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MATEKANE BEGS HIS SUPPORTERS TO VOTE

National News

Matekane begs his supporters to vote



RFP members at the party rally in Mazenod

MASERU - Leader of Revolution For Prosperity (RFP), Sam Matekane has strongly appealed to his party members and supporters to go in large numbers to polling stations on elections day and vote so that the RFP becomes the sole party in government.

He made these remarks on Saturday in Mazenod on the outskirts of Maseru, during the party's final rally held prior to elections scheduled for Friday.

The rally saw RFP supporters from all Lesotho's 80 constituencies attending in great numbers.

Matekane who is an industrialist turned politician asked his supporters to dedicate October 7 to going to the polls, calling for patience in order to queue and vote for the government they want.

He urged them to put their faith in him, promising to give Basotho the service and governance they deserve.

"We need to make peace with whatever happens while working together to ensure that our party becomes government because we are aware that coalitions are just not the way to go," he said.

He added: "If elected, we will take 100 days to identify areas of priorities on which our government will focus. There will be accountability and transparency on how state funds are utilised."

He pledged to engage extensively in crop and animal

farming, saying agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy, hence, it requires special attention.

On the issue of national security, the RFP leader promised to hit hard on criminals through providing the police with adequate resources in order to efficiently deal with crime and speedily reach all the corners of Lesotho.

"Criminals target vulnerable members of the communities like children and the elderly. So our government will provide the essential protection to these

young people and the senior citizens in order to turn Lesotho into a safe and conducive country to carry out developments."

He underscored the importance of developing small businesses with a view to grow the general economy.

"Among others, we will construct stalls for street vendors and provide them with portable running water, electricity as well pave their workstations to ensure that they operate in a clean and healthy environment."

He promised to ensure that the

executive is staffed with the right personnel with relevant skill sets, experience and qualifications for better service delivery.

"Corruption and nepotism will be a thing of the past in the RFP government while accountability will be a major pillar of our government."

Among others, he promised to improve elderly pensions, salaries for local chiefs and grants for people with disabilities as well as orphans.

Commenting on the development of local

infrastructure, the RFP leader said they will build more roads and bridges to ensure that every corner of Lesotho is readily accessible.

"Existing roads and bridges will be well maintained and rehabilitated, we will also supply electricity and water across the country, including in hard to reach areas," he promised.

He added: "Local health centres will be improved so that communities can have better access to good primary health care services, which is a priority."



RFP supporters in Mazenod

DC members flock to Masianokeng

MASERU – Scores of Democratic Congress (DC) members flocked to Masianokeng, Maseru over the weekend to attend the ruling party's final rally before the National Assembly general elections, slated for Friday.

Clad in their party regalia of dominant red complemented with black and green stripes, the supporters came from all the corners of Lesotho on buses, trucks and bakkies.

Many who reside in neighbouring villages like among others Ha Abia, Mazenod and Ha 'Nelese walked to the venue.

They defied the seething heat of spring, singing party songs and dancing to the lyrics while others ululated and chanted the party's slogans with fists raised high in anticipation of victory after Friday.

On arrival, party leader, Mathibeli Mokhothu who was accompanied by his wife was cordially welcomed by male candidates from the constituencies who like Mokhothu, were also clad in black suits, white shirts complemented with red ties.

Their female counterparts wore fancy dresses with colourful red hats. All candidates lined up to welcome the leader, with music supplied by the party band playing in the backgrounds to enlighten the mood.

The party normally holds its rallies in Ha Foso, Berea but this time around it was forced to change the traditional venue

because the place has now become a built-up area.

Addressing his followers, Mokhothu who is also the Deputy Prime Minister of the grand coalition government led by Dr Moeketsi Majoro, urged them to wake up early on elections day and start the day with a prayer before going out to cast their votes.

He likened the forthcoming elections to voting for life or death, appealing to none DC members to also vote for his party.

He highlighted the challenge of high unemployment rate in the country, especially among youth, which stands at above 26 percent, promising to bring it down tremendously through job creation if DC were elected into government.

Among a series of promises he made included reducing the pension age from 70 to 65.

He also promised a living wage for the factory workers, saying expecting workers will get maternity leave like it is the case in other sectors.

"We will build health centres and day-care centres which will be readily accessible to

them." Mokhothu said his government will focus its attention on among others, diamond mining, water harnessing, crop production as well as wool and mohair production as part of job creation.

He assured his followers of an imminent victory after Friday, saying if they go to the

polls together with their families, nothing will stop them from becoming the next new government.

Speaking at the same rally, DC founder and former Prime Minister, Dr Pakalitha Mosisili assured Mokhothu that the DC would win the three constituencies of Qacha's Nek including Tsoelike, Lebakeng and Qacha's Nek. "It is up to the other constituencies to win theirs too," he said.

Dr Mosisili who served as

the premier from 1997-2012 and again from 2015-2017 also urged the party followers to be loyal and cast their votes for the party. The two leaders did not comment on the two constituencies where the DC will not be contesting after losing an appeal court case.

This, after the candidates for Sempe and Mosalemane were barred from contesting the elections by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) owing to their failure to comply with the National Assembly Electoral Act.

The candidates in question were said to have been public servants on nomination day, after failing to resign on time and were duly disqualified.

The DC will therefore only field candidates in 78 out of the country's 80 constituencies, meaning the party will have to up its game in order to get the two thirds majority required to be government.

-LeNA



DC leader, Mathibeli Mokhothu

DC supporters in Masianokeng

National News

Rights group says Lesotho must address police brutality

- In January, police arrested human rights lawyer, Adv Napo Mafæsa on suspicions of concealing a gun
- One law firm in Maseru is currently handling 58 cases of police brutality dating as far back as 2018



NUL students flee from police during a protest march

MASERU – Amnesty International says Lesotho must address police brutality, extrajudicial killings and torture ahead of the nation's October 7 general elections.

The organisation has collected evidence of many instances of torture at the hands of law enforcement and hopes candidates will make human rights a priority before and after the upcoming vote.

In January, the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) arrested human rights lawyer, Advocate Napo Mafaesa on suspicions that he concealed a gun belonging to a client and tortured him for hours to extract a confession.

In May, police and members of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) beat and tortured 19 men and 16 women after they protested power cuts in Liseleng, Mokhotlong.

A single law firm in Maseru is

currently handling 58 cases of police brutality dating as far back as 2018.

A 2021 United Nations report outlined key goals for Lesotho to reach by 2023, including that government entities would “uphold good Governance, rule of law and human rights” and all people would have “improved access to justice and participating in social and political decision making processes in a peaceful environment.”

According to Amnesty International, however, authorities have not reached this goal. Amnesty's Director for East and Southern Africa, Muleya Mwananyanda described the climate, saying: “It is the duty of the police to protect the public, yet Lesotho's track record of police

brutality shows that the public have much to fear from their law enforcement officers.

“It is time for the Lesotho authorities to take a zero-tolerance attitude to unlawful killings, torture and other ill-treatment by their security forces and ensure that those suspected to be responsible are held to account. Victims must be provided with access to justice and effective remedies”.

A Commonwealth team led by the former President of Seychelles, Danny Faure will travel to Lesotho to observe the October elections and report any issues of credibility to the Commonwealth and the government of Lesotho.

- JURIST



Police commander, Holomo Molibeli



Former President of Seychelles, Danny Faure

Lesotho launches national migration development policy

- Policy was developed with the help of IOM and other development partners
- The programme aims at providing basis for the intelligible migration for development in Lesotho

MASERU – THE Minister of Home Affairs, Mottlalentoa Letsosa says the Lesotho National Migration Development Policy will serve as a foundation for the necessary regulatory framework.

This, he said last week Thursday at the launch of the policy during a ceremony that was held at the ministry's premises in Maseru.

Mr Letsosa said the policy was developed with the help of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) along with other development partners.

“Through close consultation with the International Organisation for Migration,

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Through close consultation with the International Organisation for Migration, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Lesotho National Consultative Committee on Migration and Development (NCC), which is an inter-ministerial and multi-sectorial body that has an advisory role to government in all aspects of migration issues, the policy was developed

the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Lesotho National Consultative Committee on Migration and Development (NCC), which is an inter-



Minister of Home Affairs Mottlalentoa Letsosa AND head of IOM Lesotho, Eriko Nishimura

ministerial and multi-sectorial body that has an advisory role to government in all aspects of migration issues, the policy was developed,” he said.

The minister said the policy aims at providing both a basis and direction for the intelligible and connecting of migration for development in Lesotho, adding that it will address the migration and development policy gap by providing a framework for action at the national level.

He thanked the IOM and AUC for their unwavering support to the government of Lesotho as they are the financial supporters of the policy formulation.

Also speaking at the event, the head of IOM Lesotho, Eriko Nishimura expressed

her gratitude to everyone who contributed to the policy, saying in the era of migration-related policies, the Ministry of Labour developed the Lesotho National Labour Migration Policy which was adopted by the cabinet in

Policy, adding that the National Migration Development Policy is aligned with these other migration policies and frameworks.

Ms Nishimura said the policy will among others, address

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the policy will among others, address migration issues, adding that it has identified 16 border areas of priority and singled out migration environment change, tourism and migration as well as gender.

2019.

She said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations also developed the Lesotho National Diaspora

migration issues, adding that it has identified 16 border areas of priority and singled out migration environment change, tourism and migration as well as

gender.

She thanked Mr Letsosa for his effort in ensuring that the policy was adopted, saying the policy will be a guiding tool for them toward maximising the benefits of migration while minimising the impacts of migration.

She said the IOM is fully committed to continue working with the government of Lesotho, migrants and the Basotho population towards strengthening migration management and achieving development goals through effective migration management in Lesotho.

The policy was adopted by the Cabinet two weeks prior to the launch. – APO Group



SA President Cyril Ramaphosa

Phala Phala dollars came from animal sales

...not money laundering, Ramaphosa tells MPs

AFTER the 2012 Mangaung ANC conference elected Cyril Ramaphosa as party deputy president, some of the first questions he faced were about his wide-ranging business interests. A review was started.

And when Ramaphosa became Deputy President of South Africa after the 2014 elections, many of these business interests had been shed – in 2013, he stepped down from the Mondi board and before that, on 16 August 2012, from the board of Lonmin, where the police had killed 34 striking Marikana miners.

Other business divestments followed, in compliance with the executive ethics code, and to avoid conflicts of interest, leading to a “complete divestment” from the Shanduka Group, according to the then deputy president in a statement on May 24, 2014.

“In the interim, my family’s interests will be held in blind trusts,” he said in that statement.

Now President, Ramaphosa on Thursday told MPs that never quite happened.

“Initially, the intention was a blind trust. I do not intend to do any other form of business except in the agricultural sector [game and cattle farming]. In the end, no such [blind] trust was formed.”

But all financial and other interests were declared, Ramaphosa said.

This was in response to a question from African Transformation Movement (ATM) leader, Vuyolwethu Zungula.

In the parliamentary disclosures, Phala Phala as such was not publicly declared, but game and cattle farming was, as Ntaba Nyoni Estates and Ntaba Nyoni Feedlot. Both also featured as part of directorships and partnerships.

As of 2017, the cattle farming Ntaba Nyoni Feedlot was valued at R6

O70 450, while the game farming Ntaba Nyoni Estates had more than doubled in value to R120 735 000.

Phala Phala, as such, was not declared as a residence in the public section – although it may be in the confidential section – of the parliamentary register of members’ interests that Ramaphosa would have completed as ANC MP and Deputy President from 2014 to 2017.

After being elected President in February 2018, Ramaphosa resigned his parliamentary seat, and since then has made his declarations to the Presidency director-general at the Union Buildings.

But Thursday was important on another level.

After months of facing off bruising questions and disrupted sittings in Parliament, Ramaphosa’s tactics of invoking “due process” changed in an apparent effort to improve the optics.

“I have said and admitted there was a theft on the farm and I reported that to a general in the SAPS, who later informed me he had reported it to another general. I deny there is any form of money laundering. I have said it publicly, it was the proceeds of sales of game,” Ramaphosa told MPs.

“I have been a cattle farmer and a game farmer for a number of years. I have disclosed that here in Parliament and to the secretary of Cabinet [the Presidency director-general].”

None of that is particularly new. Shortly after the theft of dollars stuffed into sofa cushions at Phala Phala emerged in early June – ex-spy boss Arthur Fraser laid charges over the February 2020 theft – Ramaphosa told the Limpopo ANC conference: “I’m a farmer. I’m in the cattle business. I’m in the game [farming and selling] business. This was a clear business transaction of selling animals.”

On Thursday, opposition MPs

finally could fire off the follow-up questions to the Phala Phala theft pending from the disrupted presidential Q&A slot at the end of August.

Ramaphosa stayed on the message of his being accountable and not involved in any dodgy dealings, abuse of power or conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise.

When asked whether it was a conflict of interest to have reported the theft of what has been described as the proceeds of animal sales only to his protection detail boss, Ramaphosa said it was not.

“In my own conclusion, there has not been a conflict of interest,” Ramaphosa told DA leader John Steenhuisen.

Strictly speaking, the President may be quite correct.

Clause 34(1)(b) of the 2004 Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act simply says that a theft of more than R100 000 or just a suspicion of theft, fraud, extortion or forgery must be reported to “any police official”. The head of the Presidential Protection Services would qualify as a police official.

Ramaphosa, cleared of the possibility of a parliamentary ad hoc committee’s public hearings into the conduct of public entities in the Phala Phala scandal, hammered home his participation in various investigations.

By the President’s own count, eight entities are investigating the forex theft at his Phala Phala farm that was, at the time, not protected by police.

It wasn’t clear whether the Section 89 impeachment inquiry was included in the eight entities, as the independent panel that will assess whether the President has a case to answer, has not yet started its work.

Leafing through a lever arch file at the podium in the Good Hope Chamber, Ramaphosa found the right page.

“There are eight institutions that have been processing this matter and conducting thoroughgoing investigations. In some instances, they have also questions of clarifications,” said the President, describing the process as “very tough” and without bias against him.

“My cooperation has been solid and it continues. I have not held back. It’s good for governance and accountability,” Ramaphosa insisted on Thursday. – DM



Ramaphosa at his Phala Phala farm

'I wasn't arrested' - Joe Biden



SA President Cyril Ramaphosa greets his U.S. counterpart, Joe Biden in the White House last week Friday

● Biden told Ramaphosa that he had to admit to Mandela he got 'stopped' by SA, but was never actually arrested

WASHINGTON – The U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday admitted that his oft-repeated story about being arrested in South Africa, while attempting to see the imprisoned Nelson Mandela, was not true.

Biden set the record straight during a meeting with SA's current President, Cyril Ramaphosa, in the White House last week Friday.

Biden recounted meeting Mandela in 1990, and said the anti-apartheid leader thanked him for facing arrest in order to meet him in South Africa.

Biden told Ramaphosa that meeting Mandela was 'one of the great moments of my career.'

"I was a senator at the time, and we met in the Senate Foreign Relations executive committee room. And he came in we all stood there and said hello to him and the like and afterwards, he asked if he could come by my office and he came by to say thank you because he heard I had been stopped trying to get to visit him, to see him in prison."

Biden then admitted he had never been arrested in South Africa.

"I wasn't arrested, I got stopped, prevented from moving.

"But he was extremely gracious."

Biden is known for his exaggerations, and his contorted, misremembered stories.

The 79-year-old president, who joined the Senate Foreign Relations Committee aged 32, and became its chair in 2001, has frequently spoken about his "arrest" by the South African police.

On February 11, 2020, Biden told a South Carolina audience that he had been arrested in the African nation.

"This day, 30 years ago, Nelson Mandela walked out of prison and entered into discussions about apartheid," he told the crowd.

"I had the great honour of meeting him. I had the great honour of being arrested with our U.N. ambassador on the streets of Soweto trying to get to see him on Robben Island."

Biden did not specify the year, but was in South Africa in 1977.

Mandela was held behind bars on Robben Island from 1964 to 1982 - but Robben Island is off the coast of Cape Town, while Biden said he was in the Johannesburg district of Soweto.

Later the same month, Biden repeated the story of his arrest to a Nevada crowd at a black history brunch.

"Mandela came to Washington and came to my office," Biden said, during

a presidential campaign meeting in Las Vegas.

"He threw his arms around me and said, he wanted to thank me."

"I said, 'What are you thanking me for, Mr. President?'

"He said: 'You tried to see me. You got arrested trying to see me.'"

And at a second Las Vegas event, days later, Biden repeated the arrest story for a third time.

He told the crowd he "came back from South Africa, trying to see Mandela and getting arrested for trying to see him."

The claim of an arrest was debunked by The New York Times in February 2020, with multiple officials and former colleagues in the Senate telling the paper they had no recollection of the arrest.

The paper even noted that Biden's own accounts, in his autobiography and in his statements about Mandela, did not reference an arrest.

Fact-checkers, who gave Biden's account 'four Pinocchios' and declared it 'Pants on Fire', did find that he had been separated from black colleagues when landing at the airport in neighbouring Lesotho in December 1976.

At the time, Biden was

among 13 members of Congress to travel to Lesotho.

"When I exited the plane I was directed to one side of the tarmac, while the African American congressmen traveling with me were sent to the other side," he said.

"I refused to break off, and the officials finally relented."

At the end of February 2020, amid intense interest in whether he was actually arrested, Biden told CNN that he was not.

"When I said arrested, I meant I was not able to move," Biden said, after recounting what had happened to him.

"Cops would not let me go with them. I wasn't arrested, I was stopped. I was not able to move where I wanted to go."

He did not specify whether that encounter was in Lesotho or South Africa.

Biden has a long history of exaggerating his own biography.

He claimed in January this year, while speaking to students of historically black colleges in Atlanta that he was arrested during civil rights protests - a claim for which there is no evidence.

In September 2021 he told Jewish leaders that he remembered 'spending time at' and 'going to' the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh after the mass murder of 11 people there in 2018: it later emerged he never visited.

The White House said he was referencing a phone call,

and misspoke.

Biden, in his meeting with Ramaphosa, said the U.S. and South Africa have the 'same value set'.

Ramaphosa's government has remained neutral in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and the African President himself has been accused of stealing millions of dollars.

"United States and South Africa and your government have the same value set," Biden said.

"I've long been inspired by the long struggle for freedom and justice.

"South Africa has quite a voice on the world stage," Biden added.

"We have a lot to talk about. A lot is happening around the world," Biden said, before press were ushered out of the room.

South Africa abstained from a United Nations vote condemning Russia's actions and called for a mediated settlement.

Ramaphosa stands accused of stealing millions and hiding it at a game farm.

About \$4 million in cash was stolen from Ramaphosa's Phala Phala game farm in Limpopo in February, and former intelligence officer Arthur Fraser has accused him of money laundering, kidnapping and corruption.

Ramaphosa denied the allegations, saying that the funds were private, not public. — Daily Mail

EDITOR'S NOTE

Lesotho needs to dig deeper to get its people out of abject poverty and hunger

Government should take decisive measures to counter the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local farmers in order to fast track its efforts on reviving the economy which is currently on a downward trajectory.

At the height of the pandemic, farmers were unable to access markets for their produce due to closure of shops, restaurants and other markets.

They struggled to get agricultural inputs such as animal feeds, seeds, fertilisers as well as pan stock because most shops were out of business and due to restrictions on movement, especially the cross border movement to the neighbouring South Africa.

The cost of agricultural inputs increased significantly, making it difficult for most farmers to buy. Veterinary extension support services were also a challenge due to restrictions on movement and gatherings.

It goes without saying that agriculture is one of the main pillars of our economy in terms of food security

as well as job creation mechanisms.

Over the years, droughts have had a devastating effect on many harvests and livestock production. The COVID-19 pandemic that has contributed in the collapse of many businesses has particularly had a significant impact on our agricultural output. Hundreds of farmers have taken a serious blow in the process, with scores still reeling from the impact of the pandemic.

Already, the country cannot produce enough food to feed its growing population. The agricultural sector accounts for about 17 percent of the country's GDP and remains one of the primary sources of income particularly for more than half of the population in rural areas.

This is particularly important considering that opportunities to earn income in the country have been limited by the pandemic. Government should therefore look to other development partners to try

and revive the agricultural sector. The rural economy and agricultural development will certainly continue to play a major role in Lesotho's development strategy for the foreseeable future.

That means, increased productivity is key to achieving these aims and reducing poverty. Failure to make efforts in line with reviving the sector simply means that the country will sink even deeper into poverty. Development partners such as IFAD, WFP Lesotho, and the World Bank, all of which have always played a pivotal role in the country's economic development should all be engaged in trying to bring the situation to normality.

While many people might be thinking of assistance in monetary terms, it is, however, a bit difficult given the already compromised state of Lesotho's debt position, which makes borrowing from elsewhere even more problematic. But, assistance may come in different forms other than just money.

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

SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ELECTIONS:

New opportunity to decolonise and re-humanise ourselves to recover our lost BOTHO, KHOTSO, PULA, NALA

In earlier articles I wrote to suggest that the 2022 general elections potent more uncertainty than all our previous elections. Others have suggested elsewhere that they are likely to bring about controversy. Nonetheless, every incident or event of life carries multiple lessons. After all, they say that there is a silver lining to every cloud. In this week of the elections I am suggesting that this elections will draw out from our situational leadership capabilities, provide us with challenges and great opportunities for all of us to draw from our individual and collective reservoirs and repertoires of situational leadership, and challenge us and provide us with a singular opportunity to learn and to sharpen our individual and collective capabilities for situational leadership.

The St. Thomas University (STU) (2014) says that "Situational Leadership is flexible and adapts to the existing work environment and the needs of the organisation (nation). It says that situational leadership is not based on a specific skill of the leaders; that, instead, the leader modifies their style of management to suit the requirements of the organisation (nation). Situational leaders must have the insight to understand the (changing) needs of the nation (organisation) and its citizens and when to change their management style, leadership style and strategy to fit the new situation or paradigm. Situational leadership is about influencing followers (citizens) to respond effectively to their evolving challenges and sustaining the individual and collective efforts and successes. It is about learning and internalising the lessons.

Our rapidly deteriorating and debilitating national environment – mental health, economic, social, environmental, and political – and how they have been

evolving (recently) do not need any elaboration. Our national reforms' programme is telltale.

Our evolving challenges and those arising in the preparation and build up to the elections point to the challenges and opportunities that face us post-elections 2022. Nature and providence could not provide us with any better conditions and environment to prepare us for the requisite leadership.

As we indicated in earlier articles, we have been endowed with the emotions of fear and love for our individual protection and the protection of our nation and

SUSTAINING QUALITY

PEACE & RESILIENCE

By Mafole Sematlane



species. Again, colonisation, which inflicted us with pain and instilled fear to subdue us and control us, also caused us to lack in agency – not to believe in our own capability to influence our environment other than through strife, and sometimes violence – to destroy our own selves. In addition, colonisation damaged our brains so that we may lack self-awareness, have inaccurate self-perceptions, persist on one way of thinking and of behaving, prefer destructive conflict to value adding collaboration nor to seek higher level win/win solutions. A dis-ease that is said to be "hidden in plain sight" that causes us not to see

our own limitations, to deny our limitations, to blindly act unwittingly on the basis of limitation, and thus, endanger ourselves, our own, and our conditions and environment. Colonisation forced us to reject our own education that primes BOTHO (civility), KHOTSO, PULA (toil) which are pre-requisite for NALA and to adopt its colonised education that stole our BOTHO (humaneness) instead. Colonisation forced us to reject our own culture of communal dialogue that foster meta-consensus – search for root causes of presenting problems – to seek sustainable higher win/win solutions. Instead it taught us, forcefully, to adopt, adore, and glorify their divisive and vengeful win/lose legal system of arguments and debates that they even reward.

Colonisation has turned us into very fearful communities and society. To reiterate from earlier articles, fear can be expressed as anger, hatred, disgust, anxiety, or panic. Fear also leads to laziness, ignorance, narcissism, and greed. Each one of them triggers our sympathetic response to life challenges, stimuli for learning and growth. The sympathetic response mechanism restrains blood away from the higher thinking brain towards the primitive brain in readiness for our instinctive reflex action. It restrains blood away from the immune system towards the muscles to enable us to protect ourselves – fight, flee, or just freeze.

This 2022 elections offer us opportunity to take initial steps to practice the virtues of situational leadership, to practice what Morena Mohlomi taught, trained, coached, and mentored Lepoqo in for him to become the great Morena Moshoeshoe I. An opportunity to rebrand into a great nation despite our big problems just like Morena Moshoeshoe building the Basotho Nation right inside the hostile environment of lifaqane. The 2022 elections present us each, from all of our elections' stakeholder categories, the Jesus Christ test at the beginning of His mission:

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Genesis of my conceptual matrix on corruption

We subscribe to the visionary analogy that Lesotho will be a nation at peace with itself and its neighbours. We also submit that peace is a function of the interaction between “food security” and human perception of which there is substantive commonality throughout the world.

The enemy of “food security” is antagonism of economic development and growth. We have submitted before, and we hereby reiterate, that in order for food security to be sustainable it must be propositioned by marketing chain infrastructure investment which is unavoidably a call for the state in our case in Lesotho.

Marketing chain infrastructure investment in agriculture must flow from identification and establishment of a marketing institutional framework which must carry out secondary activities of economic agro. Industrial value chain in the agriculture mega sector. Why “agriculture mega sector?”. Precisely because it exudes economic activity, and it serves as the backbone of a country’s economy-Lesotho’s case in point.

CORRUPTION

WATCH

By Tšeliso Tšenoli



Secondary activities of a marketing chain infrastructure are of economic, political, technological, legal, environmental and socio-cultural nature; and they include regulation training, communication systems, research (market and laboratory), exchange and physical distribution systems to mention a few.

All the above are stifled by CORRUPTION in Lesotho and in Africa without doubt.

AFRICA’S ECONOMIC PICTURE:

Akinwunmi Adesina
President of African Development Bank (ADB), Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina has painted a gloomy picture of Africa, saying dwindling economic fortunes in 2020 resulted in \$165 billion continent’s decline in the continent’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In the same year, over 30 million persons fell into extreme poverty.

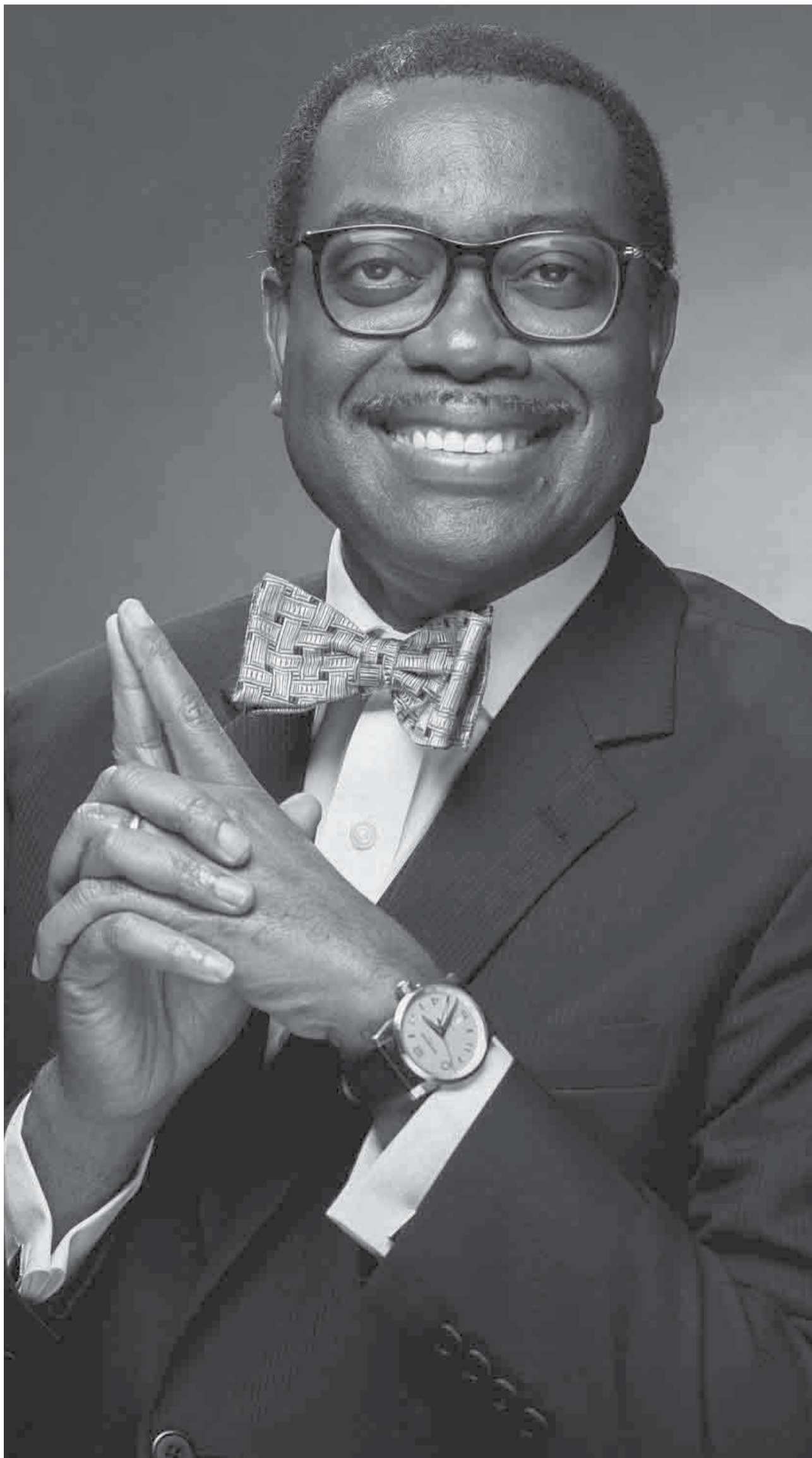
The former Minister of Agriculture made the assertions in a paper entitled “Mobilizing Financing for Africas”.

Accelerated Economic Recovery, Development and Integration which he delivered to African leaders at the 35th ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, recently.

Our view

The common dilemma that besets our economic development goals, plans and projects in Africa is CORRUPTION.

It goes without saying that we must factor “corruption- concatenation remedial measures” into our development equations for all macro environmentally scanned variables. Let us make no bones about corruption contagion that must be extradited from our moral compass. No matter how good our plans may be, CORRUPTION renders malfeasance to them every step of the way. We humbly invite contributions as to remedial measures that are workable. Our proposals will come later.



President of African Development Bank (ADB), Dr Akinwunmi Adesina

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	22.04
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	17.84
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.53
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.51
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.12
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.20

COMMODITIES

STOCKS

S&P500	3,515.61
NASDAQ100	12,845.65
Nikkei225	27,651.24
Dow Jones30	31,585.91
FTSE 100	7,3582.61
JSE	65,954.00
Hang Seng	19,152.23

PRECIOUS METALS (Rates in US Dollars)

Gold p/ounce	1,542.62
Platinum p/ounce	864.00
Silver p/ounce	18.24
Copper p/ounce	0.22
Brent Oil p/barrel	91.54

EQUITIES

Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

Lesotho national shortlisted for the Äänit Prize



11

Metro BUSINESS

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	M22.20
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M22.65
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M23.20
Paraffin p/litre	M17.80
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

Covid-19 impacts negatively on farmers

NEO SENOKO

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MASERU - The COVID-19 pandemic in Lesotho has impacted negatively on different fundamentals of agriculture and food systems in general.

Consequently, farmers were not able to access markets for their produce due to closure of shops, restaurants and other markets.

They struggled to get agricultural inputs such as animal feeds, seeds, fertilizers, as well as pan stock due to the shutting down of both businesses and movement, especially the cross border movement to South Africa.

The cost of agricultural inputs increased significantly, making it difficult for most farmers to buy. Veterinary extension support services were also a challenge due to restrictions on movement and gatherings.

"Our markets were negatively affected due to the ongoing pandemic and transport costs skyrocketed. We lost our support bases because customers were unable to come and collect their products, hence, we ended up coming with other strategies to get closer to our most important customers," the manager of Thakadu Poultry Farm, Nkokoto Molatua said.

He said the support bases collapsed because they lost key customers, forcing many businesses to finally close shop.

At the height of the pandemic, a lot of businesses not only in agriculture, collapsed due to



Poultry farming suffered major setbacks at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic

struggles in value chains, among others.

The textile industry is one of the sectors that were largely affected by the situation. The subsequent closure of some the firms saw thousands of workers losing their jobs. Hunger, poverty, and crime levels increased tremendously as well.

"When it comes to taking

care of our poultry, and based on the challenges of COVID-19 that have been outlined already, we realised that we spent more on them during illnesses in that we had to hire once off practitioners to take care of the chickens and to ensure that they remained in good conditions. And, we had to strategise again in order to reduce costs, hence, it was better

to identify a single veterinary that took care of all the birds," Molatua added.

Similar sentiments were shared by a local dairy farmer, Sepiriti Tlali citing that it is still difficult for many business owners/farmers to bounce back from the challenges caused by the pandemic.

"During the height of the

pandemic, many things changed, one of them being the fuel prices, which increased to the highest levels. We had travel long distances to take our milk to the dairy depots for selling, the situation still persists.

"Another thing is that prices of animal feeds also went up and farmers are on their back foot," he said.

Lesotho national shortlisted for the Äänit Prize



Solar light

CAPE TOWN - University of Cape Town (UCT) postgraduate researcher and citizen of Lesotho, Koatile Monaheng is one of five finalists shortlisted for the prestigious Äänit Prize, an award of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation.

This award recognises the initiatives of alumni of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation and Rhodes Scholarship that have a demonstrable social impact, particularly in addressing the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

The winner will be announced via a live stream in a ceremony on September 17, 2022.

In its inaugural year, the Äänit Prize was won by UCT's Esethu Cenga, the co-founder of Rewoven, a project to recycle textile waste. This year, Monaheng has been shortlisted for the award.

Monaheng is pursuing a master's degree in climate change and sustainable development at UCT's African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI).

He is an associate director of the business venture, Khantša Energy, which has been shortlisted for its work tackling energy poverty and delivering clean energy to rural communities in the remote reaches of the Lesotho Highlands.

"Khantša in Sesotho means to light up," says Monaheng. "I am exceedingly proud that as a team we have come this far and could be able to light up the future, changing the lives of many of our people."

Khantša Energy and Monaheng believe developing nations like Lesotho can lead the world in the transition to renewable energy, which presents an opportunity to dismantle global energy inequality.

However, a lack of infrastructural

capacity is crippling rural electrification efforts of many nations, especially in hard-to-access landscapes like the Lesotho Highlands.

To bridge this gap and accelerate the electrification of villages, Khantša Energy provides solar systems to households and installations to remote clinics. This gives people a reliable, clean energy source to develop and build better communities.

"I believe intergenerational dialogue is crucial for climate justice in Africa."

Monaheng sees intergenerational dialogue as crucial in climate justice, adaptation and mitigation. As such, Khantša is guided by indigenous knowledge systems and their catalytic role in forging context-specific development pathways and sustainable climate action. For the people of Lesotho and many African tribes, the environment is a sacred extension of their culture and traditions, thus working with them and giving them an equal voice in the solution ensures long-lasting and sustainable positive social impact.

"I believe intergenerational dialogue is crucial for climate justice in Africa – sharing knowledge on how we got here, where we are and where we want to go," he says.

Monaheng's climate change leadership journey started in 2020 when he left Rhodes University, South Africa, and leapt across from a career in political and international relations to science at UCT.

"I was motivated to make this move by the realisation that – on the global climate negotiations table – smaller states and African states are outmanoeuvred and lack robust, united, informed leadership," says Monaheng, "even though they are the ones most vulnerable to the impacts of climate

change."

This led him to represent his country on the global stage at the inaugural Youth4Climate event hosted by the Italian government in Milan in 2021.

He was appointed as a mentor for the 2022 Young Researchers Symposium by the South African Institute of International Affairs. Monaheng also serves on the Lesotho National Climate Change Committee, which advises the country's Ministry of Energy and Meteorology on the effective implementation of the National Climate Change Policy and linking climate change and socio-economic sectors.

"On the global climate negotiations table, smaller states and African states are outmanoeuvred and lack robust, united, informed leadership."

Through his work, Monaheng seeks to strengthen the agency of African nations with interdisciplinary analysis in the implementation of effective climate change and corporate governance strategies.

During the past year, Monaheng has made strides in becoming a prominent voice representing African interests in climate change discourse.

He completed an internship with Just Share, a non-profit, shareholder activism and responsible investment organisation, and was nominated to represent UCT at the U7+ Worldwide Students Forum.

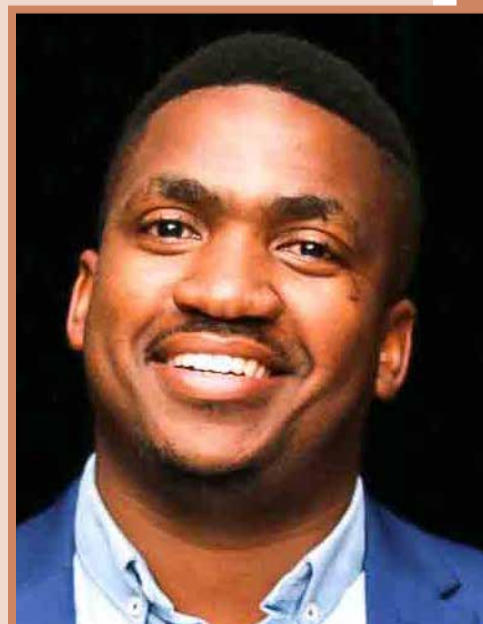
He is also a youth representative in the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States appointed by the UN.

The Mandela Rhodes Foundation, which was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2003 to

build and nurture leadership capacity in Africa, unveiled its most prestigious award in 2021: the Äänit Prize.

The word Äänit is taken from the Sudanese language Koalib, and it means "a joint effort" or refers to a common work.

The award is a complementary offering to the Mandela Rhodes Foundation's scholarship and leadership programme and emphasises the foundation's commitment to empowering scholars with the resources they need to apply their leadership talents in their countries and on the continent. – UCT News



UCT postgraduate researcher and citizen of Lesotho, Koatile Monaheng

Agriculture

Providing high-quality feed for your animals

As most livestock owners know, good-quality feed contributes significantly to animals' health and productivity. Equally, quality does not come cheap, and profit, at least in the short term, suffers. How then, does the farmer achieve a balance?

Dr Naudé Rossouw, director at Mpumalanga-based Rossgro Feeds, explains that the main contributors to the cost of animal feed are research costs, ingredients, transport of raw materials and processed feeds, equipment, labour, and the feed conversion rate of the animal.

He advises farmers not to focus simply on the cost of quality feed, but rather on what they will lose if they buy substandard feed.

"Farmers may not realise it, but a portion of their feed cost [pays for] research. A great deal of research is needed to formulate the best feed and determine the optimal nutrient absorption rate for the [specific] needs of each animal category. Research is critical to guarantee that animals are provided with scientifically formulated feed products so that they can achieve peak performance and health," he says.

When buying a load or bag of feed, farmers also receive the expertise and knowledge of animal nutritionists. "Most animal feed mills have animal nutrition experts who can provide advice about the requirements of animals, and they are often very willing to share this expertise with farmers."

As mentioned, another contributor to the cost of the feed is the ingredients. As prices for crops such as maize, soya bean, oats, and wheat increase, so does the price of feed, as feed mills buy the grain on the open market on the JSE. All the other additives also contribute to the total cost of the product.

At the mercy of many factors

De Wet Boshoff, executive director of the Animal Feed Manufacturers' Association (AFMA), stresses that certain fundamentals should be understood when considering the cost of compound feed.

"First, in any ton of feed manufactured, raw



Feed is usually sold in 40kg or 50kg bags made from biodegradable polypropylene material

feed material cost accounts for 75% to 85% of the total product cost, depending on the type of feed.

"Second, the pricing of South African grains and oilseeds is a function of the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) prices, the exchange rate (all international commodity trade takes place in US dollars), premiums, and supply and demand of the commodity locally.

"Thus, should South Africa produce surpluses to supply the local market and export the balance of the commodity, the JSE price will reflect that by trading close to or even below the export parity price."

Boshoff adds that additional influences

such as the COVID-19 pandemic, outbreaks of African swine fever, avian influenza or other diseases, international weather conditions and supply constraints can add volatility to global commodity markets and influence the CBOT price.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine, for example, has had a severe impact, as seen on the current markets.

"This is due to the strategic importance of grain and oilseed supply from Ukraine via the Black Sea region on the one side and natural gas and oils from Russia to Europe and elsewhere on the other.

"International commodity prices moved sideways from 2016 to 2019, then increased dramatically as a result of the factors mentioned above."

Boshoff adds that it was fortunate for South African poultry and livestock producers that commodity prices for maize and soya bean remained close to export parity pricing for most of this period due to substantial local surpluses.

"Should South Africa have been a net importer of maize and soya bean, local feed prices would have been at dramatically higher price levels."

Apart from the cost of raw material as determined by the free market, administered costs out of the control of the feed miller add to the final price of feed.

"Two good examples of administered costs are energy (fuel, gas and electricity) and load-shedding. The latter results not only in lost production time, but additional labour costs and downtime when the mill has to be cleaned due to power loss during mixing."

Rossouw points out that labour costs contribute substantially to the price of a product. This is especially the case with the

larger feed mills, who employ skilled staff such as animal nutritionists, veterinarians, agricultural economists and engineers.

Transport and logistics also form a major part of the farm-gate feed price. This has been particularly so recently, with escalating fuel prices becoming an ever-more important factor. Farmers can mitigate this by ensuring that they buy from mills as close to their farms as possible.

Another reason for the high cost of transport and logistics is that safety standards have to be observed when transporting raw materials and ingredients to the mills. AFMA has a transport protocol that provides guidelines and cleaning regimes in this regard.

To ensure that they choose the best available feed option, farmers should do their homework, advises Boshoff. They should compare suppliers not only on price, but also on quality and the performance of animals.

"In many cases, it has been found that slightly more expensive feed gives a better return on performance due to the specifications and quality of the feed. However, it's not a case of one-size-fits-all; the producer must decide on his or her needs and accordingly source the best quality for the best-priced feed."

Rossouw explains that when comparing prices between feeds, the farmer should calculate the cost per head of livestock per day, and not only the cost per bag.

"Although it's prudent to compare prices between different feed suppliers, it's important to compare apples with apples. Bags can weigh the same, but the contents may differ significantly."

He adds that larger mills can negotiate better grain prices, as they buy in bulk. –
Farmer's weekly



Metro HEALTH

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A team of US Peace Corps Lesotho

Peace Corps back in action since pandemic

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MASERU - Peace Corps Lesotho has welcomed back American Peace Corps volunteers to serve alongside community members across the country after all volunteers were evacuated worldwide in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The March 2020 departure marked the first time in the agency's 60-year history that volunteers were evacuated from all global posts.

Since that time, Peace Corps Lesotho staff and counterparts have continued to engage in the community through Grassroots Soccer (GRS) initiative focused on life skills, HIV education and COVID-19 prevention.

"We are so excited to be a part of the historic reentry of volunteers in Lesotho. Since March 2020, Peace Corps staff around the world have worked to strengthen the foundation of the agency. Our staff in Lesotho is excited to welcome this group of volunteers to continue the work at the invitation of the Government of Lesotho to work alongside community members



on locally prioritised projects and inspire the next generation of global leaders," said Peace Corps Lesotho Country Director, Randa Wilkinson.

For decades, the Peace Corps has engaged in last mile, critical global health work and the COVID-19 pandemic is no

exception.

Regardless of the sector they work in, all Peace Corps volunteers will engage in some form of COVID-19 response and recovery work, through either primary or secondary projects.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, they will also

support local partners' efforts to disseminate COVID-19 mitigation information and promote access to vaccinations in alignment with the Ministry of Health guidance.

Together, volunteers will work alongside community members to make progress on the

biggest development challenge the world has faced in more than a century.

The Peace Corps is an international service network of volunteers, community members, host country partners and staff who are driven by the agency's mission of world peace and friendship.

At the invitation of governments around the world, Peace Corps volunteers work alongside community members on locally prioritised projects in the areas of education, health, environment, agriculture, community economic development and youth development.

Through service, members of the Peace Corps network develop transferable skills and hone intercultural competencies that position them to be the next generation of global leaders. Since 1961, more than 240 000 Americans have served in 142 countries worldwide.

From 1967 to March 2020, a total of 2 607 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Lesotho, working on projects including education, health and economic development.

Health

Africa calls for new public health order

NEW YORK - The African Union Commission and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) have called on governments, multilateral organisations, philanthropies, the private sector, and civil society organisations to support the full implementation of Africa's New Public Health Order to drive global health security. The request for support was made at a series of events leading up to the 77th United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

The new Public Health Order for Africa is a roadmap to sustainable health outcomes and health security.

It is defined by five pillars, which include - Strong African Public Health Institutions that represent African priorities in global health governance and that drive progress on key health indicators, -Expanded Manufacturing of Vaccines, Diagnostics, and Therapeutics to democratise access to life-saving medicines and equipment, - Investment in Public Health Workforce and Leadership Programmes to ensure Africa has the workforce it needs to address health threats, - Increased Domestic Investment in Health, including the domestic mobilisation of financial resources, human capital, technical resources, and networks and Respectful, Action-Oriented Partnerships to advance vaccine manufacturing, health workforce development, and strong public health institutions.

African leaders called for support to strengthen Africa's public health institutions, including the Africa CDC, which led the coordination of Africa's pandemic response, helping to significantly reduce loss of life during COVID-19.

"To achieve [its public health goals], the

African Union Assembly in February 2022 granted Africa CDC autonomy to be able to fulfill its mandate, supporting member states to achieve health sovereignty," said African Union Chairperson Moussa Faki, adding however that Africa CDC alone cannot meet this challenge.

"If you don't have strong public health institutions before an emergency, when the emergency comes it doesn't matter how many resources you have. You'll still struggle," said Dr Ahmed Ouma, Acting Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Leaders also called upon all vaccine-purchasing mechanisms, such as the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisation (GAVI), to purchase at least 30 percent of their vaccines from manufacturers in Africa.

While Africa currently produces one percent of its routinely used vaccines, it has set a bold target of meeting up to 60 percent of its vaccine demand through regional manufacturing by 2040.

By making explicit commitments to offtake vaccines from Africa, vaccine-purchasing mechanisms can stimulate private sector investment in vaccine manufacturing.

Health workforce development was another prominent focus.

According to the WHO, Africa currently has a ratio of 1.55 health workers (physicians, nurses, and midwives) per 1 000 people.

This is below the WHO threshold density of 4.45 health workers per 1 000 people needed to deliver essential health services and achieve universal health coverage.

"Health workers are a crucial pillar in a well-functioning health system. Yet, they have been historically deprioritised



Dr Brian Jack, professor of family medicine at BUSM and director of the LeBoHA

in discussions about improving health systems," said South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa in a statement read on his behalf by SA Health Minister, Dr Joe Phaahla.

"It is good economics to invest in the health workforce as the return is measurable and dependable," he added.

Leaders urged greater investment in health workforce development, and specifically called for stronger support of Community Health Worker programs in Africa.

"Experience shows that professional community health workers who are properly paid, trained, equipped, and supervised are best prepared to provide essential health services in their communities," said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia.

She also highlighted that most community health workers in Africa are women who perform exceptional work but are unpaid for their efforts.

"It is time to correct this injustice," she urged.

To advance progress towards stronger public health institutions, a robust workforce, and medical manufacturing in Africa, the Africa CDC and African Union Commission need partners.

Leaders emphasised that the nature of these partnerships is important and called for partnerships oriented around principles of mutuality and respect that recognise African knowledge and expertise and deliver contextually-relevant support and programmes.

Partners of the African Union Commission and Africa CDC underscored that delivering a New Public Health Order for Africa is key to strengthening the global health infrastructure and ensuring better global preparedness to effectively respond to infectious disease outbreaks in the future.

"Achieving this future will take

partnership, and not just any partnership but partnership that's rooted in respect – and that means starting by listening, understanding, and then responding to real needs and to priorities," said Reeta Roy, President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation, which last year partnered with the Africa CDC to launch the \$1.5 billion Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative.

The Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative has purchased vaccines for over 65 million people in Africa and is enabling the vaccination of millions more.

The initiative is also designed to drive health workforce development and strengthen the Africa CDC to ensure long-term health security.

Africa CDC is a continental public health agency of the African Union whose role is to strengthen the capacity and capability of Africa's public health institutions and partnerships to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats and outbreaks based on data-driven interventions and programmes.

The Mastercard Foundation works with visionary organisations to enable young people in Africa and in indigenous communities in Canada to access dignified and fulfilling work.

It is one of the largest private foundations in the world with a mission to advance learning and promote financial inclusion to create an inclusive and equitable world.

It was established in 2006 through the generosity of Mastercard when it became a public company. The foundation is an independent organisation, and its policies, operations, and programme decisions are determined by its own Board of Directors and senior leadership team. It is a registered Canadian charity with offices in Toronto, Kigali, Accra, Nairobi, Kampala, Lagos, Dakar, and Addis Ababa. – Africa CDC News

**HARD BREAKFAST?
SOFT BREAKFAST?
NO BREAKFAST?**



Dividing the nation since 1902.



A pretty ugly showing for Priddy, who didn't last one round against Cassper

The fight - held at Times Square Arena in Pretoria on Saturday night was scheduled for five rounds

JOHANNESBURG - SA rapper, Cassper Nyovest, in just one round clinched a win against industry colleague, Priddy Ugly in a much-anticipated boxing match.

The fight - held at Times Square Arena in Pretoria on Saturday night was scheduled for

five rounds.

It was the third of such 'celebrity boxing matches' between Nyovest and his industry colleagues, and a second win for the muso after losing to Anga "Naakmusiq" Makhubalo in April this year.

One straight right to the jaw



Priddy Ugly squares up against Cassper Nyovest

saw Priddy Ugly almost drop to his knees, which he eventually did.

"Nothing but respect to Priddy Ugly man," said Nyovest at the end of the fight.

He said this was the easiest fight to make as Priddy Ugly did not make any excuses when approached about it.

"This guy didn't care about the weight, about the time. He just said yes, yes, yes, and I respect him for that man," said Nyovest.

Priddy Ugly thanking him back, said in a tweet: "Never been knocked down before, so I gotta give it to Cassper. You definitely

worked hard and earned your victory, well done champ."

Many have expressed shock at the boxing match that pretty much wasn't.

And in true South African style, tweeps have had a field day over the match display.

"Nothing but respect champ. Everyone can tweet but not everyone can step in those four corners. You did it for the love of boxing that we both share. People will be talking about the sport for a while because of our battle tonight. Glad you could get home safe with your family," tweeted Don Billiato.

SUN from the SOIL said in

his tweet: "What an experience! Never been knocked down before, so I gotta give it to @casspernyovest - you definitely worked hard & earned your victory, well done champ! Boxing is exciting, entertaining, takes real guts, heart & discipline. Let's continue supporting the sport!"

SamkeloS tweeted: "Imagine losing a fight, only to realise Slik Talk lasted longer than you in the ring."

Suckafree Father said his tweet: "I knew the internet would hold me down so I aint have to tune in... I just didn't realize all the highlights would be.... Pretty ugly." - EWN



Nyovest knocks Priddy Ugly out

Metro SPORTS

EVERY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5 - 11, 2022

sports@maserumetro.com



DStv Premiership returns with a bang



The DStv Premiership champions and leaders Mamelodi Sundowns

The DStv Premiership will return with a bang on Tuesday and Wednesday, as the likes of Orlando Pirates and Richards Bay look to close in on champions and leaders Mamelodi Sundowns.

The Brazilians will be absent for this midweek round as they embark on a lengthy trip to the Seychelles for a Caf Champions League clash away to La Passe, allowing their five-point lead at the top to be eaten into.

Closest chasers Pirates will be away to Sekhukhune United in a late afternoon kick-off on Tuesday, with Buccaneers coach Jose Riveiro hoping his side can build on a goalless stalemate with Downs in an MTN8 semifinal, first leg match this past weekend.

"But overall I think [it was] the game that everybody expects, equal and with Pirates showing that we can compete also in these types of games, we're going [to be] serious," said the Spaniard.

Top-flight rookies Richards

Bay are level with Pirates and looking to continue their impressive start to the season with a win away to AmaZulu in a KwaZulu-Natal derby on Wednesday – a match which will be followed by a Soweto derby between Swallows FC and Kaizer Chiefs at Dobsonville Stadium.

Other games of note include Golden Arrows at home to Cape Town City, with Abafana Bes'thende clicking into top form in their last outing – a 4-0 thrashing of Swallows – and taking aim at the Citizens next.

Arrows star Nduduzo Sibiyi is hopeful the international break did not derail the rhythm his team had built through September: "We haven't played even a friendly game since our last game against Swallows," he explained.

"However, I am happy that it [the break] also gave a few players a chance to recover from injuries. When you're winning, you'd always prefer to keep on playing to maintain

your momentum and we're no exception."

Elsewhere, Stellenbosch FC and TS Galaxy will host Maritzburg United and Marumo Gallants respectively, while SuperSport United will look for a move into the upper regions of the log with a win at home to Royal AM.

FIXTURES: Times CAT

Tuesday
5pm: Sekhukhune United vs Orlando Pirates
7.30pm: Stellenbosch FC vs Maritzburg United
7.30pm: Golden Arrows vs Cape Town City
7.30pm: TS Galaxy vs Marumo Gallants
7.30pm: SuperSport United vs Royal AM

Wednesday
5pm: AmaZulu vs Richards Bay
7.30pm: Swallows FC vs Kaizer Chiefs - DStv Premiership News



The Buccaneers hard at training