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THURSDAY November 11 - 17, 2021

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NEW WORLD BANK, LESOTHO PARTNERSHIP ON CARDS

...the aim is to support Lesotho in building a sustainable and resilient economy in a post-COVID-19 environment

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- Chiefs claim derby bragging rights
- Concerned Basotho fight for better Lesotho
- Senate suspends reading of drug abuse bill



BORN ON THIS DAY

- November 11**
- 1154 - Sancho I, King of Portugal (1185-1212), born in Coimbra, Kingdom of Portugal
 - 1636 - Yan Ruoqu, Chinese scholar of Qing dynasty, born in Taiyuan, Shanxi, China (d. 1704)
 - 1869 - Victor Emmanuel III, King of Italy (1900-46) and Albanians, Emperor of Ethiopia
 - 1894 - Aaron Avshalomov, Russian-born Jewish composer, born in Russia
 - 1905 - Israel Aaron Maisels, South African lawyer and communal leader
 - 1912 - Cissie Elizabeth Charlton, football matriarch
 - 1943 - Jan Adamski, Polish International Chess Master (1976)
 - 1947 - Pat "Dirty" Daugherty, American rocker (Black Oak Arkansas)
 - 1969 - Michael Owens, cricket pace bowler (NZ Test), born in New Zealand
 - 1974 - Leonardo DiCaprio, American actor (The Departed, Inception)

NewsBriefs

Massive job cuts looming

...as shrinking international markets force C&Y to retrench 2 700 workers

MASERU – With hardly six weeks left before Christmas, about 2 700 employees in the sewing department of one of the country's top textile firms, C&Y - Niehsing International Lesotho are likely to lose their jobs starting from November 17 due to shrinking international markets.

Sam Mokhele, the Secretary General of the National Allied Clothing and Textile Workers Union (NACTWU) said the company first closed the cutting department where 1 000 workers lost their jobs on October 20.

"We learnt that the sewing department was next to release its staff and the last group of workers will go home between December 1 and 3. This is a department with the largest work force in the company.

The firm, he said explained that it had to retrench the workers because it no longer gets orders from its major consumer, the United States of America (USA) due to COVID-19 related restrictions.

"As trade unions, we only fight for the workers' rights while they are still at work and we ensure that due processes are followed when they are retrenched," Mr Mokhele said, adding that they have no knowledge about C&Y's financial status.

He was however, quick to note that the massive job losses have left many families stranded and without an income at a critical time of the year.



Secretary General of NACTWU, Sam Mokhele

"The impact of the cut jobs is not only being felt by the retrenched workers and their families, but other sectors that do business with them like taxi operators, retailers and landlords also feel the pinch," he said, adding that the economy is being immensely compromised as the rate of unemployment escalates in the country.

Between October and December last year, C&Y and its other sister company, Global Garments retrenched 800 workers before Nienhsing 2 released 2 600 workers in August this year.

NIENHSING International Lesotho has a total of four factories operating under its wing in the country, including Formosa that produces plastic ware. The latter company has a massive work force of 11 000 employees. LeNA

LMPS, FBI partner to enhance criminal investigation processes

MASERU – The United States of America (USA) and the Government of Lesotho have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) designed to enhance bilateral border security and criminal justice programme.

According to a press release from US embassy in Maseru, the MOC allows the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to facilitate interdepartmental cooperation to assist and inform criminal investigations.

Upon the signature of the cooperation on Monday, Lepota Sekola, the Minister of Police, lauded the longstanding relationship and close collaboration between the two countries as the impetus for the development of the MOC agreement.

For her part, Rebecca Gonzales, the US ambassador to Lesotho said the FBI-LMPS partnership builds on the formidable relationship that the US and Lesotho have maintained for more than five decades.

The ambassador was hopeful that the MOC would

go a long way towards enhancing the ability of the LMPS to address crime, especially at a time when Lesotho faces a significantly alarming rate of murder cases.

Meanwhile, the FBI is planning three trainings in the coming months to support the cooperation outlined in MOC such as basics in finger printing, facial comparison and identification training as well as advanced comparison for fingerprint examiners.

In addition, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) has scheduled an upcoming training on crime scene forensics. The Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) also has plans for law enforcement training to increase anti-trafficking-in persons' efforts across the southern Africa region.

Present at the signing ceremony were amongst others, the FBI Assistant Director of Criminal Justice Information Services Division, FBI Legal Attaché, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Police and the Commissioner of Police. LeNA

FastFACTS

The world's quietest room is located at Microsoft's headquarters in Washington state

Silence is golden, as they say. And while it may not be worth quite as much as jewels and gold to most people, it certainly was the primary goal for those who built the quietest room in the world. Located at Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Washington, the lab room measures a background noise of -20.35 dBA, which is 20 decibels below the threshold of human hearing and breaks previous records for spaces that were deemed the planet's quietest places, according to CNN. "As soon as one enters the room, one immediately feels a strange and unique sensation which is hard to describe," Hundraj Gopal, a speech and hearing scientist and principal designer of the anechoic chamber at Microsoft, told CNN. "Most people find the absence of sound deafening, feel a sense of fullness in the ears, or some ringing. Very faint sounds become clearly audible because the ambient noise is exceptionally low. When you turn your head, you can hear that motion. You can hear yourself breathing and it sounds somewhat loud."

On This Day in History

1918

November 11

Armistice Day: World War I ends

At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the Great War ends. At 5 a.m. that morning, Germany, bereft of manpower and supplies and faced with imminent invasion, signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiègne, France. The First World War left nine million soldiers dead and 21 million wounded, with Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, France and Great Britain each losing nearly a million or more lives. In addition, at least five million civilians died from disease, starvation, or exposure.

On June 28, 1914, in an event that is widely regarded as sparking the outbreak of World War I, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire, was shot to death with his wife by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Ferdinand had been inspecting his uncle's imperial armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite the threat of Serbian nationalists who wanted these Austro-Hungarian possessions to join newly independent Serbia. Austria-Hungary blamed the Serbian government for the attack and hoped to use the incident as justification for settling the problem of Slavic nationalism once and for all. However, as Russia supported Serbia, an Austro-Hungarian declaration of war was delayed until its leaders received assurances from German leader Kaiser Wilhelm II that Germany would support their cause in the event of a Russian intervention.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

Anything you say shall be held against you!

A man is being arrested by a female police officer, who informs him, "Anything you say can and will be held against you."

The man replies, "Boobs!"

A kiss before suicide

A tough looking group of hairy bikers are riding when they see a girl about to jump off a bridge, so they stop.

The leader, a big burly man, gets off his bike and says, "What are you doing?"

"I'm going to commit suicide," she says.

While he doesn't want to appear insensitive, he also doesn't want to miss an opportunity, so he asks, "Well, before you jump, why don't you give me a kiss?"

She does, and it is a long, deep, lingering kiss.

After she's finished, the tough, hairy biker says, "Wow! That was the best kiss I've ever had! That's a real talent you're wasting. You could be famous. Why are you committing suicide?"

"My parents don't like me dressing up like a girl..."

Quotes & Quips!

"To come back and now be a mother of two and to see that the US is one of only six countries in the entire world that doesn't offer any form of national paid leave just didn't make sense,"

says the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle about her fight for paid family leave in the United States of America, claiming the right is a humanitarian issue rather than a political one



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Lesotho frantic to end human trafficking



4

Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.38
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.18
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.56
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.38
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.51
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	11.18
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.95
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	11.26
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.037
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.025
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.32
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.96
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.21
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	4.05
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.88
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.78
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.13
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.35

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS	
S&P500	4,685.25
NASDAQ100	16,219.94
Nikkei225	29,106.78
Dow Jones30	36,319.98
FTSE 100	7,320.20
JSE	67,826.00
Hang Seng	24,984.27

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold p/ounce	1,826.49
Platinum p/ounce	1,066.18
Silver p/ounce	24.13
Copper p/ounce	4.35
Brent Oil p/barrel	84.60

EQUITIES	
Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M16.60
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M16.80
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M15.25
Paraffin p/litre	M12.95
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

NEO SENOKO

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MASERU - The World Bank Group, a unique global partnership fighting poverty worldwide through sustainable solutions, is currently preparing a new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) jointly with the Government of Lesotho.

The CPF is the central tool for the World Bank and Lesotho for guiding programmes and gauging their effectiveness.

It builds on the country's development programmes and articulates a results-based engagement. The CPF is founded on three key elements of government's development priorities – including assessment of key development challenges and opportunities to progress towards twin goals as well as the self-assessment of the World Bank's comparative advantage.

"The CPF will outline the Group's strategic support in Lesotho for the period 2022-26. It will also be aligned to the country's development agenda as outlined in the country's National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II).

"The aim is to support Lesotho in building a sustainable and resilient economy in a post-COVID-19 environment by promoting a private sector driven and export oriented economy for job creation supported by enabling efficient and effective public sector," the World Bank Group President, David Malpass said in a concept note released this week.

Every two years during the implementation of the CPF, or at midterm, a Performance and Learning Review (PLR) is prepared to summarise progress in implementing the CPF programme. At the end of every CPF period, a Completion and Learning Review (CLR) assesses the programme performance using the results framework set out in the most recent Performance and Learning Review (PLR).

The CPF provides an opportunity to engage with various stakeholder groups which help the World Bank to validate or re-orient their portfolio to support the evolving country developmental priorities.

Stakeholders include government, private sector, youth, women, academia, civil society, development partners, media and the general public. While the previous programme failed to live up to its expectation, the World Bank has plans to overcome these challenges in the next programme. The previous one was focused on

New World Bank, Lesotho partnership on cards

...the aim is to support Lesotho in building a sustainable and resilient economy in a post-COVID-19 environment

two strategic areas of improving efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector and promoting private sector job creation.

Its objectives were shaped by a series of consultations with key stakeholders including government, development partners and civil society organisations and the private sector.

But, the World Bank has revealed that results were not as expected.

"The previous CPF focused on national level systematic issues that included social protection and nationwide projects that included the SADD I and II as well as the development of industrial zones for private sector projects," the World Bank added.

Challenges, however, have been many, and development outcomes have not changed substantially since 2015. Most binding constraints identified in the first programme remain valid with slow progress in addressing them.



World Bank Group President, David Malpass

The weak development performance reflects gaps in implementation. In most cases, the laws, policies and institutions that are meant to support the efficient and effective delivery of development outcomes exist, but are often not well implemented or distorted.

With the next initiative and to overcome challenges, the Group intends to focus more on project implementation for impact through applying lagging region approaches with

greater civic engagement and applying a political economy lens through a governance facility for project preparation and implementation, among other things.

Furthermore, the Group will leverage success from the previous CPF implementation, including digital transformation as well as look into the Prime Minister's delivery unit to accelerate private sector development and results based financing, among other areas.

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Business

Lesotho frantic to end human trafficking

...as the country goes all-out to remain eligible for USA development assistance



Home Affairs Minister Motlalentoa Letsosa, US ambassador to Lesotho Rebecca Gonzales and Minister of Police Lepota Sekola

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Time is of essence, as Lesotho

moves towards making the desired impact in dealing with trafficking in persons (TIP) in order to remain eligible for foreign assistance, particularly the proposed second Millennium

Challenge Corporation compact.

On Monday this week, the United States (US) ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales reiterated that combatting human trafficking is

a top priority for the US Government, hence the need to support Lesotho to make rapid progress towards achieving the recommendations in the 2021 TIP Report to avoid any assistance restrictions.

"We want to see Lesotho's meaningful anti-TIP progress, that would warrant an upgrade to Tier 2 by the end of February 2022 because this means that we will have supported the protection of crucial foreign assistance and the country's proposed second Millennium Challenge Corporation compact," Gonzales said during a dialogue meeting with government and other stakeholders on Monday.

The dialogue allowed the parties to jointly review the government's progress on increasing anti-trafficking in persons' efforts across the country during the reported period.

Despite upgrading from a lower level, Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watchlist in this year's edition of Trafficking in Person Report, Lesotho will have to step up its efforts in order to remain eligible for further US' development assistance.

Failure to achieve these targets may result in the country, among others, losing out on further US development assistance such as the country's second Millennium Challenge Corporation compact which is necessary to increase economic growth, reduce poverty and create sustainable opportunities for Basotho.

Ms Gonzales further revealed that the US embassy in Maseru is committed to supporting initiatives that are in line with ensuring that there are proper legal frameworks to prosecute and convict traffickers, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and that of Police among others.

"Following today's very productive bilateral dialogue, I am confident that through demonstrated strong leadership and continued engagement, the Government of Lesotho will secure tangible achievements in combatting human trafficking in the coming months," she said.

In outlining the progress that has been made recently, the Minister of Home Affairs, Motlalentoa Letsosa said through collaborative efforts with all stakeholders, the country has undertaken large strides towards addressing the challenges presented by the TIP Report 2021, despite the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic.

He said through the National Strategic Framework and Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons 2021-26, Lesotho has become more organised and effective in its multi sectoral response to trafficking in persons.

"As part of government's commitment in full ownership of the process, we are pleased to report that the multi sectoral committee is fully functional and coordination between and amongst government stakeholder ministries as well as non-governmental organisations and civil society has improved significantly.

"We are pleased to report that with respect to the eight cases before the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), summonses have been issued to prosecute them. Further, the Cabinet Sub Committee has directed the Multi Sectoral Committee to resuscitate the Task Team to Investigate and Prosecute TIP cases and allocate necessary resources. It has also directed that the SADC Data Collections System be fully utilised by all concerned parties," Mr Letsosa also said.

He added that his ministry along with that of Labour and Employment as well as the Department of Immigration and the LMPS-Anti Trafficking Unit have an operational joint task force for inspection of the regularity of foreign workers and employers to ensure compliance with the law and to detect potential cases of trafficking.

As a result of this effort, he said, there are cases being detected and investigations are ongoing, citing that this will determine whether or not government officials are involved.

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Expo 2020 Dubai, an opportunity to learn from UAE – Ramakoae

...as the minister lauds the UAE leadership's support to women, and highlights Expo 2020 Dubai's role in proving to the world the importance of working together to maintain global stability



Matšepo Ramakoae, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations

DUBAI – Matšepo Ramakoae, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, commended the strong ties between Lesotho and the UAE, commending the UAE's remarkable efforts to host Expo 2020 Dubai, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a statement to the Emirates News Agency (WAM), Ramakoae said that the fact that King Letsie III of Lesotho is heading Lesotho's delegation to Expo 2020 Dubai is a testament of her country's keenness to enhance its relations with the UAE.

She lauded the UAE leadership's support to women, and highlighted Expo 2020 Dubai's role in proving to the world the importance of working together to maintain global stability and support fellow nations in

returning to normalcy.

Expo 2020 Dubai is among our top priorities, which is evidenced by our King's plans to discuss strengthening ties and cooperation with UAE government officials, she explained, noting that they wish to learn from the UAE, which has established a successful model in realising dreams and ambitions.

Mrs Ramakoae said that the Lesotho delegation, which seeks to realise the global event's theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future", includes private sector and business representatives, who will be working to emulate the UAE, which has achieved remarkable development and become a leading global hub, despite having humble beginning.

She explained that the delegation will also comprise businesspersons and entrepreneurs, as well as officials, who aim to forge partnerships with their counterparts and enhance international

cooperation, adding that Lesotho boasts several successful projects, which it seeks to showcase.

Our government established an infrastructure committee and organised a virtual forum to

showcase to the facilities offered to investors, as well as discuss supporting Lesotho's infrastructure projects with UAE officials, Mrs Ramakoae also showed.

Emirates News Agency

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during lockdown.



Comments & Letters

Are Basotho safe, when police get robbed?

The Editor,

Media reports show that unknown suspects recently broke into the Mafeteng police station armoury and made away with a total of 75 firearms which were exhibits involved in various criminal activities. The armourer who was on duty that day claims to have properly locked the arsenal door before he went away.

The theft clearly shows that whoever broke into the police strong-room, knows their way around the station as no arrests have since been made in connection with the crime.

The fact that a heavily guarded police station was successfully raided is an indication that Basotho are not safe in their own country.

It raises a lot of questions on the credibility of the uniformed men and women who man that station because every one of them becomes a suspect in a situation like that.

The stolen guns in the wrong hands especially at this time of the year only spell catastrophe for the poor unsuspecting people of this country.

Teboho Motaung
Tsakholo, Mafeteng

Semonkong community lose a true hero

The Editor,

The brutal murder of Francois Snyman in Semonkong on Saturday night still feels like a dream. In him we had everything, a hero, a farmer, a friend, a father and a brother.

This is a man who trained unskilled and illiterate Basotho to become commercial farmers without charging them for his services.

His farm produces some of the best agricultural products most which he sold to his neighbours at ridiculously low prices.

His death is a huge loss to all the people living around his farm who relied on his skills and services for their survival.

As residents of Semonkong, we only wish that police could work hard to ensure that the perpetrators of this callous act are speedily brought to book.

Ntho-feela Monna-pule
Semonkong, Maseru

Women should know when to leave unhealthy relationships

The Editor,

A toxic relationship is one that is harmful to either one or both parties in the union.

While some signs of a venomous relationship are more evident, such as physical abuse, others can be a bit harder to detect. These signs may include lack of respect, dishonesty and other forms of misconduct, among others.

For example, when one partner frequently cuts the other down, which could result in the victim's mental health suffering a serious knock. Abuse can manifest in different ways, including emotional, verbal, economic, sexual and physical forms.

People get tied up in relationship patterns that can be hard to break out of. Some might feel trapped financially or worry about their children. If you are experiencing any type of abuse, know that you do not deserve to live that way, please reach out for support immediately.

Mabataung Letele
Ha Tsolo, Maseru

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Development projects should be closely monitored

Lesotho authorities, particularly government needs to up their game and seriously commit towards taking the country forward. This is after the World Bank Group exposed Lesotho's lack of commitment and implementation of many development projects in the past five years often accompanied by lack of monitoring processes.

This week the World Bank revealed that it is currently preparing a new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) jointly with the Government of Lesotho.

The CPF is the central tool for the World Bank and the country for guiding its programmes and gauging their effectiveness. It builds on the country's development programmes and articulates a results-based engagement.

The CPF is founded on three key elements of government's development priorities, assessment of key development challenges and opportunities to progress towards twin goals as well as the self-assessment of the World Bank's comparative advantage.

It will outline the Group's strategic support in Lesotho for the period 2022-26. It will also be aligned to the country's development agenda as outlined in the country's National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II)

While the new programme is underway, the World Bank did mention that the previous one failed to live up to its expectation, largely due to lack of commitment on the part of stakeholders and poor policies that would otherwise support the set goals. This is not surprising in Lesotho where development projects have, for the past years never really made any significant impact on the economy.

Vision 2020 and the National Strategic Development I are, but some of the examples.

Instead, the country has been marred with situations where authorities fight left, right and centre on some of the key project areas.

Lack of accountability has also emerged as another major issue in the past, an indication that role players are just not interested in ensuring progress, but have other motives of spending the monies on self-serving interests.

Law enforcement agencies on the other hand fail dismally to deal with these types of cases, paving the way for further abuse of funds for anybody who takes charge of these projects as the country's economic activity continues to plummet.

If this type of behavior is not addressed and treated as a matter of emergency, Lesotho will never see any development for many more years to come. Development partners on the other hand will also find it difficult to assist any further in the time of need.

As a result, more and more people will remain poor in this country while constraints such as unemployment will keep surging.

Many hands make lights work;

...so let's give Andre de Ruyter all the hands he needs to make Eskom work

It's been 13 years since President Thabo Mbeki first took the podium and explained to the nation why we were experiencing rolling blackouts. We are still suffering the consequences. He confirmed then that, indeed, the expert engineers from Eskom had gone to the government in the mid-1990s immediately after the first historic democratic elections and strongly motivated for billions to be made available to invest in new power-generation capacity lest we plunge the entire country into darkness.

The answer they received, we were told by Mbeki, was that there was no money because of many competing priorities at that time: the HIV-AIDS epidemic, abhorrent poverty levels, a cash-strapped... no, in fact bankrupt state with very low foreign reserves, if any. The government could barely afford the 1994 general elections – in fact it had to borrow money from the IMF to hold the elections so it could not make money available for this energy shortage challenge right then. This revelation was made public, with an apology, in 2008, just weeks before Mbeki was unceremoniously ejected from the west wing of the Union Buildings. We were then told that there was a plan to build one of the largest power plants to address our energy needs and requirements once and for all. And what a monstrous disaster it turned out to be. Incompetence of the highest order. After almost a decade of building these plants, some genius decided that the coal must be transported on a conveyor belt, and guess what, it breaks every now and again. Then we are screwed. Who came up with such an ingenious proposal? Then, here's the shocker: just one month after the contractors – who had sucked us dry over the years – hand over the plant, one of the generators explodes. Literally explodes. Now either it was damaged goods already or our incompetence knows no bounds. One month and we cannot manage it. By the way, the completed plants only generate 60% of the needed capacity. In other words, it's like most of the ailing power stations anyway – only able to generate at a sub-par level. This is a joke! When it rains, as it seems for the first time in that part of the country, it appears we cannot find any workable solution to keep our coal from getting soaked. I have seen what industry can do if they put their minds to it. The coal is wet so build bloody sheds as big as rugby fields and dump the coal in these when it rains. What the...? It can and must be done!

So, what seems to be the real problem here? Well, first, it's the Eskom debt. Jacob Zuma and his cronies inherited a utility with a combined debt of R40-billion, and then Zwane, Koko and many others, together with their Gupta pals, escalated that debt to R400-billion in nine years. Criminal, I know. Hence we had to get rid of them all, and we did. But the problem remains. So, what to do about it? Removing the board and appointing a good CEO is not sufficient. You are basically asking him to dig us out of this problem but not equipping him with the necessary tools. In short, perform miracles, André de Ruyter. I believe Canada, of all places, had a similar problem some years

back and what they did about the high debt was form a special-purpose vehicle, ring-fence the debt, renegotiate terms of repayment and effectively take the burden of debt servicing away from the electricity utility so it could concentrate on its mandate and not only on debt servicing.

Another hard decision the government must take to assist the management of Eskom is to halve the debt by taking money from the PIC pension fund. After all, the PIC lends money to many companies and, may I add, at times loses loads of it, too – there's always some risk attached to these sorts of investments, but to spread the message that this is inherently a bad investment is false and disingenuous, to say the least. Just take the hard decision. Another accomplice in the problematique is in fact the very service providers being used to service the utility. For years they have been benefiting from the mismanagement and chaos at Eskom. They have actively participated in malfeasance and fraudulent behaviour and practices.

We saw recently how the CEO had to stop a ridiculous invoice from being paid where knee pads were priced at a crazy R36,000. Just this week we see another service provider and employees of Eskom jointly participating in defrauding the utility of spare parts to the tune of millions of rands. Imagine what some of the providers are charging for basic nuts and bolts. It has been Christmas at Eskom for many, many years. This rot is finally being stopped because you have the right man at the helm. No more stealing at the expense of the people. Then there's organised labour. Yes, our trade union members are so deep in this corruption and malfeasance that they can no longer smell the sh*t they are in, nor what they created over the years – 14,000 employees at Eskom have to be let go – yes, laid off – but political considerations get in the way of pragmatic decisions. Like SAA, when do we decide to place Eskom in business rescue? Thirteen years later and still we cannot keep the lights on. Business also has to take its fair share of the blame, as far as I'm concerned. I mean, after a decade of this nonsense you would think our service-oriented businesses like banks, supermarkets, churches, and government departments including Home Affairs and Social Development, would by now have invested in alternative energy generation such as diesel generators. Let's allow De Ruyter and his motley crew to navigate these rough seas and hopefully, with the help of our government with respect to the debt proposal, provide an energy mix that includes nuclear, and effectively deal with service providers and unions. Then they will succeed.

And maybe, just maybe, we won't have to say Eskom se *\$&! DM

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The Minister of Energy and Meteorology, Mohapi Mohapinyane

Lesotho pledges to invest in farming

...as 45 global countries commit to protecting nature and shifting to more sustainable farming

\$25 billion in climate finance annually to 2025 through its Climate Action Plan, including a focus on agriculture and food systems.

In a show of similar commitment from the private sector, almost 100 high-profile companies from a wide range of sectors

committed to becoming 'Nature Positive'. Commitments include supermarkets pledging to cut their environmental impact across climate and nature-loss and fashion brands guaranteeing the traceability of their materials. LeNA

MASERU – Lesotho is one of the 45 global countries that have pledged urgent action and investment to protect nature and shift to more sustainable ways of farming.

The pledge was made over the weekend during the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) Summit which marked the end of week one of the Summit, with negotiations gathering pace.

Mohapi Mohapinyane, the Minister of Energy spearheads the Lesotho delegation that is participating at the COP26 discussions.

The main aim of the talks is to secure enough national promises to cut greenhouse gas emissions, mostly from coal, oil and gas to keep the rise in the average global temperature to 1.5 Degrees Celsius.

Supporters for Sustainable Agriculture Policy Action Agenda for the Transition to Sustainable Agriculture and Global Action Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture include Lesotho, Australia, Uganda, Madagascar, India, Tanzania, Vietnam, Nigeria, Laos, Indonesia, Guinea, Ghana, Germany, Philippines, Ethiopia, UK, Colombia, Costa Rica, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland and UAE.

FACT Roadmap supporting states include Belgium, Brazil, Côte D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, France, Gabon, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Malaysia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Congo, Republic of Korea, Uruguay, US, European Commission.

Also, 95 high profile companies from a range of sectors have committed to being 'Nature Positive', agreeing to work towards halting and reversing the decline of nature by 2030.

Governments and businesses are joining farmers and local communities at COP26, securing new agreements to protect nature and accelerate the shift to sustainable agriculture and land use practices by making them more attractive, accessible and affordable than unsustainable alternatives.

According to the COP26 reports, the 45 governments that signed the pledge include 26 that support either the Policy Action Agenda for the Transition to Sustainable Agriculture or the Global Action Agenda for Innovation in

Agriculture, and 28 countries that participate in the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue (with some countries participating in both).

The 26 nations have set out new commitments to change their agricultural policies to become more sustainable and less polluting, and to invest in the science needed for sustainable agriculture and for protecting food supplies against climate change, laid out in two 'Action Agendas'.

Examples of national commitments aligned with this agenda include Brazil's plan to scale its ABC+ low carbon farming programme to 72m hectares, saving 1 billion tonnes of emissions by 2030, Germany's plans to lower emissions from land use by 25m tonnes by 2030 and the UK's aim to engage 75% of farmers in low carbon practices by 2030

The UK also announced funding of £500 million to support the implementation of the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Roadmap that was launched during the World Leaders Summit earlier this week, in which 28 countries are working together to protect forests while promoting development and trade.

A further £65 million will support a 'Just Rural Transition' to help developing countries shift policies and practices to more sustainable agriculture and food production.

Commitments made by the countries will help to implement the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use which is now endorsed by 134 countries covering 91% of the world's forests.

The Declaration aims to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

COP26 President, Alok Sharma said: "The commitments being made today shows that nature and land use are being recognised as essential to meeting the Paris Agreement goals, and will contribute to addressing the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. As we look ahead to negotiations in week two of COP, I urge all parties to come to the table with the constructive compromises and ambitions needed."

The World Bank will commit to spending

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Centre offers essential adolescent friendly health guidelines

...some barriers adolescents face in obtaining health services they need also affect children and adults

friendly health services, which are available at most Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL) health facilities across the country.

As part of the event, the youth was also vaccinated for COVID-19 and 69 of them received their jabs while more than 350 participated in the campaign.

Even where health services are available, adolescents may be unable to obtain them for a variety of reasons. Restrictive laws and policies may prevent some health services from being accessed by some groups of adolescents, like the provision of contraceptives to unmarried adolescents.

"Adolescents may not know where and when health services are provided, health facilities may be located a long distance from where they live, study, or work; or health services may be expensive and beyond their reach," Sister Nthonto also said.

One of the youth who participated in the event, Ithabeleng Chabeli also confirmed that health services are not readily accessible to them.

"As youth, we want to be treated with respect and to be sure that our confidentiality is respected whenever we access services," she said.

Ms Chabeli also noted that young people require services that support their physiological, cognitive, emotional, and social transition into adulthood.

"Delivering quality services that are tailored to young people may improve service use, adherence to contraceptive methods, and increase the likelihood of obtaining on-going care," she said.

She added: "It is important for healthcare workers to understand how to best to deliver services to young people and evaluate the impact of service delivery in order to improve youth SRH outcomes."

According to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 2001 Global Consultation on Adolescent Friendly Health Services, SRH services for adolescents should aim to achieve at least one of three goals; provide a supportive environment, improve reproductive health knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviours, and increase utilisation of health and related services.



The St Peter Clava Health Centre staff

LINEO MABEKEBEKE

health@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Sister Makhala Malefetsane Nthonto, the Nurse in-charge of the St. Peter Clava Health Centre in Tsoeneng, Maseru says Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services (AYFHS), also known as youth-friendly services, (YFS) are designed to address the barriers faced by youth in accessing high-quality sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

She was speaking during the youth day campaign that the centre had hosted on Saturday to empower youth on interventions to curb teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

Some of the barriers that adolescents face in obtaining the health services they need, Sister Nthonto said also affect children and adults, adding that the barriers relate to the availability.

"In many places, health services such as emergency contraception are not available to anyone, not adolescents or adults," Sister Nthonto said.

She said although the centre does not have adolescents' health corners, it however, offers adolescent friendly health service guidelines.

She added: "We offer services such as antenatal services, pre-natal sessions for couples, HIV testing and counselling and also holds discussions on family planning. But as a Roman Catholic institution, we do not offer family planning services."

She said they only talk to their clients about family planning and link them to their sister facility.

Other topics discussed included prevention and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), peer pressure and impact on young people's health, sex and sexuality.

The topics, Sister Nthonto said were meant

to address three indicators, which included child marriage, teenage pregnancy and the low uptake of COVID-19 vaccine amongst youth.

This, she said was because, they realised that it is only adults in settlements around the health centre who vaccinate in satisfying numbers, adding that they tried social mobilisation and public gatherings, hoping that the youth could come and take their vaccines

but they never do.

"Because we know that the youth is a very mobile group that is most affected but yet hard to reach, we decided to host the youth day campaign, which began with a fun walk, followed by teaching and learning sessions," she noted.

The youth was also informed about the services of adolescent health corners and



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World News

The world in 10 minutes

IDAHO - USA

Man catches 49 apples in teeth in one minute for world record

An Idaho man who broke a Guinness World Record by catching 49 apples with his teeth in one minute said the attempt was a surprisingly bloody affair.

David Rush, who has broken more than 200 Guinness records to promote STEM education, said the apples were thrown from 15 feet away by frequent collaborator Jonathan Hannon.

Rush said being struck in the face by wayward apples, even the small apples he was using for the record, turned out to be a painful experience, as it would lead to his teeth making cuts on the inside of his lips and cheeks.

He ended up catching 49 apples in one minute, beating the previous record of 47.



WASHINGTON - USA

A broken toilet on SpaceX capsule means astronauts will return to Earth in diapers

The journey back to Earth from space is never easy, but the astronauts aboard the SpaceX capsule coming home Monday will have an extra challenge to deal with: no working toilet. The four members on SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavor will be wearing diapers as they splash down, in order to prevent anything else from splashing too.

The crew for this mission, known as Crew-2, has been at the International Space Station since April, and have spent nearly 200 days in space. "It's been a very, very intense mission, a lot of things have happened," said expedition commander and French astronaut Thomas Pesquet in a press conference over the weekend.



NEW ZEALAND

World's heaviest potato at nearly 8kg

A potato from Britain has been in the Guinness World Records book since 2011 as the world's heaviest - but weighed a mere 4.98kg (10lb 14oz).

A small farm owner weeding his garden got a giant surprise when his hoe struck an object beneath the soil's surface.

At first, Colin Craig-Brown thought it might be some strange fungal growth. But after digging it out, scratching the skin's surface and tasting it, he realised it was... a monster potato.

"We couldn't believe it," his wife, Donna, said. "It was just huge."

The couple from Hamilton, New Zealand, believe the potato is self-sown and may have been growing for a couple of years or more.



ZAMBIA

Zambia won't allow gay practices - president

Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema has said that gay practices cannot be condoned because the country is a Christian nation.

President Hichilema said the country can only "realign sound democratic values with other countries", local media reports.

Last month, the president denied holding talks on gay rights during his trip to the United Nations General Assembly in the US.



CAPE VERDE

Cape Verde MP found guilty of assaulting his wife

A Cape Verdean MP has been given a three-year suspended sentence after being found guilty of violently assaulting his wife, news site RFI reports.

Damião Medina had initially been sentenced to two years in prison but this was reversed, a decision that has been criticised in the country.

The assault occurred four years ago but the case was only heard in court last month following a successful campaign by rights group Cape Verdean Institute for Gender Equality (ICIEG) who petitioned the National Assembly to lift the MPs immunity, which finally happened in August.

Apart from his suspended sentence Mr Medina will also attend a program on gender-based violence, RFI reports.



SOUTH AFRICA

Somizi Mhlongo: Gay TV star cancels Zimbabwe trip after churches complain

A South African celebrity has cancelled an appearance in Zimbabwe after a Christian group tried to ban him from entering the country because he is gay. The Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe wrote to the government saying it opposed Somizi Mhlongo's visit and its members felt "violated" by it. The actor and media personality was scheduled to attend the reopening of a restaurant in Harare. But he later accepted an invitation to a gig in Namibia instead.

The 48-year-old appeared to be in good spirits in a video posted to Instagram on Thursday with the caption "Bye bye ZA (Zimbabwe) Hello NA (Namibia)". Mr Mhlongo, who is best known as a judge on South Africa's version of American Idol, said that while he was disappointed at the cancellation of his visit, he would not "stop speaking on behalf of the voiceless". Homosexuality remains illegal in Zimbabwe and its LGBT community was often violently persecuted during the rule of former President Robert Mugabe, who once said gay people were "worse than pigs and dogs".

Car spinners leave spectators yearning for more

...as organisers complain about lack of resources towards development of the motorsport



KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – Last Saturday's thrilling car spinning and drifting show pulled over 2 000 spectators at the Makoanyane military barracks in Maseru, the event organisers, LK Entertainment has said.

Popular performers from Lesotho and South African (SA) showcased their best spinning maneuvers to the delight of the spectators could not get enough of the hair-raising but moving moves.

The crowd went wild with revelry as the daring spinners swept the track with their BMW 325s dubbed "Gusheshes", which are described as the drifters' best choice of vehicle.

The inaugural annual show which is titled "Smokey Spinning and Drifting" saw the likes of the famous Isla Bonita and Sam Sam of Mpumalanga and Pretoria respectively taking on local drifters such as Lebona, Shooting, Seisa, Tsoeu, Lithebe, LS-Lephoi and Team Tebello among others.

Legendary DJ Tseko kept the spectators on their toes dancing to his famous music. "Seisa and Lephoi emerged as the people's favorites, Sam Sam also did not disappoint with his breath-taking moves.

It was a tough battle incorporating challenging stunts of drifting between four lined up cars. Unfortunately our ladies team could not be part of the event due to unforeseen circumstances but next time they will be included," Lithebe Tlali from LK Entertainment said.

This motorsport originated in SA's townships in the early 1990s with the most popular cars from the 1991 BMW 3-series model range. The BMW 3-series is called Gusheshe owing to the gruff sound their engines make when they are being revved.

Although the motorsport was synonymous with car theft and township gangsterism during the 90's, it has since gained mainstream appeal with people from all walks of life participating.

In Lesotho, the shows are held at various places, including the Masianokeng filling station in Maseru and Cloud 9 Club in Hlotse.

The regular competitors are local spinners against their more skilled and experienced counterparts from South Africa.

Tlali says the shortage of appropriate venues holds back the development of the sport in the country.

"We incur high costs in order to organise these events and we only generate income from the entrance fees," he says.

He notes that although some people regard car spinning as a daredevil sport, it is however, relatively safe as there are still no injuries recorded to date in the country since 2008.

Appealing to the corporate sector to support the motorsport, Tlali shows that the intention is to hold frequent competitions in order to increase the fan base.

Many spinners say that the most difficult iteration is jumping out and then back into the car counter-clockwise (traditionally spinners execute this maneuver clockwise).

Making trout fashionable - Chef Selatsi

...plenty of varieties are able to stand intense heat and smoky flavour of the grill

KABELO MASOABI

LERIBE – Recipes for grilled fish are endless based on preparation method, seasonings, marinades and personal tastes, but that doesn't mean every type of fish is good for the grill.

Certain fish are better left to the indoor chef and alternative cooking methods. Fish types like cod, tilapia and flounder may be too delicate to toss on the grill.

However, there are plenty of other varieties that are able to stand up to both the intense heat and smoky flavour of the grill, according to Maseru food expert, Chef Tanki Selatsi.

He shows that grilling trout makes a simple summertime dish, especially as this can be done just as easily on a barbecue.

Chef Selatsi says trout fillets which are also found in Lesotho waters, are the easiest way to prepare your fish for the grill.

The fish master from Masowe II, runs a small catering business from home. It specialises in grilled fish that is sold to local consumers. The fish can also be obtained raw through telephonic orders.

Getting down to the recipe, he says, "Just make sure to leave the skin on. Before you start preparing the trout, preheat your grill and then reduce the temperature to around 250 degrees. This is medium or medium-low on most gas grills.

"Coat the trout in cooking oil and season with salt, pepper and lemon juice to add taste. Once seasoned, place the trout directly on the grill with the skin side down."

Selatsi who is also a fisherman, goes on to

explain that trout cooks quickly on the grill and is ready when the meat is white and flakey when tested with a fork.

"A lot of smaller trout does not need to be flipped to cook through. If you have large fillets that are not cooking through, make sure you flip it onto a piece of tin foil," he notes.

Lesotho's clear, glassy rivers and beautiful mountains make it a hotspot for fishing activities. Fishing of Lesotho trout takes place in the still, freshwater rivers using the wading method, he says adding that when time allows, he spends days fishing in the Katse Dam - located high in the Maluti Mountains on the Malibamatso River.

Metro has learnt that trout is most abundant in the Maluti Mountains during the spring season, starting September to October and in the autumn season, which is from late March through to the end of May.

According to Lesotho Adventures, there are two main types of trout found in the freshwater bodies in Lesotho. They include the brown trout, also known as the Salmo trutta and the rainbow trout, otherwise known as the onchorycus mykiss.

Both types of fish were introduced to the country for recreational fishing purposes. However, as commercial aquaculture developed with time, they were exported to neighbouring countries as well as sold locally.

Lesotho Adventures says the fishing industry in the country has grown tremendously over the past few years following foreign support as well as investment from private sectors.

The country's highland springs offer a favourable climate for the trout, it adds.

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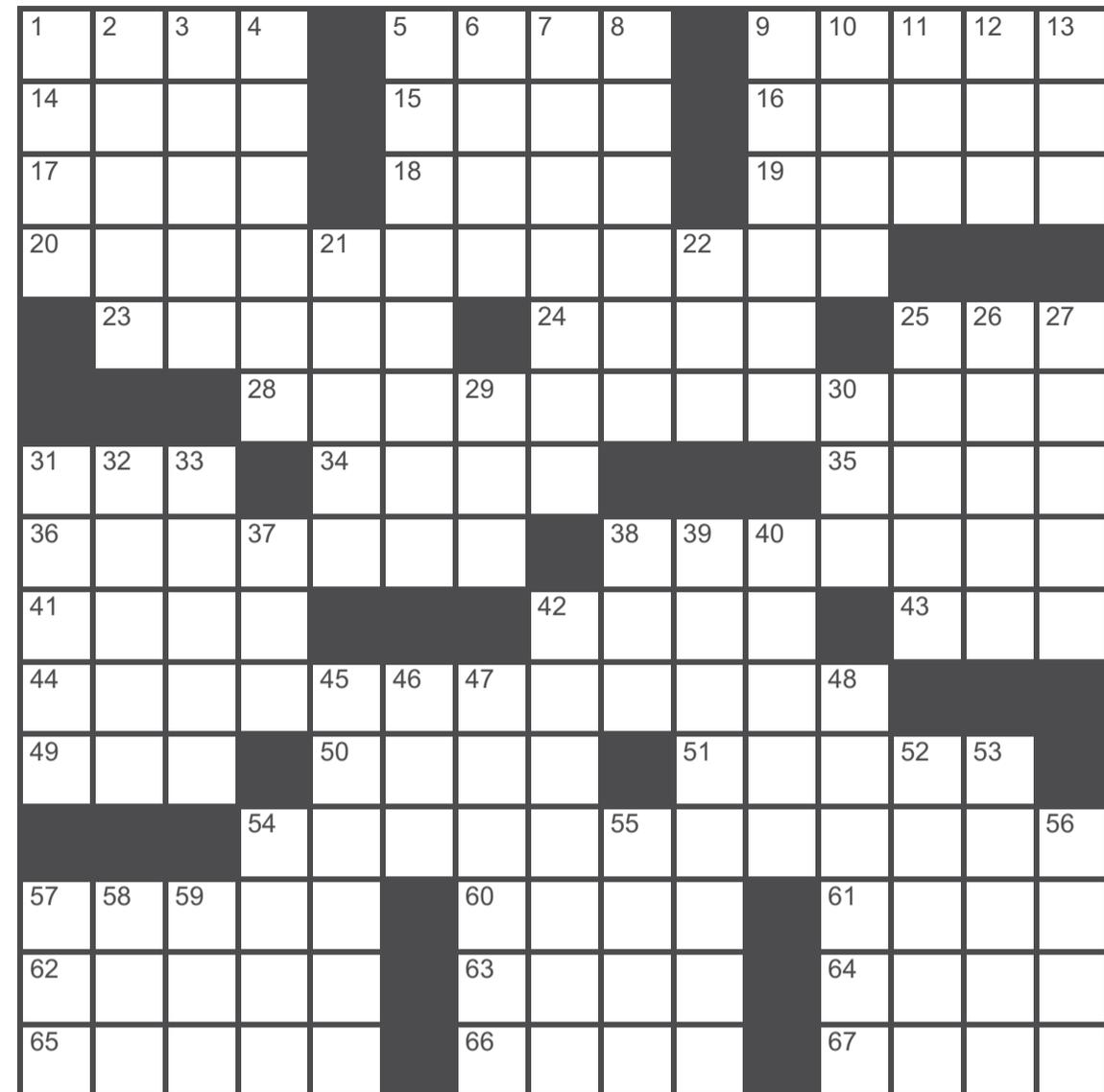
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General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Bygone despot
 - 5. Weak, as an excuse
 - 9. Displeased look
 - 14. Goya's "Duchess of "
 - 15. Opposed to, in dialect
 - 16. Sound
 - 17. Plunder
 - 18. Dance partner?
 - 19. _____ have a clue
 - 20. London district where the Royal Opera House is located
 - 23. Argentine president Juan Domingo
 - 24. Hindu princess
 - 25. Freudian topic
 - 28. Show supervisor
 - 31. Sensitive subject, to some
 - 34. Give off, as light
 - 35. Acreage
 - 36. Cheer
 - 38. Most eminent
 - 41. Heavenly glow
 - 42. Temple
 - 43. Course requirement?
 - 44. Inexpensive flute
 - 49. Feminine suffix
 - 50. Many millennia
 - 51. Dentist's directive
 - 54. "Pudin de Pan"
 - 57. In motion
 - 60. Highway
 - 61. Old Icelandic literary work
 - 62. Snapshot
 - 63. Copy
 - 64. Plenty
 - 65. Flung
 - 66. Wish receiver
 - 67. Landlord's due
- Down**
- 1. After-bath powder
 - 2. Fore-and-aft-rigged vessel
 - 3. Overhead
 - 4. One that judges
 - 5. Family identification
 - 6. Awestruck
 - 7. Tower
 - 8. Memory trace
 - 9. Script direction
 - 10. Archaeological site
 - 11. Unmatched
 - 12. Take the gold
 - 13. "_____to worry"
 - 21. Famous
 - 22. Genetic stuff

Sudoku Puzzle

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

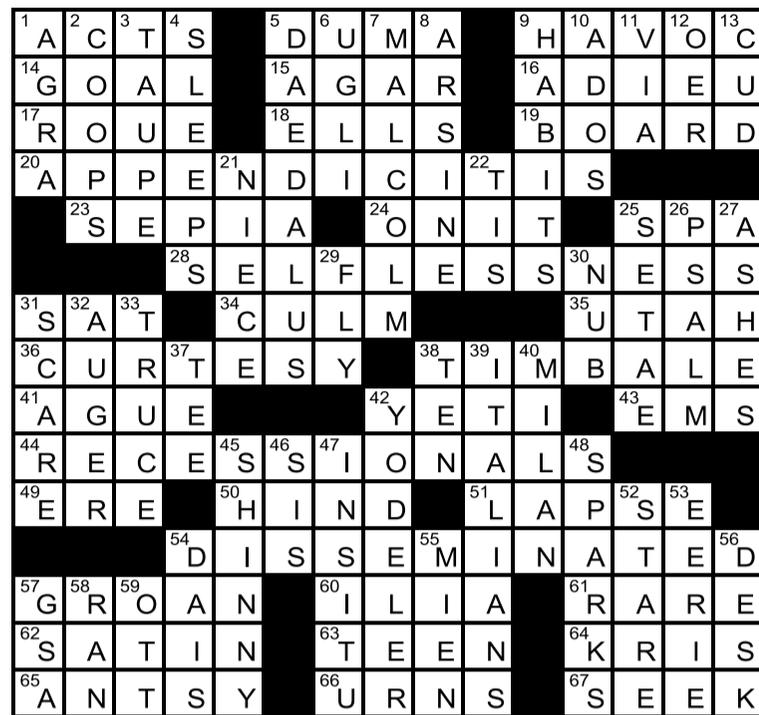
Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contain all the from 1-9

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

Last Week's Solution

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

Last Week's Solution



- 25. "Snowy" bird
- 26. Fliers in V's
- 27. Give a speech
- 29. Conclusion of some games
- 30. Sound of relief
- 31. Open-mouthed
- 32. Fixes firmly
- 33. Brings in
- 37. Newsman Rather
- 38. Partakes of
- 39. Unwelcome visitor
- 40. Arctic
- 42. Discover
- 45. Milfoil
- 46. Diminutive
- 47. Squirrels away
- 48. Make lovable
- 52. Move furtively
- 53. a high note
- 54. Nosh
- 55. Family man
- 56. Multinational treaty to promote trade
- 57. Clever
- 58. "Quiet, please!"
- 59. Craggy peak

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

Can you find a five digit number which when you place a 7 at the beginning to make a new number is five times larger than when you place the 7 at the end?



Last Week's Answer

1/3. You might initially think that the answer is 1/2, but not so. For two coins, there are four possible outcomes: HH, HT, TH, TT, since we know that at least one was a head, we can eliminate TT. Of the remaining three possibilities, only 1 allows the second head: HH.v

Be Car-Smart

Safety Principles to Keep you out of Legal Trouble

New traffic management legislation is set to catch many motorists by surprise as it rolls out over the coming months. Stricter penalties for even minor infractions could land you in hot water. Sharon Pretorius, Regional Operations Manager at Supa Quick offers the following tips on how to not only stay safe but stay on the right side of the law.

In July, the Minister of Transport reminded South Africans that the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) Act had started to be rolled out, after a year of delays due to the pandemic.

Under the new law, you could easily and

quickly accumulate the 12 demerit points that can result in a license suspended. For instance, just driving at 90 km/h in a 60kph zone could earn six demerit points in one shot.

While good driving can keep you from being legally penalised, it is only one piece of the puzzle. Here are four key focus areas where you can keep your vehicle in the best condition, ensuring that you don't have any accidents.

1. Power

It is vital to ensure optimal functioning of your vehicle's power system, especially as you adapt to changes in weather and emergencies.

Ensuring that your battery, spark plugs, and exhaust system are in good order is one of the best and easiest preventative measures to ensure that you are safe in even the most extreme environmental, road and traffic conditions.

2. Visibility

Potholes, obscure traffic signs and unpredictable behaviour by pedestrians and other motorists was one of the most recurring issue reported in the recent 2021 Road Safety Run. While you can't do much about external factors, you can ensure that your windscreen is clear of cracks, your lights are working, and rearview mirrors are properly installed. So, with the rainy season now upon us, you will be better able to see these external hazards and warnings ahead of time, not only saving lives, but a costly ticket as well.

3. Stability

Your vehicle's ability to maintain steadiness in turns and sudden changes in speed is critical to helping you to better adhere to the rules of the road. A quick check of your shock absorbers and brakes,

along with wheel alignment, will give you better stability, vastly bringing down your risk of being in an accident.

4. Control

The only thing between your fast-moving vehicle and the road is merely the width of the palm of your hand, the tyre. Such an important part of your vehicle should receive the attention it deserves, but it often doesn't and a huge portion of crashes on long distance roads are often found to be the result of worn or damaged tyres. Properly balance tyres, with sufficient tread, will ensure that you maintain full control of your vehicle even in adverse weather, such as thunderstorms.

As was reflected in the recent 2021 Road Safety Run, roadworthiness is an effective prevention against road accidents. Following the easy principles above with regular safety checks at your nearest Supa Quick, rather than just looking at individual car parts, can offer you the peace of mind you need to keep you out of harm's way, as well as out of reach of the long arm of the law.

Volkswagen's electric mobility strategy is gaining momentum

... as Phase 2 of electric mobility strategy will see the introduction of an ID.4 test fleet in 2022



Volkswagen has taken the next step in its electric mobility strategy.

Volkswagen's electric mobility strategy kicked off in 2020 with the launch of an e-Golf test fleet. The e-Golfs were used for research purposes and testing by motoring media as well as Volkswagen dealers in an effort to gain valuable insights into the experiences of living with an electric vehicle in South Africa.

"It is important for us to conduct thorough research on electric vehicles before introducing them in South Africa. With the e-Golf test fleet, we exposed hundreds of Volkswagen customers to electric vehicles and over 90% of those customers indicated that they would consider buying an electric vehicle in the future," said Steffen Knapp, Head of the Volkswagen Passenger Car Brand.

"This year, we also brought in a fleet of Volkswagen ID.3 vehicles which were used for experiential events for corporate clients, dealers as well as motoring media," added Knapp.

The second phase of Volkswagen's strategy will see the introduction of an all-electric ID.4 test fleet in 2022.

"Most South African drivers currently prefer internal combustion engine cars. In order to be South Africa's best-selling electric vehicle brand, we first need to educate our consumers by getting as many of them as possible to experience electric vehicles with the hope of changing perceptions.

The introduction of the all-electric and best-selling ID.4 will assist us with gaining valuable insights which will pave the way for Volkswagen to include electric vehicles in the future product portfolio in South Africa," concluded Knapp. The ID.4, which is the current World Car of the Year, is Volkswagen's first all-electric compact SUV and the Volkswagen Group's best-selling electric model.

The ID.4 is a one-of-a-kind electric SUV which offers customers a sporty driving experience that is also effortlessly comfortable. With its striking exterior design, it offers a spacious interior and cutting-edge solutions for displays, infotainment and assist systems. The ID.4 also offers ranges of up to 522 kilometres.

The third phase of the electric mobility strategy will see the first fully electric Volkswagen vehicles going on sale in South



Black magic rife in African football

...local players are big admirers of muti and some regularly consult traditional healers



Likuena striker, Nkoto Masoabi



Former Likuena captain, Bokang 'Lefty' Mothoana

POWER ON
FOR STRENGTH



MIKIA KALATI

MASERU - African footballers, especially those plying their trade in the English Premier League have over the years been linked to the use of black magic (juju) to enhance their careers and survive competitiveness of top level football.

Reports have also made the rounds that players in different divisions of Lesotho football are big admirers of black magic and that they regularly consult traditional healers to aid their performance.

Former Likuena captain, Bokang 'Lefty' Mothoana, who has also played his football in Tunisia and had an illustrious career playing for the Lesotho national teams, admitted that the use of black magic or muti, is rife in football.

"Yes, I discovered in the early days of my career that the use of black magic in football is very popular. I have played players and against teams that believed in the use of black magic," Mothoana explains.

"They would before games engage in these weird rituals and charms to enhance their fortunes and that of their respective teams. These would be done in our presence, where we openly witnessed those acts. Their argument was that work is work and whether you like it or not, the rituals they were performing worked for them," he says.

Mothoana, who was a member of the Makoanyane XI side that qualified for the Africa Youth Championship in 2005, states that he was also advised to consult a traditional healer, who would help him as he nursed enduring injuries.

Adds Mothoana: "Even here at home I know of players that used and believed in black magic, but I can't name them."

"You will remember that I struggled with long-standing injuries and some of those players used to nag me, contending that the rosary would not come to my aid and that I can't put all my faith in a prayer," he says.

Former captain of Zimbabwean giants Dynamos, Memory Mucherahowa, in his autobiography-Soul of Seven Million Dreams,

reveals that the belief in black magic in African football is so rife that it actually gets in the way of technical strategies.

"Every week before a game, our team would consult a traditional healer. I, as the team captain, would be the one to execute whatever the sangoma (juju-man) had said. Whether it actually aided us or not, I do not know," Mucherahowa says in his book.

"The team believed more in juju than players' ability. We believed in collective use of the juju and consulted one traditional healer as a team. In most cases we had the team's traditional healers who were on the team's payroll.

"The belief was so high at the club that the coach [Peter] Nyama lost his job in 1990 after being fingered by a traditional healer as being guilty of jinxing the team. My loyalty was with the team's cause and I was prepared to do anything. I was prepared to die on the field ... and even volunteered to be the team's juju carrier, he writes.

Likuena striker Nkoto Masoabi, who has played in different other countries including South Africa and Libya without giving away that much shares that various clubs and coaches believe in African magic, but he has his own beliefs as far as his football career is concerned.

"I cannot say that much as far as that is concerned, but of course teams and coaches believe in that. I personally have my own beliefs that work for me," the skipper notes.

His compatriot Tumelo Makha playing for TTM in the South African Glad-Africa Championship echoes the sentiments of his teammates that black magic works for those that believe in it.

"To those that believe in it, I guess it works, but for me praying helps in my life and career," Makha says.

"As you go out and play in different countries, you will be shocked with what you see. It's very big in other leagues like where I play, you see players always doing rituals and using many other things to aid their performance," he adds.

Preparations for AUSC Region 5 Games on schedule



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Setsoto stadium in Maseru

MASERU – Preparations for the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Maseru 2020 Youth Games are proceeding smoothly as the upgrading of Ha Rapokolana access road is currently underway and the track at Setsoto stadium is also being improved.

Allaying the nation's fears that the arrangements might be behind schedule, Maqalika Matsepe, the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation Chief Information

Officer, said there is no need for panic, adding that the renovations will be finished on time for the games to kick off in December.

He said the Rapokolana access road from the mountain road is being upgraded in order to allow participants to move easily during the regional youth competition.

Swimming, he said is one of the sporting codes that will be hosted at this high altitude training centre located on the outskirts of Maseru.

"Because only the gravel road will be upgraded, work on that road will begin a few weeks before the event kicks off, to avoid the possible washing away of the road by torrential rains in the event the reconditioning is done too early," he said, adding that the track at Setsoto stadium is worn out and needs to be upgraded as well.

"There is no need for the public to be worried about the readiness of the facilities at this stage as things are

proceeding as planned," he noted.

He said there are 12 sporting codes, including athletics, boxing, basketball, netball, volleyball, judo, taekwondo, athletics for the virtually impaired persons and swimming among others, adding that teams in each code will soon go to camp to select national squads.

The AUSC Region 5 Maseru 2020 Youth games should have been staged last year, but were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 10 countries from the region are expected to compete in the youth tournament and they include Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Eswatini, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, along with hosts, Lesotho.

It is reported that Madagascar and Mauritius have also shown interest to be part of the games.

The last youth games were hosted in Botswana in 2019 and the next ones will be held in Malawi next year. LeNA

Arrows contain high-riding Stellenbosch

...Seema charges lose in three matches and draw five times

MASERU – Lehlohonolo Seema-coached Lamontville Golden Arrows, on Saturday held the high-riding Stellenbosch FC to a goalless standoff at the Danie Graven stadium in the Winelands of Western Cape.

Arrows are placed on tenth position with 11 points, nine points off the pace of their opponents and have so far won only two matches in 10 matches played.

The Lesotho-born coach's charges lost in three matches and drew five times while Stellenbosch have enjoyed an impressive form in second position on the log with 20 points.

The weekend stalemate ensured that Western Cape-based Premier Soccer League (PSL) side established in 2016 remains unbeaten after 10 matches of the league season.

The Winelands outfit remains in second place on the

log – five points behind leaders, Mamelodi Sundowns, who have a game in hand.

The Saturday clash saw hosts start strongly and had early chances for Stanley Dimgba and Judas Moseamedi inside the opening 10 minutes, with the former shooting off target and the latter denied by a fine save from goalkeeper Nkosingphile Gumede.

Arrows gradually settled into the game and began to create chances of their own, with Pule Mmodi almost scoring midway through the first half after Stellenbosch failed to clear a corner kick, but goalkeeper Sage Stephens made an outstanding save.

On 37 minutes the Maroons were inches away from claiming the lead, with Nathan Sinkala getting on the end of Ashley Du Preez's corner-kick delivery, but his powerful header rattled the crossbar.

The first half ended 0-0, though Stellenbosch were the team with all the momentum behind them, having racked up the pressure just before the break. Still, Abafana Bes'thende were able to hold firm.

The start of the second stanza saw a reverse in momentum, with Arrows creating all the attacking play and pinning the hosts back. Yet no goal arrived in this spell of dominance for the visitors, especially after the hosts shuffled their formation with the introduction of Jayden Adams in midfield.

The Durban-side also looked to the bench for inspiration, with Andile Fikizolo and Bongumusa Nkosi introduced midway through the second half.

Stellenbosch gradually reasserted themselves in the game and began creating some attacking phases of their own, the first of which saw Dean van

Rooyen send a dangerous cross flashing through the Arrows penalty area on 73 minutes.

With just under 10 minutes to play, the Maroons thought they had broken the deadlock when substitute Waseem Isaacs sent an effort beyond Gumede, but the goal was ruled out due to a narrow offside call.

The teams will return to DStv Premiership action after the impending international break.

Arrows host Orlando Pirates and Stellenbosch welcome AmaZulu to the Cape Winelands, both on Saturday November 20. IOL Sport/Metro



Arrows coach, Lehlohonolo Seema



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MASERU - Motlokoa Nkhabutlane is quite easily the fastest and perhaps the most prolific marathoner in Lesotho. He recorded his half marathon personal best of 1:04:09 at Mossel Bay Half Marathon in South Africa in August 2010.

In 2017, he registered his personal best of 2:09:46 during the Paris Marathon in France, becoming the national marathon record holder, a title he still holds to date.

Born 37 years ago to the late Thabang and 'Mamotlokoa Nkhabutlane of Borokhong, Motsekuoa in Mafeteng, he began running professionally in college. At the time, he was part of the Toyota and Mr Price Athletics Club. He won the 2008 Cape Town Marathon clocking in 2:15:09 before pocketing the first prize at the 2009 High Altitude Summer Half Marathon (21.1 km) in Mokhotlong.

The same year, he appeared second at the Cape Town Marathon and made it in position three at the Gaborone Marathon in Botswana the following year.

He was the runner-up at the 2010 edition of the Soweto Marathon and bagged the second prize at the 2011 Two Oceans Ultra-Marathon.

The same year, he finished fourth at the Soweto Marathon.

The following year, Nkhabutlane won the second prize and clocked in 2:17:11 at the same race. His fellow countryman Mabuthile Lebopo appeared third in that race while the "Queen of Soweto", 'Mamoroallo Tjoka collected her seventh Soweto title in the women's category in 2:45:20.

Nkhabutlane pocketed the fifth prize at the 2013 Two Oceans Marathon (56 kilometers) and appeared fourth at the Pretoria Half Marathon before finishing second at the Johannesburg Half Marathon in the same year.

In November 2014, he won the second prize, clocking 2:18:10 at the Soweto Marathon and finished 10th in the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon after clocking in 2:18:40.

He collected the first prize at the 2015 Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon alongside his fellow countryman Teboho Mosuhli who appeared third.

Lesotho's fastest marathon pundit, Motlokoa Nkhabutlane

The veteran marathoner finished top at the Southern Cross Drive in 2015, winning the race in 03:10:27. He was followed by Collin Makaza of Zimbabwe in 03:12:41, while Mosuhli reached the finish-line a minute later.

In 2016, he finished fourth in the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon before appearing second in 1:05:19 at the Pietermaritzburg Half Marathon the same year. Later that year, he finished fourth at the Howick Half Marathon and won the Pietermaritzburg Half Marathon.

He appeared in position nine at the 2017 Marathon de Paris in France where he recorded his personal best. He also holds the national record of

2:09:46 attained at the race. Later that year, he finished sixth at the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon.

On July 30, 2017, he finished eighth at the Bogota COL Half Marathon in Columbia, South America before winning the Pietermaritzburg Half Marathon and the Botha's Hill Half Marathon in South Africa later that year.

He appeared fourth among 30 competitors at the 2018 Maratona di Roma in Italy, clocking in 2:10:32.

The race in the Italian capital was his second sojourn in Europe, after Marathon de Paris of 2017.

His impressive performance timing of 2:10:32 is also the second

fastest run by a Mosotho in a marathon after the national record of 2:09:47, which he set at the Paris Marathon.

Nkhabutlane ran in the Rome Marathon after he pulled out of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia because the government failed to support him financially while preparing for the global games.

He had been Lesotho's main medal hopeful at the global show.

In 2019, he appeared seventh at the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon, before finishing 10th at the Lanzhou Marathon and fourth at the Chanzhou Half Marathon (both in China) later that year.

Nkhabutlane won the 2020 Delloite Marathon in Durban and clocked in 2:19:23. He finished fifth at the 2021 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Dhaka Marathon in Bangladesh in January.

His worst moment was missing the 2020 Tokyo Olympics qualification by just two seconds.

The games were held in Japan from July 23 to August 8. The qualifying standard in the men's 42.2 km race was 2:11:30 and Nkhabutlane was second placed at the Retail Capital Langa Marathon in Cape Town in May after clocking in 2:11:32.

"My worst moment as an athlete was when the local athletics governing body stopped us from competing in South African races, accusing us of refusing to represent our country internationally," he recalls.

Born on November 15, 1984, Motlokoa Clement Nkhabutlane did his primary education at Motsekuoa Primary School and completed in 1998. He proceeded to Motsekuoa High School where he obtained a Junior Certificate in 2001 and a Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) in 2004. He graduated with a Diploma in Business Studies from IBC College in 2008.

During his primary and high school days, he was a proficient footballer although he always had a great passion for athletics.

Commenting about his mentor, Mabuthile Lebopo, he says: "He groomed me but now I am training under my new South African coach, Andrew Booyens at the Save Orion Athletic Club. I was motivated by Ethiopian and Kenyan marathoners who are fast runners and pacesetters."

His teammate at the Save Orion Athletics Club, Khoarahlane Seutloali describes him as a hard worker who is committed to his career.

"He is a real hard worker that is why he is such a regular winner. We work harmoniously as a team during races. I also became a pace setter at the Retail Capital Langa Marathon in Cape Town in May and assisted Ramashamole and him in their unsuccessful bid to qualify for Tokyo Olympics," he comments.

His future plans include taking up coaching fulltime when he finally hangs up his running shoes. He is married to Nkalimo Mabusela now 'Matlotliso Nkhabutlane and the couple is blessed with two sons, aged eight and four. His other hobbies include watching television and reading.

