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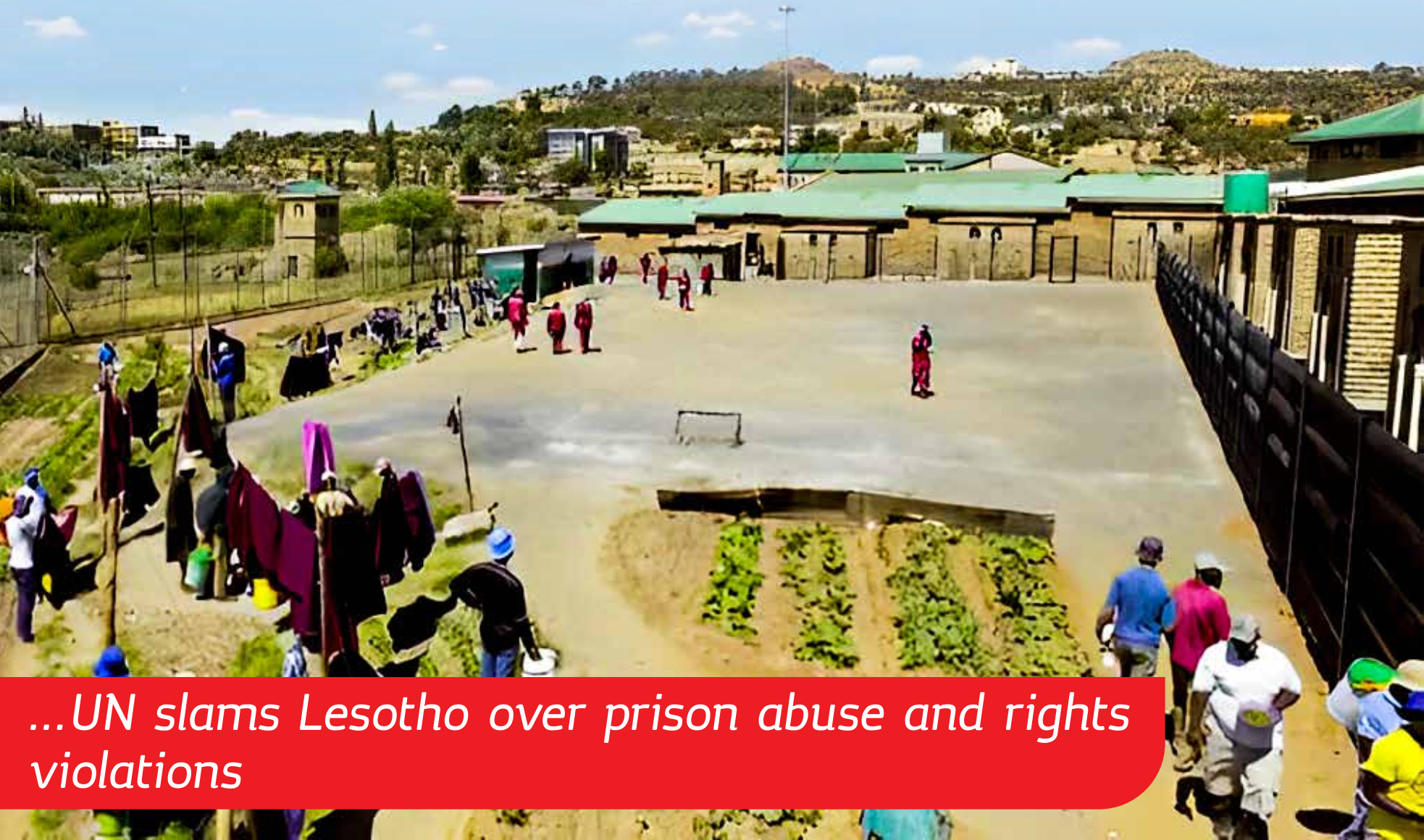
**BAP: Maselepo an RFP rebel, agent - 03**

**BUSINESS NEWS**

**Govt bullied into signing Starlink deal? - 10**

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# TORTURE BEHIND BARS



...UN slams Lesotho over prison abuse and rights violations



# Torture behind bars

## ...UN slams Lesotho over prison abuse and rights violations



RANTAU TLALI MAKHETHA

**M**ASERU - Various stakeholders have castigated the government for human rights violations in its correctional facilities – this is contained in a damning United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) report recently published.

The report, titled ‘Summary of stakeholders’ submissions on Lesotho - Report of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’, was published on January 22.

More incriminating in the UNHCR report is the Ombudsman, Advocate Tlotliso Polokai’s findings that point to massive-scale torture and assaults that took place in the Maseru Central Correctional Institution in December 2023.

The incident left one inmate dead with about 95 percent injured – one has been left wheelchair-bound and will never walk again.

Inmates, according to Advocate Polaki’s investigations were gravely assaulted by wardens. According to the Ombudsman’s investigation report, these brutal incidents of torture and assault violated the rights of the inmates. They were even denied medical attention and visitors after the attack.

The state established a commission of inquiry into the matter.

“She found that during a massive prison-wide search, officers and staff of

Maseru’s Central Correction Institution engaged in serious human rights violations,” the report notes.

The report also captures a Lesotho Council of Non-governmental Organisations which highlight that the welfare of prisoners in the country was compromised, and their integrity and dignity were affected.

Also highlighted in the report is the May 20, 2023, case of Ntabejane Kanono, a former soldier who was reported dead at Maseru Maximum Security Prison.

The preliminary autopsy reports suggested that he may have died of poisoning. Kanono and several other soldiers had sued the army’s commander for alleged torture and unlawful arrest in 2015.

The army subsequently accused the plaintiffs of mutiny, and a court-martial convicted Kanono of fraud.

Again, on September 25, 2022, seven Mohale’s Hoek Correctional Service officers allegedly kicked and beat a man with sticks following allegations he had smuggled marijuana into Mohale’s Hoek correctional facility. The man later died in a hospital.

Lesotho Correctional Service (LCS) authorities suspended the seven officers from duty, and police investigated the incident. As of the end of 2022, however, the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions had not authorized the officers’ prosecution.

The UNHRC further flagged the

police over the intimidation and arrest of human rights lawyer, Advocate Napo Mafaesa, over the alleged concealment of a gun by his client in which “he was tortured to extract a confession, even though he told officers he knew nothing about the gun.”

The UNHCR further worryingly observes that the police shackled Mafaesa’s legs and bound his hands before putting a deflated tyre against his face, causing him to struggle to breathe through his nose and mouth, while repeatedly pouring cold water on his face while assaulting him.

The UNHCR notes with concern that Lesotho has failed to prevent police and security forces from engaging in torture and other human rights violations and to hold many perpetrators to account.

When stating their position, the government indicated that they are trying to put measures in a bid to curb human rights violations in the country in its submission before the UNHRC.

“Despite the measures above, some human rights instruments remain to be holistically domesticated with the exception of CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child).

However, with the ongoing national reforms intention is to establish a comprehensive and systematic process for the domestication of all international human rights treaties ratified.

To improve the implementation of

CAT, the government has resuscitated the efforts towards developing the national anti-torture policy and legislation.

In September 2024, the Ministry of Law sought the technical support from the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Convention Against Torture Initiative on the need to take steps towards a national anti-torture policy and legislation.

In this regard, training was held for parliament, CSOs, law enforcement, and security institutions.

Recent developments have taken place in preparation for enhanced implementation of this convention as discussed above.

With the support of OHCHR, the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) continues to hold training on basic human rights for serving members of LMPS nationwide.

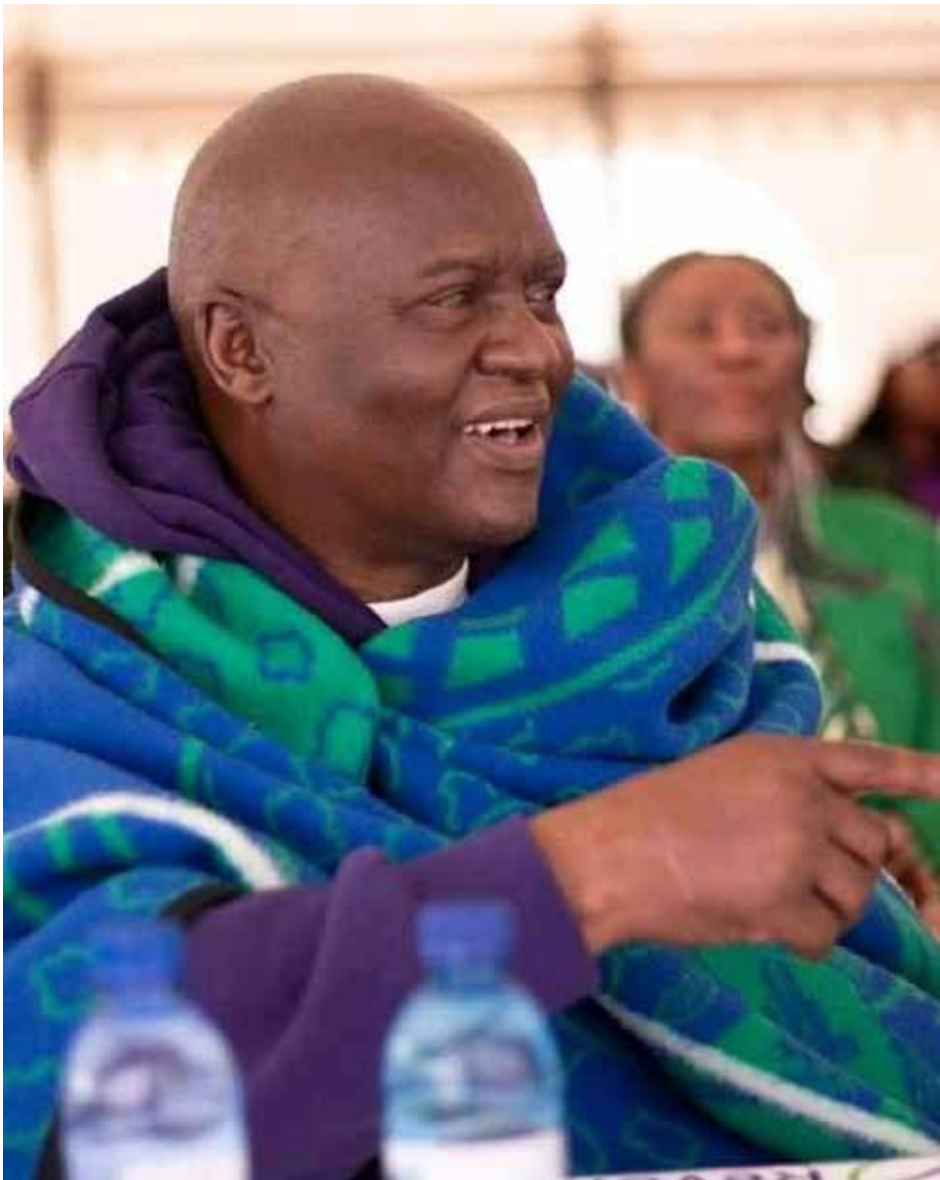
Further, the Police Training College, in partnership with the Faculty of Law for the National University of Lesotho, is developing a module on police brutality and the use of force for police recruits.

The support of OHCHR extended to the development of Standard Operating Procedures for both LMPS and LDF to eliminate incidences of torture in joint operations.

In addition, the LCS has established the Legal and Human Rights Unit, tasked with training and empowering both inmates and staff on human rights to eliminate incidences of torture therein,” the government noted.



# BAP: Maqelepo an RFP rebel, agent



RANTAU TLALI MAKHETHA

MASERU- Basotho Action Party (BAP) Secretary General, Lepolesa Makutoane, has labelled erstwhile deputy leader, Motlatsi Maqelepo, as a ‘rebel’ and an ‘agent’ of the ruling Revolution for Prosperity (RFP). This comes after last week’s Appeal Court ruling in which Maqelepo had asked the court to bar BAP executives from holding a disciplinary hearing, arguing that the party’s conference was the only one mandated to kick him out. The apex court declined Maqelepo’s prayers, thus paving a way for his ouster from the Professor Nqosa Mahao-led party. In a no-holds-barred interview this week with Metro, Makutoane described Maqelepo as “firstly an agent of the RFP and secondly as unruly.” “He was not effective; the fact he’s a minister has kept him busy to an extent that he didn’t attend committee meetings as deputy leader. He failed to show up when the leader was not around to chair meetings. “We are going to write to the Speaker of the National Assembly (Tlohang

Sekhamane) informing him of our intention to cross over to the opposition benches. He should accept or decline. “We pray that he (Sekhamane) makes the most stupid of decisions since he, together with (Tello) Kibane, orchestrated a coup within our parliamentary structures,” he said, referring to the removal of BAP Caucus Secretary, ‘Mannyaneso Taole, and replacing her with Hilda Van Rooyen. These developments in the august House ignited a fierce battle, both within the National Assembly and amongst followers and political commentators in the streets of Maseru. “.... I should let you know that the BAP does not accept the decision you have made (to reject changes to the caucus) ....” an enraged BAP leader, Professor Nqosa Mahao, was reported in the press saying in the House on March 17. Mahao said it was obvious “without a doubt that the BAP parliamentary caucus had not removed Mr Kibane from the position of chairperson. Sekhamane criticized Professor Mahao and Taole for claiming that “all members” of the party’s caucus had endorsed its leadership change when, in fact, it was

only the two of them who signed the letter. “It doesn’t take rocket science to come to the obvious conclusion that in truth, the BAP caucus has not removed Mr Kibane from the position of chairperson. No amount of public castigation of the Speaker can change this. These are the harsh and practical realities that the BAP needs to grapple with in this Eleventh Parliament.” “It is clear that the Speaker cannot and should not take seriously the current correspondence from Professor Mahao and Ms Taole. It is disingenuous of them to write that, ‘all members appointed Professor Mahao, leader of BAP, to be the new chairperson of BAP Caucus,’ when in fact, they mean only the two of them. It is intentional and conscious deceit. This issue of ‘all members’ I take it very seriously. It is similar to when BAP writes a letter and says there has never been a time when Ms Van Rooyen was ever the secretary of the caucus.” Sekhamane advised the party to be more truthful and speak with one voice as a caucus. “Let’s try to be more authentic and truthful about what we are doing. Other parties write with one voice. They don’t put me in a position where I have to use my own devices to adjudicate. The caucus needs to communicate with me in one voice so that it is not said the Speaker has taken sides in the media. Why should there be sides in the first place? Even if there are internal conflicts at the party level, the Caucus should address me in one voice.”



My ruling is that in truth, the BAP caucus has neither removed Mr Kibane from the position of chairman of the caucus nor has it decided to cross the floor to the opposition,” he said, in remarks that riled Professor Mahao. When contacted to respond to Makutoane’s claims an amused RFP Deputy Public Relations Officer, Thabo Maretlane, told this paper that Makutoane was blowing hot air. “Politics are getting way too heavy for him (Makutoane). All I know is that we are working together with them in parliament,” Maretlane said, adding that “they (BAP) are part of the government.” Meanwhile, the BAP ha since filled the position of deputy leader with Ralitapole Letsoela following Maqelepo’s seven-year suspension. The BAP joined the government benches in 2023 after the near-fatal collapse of the RFP-led administration, that includes the Movement for Economic Change, Alliance of Democrats, Lesotho Congress for Democracy, Baena, and HOPE. The party has six Proportional Representation seats in the National Assembly.





# Uproar over LMPS retirement law continues



RANTAU TLALI MAKHETHA

**M**ASERU- A month later the Minister of Police, Lebona Lephema, has failed to neither communicate nor deliberate with the police top brass over the controversial Lesotho Mounted Police Service (Administration) (Amendment) Regulations of 2025.

This was revealed by Commissioner of Police (Compol), Borotheo Matsoso, in an interview with Metro this week.

“We have not met him (Minister Lephema). Maybe he has been busy with other commitments,” Matsoso said, adding that hopefully they will have an audience with the minister soon.

The Lesotho Mounted Police Service (Administration) (Amendment) Regulations of 2025, gazetted by Lephema on April 11 has stirred a hornet’s nest since its controversial emergence in the public space, particularly Section 2(a) which amends police officers’ retirement age from 50 and 55 to 60 years.

“The Commissioner may have regard to the conditions of the Police Service and, after consultation with the Police Authority, retire a member of the Police Service before or after the member concerned attains the age of 60 years,” Section 2(b) reads.

The Lesotho Police Staff Association (Leposa) has expressed ignorance about these changes in the law governing them, saying they are waiting for an official legal instrument.

Leposa Secretary General, ‘Makatlheho Mphetho, informed Metro this week that she has already approached the office of Compol Matsoso’s office to make inquiries

about the law.

“I wanted to verify from the Compol whether the document is authentic or not, but unfortunately I was not able to meet him,” Mphetho said.

This paper spoke to two senior police officers of the ranks of Senior Inspector and Superintendent who confirmed the veracity of the regulations.

As for the police, spokesperson Senior Superintendent Mpiti Mopeli, referred this paper to Minister Lephema, noting that “if they were gazetted by the minister, you should ask him.”

After repeated calls and WhatsApp messages, Lephema did not answer questions sent to him.

Questions the minister did not answer:

- 1) What was the rationale behind increasing the age of retirement as per the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (Administration) (Amendment) of 2025?
- 2) Against such regulations, what is going to happen in the recruitment of new police officers?
- 3) Critics argue that the regulations contravene Section 18 of the Constitution, which addresses the issue of protection from discrimination. Were you aware of the constitutional mandate? and
- 4) Did you consult the Lesotho Police Staff Association (Leposa) before gazetting the regulations?

“This is a serious issue with the government failing to address youth unemployment; what is the rationale for increasing the age of retirement? What are these people afraid of when they are supposed to head home to create space for young people?” one of the police officers that Metro spoke to asked.

Another source privy to these

developments within the police service insisted that Lebona is brewing a war within the police ranks since the promotion policy is outdated and favours those close to the top brass.

“I know colleagues who have retired without being promoted simply because they were not aligned to ruling political parties,” he said, adding that it’s crucial to depoliticize the police.

“We come from a painful past as an institution where we fought with management; there’s a need to avoid falling into the same trap again with this piece of legislation, which lacks logic,” the source said.

The paper was told by an independent lawyer, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, that if the regulations were challenged in court, the government would be defeated.

“The regulations go against Section 18 of the Constitution, which addresses discrimination... I don’t see the logic behind the law because the Constitutional Court would declare the clause on age as bias,” the lawyer said.

This comes hot on the heels of the similarly controversial Lesotho Defence Force (Amendment) Bill of 2025, which was meant to increase the age of retirement for soldiers but was withdrawn before the Portfolio Committee on Prime Minister’s Ministries, Governance, Foreign Relations, and Information Cluster after legislators criticized it last month.

The Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office, Limpho Tau, who presented the piece of legislation to parliament, withdrew the Bill pointing out to “errors... therefore, (it) resolved it cannot proceed to discuss the bill with erroneous

contents.”

Subsequently, it was recommended that “the House allow the minister responsible to withdraw the bill to allow the technical team that was working on the Bill to review and properly redraft where necessary.”

Human rights advocacy group, The Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution, popularly known as Section 2, blasted the LDF Amendment Regulations for violating Section 18, which addresses protection from discrimination.

“The government touts this Bill as a step toward professionalism and global alignment, yet its provisions reek of arbitrary and unjust discrimination that disproportionately punishes lower-ranked soldiers.

Consider the following: Junior soldiers face forced retirement as early as 48 years, while officers enjoy contract extensions up to 62 years, a glaring disparity with no rational basis,” Section 2 wrote in a statement.

“Special exemptions coddle medical officers, lawyers, and chaplains, permitting service until 60 years, while other personnel are cast aside earlier without operational justification.

The claim that non-commissioned officers require maturity in experience is a hollow excuse, selectively applied to extend service for elites while denying the same to lower ranks.

This institutionalized bias, which disproportionately burdens soldiers often hailing from marginalized communities, constitutes discrimination devoid of military necessity, a direct assault on Section 18,” the rights body further wrote in the press statement on April 1.



# 90-day arrangement, a waste of time

NEO SENOKO

MASERU- Despite the recent approval of a 90 days' visa exemption period for Basotho visiting in South Africa, the arrangement does not solve the overlying challenges, particularly for those working in the neighbouring country.

Same old challenges still remain, and Basotho will still continue to dominate South African prisons accused of illegally staying in the country.

"While it is seen as a good move, the arrangement does not solve anything because Basotho do not normally go into South Africa to visit their loved ones, instead they visit because they want jobs. So, 90 days means nothing for those who are working in that country.

This move is not going to stop people from being arrested because nothing is being said about issues of work permits and availability of passports from the Ministry of Home Affairs," the Migrant Workers Association of Lesotho Director Lerato Nkhetše shared in an interview with Metro on Tuesday.

The teething problems surrounding the application process for exemption permits should have been given greater attention according to the organization.

"This is the area that needs more attention because it covers more people and further talks to the unemployment stature in the country," Nkhetše added.

Earlier this week, South Africa, through its Minister of Home Affairs Dr Lon Schreiber, announced that holders of ordinary passports in the Lesotho can continue to visit South Africa for up to 90 days without a visa.

In a letter to his counterpart in Lesotho, Schreiber said that subsequent to the conclusion of the Second Session of the South Africa-Lesotho Bi-National Commission in April 2025, he has considered and approved a conditional extension of the visa exemption period which applies to holders of ordinary Lesotho passports.

The condition attached to the visa exemption extension is that the government of south Africa reserves the right to immediately revoke the 90-day arrangement and revert to 30 days, should it be found that third-country nationals are abusing it to enter SA illegally through Lesotho.

The onus is, therefore, on Lesotho to prevent such abuse to uphold the 90-day arrangement.

Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane had pleaded with his counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa during the recently held Second Session of the Bi-National Commission between the two countries, to expedite the implementation of the 90-day proposal for Basotho.



"...despite our repeated affirmation and the anxiety of our people about the 90-day visa arrangement, implementation has not yet commenced. Therefore, I plead that we commit to have the 90-day visa arrangement by the 1st May 2025,"

Matakane had requested.

The migrant association believes that the deal, despite being largely welcomed by many, can only be a little useful to those who are looking for jobs and perhaps students, but not the thousands of those

who are already working and seeking a longer stay in South Africa. The two countries are still working on the development of the new migration model with the support of International Organization for Migration.



# Taxi operators demand too high

NEO SENOKO

**M**ASERU - Taxi operator's demand to increase fares by M2 or more is unrealistically too high and could have detrimental effects on consumers, while the industry itself could collapse.

The demands come at the back of tough economic conditions, dominated by massive job losses, low wages and generally high unemployment rate.

Consumer Rights Protection Executive Director, Nkareng Letsie, warned in an interview with Metro that the demands are just too high, also considering the vulnerability of the industry itself.

"We have to consider a number of factors. And while we cannot overlook reasons for proposed increase, they should also consider other important factors on the side of consumers.

For instance, who is going to commute, because consumers are already struggling?

A lot of their consumers are losing jobs at the textile industry because firms are continuously closing while those that remain in operation are functioning with very few people comparatively," he said.

"If these demands are met, they are still going to lose business because no one is going to afford such high fares on a daily basis," Letsie warned in an



interview with Metro on Tuesday.

In fact, Letsie added, they should be working determinedly to ensure safety in their industry in order to keep attracting customers.

The taxi industry, according to the consumer protection body, is not a safe place for both commuters and those that are employed in it.

A lot of people are killed and hijacked in this industry and nothing is done about it. "The industry will eventually collapse because it

is overshadowed by high level of criminality, and thus exposing lack of commitment by those who are in charge of running the industry.

They should not only focus on money but the lives of thousands of people who rely on their industry on a daily basis," Letsie said.

On Friday, operators will be waiting impatiently to hear the outcomes of the taxi transport board regarding the proposed increase in fares. If the demands are not met, "We shall

go back to our members to map a way forward because that is where we take our mandate from," Maseru Region Transport Operators (MRTO) spokesperson Lebohlang Moea told Metro.

He said the board has no other alternative but to approve their request based on several factors.

Among others, he added, maintenance costs and petrol prices have all increased, thus resulting into minimal to no profits at all for players in the industry.

If approved as per the request, commuters will have to dig deeper into their pockets with a 4+1 taxi set to move up from the current M13 to M15 within ten kilometer radius while for a 15 seater taxi, consumers will have to part ways with M14.

Moea said the Transport Board should have increased fares in April as per their agreement but that has not happened and no explanation has been given whatsoever.

The current prices were effected on December 1, 2023, following lengthy negotiations between government and transport operators.

In the past, hundreds of people have been injured, lives have been lost and cars have been damaged due to massive protests by taxi operators wherein government, through the Transport Board rejected their proposals.





# SADC PF Executive Committee calls on Namibia Speaker



The President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), Honourable Justin Tokely (left) poses for a photograph with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila at Heroes' Acre in Namibia this week. Photo: George Sanzila, National Assembly of Namibia.

MOSES MAGADZA

**W**INDHOEK, Namibia - The President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), Justin Tokely, has praised Namibia's longstanding commitment to regional parliamentary cooperation and called for renewed support as the Forum moves towards becoming a fully-fledged SADC Regional Parliament.

Speaking during a courtesy call on the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila this week,

Tokely, who is the Speaker of the National Assembly of Madagascar, expressed appreciation for Namibia's "unwavering commitment to democratic values" and its historic role in nurturing the SADC PF since its establishment 27 years ago.

"Our visit is not merely symbolic," he said, "but a testimony to the deeply rooted partnership between the Parliament of Namibia and the SADC Parliamentary Forum."

He recalled that Namibia, under the leadership of the now late Dr Mose Tjitendero, was instrumental in the Forum's founding and has since provided the Secretariat with a stable institutional home in Windhoek.

Tokely paid tribute to Namibia's successive parliamentary leaders, including the late, Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab and Professor Peter Katjavivi, for their contributions to strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and advancing the transformation of the Forum into a Regional Parliament.

He congratulated Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for her groundbreaking leadership as the first female Speaker of Namibia's National Assembly.

"You bring to this role not only profound experience in governance but also an unwavering dedication to gender equality and regional diplomacy," he said.

He applauded the progressive composition of Namibia's new Parliament following the November 2024 elections, noting that women now occupy 40.6 percent of parliamentary seats, placing Namibia at the forefront of gender representation in the SADC region.

He also welcomed the increased participation of young people in Namibia's legislature, describing it as a "sign of meaningful intergenerational dialogue and national development."

"These are not just statistics," Tokely stated. "They reflect the moral and democratic character of a nation; a Parliament that embodies the future of a SADC Regional Parliament anchored

on inclusion, gender equality, and youth empowerment."

As the SADC PF intensifies its advocacy for the signing and ratification of the Protocol establishing the SADC Regional Parliament, Honourable Tokely appealed to Namibia to continue leveraging its influence within the SADC Council of Ministers.

"Your institutional memory as the founding host of the Forum and your leadership will be vital in mobilising the political will needed to move the transformation agenda forward," he said.

He further called on Namibia to maintain its support by continuing to host the Forum's Secretariat, offering political stability, operational assistance, and the space needed for the Forum to grow as a hub of parliamentary diplomacy.

Tokely expressed profound gratitude to Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and the Parliament of Namibia for their support to the SADC PF.

"You have not only housed our Secretariat but nurtured our vision. This visit reaffirms our shared purpose and renews our collective commitment to regional integration through parliamentary dialogue and diplomacy," he told the former Prime Minister, who has served, also, as Minister of Finance and Director General of the National Planning Commission.

On her part, Speaker Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said she and her National Assembly were deeply honoured and grateful for the courtesy call which included representatives of countries that stood by Namibia as she waged a protracted liberation struggle.

"It is my pleasure and privilege to receive this courtesy call because of your (countries') association socially and financially with Namibia's liberation movement and sometimes sustaining (military) attacks. It is always humbling when you come to our country. Feel at home," she said.

She told the Executive Committee – to which she belongs by virtue of being host Speaker of the SADC PF Secretariat – that

the 8th Parliament of Namibia was new, having been sworn in in March.

"So, I am very, very new. Please forgive whatever mistakes we might make because I am used to being in the Executive and not in the legislature," she quipped.

She apologised for not being able to attend the Executive Committee's orientation training due to discussions on the national budget in the National Assembly. She, however, pledged to attend and actively participate in subsequent Executive Committee meetings "so that I get to know more about the countries that used to support us."

She told her guests that she left Namibia to go into exile as a 12-year-old girl and reminisced about her stay in Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania. She recalled that she spent so many years in Angola that the country was synonymous with "home."

Among Members of the Executive Committee that visited the Speaker was the Honourable Professor Isaac Jean-Claude Tshilumbayi Musawu, the First Deputy Speaker of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

He briefed the Namibian Speaker about the ongoing instability in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and how SADC had stood by his country.

In response, Speaker Kuugongelwa-Amadhila called for peace.

"We are moved by what is happening in the DRC. We are all praying that that country of Patrice Lumumba will have permanent peace," she said.

The courtesy call took place on the sidelines of the Executive Committee meeting of the SADC PF, ahead of the Forum's 57th Plenary Assembly scheduled for Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe later this month.

Notable among the SADC PF delegation were the Speaker of the National Assembly of Angola, Carolina Cerqueira; the Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Advocate Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda; the Speaker of the National Assembly of Lesotho Tlohang Sekhamane; the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia Nelly Mutti; Dumelang Selashando, leader of the opposition in Botswana; Shally Josepha Raymond, the Chairperson of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC) and SADC PF Secretary General Boemo Sekgoma.

Earlier, the Executive Committee visited the Heroes' Acre and were shown the tombs of Namibia's Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma and that of President Hage Geingob.

Designed by a North Korean firm, Mansudae Overseas Project, the Heroes' Acre was built over 13 months and inaugurated in 2002.

According to the City of Windhoek website, the construction of the memorial was prompted by the need to "foster the spirit of patriotism and nationalism ..."

Moses Magadza is the Media and Communications Manager at the SADC PF



Members of the Executive Committee of SADC PF pose for a souvenir photograph with the President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), Honourable Justin Tokely and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila this week. Photo: George Sanzila, National Assembly of Namibia)



## The region and international community should make South Sudan a UN protectorate



**RUOT GEORGE W MUT**

**A**t the end of European wars and geopolitical changes in Western Europe between 1500s and 1600s due to clashes of interests over complex economic, social and political views, modern states were introduced to addressed dynamic interests.

The idea spread to all parts of the world very quickly and became dominant form of political organization.

In 1648, a first ever diplomatic peace accord was signed called Peace of Westphalia to end both thirty years and eight years wars in the towns of Munster and Osnabruck respectively. The treaty also marked the end of the holly conflicts between the Roman Empire and the other European powers paving way for first country to be granted independence, the Dutch Republic was declared a modern state that same year.

In Africa, many modern states gained Independence in 1960s after struggling to fight slavery and the partition of Africa by European during the Berlin conference.

The wise and independence nations agreed that for any country to be recognized as a modern state, there must be four elements. These includes a permanent population, a well-defined territory, a functioning government and a capacity to enter into relations with other states (sovereignty).

South Sudan had all the four features when the regional body, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development – IGAD granted it a status of independence in July 2011. The government was truly representing the people, all borderlines were defined in what was known as the January 1, 1956.

A territorial broderies demarcated by the British in 1956 when Sudan was given self-government on January 1956.

South Sudan, lose several towns through encroachment of neighbor's including Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries due to continues internal wars which started among the ruling party leadership.

**Why IGAD and the international community should take over South Sudan government**

After war broke out in December 2013 in what initially started as an internal ruling party dispute, the issued turned very tribal due to poor political strategies from the leadership of the ruling party, 20 000 unarmed Nuer men were killed between December 16 to 18, 2013. A peace deal was signed in 2015 which eventually collapsed in July 2016 when bodyguards loyal to the president Salva Kiir exchanged gunfire with the bodyguards loyal to the first vice president Dr Riek Machar returning the country to war again. In 2018 a renegotiated peace deal was signed again. The regional body IGAD brought both Kiir and Machar to the same government until elections takes place.

President Salva Kiir than offered a hollow promise that “he will never take the country back to war” and that he and his government will take full security responsibility of all the oppositions leaders while security arrangements were under ways.

The president's party had upper hands in undermining the implementation of the peace accord and literally refused to implement key provisions of the peace agreement. The key provisions include I] unification of 83 000 strong forces to

be trained and deployed throughout the country to provide security for the country and electoral process in chapter two of the 2018 peace accord.

II] The permanent constitution making process in chapter six of the peace deal which will replaced the current transitional constitution which has concentrated all powers to the president to hire and fire at will and III] the transitional justice in chapter five of the peace deal which required parties to address all humanitarian and human right issues during wars.

The implementation of the revitalized agreement on the resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan R-ARCISS was deliberately slowed leading to its extension in for two years in 2023 and another two years in 2025 until February 2027, in the beginning of 2025, president Salva Kiir in unprecedented moved took major decisions by taking the positions allocated to the main peace partner under the leadership of his deputy Riek Machar.

The positions include the regional governor of Western Equatoria State, the governorship position of Upper Nile State, and several other key positions in the cabinet, ministers in the national capital in Juba such as the ministry of health was sacked and that the position has been vacant since February 10 to date (May 6).

These actions triggered signed of returned to conflict, at the end of February 2025, the president's party deployed barges and aerial military deployment in small and strategic town of Nasir in Upper Nile State bordering Ethiopia, the community in that town requested deployment of the component of the 83 000 strong unified forces instead of the soldiers from a single tribe.

The army refused and went ahead to send the troop the community was not happy to received which led to resistant by civilians led strong armed youth locally called the “White Army” overring the military garrison and killing the base commander along with more than 400 soldiers according to the government minister of cabinet affairs on March 4th.

All opposition leaders both civilians and military officials were arrested including Dr Riek Machar Teny, the country's First Vice President in response. Today they have not been relieved of their positions and they are not released.

In April and May 2025, the country once again entered into full scale military confrontations, all the military cantonments areas, all the assembly

points have been attacked, the president has relieved almost all the members of the opposition's politicians from their positions.

The main armed opposition soldiers have returned to the bush and fighting is going on throughout the country.

The government has reacted with aerial bombardment in areas profiled and designated by transitional ruling class as hostile to the government in Ulang, Nasir, Akobo, Longochuk, and Fangak targeting civilians' areas. The latest bombardment carried out in Fangak beginning on May 4 targeted medical facility managed by international medical charity, the MSF killing 7 and wounding 25 at 4am.

Another bombardment targeting dykes that protected the community from four years of continues flooding in the area was carried out on the day the delegations led by the African Union commission Chairman, Muhammed Ali Yosif, was in Juba to negotiate the return to dialogue between President Salva Kiir and FVP Machar.

Everyone including the Western diplomatic missions in the country offered to media the returned to dialogue among party leaders but the ruling party deliberately refused the dialogue believing in their military strength. The current government in power lost social contract with the people since 2015 when the country was supposed to go for election but was not permitted to by conflict.

If the features of modern states include functioning government, well defined territory, populations and the capacity to enter into relations with other nations. The current South Sudan government is comprising of people who are internationally sanctioned, with poor working relations with citizens, region and the international community.

They are auctioning the country's resources in advance, according to one of the ministers of finance the government has auctioned the oil in advance up to 2028 and that is why the civil servant don't received salaries for over one year now.

I called upon the regional and the international community through IGAD, AU and the United Nations through the upcoming security council meeting to recommend taking over the country government come May 9.

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# Peace Journalism in the Digital Age: HWPL Workshop Explores Ethics, AI, and Global Cooperation

International peace NGO, Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) held on April 17 brought together journalists, scholars, and peace practitioners to explore how peace journalism can help address global challenges such as misinformation and conflict in an era of rapid digital transformation.

The event was hosted online by an with around 200 participants joining from 50 countries.

Under the theme of ‘Transforming Conflict through AI and Cultural Understanding’, a key focus of the workshop was the growing impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on journalism.

Discussions explored how journalists can responsibly integrate new technologies while upholding essential values such as accuracy, fairness, and empathy.

The event also featured discussions centered on the recent publication, *Peace Journalism Studies (2024)*. The journal highlights peace journalism’s potential to foster reconciliation and cross-cultural understanding, especially in regions affected by conflict. Case studies demonstrate how constructive reporting can help bridge divides and support long-term peacebuilding.

In a congratulatory message, Berry Lwando, Director General of the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, remarked: “In today’s fast-paced media landscape, what we choose to highlight matters. Peace journalism isn’t about ignoring conflict - it’s about framing it in ways that invite dialogue, not division. That’s a responsibility we carry.”

Noel Lipipa, Member of Malawian Parliament for Blantyre City South



Constituency, also delivered his congratulatory message. “I am inspired by the work being done to explore how AI and cultural understanding can help reshape how we tell stories and resolve conflict. The world needs more storytellers committed to peace.”

In his article, Director of News, Sports and Current Affairs / ABS TV Radio in Antigua and Barbuda, Garfield Burford, underscores the importance of evidence-based reporting to counter misinformation.

While AI can make journalism more efficient, he cautioned that it also raises concerns about accuracy and trust. He emphasized that ethical judgment and human empathy remain essential to the work of a journalist.

Sijam Sinjali, CEO of Agleshwori Hills Development Trust in Nepal, discusses the role of peace journalism in encouraging non-violent conflict resolution. His essay explores the challenges and ethical responsibilities

peace journalists face, and how technology may help support more informed, solution-oriented reporting.

From the Philippines, Dr Musa Damao, Executive Director of angsamoro Dialogue for Peace and Justice, Inc., highlighted how peace journalism supports the Bangsamoro peace process. He advocates for integrating peace education into school curricula and highlights how morally grounded journalism can contribute to lasting peace and development.

CEO of Varna Institute for Peace Research in Austria, Josef Mühlbauer, explored how open dialogue and debate can help challenge harmful narratives. He references the “Varna Peace Institute” podcast as a platform where open discussions help uncover root causes of conflict and promote understanding.

In her contribution, Tuty Purwaningsih, Director of Media Desa in Indonesia, looked at how families and communities teach values like tolerance and empathy, and how the media can amplify these efforts by focusing on constructive stories.

The workshop also aligned with HWPL’s broader peace initiatives, particularly the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW). Article 10 of the DPCW, “Spreading a Culture of Peace,” emphasizes the role of media in promoting harmony through responsible communication. HWPL continues to advocate for journalism that contributes to a more peaceful and inclusive society.

The event concluded with a call for stronger collaboration among journalists, academics, and peacebuilders, reaffirming a shared commitment to ethical and thoughtful journalism in a rapidly evolving media environment.

## From luxury hotels to locked cabinets: Where’s the public briefing, Mr Prime Minister?

Dear Prime Minister Sam Matekane, I will not bother asking whether you are in good spirits since that is not my concern and your health issues are not my interest at the moment.

Oh yes, well done for reopening your luxurious hotel; hopefully the government will host workshops there.

Anyway, the issue I want to raise is the fact that since you assumed office in 2022, there has not been a single post-Cabinet meeting in which the public is given information relating to decisions that have been taken.

Why are you not communicating with Basotho?

During Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro’s administration, Minister of Communication Sam Rapapa briefed the media about decisions taken by the executive.

The secrecy under which you operate is perplexing and leaves us, the public, in the dark.

I am wondering whether you understand the need to communicate with the people you rule.

“Transparency: Openness and

accountability are the watchwords here. Full disclosure of information should be the norm. Leaders should be open and tell the full story to keep reporters from seeking other sources. They should get the facts and answer questions but avoid hiding or appearing to hide anything.

If they do not have all the facts, they should simply tell reporters that they don’t have all the details yet but will look into the matter more deeply and get back to them later,” Professor Osabuohien P Amienyi wrote in *Why African leaders need to learn better communication skills*.

You should heed the advice of the good professor and be transparent about decisions you take that ultimately affect us common folk.

Is it that difficult for Minister of Communication, Nthathi Moorosi, or Government Secretary, Teboho ‘Mokela, to hold a press conference every week to inform the public?

Lesotho has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, in which access to information is enshrined.

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right

includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,” Article 19 reads.

Why is there hesitation from your administration to put us into your confidence?

Clearly there’s a need to communicate government decisions to the population with the aim of building a transparent government and ultimately allowing them to hold the government accountable.

You must know that the media, of which the public will get informed, is the fourth estate, simply an arm of government.

I don’t know whether you know the origin of propaganda and its aim towards public discourse.

Propaganda is “the deliberate and systematic attempt to influence perception and affect behaviour in ways that further the desired objectives of the propagandist,” according to Garth Jowett and Victoria O’Donnell, in *Propaganda and Persuasion*.

You are a politician, yet you don’t understand and appreciate the value of using the media and propagating the government’s agenda?

“What used to be traditional acts of participation – voting, giving money, writing letters to the editor, calling in to a radio station, signing a petition – were not necessarily equally distributed across the citizenry. But now with information technologies, people are able to give small amounts of money online. People can comment on articles they read online or post on social media.

There are ways to engage in politics that people might not have considered engagement in the past.

These additional ways to engage make people feel involved, but they also generate lots of noise,” Professor Patricia Moy indicated in an interview titled *Where Media and Politics Meet* for a University of Washington piece.

Where are you in the scope of things, Mr Prime Minister? Please communicate with us, the public.

The fear of communicating may be your downfall.

A disgruntled Motimposo resident, Rantau Tlali Makhetha

PS: Is it possible to meet over drinks?

CC: Minister of Communication, Nthathi Moorosi

Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office, Limpho Tau

Government Secretary, Teboho ‘Mokela

Ministry of Information, Communication, Science, Technology, and Innovation

Principal Secretary (PS) Communication, Kanono Ramashamole

PS Cabinet, ‘Mabataung Khalane



B

BUSINESS

*Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle.”*  
- Napoleon Hill, author

*Out of your vulnerabilities will come your strength.” -*  
**Sigmund Freud, neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis**



# Govt bullied into signing Starlink deal?

NEO SENOKO

MASERU - Despite a clear rejection from civil society groups and others in the business community, Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) has resolved to grant a licence to tech billionaire Elon Musk's satellite internet services company, Starlink to operate in Lesotho.

The satellite company, which is owned by Trump's close adviser, Elon Musk has been issued with a licence valid for 10 years. While the company applied for an operating licence in 2024, there is a strong belief that government has been forced to expedite the process to get favourable trade deal, perhaps, better offer than the current 50 percent slap.

Lesotho was hit with tariffs of 50 percent on goods exported to the United

States, the highest for any single nation on Trump's reciprocal tariffs list. the levies however, have been reduced to 10 percent for a 90-day reprieve.

The country is in the process of sending a delegation to the United States with regard to the reciprocal trade tariffs.

"The Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) is pleased to inform stakeholders and members of the public that the Board of Directors has resolved to grant a licence to Starlink Lesotho (pty) Ltd to operate a satellite network and provide satellite internet services within Lesotho.

"This landmark decision marks a significant step forward on the country's digital transformation and underscores the Authority's commitment to enabling a competitive, transparent and forward-looking communications sector that fuels economic growth and fosters innovation," LCA said in a statement on Monday.

In a recent interview with Metro, the Maseru Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) chairperson, Motseki Nkeane, had warned that government should explore other markets and not feel threatened into accepting Starlink application because of high tariffs.

In just a few days later, however, the licence has been granted.

"Starlink should not be allowed to operate into the country as part of the negotiation processes in regard to the tariffs. That will be highly inappropriate, instead we should be looking at exploring other markets and not bow down to the US demands," Nkeane said in a recent interview with Metro.

Starlink submitted its application in April 2024 and at the time, according to the LCA, the company's existing licensing

and classification framework required enhancement to adequately accommodate low-earth orbit satellite technology. This realization prompted a comprehensive review of the applicable regulations and this included period of public consultations.

As a result, all stakeholders who submitted comments were invited to in-person engagements, in keeping with the Authority's belief that dialogue enriches understanding and ensures that public input is meaningfully considered.

The revised regulatory framework was gazetted on January 31, paving the way for the formal processing of Starlink's application. The approval of the operating licence, the LCA says, clears the path for it to finalise the terms and conditions under which Starlink Lesotho will provide satellite internet services to individuals and businesses across the country.

# Vodacom unveils Braille version of its consumer protection code



NEO SENOKO

MASERU - Vodacom Lesotho has on Tuesday unveiled Braille version of its Consumer Protection Code, and the Impact Booklet

marking an important step towards greater inclusion and access for visually impaired persons. The event underscores the company's commitment to ensuring that its services and information are available to all members of the public.

"The unveiling of these two documents is not simply about ticking boxes. It is a clear statement of our commitment to access, transparency and inclusion for all Basotho. This perfectly embodies our "Further Together" ethos, guaranteeing that our visually impaired customers are not left behind," Vodacom Lesotho Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mohale Ralebitso, said during the launch on Tuesday.

Tuesday's launch was part of the ongoing efforts to continually enhance access across Vodacom Lesotho's services and communications channels.

Furthermore, the CEO added that "it is entirely in sync with our 'Connecting for a better Future' philosophy, acknowledging that an empowered community of persons with disabilities is absolutely crucial to Lesotho's social and economic prosperity.

While we mark this significant milestone, our commitment to inclusion is

a continuous journey and future initiatives will be developed in close partnership with the community of persons with disabilities themselves, whose insights are absolutely vital."

The Lesotho National Federation of Organizations of the Disabled (LNFOD) has welcomed the initiative, highlighting the fundamental importance of access to information for all citizens.

The Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons (LNLVP) also expressed its gratitude for the practical benefits of the initiative, noting that the availability of the Consumer Protection Code and the Impact Booklet in Braille represents a substantial positive change for visually impaired persons.

These documents, available in Braille English and Sesotho will be distributed at Vodacom Lesotho's retail outlets nationwide as well as the offices of LNFOD and LNLVIP.





# SOCIETY

## Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence could become in-laws

*Kids confirm their romance – and they’re so adorable together*



**STEVE GRANITZ and  
MARK DAVIS**

**I**t's a match made in Hollywood! Comedians Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence are two of the most famous actors of the 90s and early 2000s. They acted together in hit movies such as *Life* and *Boomerang*. Now, it seems, they could become in-laws.

Eddie's son, Eric Murphy and Martin's daughter, Jasmin Lawrence, have confirmed their romance.

In an Instagram snap, Jasmin (25) celebrated Eric's 32nd birthday with a series of loved up selfies of them together.

"Happy birthday, my love! I am so incredibly blessed to know you, to love you, and to have you by my side," she wrote in the caption.

In the picture, Jasmin and Eric stand

close, smiling at the camera and in another, Eric plants a kiss on Jasmin's cheek.

Both Eric and Jasmin are following in their father's footsteps in the entertainment industry.

According to *Us Weekly*, Eric is currently a writer and voice actor. His talent manager, Avalon, confirmed that he is currently developing an animated series and "has his own comedic style."

Jasmin has already been on the big

screen alongside her father. She appeared in 2020's *Bad Boys for Life*.

In an interview with SiriusXM, Will Smith confirmed that Jasmin appeared in a club scene in the movie.

Martin later confirmed that he didn't give her the role. She auditioned and scored the small part on her own.

Martin and Eddie had not made any public comments on the relationship at the time of publishing.





# HEALTH

## Bribes and rationing of Aids medicine in Zimbabwe as Trump's aid cuts bite

*As Donald Trump's US presidency reaches its 100th day, Zimbabweans living with HIV are fearful about their futures as they struggle to get antiretroviral medication*

JEFFREY MOYO

**M**WENEZI, Zimbabwe – Memory Sibanda tried three times to get antiretroviral medication from her usual clinic in February but was turned away.

The 67-year-old has lived with HIV for the past 28 years. Jobless and widowed since 2003 when her husband succumbed to Aids, Sibanda is unable to afford to buy the medication should the government fail to supply it.

She finally received a three-month supply in late February – half the usual allocation – and is anxious about what will happen when this runs out.

“I don't know if this reduction of our treatment pills is happening only here in our village. Nurses don't say anything to us about what is happening with the pills. I fear we might eventually end up not receiving the drugs at all, meaning many of us might die,” Sibanda, who lives in Chomutsvairo village in the southern province of Masvingo, told Health Policy Watch.

In the capital, Harare, a similar crisis faces HIV/Aids patients. Mavis Makumbe, 65, has depended on free ARV treatment from the government for decades. But in late February, her whole life changed when she visited the New Start Centre in the city to fetch her medication.

“I found a notice on the door saying it was closed and no longer in operation. From there, I went back home and started taking the remaining tablets, but those again were not enough,” said Makumbe, a widow who has lived with HIV for 24 years.

Fortunately, her daughter's friends rescued her by buying six months' allocation of ARVs. The current going rate is \$20 for a month's supply – a fortune for the average Zimbabwean, with 80 percent of people working in the low-income informal sector and battling huge inflationary costs each month.

This is unsustainable for Makumbe, who is also battling cancer on one of her legs.

HIV positive prisoners also told Health Policy Watch that medicines are scarce.

“Not so long ago, we were being given rations of limited ARVs. Things are now worse after America has stopped giving us aid. Even painkiller pills are now hard to find in jail,” said an HIV positive prison inmate at Chikurubi Maximum Prison in Harare.

### Trump aid cuts

The ARV shortage was caused when US President Donald Trump suspended all foreign aid for 90 days with immediate effect on 20 January. The Trump administration has since disbanded the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and extended the aid cut for a further 30 days until 20 May.

“We were put in a very tough situation by the aid cut by President Trump's government,” said Stanley Takaona, president of the Zimbabwe HIV/Aids Activist Union Community Trust.

“The aid cut-off was a bit harsh. We are praying that both our government and the US government will put on a humanitarian face and save our lives, as people living with HIV,” added Takaona, 62, who tested HIV positive at the age of 34 and started taking ARV treatment in 2001.

The government's pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) initiative targeted at people with high exposure to HIV like sex workers has also been suspended amid the Trump administration's global aid cuts.

In 2022, an estimated 1.3 million Zimbabweans were living with HIV, and 1.2 million were on ARVs – yet their medicine supply is now in jeopardy.

### Progress under threat

Zimbabwe has made significant progress against HIV, and in 2023 it became one of only five African countries that achieved the 95-95-95 targets set by UNAIDS, with an estimated 95% of people with HIV aware of their status, 98 percent on treatment, and 95 percent of those on treatment having suppressed viral loads.

This is according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which has been the main recipient of the country's Global Fund grant since 2009.

But with the US abandoning its commitments to combat the deadly virus abroad, activists like Sphiwe Chabikwa sees the gains made in fending off the disease being reversed.

“We are at risk. People may start dying again like what happened around 2000 and 2002 before ARVs were made available to everyone with HIV. I am afraid,” said Chabikwa, who lives in Harare.

Chabikwa is a member of the Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+), the country's network of people living with HIV.

For the past 25 years, Chabikwa has lived with HIV, and her steady access to ARVs has enabled her to manage the virus

as a chronic disease.

“I get the second-line of antiretroviral treatment, but that again has had its supplies affected by the recent US aid cut. Instead of people living with HIV like me getting six months' supplies of ARVs, this has now been reduced to three months' supplies. That means the treatment drugs are in short supply and the authorities are trying to manage a crisis.”

Health experts predict that all the gains Zimbabwe made in defeating HIV might go to waste following the abrupt withdrawal of US aid.

Long queues now characterise the collection of HIV treatment, and patients are fearful about what the future holds for them.

### Bribes for medicine

Fearing a future without ARVs, some other HIV patients admit to bribing nurses in order to get six months' allocation of ARVs.

“Many HIV positive people in my area, including myself are now bribing nurses at local clinics in order to get the usual six months allocation of treatment drugs,” said a resident from Harare who asked to remain anonymous.

Zimbabwean nurses stationed at clinics distributing ARVs have capitalized on the patients' fears.

“It's our time to make money from the desperate HIV patients because our salaries alone can't sustain us and so, with the now scarce ARVs, we just put a small fee on them for our own benefit in our backdoor deals with patients,” said a nurse at one of the clinics in Harare who spoke to Health Policy Watch on condition of remaining anonymous.

### Authorities deny crisis

Yet the Zimbabwean authorities have denied that ARVs have run out. During a parliamentary question-and-answer session in February, health minister Douglas Mombeshora assured the nation that access to HIV treatment will continue despite global aid uncertainty.

Mombeshora claimed that Zimbabwe has secured enough stock of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to last for the next six months.

Despite the Minister's assurance, HIV patients have seen their treatment allocations reduced and those living with HIV fear the worst.

However, the Zimbabwean government is developing an HIV sustainability plan to address long-term funding issues and mobilising domestic resources to maintain



priority HIV programmes, according to a UNAIDS report released on March 31.

Over the past five years, the US provided over \$1 billion Zimbabwe to combat HIV.

Before widespread access to ARV therapy in Zimbabwe, Aids was a leading cause of death and estimated 130 000 people dying from HIV-related complications in 2002 alone, according to UNAIDS.

The availability of ARVs significantly reduced AIDS deaths, with the death toll dropping to around 20 000 by 2021, according to UNAIDS. Adult HIV prevalence has fallen from its peak of 26.5 percent in 1997 to 11.9 percent in 2021.

### Call on government to step up

Olive Mutabeni, executive director for Life Empowerment Support Organization (LESO), a community-based HIV/Aids organization in Zimbabwe, has challenged authorities to step up and purchase ARVs.

“There is a need for the Ministry of Health and the National Aids Council to address this issue of ARVs supplies urgently before we lose people,” said Mutabeni.

Mutabeni, aged 64, started taking ARVs in 2009 yet 16 years later, she is unsure of her access to treatment: “I am worried that many HIV patients like me might soon perish like flies.”

The permanent discontinuation of HIV programmes currently supported by the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) would lead to an additional 6.6 million new HIV Infections and additional 4.2 million Aids-related deaths between 2025 and 2029, according to UNAIDS modelling.





# K4L wins 2025 Laureus Sport for Good Award



**M**ADRID - Kick4Life has won the 2025 Laureus Sport for Good Award, voted for by the members of the Laureus World Sports Academy – sporting legends who believe in the power of sport to transform the lives of young people around the world.

The iconic Laureus statuette was presented to Kick4Life representatives last night, alongside some of the biggest names in sport, at the 2025 Laureus Sport Awards in Madrid, with the event broadcast around the world.

Kick4Life Co-founder Steve Fleming

said: “A heartfelt thank you to everyone in the Kick4Life community for helping to make this special moment possible, and we pledge to use this platform to amplify and accelerate our efforts using sport to transform the lives of vulnerable children and young people in Lesotho.”

Kick4Life Country Director, Motlatsi Nkhahle, added: “In receiving the award, we acknowledge the five incredible organisations who were also shortlisted, and the hundreds of brilliant Sport for Good organisations supported by Laureus around the world. It is a special community to be a part of.” - **Kick4Life website**