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THURSDAY August 18 - 23, 2022

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BORN ON THIS DAY

August 18

1952 - Patrick Wayne Swayze, American actor, dancer and singer known for playing distinctive lead roles, particularly romantic, tough and comedic characters. He was also known for his media image and looks; People magazine named Swayze the "Sexiest Man Alive" in 1991

1957 - Denis Colin Leary, American actor and comedian. A native of Massachusetts, Leary first came to prominence as a stand-up comedian, especially through appearances on MTV and through the stand-up specials No Cure for Cancer and Lock 'n Load

1969 - Christian Michael Leonard Slater is an American actor and film producer. He made his film debut with a leading role in The Legend of Billie Jean and gained wider recognition for his breakthrough role as Jason "J.D." Dean, a sociopathic high school student, in the satire Heathers

1997 - Kylie Kristen Jenner, American media personality, socialite, model, and businesswoman. She starred in the E! reality television series Keeping Up with the Kardashians from 2007 to 2021 and is the founder and owner of cosmetic company Kylie Cosmetics

NewsBriefs

New local airline set to take to Lesotho skies



Part of the Mohahlaula Airline fleet

NEO SENOKO

MASERU - Mohahlaula Airline, one of the two local companies holding an airline operating certificate (AOC), has announced plans to launch a local airline route within the next year.

The operation will initially service the Maseru-Johannesburg route with plans to extend to other destinations in South Africa also in the pipeline.

"We are thrilled to announce our intention to launch Mohahlaula Airlines over the next year or so. It is a service desperately required by Lesotho as the country grows economically and tourism picks up after the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking forward to playing an essential role in driving Lesotho's socio-economic growth," said Mohahlaula Airlines Chief Executive Officer, Phafane Nkotsi.

During the past two years, the company has been operating a private charter and cargo flights in and out of Maseru.

"Mohahlaula is the first local airline after the collapse of Maluti Sky six years ago, meaning that

not only will we connect locals to business and leisure opportunities outside of Lesotho, but we will open up employment opportunities for locals wanting to get into aviation. We will also launch an Aviation Training Organisation (ATO) beginning of quarter one, 2023. This opens a whole new world for locals," Nkotsi added.

At this stage, it is planned that the airline will operate three Embraer 145 aircrafts which carry 45-50 passengers at a time. The Emraer is a well-known and widely used commuter carrier.

"This is an exciting time for Lesotho's aviation industry and most importantly for the Lesotho travelling public who will now have a choice to fly on a local Lesotho airline that is competitively priced, convenient and reliable," Nkotsi further emphasised.

In South Africa, reports show that the scrapping of Covid-19 restrictions has opened up the meetings, incentives, conferences and events (MICE) industry with conferences and events being put back on the business calendar.

FastFACTS

The Paris Agreement on climate change was signed by the largest number of countries ever in one day.

When 174 world leaders signed the Paris Agreement on Earth Day in 2016 at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, it was the largest number of countries ever to come together to sign anything on a single day.

The agreement aims to combat climate change and accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed to strengthen the global climate effort.

On This Day in History 2018



August 18

Kofi Annan dies

On August 18, 2018, Kofi Annan, the soft-spoken and patrician diplomat from Ghana who was the seventh secretary general of the United Nations (UN) died in Bern, Switzerland. He was aged 80.

He died after a short illness but the family did not specify the cause. During his tenure as the UN boss, Mr Annan projected himself and his organisation as the world's conscience and moral arbiter despite bloody debacles that stained his record as a peacekeeper.

Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001, Mr Annan was the first black African to head the United Nations, doing so for two successive five-year terms beginning in 1997 – a decade of turmoil that challenged that sprawling body and redefined its place in a changing world.

On his watch as what the Nobel committee called Africa's foremost diplomat, Al Qaeda struck New York and Washington, the United States invaded Iraq, and Western policymakers turned their sights from the Cold War to globalisation and the struggle with Islamic militancy.

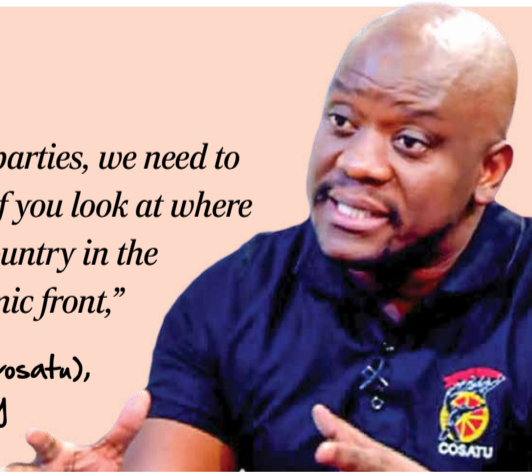
An emblem as much of the UN's most ingrained flaws as of its grandest aspirations, Mr. Annan was the first secretary general to be chosen from among the international civil servants who make up the organisation's bureaucracy.

He came to be likened in stature to Dag Hammarskjold, the second secretary general, who died in a mysterious plane crash in Africa in 1961. Mr. Annan was credited with revitalising the United Nations' institutions, shaping what he called a new "norm of humanitarian intervention," particularly in places where there was no peace for traditional peacekeepers to keep.

Quotes & Quips!

"We are all aware of the ANC's failures in government. As alliance parties, we need to be realistic when it comes to some issues. The ANC is really failing if you look at where we are with issues of unemployment and being the most unequal country in the world. Also when it comes to solving all the problems on the economic front,"

says spokesperson of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), Sizwe Pamla commenting on a nationwide strike marked for Wednesday August 24 against the rising cost of living in South Africa



ALL JOKES ASIDE

There are five cows on a farm, one mamma cow and four baby calves. The first baby walks up to the mom and asks, "Momma, why is my name Rose?" The mommy cow replies, "Well honey, a rose petal fell on your head when you were born." The next calf comes up and asks, "Momma, why is my name Lily?"

The mother replies, "Because honey, a lily petal fell on your head when you were born." The third baby comes up and asks, "Momma, why is my name Daisy?" The mommy cow again replied "Well, when you were born a daisy petal fell on your head." The final baby walks over and says, "Duh huh guh nuh!" The mommy cow says, "Shut up, Cinderblock."

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**Matekane explains
candidates'
'meritocracy's'
fiasco**

4

Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.34
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.84
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	16.75
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.36
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.12
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	19.45

COMMODITIES

STOCKS

S&P500	4,305.20
NASDAQ100	13,482.63
Nikkei225	29,222.77
Dow Jones30	34,954.01
FTSE 100	7,510.69
JSE	70,839.00
Hang Seng	19,922.45

PRECIOUS METALS (Rates in US Dollars)

Gold p/ounce	1,768.06
Platinum p/ounce	932.16
Silver p/ounce	10.77
Copper p/ounce	0.22
Brent Oil p/barrel	92.39

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	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

Govt takes human trafficking 'war' to South Africa

STAFF REPORTER

MASERU – The government through the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken up arms against human trafficking within and beyond the borders of Lesotho in a bid to root the transnational crime out of people's lives.

A delegation led by the Minister of Home Affairs, Motlalentoa Letsosa last week jetted off to Soweto, South

Africa to deliberate on issues of how to combat human trafficking.

This, the ministry did at the behest of the Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (ECSA).

Mr Letsosa said they were prepared to utilise any platform available to sensitise the population about this transgression against humans, which has become a major global concern.

The minister advised Basotho living in South Africa to use proper

documentation in order to legally reside in that neighbouring country.

"Using proper documentation is the best tool to minimise chances of being trafficked," he further warned.

This was the fourth time that a delegation from Lesotho visited South Africa to talk about human trafficking.

Droves of Basotho men and women live and work in South Africa and most of them are employed in the informal sector.

For years many Basotho migrant males worked in the construction sector and farms where they were engaged unlawfully.

Some were and are still self-employed in small-scale trades with others working as street vendors. Most of their female counterparts are employed as domestic workers and farm labourers.

All these migrant workers repatriate remittances back to Lesotho.

But in recent years, a great number of young undocumented Basotho men work in numerous abandoned gold mines sprawled across South Africa.

Owing to the porous borders between Lesotho and South Africa, Basotho readily enter and leave the neighbouring country illegally.

The UN - International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) website 2006, shows that the migration from Lesotho to farms in the Free State province of South Africa dates back to the beginning of the 19th century in the context of the Dutch and British colonies.

As a result of the discovery of diamond and gold deposits in Kimberley in 1869, and in Johannesburg and other cities during the period

between the two World Wars, British colonists imported a black workforce which they set up in camps.

The 1996 Census registered a population of 1960 069 persons in Lesotho.

According to the 2001 Demographic Survey of Lesotho, 9.5 % of the men and 4 % of women were living in South Africa during that year.

In other words, 186 206 men and 78 402 women were living in South Africa in 2001.

In 2000, TEBA registered 58 224 Basotho men working in South African mines, meaning that some 127 992 Basotho men worked in areas other than mining.

There are also Basotho who stay and study in South Africa and a large number of them are found at the tertiary institutions.

Mr Letsosa further warned that Basotho should not only have proper documentation for staying in South Africa but in other countries as well.

The 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report - Lesotho shows that the government does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking although it is making significant efforts to do so.

The report says the government made key achievements during the reporting period, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity; hence, the country was upgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List.

These achievements include convicting the first trafficker and imprisoning him and enacting a new anti-trafficking law that closed key legislative gaps.



The Minister of Home Affairs, Motlalentoa Letsosa

Business

Matekane explains candidates' 'meritocracy's' fiasco

STAFF REPORTER

MASERU - Sam Matekane, the Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) leader, has explained how his newly formed party aims to revolutionise governance by aiming for a government system where office bearers in all spheres of government from legislature to executive will be selected and hold offices based on merits.

Matekane explained his party's controversial idea of meritocracy while on a campaign rally at Mechachane constituency in Butha-Buthe on August 13.

According to Matekane, for more than 50 years since independence, there has been no progress and the sorry state of Lesotho prompted the business community to reach a conclusion of taking action in order to change the direction "because we were aware that we are gradually sliding into a failed state. We thought it would be irresponsible of us as business people to ignore the situation while we are part of this society.

"We therefore put brains together and resolved that enough is enough! Our country must change towards the better and become economically prosperous," he said.

He reasoned: "We only asked you to nominate and recommend four possible candidates whom you would like to be your constituency representatives. We did not ask you to gauge them against one another as to determine who should be number one or number four."

He said as RFP they believed the people had already identified quality people in those four nominees. The four were then subjected to an intensive process of interview to establish their meritocracy qualifications in their respective constituencies, from which one was selected to represent a constituency while the three would be given assignments in the new system of governance where decentralisation and service delivery at the local level would be key.

"It does not mean the selected one is better than the rest. It is a matter of where we need what skills. It is not because we undermine other nominees who equally possess important qualities, nor are we neglecting the peoples' choices. The services that we are promising you should be implemented, monitored and evaluated. I must stress that going to parliament cannot be the only service one can offer their community," he said.

He argued that the role of a Member of Parliament (MP) is to make laws, allocate public funds and monitor their usage.

"And if the MP comes back after five years how is he/she going to serve your daily needs? As RFP we are saying while one of the candidates is clued in parliament, the rest are in the governance system to coordinate between the communities, the MP and the government."

Matekane said all the four nominees were people of different high qualities that were needed. He appealed to the nominees who were not selected to be the



Leader of the RFP, Sam Matekane

Matekane encouraged to show how he did it

Tlohang Sekhamane, one of the founders of RFP and leader of the party's public education, has touted Matekane as a man who can lead by example due to his experience, successes in business and high recognition by the international community.

"He is not into politics to ask for a salary but to bring service delivery and share his successes with the rest of us," he said.

Sekhamane was speaking at the party's rally in Butha-Buthe on August 14.

He said there was a need for a new way of doing things such as introducing new policies, new systems and new behaviour. He said the nomination of RFP candidates based on merit was just one of them.

He said in order for Matekane to achieve the desired service delivery, he had to introduce a revolution which might not be easily accepted despite the fact that the old ways the country had been practicing did not yield good results for the progress of the nation.

"Let him show us the way. He is willing to take this country out of poverty and drive us towards wealth creation," he said.

At the same rally, Matekane promised

that if elected in to power, his party will uplift small, medium to large businesses through, among others, establishment of a development bank, and to ensure that they are always part of wooing of direct foreign investments so that they can eventually own foreign-owned businesses.

In return, he said, the business people must create employment.

"We are business persons. We have only come here (into politics) to respond to the appalling challenges that our people and our country are facing."

He promised to establish mobile clinics that would attend to the old aged and those living with disabilities at their homes.

He promised to help the youth establish projects in their communities that would have to be supported by the government.

He said he acknowledged the fact that Basotho lived mainly on livestock and that their livestock needed to be taken care of as a matter of priority against stock theft.

In order to do so, he said, the RFP led government would introduce a secret chip that would be installed in the skin of the animal - at 20 percent of one's livestock.

That chip would not only alert the stock theft police when theft takes place but would also alert relevant members of the family and an emergency helicopter pilot so that the crime could be aborted on time.

He promised that farmers would be assisted to improve their wool and mohair production and they (farmers) would be free to sell their produce wherever they get better deals without any interference by the government.

Matekane promised to open a logistics corridor (Trans-Maloti Highway) where road transport from South Africa travelling between places such as Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, would have to drive straight through Lesotho rather than taking longer route which they are currently taking to reach their destinations. He said that would also have a byproduct of Lesotho building an international airport in the mountain areas including refurbishment of Moshoeshe I International airport, in order to facilitate among others easy export of Lesotho products such as agricultural produce to the international markets.

preferred candidates to represent their constituencies in parliament to discard the idea that they had been rejected. He said those who had the misunderstanding of the nomination process must come back. "We need you," he said.

As a matter of tradition, selection of nominees for constituency candidacy has been practiced by a few party members at the constituency level who select their most popular favourite to become their preferred candidate. The criteria that the people use appear different and still unknown as to what actually motivates their selection.

While a long-appreciated system is praised as democratic, its critics argue that it has not produced a parliament of

competent law makers and a calibre of representatives who can hold the executive to account and efficiently oversee allocation and use of public funds.

The meritocracy approach has stirred controversy in political circles with his opponents accusing the RFP of already portraying a sign of dictatorship tendencies, while his allies hailed the move as a breath of fresh air into the desolate governance system since the country's independence in 1966, especially for young people with skills and new ideas who aspire to hold governance positions. His allies claim meritocracy comes in as a counter to cadre deployment.

Cadre deployment is the appointment by a government's governing party of a

loyalist to an institution, as a means of enhancing public reporting-lines and ensuring that the institution stays true to the mandate of the party as elected by the voters.

However, Matekane's allies say that the introduction of meritocracy in candidates' nomination was just but a precursor to the anticipated revolution the RFP is about to usher into the political and economic management of Lesotho's affairs.

They argue that meritocracy will be the party's DNA governance system opposed to cadre deployment system that has been subject to manipulation and misused by leaders to reserve government positions for unqualified party loyalists and to justify nepotism.



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METRO CHANGING AND IMPROVING WITH TIMES

As Metro, we would like to inform our readers, advertisers and sponsors that effective from August 24, 2022, your favourite paper will cease its print edition and stick to Daily Online news and Digital edition on Wednesdays.

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Yours sincerely

Metro Editor.



Opinions

EDITOR'S NOTE

All hail a local flyer!

Mohahlaula Airline, a local company has announced plans to launch an airline route from Maseru to Johannesburg in the next year.

This is indeed good news.

The idea has to be hailed as a perfect move for Lesotho, particularly in line with tourism emancipation.

The tourism sector over the years has been marked as a potential boost towards the country's economy. This has, unfortunately, not yielded any convincing results since there are little if any measures to help tourists reach our country.

With this hiccup there is very little tourism

income collected.

As one of only two local companies holding an airline operating certificate (AOC), Mohahlaula will initially service the Maseru to Johannesburg route with plans to extend to other destinations in South Africa also in the not so distance future.

The operating certificate allows the company to apply and operate a fully-fledged local airline even out of Maseru.

This move is likely to boost tourism because a lot of people from around the world will have an alternative in terms of how they want to fly into the Mountain Kingdom.

It is a service desperately required by Lesotho

as the country grows economically and tourism picks up after the pandemic.

Currently, SA Link is the only airline that currently serves the country via Moshoeshoe I International Airport.

Compared to other transportation options, planes are a reliable method to get around.

In many cases, planes have a higher punctuality rate compared to other modes of transport.

That of course justifies a need for more alternative transportation options for tight up tourists in that regard.

The tourism industry currently employs about six percent of the country's work force and Lesotho should take this opportunity to use the tourism sector as a primary driver in growing the economy.

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

Blaming colonialism and apartheid is like blaming genes and heredity for our right footedness:

Still, we need to identify the root cause of our problems and address it

Blaming does not help anybody. However, we need to identify the root cause of our self-destructive tendencies: finding out the truth about colonialism and apartheid and their neuropsychological effects is essential, if we are to change our current situation and improve our life conditions and quality of life.

Indeed, training a less competent foot, with all its discomforts, interrupts the existing neural circuitry and begins to develop new neural pathways that are strengthened through consistent repetition.

Yes, we must take the responsibility to change our tendencies towards healthier life-supportive tendencies, take the responsibility to heal from the unnecessary suffering, fear, and mental conditions that make us behave in ways that are not in our best interests.

Yet, we can only do that when we have come to terms with our maladies and their root causes – including the pervasive inaccurate perceptions of ourselves and our own unconscious incompetencies; and when we have learned how to uproot them and relearn new healthy and productive traits, just as my colleague learned how to use his left foot competently.

Again, long-term repression – colonisation and neo-colonialism, apartheid and neo-apartheid, or other similar abusive practices – is intended to indoctrinate its victims for control by the coloniser, being docile, and self-destructive to benefit the coloniser. As indicated in earlier articles, long-term repression achieves these ends by using pain, fear, and other, seemingly benign, means – education, religion, entertainment, food, sound, etc. - for sustaining itself.

We said that we have a (short) fear brain pathway via which messages of fear are channeled to prime us for protection. This is healthy when there is a real threat. Yet, it becomes dangerous when there is no real threat and we have to engage the longer love-brain pathway to respond in ways that enable us to learn and grow. Extended fear turns

our fear-brain pathway into the default mode that we use to respond to all our life stimuli, we habituate self-destruction, and turn it into a culture.

This happens outside our own awareness. Moreover, it can be passed down through generations as we are warned in Deuteronomy 5: 5-8 and is testified to by the sciences, especially neuroscience.

Being born with these maladies, primarily because of long-term repression, then would appear to currently follow the ninety percent law or statistics of nature similar to one on right handedness and right footedness; and the ten percent law or statistics of nature similar to that on left handedness and left footedness.

SUSTAINING QUALITY

PEACE & RESILIENCE

By Mafole Sematlane



Yet, we have the option to (heal and) train our longer love-brain pathway as we do our less active limbs to enhance our capabilities, improve the human condition and our quality of life. Our current situation is that football continues to be played and valued even with many players still restricting themselves to remain only right footed. The situation is beginning to change, though, at the top professional football leagues. More footballers are now using both of their feet. I imagine that we will also need to train our own love-brain pathways, sooner than later, when we begin to truly want top-league lives.

Imagine the extent of enjoyment for footballers from being able to use their two feet with equal dexterity and

adeptness. Imagine the entertainment, for us, spectators, the day all football players see the greater benefit and gather the courage to train both of their feet from their early ages. Imagine the day all parents awaken to encourage their children to use all their limbs freely and more competently.

Almost all of us did not know anything about anosognosia until a few weeks ago. Today we have some idea about it. Imagine that we all did not know about COVID-19 and did not know that we do not know anything about it; imagine also that doctors also did not know anything about it; and imagine also that we just went about our lives as usual including attending to our diseased as we always did, including our rituals. Where do you think we would be?

Anosognosia is associated with self-deception – the problem of not knowing that I have a problem, unconscious incompetence – not knowing what/that I do not know - or the Semmelweis Syndrome in which one unknowingly defeats their own purposes, sometimes even rejecting new evidence and knowledge. Before the discovery of gems, Doctor Semmelweis and his Team innocently carried fatal cadaver gems into their maternity ward, and, unknowingly, killed the expectant and hopeful women they meant to help to deliver babies.

The situation continued, with innocent mothers dying while praying to be taken to different wards. The sad situation changed only after the doctors themselves became aware of their lack of awareness about their own compromising conditions and began to wash their own hands with detergents after their visits to the morgue and before entering the maternity ward.

We are each and all our own Semmelweis and Team; and we are our own mothers in labour expecting safe delivery of healthy and meaningful decolonisation and humanisation – quality peace and resilience – improved conditions and quality of life - with great hopes.

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No monkeypox vaccines for African countries – WHO



WHO Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti

MASERU – The World Health Organisation (WHO) says Africa has no vaccines for monkeypox and test kits are in short supply, warning that richer countries already appear to be hoarding vaccines.

Monkeypox is a viral disease that

According to WHO Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti, what happened in the early days of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout when Africa watched on the sidelines as other countries snapped up limited supplies must not be allowed to recur.



There are some signs that this is already happening, Monkeypox vaccines are in short supply globally and there have been no donations to countries in Africa

causes flu-like symptoms and skin lesions.

It is endemic in parts of Africa but has also recently been reported in countries with no history of human transmission, including Ghana, Morocco and South Africa.

“There are some signs that this is already happening, Monkeypox vaccines are in short supply globally and there have been no donations to countries in Africa,” she said.

Meanwhile, the Representative of

the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Dr Lul Pout Riek has urged the African continent to manufacture its own pharmaceuticals in order to avoid being left behind by other continents when pandemics and epidemics occur.

He said with the experience from the COVID-19 pandemic, the local manufacturing of vaccine diagnostics and therapeutics need to be taken into consideration to ensure quick access at reduced costs on the continent.

Dr Pout Riek said there were certain ingredients urgently needed for Africa to stand on its feet, adding that the continent could not solely depend on the good will of others to safeguard the health of its population.

“Other continents’ good will does not work just like in 2014 during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa,” he said, adding that the same good will failed when the COVID 19 pandemic broke out.

“I call this an urgent matter, the time is now, Africa must stand on its feet,” he said, arguing that it was crucial to take the

matter seriously.

He said Africa could have been one of the continents that fought COVID-19 timeously but its efforts were frustrated by the late delivery of vaccines.

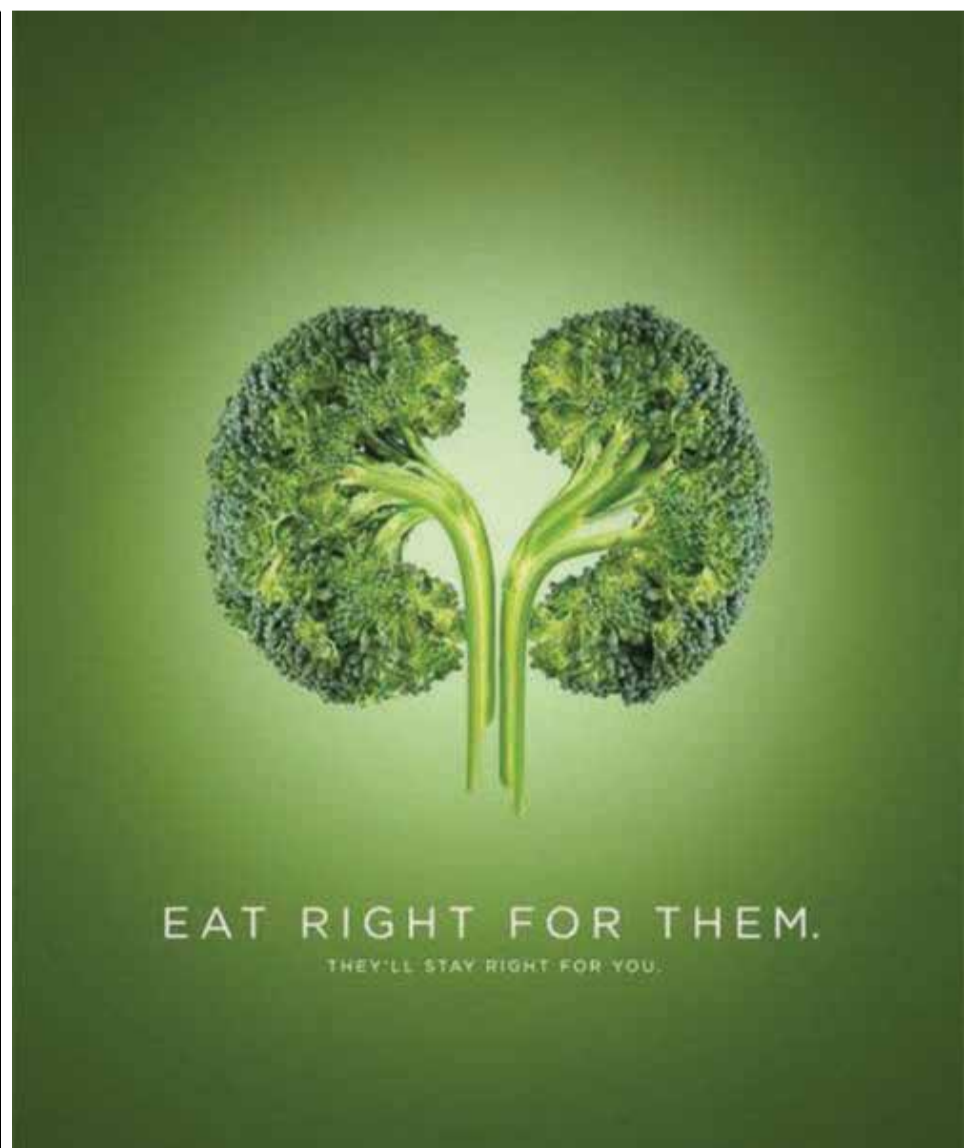
For his part, the Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle agreed that the African continent was left behind struggling economically in attempt to recover from the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He further acknowledged that if the vaccines were produced locally, Africa would not be impacted the way it was by the pandemic.

Mr Sekatle said instead, they would be dealing with other issues and not using every resource the government had to fight the pandemic.

The lack of testing capacity has resulted in a high number of suspected cases that could not be confirmed, Mr Sekatle also said.

Globally, 31 655 monkeypox cases have been reported, according to WHO. There have been 12 deaths attributed to monkeypox, with one coming in the last week. LeNA



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Mehalalitoe players preparing to go to war

Mehalalitoe ready to take on Eswatini

...as the COSAFA women's tourney starts in South Africa

MASERU – Mehalalitoe are set to kick-start their campaign in the HollywoodBets regional Council of Southern Africa Football Association (COSAFA) Women's Championship against their Eswatini counterparts at the Nelson Mandela Bay stadium on September 1.

The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) Media Officer, Mikia Kalati said the Pule Khojane-coached side has been paired in Group B against Eswatini, Zambia and Namibia.

Mehalalitoe face Zambia on September 4 before taking on Namibia two days later.

Group A consists of the host nation South Africa, along with Angola, Mauritius and Mozambique while Group

C is made up of Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania and Comoros.

"Top teams in each group will advance to the semi-finals together with the best-placed runners up from the three groups," Kalati also said.

The Zambian squad is fresh from the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) women's qualifiers and could prove to be a hard nut to crack in the tournament.

Although Kalati described the draw as fair, he was however, apprehensive that the Zambians could be difficult to contain, adding that they needed to be approached with utmost caution.

Because Zambia, South Africa and Botswana participated in the just ended continental tournament, he said they were expected to be a cut above the rest

in terms of readiness and sharpness in the upcoming competition.

"I however, believe that this on the other hand could work against these three countries as the other teams would be too keen to see their downfall in the tournament," he said.

The competition, he said would also provide a good platform for local players to showcase their talent to scouts from competitive leagues like the neighbouring South Africa among others.

"All ambitious players would like to see themselves plying their trade abroad or in South Africa and this competition provides them with the opportunity to be seen."

He made an example of footballers

like Mehalalitoe's captain, Boitumelo "Queen" Rabale who plays for Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies in South Africa, urging the players to use this competition to catch the eyes of international scouts.

He was quick to note that other top local players like Motebang Sera and Katleho Makateng were also scouted during the COSAFA male tournament before moving to greener pastures in SA.

Mehalalitoe started preparing for their international campaigns well in time and among others, they held a productive winter camp as well as played a number of international practice matches against various South African teams. LeNA