto insurance policy, it's always preferable to avoid an accident in the first place.

To avoid hitting a deer, use these defensive driving tips

Be especially attentive during peak deer hours: From sunset to midnight and during the hours

shortly before and after sunrise are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.

Use extra caution when driving through deer-crossing zones: Also be especially careful in places known to have a large deer population and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland.

Know that deer seldom run alone: If you see one deer, others may be nearby.

Use high beam headlights: If driving at night, when there is no oncoming traffic. The higher light will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.

Slow down and blow your horn: With one long blast to frighten the deer away.

Brake firmly but stay in your lane: When you notice a deer in or near your path. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.

Always wear your seat belt: Most people injured in car-deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.

Do not rely on deer-detering devices: Deer

whistles, deer fences and reflectors have not been proven to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.

If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal: A frightened and wounded deer can hurt you or further injure itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police.

In the event a deer damages your car: Contact your insurance agent or company representative to report the incident.



The new 2021 Lexus LS minor change launches in SA



mobility awaits. Globally, Audi has committed to an electric future: by 2026 every new Audi model launched on the global market will be all-electric. In South Africa, Audi is confidently progressing an electric agenda and will be introducing the e-tron name plate to consumers in quarter one, 2022. This includes six new e-tron models across three different model ranges.

"Across the world, the automotive industry are announcing plans to phase out combustion engines to advance the transformation of the industry for the future. As Audi South Africa we see ourselves as being in a position to contribute to this global vision, and having the responsibility to do that. Not only are we aligned with the importance of sustainability, but we have the technology, performance and design credentials within our e-tron range, to offer our premium customers an all-electric drive that will inspire and excite," said Sascha Sauer, Head of Audi South Africa.

Audi South Africa is fully embracing the global drive towards premium sustainable mobility and looks forward to progressing this topic locally in an effort to reshape the way South Africans view electric vehicles.

As part of this local commitment, Audi South Africa will introduce a fully-fledged e-tron range in the local market and this will include:

Under the SUV category:

The Audi e-tron 50 and e-tron 55

Under the CUV category:

The Audi e-tron Sportback 55 and e-tron Sportback S

Under the high performance category:

The Audi e-tron GT and Audi RS e-tron GT

This year has already been successful for the Audi brand in South Africa with many new product introductions, and the launch of these electric vehicles early in 2022 will be an exciting crescendo to this new model offensive.

"Announcing our electric vehicle range is a key part our objective to have the youngest and freshest product offering in the market and we're excited to share more details with our customers on our electric journey over the next few months, leading up to the e-tron range's official model introduction in quarter one next year," Sauer concluded. Product specification and pricing associated with the e-tron range will be announced closer to retail launch.

For over 100 years, Audi's history has been marked by prestige, automotive ambition and technological excellence. From the introduction of quattro all-wheel drive that

propelled Audi ahead of the competition in rally motorsport, to numerous wins at the 24 hours of Le Mans with TDI technology. Not forgetting the pioneering of aluminium space

frame technology and many other lighting innovations through the years. The Four Rings has proudly progressed premium mobility for customers across the world. Now, a new era of



Sera settling down at Royal Am

MASERU – TOP Likuena striker, Motebang Sera is looking forward to a new chapter at Royal Am, after the Durban-based outfit bought the status of Bloemfontein Celtic just before the start of the 2021/2022 South African Premier League.

Reports in the media had suggested that Sera's future in the South African Premier League was uncertain after Celtic sold its status.

However, the 26-year-old forward has since confirmed that he is registered with his new team for the 2021/2022 season.

Sera is yet to feature for his new club since the new campaign having had to wait for his work permit that will allow him to be registered with the South African Premier League.

"I missed the opening match as I was waiting for my work permit, but it has since been sorted out and I'm now available for selection," the Likuena marksman said.

"Of course, it is a new team and a new environment, but a lot has not changed, as it is still the same technical team we had at Celtic. It has not been that much of a struggle for me to settle in because the players are still the same squad.

"We have a few new faces that were already in the books of Royal Am, but the majority of the players were playing for Celtic in the last season," he also said.

Sera, who became Likuena's leading goal scorer in the history of the COSAFA Cup after netting a brace against Zambia in this year's edition of the regional tournament has been playing at Celtic since 2019.

He registered seven goals from



Top Likuena striker, Motebang Sera

20 appearances in all competitions in his first season in South Africa. In the previous campaign, he made 25 appearances in all competitions and scored two goals.

Sera and Tumelo Khutlang are currently the only two Likuena players plying their trade in the South African

Premier League after the latter was recently signed by Swallows FC. Both are yet to play since the new campaign started.

Another Likuena player, who is based in South Africa and was also impressive at the recent COSAFA Cup, Tshwarelo Bereng is still in search of

a new home since he was released by Marumo Gallants, having purchased the status of TTM, where the midfielder played his football last season.

Royals are winless from their opening two matches while Swallows have already registered a win and a draw.

LeFA develops own coaching manuals

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MASERU – Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) through its coaching instructors has developed its own A and B coaching manuals which were last week approved by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

In a statement released on Sunday, LeFA Technical Director, Leslie Notsi said the CAF coaching course manuals which were developed by LeFA's Coaching Instructors, Motebang Makhetha and the late Mpho Leisa will be put in use as soon as possible.

Both Makhetha and Leisa were trained by Lefa and FIFA.

Notsi said LeFA through its Coach Education Officer, Lehlohonolo Thotanyana, tasked the two instructors to compile the two manuals.

"The manuals were developed in line with CAF's directive that each Member Association should develop customised manuals for the CAF certified coaching courses," he noted.

LeFA Media Officer, Mikia Kalati told Metro that the new manuals bring the total of localised coaching course manuals to three after the LeFA's CAF D coaching course manual which was developed by Thotanyana earlier this year.

In January 2009, CAF launched the

CAF Coaching Licensing System which seeks to set and promote benchmarks regarding coaching on the continent and help recognise African coaches for their knowledge and experience.

The CAF Coaching Licensing System serves as a platform to evaluate coaches and inject more professionalism into the art of coaching.

It is among others aimed at reaching homogeneous and high professional standards with the programme's key objectives being to ensure that each African coach or any coach operating in Africa possesses the relevant license to perform his or her duties.



LeFA Technical Director, Leslie Notsi

Makae fails to shine at world event



Lesotho international cyclist, Tumelo Makae

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MASERU – Prominent Lesotho cyclist, Tumelo Makae who is based in Switzerland appeared on 28th position at the Men's Elite Mountain Bike (MTB) on Friday and 85th in the Mountain Bike Cross Country (XCO) category on Saturday during the Union Cycliste International (UCI) World Mountain Bike Championships in Val de Sole, Italy.

Makae had taken to social media platforms on Thursday to share his sentiments about the races prior to the event.

"This weekend I will represent Lesotho colours @valdisolebikeland @uci mountainbike world championships. Starting with E MTB tomorrow (Friday) and XCO on Saturday, it's always super special to race in these colours," he commented.

“

He performed poorly in comparison with his last year's showing at the same events. Maybe he was disillusioned by failing to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics due to Lesotho's ineligibility pending low rankings, but I will try to reach his coach to find out.

In an interview with Metro on Tuesday, the publicist of the Federation of Cycling Lesotho (FCL), Malefane Morie said Makae's performance was not so impressive at the weekend races.

"He performed poorly in comparison with his last year's showing at the same events. Maybe he was disillusioned by failing to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics due to Lesotho's ineligibility pending low rankings, but I will try to reach his coach to find out.

"His scholarship contract ends

soon and due to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, he decided to focus on the other aspect of the sport, and ventured into coaching in 2020. He did the UCI International Coaching Level One, which he completed early this year and started Level

Two in July. The UCI had earlier promised to employ him after completing his Level Two training. So if he passes the course, they might employ him as a coach but if they don't, he will have to return

home," Morie added.

Makae is currently based at the UCI's World Cycling Centre (WCC) in Aigle, Switzerland where he is undergoing high level training from first class mentors under

the Olympic Solidarity Athlete Scholarship. The Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) scholarship was meant to assist him qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.



Her international debut with Arsenal was at a tournament in Swaziland in 2000. She moved to South Africa in 2004 and joined Vosloo All Stars where she remained for two years before she returned home and joined Maseru Celtic for one season until 2007.

After enrolling at NUL, she joined Rovers Ladies in 2008 until 2014 upon her graduation.

She thereafter joined Kick4Life Ladies in 2014 until 2019 when she hung up her soccer boots to focus on coaching.

She worked as a Sports Reporter for the now defunct Mountain Star Newspaper between 2012 and 2013 then she joined Mosotho Newspaper as Sports Reporter from 2014 to 2015.

She swiftly moved through the ranks from being a junior player to captain and she mentored the Kick4Life Ladies Under-15 squad while she still played for the women senior team.

Her zeal and amazing prowess helped elevate her to the position of full-time assistant coach of the senior team.

She is the current Kick4Life Ladies second assistant coach where she is working alongside first assistant coach Puseletso Mokhosi and head coach, Yelimala.

“There are so many people who groomed me, so I cannot single anybody because that will be unfair to others. I was coached by many and I learnt a lot from them so no one was better than the other, because I learnt different things from each of them. Combined, they all turned me into the person I am today,” she says.

Her worst moments as a player were failing to win the Lesotho Women’s Super League in a number of seasons while keeping an impressive form from the start of the season.

“We lost to LDF Ladies, I think three times and each game was the title decider,” she recalls.

Her best moment as a player was when Mehalalitoe defeated Namibia 2-1 in COSAFA Women Championship in 2017 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

As a coach, her best moment was winning the Dare to Dream Championship trophy at the expense of LDF Ladies in June. Kick4Life defeated LDF Ladies 2-1 to claim the title.

Her former teammate at Arsenal and fellow coach, Mokhosi describes her as an extremely talented and hardworking player.

“I first met her around 2000 when she joined Arsenal Ladies.

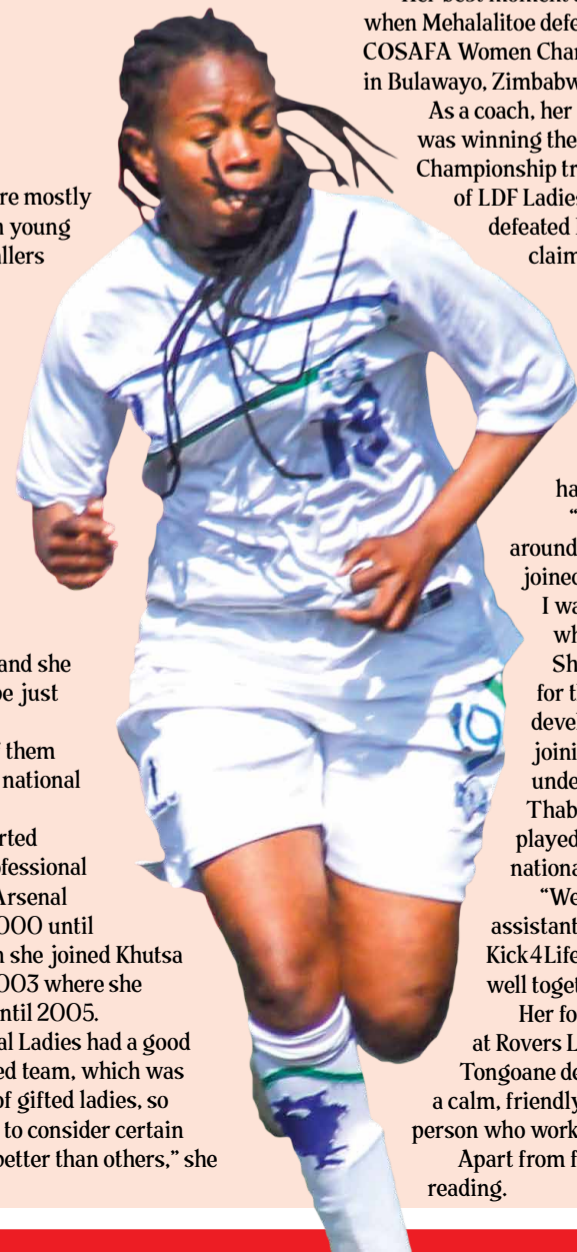
I was already there when she arrived.

She briefly played for the Arsenal men development team before joining the ladies team under “Driver” and Thabo Seleke. I later played with her in the national team in 2006.

“We are now co-assistant coaches at Kick4Life Ladies and we work well together,” Mokhosi says.

Her former teammate at Rovers Ladies, Joalane Tongoane describes her as a calm, friendly and dedicated person who works hard on the pitch.

Apart from football, Kepa enjoys reading.



Top female football mentor, Makobo “KB” Kepa

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MASERU – Makobo Kepa has trekked a long journey as a football player until she finally became one of a few vastly experienced and qualified young female coaches in Lesotho.

Her profound love for managing football was heartened by her Kick4Life Ladies coach, Elizabeth Yelimala who pushed her to try her hand in coaching.

She effortlessly fell in love with mentoring footballers and is currently one of a few top women coaches’ instructors the country has.

She holds Sports Administration Level 1 and 2 certificates obtained from the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

The talented former midfielder was crowned the 2015 Kick4Life Ladies Player of the Season.

In 2016, aged 29, she ventured into coaching and obtained a FIFA Grassroots coaching certificate.

Later that year, she attended a coaching course in Yaounde, Cameroon, where she obtained a certificate for New Women Instructors.

She also obtained a Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) Level 1 Coaching certificate in the same year.

Kepa holds a Confederation of African Football (CAF) C Licence obtained from LeFA in 2017. The following year, she acquired

Scottish Football Association Level 1 and 2 Licences before obtaining a FIFA Women’s Football Coaching Licence.

In 2020, she obtained a FIFA Member Associations Instructors’ Coaching certificate and a CAF Zonal Women Instructors certificate in Maseru.

Later that year, she obtained a CAF Zonal Instructors certificate from the South African Football Association (SAFA) in South Africa.

She had a total of 22 caps with the national team Mehalalitoe and has put on the Rovers Ladies and Kick4Life Ladies armbands for three and four years respectively.

Born on January 9, 1987, Makobo Kepa is the daughter of Kepa Kepa and ‘Malethola Kepa of Ha Rankhelepe in Maseru.

She is the last born in the family of two children - a boy and a girl.

She did her primary education at Rankhelepe Primary School in 1999 and her high school education at St Catherine’s High School where she obtained her Junior Certificate (JC) in 2002 and her Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) in 2004.

In 2012, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English and French from the National University of Lesotho (NUL).

She attended a Media Seminar on Women and Sports in Nairobi, Kenya in 2012.

She began playing football at a tender age as a learner at Rankhelepe Primary and was quite passionate about the sport.

In those days, she had never seen another female playing football other than herself.

She therefore mostly played with young male footballers from her village.

But years later when she joined Arsenal Ladies, she met several other talented older lady footballers and she wanted to be just like them.

Most of them were in the national team.

She started playing professional football at Arsenal Ladies in 2000 until 2002 when she joined Khutsa Ladies in 2003 where she remained until 2005.

“Arsenal Ladies had a good and balanced team, which was composed of gifted ladies, so it’s difficult to consider certain players as better than others,” she says.