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THURSDAY Oct 28 - Nov 3, 2021

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# NEW ELECTRICITY PROJECTS LAUNCHED

4

...as government drags its feet on vandalism



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- New date for FNB M4million theft case
- Mosilili pardons mercenaries who tried to unseat him



## NewsBriefs

### BNP suspends Secretary General

*...Party accuses Lethobane of discrepancies in its books*

**MASERU** – The Basotho National Party (BNP) National Executive Committee (NEC), has suspended its Secretary General, Ts'epo Lethobane from the party for two years, for alleged discrepancies in its finances.

This was disclosed by the party's Public Relations Officer (PRO), 'Maleshota Leshota, saying the suspension follows recommendations made by the disciplinary committee after realising the discrepancies in the party books about three months ago.

She said Mr Lethobane was shortly thereafter suspended for three months pending internal investigations.

"The SG has been suspended from the executive as well as the party for a period of two years and this recommendation was approved by the party leader, Mr Machesetsa Mofomobe," Mrs Leshota said.

She added: "He will not in any way engage in the party's activities for a period of two years."

She said this is not the first time that a member of the executive is suspended, adding that even the former leader, Chief Thesele Maseribane was once suspended for discipline issues.

For his part, Mr Lethobane said his two-year suspension feels like a full expulsion, especially as he will not be participating in any party activities within that period.

"I am still a loyal member of the BNP and as a



BNP leader, Machesetsa Mofomobe

professional teacher and Christian, I know that I have to accept whatever it is thrown at me because God will deal with it in his own way and time," he said.

Mr Lethobane became BNP Secretary General in 2019 during the party's elective conference. Before then he was the Lesotho Teachers Trade Union (LTTU) media person. LeNA

## FastFACTS

**The hottest chili pepper in the world is so hot it could kill you**

The "weapons-grade" Dragon's Breath chili pepper is so hot it's downright deadly. If you ate one, it could potentially cause a type of anaphylactic shock, burning your airways and closing them up. "I've tried it on the tip of my tongue and it just burned and burned," said Mike Smith, the hobby grower who invented the Dragon's Breath along with scientists from Nottingham University. So why make such an impractical pepper? As it turns out, the chili was initially developed to be used in medical treatment as an anesthetic that can numb the skin.

## On This Day in History

### 1940



October 28

#### Italy invades Greece

On October 28, 1940, Mussolini's army, already occupying Albania, invades Greece in what will prove to be a disastrous military campaign for the Duce's forces.

Mussolini surprised everyone with this move against Greece; even his ally, Adolf Hitler, was caught off-guard, especially since the Duce had led Hitler to believe he had no such intention. Hitler denounced the move as a major strategic blunder. According to Hitler, Mussolini should have concentrated on North Africa, continuing the advance into Egypt. Even Mussolini's own chief of army staff found out about the invasion only after the fact.

Despite being warned off an invasion of Greece by his own generals, despite the lack of preparedness on the part of his military, despite that it would mean getting bogged down in a mountainous country during the rainy season against an army willing to fight tooth and nail to defend its autonomy, Mussolini moved ahead out of sheer hubris, convinced he could defeat the Greeks in a matter of days. He also knew a secret, that millions of lire had been put aside to bribe Greek politicians and generals not to resist the Italian invasion. Whether the money ever made it past the Italian fascist agents delegated with the responsibility is unclear; if it did, it clearly made no difference whatsoever-the Greeks succeeded in pushing the Italian invaders back into Albania after just one week, and the Axis power spent the next three months fighting for its life in a defensive battle.

To make matters worse, virtually half the Italian fleet at Taranto had been crippled by a British carrier-based attack. Mussolini had been humiliated.

## BORN ON THIS DAY

October 28

- 1975 - Zadie Smith, British novelist (White Teeth, On Beauty, Swing Time), born in England
- 1977 - Birgit Prinz, German footballer (three-time FIFA World Player of the Year)
- 1979 - Milena Roucka, Canadian model and professional wrestler, born in Vancouver
- 1979 - Sarah Thompson, American actress (Brooklyn's Finest), born in Los Angeles, California
- 1981 - haun Wright-Phillips, English footballer (Manchester City), born in England
- 1981 - Jerome "Romeo" Jones, American singer (Food for Thought), born in California
- 1983 - Han Yeo-reum, South Korean actress (The Bow), born in South Korea
- 1986 - Eddie Gaven, American footballer (Columbus Crew), born in New Jersey
- 1987 - Darron Gibson, Irish football player (Manchester United), born in Derry

## Court finds man responsible for wife murder

**MASERU** – High Court judge, Justice Moroke Mokhesi has ruled that Qamo Matela who is accused of the murder of his wife, 'Mahlompho Matela is indeed responsible for her death.

Matela is the first respondent in the case in which his wife's maiden family, Mofolo is claiming the right to bury their daughter, 'Mahlompho, born Rethabile Mofolo.

The Mofolo family argues that Matela does not have the right to bury his wife because it believes he is responsible for her death.

But in his defence, Matela argues that he has the right to bury his wife as they were legally married, adding that she died of natural causes.

The judge however, in his judgment submitted that there was nothing natural about the way 'Mahlompho died.

He found it unnecessary to determine whether or not Matela was guilty of either culpable homicide or murder as such a call could only rightly be made by a

criminal court.

Justice Mokhesi said Matela's version that the deceased died of natural causes is untenable when seen in the light of a post-mortem report.

"The deceased was brutalised by her husband in what is plainly a callous act of domestic violence," said the judge, adding that this type of act offends public policy, which frowns upon women being abused and brutalised.

"The only reasonable and fair thing to do is to authorise the deceased's blood relatives to bury her, but in consultation with her husband and his family," he said.

The court therefore ordered that the corpse be released to the Mofolo family for burial.

After his wife's death on September 11, Matela was arrested and charged with her murder before he was later released on bail.

LeNA

## Quotes & Quips!

*"As one of the largest banks on the continent, Absa could support African economic growth. I have been inspired by the way in which Absa has evolved into a strong, standalone African bank that is recognisable across the continent,"*

says Sello Moloko, SA multi-faceted businessperson who is also Telkom and Momentum Metropolitan Holdings chairperson on his appointment as ABSA's chairperson-designate



## ALL JOKES ASIDE

### A preacher who couldn't swim

There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim.

When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?"

The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me."

A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?"

The preacher replied again, "No God will save me."

Eventually the preacher drowned and went to heaven.

The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"

**If it matters to you, it matters to us.**



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# new electricity project launched 4

## CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	20.79
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.00
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.41
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.35
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.63
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	11.29
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.93
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	11.13
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.037
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.025
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.32
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.95
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.21
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	4.00
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.70
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.69
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.09
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.35

# Metro BUSINESS

### COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS	
S&P500	4,575.07
NASDAQ100	15,695.80
Nikkei225	29,098.24
Dow Jones30	35,639.83
FTSE 100	7,253.27
JSE	67,475.00
Hang Seng	25,618.46

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold p/ounce	1,796.90
Platinum p/ounce	1,023.78
Silver p/ounce	24.10
Copper p/ounce	4.39
Brent Oil p/barrel	83.58

EQUITIES	
Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

### AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Maize Meal p/kg	M7.00
Wheat Meal p/kg	M10.00
Cabbage p/kg	M14.00
Potatoes p/kg	M10.50
Brown Bread p/loaf	M10.00
White Bread p/loaf	M11.00
Sorghum Meal p/kg	M25.00
Brown Beans p/kg	M30.00
Tomato p/kg	M15.00
Eggs p/tray	M45.00
Milk (fresh) p/litre	M16.00
Milk (sour) p/litre	M20.00
Rice p/kg	M30.00
White Sugar p/kg	M22.00
Brown Sugar p/kg	M25.00
Beef p/kg	M85.00
Mutton p/kg	M90.00

### ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M15.35
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M15.50
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M15.25
Paraffin p/litre	M11.00
Water (Domestic) p/litre	M5.53
Water (Industrial) p/litre	M15.03
Electricity (Domestic) p/unit	M1.38
Electricity (Industrial) p/unit	M0.26
Gas p/kg	M20.00

# Ministry blasted over delayed payment of COVID relief funds

**NEO SENOKO**

[business@maserumetro.com](mailto:business@maserumetro.com)

**MASERU** – Officials from the Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing have been slated for intentionally delaying to process the COVID-19 relief funds to thousands of street vendors across the country.

A representative of the street vendors' association, Tšolo Lebitsa told Metro in an interview on Tuesday that no progress has been made to date in line with releasing the funds, slamming the ministry's officials for intentional sabotage.

"We have an agreement with the ministry but at the moment nothing is promising. There seems to be confusion, with the officials unwilling to release the funds. Everything is stagnant at the moment," he said.

Mr Lebitsa said only a small group of hawkers received money in the first batch, adding that in fact more are yet to receive the money soon.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government responded to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s outcry for control of the virus spread by announcing a nationwide



Local street vendor selling cabbage

lockdown that unfortunately adversely affected the private sector and the entire economy.

To mitigate the adverse impact of the national lockdown, the Government launched the Private Sector COVID-19 Relief Fund through the Lesotho Enterprise Assistance Programme (LEAP) within the Private Sector Competitiveness and

Economic Diversification Project (PSCEDP).

The fund was allocated a total of M59 million with the initial M20 million released to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

In March this year, a total of M7 565 000 was disbursed to 772 formal sector businesses for all districts.

A total of M3 239 000 was further disbursed to 6 478 informal sector

businesses covering the districts of Maseru, Berea and Butha-Buthe.

At the time, data for Leribe and Qacha's Nek was being processed while data from Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Quthing, Mophale's Hoek and Mafeteng had not yet been received for processing.

On Tuesday, Mr Lebitsa said a committee that has been established to deal with these issues is unable to do its work properly because it relies entirely on equipment assistance from the Ministry of Small Business, whose officials are intentionally unwilling to cooperate.

"Some of the people who have not received their money did not have proper details for registration and so far it is difficult to reach out to such people because we do not have the necessary equipment. We rely on assistance from the ministry. The LEAP office has been waiting for us to complete the processes of registration in order to release funds but so far it is difficult," he added.

He however, noted that they will continue fighting until all the funds have released.

While the Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Small Businesses, Advocate Bereng Makotoko could not be reached for comment this week, he had however, a fortnight ago indicated during the 15th session of the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD), that the funds would have been long released if the hawkers were already registered.

He said it is taking his ministry a long time to release the funds due to delayed registration processes.

# Business

# New electricity projects launched ...as government drags its feet on vandalism

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - While the Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC), a 100 percent government-owned entity established to supply environmentally friendly electricity to the people of Lesotho is struggling to deal with theft and vandalism of electrical cables across the country, government does not seem to address this matter - instead new electrification projects are being launched.

This is despite the LEC declaring in

June the loss of millions of maloti through vandalism of electrical cables among other things.

The utility company has sought assistance from other government agencies in an effort to put the matter to bed.

Among other things, distribution transformers are being vandalized for their copper windings while cables are stolen and eventually find their way into the market.

"We are working tirelessly to try and deal with these issues. But at the same time we are expecting law enforcement

agencies such as police and courts to also come to the party and help us put on hold this form of crime," LEC Public Relations Manager, Makhetha Motšoari told Metro in an interview on Tuesday.

The Government, though its relevant agencies, seems reluctant to deal with the matter as an emergency but at the same time continues to launch more electricity projects that may subsequently be impacted by the same challenges that have seen the utility company losing an estimated M21 million annually.

In June, LEC declared, and not for the



Prime Minister Dr Makhetha Motšoari

first time, that it is plunged in financial disarray as a result of property and copper theft that keeps on spiking each year.

The impact of vandalism is then easily passed on to the consumers and negatively impact to economy.

Mr Motšoari said among other measures, LEC is holding public gatherings in different villages to create awareness on the matter. He made an example of a person who was killed by members of the community in Mazenod recently, who accused him of stealing electrical cables.

"People are now aware of this form of crime and we continue spreading the message through different platforms going forward. Community members should also help us in protecting their property," he added.

Last week Friday, Prime Minister Dr Makhetha Motšoari and his entourage launched the electrification project financed through the Universal Access Fund (UAF) in Ha Rakobeli and Ha Arone areas.

The funding of the project was approved by the Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA), an electricity and water sector regulating body that regulates electricity, urban water and sewerage services at the cost of M4 291 283.03 for Ha Rakobeli and M8 961 874.74 for Ha Arone.

Dr Motšoari said in Ha-Arone, 331 families representing five villages are going to benefit from the project.

"We have given the contractor only 30 weeks (seven months) to complete the project. That means in May next year, the project should be completed and the people in these villages will be able to start using their electricity," the PM said during the launch on Friday.

The tender for this project has been awarded to Ramajake Thulo through his company, JR Holdings.

Dr Motšoari hailed the company, urging it to ensure that the residents of the surrounding areas further benefit through the short-term employment throughout the project.

## THE Family MEAL

1 full chicken, large chips,  
4 buns & 1.25L Coo-ee

# 149

**+10** 2L Pepsi,  
1.5L Coke

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<p><b>50</b> Two Jumbo Beef &amp; Cheese Burgers</p>	<p><b>45</b> Two Regular Beef &amp; Cheese Burgers</p>	<p><b>49</b> Two Cheeky Bowls Served With Rice *Choose 1 Cheeky Bowl &amp; 1 Cheeky Livers instead</p>

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# LHDA launches procurement for two major bridges construction

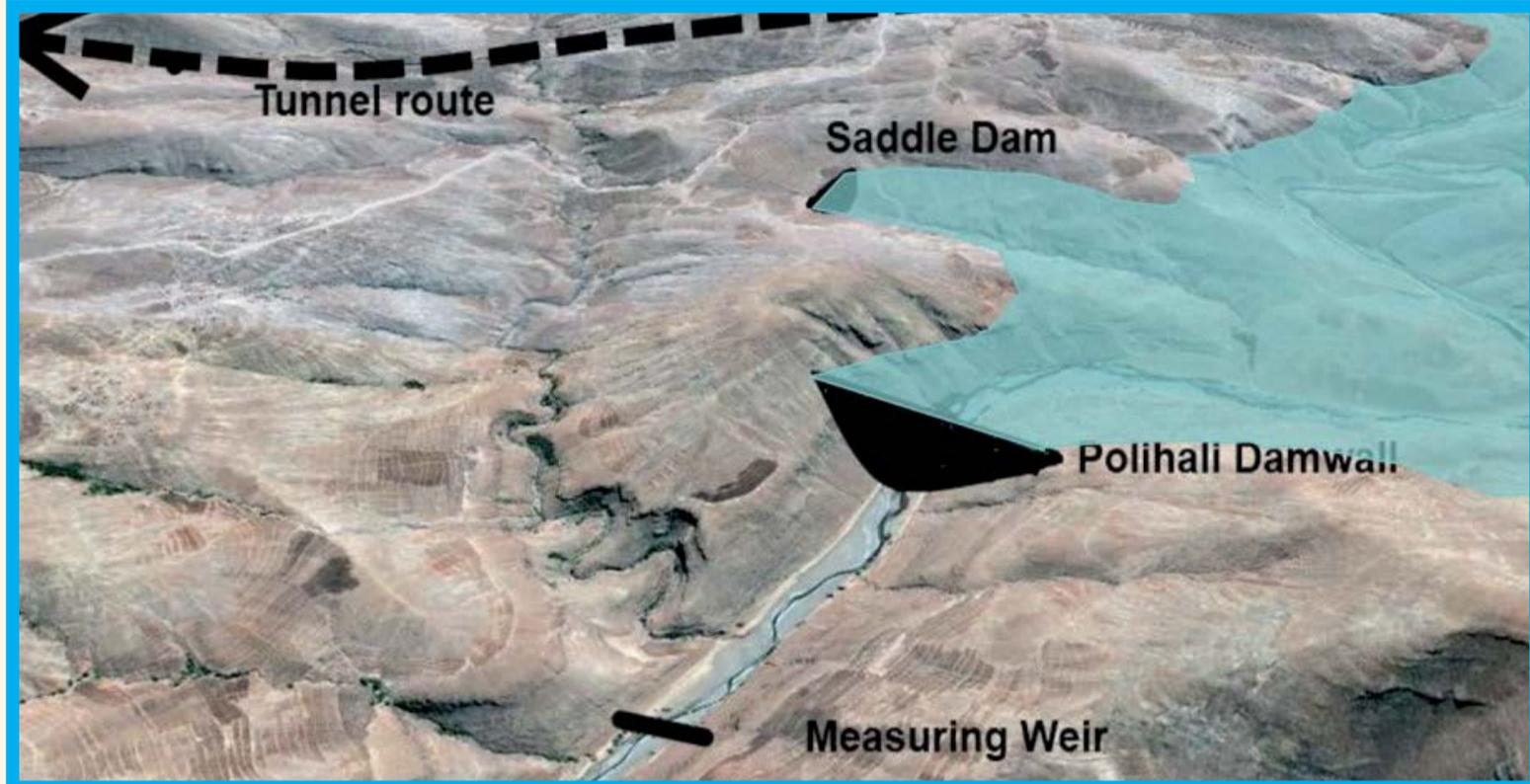
**MASERU** - The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), an award winning water resources and hydropower development organization that was set to implement, operate and maintain that part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) that falls within the borders of Lesotho has launched procurement processes for two major bridges, marking the last step in the procurement of Phase II major works construction.

Tenders for the construction of the Mabunyaneng and Khubelu bridges under Phase II of the LHWP were advertised on Thursday last week.

The procurement for the two smaller bridges follows the tender for the biggest of the three Phase II major bridges, the Senqu River Bridge in March this year.

"Procurement for the construction of the two bridges construction also follows the start of the Polihali transfer tunnel and Polihali Dam construction tenders in May and August respectively. It marks the last step in the procurement of Phase II major works construction," LHDA's Division Manager, Ntsoli Maiketso said in a statement.

Mr Maiketso said each of the tenders is another step on LHDA's journey to deliver Phase II of the LHWP on behalf of the Governments of Lesotho and South Africa as well as advance the economies of the two countries.



The Polihali Dam

Mabunyaneng River bridges will be located upstream of the two existing bridges along the A1 Road to provide access to the Mokhotlong town across the two bridges.

The construction of the major

bridges will be carried out under two separate contracts.

Phase II of the LHWP builds on the successful completion of Phase I in 2003. It delivers water to Gauteng region of South Africa and utilises

the water delivery system to generate hydroelectricity in Lesotho.

The major works of Phase I included the construction of the Katse Dam, the transfer and delivery tunnels, the Matsoku Weir, the Muela

Hydropower Plant and the Mohale Dam. The Phase II water transfer component comprises a dam in Polihali and a gravity tunnel that will connect the reservoir at Polihali with the Katse Reservoir.

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# Comments & Letters

## COVID-19 also affected people with breast cancer

### The Editor,

For many people with breast cancer, the pandemic has impacted nearly every aspect of their care, especially access to the much-needed support after diagnosis and during treatment. The past year has posed a challenge to just about everything, and breast cancer prevention is no exception. Although we saw setbacks in screenings and early detection, as people with breast cancer, we are rising to the challenge together. Many women are truly unable to afford services, while funding allows us to reach vulnerable women who are falling through the cracks. Whether this leads to a cancer diagnosis that can now be successfully treated or provides peace of mind that there is no evidence of cancer, we have one way or the other changed somebody's life for the better.

But the on-going COVID-19 pandemic has forced people with breast cancer to juggle many aspects of their care on their own. The pandemic has influenced everyday health's survey respondents, as about half of whom were in active treatment while the other half had not received treatment in the past 18 months. At the same time, people who have been treated for breast cancer felt somewhat prepared for social distancing, mask policies, and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This "new normal" for everyone else felt pretty routine to them.

Keithabetsa Sesiu  
'Melikane, Qacha's Nek

## NUL staff unhappy with new recruitment process

*Re: Our Concern on 2021 New Post No. Director - Postgraduate Studies, Research and Innovation Advertised Internally on October 12, 2021*

### The Editor,

The above-captioned subject bears reference. We, the undersigned members of the University staff hereby call on management to discontinue the recruitment process in terms of the above advertisement.

1. We note with serious concern that, the University Management has advertised a very senior position internally for three days; contrary to the University normal practice of advertising internal positions for fourteen days.

2. We also wish to register our concern that this position seems to exclude the majority of internal members that may have requisite skills and competencies in research and innovation. It appears to us that it is tailor-made for a particular individual. The observation is based on the fact that most faculties except for Humanities and slightly Education, offer PhDs and only one or two have supervised that level.

3. In our view, the position would be better advertised externally in order to attract the best candidates from a larger pool as opposed to the current situations in order to enable the University to attract candidates that have led Research Institutes of world repute – possibly Full Professors.

4. Additionally, we are concerned that, the position is advertised at the time the University is unable to pay staff promotions for lack of funds. It seems there is money reserved for new positions that are prioritised by Management for reasons best known to them. In fact, Management did not support recruitment into other positions approved by Council for reasons that there is not budget to support them. How come this new one has a budget? We find this baffling and worrying.

5. We therefore, seek urgent redress of our concerns in regard to this new position, such that, it should be suspended forthwith. However, if Management feels very strongly that the position is necessary, then it should consider changing the requirements and externalising the position. And we wish to inform your good office that if this anomaly is not redressed, we have no other alternative but to take this matter further.

NUL Staff

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Govt should be swift in helping hawkers

The Ministry of Small Business Cooperatives and Marketing should really level the playing field to allow for procession of delayed COVID-19 Relief Fund payments to street vendors.

It is amazing that to date, scores of street vendors in the country are yet to receive their COVID-19 Relief Funds almost a year after the fund was established.

This goes on to demonstrate the level of incompetence within government ministries.

According to the representatives of the street vendors' association, they have done everything in their power to try and solicit collaboration with the official from the said ministry. However, it seems the officials are not willing to cooperate.

This raises eyebrows as to what could be the main reasons for officials' lack of willingness to cooperate with players in the informal sector.

First thing that comes to mind obviously is that these officials are already trying to manipulate systems to find ways on how to illegally benefit from the funds or sabotage the minister responsible.

Our plea to the minister is for him to make effort and ensure that the poor people who are still trying to establish themselves in business are duly subsidised.

Almost in every business forum, government keeps on encouraging people to start businesses and not entirely rely on employment. But the same government has failed for a long time to assist small business holders to establish themselves in business.

Those that have been able to start around the streets of Maseru and elsewhere have unfortunately been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and some are already out of business as we speak.

Instead of delivering these small amounts of relief funds, the very same government that keeps on advocating entrepreneurship is failing to ensure that the street vendors are helped in order to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

To the hawkers, we would urge them to keep on fighting for what they deserve and not allow government with its ignorant officials to sabotage their livelihoods.

They should do everything it takes to force the government to take action regarding this matter. It has been proven in recent years that the government only takes action after a series of protests by those in need.

Red tapes in government services should really be addressed in order to avoid unnecessary inconsistencies in future.

Otherwise people will always have to fight to get services.

## Why the murder of British MP, Sir David Amess will have political resonance throughout Africa

The murder of British MP Sir David Amess in an English coastal resort is also an African issue. Have no doubt, the Ali Harbi Ali case will have a jihad-type political resonance throughout east, central, west and southern Africa. For South Africa, it is an issue for its next-door neighbour.

The word "harbi" is an Arabic word meaning "military".

Ali Harbi Ali, a young British Muslim man from an elite Somali political family, was charged in London last week with having carried out a murder on 15 October. He is charged with having made a journey of 241km from his home in London in order to stab to death a devout Christian white British MP, Sir David Amess, while the MP was listening to the needs of his constituents in a Christian church. Harbi Ali sat waiting patiently for the police to arrest him.

In so far as a largely Somali-based Muslim jihad has extended south into Kenya and now further down to Cabo Delgado province in northern Mozambique, this murder of an elderly MP in an English coastal resort is also an African issue. Have no doubt, the Harbi Ali case will have a jihad-type political resonance throughout east, central, west and southern Africa. For South Africa, it is an issue for its next-door neighbour.

Given his Somali heritage, it is not possible to separate the trial of Harbi Ali from the history of East Africa, just as this history cannot be separated from Islam. The reality is that the slave hunt by Arab Muslims for black Africans began in Mozambique only 300 years after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, and at least 700 years before the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck in the Western Cape.

Mozambique received its name from the East African Arab slave trade, when Mussa bin Bique based himself on the island of Mozambique more than 500 years ago, well before the Christian Portuguese colonised the island and the region, with their own Atlantic slave trade to follow.

"Mussa Bin Bique (Arabic: *موسى بن بيق*), other names Musa Al Big or Mossa Al Bique or Mussa Ben Mbiki or Mussa Ibn Malik, was ruler of the Island of Mozambique and wealthy merchant, before the Portuguese overtook the island in 1544."

Islam in Mozambique has a history that goes back to at least the tenth century. The records show that the region

was known and well frequented by Muslim travellers and traders. Mussa Bin Bique was considered to be a sheikh, i.e. a person with authority in Islamic knowledge. The name of the island, and subsequently the entire African

**MY  
TAKE**  
PAUL TREWHELA



nation of Mozambique, was derived from his name. With Islam came literacy in the fields of poetry, history, commercial transactions, and other literary genres. By the middle of the fifteenth century, permanent and flourishing commercial and religious sultanates had been established along the coast and some had penetrated up the Zambezi.

As colonial history is erased from many landmarks and regional names, there is a university in Maputo bearing the name of Mozambique's ruler Mussa Bin Bique called Mussa Bin Bique University, established in 1998.

For nearly everyone in South Africa, this is a subject that has been totally excluded from the teaching of history in schools. Across the continent, it was a subject entirely censored from the politics of national liberation as well as of Pan-Africanism, not least in Mozambique itself, where the overwhelming majority of people do not know the historic meaning of their country's name. The name of the slave trader Mussa bin Bique is even in the name of Mozambique's governing political party of the past 46 years, FRELIMO, short for Frente de Libertação de Moçambique, the Portuguese for "Liberation Front of Mozambique", as well as of REMANO, FRELIMO's antagonist in the country's previous civil wars.

In the same way, this is an Africa-wide subject that is excluded from the one-dimensional discourse of Black Lives Matter, just as in this October's Black History Month in the United Kingdom – the month of the murder of an MP in a church. It is one of the most crucial issues for black people globally in the 21st century. DM

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# Their Majesties to attend 2020 Expo in Dubai

*...as the private sector leads discussions and initiatives to boost the country's economic growth*



Their Majesties King Letsie III and Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso

**MASERU** – Their Majesties King Letsie III and Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso will attend the 2020 World Exhibition (EXPO), which commenced in Dubai on October 1.

Their delegation consists of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, Small Business Development Cooperatives and that of Tourism as well as representatives from the private sector and government agencies, which include the Lesotho Tourism Investment Promotion Agency and Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC). The LTDC is a government agency responsible for promotion of tourism, supports tourism sector investment and offers limited incentives to the investors.

The corporation will join the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), the main parastatal of the Government of Lesotho charged with the implementation of the country's industrial policies LNDC in leading investment promotion efforts during this EXPO.

Tiisetso Moremoholo, the Public Relations Manager of the LNDC said Lesotho's participation at the global event was initiated by the government of Lesotho.

Expo 2020 is a World Expo, currently hosted by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates from October 1 to March 31, 2022. Originally scheduled for October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021, the event was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But this year, Ms Moremoholo said the event has changed gears to put the private sector in the driver's seat to lead conversations and initiatives that will boost economic growth of the country.

She said Lesotho's national day celebration will be held on October 27 giving her maximum media exposure by being featured on digital screens across the EXPO site on that day, adding that it will host media briefings featuring delegates to further promote Lesotho's agenda in Dubai.

She said in its capacity as a national investment promotion agency, the LNDC has organised business engagement to facilitate exchange engagement between Lesotho and the international business community.

"These engagements consist of a high level business round table inviting United Arab Emirates and international investors and top Lesotho business representatives at a business forum themed 'Lesotho rising to prosperity' that will feature a panel discussion on Lesotho's investment climate and investment opportunities with provision for a question and answer session and lastly business to business meetings," she also said.

Lesotho is amongst the 192 countries participating in this year edition of the event. The Expo provides a platform for participants to share their achievements, ambitions and provide the private sector with the opportunity to exchange business ideas and form trade partnerships with counterparts across the globe.

**WORKS ON 6 SYMPTOMS OF HEARTBURN FAST**

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## His Majesty advocates better nutrition in households

*...he says good nutrition improves relations in families*



His Majesty King Letsie III

**LINEO MABEKEBEKE**  
health@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – His Majesty King Letsie III, the Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Special Goodwill Ambassador for Nutrition, says better nutrition has improved relations in households, wishing for the achievement of food security projects to spread across the entire country.

The King made these comments on Saturday while touring several project sites in Mafeteng and Thaba-Tseka where the FAO, a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security is implementing activities to restore land and water

resources (ecosystem services) and improve food and nutrition security.

He said he is proud to have a special relationship with FAO, adding he sees tremendous change in the lives of the people where the project was implemented, further showing that the testimonies from the farmers themselves is a confirmation.

The project called Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation through Support to Integrated Watershed Management in Lesotho was funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) through the Least Developed Countries Fund.

The project has strengthened climate change adaptation through improved watershed

management.

Implemented since 2015, it has promoted protection of land and water resources through an integrated approach and, strengthened and diversified the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people so that they can better respond to climate change impacts.

It has benefited local communities in most vulnerable livelihood zones by rehabilitating their rangelands and water sources and making them realise notable and progressive improvement in their production systems, especially in homestead vegetable production.

As a result, communities produce enough fodder and have access to water both for their livestock and household use.

Nutrition has improved, and they have been supported to engage in other income-generating activities to diversify their livelihoods.

During the tour, the king also inaugurated water storage tanks and animal drinking points constructed under the project to facilitate access to water for communities and their livestock.

He commended FAO for improving the lives of the communities, urging the communities to sustain the gains.

Lesotho faces fragile and substantially degraded soils and disappearing vegetation. Farmers rely on rainfall for food production and for their livestock. FAO built infrastructure to help the vulnerable communities to access water through simple and appropriate water harvesting

technologies such as ground water dams, roof water tanks, earth dams, and animal drinking points.

The farmers now have access to water to grow fodder for their livestock which has improved productivity.

“Conserving the rangelands has helped water recharge, and catchments have enough water for livestock and households. We now have healthy springs. We were trained to manage the rangeland including removing invasive shrubs that out-competed the growth of desirable and palatable grass species,” said the area chief of Linakeng in Thaba-Tseka, Chief Serobanyane Matete.

The benefiting households received chickens, rabbits, pigs, and assorted vegetable varieties to improve their household’s dietary composition.

“We were trained to grow diverse varieties of vegetables in keyhole gardens and under shade net covers all year round. Our families now eat a balanced diet - eggs, meat, and vegetables. Conflicts in households have reduced drastically,” said Mamokeretla Sebeta of Matlatseng in Thaba-Tseka.

“Our husbands and youth no longer want to move to urban areas to look for work because the project introduced us to income-generating activities that are more profitable,” she added.

In a bid to reduce burden on the environment, farmers were equipped with skills to engage in other income generating activities such as beekeeping. Beekeepers received essential equipment such as beehives, protective gear, swarm catchers with telescopic handles, bee smokers, draining sieves, bee brushes and honey extractors.

The project also strengthened the technical capacity of national and district level staff and institutions on sustainable land and water management and climate-resilient livelihood strategies.

The four-year project worked with partners in the country including the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology, the Ministry of Water Affairs, the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, the Department of Environment and the National University of Lesotho (NUL).

# The world in 10 minutes

## OHIO - USA

### Pablo Escobar's hippos recognised as legal persons in the U.S.

A group of about 100 hippos, who are descendants of hippos that were owned by late drug lord Pablo Escobar, have been recognised as legal persons in the U.S.

This marks the first time ever that non-human creatures have been legally considered people.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio recognised the hippos as legal persons recently, an important step in trying to save the animals as authorities in Colombia have discussed killing them since 2009.

Escobar illegally imported animals at his ranch in Colombia until his death in 1993. The animals were sent to other zoos with the exception of four hippos too difficult to move. The four have now multiplied over the years with authorities referring to them as an invasive species.

Colombian attorney Luis Domingo Gómez Maldonado filed a lawsuit on the animals' behalf in July to save them from being killed, stating that sterilisation would be a better option.

Non-human animals in Colombia have the right to bring lawsuits to protect their interests. Interested parties in the country are allowed to go to a federal court in the U.S. to obtain documents or testimony.



## TEXAS - USA

### Fish found with parasite that eats its tongue and then becomes its tongue

The tongue-eating louse is the only known example of a parasite replacing an organ of its host.

Recently, officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department took a photo of a strange parasite resembling a pill bug that is also known as the snapper-choking isopod, according to San Antonio ABC affiliate KSAT.

The fish containing the parasite was found at Galveston Island State Park. Officials jokingly suggested on Facebook that the creature was a Martian before offering the true science surrounding the crustacean.

The tongue-eating louse attaches itself to the fish's mouth and then replaces the tongue, according to the Houston Chronicle.

The parasite then survives in the fish's mouth by feeding on the host animal's mucus - the only known example of a parasite replacing an organ of its host.



## ISRAEL

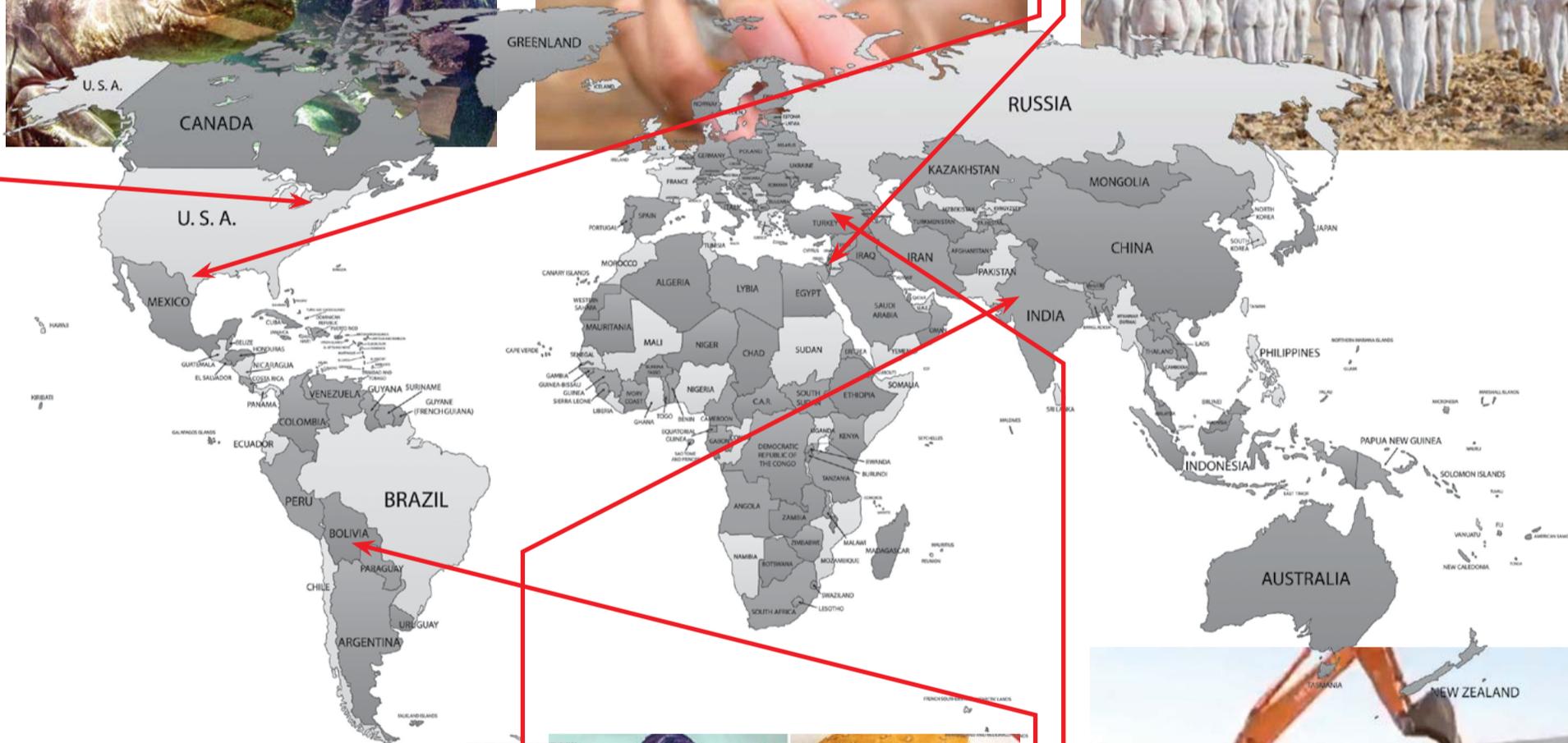
### Artist recruits 300 people to pose for nude photo near Dead Sea in Israel

Some 300 male and female volunteers stripped naked and donned white body paint for an artistic installation meant to draw attention to the shrinking Dead Sea.

They posed on a Sunday for the American photographer Spencer Tunick, who has done similar installations in other exotic locales around the world, including French wine country, a Swiss glacier and a beach in South Africa. The shoot was promoted by Israel's Tourism Ministry.

"My visit to Israel was an experience for me and I am always happy to return here and photograph in the only country in the Middle East that allows art such as this," Tunick said. He did an earlier installation at the Dead Sea in 2011.

The volunteers gathered in the early afternoon on Sunday. They disrobed and smeared their bodies with white paint in the desert outside the Israeli city of Arad. The shoot lasted around three hours, with the artist positioning the volunteers and the camera.



## INDIA

### India wants to replace car hooters with sweet melodies

India has brought us yoga, chess, the concept of zero, the USB key and buttons. Now its transport minister Nitin Gadkari is about to make humanity's next big leap with a law replacing car horns with the sweet sound of the sitar, flute, tabla and violin.

"I am studying this and soon planning to make a law that the horns of all vehicles should be in Indian musical instruments so that it is pleasant to hear," Nitin Gadkari told local media recently.

The hooters could blast sounds made by the flute, tabla, violin, mouth organ or harmonium, he added.

Gadkari also said he wanted to replace the "irritating" sirens used by ambulances and police vehicles with soothing tunes.

India is home to some of the noisiest cities in the world, as rickshaws, buses, taxis, weaving motorbikes and private cars fight for space on the traffic-clogged roads.



## BOLIVIA

### Woman's horror on discovering she chewed on rotting human finger in burger

Imagine the horror on suddenly chewing on something unfamiliar while tucking into your favourite burger at a fast-food outlet - only to discover it's a severed human finger. Then, while still in shock, observing the outlet carrying on serving customers like nothing had happened after they had been alerted to the gruesome discovery. This happened to Estefany Benitez at a Hot Burger outlet in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia. She posted images of the rotting finger on Facebook along with videos of her waiting to speak to a company representative at one of her favourite fast-food chains.

Later, a Hot Burger spokesperson called the matter an "unfortunate incident" and explained that a worker in the factory where the burger was prepared had lost part of his index finger while preparing the meat. They also claimed that "nothing like this has ever happened to us before".

However, the authorities investigating the case of a "rotting" human finger found in a hamburger say that a worker had lost two fingers in the industrial accident - and they can't trace the second finger.



## TURKEY

### Man destroys fleet of trucks with tractor loader after being 'fired'

A video of a man who used a tractor-loader-backhoe, more commonly referred to as a TLB, to destroy a fleet of trucks in spectacular fashion after he was allegedly fired has sparked a lot of comment from Mzansi on social media. The video has been viewed over 70 000 times on Twitter, with some people commenting that his "selfishness" would cause other people to lose their jobs. Employees and people in the vicinity who came running can be seen looking on aghast at the spectacle.

It was uploaded by @LeratoN\_ on Twitter, who wrote: "They fired him from work with immediate effect and this is what he did before he left."

However, this incident didn't occur in South Africa - though it could easily have been the case - and it was unpaid wages that triggered the destruction. According to Turkish news site Konhaber, it was a furious coal miner, identified only as Hakan M, who crushed the roofs of five tipper trucks, claiming his boss, who is also his uncle, had not paid his wages for a month. The incident happened near Mount Cudi, in Turkey's Sirtak Province, last month. The trucks are reportedly valued at around R1.4 million each. It is not clear yet whether Hakan will be facing any legal action.

## DJ Lovers to set Bantu party ablaze

Several local artistes will be featured in the much-awaited event

**KABELO MASOABI**

**MASERU** – Popular South African (SA) radio personality, Lerato Mpopo aka DJ Lovers is billed to perform at the Mafeteng gig called Bantu Chillax to be held on October 30.

DJ Lovers is a veteran presenter for Lesedi FM, a South African radio station that broadcasts in Sesotho.

The much-awaited musical event will be held at the Ramokoatsi Recreational Park from 10am until late.

A group of local deejays also scheduled to perform at the event include Thizozo, Javaz, Tshepza,

Chixx and Warrys.

The organisers of the event are the Bantu Football Club fans known as the "Titos" and entrance fee ranges from M100 (general) to M500 (VIP) which will also cater for meals and beverages supplied by partners, Lecholi Butchery.

Jam Session will provide music equipment.

"Tickets are available at the Bantu Football Club offices in Mafeteng and the other branches located in Ha Abia, Khubetsoana and Mazenod in Maseru. It is a fund raising initiative planned to help boost the team's finances," says a member of Titos, Khothatso Nkhabu.

For his part, DJ Lovers says: "I hope to see you soon the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho. I miss the warm reception you always give me. I love Lesotho."

When not on radio, DJ Lovers is involved in club and events deejaying. He also produces music. Last weekend he staged at a fun-packed charity event in Klerksdop, SA, where the highly celebrated SA female artist, Makhadzi also performed.

With previous performances in Maseru, Hlotse, Maputsoe and Mahobong to mention but a few, DJ Lovers needs no introduction in the local entertainment circles. His last appearance in the country was in Mokhotlong in May.

He also graced the 2018 Centre of Accounting Studies (CAS) Fresher's Ball alongside Rhythm City actor, Mduduzi "Suffocate" Mabaso.

Rhythm City is a South African soapie whose last episode was aired on etv on July 16.



Popular Lesedi FM presenter, Lerato Mpopo aka DJ Lovers

## Maputsoe's own Spiderman scales tall buildings

**KABELO MASOABI**

**MAPUTSOE** – The picture of a skinny teenager in a master show of acrobatic athleticism as he scales a tall building with his bare hands has gone viral on social media platforms.

Motheolane Mahanya also known as "Spiderman" for his daring stunts, is a unique 19-year-old athlete from Maputsoe in Leribe.

This flexible and strong acrobat easily scrambles up a tall building by running towards it then he jumps onto the roof, gripping it with both

hands while his feet push his weight up the wall like a spider. He does this with the speed of lightning.

Once on top of the roofing, he runs to the edge of the wall and with one hand on the edge of the wall, he lifts his body and leaves it suspended in the air for a moment, then jumps back to the ground or to another adjacent structure, moving like a monkey.

On Saturday he took his show to a popular place called Kolberg Bottle Store and Carwash located in St Monica's outside Maputsoe.

Everybody wondered as to the kind of training he underwent in order to perfect the incredibly tough and risky moves he made.

In appreciation of the youngster's talent, some people donated cash while others bought him drinks perhaps in a bid to encourage him to show more of his aerial tricks.

He left the spectators completely stunned with one of his swagger acrobatic moves followed by a fancy somersault dance before casually walking off.

"It seems like doing a somersault move when standing still is no big deal to him," remarks one of the spectators, Lebona Makalo who clearly enjoyed the show.

"I was born hyperactive with extreme stamina. I don't count risks when I do a dangerous stunt because I'm fearless. I enjoy being the centre of attention, hence, the audience gives me the kicks," he says.

His friend Siphon Lesitha calls him "a self-pumping machine" for he has unique characters.

"One day I was left me

astonished when he came home with a self-invented human robot that he mobilises with a remote control. It was a science project he did when he was a learner at Sacred Heart High School. He doesn't only react fast but is a sharp thinker too," tells Lesitha.

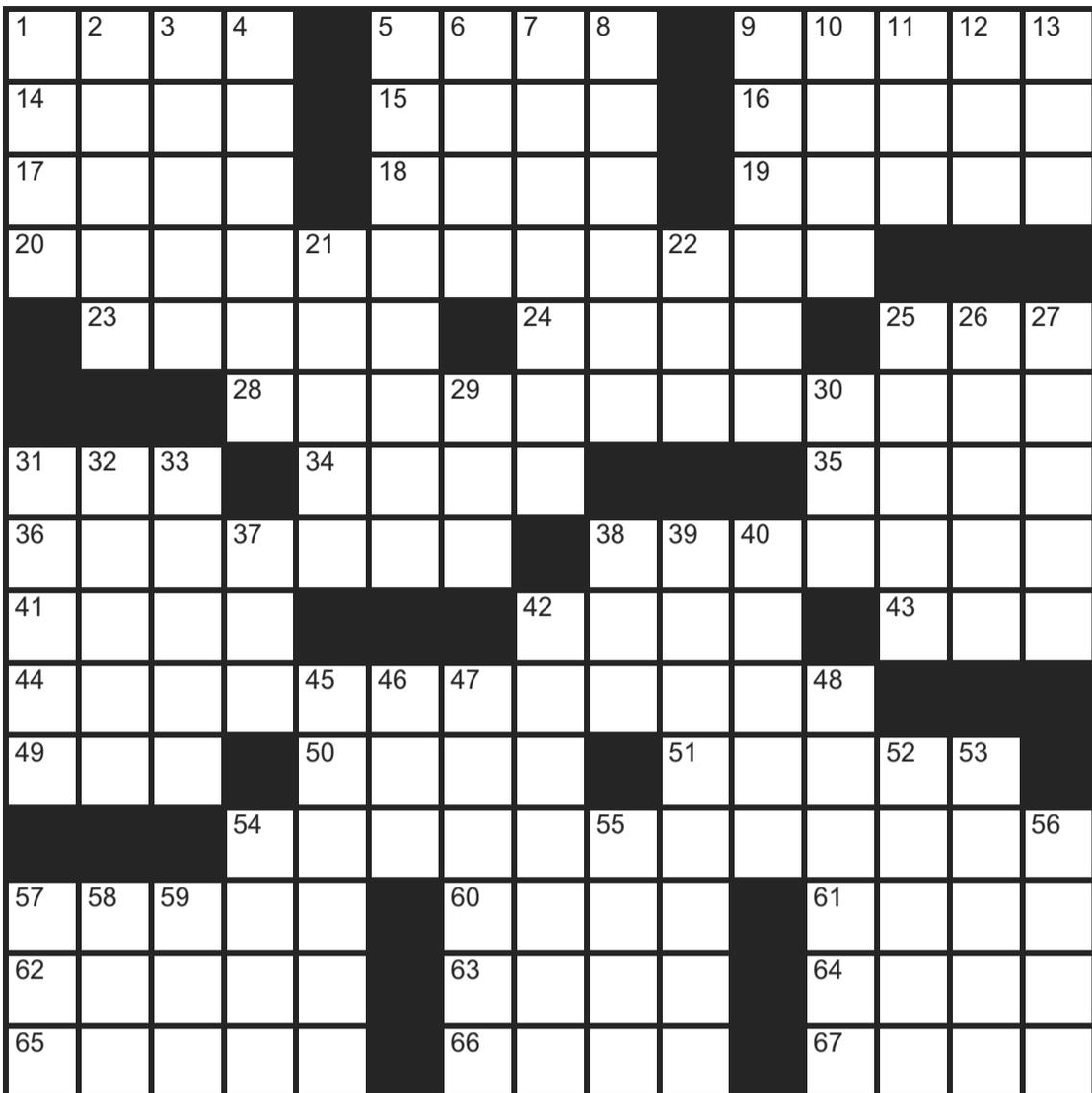
Mahanya who is also a rapper and a dance teacher is also a gymnastic instructor.

For the love of performing arts, he briefly shares that he is planning to organise an 'aggressive' dance competition for children living around Maputsoe.



**DARING:** Maputsoe's own Spider man, Motheolane Mahanya jumps from the roof of a building

## General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Aloe\_\_\_\_\_
  - 5. Healthful retreats
  - 9. Inhale audibly
  - 14. Decorated, as a cake
  - 15. Pledge
  - 16. Eagle's home
  - 17. Czech or Serb
  - 18. Old Italian coin
  - 19. Cousin of a loon
  - 20. Listened in
  - 23. Steel coated plate
  - 24. Zest
  - 25. Inquire
  - 28. Annual dessert
  - 31. Canine command
  - 34. Wet, as morning grass
  - 35. Beseech
  - 36. Sink
  - 38. Said at the end of an excerpt
  - 41. Purse
  - 42. German title of respect
  - 43. Actor Beatty
  - 44. Electrostatic imaging device
  - 49. "C\_\_\_\_\_la vie!"
  - 50. Terminal info
  - 51. All worked up
  - 54. Electrical devices that transmit signals
  - 57. Swampy lake
  - 60. Brave one
  - 61. Soon, to a bard
  - 62. Merger
  - 63. Earthen pot
  - 64. Completely fix
  - 65. Breath fresheners
  - 66. In good health
  - 67. Dish cooked in a pot
- Down**
- 1. Workbench attachment
  - 2. Brilliant success
  - 3. Plunder
  - 4. Modifier
  - 5. Fused together
  - 6. Couple
  - 7. Withering
  - 8. Molded
  - 9. Wisely
  - 10. Overly bookish sort
  - 11. Intense anger
  - 12. Little lie
  - 13. Doctor's charge
  - 21. Like some remarks
  - 22. Royal insomnia cause

## Sudoku Puzzle

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

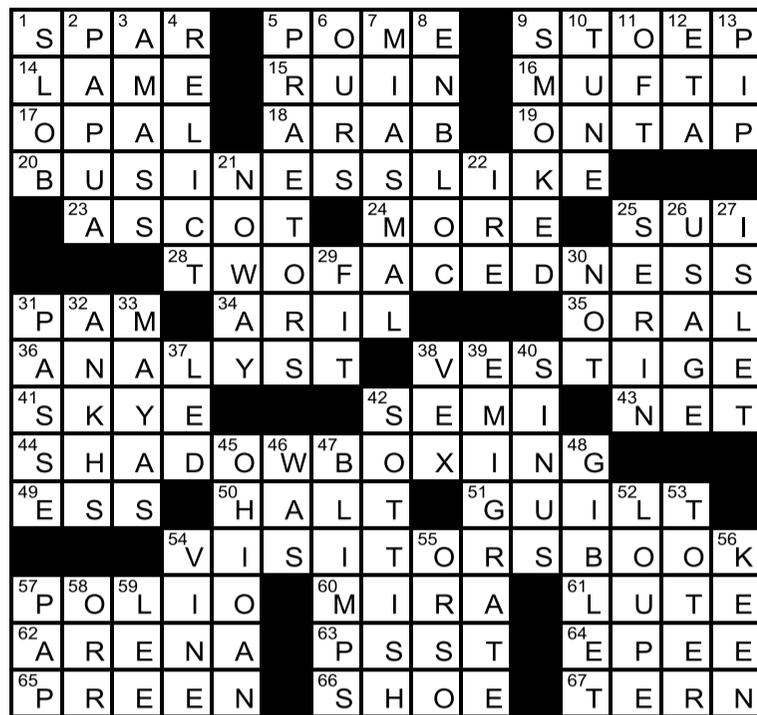
Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contain all the from 1-9

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

## Last Week's Solution

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

## Last Week's Solution



- 25. Moses' brother
- 26. Glide
- 27. Excited, with "up"
- 29. Couple
- 30. PC "brain"
- 31. Inscribed pillar
- 32. Scintillas
- 33. Believe in
- 37. Mincemeat dessert
- 38. Big coffee holder
- 39. Concerning the country
- 40. Milling machinery
- 42. Capable of being split
- 45. Deja vu, on television
- 46. School grp.
- 47. Almost out of gas
- 48. Instrument to measure distant objects
- 52. Basic belief
- 53. Wear away
- 54. Tugboat sound
- 55. Canvas
- 56. Falling flakes
- 57. No-goodnik
- 58. Groove-billed\_\_\_\_\_
- 59. Yang's counterpart

## So You Think You are Geneius

### Question (Answer next week)

I started a journey to my Aunt's yesterday with a full tank of petrol, 50 litres, but at that exact moment my petrol tank sprang a leak. I managed to drive 80 kilometres before coming to a complete stop with an empty petrol tank. So one hour into my journey I had to get some more petrol. I know that the car manages 5 kilometres per litre of petrol. How quickly was I losing petrol?



### Last Week's Answer

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

# Metro Motoring

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## Be Car-Smart

# Wax your car too

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

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

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

environmental and cosmetic factors, as well as maintain your model's beauty and value.

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

**Remove dirt & grime**

After extensive washing with a specialist shampoo to take off loose dirt and grime, use plenty of clean

water to remove any trace of suds and then dry the panels thoroughly. Turtle Wax produces a wide range of car care shampoos, including the ever-popular Turtle Wax M.A.X.-Power Car Wash, which is the only wash that increases the pH cleaning power making it suitable for any cleaning task and even toughest dirt.

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

**Tackle defects**

Polish car surface. Next, carefully polish the panels to tackle defects. Applied properly, the polish's slight abrasive qualities should remove any previous layers of wax, as well as grease & dirt to reach the undamaged paint underneath. Try Turtle Wax Clean Finish Polishing Compound for the best effect.

Remove paintwork imperfections. If you see any noticeable swirls and light scratches on your car surface, it would be a good idea to use a more abrasive product in order to renew the paintwork. Our new Turtle Wax Scratch Repair & Renew was specifically created for those problems. It uses Heal & Seal technology with protective resins to help repair years of damage in one use and deposit a barrier for permanent restoration.

**Benefits of waxing your car surface**

Waxing protects that freshly revealed coat.

Done properly, it will act as a protective layer to keep your car looking glossy and new, whatever the vehicle's age. Ultimately, it can cut down the need or frequency of car polishing altogether.

**Best conditions for waxing**

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

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

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

**What type of wax should I use?**

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

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

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

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

# Make room for the Toyota Rumion

## ... Toyota's all-new compact MPV

The Toyota Avanza served as South Africa's first affordable reasonably-sized people mover. Featuring compact dimensions, a simple fuel-efficient engine line-up and seven-seat carrying capacity - the Avanza immediately found favour with Mzansi (for both business and leisure use). Now after two generations, the trusted Avanza makes way for the Toyota Rumion. The Toyota Rumion brings with it a host of product improvements - specifically catered to the evolving needs of customers in the smaller MPV segment.

The Toyota Rumion represents the third product of the Toyota and Suzuki strategic alliance. Following the Starlet and Urban Cruiser, which have achieved significant sales success in just a short space of time, the Toyota Rumion is poised to follow in its siblings' footsteps.

The newcomer keeps the same product concept, compact dimensions, a four-cylinder petrol engine, seven-seater layout and good ground clearance. A noteworthy change is the switch to a front-wheel-drive layout - which brings with it improved fuel economy, better packaging and reduced mechanical componentry.

The front design employs a trapezoidal radiator grille, with the familiar three-horizontal-slat design and centrally-mounted Toyota ellipse. These are flanked by large tapered headlamps with a large lower apron, which houses stylised air vents and fog lamp surrounds (where fitted).

**Concept & Design**

The side features a prominent crease line extending from the front fender to the rear taillamps, which is joined by an asymmetric rear window, adding a touch of visual flair. In the rear, large vertical LED taillamps with L-shaped lens



extensions create a squared off look. The stylised lower bumper mimics the front design, adding a sense of cohesion and width.

A choice of five exterior colours are on offer: Mystic Pearl White, Azure Blue, Seal Grey Metallic, Autumn Blaze Red and Shadow Black Pearl.

All Toyota Rumion models employ the 1.5-litre K15B engine which delivers 77kW and 138Nm. Both 5-speed manual and 4-speed automatic transmissions are offered (grade-dependant). The fuel consumption figure checks in at 6.2 l/100 km (a slight improvement over the 1.5 Avanza) for both transmission types. CO2 emissions register as 146 and 147 g/km, while top speed is quoted as 175 and 170 km/h km, for the manual and auto respectively.

The Toyota Rumion retains the existing three grade line-up: S, SX and TX. The S-grade model is aimed at customers requiring pure functional use at a low price point, the SX offers a balance

between affordability and comfort, while the TX grade is aimed at the leisure buyer requiring enhanced comfort and convenience.

The S-grade features hard-wearing black exterior mirrors and radiator grille, colour-coded bumpers and high-mounted LED brake light. The interior is finished in durable textile trim with a three-spoke urethane steering wheel, and 60/40 folding second row seating. A unique feature of the cabin are the ventilated cupholders up front (allowing beverages to retain cold or heat). A 12-volt power outlet (front), electric windows, tilt-adjustable steering column and air-conditioner are also provided.

The mid-tier SX adds colour-coded door handles, colour-coded retractable exterior mirrors with power adjustment, chrome treatment for the radiator grille and a rear-window wiper. Remote central locking, a rear-window demister, additional rear 12-volt power outlet, steering switches, park

distance control (PDC) and rear air-conditioner amplify the convenience factor.

SX and TX models also boast a double-din audio system with Bluetooth, USB and Aux interfaces playing through four speakers. Toyota Connect is available across the range (even on the S-grade sold without audio) which offers telematics services, Wi-Fi hotspot (including complimentary 15Gb data) and vehicle health status. The above can be accessed via the MyToyota App on any smartphone.

The top-spec TX model offers customers a comprehensive specification level, aimed at the family buyer. An upgrade to keyless entry with push start, chrome door handles, fog lamps and automatic air-conditioner form the starting point of the TX 'spec' level. The audio system too is upgraded to the touchscreen variety, which brings with it a reverse camera and Apple CarPlay/Android Auto functionality, while the speaker tally is increased to six. Wood-trim finish on the instrument panel adds an air of luxury.

S-grade models are fitted with steel wheels shod with 185-65 R15 tyres. SX variants use the same size with stylised hubcaps while the TX models feature 15" alloy wheels. All models have a full-size spare wheel.

All grades feature driver and passenger airbags, ABS, EBD as well as ISOFIX points. An immobiliser and alarm is also included across the board.

**Model Line-up & Pricing**  
Rumion 1.5 S- R 245 600  
Rumion 1.5 SX MT- R 273 500  
Rumion 1.5 SX AT- R 289 200  
Rumion 1.5 TX MT- R 301 600  
Rumion 1.5 TX AT- R 317 200  
Peace of Mind

A four-services/60 000 km service plan is standard on all Rumion models, with service intervals pegged at 12-months/15 000 km. A 3-year/100 000 km warranty also forms part of the offering. Customers can also purchase additional service and warranty plan extensions from their nearest Toyota dealer with an impressive 220 outlets nationwide.

# Rabale eyes Champions League success

**MASERU** - Mehalalitoe captain, Boitumelo 'Queen' Rabale will be looking to add more silverware to her successful first year at South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns FC when they head to Egypt for the CAF Women's Champions League.

The-24-year-old in her debut season with the Tshwane outfit has already tasted success winning the inaugural TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League COSAFA qualifiers in September.

Sundowns are also on the verge of successfully defending their Hollywood bets Super League in South Africa, where they enjoy an 18-point advantage over second placed, TUT FC.

"It's been a very good and interesting first year at Sundowns. We are one game away from clinching the league title and will also be off to Egypt to play in the CAF Women's Champions League," Rabale said.

"I want to help the team add the CAF Women's Champions League title into their trophy cabinet. It will mean so much not only for me, but the Sundowns family and Basotho at large."

The Lesotho star registered two goals as Sundowns clinched the lone COSAFA ticket after a dominant display, winning all their six matches and scoring 22 goals.

Rabale admitted that it will be a



Mehalalitoe captain, Boitumelo 'Queen' Rabale

different ball game at the eight-club tournament in Egypt, where they have been drawn in Group B alongside Kenya's Vihiga Queens, Morocco's AFFAR and River Angels of Nigeria.

"We know what's at stake and we have prepared very well as a team to take on the best in the continent. We have played a lot of games, which have helped our preparations and there are no injuries in our squad. We are ready," she said.

The first edition of the CAF Women's Champions League will be staged in Cairo, Egypt from November 5-9.

Born on August 5, 1996 in Maseru, Rabale is a former striker for Canadian college team, CBU Capers.

In 2015, she won the inaugural Lesotho Women's Super League with her former team, Likhosatsana FC.

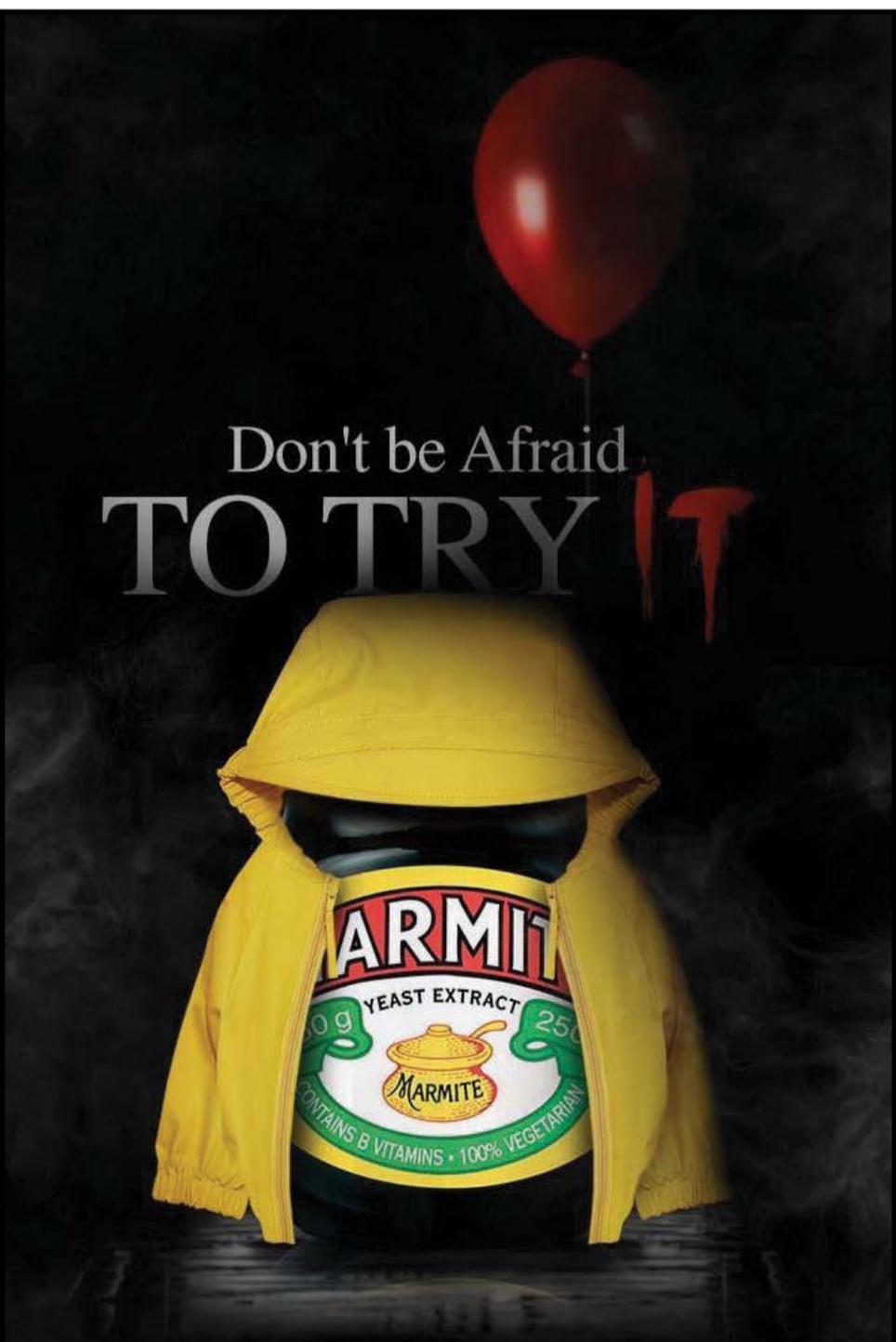
She later joined Bloemfontein Celtic

and captained the South African side between 2016 and 2017 before leading the club to win the league.

In April 2017, she won Lesotho's Sport Star of the Year award.

The same year she left Bloemfontein Celtic and was awarded a Kick4Life Student-Athlete Scholarship before she moved to the Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois, United States of America (USA). In January 2020, she was named the National Junior College Women's Player of the Year following her 2019 season with the LCCC Trailblazers, in which she was the league's top goalscorer with 57 goals and placed third with her team in the NJCAA Division National Tournament.

Rabale capped for Lesotho at senior level during the 2018 Africa Women Cup of Nations qualification.



# Maseru 2020 Region 5 Games draws altered



COSAFA General Secretary, Sue Destombes



Region 5 Organising Committee Chairperson, Stanley Mutoya

semi-finals of the competition. The field for the girls' competition initially had only four sides, but with the addition of three more means it will now be played in a two-group format.

Last year's losing finalists Zambia are the seeds in Group A, and are joined by Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Comoros. South Africa lead Group B along with Mauritius and Namibia, with the top two teams in each pool to qualify for the semi-finals.

There will be a new champion crowned this year after East African guest nations, Uganda and Tanzania won the first two editions of the competition in 2019 and 2020.

Region 5 Organising Committee Chairperson Stanley Mutoya told **Metro** that football will be played at Setsoto stadium which is currently under construction.

He further said the contractor promised that by the end of November, the installation of the athletics track will have been completed and the facility ready for use.

"The contractor mentioned that if he completes the field track on time, he will also install the new artificial turf, but if he finishes late, we will use the currently installed turf as it is still in good condition," he noted. COSAFA/Metro

**MASERU** - The Maseru 2020 Region 5 Games football draws were revised on Wednesday in Johannesburg, South Africa, following a late request from Zimbabwe, Namibia and Comoros to be entered into the competition scheduled for the November 30 until December 8 tournaments.

This adjustment has now placed the Under-17 boys' teams to six, requiring two pools. Zimbabwe were late additions to the boys' and girls' events, while Namibia and Comoros also joined the tournament after Friday's draw ceremony in Maseru.

"Ordinarily we would not have a situation with late entries, but for these particular competitions we feel it is justified given that our mandate is to develop football in the region, and this is a key age-group in that regard," COSAFA General Secretary, Sue Destombes said.

"For that reason, we have accepted the requests of these countries and welcome them to what we believe will be two fantastic competitions in Maseru."

The entry of Zimbabwe took the number of teams in the boys' competition up to 11, which necessitated a new draw to accommodate a three-group format.

Hosts Lesotho were seeds in Group A and drawn alongside Eswatini, Zimbabwe and Madagascar, while defending champions, South Africa headlined Group B along with Angola, Botswana, and Mauritius. Group C contains three teams, namely Zambia, Malawi, and Seychelles.

Only the top team and the best placed runners-up advance to the





# Prominent marathon specialist, coach - Teboho Sello



**TEBOHO JAFETA**  
 sports@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – Top marathoner, Teboho Sello who registered his 10-kilometre personal best of 30:41 after finishing 20th at the 2008 Cape Town marathon has over the years made records under his name as an athlete both locally and on foreign lands.

In September 2009, he made his personal best time of 1:04:08 in the Bloemfontein Nedbank Half Marathon before recording 2:13:50 in the 42.2 km Bloemfontein Tambo marathon in Bloemfontein, South Africa in April 2016.

Sello has won several trophies running under the umbrella of LDF Athletics Club, LCS Athletics Club, Liberty Athletics Club, Toyota Club before he later joined his current stable, the Mr Price Athletics Club.

He also serves as the manager of Mr Price Club Lesotho athletes.

He won silver at the 2005 Two Oceans Marathon which was a qualification ticket for the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia where he finished 10th.

He is the 2006 City to City marathon top 10 finalist after finishing on seventh position. He won the Soweto marathon the following year.

In 2008, he appeared second at the same race and finished third in the Johannesburg marathon the same year, before winning the second prize at the 2009 Soweto marathon.

He also won the City to City marathon the same year.

He appeared third at the 2010 Two Oceans marathon and was second placed at the Soweto marathon the same year. He finished third in the 2014 edition of the Soweto marathon.

He thereafter shifted his focus to the more strenuous Comrades marathon (89km) and is today affectionately known as the Comrades marathon specialist after finishing among the top 10 between 2014 and 2017.

He did not impress during the 2018 edition of the race due to a muscle injury but managed to win a second prize in the 40 to 50-year category.

Born on February 17, 1979,

Teboho Sello is the son of the late Ralisenke and Matlale Sello of Thaba Tseka. He is the first born in the family of seven, four boys and three girls.

He did his primary school education at Mazenod Primary in Maseru and Sefapanong Primary School in Thaba Tseka and later at the Boqate ACL in Ha Makhoathi.

He proceeded to Boqate ACL Secondary where he dropped out in Form A in 2000. He was first introduced to athletics as a Standard Seven learner at Boqate Primary where he represented the school in the Lesotho Primary Schools Sports Association (LEPSSA) Games.

His first international debut was in 1999 when he represented the LDF Athletics Club in South Africa.

He regards every starting athlete at any race as a threat to him until he overcomes him.

"I believe that an athlete is not a race champion until he crosses the finishing line. Every A standard athlete is a threat to me because he has the potential of winning the race," he comments.

As an upcoming athlete, Sello looked up to the 1998

Commonwealth Games marathon gold medalist, Thabiso Moqhali, the late Angelina Sephooa who was the Two Oceans marathon 'queen' and Rasta Mohloli as well as Khabasheane Rakabaele.

People who contributed to grooming him into a top class athlete include Tlala Ranniki, Thabiso Ralekhetla, Arone Mohloli and Kenneth Hlasa.

Sello who began his coaching career in 2008 has groomed top local marathoners such as Khoarahlane Seutloali, Lineo Chaka and Rebone Sello.

The three have shown tremendous aptitude representing the country in several foreign races.

In 2012, he formed the Mafikaneng Athletics Club which he later named the Mr Price Club development.

He groomed Seutloali from being a complete tyro until he won his first medal, a bronze at the 2009 Soweto marathon.

His fellow Mr Price club members include Sootho Raletlebele and Mokulubete Makatise who are mentored by other coaches such as Motlokoa Nkhabutlane and Chaplin

Mpomane, respectively.

His worst moment was on Saturday November 2, 2002 when Team Lesotho went to Soweto marathon race and their vehicle crashed en-route to their destination.

"The LAAA (Lesotho Amateur Athletics Association) never came to our assistance but my former team LDF came to the rescue and went on to cover my medical bills until I was fully recovered," he recalls.

His best moment was in 2014 when he finished fifth at the Comrades marathon and secured a Mr Price sponsorship. "Whenever you finish among the top 10 in the Comrades marathon, you never struggle to secure sponsorship," he says. Not only is he a successful athlete and coach, but he is also a top notch businessman who among others owns a prosperous construction company that has 12 workers in its payroll.

He is also an active politician who recently joined the newly formed political party, the Basotho Liberation Movement (BLM).

Sello is married to 'Manthathi Sello and the couple is blessed with a boy and a girl.

Apart from athletics, he enjoys engaging in counseling sessions, attending church and political meetings.

