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- Ramaphosa pleads innocence
- Ntsiki Mazwai takes a swipe at Somizi



BORN ON THIS DAY June 9

- 1781 - George Stephenson, British mechanical and civil engineer. Stephenson is credited with pioneering rail transport which is widely regarded as one of the most prominent inventions of the 19th century
- 1891 - Cole Porter, Indian singer-songwriter best known for his work in the Tony-winning musical, Kiss Me, Kate and for his hit tracks Night and Day, Got You Under My Skin, and You're the Top
- 1961 - Michael J. Fox, Canadian actor who established himself firmly in Hollywood. His thriving career suffered a setback when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at just 29
- 1963 - Johnny Depp, American actor, one of the most versatile and successful actors in Hollywood today. He wanted to become a musician and became actor by chance
- 1978 - Michaela Conlin, American actress who achieved popularity after playing Angela Montenegro in the popular crime procedural comedy-drama TV series, Bones
- 1981 - Natalie Portman, American actress, is one of the most successful actresses in Hollywood. Her movie list is impressive with successful projects like Black Swan, Jackie, Star Wars, Closer and Thor

NewsBriefs

Award winning Ayesha breaks barriers

- The New York Film Festival nominee dreams on
- Ayesha's movies have gained global recognition

BUSISIWE TJEKOA

MASERU – At the age of 12, Ayesha Khuele was named best speaker at the national school debate competition.

Ten years later, Ayesha is an award winning filmmaker, actress and ambassador for someone who grew up dreaming to become a lawyer.

Her newly found passion in activism has urged her to enroll for a film and television degree at the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology.

"But many people were not buying it, especially my mother," says Ayesha. "She has never been a fan of the creative arts because the local industry is fledgling with few financial prospects."

In her first year at Limkokwing, she was appointed school ambassador - during which time she also made a film called Molisana.

"It was an outside of school project," she says. "Surprisingly, the film got nominated in different countries including Lesotho, US, Portugal and the UK."

In 2019, Ayesha was nominated the youngest director for the New York Film Festival.

"After getting all the sponsors, unfortunately COVID-19 happened," she recalls. "The whole world went into lockdown and my heart bled as I spent a whole week in bed. The pandemic ripped off my chance to attend the New York Film Festival."

Ayesha made another movie, Tormented, which won the best short film award at the Lesotho Film Festival.

"The movie did better than Molisana financially," the young talented movie producer says. "The only thing Molisana gave me was the limelight in the film industry. Tormented did well because we recovered the money spent..."

Otherwise, Ayesha adds, that Tormented recently got nominated for the Nigeria Women Film Festival. Writer and director of her movies, she tackles social issues, human trafficking, rape, teenage pregnancy and homelessness.

"My movies are centred around children because they are very close to my heart and I want to bring that awareness," Ayesha says. Apart from making films, she is also a global U-Reporter ambassador. Her journey started when she joined MISA Lesotho as a child journalist, where UNICEF realised her potential.

"They found me a suitable candidate to be a U-Reporter ambassador Lesotho," she says.

U-Report is a messaging tool and data collection system developed by UNICEF to improve citizen engagement, inform leaders and foster positive change. Entering the global U-Report competition, Ayesha



Young local filmmaker, Ayesha Khuele

was ranked among the top 10 people who then had to compete in Belgium.

"I was honoured to represent Africa in Belgium and tackle issues affecting the continent," she recalls. "I wasn't representing only Lesotho over there and the whole experience as mind blowing."

Ayesha admits that meeting different people from other countries and learning how they live is truly amazing.

"It made me love and appreciate my country more," she notes. "It made me realize that Lesotho was far better than many other countries."

Ayesha's dream is to see the youth get involved in U-Report so that they could voice their opinions openly. Also, a nail technician after receiving a nail kit hamper from UNICEF, she saw an opportunity to generate income and took it.

"I started practicing on people free of charge until I mastered the craft," she says.

The multi-talented photographer sometimes takes portraits and covers festivities to earn extra income. In 2020, Ayesha joined the cast of Bophelo - a local television drama that aired on Lesotho Television (LTV).

"Initially, I was to join the drama as part of the production team but I was highly occupied by school work, so I auditioned for the role of Zuki and I got in," she recalls. Looking back, Ayesha says starting acting at the tender age of 10 laid the foundation after she joined a drama club in primary school where she was cast for a role in a drama called Sarafina.

"My dream is to one day build a shelter for the unprivileged children," she says. "I want to make sure that every child gets their right to education, a dream that might become a reality because I work closely with UNICEF."

FastFACTS

The best place in the world to see rainbows is in Hawaii.

If you're an avid rainbow gazer and want to get your fill of the beautiful phenomenon, look no further than the state of Hawaii. A study published by the American Meteorological Society in 2021 noted that the area's "mountains produce sharp gradients in clouds and rainfall, which are key to abundant rainbow sightings." Air pollution, pollen, and a large amount of cresting waves also help to put Hawaii at the top of the list when it comes to rainbow quantity and quality.

On This Day in History

2006

June 9

US passes Cope Act

On June 9, 2006, the US Congress passes the Cope Act by 321-101 votes. The Cope (Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement) Act is a major overhaul of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with a large number of changes some good and needed but some which may well cause the largest changes to how we are allowed to use the Internet once we have paid an ISP for a connection. Below I have included the most important part of the act and an example of how I believe it will effect ordinary subscribers and how some subscribers are being affected today.

Network Neutrality - What Is It?

Network Neutrality broadly means that once you have paid for your subscription to the Internet how you use the access is up to you, and all service speeds (the speed a page or download is delivered to your browser) are free and equal of limits via the ISP'S. What Effect could it have on your Internet Access. The company who provide your Internet Access Could define which VOIP (Voice Over IP Telephone Service) i.e. block those they do not supply. The company who provide your Internet Access could define where you download music or video from. The company who provide your Internet Access could even in the worst case define which shops were available through your connection and which were not (possibly only companies who payed the ISP would be accessible). The company who provide your Internet Access could even in the worst case define which search engine you could or could not use. As you can see unless a form of Network Neutrality is put back in the new bill, the internet we all use could change. Current use of this ending of Network Neutrality is being used by Comcast who are slowing down certain protocols for example the BitTorrent protocol because the BitTorrent protocol is

ALL JOKES ASIDE

True story from an acquaintance from Zambia: Before I came to this country, I learned that the Zambian government would offer a stipend to any family with five or more children...

My wife and I had only four children. When I found out about the stipend, I came to her and admitted that, years ago soon after we married, I had been with a woman in the mountains while traveling, and that I had a son with this woman that my wife never knew about.

After cursing me up and down, she finally agreed that, in consideration of the stipend, she would allow me to go to the mountains and bring my son to live with us. So I went.

When we came back, my son said, "You told me I would have four brothers and sisters here but I only see two? Where are the others?" My wife answered, "Their father came and took them home."

Quotes & Quips!

"I would like to say that I am a farmer, I am in the cattle business and game business. Through that business which has been declared in Parliament and all over, I buy and I sell animals. Sometimes people buy these animals and some of the people who bought the animals are here. I do it sometimes through cash or transfers,"

says SA president, Cyril Ramaphosa, addressing accusations made against him that he breached the Prevention of Organised Crime Act



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Central Bank appoints new governor

4 ●

Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	20.66
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.29
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	16.22
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.29
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.11
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	19.18

COMMODITIES

STOCKS

S&P500	4,150.49
NASDAQ100	12,727.80
Nikkei225	28,234.29
Dow Jones30	33,092.19
FTSE 100	7,588.79
JSE	69,950.00
Hang Seng	22,014.59

PRECIOUS METALS (Rates in US Dollars)

Gold p/ounce	1,857.94
Platinum p/ounce	1,011.00
Silver p/ounce	22.19
Copper p/ounce	4.45
Brent Oil p/barrel	122.04

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	M16.35
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M16.55
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M16.65
Paraffin p/litre	M12.00
Water (Domestic) p/litre	M5.53
Water (Industrial) p/litre	M15.03
Electricity (Domestic) p/unit	M1.38
Electricity (Industrial) p/unit	M0.26
Gas p/kg	M20.00

M50 million Covid relief fund probed

...as only M15 million was distributed

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Only M15 million of the M50 million government's Covid-19 relief fund has been disbursed to beneficiaries, a cause for concern as beneficiaries are worried that the rest of the money might have been stolen. In 2020 in a move to mitigate the adverse effects of the national lockdown, the government launched the M50 million Private Sector Covid-19 Relief Fund, through the Lesotho Enterprise Assistance Programme (LEAP).

Head of the delivery unit in the Prime Minister's office, Chaba Mokukupi, (pictured) however, assured

a media briefing on Monday that his books were clean and had been audited by the Auditor General.

His office, he said had accounted for every cent and had since requested additional M2.76 million from the Ministry of Finance for distribution to qualifying businesses.

Mr Mokukupi said his office had only been used to distribute the funds as the list of qualifying businesses came from the ministry of small businesses.

"We are just a channel through which the money is distributed," he said, adding that applications from all the 10 districts of Lesotho were submitted with the assistance of organisations such as the Private Sector Foundation, SMME Network, the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

A total 1 018 formal businesses received M9.29 million and 11 455 informal businesses shared M5.72 million, each pocketing M500.

At the moment, Mr Mokukupi said 3 003 applications had been received from the informal businesses and 165 formal businesses were still waiting for funding.

"Another 319 formal businesses who applied, failed to qualify as they could not meet the qualifying processes," he

said.

Amongst other requirements, formal businesses need to have at least two years of existence since the lockdown period, a tax clearance as well as clear financial statements.

Delays in the disbursement of the Covid funds have raised tensions with accusations leveled at government that it had failed on its promise or officials might as well have stolen the money.

The Chairman of the Maseru Street Vendors Association, Molefi Paneng previously told Maseru Metro that the reshuffling of cabinet ministers had been one of the factors that contributed to an inefficient distribution of the Covid funds. Beneficiaries including street vendors are among the most vulnerable groups that looked forward to the fund. Faced with the economic turmoil caused by the coronavirus, the majority live from hand to mouth.

In June last year, a group of street vendors in Maseru took to the streets, embarking on illegal protests, demanding the release of the Covid-19 relief packages as promised by government.

During the protest, several shops were vandalised but police were quick to intervene and dispersed the protesters.



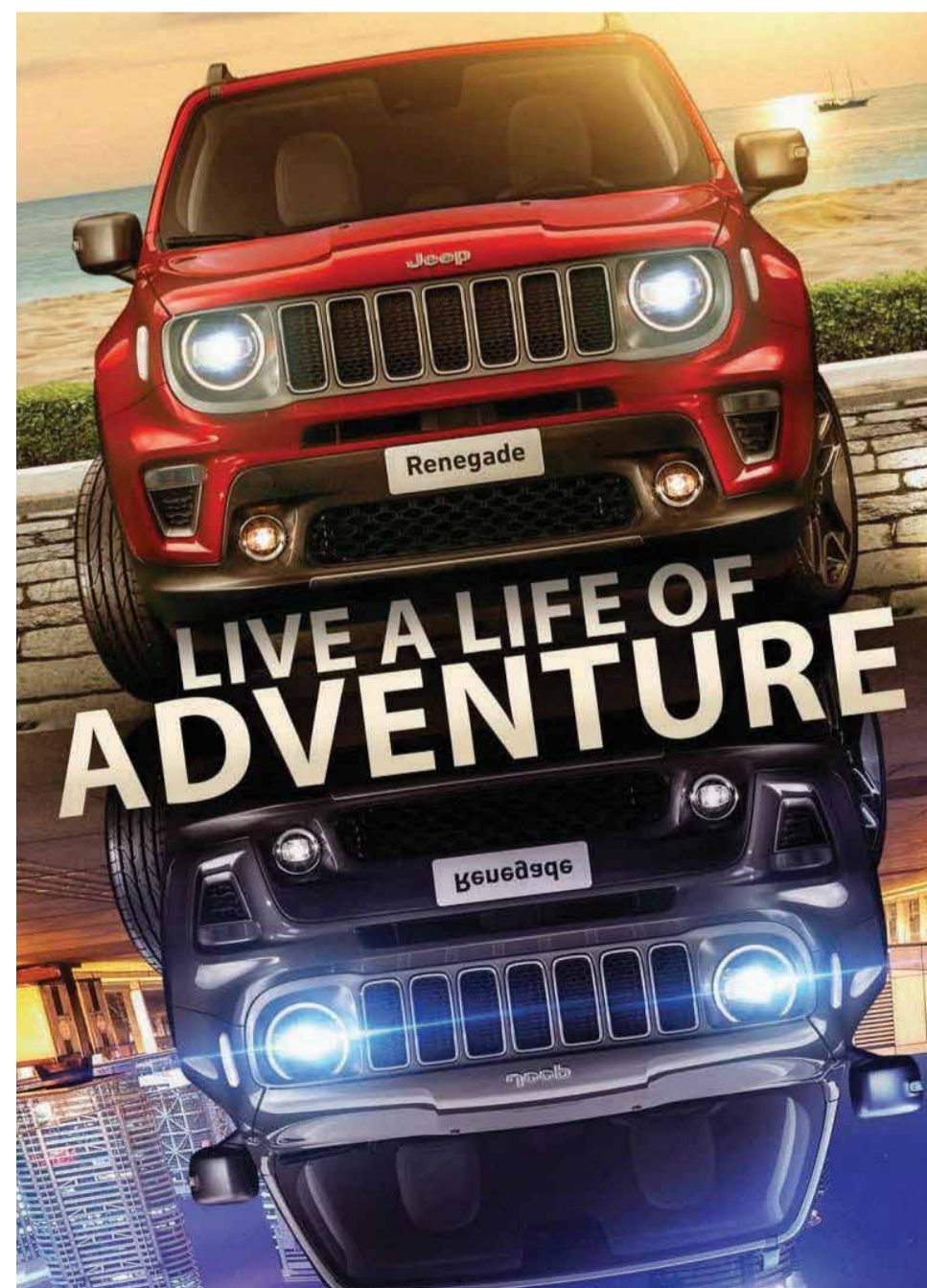
Business

Dr Letete is new Central Bank Governor

...former Acting Governor is the new First Deputy Governor



The new Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), Dr Maluke Letete



NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Dr Maluke Letete has been appointed governor and chairman of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) with effect from the June 1.

The appointment follows the departure of his predecessor, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane earlier this year.

Lehlomela Mohapi, who had been acting as governor since Dr Matlanyane left has been appointed the bank's first deputy governor.

"The Central Bank of Lesotho wishes to thank the former Acting Governor, Mr Mohapi for his service to the Bank and the nation," the bank said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The bank also wishes Dr Letete and Mr Mohapi well as they take up the responsibility of steering the ship towards fulfilling the principal objective and many other varied functions of the Bank."

Dr Letete brings significant experience of the CBL's mandate to the role, having sat on the Bank's Board of Directors as a Non-Executive Director for more than five years.

He last served as Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister and head of the accountability unit.

Dr Letete has also held senior roles at the National University of Lesotho (NUL), serving as senior lecturer and head of the economics department between 2006 and 2018.

He was also a lecturer in macroeconomics at the University of Cape Town and a Consultant for UNDP, SADC and IDRC/HEARD amongst others.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

in Economic Science, Financial Economics, Political Economy and Institutional Economics from the University of Cape Town.

Mr Mohapi on the other hand has served as Board Chairman for the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Fund Executive Secretary for the Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA).

He has also served as Senior Lecturer and Head of Economics at the Department of Economics at the NUL.

Mr Mohapi holds an MSc (Economics and Econometrics) obtained from the University of Manchester and an MBA from Edinburg Business School, Heriot-Watt University.

Prior to his appointment as Acting Governor on January 1, following the end of term of office of the former governor and the two deputy governors, Mr Mohapi was the Chief Economist and Director of Research and Secretary of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the CBL for over nine years.

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WFP spent only M192 million in 2021

...as Covid-19 disrupts operations

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - The World Food Programme Lesotho (WFP) has revealed that its overall actual expenditure for the year up to 2021 stood at only US\$ 12.5 million (M192.99 million).

In its 2021 annual country report published this week, the WFP said the expenditure was 81 percent compared to the revised implementation plan done in the same year and at 69 percent of the approved annual needs based plan (NBP).

It said the implementation for most of the activities was delayed due to the Covid-19 protocols that included movement restrictions, closing of the key stakeholders' offices and businesses, restrictions in social gatherings and social distancing.

"Funding constraints resulted in supply chain interruptions for some activities which further led to low implementation levels," said the report.

The 2021 implementation plan

was revised from US\$ 13.4 million to US\$ 15.5 million, the latter representing 86 percent of the NBP.

"This was because more resources were received under the emergency response activity following the drought and Covid-19 that adversely affected most of the vulnerable population, particularly in rural areas," the WFP said.

"As a result, the bulk of the contributions received for 2021, about US\$ 7 million went towards emergency response support. The remaining balance was split across the rest of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) activities."

In 2021, WFP prepared a budget revision, to increase its CSP budget by USD 7 million. This increase was due to the extension of the emergency response to continue support for vulnerable people affected by drought and impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The revision also increases the budget ceiling to accommodate a new on-demand service provision arrangement for the procurement of non-food items for the United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP).

WFP's country strategic plan funding stands at 41 percent which is equivalent to US\$ 48.6 million for the five-year's approved needs based plan of US\$ 118.3 million following the budget revision. This funding level is comprised of US\$ 23.4 million for the previous two years, US\$ 25.1 million for 2021 and US\$ 12.6 million for the upcoming years.

In 2021, WFP's annual needs-based plan (NBP) amounted to US\$ 18 million and the total resources received including carried over resources was US\$ 13.4 million.

Although the total funding received remained at 74 percent compared to the approved NBP, other activities were only funded at 21 percent excluding US\$ 3.8 million, which is earmarked for upcoming years.

Funding for 2021 included carry-over balances from previous years and a few donors' direct contributions which were mostly earmarked for emergency response and the school feeding programme.

Contributions in the same year



WFP Lesotho Country Director, Aurore Rusiga

were from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), Japan, Germany, the European Civil protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Canada and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as multi-year funding from the

Adaptation Fund. WFP also received support from internal funding mechanisms. The organisation has appealed for more funding for the remaining half of its CSP with the shortfall remaining at 77 percent compared to the requirements until June 2024.

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during lockdown.



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TRUSTED QUALITY
PROUDLY LESOTHO



CLASSIC BROWN BREAD
700 g

Comments & Letters

The taps are dry, WASCO is yet to apologise

The Editor,

Every time politicians campaign for votes, they promise us clean water but our taps still run dry.

As I write, Katlehong and its neighbouring villages have been without water for the past five days.

The Water and Sewage Company (WASCO) did not give us notice that there would be a water-cut like they always do.

Up to now, we cannot water our plants; neither can we do our laundry nor other house chores that require water.

Whatever is happening to our water supply is serious. We are forced to buy water from those who have boreholes at their homes and it is quite expensive.

The only time we see water coming from the tap is when we go and buy water from those who have erected boreholes at their houses.

It costs us dearly.

Some of us are unemployed and where will we get the

extra money to buy water when we are supposed to be paying our own water bills?

So far, we have to drink, cook and wash with some of the dirty water we fetch from the unclean boreholes.

No human being can survive without clean water. We have the right to access clean and safe water. We need clean water to drink, cook and do all house chores.

Linda Mei
Katlehong, Maseru



Give young girls free pads

So why not give pads away for free?

Sanitary pads are expensive and hard to come by for many young girls.

While free pads could be used to boost school attendance, they could also make life easier and more comfortable. Young girls have hope that the free pads could reduce anxiety about periods, less worry about stains or where and when to get the next pad.

Giving free pads is only part of what needs to be done to help girls manage periods. It is not a "silver bullet" solution.

Not only do girls have problems with sanitary pads, water and sanitation within the schools is another issue.

If the toilets are not habitable, the girls find it difficult to live in school and be able to continue with their education.

Having a safe, private place for girls to change pads should get the same attention as sanitary pads.

Moleboheng Molebatsi
Likhakeng, Leribe

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Covid-19 money needs full investigation

It is not surprising that the M50 million that was earmarked to relieve individuals and small businesses has generated much heated debate, with allegations that government officials and ministers who were appointed to administer it have stolen it. Opponents argue that it has taken far too long to distribute all of the money given the extent to which the majority of society live on hand outs and therefore qualify as beneficiaries.

So far, only M15 million has been distributed and it needs no rocket science to quantify that more than half of two million people live in abject poverty and should have received the money a long time ago. The degree of concern is justified given the parallels of criminal cases where millions of maloti have been looted by civil servants and politicians, violating and undermining the very institutions to which they are custodians. You may recall there is yet another M50 million under probe within the Ministry of Finance where officials made payments to bogus companies for services that were never rendered.

Up to so far, the case is still in court but there is no indication that the perpetrators will see the full might of the law except for the preliminary investigations that have temporarily interfered with their lives while they still get their monthly salaries from government. There are reports of missing taxpayers' money here and there and it is apparent that there are people out there who are determined to enrich themselves with impunity. No doubt, corruption is rife in this country given numerous audit reports that have revealed embezzlement of billions of maloti with no amount of action thereof or politicians have only paid lip service to the detriment of taxpayers. Both the ruling and opposing parties have failed to enforce the law after the perpetrators have been exposed, yet they have no difficulty to come back to the electorate to campaign to be voted back into office. It does not matter how many businesses do not qualify for the Covid fund, but there is more than a million people who desperately need the M500 to buy food. No amount of information or verification is required except for government to come clean about what happened to the outstanding M35 million. The complex relationship between government officials and civil servants who were entrusted with the Covid money should be entangled.

It is also an indictment on the voters for their delinquency to ignore obvious wrongdoing as they reward corruption with their votes every now and then without demanding accountability. Obviously, there is no difficulty to establish who the real culprits are but we are so used to living with chronic corruption that it has become so hard to get off its nipple. Whether we like it not, it will always come back to haunt us, inevitably manufacturing generations of corrupt individuals as reflected by our society. Old habits die hard. For as long as we shall pretend self-enrichment at the expense of the taxpayer is justified, and for as long as we feel it is okay because it is done by one of us, then justice is doomed.

Understanding Fear, how it Can be Build, and Some of its Real Life Examples 2

In part 1 of this particular article, some five weeks back, I said that there were two major ways in which we could improve our performances and become high achievers in our lives in lasting ways. We started discussing the first – understanding and managing our own response mechanisms to our life challenges effectively.

Challenges evoke some fear and stress and it is healthy. We said that we could improve our performances and become high achievers in lasting ways when we were able to manage fear or stress effectively. In this second part of the article I would like us to discuss a few real life examples.

First, I would like to narrate a very recent experience of mine with fear and stress; and then I will briefly point to some common situations in our lives that have dominated media spaces and relate them to some of the expressions of fear – anger, disgust, hate, anxiety, panic – that can lead to laziness, ignorance, narcissism, or greed.

At the end of 2021, I was given a rare opportunity to submit an idea for a chapter of a book that would be used to inform national policy and help develop schools' curricula. Writing academic papers or chapters is not the easiest thing; but they do get written by human beings. The submitted ideas would be assessed before they could be accepted.

Initially I had not believed that I was quite up to it, but, I was humbled and truly grateful that my idea was accepted at the beginning of 2022. I wrote the manuscript and asked two friends to read it and give me their very candid comments. With a little pride, I also informed some close friends and colleagues about my great fortune. The manuscript came back red from one of my reviewer-friends and with some comments from the other. Fear struck, and for a few moments I was paralyzed: Had I entered the wrong league?

But, then, I quickly went back to my own work of effective management of stress: I buckled-up and worked on the manuscript and submitted it for review, this time by seasoned authors and reviewers who are themselves in the academic field, who do not know any of the authors. The first review came back and it recommended that my manuscript could be published subject to some minor improvements. Wow! I will certainly make it. Then came the second review. The manuscript was rated relatively low for an academic book chapter. Yet, somehow, the recommendation was, yes, it could be published but only if major improvements were made.

Initially, I felt unequal to some of the improvements I was supposed to make. For a few days it felt like doomsday and I, who teaches and trains others to manage stress effectively and respond to their challenges with aplomb, was about to chicken out and run away from a challenge – the sky was falling over me! I decided to give it a few more days and just not think about it for a while.

Gradually my mind started clearing and I gathered some courage: I will give the improvements my very best shot. The manuscript would then be a lot better and they can only reject it, and not me; and it would be much better than anything I had ever written; and then I can always find other platforms or means to publish it, after all, I believe that it is a very important contribution to life.

Then, as I became more relaxed and confident, came the third review. Oh, oh ... My God, can you believe it: the manuscript only needed minor improvements and it could be published! The following morning as I laid in bed, I felt more than equal to the issues I had earlier felt unequal to; and what I needed to work on, and how I would do it, just started to come from all over as if it had just been lying there in wait for me.

Just like Solomon's wisdom calling from the hilltops near the road, at the crossroads, at the entrance to the city, besides the gates. I started making the improvements on Wednesday, 1st June, 2022. The submission date was Tuesday, 7th, June, 2022. I submitted on Monday, 6th June, 2022. Now, I am just waiting for the email that informs me that the chapter has been accepted by the editorial team for publication by the official publisher, or my own publisher.

I almost allowed fear – panic, ignorance, and laziness – to overcome me, and control me.

This short story has all the hallmarks of understanding fear, how it can build up, and how to manage it effectively. It illustrates the problems of quality peace and resilience and the building blocks of how to sustain quality peace and resilience, albeit when you have done, and continue to maintain, the work of transforming yourself.

Maybe you can recount or imagine some stories of (excessive or unmanaged) fear playing itself out in deceit, conflict, fragmentation, including political party splits, suppression, unemployment, underperformance, including in education, suicide, crime – corruption, theft, gender-based violence, murder – for instance, in your environment.

SUSTAINING QUALITY

PEACE & RESILIENCE

BY MAFOLE SEMATLANE



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SA's formal employment growth set to broaden the tax base

ROELOF BOTHA

According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), unemployment declined marginally to 34.5% in the first quarter of the year, although the accuracy of this figure has been questioned, mainly due to an unrealistically low estimate of informal sector employment in the country.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the latest employment data is the reversal of a lengthy downward trend in manufacturing sector jobs.

During the first quarter of 2022, a total of 263 000 new jobs were created in South Africa's factories, signalling the ability of the country to respond positively to the global supply chain crunch, which has temporarily lowered the supply of several imported goods categories.

The recovery of job creation in manufacturing has taken place against the background of a substantial degree of underutilisation of production capacity.

Following the economic downturn induced by the Covid pandemic, capacity utilisation in the manufacturing sectors had predictably declined.

After a decade of hovering around a level of about 82%, this key indicator of the state of manufacturing activity recovered to almost 79% in November last year, but dipped again slightly to 77.8% during the first quarter of 2022.

Ample underutilised capacity still exists, and domestic manufacturers are clearly taking advantage of higher demand – both for final consumption and intermediate usage in other industries.

The advantage of this scenario is that any future increase in capacity utilisation will, in many cases, automatically translate into lower overhead costs per unit, thereby softening inflationary pressures.

Hopefully, the SA Reserve Bank, which has become increasingly hawkish in its monetary policy stance, will not overreact to the higher global inflationary environment, as the spike in the oil price is the overriding cause of higher inflation and raising domestic interest rates will not solve this problem.

It is evident from the latest employment data that high-level skills are being sought after, especially professionals, technicians, salespersons, plant and machine operators, crafts and related tradespeople and administrative personnel. In combination, these occupations were responsible for 663,000 new jobs during the first quarter, in contrast to a loss of 279,000 jobs for elementary occupations.

An interesting trend in the country's labour market is the growth in significance of the Western Cape, which is on the verge of overtaking KwaZulu-Natal as the province with the second-highest level of employment.

According to research published by BrandMapp, the number of individual taxpayers in South Africa increased by 500 000 in 2021 to reach a level of 7.4 million. It is particularly encouraging that the number of individuals earning more than R350 000 per annum increased by 18.5%, as they represent the mainstay of total tax revenues in the country.

National Treasury will no doubt be delighted with the latest formal official employment data, as growth in formal sector jobs translates into a significant broadening of the country's taxation base. A rough calculation, based on the average formal sector salary in South Africa, of prevailing income tax rates and the average ratio of indirect taxes to income, points to additional taxation revenue of R2.7-billion per month as a result of the latest increase in employment. Combined with record exports for several key commodities and the prospects for further growth in company profits during the current fiscal year, it is really no surprise that government recently decided to extend the cut in the fuel levy.

It is clearly affordable, and consideration should be given to a permanent lowering of the tax component of fuel prices, which would certainly assist efforts to subdue inflation. BM/DM



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Unintended pregnancy numbers remain high

- Many young people despise condom use
- Married men take advantage of stressed girls



Advocate of women issues, Lintle Ramatla

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MASERU - Adolescents and young people face the challenge of Early and Unintended Pregnancy (EUP)

in large numbers during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic as most of them never use any method of contraceptives.

"The use of condoms is not what they are familiar with as

some date partners that do not want to use them," says findings of a research by an advocate of women issues, Lintle Ramatla.

"Both male and female partners sometimes find it challenging to find pleasure while using condoms, which young people rarely use."

Ramatla said some of those that had experienced unwanted pregnancies during this time of the pandemic were victims of forced sex or rape. While some have been dating married men unknowingly, others have been rejected by partners that earn little or no income at all.

"I'm bothered by the number of those that said they had been abandoned by married men they dated without knowing their marital statuses," Ramatla said.

"The men clearly said they did not want to take the responsibility. They wouldn't give them support or options on whether or not those

girls wanted to keep the babies."

Ramatla said there were still some young people who were not ready to start using contraceptives, and condoms due to misconceptions and myths.

"Some are not even ready to use them even after abortion or after giving birth," she said.

"They use a phrase such as they would never get into any relationship anymore, or that they were done with the relationship. It might sound good but in reality abstinence isn't guaranteed. Without any form of any contraception, chances of falling pregnant again can't be eliminated."

Ramatla said many of the pregnancies had no records because they ended up in illegal abortions.

"Most young people don't want to share such information in order to cover their tracks and avoid arrests," she noted. "It's shocking how the numbers of unwanted pregnancies are growing daily."

She said she got to know about them because many asked her to

recommend ideal places for safe abortion or safe abortion pills.

"When I asked about who else knew about their pregnancies, they told me only their partners knew about their conditions," she added. Ramatla has recommended the use of condoms and contraceptives by every young person, who is sexually active.

She said men and boys should be engaged in finding ways to prevent early and unintended pregnancies.

"It will help to reduce unwanted pregnancies because they are the ones fuelling the situation," Ramatla said. "I plead with married men to protect girls from unwanted pregnancies."

She said unstable families and relationships contributed a lot to the increasing number of unwanted pregnancies.

"Some married men take advantage of stressed young girls by offering them money. They engage in unprotected sex with such young girls, eventually impregnating or neglecting or forcing them to take abortion pills."

She further urged the youth to stay away from alcohol and drugs, or dating older people in order to prevent early and unintended pregnancy.

"Parents should also not force girls to become breadwinners," she said. "Strengthening early and unintended pregnancy messaging is very important to both boys and girls."



Try Tea Tree Oil:

For athlete's foot, reach for tea tree oil, an extract of the leaves of an Australian tree. It appears to have antiseptic properties and may work as well as or better than over-

the-counter antifungal products. Apply a light coating of the oil to affected areas two to three times a day; continue for a week or two after symptoms disappear.

Structure

The ovaries are covered on the outside by a layer of simple cuboidal epithelium called germinal (ovarian) epithelium. This is actually the visceral peritoneum that envelops the ovaries. Underneath this layer is a dense connective tissue

capsule, the tunica albuginea. The substance of the ovaries is distinctly divided into an outer cortex and an inner medulla. The cortex appears more dense and granular due to the presence of numerous ovarian follicles in various stages of

development. Each of the follicles contains an oocyte, a female germ cell. The medulla is a loose connective tissue with abundant blood vessels, lymphatic vessels, and nerve fibers.

PhytoMedicine brings natural remedy ...as the fight against Covid-19 takes toll



Samples of PhytoMedicine including CoviAid Syrup



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MASERU – ORGANICA
Global Brands has launched PhytoMedicine, a Covi-aid syrup and Covi-immune tincture, to treat and relief flu like symptoms such as coughs and fever amongst others.

Head researcher and developer, Dr Thuto Pius Tšooana said the medicine was infused with organic natural products to alleviate respiratory illnesses and inflammation.

He said PhytoMedicine syrup was designed to strengthen the immune system and reduce the effect of respiratory infections, adding that it also possessed anti-inflammatory properties that assisted with regulating and optimising homeostasis.

"We promise Basotho that PhytoMedicine will assist them to fight flu, colds and COVID-19 symptoms," Dr Tšooana said. "PhytoMedicines are natural

and herbal medicines composed of different ingredients like Artemisia (Lengana) amongst others."

He said once taken, they would assist with many health benefits like natural healing, enhancing general well-being, strengthening the immune system, adding they had fewer side effects.

The Covi-aid syrup and Covi-immune drops are packed with ingredients such as CBDA or cannabidiolic acid and Artemisia Afra, which have been used for centuries in relieving respiratory infections. Following the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has led people to seek alternative treatments such as preventives and treatment options such as medicinal plants.

PhytoMedicine is such a relief since the COVID-19 outbreak first began in Wuhan, China in 2019, sweeping the globe as it also devastated public health and the world economy.

Besides vaccine development

here at home, intense efforts elsewhere have also been focused on finding effective boosts against COVID-19 as well as flu.

Based on the recognition that herbal medicines were generally safe, Dr Tšooana said they were commonly used to improve immunity and prevent viral infections. Historically, research shows natural products and herbal medicines have been used for the prevention of viral infections and generally show favorable efficacy and acceptable toxicity.

Natural and herbal medicines have a long track record in treating respiratory infections and many have been approved as drugs or over-the-counter food additives.

However, as most herbal medicines for the clinical treatment of COVID-19 still lack rigorous clinical trials, the clinical and economic value of herbal medicine in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 has not been fully evaluated.



Patients suffering from Monkeypox

More than 800 Monkeypox cases reported globally: WHO

By June 6, the global tally of monkeypox cases had passed 800 and continued to increase daily across more than two dozen countries where the virus isn't typically found, according to the latest report from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

So far, no deaths have been linked to the current monkeypox outbreak in non-endemic countries, although deaths have been reported in Central and West Africa, where the virus is considered endemic.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing," the WHO said. "Most reported cases so far have been presented through sexual health or other health services in primary or secondary health care facilities and have involved mainly, but not exclusively, men who have sex with men."

Most cases have been reported in the WHO's European region, spanning 20 countries. The U.K. has reported 302 cases, according to an update from the U.K. Health Security Agency on Monday, which added 77 new cases since Friday.

Spain has reported 186 cases, according to a global map by the CDC, followed by 143 cases in Portugal, 80 cases in Canada, 65 cases in Germany, and 51 cases in France.

Outside of Europe and North America, eight cases have been reported in the United Arab Emirates, and one case has been reported in Morocco, the WHO reported. In the Western Pacific region, Australia has reported six cases.

Although the West African version of the virus was identified in nearly all samples of the cases so far, most confirmed cases with a travel history have reported travel to countries in Europe and North America, rather than Africa.

"The confirmation of monkeypox in persons who have not traveled to an endemic area is atypical, and even one

case of monkeypox in a non-endemic country is considered an outbreak," the WHO said.

Since January, seven endemic countries in Africa have reported 44 confirmed cases, more than 1 400 suspected cases, and 66 deaths. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported the highest numbers, with 1 284 suspected cases and 58 deaths, followed by Nigeria with 66 suspected cases, 21 confirmed cases, and one death.

The symptoms seen in people with confirmed cases have varied, the WHO reported, and many cases in this outbreak don't show the "classical clinical picture." In the cases so far, the most common symptoms include genital and anal lesions, fever, swollen lymph nodes, and pain when swallowing. Some people also reported that the genital rash or bumps appear before other symptoms, such as fever, and that lesions appear at different stages of development, which isn't usually how monkeypox has shown up in the past.

"Apart from patients hospitalised for the purpose of isolation, few hospitalisations have been reported," the WHO said. "Complications leading to hospitalisation have included the need to provide adequate pain management and the need to treat secondary infections."

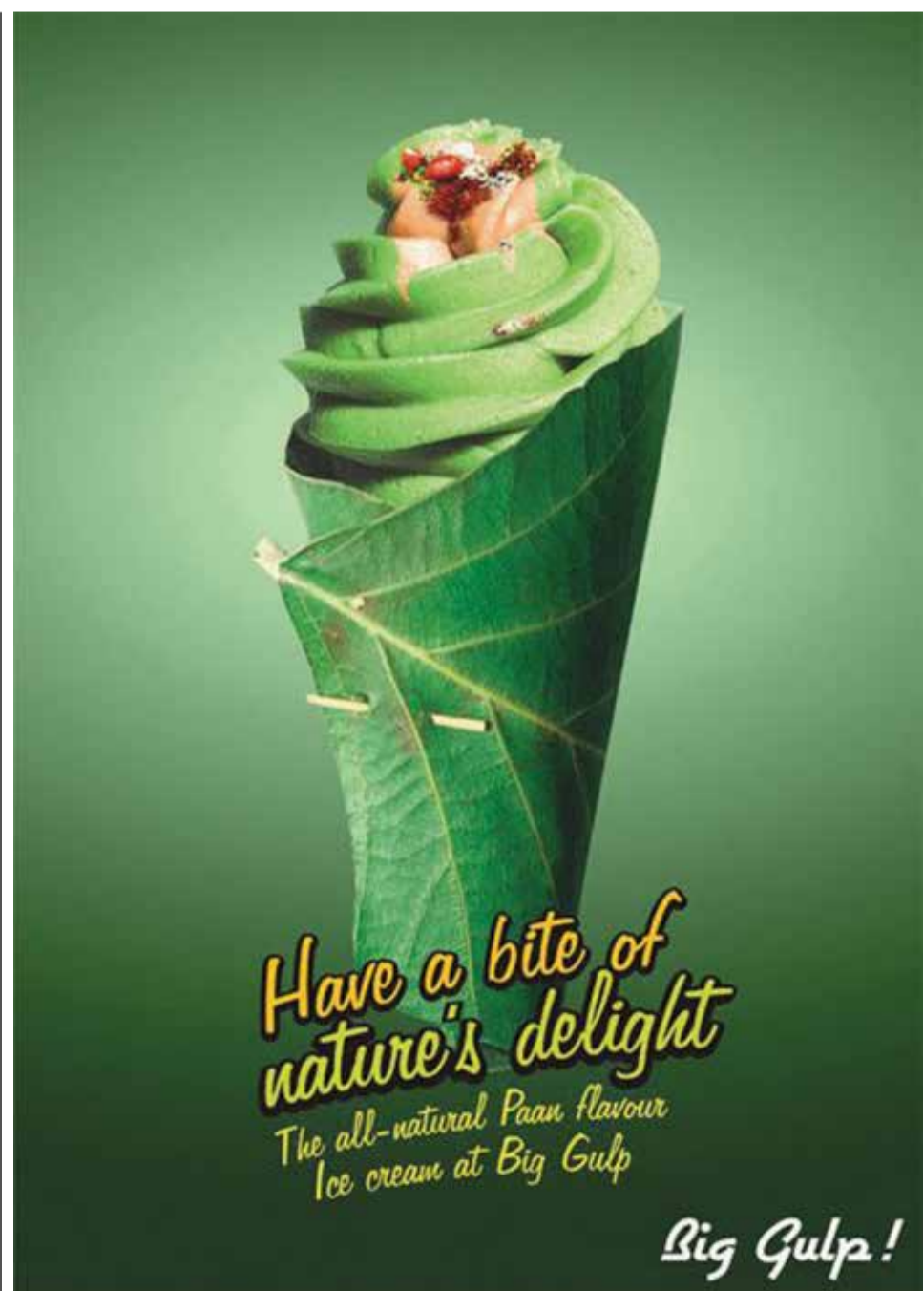
Using Vaccines

Several countries are using monkeypox and smallpox vaccines for close contacts, the WHO said. The U.S. and the European Union have also approved an antiviral medication to treat orthopoxviruses, the virus family that includes monkeypox.

So far, the U.S. has provided 1 200 vaccines doses to people who have had high-risk exposures to the virus. As of Sunday, 25 cases had been reported across 12 states, according to the latest

CDC data, including five cases in California and five cases in New York, U.S.

Public health officials have done 120 tests so far for orthopoxviruses. WebMED



The world in 10 minutes

UÆ

Gupta brothers arrested in Dubai on corruption charges

The SA government on Monday said that law enforcement authorities in the UAE have arrested Rajesh Gupta and Atul Gupta of the Gupta family.

It remains unclear why the third brother — Ajay — was not arrested.

The Gupta brothers are accused in South Africa of using their relationship with former president Jacob Zuma to profit financially and influence senior appointments, charges that they have vehemently denied.

"The ministry of justice and correctional services confirms that it has received information from law enforcement authorities in the UAE that fugitives of justice, namely Rajesh and Atul Gupta have been arrested," the South African Department of Justice and Correctional Services said in a statement on Monday.

"Discussions between various law enforcement agencies in the UAE and South Africa on the way forward are ongoing. The South African government will continue to co-operate with the UAE," it added.

Interpol had issued Red Notices to the Gupta brothers, who had also been declared persona non grata by the US and the UK.



RUSSIA

Putin warns over Western long-range weapons

Russia will expand the list of targets it will attack in Ukraine if Western countries send long-range weapons to Kyiv, President Vladimir Putin says.

The warning came as explosions shook parts of Kyiv on Sunday in the first air strikes on the capital for weeks.

Russia says it hit tanks supplied by European countries.

In another development, a Russian general was killed in fighting in the Donbas region.

Russia refocused its military efforts on the Donbas at the end of March after pulling back from the Kyiv region.

As Russia makes slow but steady progress on the ground there - hundreds of kilometres to the east - several countries have pledged to send advanced weapons to Kyiv.

Most recently, the US announced it was sending the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), which fires precision-guided rockets that can hit targets up to 70km (45 miles) away - far further than the artillery Ukraine currently possesses.



MONACO

Monaco's Princess Charlene tests positive for Covid-19 as French cases rebound

PARIS, June 4 (Reuters) - Princess Charlene of Monaco, who had been away from the principality for months due to health issues, has tested positive for Covid-19, the palace said in a statement, as the number of cases in neighbouring France begin to rise again.

The 44-year-old former Olympics champion, who married Prince Albert in 2011, returned to Monaco in March as her health improved, the royal palace said at the time. She only recently resumed official duties.

The palace said there were no concerns about her condition and she would isolate according to health protocols.

The positive test comes a day after France's Public Health Authority said it had seen a rebound in cases this week for the first time in months with a 7-day average of about 20,000 daily cases.

Guillaume Spaccaveri, epidemiologist at the Public Health Authority, told a news conference on Friday the rise in numbers was likely down to a new Omicron variant and the end of all Covid-19 restrictions in the country.



SOUTH AFRICA

Ramaphosa says case opened against him is politically motivated

"I have never stolen from anywhere," said President Cyril Ramaphosa, in response to the claims of money laundering, kidnapping and corruption over the theft of \$4-million at his game farm in February 2020, claiming it was politically motivated.

He was speaking at the ANC's Limpopo conference on Sunday evening, regarding the case opened by former spy boss and prisons head Arthur Fraser.

Ramaphosa said this was part of a political ploy to cast aspersions on him because of his undeterred fight against corruption.

Fraser is a close ally of former president Jacob Zuma. His release of the former head of state on medical parole after he was jailed for contempt of court was declared unlawful by the high court and Fraser's contract as national commissioner of correctional services was not renewed earlier this year.

The Mail & Guardian reported earlier on Sunday that Democratic Alliance leader John Steenhuisen had written to South African Revenue Service commissioner Edward Kieswetter on Friday requesting that Sars investigate whether the money stolen at the game farm had been declared.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe police probe sale of human toes

Zimbabwean police have said they are investigating possible trafficking of human body parts, following reports that people are selling their toes in exchange for riches to people who use them for ritual purposes. Frenzied reports these past few days have emerged on social media, with pictures being shared of people selling toes.

The toes are said to be sold for huge sums of money or exchanged for cars such as Toyota Hilux GD6s.

Unverified screenshots spreading around on WhatsApp, Twitter, and Facebook suggest that some sell their toes for as much as US\$40 000 for the big toe, US\$25 000 for the middle toe and US\$10 000 for the tiny toe.

Memes and jokes have been spread across social media, with people laughing at pictures of some who have reportedly sold their toes for varying amounts of money.

While this might be hilarious to some and is light-hearted fun to others, authorities are concerned and police are now investigating the matter as the trading of body parts is illegal in Zimbabwe.



USA

US military investigating insider attack on base in Syria

The US military is investigating whether an American service member set off explosives in an insider attack on a small US base in northern Syria that injured four service members in April, according to three defense officials and a statement from the military.

One of the officials confirmed the suspect is no longer in Syria. The investigation into the attack on the Green Village site is being carried out by the Army's Criminal Investigation Division and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. No one has been charged to date.

"Army CID and Air Force OSI are conducting a joint investigation of the incident. A possible suspect, a US service member, has been identified," the military said in a statement on Monday.

"At this point, these are just allegations, all suspects are presumed to be innocent until/unless convicted in a court of law. The investigation is ongoing, which may or may not, develop sufficient evidence to identify a perpetrator(s) and have enough evidence to ensure a conviction in a court of law. No further information will be released at this time," the statement added.



Metro Motoring

For everything Car in Lesotho

E-mail: motoring@maserumetro.com

Tel: 266 2232 5494

Be Car-Smart

Wax your car too

Waxing your car regularly protects your car's paint job by slowing oxidation and by creating a barrier against bird droppings and pollution. It also makes the car look good by adding extra shine.

Looking to get that showroom-fresh shine on your car - and want to ensure it lasts? Whether you're working by hand or with an electric buffer, here's the Turtle Wax guide on how to wax a car using specialist automotive wax to get your panels gleaming with a durable protective finish.

Few of us have the luxury to spend countless hours pampering our vehicles. However, by using the right car-care products, it takes only a fraction of that time to transform dull, tired paintwork into a mirror-like professional finish. Doing so can help protect your panels against future damage from the sun plus environmental and cosmetic factors, as well

as maintain your model's beauty and value.

Most of car wax tend to consist of the carnauba wax, which derives from Brazilian palm leaves and is used in many commercial industries. It is then supplemented by other natural waxes and synthetic polymers, which gives your car surface that deep glossy shine at the end of the car waxing process. We have a number of different wax product formulas due to specially developed formulas, such as Smart Shield Technology or Hybrid Technology, which allows you to pick and choose the right product for you depending on desired application method and final result.

Remove dirt & grime

After extensive washing with a specialist shampoo to take off loose dirt and grime, use plenty of clean water to remove any trace of suds and then dry the panels thoroughly. Turtle Wax produces a wide range of car care

shampoos, including the ever-popular Turtle Wax M.A.X.-Power Car Wash, which is the only wash that increases the pH cleaning power making it suitable for any cleaning task and even toughest dirt.

Alternatively, give the new Turtle Wax Snow Foam a go. It can be applied by hand or with a foam gun and leaves a luxurious lather which won't strip waxes and sealants on the car surface, which is especially important for those who frequently detail their car.

Tackle defects

Polish car surface. Next, carefully polish the panels to tackle defects. Applied properly, the polish's slight abrasive qualities should remove any previous layers of wax, as well as grease & dirt to reach the undamaged paint underneath. Try Turtle Wax Clean Finish Polishing Compound for the best effect. Remove paintwork imperfections. If you see any noticeable swirls and light scratches on your car surface, it would be a good idea to use a more abrasive product in order to renew the paintwork. Our new Turtle Wax Scratch Repair & Renew was specifically created for those problems. It uses Heal & Seal technology with protective resins to help repair years of damage in one use and deposit a barrier for permanent restoration.

Benefits of waxing your car surface

Waxing protects that freshly revealed coat.

Done properly, it will act as a protective layer to keep your car looking glossy and new, whatever the vehicle's age.

Ultimately, it can cut down the need or frequency of car polishing altogether.

Best conditions for waxing

First things first, don't attempt the process in direct sunlight or freezing conditions.

Car wax works best when used at the optimum, cool temperature, so work in the shade on a hot day, or in a garage on a cold one.

Another bonus to working indoors is that you avoid contamination by bird droppings and other airborne contaminants.

What type of wax should I use?

Waxes come in various guises, with the most popular being sprays, liquids and pastes.

Spray wax is generally the quickest to apply - but make sure you shake the bottle well first.

Paste wax tends to be harder to apply therefore is more time consuming, however provides longer-lasting results.

Liquid wax sits somewhere in the middle of the effort vs results spectrum. Again, shake before using, in order to mix the ingredients.

Land Rover Special Vehicle Operations creates Ultimate Range Rover Sport SVR



The new Range Rover Sport SVR Ultimate edition adds SV Bespoke exclusivity to 423kW high-performance flagship - the fastest and most powerful SUV available from Land Rover.

Special Vehicle Operations has launched a special edition Range Rover Sport SVR with spectacular new solid glass flake paintwork options for the first time.

Featuring a selection of exclusive paint colour combinations and tailored interior detailing by the SV Bespoke vehicle personalisation team, the 423kW Range Rover Sport SVR Ultimate edition enhances the visual appeal of the fastest and most powerful vehicle in the Land Rover family.

Three hand-finished exterior paint choices include new Maya Blue Gloss and Marl Grey

Gloss colours, both of which are exclusive to the Ultimate edition. Delicate and highly reflective fine white glass flake particles in the solid base coat give an intense star-like sparkle. A third option, for a stealthier look, is Ligurian Black Satin. Each colour features a Narvik Black contrast roof.

The SV Bespoke team's attention to detail

extends to Black knurled Range Rover lettering on the bonnet and tailgate, with exclusive contrasting Fuji White edging which is also used for side fender accents.

A body-coloured carbon fibre vented bonnet, 22-inch five split-spoke forged alloy wheels and black brake calipers reinforce the Ultimate edition's strong presence, complementing the SVR's Narvik Black contrast roof, door mirror caps, front grilles and grille surrounds, front wing detail and tailgate finishers.

Range Rover Sport SVR is the fastest, most powerful and most dynamic Land Rover ever produced. Now in its second generation, the current model is powered by a 423kW version of the 5.0-litre V8 supercharged engine, which produces 700Nm of torque - sufficient to power the SVR from 0-100km/h in just 4.5 seconds and a top speed of 283 km/h.

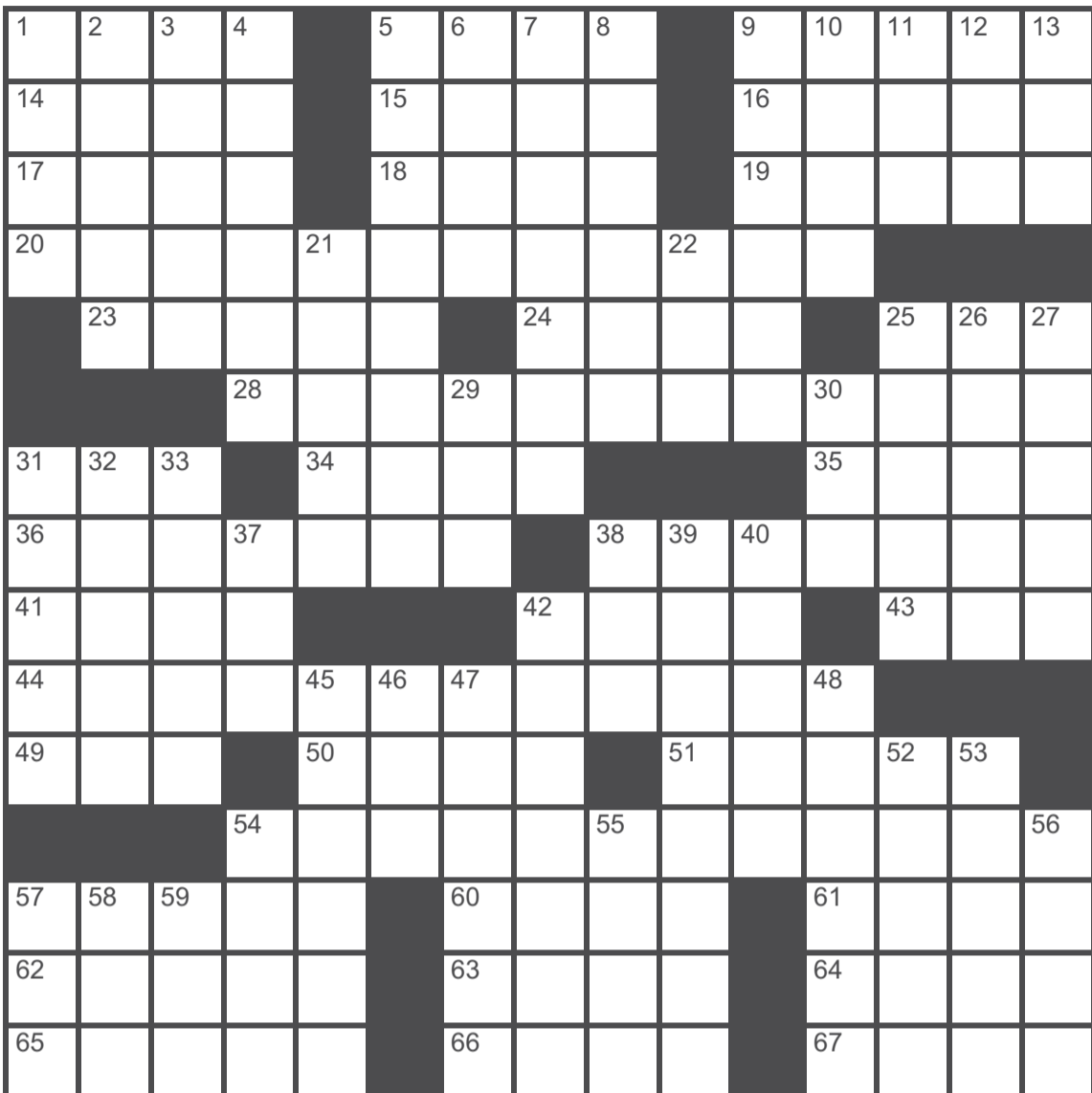
Mark Turner, Commercial Director, Land Rover SV Bespoke, said: "Range Rover Sport SVR redefined Land Rover high-performance capability when it was introduced in 2014. We've sold more than 20,000 examples to date and demand for the SVR's characterful mix of power, luxury and thrilling dynamics continues to grow every year. The SV Bespoke personalisation features of this Ultimate edition elevate its appeal even further."

The craftsmanship of the SV Bespoke team is also evident inside. Specially commissioned chrome-finished SV Bespoke B-pillar badges, black anodised metal gearshift paddles and Ultimate edition illuminated treadplates enhance the recommended Ebony and Cirrus interior, which incorporates SVR-embossed lightweight Performance Seats in Windsor leather and contrasting Suedecloth.

Hannah Custance, Design Manager, SV Colour and Materials, said: "Our SV Bespoke design team is always pushing the boundaries to create stunning vehicle colours with enhanced individuality. This is the first SV Bespoke edition we've offered with beautifully textured and reflective glass flake paint finishes, which puts the Range Rover Sport SVR Ultimate edition at the forefront of our innovative approach to personalisation."

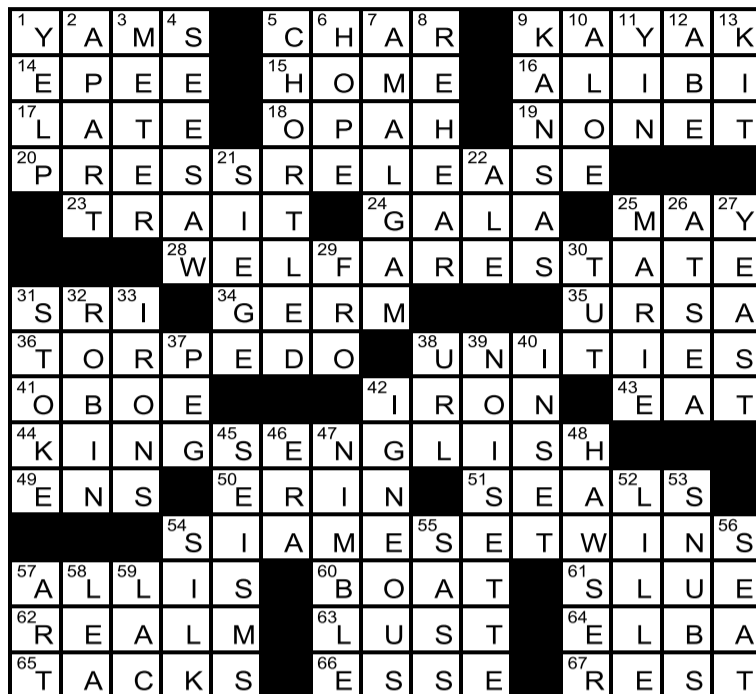
Range Rover Sport SVR Ultimate edition will be available in South Africa early in 2022 with pricing to be available closer to the time.

General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Surround
 - 5. Taj Mahal city
 - 9. Render defenseless
 - 14. It comes to mind
 - 15. Rejections
 - 16. Nairobi's land
 - 17. Sheep's cry
 - 18. Diplomacy
 - 19. Performed
 - 20. National threat
 - 23. _____ throat
 - 24. Kind of package
 - 25. PC "brain"
 - 28. Weak spot
 - 31. It keeps an eye on TV
 - 34. Bag
 - 35. Representation
 - 36. Deodorant dispensers
 - 38. Marathoner's need
 - 41. New York's _____ Canal
 - 42. Copter's forerunner
 - 43. Heavy-duty cleanser
 - 44. Twisty stems
 - 49. Hook shape
 - 50. Guns
 - 51. Wake Island, e.g.
 - 54. Absolute government authority
 - 57. Swampy lake
 - 60. Chip's cartoon chum
 - 61. Comedian Carvey
 - 62. Kind of artery
 - 63. Arab ruler
 - 64. Jet black
 - 65. Final Commandment
- Down**
- 1. Tomcats
 - 2. Runs without moving
 - 3. Flinch, say
 - 4. Thorn apple
 - 5. Sung response
 - 6. Bearded animal
 - 7. Use over
 - 8. Stellar
 - 9. Decrees
 - 10. Adam's apple spot
 - 11. Colony member
 - 12. "The Catcher in the _____"
 - 13. Like some scientists
 - 21. Odd-numbered page

Last Week's Solution



- 22. Intense anger
- 25. Rhodes of Rhodesia
- 26. Showy flower
- 27. Arm bones
- 29. "_____ De-Lovely"
- 30. That guy
- 31. Brunch serving
- 32. Horror actor Karloff
- 33. Mooring spots
- 37. Attorney F. _____ Bailey
- 38. Break a Commandment
- 39. Halloween visitors trick-or
- 40. Blood line
- 42. Old time illumination
- 45. Stoop
- 46. Authorize
- 47. Shakes
- 48. Vile
- 52. Tropical vine
- 53. Gangly
- 54. Perfectly
- 55. Hip bones
- 56. Those opposed
- 57. Took the bait
- 58. A pint, maybe
- 59. Yang's counterpart

So You Think You are Geneius

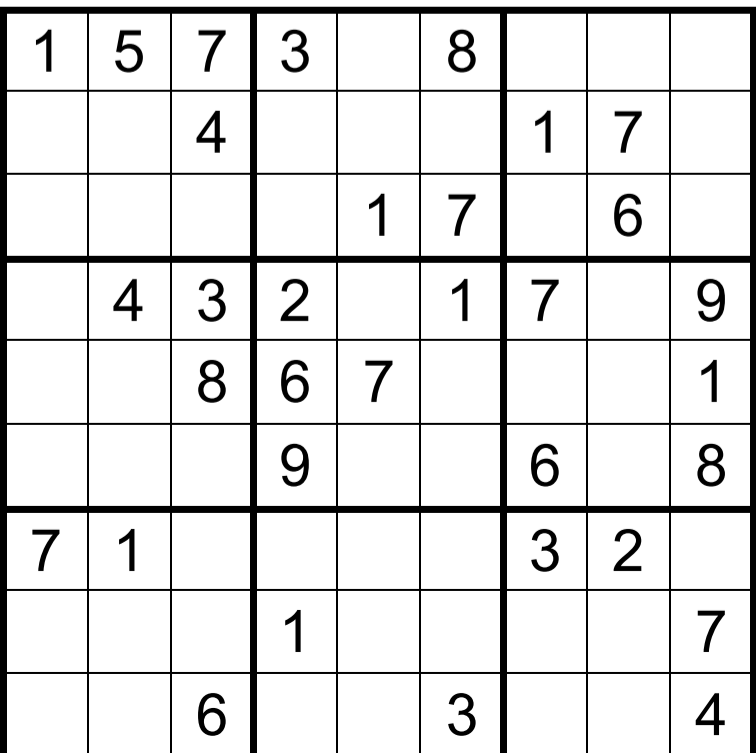
Question (Answer next week)

My 6, 7, 3 is a tear to a newspaper.
 My 5, 4, 1 is damper than moist. My 1, 7, 6, 4 makes you weary blowing it up. My 5, 7, 6, 9 helps electricity to flow My 8, 10, 2 is an attempt at this puzzle. My whole might have been used to create this puzzle.



Last Week's Answer

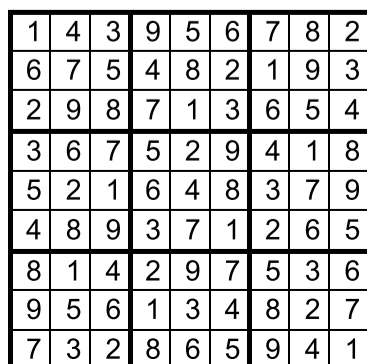
Sudoku Puzzle



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



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

Metro SPORTS



Ralekoti calls it a day

...as his illustrious football career ends with dignity

MIKIA KALATI

MASERU - One of Lesotho's most decorated midfielders of his generation, Ralekoti Mokhahlane has announced his retirement from the beautiful game to bring down the curtain on a very colourful football career.

He came through the ranks at FC Likhopo as a young player and went on to enjoy success playing for the late Bishop Molatoli-owned side, as they won back-to-back premier league titles in the 2004/05 and 2005/06 seasons.

The 35-year-old won more league titles with LCS after he left Likhopo for greener pastures at the Correctional Service side, where he has also been working as a correctional officer.

"Indeed, my playing days are over, but I would love to remain involved in the game as a coach, working to develop young players," Mokhahlane says.

"I think I had a very good career, and I enjoyed every moment of it though it was not very easy all know that

as we football in Lesotho hasn't been professionalised yet, which meant that I had to have other means to put food on the table for my family."

The diminutive midfielder, who retires while playing for Lijabatho of Morija, states that representing his country and playing against some of the best players are what he will cherish for the rest of his life.

"Playing for my country against some of the best teams and players at the pinnacle of my career was truly fulfilling. It gave us a chance to weigh ourselves as a country and as an individual player to see how far we are in our football," he adds.

'West', as Mokhahlane was popularly called by his fans, reminisced about helping Makoanyane XI qualify for the Africa Youth Championship in 2005, which was the first time a Lesotho team secured qualification to a CAF tournament.

"That for me was a very special group of players; it was a turning point for all of us in that team. It was for the very first time in our history as Lesotho and it gave us hope that we could become very successful footballers.

"We never looked back from there and a lot of us were able to graduate into the senior team, where we also managed to help our country compete against good teams.

"So, looking back, I think I had a decent career both at club level and the national teams, which I can be proud of.

"I learnt a lot as a player, especially playing in international tournaments - the COSAFA Cup from the junior level and the different CAF competitions at club level. I enjoyed it a lot because they helped me to become a better player," he says.

Mokhahlane was also a key member of the Leslie Notsi's Likuena side that reached the semi-final of the COSAFA Cup in Zambia in 2013, where he was among outstanding individuals walking away with two man of the match awards.

The midfielder will also be remembered for scoring a scorcher for Likuena against the highly ranked Algeria, who had to dig deep to win the match 2-1 at Setsoto Stadium.



Mokhahlane in action doing national service for Likuena



How Marai was transformed from player to coach

MASERU - Former Likuena defender, Mpitsa Marai is part of an elite group of players globally that has achieved a rare feat of captaining and coaching their countries at the highest level of international football.

Marai represented his country from the Under-20 level and moved way up to the senior national team, where he was a member of the Likuena squad that reached the final of the COSAFA Cup but lost on lifting the trophy with Zimbabwe walking away with the big prize.

After hanging up his boots and moving into coaching, 'Fish', as the big defender is popularly known in local football circles, got his big breakthrough as a national team coach in 2016, when he was roped in as assistant coach to Moses Maliehe, prior to the COSAFA Cup in Namibia.

Marai, who is currently the head coach of the Lesotho national Under-23, also had a brief spell as the interim coach for Likuena during the 2019 COSAFA Cup after Maliehe missed on the tournament owing to ill-health.

"With the national teams, I started at the Under-20 and the team was coached by Ntate Seephephe Matete, who handed me the captaincy. From there, a majority of us graduated to the Under-23 and eventually the senior team," Marai recalls.

"That team had the likes of Thabang Mahlajakoe, Shalane Lehohla, Lehlohonolo Seema and the late Eric Makara. It was a big group of that moved from the Under-20 to the senior team. It was not surprising that all of us played a major role in helping Likuena reach the

final of the COSAFA Cup in 2000."

Marai developed amazing leadership qualities from a young age, hence, most coaches and clubs he played for handed him the captain's armband.

"It was an honour for me that during my career I captained each team I played for, including all the national teams. I'm really honoured that I was given such a responsibility as a player. It shows that they saw great potential in me," the retired defender says.

Marai, who at club level started his coaching journey at LCS, where spent over a decade as a player, reveals that he was inspired by the likes of former Likuena defender, Tlhokomelo Api and international players including Franco Baresi, Neil Tovey and Jaap Stam - all three were centre-backs like him.

"Locally, I loved the late Tlhokomelo Api with all my heart, maybe because he played as a centre-back like me. In South Africa, I liked Neil Tovey, and therefore when I started playing, I used jersey number nine like him. Abroad, I loved former Italy's captain Baresi and Dutch legend, Jaap Stam. They inspired and influenced my choice to play as a centre-back."

Marai fell in love with the beautiful game at a tender age, growing up at the Rajomose Military Barracks, where his father worked as a soldier.

"I started playing under the current LDF coach, Ntate Motheo Mohapi and Ntate Montšo," Marai says.

His father was later redeployed to Makoanyane Barracks and he joined another youth team called Texas, coached by former Likuena coach, the

late Mafa 'Ribbo' Ramakau.

At that stage, Ramakau also mentored the LDF senior team.

"Ntate Ribbo was assisted by the late Ntate Thapeli and may their souls continue to rest in peace. When I went to Sefika High School, I played for the school team under Ntate Mofihli Makoele.

"From Sefika, I proceeded to Masianokeng High School and later joined Liphakoe in Quthing. When I finished my studies, I returned to Maseru and joined the now defunct Arsenal. That's where my career began to take off, winning trophies and being selected for the national team starting with the Under-20 going up to the senior team.

"I started playing for Likuena in 1998 and remained with the squad until 2009. At club level, I had moved to LCS and retired while playing for the club. I immediately moved into coaching, working as the assistant coach to Head Coach Mosholu 'Shoes' Mokhothu and we won back-to-back league titles," he says.

After years working at LCS, Marai decided to

take a new route, joining Bantu as assistant coach to the late Motlatsi Shale.

They both managed to end the club's trophy drought of 80-years, delivering A Matšo Matebele's first ever league title during the 2012/13 season.

They also won the Independence Top 4 title as well as the LNIG Top 8 but failed to defend their league title the following season, losing out to arch rivals, Lioli.

Marai returned to his beloved LCS after two years at Bantu and led the correctional services side to third position for five consecutive seasons as well as reaching final of domestic competitions.

He worked with former teammate, Khoto Sesing as his assistant coach and later roped in the services of former teammate, Lehohla (Shalane).

