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Govt lifts ban on poultry imports **Economic conditions poor before COVID - Analysts**

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- Pope receives death threats



BORN ON THIS DAY

- August 12**
- 1987 - Noonie Bao [Jonnali Mikaela Parmenius], Swedish pop songwriter and singer
 - 1989 - Stefano Okaka Chuka, Italian footballer, born in Castiglione del Lago, Italy
 - 1990 - Adelaide Kane, Australian actress (Reign), born in Claremont, Australia
 - 1991 - Hansika Motwani, Indian actress (Desamuduru), born in Bombay, India
 - 1994 - King Von [Dayvon Bennett], American rapper and songwriter ("Cazy Story")
 - 1979 - Alizah Allen, American figure skater (1997 North Atlantic Sr champ)
 - 1980 - Ryu Seung-beom, South Korean actor (The Unjust), born in Asan, South Korea
 - 1981 - Li Jiawei, Singaporean Olympic table tennis player

NewsBriefs

Chief Justice slams media

MASERU - Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane has slammed media practitioners, accusing them of inaccurate reporting of court proceedings.

The onslaught occurred on Monday in the High Court after an article was published in the Post Newspaper, showing that Mothetjoa Metsing and Selibe Mochoboroane had been wrongfully added in the case against soldiers facing murder charges.

The CJ addressed the media prior to hearing arguments in an application in which the two political leaders are challenging their joinder in the criminal case.

He warned the media to report factually and properly analyse what was said in court, ordering the publication in question to make the essential corrections in the next issue.

King's Counsel Motiea Teele who is involved in the case suggested that the editor of the paper should be summoned before the Registrar of the High Court to explain the mistake.

This was after the reporter who wrote the article explained that what appeared in the paper was not the correct version of her original report.

KC Teele said there is information that at times, editors alter stories that have been



Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane

written by reporters.

This was not the first time the media went under fire for inaccurate reporting.

They were recently blasted for allegedly misquoting a witness in the ongoing murder trial of the former army boss, Lieutenant General Maaparankoe Mahao.

Witness claims he was ordered to arrest Khetheng

MASERU - A Leribe police officer who is testifying in the murder trial of his former colleague, Police Constable Mokalekale Khetheng, says he was ordered to arrest the deceased cop on arson charges.

PC Tumelo Ntoane told the High Court on Monday that prior to the arrest, the officer who commanded the Crime Investigation Division (CID) at the Hlotse Police Station, Inspector Mothibeli Mofolo had issued directives that Khetheng be apprehended on sight as he was a suspect in the burning of a building in Hlotse.

Mofolo is one of the four police officers accused of the murder of Khetheng on March 26, 2016. The others include Senior Superintendent Thabo Tsukulu who commanded the Leribe police and Mabitle Matona along with Haleokoe Taasoane.

They also face other charges including

perjury and defeating ends of justice.

In his testimony, Ntoane told the court this week that he would not have arrested Khetheng had he not been instructed to, by Mofolo. He said as it was his duty to report, he called Mofolo following the arrest and informed him about it. Ntoane testified after other police officers such as Senior Superintendent Phahla Letsosa, Senior Inspector Mabohlokoa Makotoko and Sergeant Khothatso Mphutlane.

All three were stationed at the Hlotse Police Station in 2016 when Khetheng allegedly went missing in police custody.

Khetheng who was stationed in Mokhotlong allegedly died at the hands of his colleagues, but this has been refuted by the defence, claiming that the deceased was never arrested.

The defence further claims that Khetheng left the police station of his own accord.

FastFACTS

Glaciers and ice sheets hold about 69 percent of the world's freshwater

Just over 96% of the total amount of the world's water is held in its oceans, according to Water in crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources via the United States Geological Survey (USGS). However, that's primarily saltwater. To find the bulk of the world's freshwater you need to trek to the poles, as 68.7% of it is encased in ice caps, permanent snow, and glaciers. For more facts sent right to your inbox, sign up for our daily newsletter.

On This Day in History

1938



August 12

Hitler encourages Germans to have multiple children with the Mother's Cross

On August 12, 1938, Adolf Hitler institutes the Mother's Cross, to encourage German women to have more children, to be awarded each year on August 12, Hitler's mother's birthday.

The German Reich needed a robust and growing population and encouraged couples to have large families. It started such encouragement early. Once members of the distaff wing of the Hitler Youth movement, the League of German Girls, turned 18, they became eligible for a branch called Faith and Beauty, which trained these girls in the art of becoming ideal mothers. One component of that ideal was fecundity. And so each year, in honour of his beloved mother, Klara, and in memory of her birthday, a gold medal was awarded to women with seven children, a silver to women with six, and a bronze to women with five.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

The Chiefs wife gets pregnant

When the Chief's wife fell pregnant, the Chief thinks nothing of it, as he loves his wife and sleeps with her regularly, until nine months later when the baby is born, and has the same pale skin as this strange white man.

The Chief becomes furious, as he thinks the white man had slept with his wife, and asks to speak with him in private far from the rest of the tribe. He takes him to the edge of their village near a sheep pasture, where it is peaceful, yet quiet. The Chief brings up his concern for his child being white, and explains to him that it isn't possible for the child to be white and be his son, as the man is the first human they have ever seen to be white. The Chief has many children, all as dark as he is.

Furious, the Chief threatens to banish the man, as he is convinced the man had a child with his wife, and offers the man a chance for an explanation as to why the child isn't his.

The white man thinks for a minute, and looks out onto the sheep pasture. He notices that all the sheep are white, except one of them, who is black.

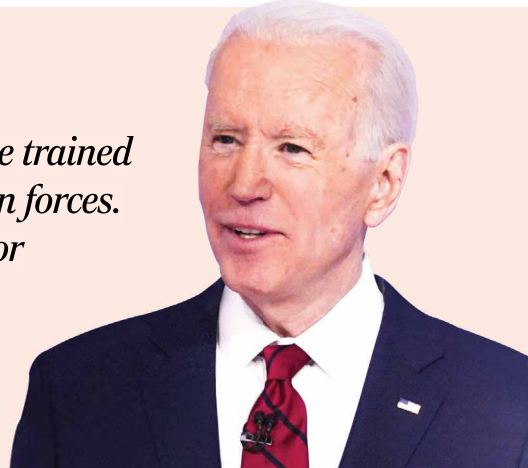
The man uses this example of the sheep, claiming that in nature, there is always a "black sheep", and sometimes, no matter how all the others look, one comes out looking different than the rest. There wasn't a black sheep to impregnate a white sheep, to make it black, it just happens sometimes.

The Chief listens to this explanation, and makes his decision. The Chief says, "I won't tell the others about the baby, if you keep your mouth shut about the sheep".

Quotes & Quips!

"Look, we spent over a trillion dollars over twenty years, we trained and equipped with modern equipment over 300 000 Afghan forces. Afghan leaders have to come together. They've got to fight for themselves, fight for their nation,"

Said American president Joe Biden on his decision to withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan, a move that effectively ends America's longest war.



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Basotho to get job preference over foreigners

4

Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	23.22
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.68
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.27
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.27
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.36
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.78
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.89
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	10.71
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.04
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.02
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.32
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.98
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.19
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	3.91
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.55
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.80
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.00
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.40

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,429.50	Gold p/ounce	1,729.09
NASDAQ100	15,048.00	Platinum p/ounce	999.50
Nikkei225	27,888.15	Silver p/ounce	23.34
Dow Jones30	35,161.00	Copper p/ounce	0.22
FTSE 100	7,161.04	Brent Oil p/barrel	70.86
JSE	69,602.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	26,605.62	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	M15.35
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M15.25
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M15.25
Paraffin p/litre	M10.50
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

No recompense for poultry farmers

NEO SENOKO

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MASERU - There will be no compensation for local poultry farmers who have been dealt a heavy blow following the outbreak of Avian influenza in May, which further led to a ban on poultry imports from South Africa.

Avian Influenza (AI) is a contagious viral infection which can affect all species of birds. In intensive poultry rearing systems, young fattening turkeys and laying hens are usually the most affected species.

Symptoms of Avian Influenza in poultry include loss of appetite, cessation of egg laying, nervous signs, swelling and blue discoloration of combs and wattles due to disturbance of blood circulation. During this period, sudden death can also occur without any previous signs.

During the period between May and early June, the disease surfaced at two farms, in Ha Penapena, Maseru and Sebothoane in Leribe, forcing farm owners to destroy hundreds of their birds.

The disease was imported from South Africa, while the latter assumes it came from Europe.

Around 30 000 birds were destroyed at the Ha Penapena farm in May while another 24 000 had to be destroyed at the Sebothoane farm. Hundreds of other poultry farmers in the country have been hard hit by the outbreak following the ban on imports from the neighboring South Africa.

Almost 100 percent of poultry products in Lesotho are imported from South Africa, with Gauteng and Free State Provinces among the main suppliers of the products.

Despite being severely impacted, local farmers will not receive any financial boost from the government. While it is evident any form of business has its own risks, the government said another major challenge has to do with the absence of a compensation policy that would otherwise provide a clear roadmap on how the affected farmers would have to be compensated.

This was revealed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Likopo Mahase during a media briefing on Tuesday.

"Any form of business has its own risks. You can go out and buy a new car now and few moments later the same car may be destroyed. So that is part of business. But another challenge is that we do not have any compensation policy at the moment, thus, even if we wanted to assist farmers.

"We need proper policies for such things, but then again policies are driven by money. That means we should be in a good financial space to do that," Mr Mahase said.

He however, admitted that the outbreak of the disease and the ban on poultry products had a huge impact on farmers and the economy at large.

"So much has been

lost since May. Some farmers lost all their produce, but luckily we have now been able to contain the disease and farmers will be allowed to import from selected provinces in South Africa," he added.

The ministry revealed during the same event that while a ban continues in provinces that have been widely affected by the disease, local farmers will be allowed to import from other provinces that have not been affected. This, they shall do through the assistance of the ministry officials. Import permits will be obtained from the ministry.

A total of 44 farmers have been affected by the Avian Influenza in South Africa.

Poultry farmers in the country are still not allowed to import from provinces that includes Gauteng, Free State,

North West, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Kwazulu Natal and Western Cape. These provinces have been severely impacted by the disease.

The provinces that have not been affected by the virus include Northern Cape and Limpopo.

The Director General of Veterinary Services Dr Relebohile Mahloane urged farmers to comply with the ministry directives to avoid any form of inconvenience.

"We got rid of the disease, so if we get re-infected, it would mean that someone might have imported these products illegally. So far

compliance has been good and we hope to continue with that understanding going forward," Dr Mahloane said.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Likopo Mahase



Business

Govt lifts ban on poultry imports

MASERU – The government has partially lifted the ban on the import and export of chickens and all poultry products, assuring local farmers that the avian influenza that hit the country between May and June, killing scores of chickens countrywide is currently under control.

The farmers are however, still not permitted to import from provinces like Gauteng, Free State, North West, Mpumalanga, Easter Cape, Kwazulu Natal and Western Cape. These provinces have been severely impacted by the disease.

They are only allowed to import from Northern Cape and Limpopo.

Speaking at a media briefing that was held in Maseru on Tuesday, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Likopo Mahase apologised to the farmers for the inconvenience caused by the ban, saying they could now resume trading with provinces that have not been affected by the virus.

The outbreak of bird flu was discovered at a chicken layer farm in Ha Penapena on the outskirts of Maseru earlier in May.

The government thereafter announced the decision to ban both imports and exports of chicken products, warning the public to be vigilant and report any deaths of domestic poultry and wild birds to the ministry.

The ministry's investigations later revealed that the disease had been imported from South Africa where the chickens were bought.

It was further believed that the disease came from Europe before it landed in South Africa.

"Between May and June, the disease was discovered at two major poultry farms in Ha Penapena, Maseru and Sebothoane in Leribe where a total of about 500 000 chickens were disposed of, to curb the spread of the virus," Mr Mahase told the media on Tuesday, adding that the virus had initially hit South Africa, which is Lesotho's major supplier of poultry chickens and products.

The Director General of Veterinary Services in the ministry of agriculture, Dr Relebohile Mahloane said the disease has such an acute impact on the poultry farming industry that it quickly spreads within days of breaking out.

He said across the country, there are no



The government has allowed poultry and their products to be imported only from Northern Cape and Limpopo

reported cases of human to human infections, adding however that there are cases of chicken to human infections which he said need serious monitoring as they can spread further.

For her part, the ministry's Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Relebohile Lepheane said they have been getting good compliance

from the farmers, adding that verification was made in affected farms where samples were taken and later came back negative.

She said the ministry's efforts to control the disease were easily accomplished through the cooperation of the farmers.

The main symptoms of the avian influenza

in poultry include depression, loss of appetite, cessation of egg laying, nervous signs, swelling and blue discolouration of combs and wattles due to disturbance of blood circulation, coughing, sneezing and diarrhea. Sudden death can occur without any warning signs.

LeNA/Metro

Basotho to get job preference over foreigners

MASERU – The Minister of Labour and Employment, Moshe Leoma says plans are underway to initiate a campaign that will ensure that high profile positions in the country are filled by qualified Basotho before engaging any expatriates.

He said most major local companies are being led by foreigners, adding therefore that where there are Basotho with similar qualifications, they should be given first preference for such jobs.

This, the minister said last week Thursday, after his meeting with the Vodacom Lesotho's top management earlier that day.

Mr Leoma said the employment of a Mosotho as the Managing Director of a company of that magnitude, signals a big achievement for the Ministry of

Labour and Employment. On June 1, the Vodacom Group appointed Mohale Ralebiso (pictured) as the new MD of Vodacom Lesotho.

Mr Ralebiso took over the reins from Philip Amoateng who is from Ghana.

Mr Leoma said the labour ministry will not renew any work permit for an expatriate worker if there are Basotho who are in possession of credentials that allow them to perform the same duties that are being performed by such foreigners.

Through the initiative, he said the government is working towards reducing the unemployment rate of 26.8 percent in the country, adding that most of the unemployed people are youth, who are highly qualified.

The government's current motto, he said is "Mosotho pele" (Mosotho first), adding that in whatever happens in Lesotho, the government must prioritise serving its people.

He said the ministry is currently making surprise visits to local companies under a campaign called 'Operation Thoso'.

Under this operation, personnel from the ministry pay random visits to companies to establish whether or not such companies have engaged foreign workers legally, among others.

The team from the ministry, Mr Leoma said has already

visited Butha-Buthe, Mohale's Hoek, the Polihali Dam, Maputsoe and the St Joseph's Hospital in Roma, singling out the latter where they found five foreign doctors who were engaged without work permits.

"At the Polihali Dam, we learned that expatriate workers heard about our surprise visit in advance and they disappeared before our arrival," he said.

He added: "This makes our job a lot more difficult because we face a huge task of convincing and attracting investors to Lesotho, in order to create more jobs for Basotho. But we will do our best to ensure that we create the much needed jobs for Lesotho and its people."

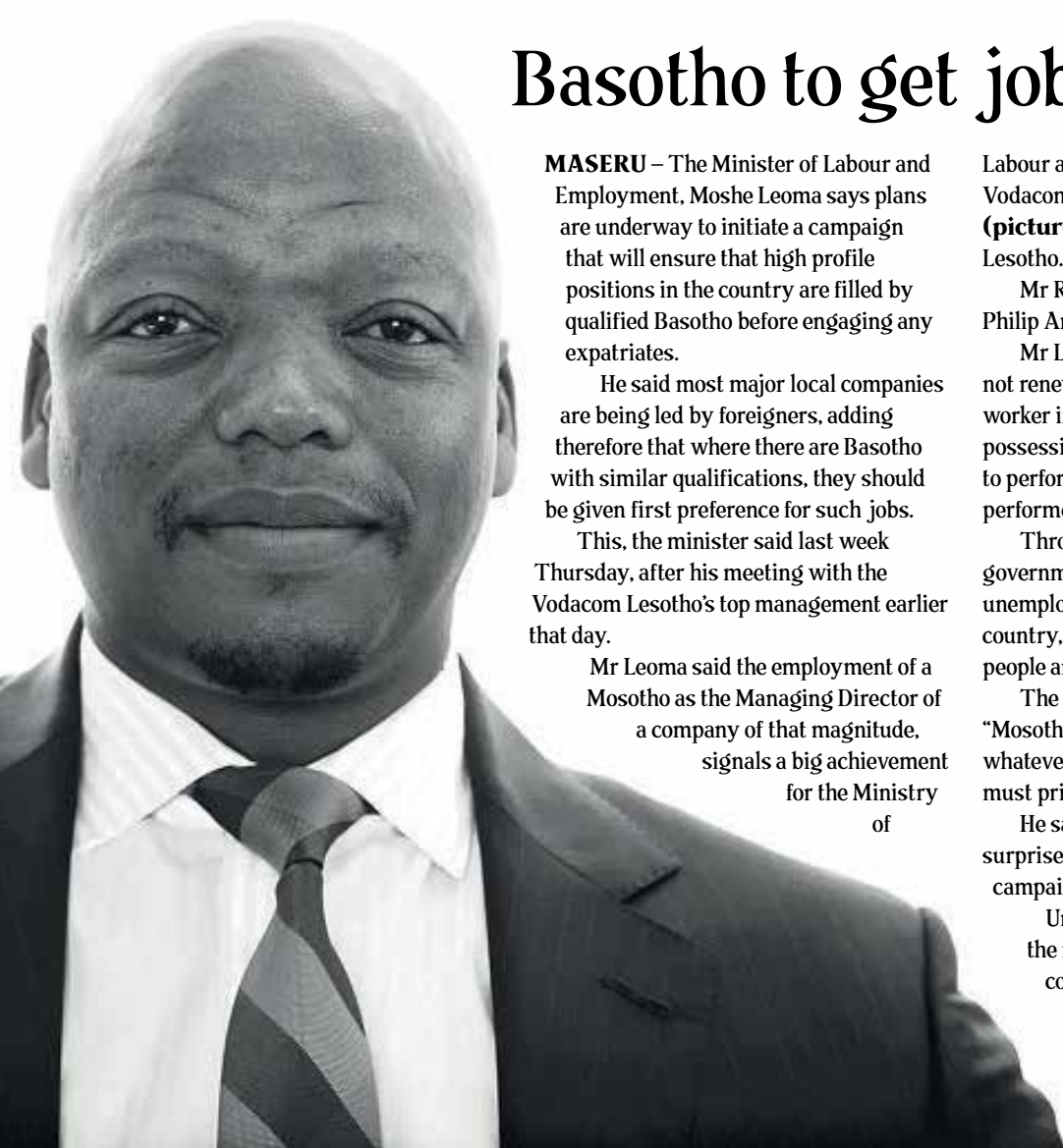
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PO Box 14899
Maseru 100
Lesotho
Contact Number: +266 58727250



Economic conditions poor before COVID - Analysts

(DC), held its elective conference in January 2019 and Mathibeli Mokothu was elected as his successor.

Lesotho's economic performance has been negatively affected by sluggish global economic growth amid a major downturn in both emerging markets and advanced economies, as well as natural disasters. Sustained political instability, coupled with slow economic growth in the South African economy, also contributed to slow economic performance.

Real GDP growth rate, according to the World Bank, is estimated to have contracted by 1.2 percent

and 0.4 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively and is projected to average

0.6 percent between 2019 and 2023,

largely attributed to the expected negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local economist, Robert Likhang



The Lesotho Corruption Perceptions Index was at level of 41 score in 2020, up from 40 score the previous year, representing a change of 2.50 percent.

The CPI score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts, and ranges between 100 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt). Local analysts have sent a strong message, warning the government and politicians generally to refrain from shifting blame towards the pandemic while in fact the country has been failing significantly over the past years.

"The poor performance of our economy is as a result of many factors, both within and outside our control. Our conditions could not have been this serious if we had applied proper fiscal discipline. We had to actively and vigorously implement our good NSDP II," said the Managing Partner, HLB Lesotho-Accountants and Advisors Robert Likhang, in an interview with Metro this week.

The Lesotho National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II) has ambitious policy targets of the transformation of the Lesotho economy from a consumer driven economy to a producer based economy led by the private sector. Mr Likhang said the country's political instability has affected foreign direct investment while not much has been done to support domestic Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development.

"Our political instability has affected our foreign direct investment. We have never given serious attention to domestic MSME development. There is still no meaningful MSME policy and BEDCO is still under-resourced, although we need to appreciate efforts to restructure it and develop programmes for it, funded by the World Bank.

"It is also a fact that COVID-19 has had negative effects from global ecosystems to national economic macro environments.

Lesotho is a consumption country feeding its greed with imports, and because of lowered production and pressure on supply chains, there has been low exchange of money in the market, affecting economic performance," he also said.

He said the country needs NSDP III which will build agility and resilience in times of pandemics and other grey and black swans' catastrophes.

"The issue has been poor planning and the loss of eye on the economic development ball," he added.

Another local economist, Majakathata Thakhsi Mokoena shared similar sentiments, saying the economy has been suffering since former Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili left office.

"They cannot blame the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy has been struggling since Mosisili left office. Before then, the country's economy was growing at a steady 4.4 percent," Mr Mokoena said.

Born on March 14, 1945, Dr Mosisili retired from active politics in January 2019.

He was Lesotho's Prime Minister from 1998 to June 2012 and again from March 2015 to June 2017. In November 2018, he announced his retirement from politics.

His party, the Democratic Congress

NEO SENOKO
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MASERU - Local politicians and policy makers are now using the COVID-19 pandemic as a scapegoat for weak economic conditions in the country, however, economists think otherwise.

Long before the pandemic, the country's economy has always been in the doldrums.

Issues of high unemployment, corruption, political instability and poor management of funds have always been at the forefront of Lesotho's stagnant economic state.

The COVID-19 outbreak has simply exacerbated the already crippling economy, the analysts say, adding that poverty and unemployment among others have been aggravated.

Using the cross-country comparable international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day, 27.3 percent of Basotho were poor in 2017, according to the World Bank findings.

Pre-COVID-19, during the last decade, the World Bank says job growth was on average at only 1 percent per year, less than half of the annual growth rate of the working population. The country lags behind other countries in southern Africa in terms of structural transformation of the economy, with 67 percent of employment still concentrated in low productivity jobs in agriculture.

Food security is a serious problem, with the country ranked 78th among 199 qualifying countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI).

Over one third of children aged below five display evidence of long-term malnutrition. The country's stunting rates are among the highest in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) region.

For many years, corruption has remained the order of the day in Lesotho.

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during lockdown.






Comments & Letters

COVID-19 is killing our children's future

Mass school and institutions of higher learning's closure is one of most shocking signs of the COVID-19 pandemic's power to drive the country future to the ground.

While the government is starting to order teachers and learners/students back to school, some schools have however, been forced to close down due to high infection rates.

As to how long schools will remain closed, or how learning will be affected, and or how greatly this will affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations are difficult questions to answer.

We do not yet know enough about what will happen next.

When children lose out on education, they miss out on future opportunities, including economic benefits such as additional earnings, with far-reaching consequences.

For whole societies to close down schools today there will definitely be significant consequences tomorrow.

We present this as a starting point to help governments make increasingly informed choices about school closures, and to start debating on controlling and mitigating the economic downward spiral that the COVID-19 pandemic is already creating.

L.M - Quthing

Please let's celebrate our Olympic heroes

Basotho are doing a sterling job cheering our Olympians. 'Neheng Khatala and her husband Khoarahlane Seutloali, after they represented the country at the just ended 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games in Japan. Khatala made history by becoming the first Mosotho woman to finish among the top 20 females at the Olympics marathon, hence, she deserves to be given a pat on the shoulder for her efforts. While things were admittedly tougher for Seutloali in the male category, he however, managed to finish the race, a feat many accomplished athletes have failed to achieve over the years.

So instead of throwing accusations and calling names like some of us are doing, please let us celebrate these heroes of ours so that they could be motivated to do better in the next edition of the global multisport games scheduled for Paris, France in 2024.

Thabo oa Qoaling



Why can't the government just vaccinate us?

A vaccinated person acts as a barrier to slow and prevent the virus from continuing to spread. The ultimate end goal is to get as many people vaccinated possible so that more people are protected.

As our country continues to get more and more vaccines, I write to appeal to our government, to vaccinate our people, and not go by the schedules which are being issued, to vaccinate only those who appear on them, but vaccinate everybody eligible.

Some of these people do not even want to take the vaccine, and are denying us the chance to take our jabs now.

I think it would be fair if we were all given the green to go for the jabs and whoever feels like being vaccinated should not be denied that chance.

Some of us are just here waiting to be called, while the vaccine is there just waiting for people to be vaccinated, how bad!

At the same time, positive cases are increasing daily, posing a threat to us, and people continue dying.

Puleng Sonki

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Allowing chickens back into Lesotho revives the taut economy

The partial lifting of the ban on the import and export of chickens and all poultry products in the country is such a relief to local farmers and consumers of the products. Notwithstanding the revenue generated from poultry farming, chickens and their products including eggs provide the cheapest and most readily available proteins in most Basotho meals. Therefore it goes without saying that the scarcity of chickens and their products in the country for the past two months dealt both the economy and the consumers a debilitating blow. The good news, however, is that the deadly bird flu that killed scores of chickens in some local commercial poultry farms as well as indigenous chickens and wild birds in various parts of the country is now under control.

Announcing this good news on Tuesday, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Mr Likopo Mahase was quick to add that local farmers were now free to resume trading with their South African partners. Like a country whose economy primarily relies on agriculture, the poultry industry in Lesotho plays a crucial role in both revenue generation and job creation.

Although the disease is said to be under control now, it is nonetheless imperative for Lesotho to take a strong stance in the fight against the eradication of the virus.

That means the country should consider taking the poultry industry a step further through among others producing its own chickens and eggs, in order to stop relying utterly on import supplies, especially from the neighbouring South Africa. This is because our geographical location works against us in the manner that being completely enclosed by our only neighbour SA, when she has problems of any sort, especially border related, we are virtually the first to feel the heat, as we do not have an alternative outlet to the outside world.

The poultry farmers themselves should also start completely appreciating the kind of impact they have on Lesotho's economy and take the issue of investing in keeping their birds healthy more seriously. Another area to consider as a way developing the industry could be to insure their businesses so that when mishaps like the bird flu and others strike, they are not caught napping, with their pants down. But the government has an obligation to protect its people and their businesses by working round the clock to ensure that the deadly disease stays away for keeps, while keeping the nation informed on its efforts to stop any transmissions that might have occurred when some people unwittingly consumed the infected chickens at the outbreak of the virus in May.

After all, it is a known fact that the disease is zoonotic - that is, it can be transmitted from animals or chickens to human beings

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Mafube Wild Olive Tea hits the shelves

MASERU - For more than a year now, the people of Lesotho have enjoyed an appetizing tea in the form of Mafube!

"Just when Mafube (sun's rays) begin to rise, the people of Lesotho get into the habit of making tea," says the soft-spoken, Matsomoli Mokhele who is incubating her business at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) Innovation Hub.

"I wanted to bring an exception to that habit with a tasty healthy local tea," she adds.

We are approaching two years now since Mafube hit the markets. The reception has been great. "Some people," Matsomoli says, "just like the unique taste of it all. Others know a thing or two about its amazing health benefits."

This tea is a mixture of wild mint and wild olive tree leaves found in Lesotho.

You can't get a better combination.

Today, we trace an interesting journey of a rather shy but hard-working girl from Mafeteng.

"My flirting with

entrepreneurship started when I was in high school," she relates her story. "At that time, I was part of a committee for the school's science society."

She says although the school was willing to fund the science society's frequent participation in science fairs, they, as the society, were also expected to put something on the table. That is why they devised a plan, "each member of the society would sell anything that would bring us revenue." As a leader who led by example, she too was also thrown into the selling activities.

Those were memorable days because, in her words, "we would actually raise enough money to fund up to 10 participants in the fair." She doesn't know if such experiences contributed to her love for entrepreneurship or not, but this is where she is now.

Fate would soon confine her within the fences of the NUL.

Although she wanted to be a nurse and to later get into Dentistry, she found herself doing BSc in Nutrition.

"I grew to love it," she says, "especially when we started to be introduced to courses dealing with food science and food product development. In fact I later turned down an offer to do Dentistry at the University of Pretoria."

She still recalls getting into a project where she developed an extremely tasty soup from beans, sunflower and a variety of vegetables and flavours. "In my final year, I would later be involved in a project that was meant to address poor nutrition in babies undergoing weaning."

That project would create a highly nutritious product best known as Khuisa, which means weaning in English. The product is under development at the NUL Innovation

Hub.

"I was invited to the Innovation Hub due to my

involvement with that project as a student."

However, when she entered the hub, a whole new world opened up.

Not only was she told she was free to experiment with anything as long as it wouldn't kill anyone, but she observed her peers doing just that. She immediately got the spirit, "even as we were pushing Khuisa, we were also pushing other products and Mafube become one of them."

A trained nutritionist, she says Mafube is more than just a sensory delight.

Whereas many come to it for taste, taste and nothing else, some consult it for health reasons. These may include chasing away flu and cold. In fact, experts believe that mint may soothe upset stomach, improve digestion, treat bad breath, combat the common cold and flu, reduce fever, improve mental awareness and focus and... the list goes on.

The other half of the mix is wild olive, which scientists tell us its "real" name is *Olea europaea* L. subsp. *Africana*. Okay, okay, what matters is that its leaves have been used widely across Africa and other continents for, among others, lowering blood pressure, improving kidney function and dealing with sore throats.

Recently, scientists have demonstrated that the leaves of the tree have a compound called Oleuropein. This mysterious substance has been proven to fight microbes and oxidation in cells which can cause cell damage, making you sick.

It is interesting that Matsomoli doesn't import the raw materials for the tea. "I found it amazing that there are so many people who have grown these trees and herbs and they supply us with raw material year-round, right here in Lesotho."

She is also impressed by the NUL Innovation Hub's introduction of the Tholoana Orchard Society. The society seeks to introduce the cultivation of fruits and herbs at a large scale around the country, "we need self-sufficiency in this area as soon as possible," she says.

The article has been supplied by the NUL Innovation Hub

Metro HEALTH

health@maserumetro.com

LOVE YOUR HEART

Drinking unsweetened Lipton green and black tea everyday can help support a healthy heart



Lesotho pays for its J&J vaccine



Prime Minister Dr Mōketsi Majoro

LINEO MABEKEBEKE
health@maserumetro.com

MASERU - The Lesotho government has fully paid for a consignment of 108 000 doses of the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine that it received from the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) on Saturday.

This, after it had earlier received another batch of 72 000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine from the United States government.

This is the first shipment from the African Union (AU) AVAT that is fully paid for by the Lesotho government.

The AVAT Team (AVATT) has shown that each month, Lesotho will receive the same amount of doses until a 1.6 million dose order has been fulfilled.

AVATT has also indicated that should Lesotho utilise its vaccine stocks faster and on time, more vaccines will be allocated to the country.

Receiving the vaccine, Prime Minister Dr Mōketsi Majoro appealed to the Ministry of Health, together with its partners like the Lesotho private sector to expedite the vaccination programme so that all Basotho in and out of the country, especially in South Africa are fully vaccinated by Christmas.

For every batch that lands in Lesotho, Dr Majoro said there are many hardworking people in Lesotho and in other countries labouring in

the background to ensure that all are vaccinated, adding that Basotho are thankful for all those efforts.

In this particular instance, he thanked, Strive Masiyiwa, who is a Special Envoy for COVID-19 vaccines for his exemplary efforts to secure vaccines for Africa and particularly for Lesotho.

He also thanked Vera Songwe of the Economic Commission for Africa for her dedication to ensuring that Lesotho is not forgotten, and Marie Francoise Marie-Nelly, the World Bank Country Director for supporting Lesotho to secure its financial resources for acquiring the vaccines.

The PM further extended his gratitude to Dr John Nkengasong of the Africa CDC for remaining engaged during the vaccine drought and his outspokenness on the need for equitable access to vaccines, the Lesotho private sector (Vodacom Lesotho, Letšeng Diamonds, and Sesiu), and the Ministry of Health Team working on vaccine procurement.

Due to all their efforts, Lesotho is poised to secure another batch of 100 000 doses of the J&J vaccine in the next two weeks.

Kimanzi Muthengi, UNICEF Representative to Lesotho said through the AVATT, countries across the continent will receive life-saving vaccine doses over the coming months.

This action, he said will help save lives and get economies back on track.

"As all countries begin to build their lives back to normal, may this day be a reference and a show of the potential that Africa has to work together for the benefit of all," Mr Muthengi said.

He thanked and applauded all stakeholders who contributed to getting this delivery to the people of Lesotho.

He also lauded the private sector for living up to the spirit of corporate social responsibility and demonstrating that they are part of the community and are willing to contribute to the preservation of the communities they serve.

As vaccination campaigns were being rolled out, all were reminded to continue wearing masks, regularly washing their hands, avoiding crowded places and practicing social distancing.

The AVATT, a 10-member team drawn from across the continent, was established in August 2020 to ensure that the African continent would be able to secure sufficient COVID-19 vaccine doses to achieve herd immunity.

It is a key component in support of the Africa Vaccine Strategy that was endorsed by the African Union (AU) Bureau of Heads of State and Government.

It is chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and includes Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, Dr Zweli Lawrence Mkhize, Mr Masiyiwa, Dr Donald Kaberuka, Professor Benedict Oramah, H.E Amira Elfadi and Dr Nkengasong among others.

Mabapi le ho tšela malibohong

Bo RAKHOEBO

Ba hlokoa tse latelang:

- Lengolo la COVID-19 (COVID-19 Certificate)
- Litokomane tsa khoebo



NACOSEC
NATIONAL COVID-19 SECRETARIAT



VISIT MASERU MALL



MASERU
—MALL—



Standard
Lesotho
Bank



NEDBANK



The world in 10 minutes

PORTUGAL

Doctors figure out why woman was lactating from her armpit

A new research paper uncovers the reason why a woman who gave birth in Portugal complained to her doctors about a pain in her right armpit.

Just two days after giving birth, a woman in Portugal told her doctors that she'd begun to develop pain in her right armpit. When the doctors examined her they discovered a "round, firm" mass which surprisingly "released a white discharge when pressed" according to a new report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The authors of the paper, Dr Cristiana Marinho-Soares and Dr Maria Pulido-Valente, both from the Hospital de Santa Maria in Lisbon, Portugal, realised that this discharge was breastmilk. The mother was diagnosed with polymastia, "a condition in which accessory breast tissue develops along the former embryonic mammary ridge" as the doctors explained. Research suggests that between 2% and 6% of women are born with additional breast tissue, which routine screenings for breast cancer need to be aware of for examinations.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Scientists transform water into shiny, golden metal

In a mind-bending experiment, scientists transformed purified water into metal for a few fleeting seconds, thus allowing the liquid to conduct electricity.

Unfiltered water can already conduct electricity - meaning negatively charged electrons can easily flow between its molecules - because unfiltered water contains salts, according to a statement about the new study. However, purified water contains only water molecules, whose outermost electrons remain bound to their designated atoms, and thus, they can't flow freely through the water.

Theoretically, if one applied enough pressure to pure water, the water molecules would squish together and their valence shells, the outermost ring of electrons surrounding each atom, would overlap. This would allow the electrons to flow freely between each molecule and would technically turn the water into a metal.



ZIMBABWE

Outrage after Zimbabwean girl, 14, dies giving birth at church shrine

Police in Zimbabwe are investigating the death of a 14-year-old girl during childbirth, a case that sparked outrage among citizens and rights activists. Memory Machaya is reported to have died last month at a church shrine in the eastern region of Marange.

The case has exposed the exploitation of minors, as she was reportedly forced to abandon school to get married. The United Nations urged the government to recognise child marriage as a crime and bring an end to the practice. The organisation said it "notes with deep concern" and "condemns strongly" reports into the circumstances surrounding the death. The girl's death on July 15 has put the spotlight on the practice of child marriage within Zimbabwe's Apostolic Church, which often rejects medicine and hospital treatment.



ETHIOPIA

Bride among those arrested after groom found dead

Six people have been arrested in Ethiopia in connection with the death of a bridegroom - including his widow.

Gemechis Mosisa was found dead days after his wedding in the town of Nekemte in western Ethiopia. The 28-year-old nurse posted a "just-wedded" message on Facebook on a Saturday and the following morning posted pictures of the ceremony.

"Gemechis married in church, and the wedding ceremony was beautiful," his cousin Chala Inkosa told the BBC. "The families are in pain after joy turned to tragedy."

When he was reported missing by family and friends, police began searching for him - finding his body two days later in a small lake on the outskirts of the town.



CAMEROON

Cameroon scientist spots crab not seen in 200 years

On a recent trip to Sierra Leone, Cameroonian scientist Pierre Mvogo Ndongo found a species of fresh water crab that had not been seen by scientists for more than 200 years. The Afzelius's crab of the *Afrithelphusa afzelii* was first identified in the 18th Century, he told the BBC's Focus on Africa radio programme.

On a research visit, Prof Ndongo headed for the Moyamba district where sightings had been reported.

With the help of locals he found several Afzelius crabs, which have a brown shell and are about 20mm in size, he said.

"I feel very good to be the first to find the crab alive after 230 years," Prof Ndongo told Focus on Africa.

He also found the Sierra Leone crab, which hadn't had a confirmed sighting since 1955.



AMERICA

How 'The Pet Revolution' Unleashed A New Top Dog

If you're in the market for gourmet dog food these days, there are a lot of options for your pooch. I mean, if you've got bills to pay, you could buy a 20-pound bag of chicken flavor Pedigree kibble for \$12. But Open Farm Pet offers a similar size bag of "Wild-Caught Salmon & Ancient Grains Dry Dog Food" for \$72. Not only does it have wild salmon, it's got steel-cut oats, quinoa, chia seeds and "superfoods like coconut oil, pumpkin and turmeric."

Stella & Chewy's offers a 22-pound bag blend of raw lamb, beef, and venison kibble for \$86 and an 8-pound box of "Grass-Fed Lamb Stew" for \$70. The stew is "100% human grade," which is perfect for the discerning carnivorous canine. But if your dog is the ethical type, he or she can chow down on Wild Earth's vegan dog food. An 18-pound, meatless bag costs \$70 and is chock full of plant protein and "irresistible umami flavor."

Treasure preaches gospel through hip-hop

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU - South African gospel rapper, Treasure, has a fundamental interest in engaging International artists in his music - Lesotho musicians included.

The 17-year-old artiste from Pretoria, real names Mpho Tharaga, plans to kick off his music career with a high note by becoming one of the top youngest international celebrities to emerge from the African continent.

Amongst an array of African rappers he featured in his maiden EP, titled "World War 8", which was released on Friday, is Maluty from the Thaba-Tseka, Lesotho, in a track called "Emisa Matsogo".

Other songs on the EP include the title track, "World War 8", "Desperado", "New Hitler" and "True Love", featuring other artistes like Hodie from Peru, Vertuez from Nigeria, Ben Brainy from Ghana, Peng G from Zambia.

The album was produced by DJ Lutro of SA.

"This is an international art of

collaboration work," the young musician says.

The acronym EP stands for 'Extended Play,' meaning that an EP is longer than a single but shorter than an album. They typically feature between two and five songs and are under 30 minutes in length.

"It comes with hip hop. Afro pop, Afro trap and gospel house flavours," Treasure says.

The versatile artiste who is a talented vocalist says he opted for gospel hip hop because he wants to encourage the young generation to believe more in God.

"I was raised by a Christian woman who taught me the word of God at an early age."

Even though the teen singer now sees a brighter future ahead, his upbringing was troubled.

Narrating his life story, he says, "I grew up in a very poor family but now I have turned things around. My father left us when I was only three years old and I was raised by a single mother. My

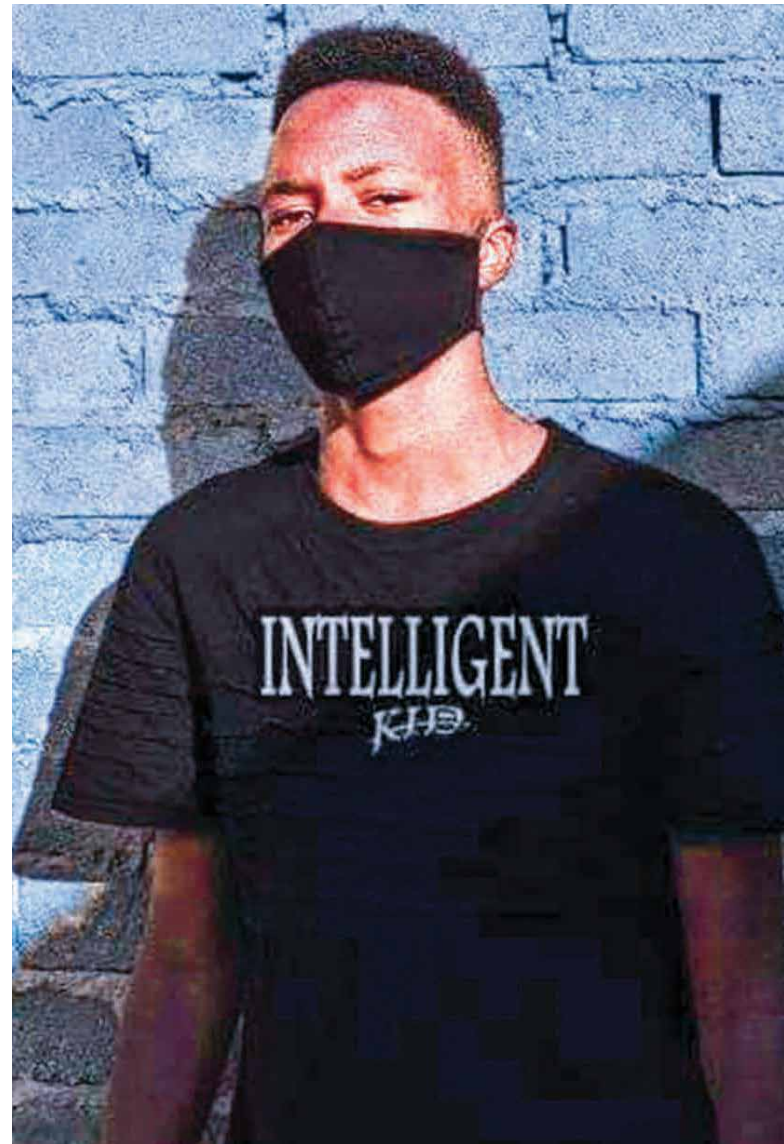
older brother was arrested for robbery when I was five years old. He was trying to fend for us because we had nothing to eat. He was sentenced to 10 years in jail but has since served his sentence. The problem is that he can't find a job because of his criminal record. However, I do the best I can to ensure the survival of the family."

Treasure started producing music at the age of 13, composing only hip hop. Now that his skill has developed, he also does, Afro pop, Afro trap and amapiano.

"This must not confuse my fans and I should state that my main genre is gospel hip hop. I started music as a hobby until I realised that I'm quite good at it. Then I began to take it seriously and decided to follow it as my career path.

"My dream is to become an international musician and actor. I'm a musician, photographer, presenter, producer and an actor," he says.

His EP can be accessed on Spotify, Deezer, Audiomack, Bandcamp and YouTube music streaming services online.



South African rapper Treasure aka Mpho Tharaga

Semonkong Lodge offers rustic elegance



LINEO MABEKEBEKE
health@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Hiding away in the magnificent Maluti Mountains, is a gem that is the, Semonkong Lodge, built on the banks of the Maletsunyane River.

Constructed with only local sand stones and thatch, the establishment offers just the right balance between

civilisation and rustic elegance.

It also offers a perfect base to explore this area on the iconic Basotho pony, mountain bikes or dare to take on the highest commercial abseil in the world.

Just down the river from the lodge, the mighty Maletsunyane Falls is one of the highest single dropping Falls in Africa, creating a haze of smokey mist as the water plummets

with savage splendour 186m down into a spectacular gorge. This is how Semonkong, The Place of Smoke, got its name.

The famous Duck and Donkey Tavern and Restaurant, provides a popular meeting place for both locals and guests and boasts affordable, delicious homemade meals and cold Maluti premium lagers.

Semonkong remains a remote

frontier town isolated from the rest of Southern Africa, which has allowed the Basotho pony to thrive and stay at the centre of Basotho life. Ponies are not only used in everyday activities, such as transport of people and goods, but they also have their time in the spotlight.

The monthly (in winter) horse races are one of these times. The horse races here happen because the entire livelihood revolves around Basotho ponies and horse owners are completely passionate about the sport. Weather permitting, once a month, the local Semonkong racing committee organises horse races for a Saturday afternoon once a challenge has arisen. There are various tracks in the area and everyone gathers on the day with great excitement and jubilation.

The biggest horse races are usually held on the weekend of the King's Birthday, July 17 and the Independence weekend October 4).

The lodge encourages guests, companies or whoever is willing to sponsor the horse races – the greater the prize money the bigger the event.

The horse races are subject to weather conditions and there is a possibility that venues may change accordingly.

Catering to all types of riders, from the experienced to the 'I've never sat on a horse before', their horses are gentle and sturdy – and will make one feel at home in the

saddle in no time. Known for their endurance and used by Basotho as one of the main modes of transport in the rocky terrain, be amazed at how these reliable, good-natured animals take the foothills and rugged mountain paths in their stride with ease.

The most popular day ride winds through the local villages of Semonkong, where one will catch a glimpse of the daily lives of those living in them.

As they head towards the viewpoint of the mighty Maletsunyane Falls, they will be able to take in the beauty of the Kingdom of Lesotho and enjoy the peace and stillness of mountains that surround them.

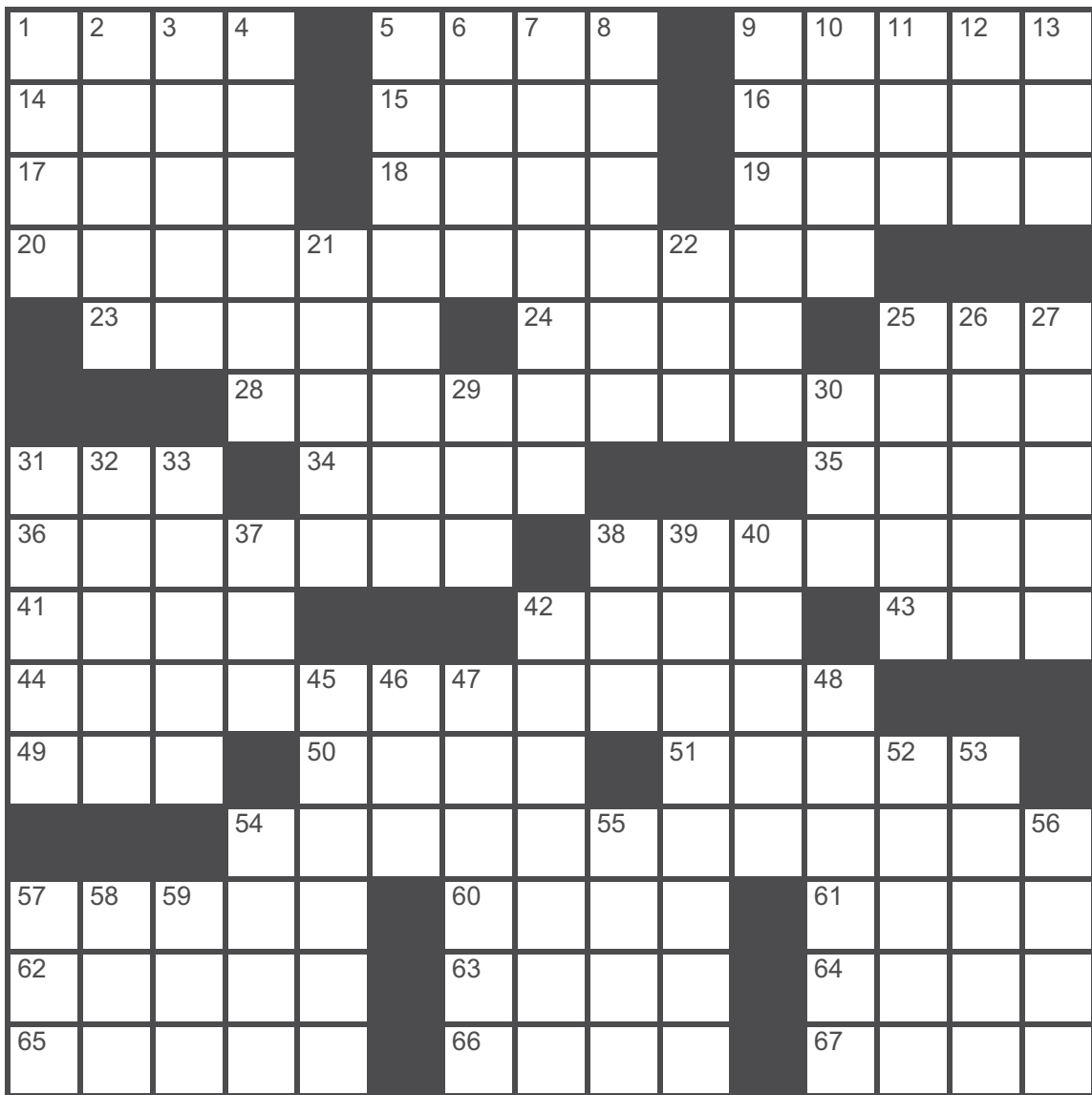
Once at the waterfall, it is time to stretch those legs and give the horses a breather, it is also the perfect time to stop and marvel at Semonkong's greatest natural wonder – one of the highest single dropping waterfalls in Africa, plummeting 186m into the gorge below. An unforgettable sight!

This trek can be extended to a hour-hour ride, including Mount Quang – the highest mountain in the area where people will be able to see the national flower of Lesotho, the Spiral Aloe (Aloe Polyphylla).

To all those experienced riders, they guarantee a fast gallop along this route if people are up for it!

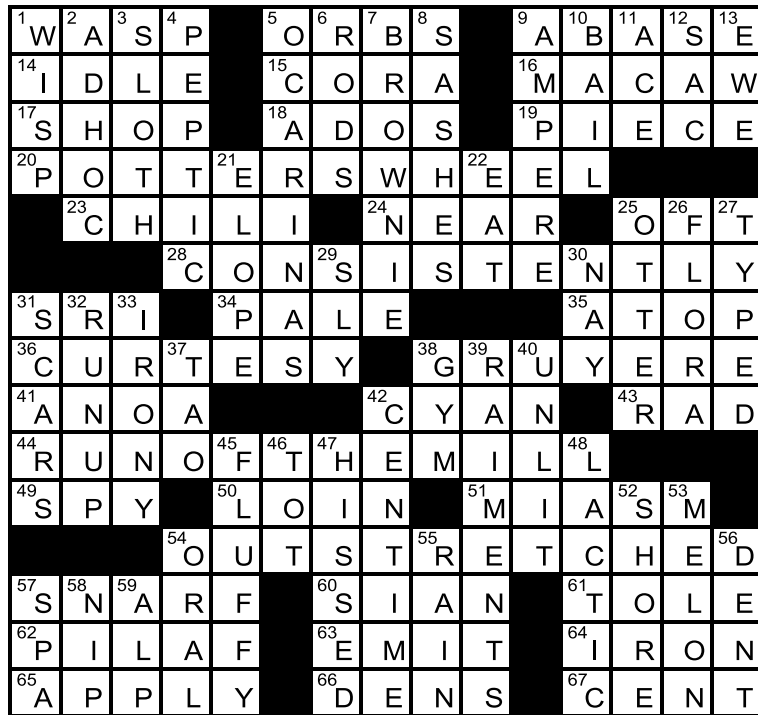
"Semonkong Lodge believes in empowering individuals within our local communities, and we work together with the community in the hiring of horses, guides and traditional huts for overnight treks. Please note it is always compulsory to wear a riding helmet. These are provided for you at the activity hut. No open shoes are allowed. We recommend boots with a slight heel and long pants," the lodge says on its website.

General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. One who crosses the line?
 - 5. Brewer's kiln
 - 9. How animals drink
 - 14. Domestic
 - 15. Greek salad ingredient
 - 16. Tennyson poem
 - 17. Notable times
 - 18. Scuffle
 - 19. A mile a minute
 - 20. Biker
 - 23. Print
 - 24. Japanese stringed instrument
 - 25. Turkish title
 - 28. Metal artisan
 - 31. Combine
 - 34. Film genre
 - 35. Butcher's stock
 - 36. "Alice doesn't live here _____"
 - 38. Tank contents
 - 41. Reign
 - 42. Disable
 - 43. Blemish
 - 44. Shifted to go further
 - 49. Hill person: Abbr.
 - 50. Glorify
 - 51. Cyma reversa
 - 54. Provisions
 - 57. Avian chatterbox
 - 60. No angel
 - 61. Without purpose
 - 62. Reef ring
 - 63. Kind of wolf
 - 64. Political second banana
 - 65. Afresh
 - 66. Brings to a close
 - 67. Gaelic language
- Down**
- 1. Flower holder
 - 2. Noel
 - 3. Stradivari's teacher
 - 4. Stupefies
 - 5. Indelicate
 - 6. Ethereal
 - 7. Laborer who builds a pile
 - 8. 12th U.S. President
 - 9. Svelte
 - 10. Mine entrance
 - 11. Eucharist vessel
 - 12. Final: Abbr.
 - 13. Layer
 - 21. Safari sight

Last Week's Solution



- 22. "_____ De-Lovely"
- 25. Elite military unit
- 26. Lake Volta locale
- 27. Flower with a showy head
- 29. Compete (for)
- 30. Mischief-maker
- 31. Trading places
- 32. Become accustomed (to)
- 33. Wood gum
- 37. Blokes
- 38. Drivel
- 39. Zingers
- 40. Last letter
- 42. Golfer's distance tool
- 45. Lento
- 46. "Casablanca" pianist
- 47. Unpretentious
- 48. Glean
- 52. Downy duck
- 53. Corporate department
- 54. Ring up
- 55. Bank deposit
- 56. Sort
- 57. Beatnik's exclamation
- 58. Polished off
- 59. Bully

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

If you were given a one foot square piece of paper, could you cut a hole large enough to walk through?

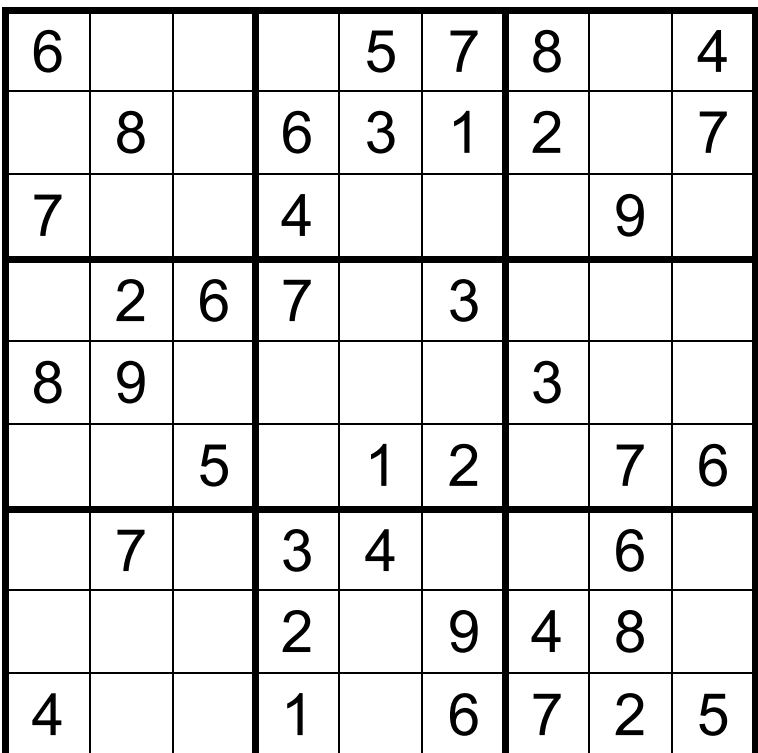


Last Week's Answer



A Dentist.

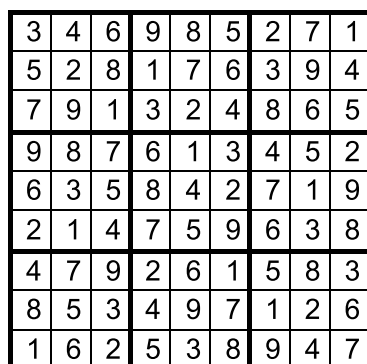
Sudoku Puzzle



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



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Be Car-Smart

Don't Jump the Gun

Ramp metering, or the use of traffic signals at freeway on-ramps to regulate flow, forces a small time penalty on drivers at the beginning of their commutes, but it pays off.

Ramp metering reduces overall freeway congestion by managing the amount of traffic entering the freeway and by breaking up platoons that make it difficult to merge onto the freeway. The vehicles are then individually released onto the mainline, often at a rate that is dependent on the mainline traffic volume and speed at that time. The configuration in the diagram is the most common; however, some agencies have altered this design to accommodate transit and high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) policies or existing geometric limitations. Due to the growth of metropolitan areas and

tightening of fiscal belts, the need for effective and financially viable freeway management tools is unprecedented. This primer poses ramp metering as a potential tool to address commonly occurring congestion and safety issues. Despite initial opposition and skepticism from various stakeholders, ramp metering has been deployed, sustained, and even expanded in many regions. This primer incorporates recent research on challenges agencies experience during their attempts to deploy or expand ramp metering in their regions.

While geometric limitations of existing ramps are a common challenge, agency support and project costs also pose difficulties for several agencies. Recent case studies provide insights into how these common challenges could be addressed

as well as lessons learned. This primer emphasizes organizational capability, public outreach, and geometric limitations as key considerations when deploying or expanding ramp metering.

Ramp metering is one of many strategies in the realm of freeway management and operations that agencies use to operate the existing freeway network at full potential. Successful operation of ramp metering systems leads toward integration with other activities that actively manage the freeway network.

Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O) is an integrated program, with strategies such as ramp metering, road weather management, and incident management, that requires continuous and active management by agencies to ultimately provide optimized system performance to existing freeway infrastructure. The end result is a program that will improve mobility, reliability, safety, and environmental impacts while preserving freeway capacity at a significantly lower cost than traditional capacity improvements. Ramp metering can also support regional congestion management processes. An agency's goals and objectives for ramp metering

should be consistent with regional transportation goals and objectives, which will vary from region to region. Often these goals and objectives are driven by the needs and areas of opportunity for a region. For instance, one region may want to improve safety and another may prioritize increasing mainline speed. Alternatively, some regions may want to encourage HOV and transit use.

Some common priorities among agencies are safety, mobility, quality of life, environmental effects, and motorist perceptions and satisfaction. With a set of objectives in place, agency decisions, such as what kind of system or algorithm should be used, will be appropriately focused.

When agencies implement effective ramp metering programs using strategies suitable to the region, they often realize significant, long-term benefits. While the magnitude of the benefits may vary depending on the level of congestion and configuration, common benefits persist across many regions. The widespread benefits of ramp metering, relative to its costs, make it one of the most cost-effective freeway management strategies.

Mobility tips to minimise your expenditure and maximise your savings

Your car could be the first major financial asset that you will own and manage. As with any asset, the key to maximising its performance, longevity and saleability is ensuring that you take care of it and keep it in the best condition possible. One way is to familiarise yourself with some handy tips that could save you money and help preserve your asset.

With July as National Savings Month drawing to a close, the focus has been on key aspects around saving and financial planning. As such, it is a good time to examine the household budget and see where savings can be made, including on your vehicle, recommends leading vehicle and asset solutions provider WesBank. Getting car insurance, a tracking device and other value-added products are great for ensuring that you maintain the value of your car.

However, on a day-to-day basis, here are a few tips that WesBank suggests you follow to assist you with managing and minimising your monthly expenditure, which could also lead to better savings.

- While driving, use a navigation system or app with real-time traffic monitoring to avoid traffic congestion, which wastes fuel.

- Weigh up the route options. Though it might be quicker on the highway, remember to take into account toll charges, where applicable. For intra-city travel, it could be more affordable to avoid tolled highways whereas, for inter-city journeys, tolls might be cheaper than the cost of extra fuel on back roads.

- Clear out any unnecessary clutter in your car that could weigh it down, resulting in unnecessary and excess fuel usage.

- Use the correct fuel grade for your vehicle model. If you are not sure, speak to

your dealer for the best advice on what fuel to use to ensure optimum performance for your car.

- Replacing worn tyres is essential for vehicle safety on the road but can be expensive and is not covered in service/maintenance plans. Ensuring your car's wheel alignment is set correctly will prevent premature wear and tear, fuelled in part by aggressive driving habits, and will positively affect your fuel consumption.

- Car insurance policies are like a safety net to protect your car. There are a variety of insurance policies available on the market – do your research and tailor a policy to accommodate your specific needs. Check in periodically with your insurer and negotiate lower premiums. A claim-free history will do wonders for your premium, and insurers are more likely to negotiate with low-risk clients. If your car is financed, it is important to note that having insurance is mandatory, so cancelling is not a wise (or possible) option. Also consider bundling your car and home insurance for a lower premium.

- Check your car licence disk expiry date. Keeping on top of renewal payments will minimise late renewal penalties. On the subject of penalties, it is equally important to follow the rules of the road. A traffic fine or infringement is an avoidable and unnecessary expense in your budget.

“The point is not to compromise the wellbeing of your car, but to invest in the most cost-effective ways to keep it running at its optimum performance level. Doing so could mean more savings to your budget in the long term,” says Kutlwano Mogatusi, WesBank Motor Communication Specialist.

“The freedom of movement afforded to you by having your own vehicle is

unparalleled. However, it is important to ensure your vehicle is maintained and

in the best condition to avoid incurring unnecessary costs and expenditure.”

VACANCY

Head, Blue Economy Division



Location: Addis Ababa
Organization: African Union Commission - AUC
AU Values
• Respect for Diversity and Team Work
• Think Africa Above all
• Transparency and Accountability
• Integrity and Impartiality
• Efficiency and Professionalism
• Information and Knowledge Sharing
Organization Information
Reports to: Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy
Directorate: Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy
Division: Blue Economy
Number of Direct Reports: 2
Number of Indirect Reports: 4
Job Grade: P5
Contract Type: Regular
Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Purpose of Job
Directs and manages the daily operations of the Blue Economy Division in order to achieve the strategic objectives of the directorate and the AU's overall goals.

Main Functions
• Designs and implements policies, programs and projects to achieve the directorate's strategic objectives.
• Manages and supervises employees within the division, ensures the timely delivery of the directorate's goals and effective staff performance evaluation;
• Designs policies, strategies and programs to contribute to the effective implementation of relevant AU Policy Organs Decisions;
• Ensures the delivery of the division's annual targets in line with the directorate's overall goals and ensures robust and timely monitoring and reporting;
• Provides technical leadership and ensures efficient functioning of all Units within the Division
• Manages the work of the Division and supervises direct reports to ensure their effective performance in line with the organization's performance management policy and system;
• Engages stakeholders within Members States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms(RMs) and relevant international organisations in designing and implementing strategies.
• Maintains thematic partnerships in support of the mandate of the Division;
• Maintains regular working relations with senior stakeholders in Member States and partner institutions in the execution of the Division's mandate.
• Represents the organisation and communicates its position at conferences.
• Contributes to the preparation of periodic financial and budget execution reports and monitor budget execution at division level.
• Ensures the effective management of funds contributed to the organization;
• Manages risk within the division and

recommends mitigation strategies
• Contributes to the development of the departmental business continuity plan and ensures implementation at division level
• Maintains a positive work environment that facilitates collaboration and information sharing and is conducive to attracting, retaining, and motivating diverse talent.

Specific Responsibilities
• Leads the technical development of continental policies and programmes in blue economy;
• Initiates and develops policies, strategies and programmes that contribute to the goals of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment consistent with AUC vision and mandates;
• Provides support for the implementation of policies, strategies and programs in terms of advocacy, coordination and guidance that contribute to effective implementation of relevant AU decision on matters related Blue Economy;
• Provides overall guidance and management for the human, financial and material resources of the Blue Economy Division;
• Builds and strengthens strategic partnerships to harness technical and financial resources necessary for effective implementation of policies, strategies and programs on Blue Economy;
• Creates and strengthens various forums for stakeholders' consultations, exchange of experiences, lessons, and capacity building; and represent the AUC in such forums.
• Prepares periodic reports on implementation of programs of the Division;
• Represents the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy in AU missions as well as in taskforces/committees and meetings on matters of Blue Economy;
• Provides support to the Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy in preparing statements, proposals, reports and other relevant tasks;
• Leads the development and implementation of Strategic initiatives and programs to contribute towards the achievement of AU/ARBE mandates, roles and strategies;
• Oversees the development of mechanisms to enhance capacity for evidence-based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
• Oversees strengthening capacity in terms of skills development, and streamlined/enhanced organizations, networks, and systems;
• Oversees and strengthens partnerships with relevant development institutions and stakeholders
• Leads strategy for advocacy, and broadening support for initiatives, and resources mobilization for implementation of the programs
• Ensures effective and efficient management of human, financial and material resources at the disposal of the division;
• Performs any other related duties as assigned by the Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy.

Academic Requirements and Relevant Experience
• Master's Degree in Sustainable Development, Biology, Natural Resources, Environmental Studies, Fisheries Management or related fields with 12 years of relevant work experience with 7 years of at managerial level and 5 years at supervisory level.
• Experience working in a national or an international organization dealing with relevant sub-sectors under blue economy issues

Required Skills
• Leadership and management skills
• Interpersonal and Negotiation skills
• Analytical and research skills
• Knowledge in international risk management strategies
• Knowledge in the use of Microsoft Office suite
• Communication, report writing and presentation skills
• Knowledge and understanding of the policies, strategies and programmes of AU
• Proficiency in one of the AU official working languages (French, English, Portuguese, Arabic, and Spanish); fluency in another AU language(s) is an added advantage.

Leadership Competencies
Strategic Perspective:
Developing Others:
Change Management:
Managing Risk:
Core Competencies
Building relationships:
Foster Accountability Culture:
Learning Orientation:
Communicating with impact:
Functional Competencies
Conceptual thinking:
Job Knowledge and information sharing:
Drive for result:
Fosters Innovation:

TENURE OF APPOINTMENT:
The appointment will be made on a regular term contract for a period of three (3) years, of which the first twelve months shall be considered as a probationary period. Thereafter, the contract will be for a period of two years renewable, subject to satisfactory performance and deliverables.
GENDER MAINSTREAMING:
The AU Commission is an equal opportunity employer and qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.
REMUNERATION:
Indicative basic salary of US\$ 50,746.00 (P5 Step 1) per annum plus other related entitlements e.g. Post adjustment (46% of basic salary), Housing allowance US\$ 26,208.00 (per annum), and education allowance (100% of tuition and other education-related expenses for every eligible dependent up to a maximum of US\$ 10,000.00 per child per annum), for internationally recruited staff and a maximum of \$3,300 per child per annum for locally recruited staff.
Applications must be made not later than 13 August 2021
Requisition ID: 712

Metro SPORTS



Lesotho's taekwondo sensation Marumo Moloisane lands a vicious roundhouse kick on an opponent's face

LNOC, LSRC jointly suspend taekwondo body

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MASERU - The Lesotho Taekwondo Association (LTA)'s affiliation to both the Lesotho National Olympics Committee (LNOC) and the Lesotho Sport and Recreation Commission (LSRC) has been suspended, following a long-running internal wrangling that led to a court case related to the holding of its annual elective assembly.

"LNOC and LSRC joint legal team has informed the LNOC executive committee that they have exhausted all forms of assistance to the Lesotho Taekwondo Association to facilitate an executive Annual General Meeting.

"It is in this regard that the LNOC executive board at its seating of July 6, resolved to suspend the LTA administration as of July 7 until a new LTA committee is in place. The LNOC will be responsible for LTA athletes

and the LNOC shall not assist the LTA administrative body and the LNOC will also consider only the communication of the LTA Elective Annual General Meeting," the LNOC Chief Executive Officer, Mathato Makhoro said in a letter to the LTA Secretary General, on Thursday August 5.

The LTA also issued a press statement on Monday informing its members and the public about its suspension from aforementioned

mother bodies.

"LTA is put under suspension after one member of the LNOC who was contesting for presidential position took the association to the courts of law which contravenes provisions of the LNOC constitution. Further to this, LNOC, LSRC and LTA are still defendants in the High Court of Lesotho where one LTA member has sued the trio.

"The two stipulated in the letter that they will now work with athletes directly. The LTA is dismayed by this act when LNOC elections are just imminent. The association is working tirelessly to bring back the sport to where it used to be and we hope honesty and fairness shall prevail from our mother bodies," LTA Vice Secretary, Relebohile Moletsane said in a statement.

The LTA elective AGM, which was initially scheduled for February 2020 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the association prepared to hold the conference in November 2020 but failed after the Khubetsoana, Sefika and Maseru Day clubs filed an urgent application in the High Court, stopping the elections and requesting the court to interdict the LTA from inviting some clubs that were allegedly not members of the LTA to the AGM.

In December, the High Court in delivering its judgment ordered the LTA to prepare a new list of clubs and prepare for elections as per its constitution.

The LTA prepared a new list and set the elections for March which also failed after the LNOC directed them to withhold the polls due to some administrative matters.

In April, while many believed that the elections would finally take off, another club, Lithabaneng, filed an urgent application in the High Court after the club had been excluded from the new list.



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Khatala, Seutloali did well at Olympics - Coach

MASERU – Veteran athlete and coach, Chaplin Mpomane maintains that the two athletes - 'Neheng Khatala and her husband Khoarahlane Seutloali, who represented Lesotho at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in Japan over the weekend, performed to the best of their abilities.

Khatala finished 20th out of 88 contestants during the women's marathon on Saturday while her husband Seutloali appeared on position 67 out of the 106 male marathoners who competed on Sunday.

"The two represented their country well, they were competing against the best athletes in the world and to think they never competed in any international race in preparation for this global multi-sport event," Mpomane said, congratulating the running couple for finishing their respective races.

Mpomane who is also the couple's local coach said the two deserve to be honoured for their bravery and resilience, adding that preparation before a race is crucial to any athlete.

"Preparation is the main factor that determines the athlete's performance during the competition. We have to change our mindset about all this. We should stop the tendency of always blaming the athletes whenever they perform poorly without looking at the contribution made by the sports administrators.

"You cannot prepare for an international event of that



Khoarahlane Seutloali, Sports Minister Likeleli Tampane and 'Neheng Khatala Seutloali

magnitude without competing in even a single international race," Mpomane said.

Adding: "We are still celebrating and sending warmest congratulations to Khatala for doing so well. We are proud of her and want her to keep up the good work.

"I know it was relatively tougher for Khoahlane, but he also did well under the circumstances."

"It was a very tough game indeed as Seutloali Khoarahlane managed to complete the race on position 67 in 02:25:03. Congratulations to him and we believe that next time he will perform better," the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) said in a statement.

According to Neo Ramarou, an athletics administrator, Khatala is

the first Mosotho woman to finish among the top 20 in an Olympic marathon.

At the 2012 London Olympics, Lesotho marathon queen 'Mamoroallo Tjoka finished 90th out of 107 athletes, clocking in 2:43:15.

Tjoka failed to finish the race at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China after she dropped

out because of a leg injury.

This was Khatala and Seutloali's maiden appearance at the Olympic Games.

The United States (U.S) were the biggest winners at the games that ended on Sunday, taking home more gold medals than any other country (39) as well as more total medals than any other country (113).



Likuena winger, Tumelo Khutlang (in white)

Khutlang speaks on Swallows venture

MASERU – Likuena winger, Tumelo Khutlang is looking forward to a new chapter of his career after recently joining the DSTV Premier League side Swallows FC, on a two-year contract.

Khutlang moves to the Dube Birds after a three-year stay in Limpopo, where he was playing for the relegated Black Leopards.

The left footed attacking midfielder revealed that his agent worked round the clock to secure him a new home less than a week after parting ways with Leopards.

"I'm delighted with the move to Swallows. I have signed a two-year-contract with the club, with an option for another year," Khutlang said.

"I went back to Leopards

for pre-season because I was still contracted to the club though there were still a lot of things pending following their relegation from the Premier League.

"A few days after reporting for pre-season, I was summoned to a meeting where the club told me about having to take a salary cut, which I was not prepared for, and, in the end, we both agreed to part ways."

The Lesotho international said he will always be grateful to Leopards for giving him the opportunity to play professional football in South Africa, having registered 35 appearances and five goals in all competitions since joining the club in 2018.

"I want to thank the club for giving me the opportunity

to play professional football in South Africa especially coach Joel Masutha, as he was the one in charge of the team when they signed me. The leadership of the club, technical team and the players have all been behind me since I joined the club," the winger said.

"It was not easy because at one stage I was not registered with the club. My family, friends and manager have been behind me through the bad and good times. The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) always believed in my abilities even when I was not playing and I was still getting call ups for Likuena," he said.

The article was supplied by the LeFA Information Office



Highly decorated chess master, CM Tokelo Klaas



Chess Master (CM) Tokelo Klaas (left) during an international tournament

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MASERU - Tokelo Klaas is one of the most decorated chess players in Lesotho and holds a Fédération Internationale des Échecs, (FIDE) Candidate Master (CM) title.

His standard rating is currently 1830 and is the second player in the country who holds a CM title after veteran chess master, Chief Joang Molapo.

Klaas, 24, is ranked number one in all active chess players in Lesotho.

He is also ranked 1388 under active players in Africa and 50859 under active players worldwide.

The tactical player has done

exceptionally well in local, regional and global tournaments.

He was awarded a CM title after a sterling showing at the 43rd World Chess Olympiad held in Batumi, Georgia in 2018.

His list of accolades won over the years is endless. He won a silver medal at the 2015 BOLESWA Interschool Games held in Gaborone, Botswana. In 2016, he collected a silver medal at the Lesotho Open before winning a bronze medal at the Blue Mountain Inn (BMI) Open later that year. The same year, he collected a silver medal at the BOLESWA Interschool Games.

He was crowned the national champion in 2017 before winning the

Mohale's Hoek Open the same year. He won gold at the 2017 BOLESWA Interschool Games in Swaziland.

He also won a bronze at the 2018 Eswatini Open. Later that year, he won the National University of Lesotho (NUL) Open. The following year he collected gold at the BMI Open and a silver medal at the BOLESWA Interschool Games in Maseru.

He collected a gold medal at the 2019 Albert Moroka Open in Thaba Nchu, South Africa.

He was named the 2019 Lesotho Annual Sport Awards (LASA) Sportsman Star of the Year. In July 31, he won a gold medal at the 2021 Spring Open.

Born on December 2, 1996, Tokelo Klaas is the son of Lerotholi and 'Mathabiso Klaas of Sekamaneng, Berea. He is the second child in a family of two boys.

He did his primary education at Tšepo Christian Primary School from 2002 and completed in 2008. He proceeded to Lesotho High school in 2009 and obtained a Junior Certificate in 2011 and later a Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) in 2013.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) Degree from NUL in 2020 after entering the institution in 2014.

As a young boy growing up on the dirty streets of Sekamaneng, Klaas played football with his peers.

He took up chess at high school and his family stood behind him throughout his journey.

His maiden appearance at a tournament was in 2013 at the High Schools Chess Championship Team event, where his team, Lesotho High School walked away with a silver medal.

He cut his teeth internationally in February 2014 in Pretoria at the Lesotho versus South Africa chess challenge.

He performed poorly, collecting 1.5 over 9 points though he had the highest points among his teammates.

As an aspiring chess player, he was groomed by the National Chess Instructor, Masilo Mafube.

In the coaching department, Klaas reveres another National Chess Instructor, Moseli Phera. He is also a huge fan of the U.S Grand Master Fabiano Caruana, Zambian International Master Gillian Bwalya and South African International Master Watu

Kobese.

His best local competitors include Sechaba Khalema and Theko Khanyapa.

Khalema describes Klaas as a cool person whom he has known since their high school days.

"His style of play matches with his cool character. When he does not understand something he quickly asks. He is a relaxed player who never panics no matter the pressure he is under, hence, he makes few mistakes," he says.

He regards him as a formidable opponent in any competition.

His former coach, Mafube shares similar sentiments about his cool disposition, saying he is also extremely curious.

"He pays special attention to details and is extremely focused. Another thing I like about his style of play is that he has a fierce fighting spirit under that cool temperament."

His worst moment was losing a game playing for the country at the 42nd edition of the 2016 World Chess Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2016.

"I was playing against an Oman FIDE Master (FM) Salim Mohammed rated 2050. I had an advantage to win the match but I failed to convert and my experienced opponent capitalised," Klaas recalls.

His best moment was defeating the Malawi National Champion, Chiletso Chipanga at the 2014 Chess Olympiad in Troms, Norway.

He considers competing at the 2014 Chess Olympiad as his best moment ever, as a chess player.

"Another best moment was winning the 2017 National Chess Championship," he says.

Klaas works fulltime as a pharmacist at the Divine Pharmacy in Maseru.

Apart from his undying love for chess, he also enjoys listening to music, playing board and video games as well as watching football.

