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WASCO punishes defaulters
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New diamond mine in Mokhotlong
5

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- DC women rubbish claims of sex favours for jobs
- Minister calls for tattooing, branding of livestock
- Majoro recovers from COVID-19



BORN ON THIS DAY

August 26

- 1982 - Natalie Coughlin, American swimmer, born in Vallejo, California
- 1982 - YTCracker [Bryce Case, Jr.], American hip-hop artist, born in La Mirada, California
- 1982 - Scott Palguta, American soccer player, born in Toms River, New Jersey
- 1983 - Sun Mingming, Chinese basketball player, World's tallest player at 7ft 9in, born in Bayan County, China
- 1984 - Glen Johnson, English soccer right-back (54 caps; Liverpool, Chelsea, Portsmouth, Stoke City)
- 1986 - Neil Cicierega, American cartoonist and musician, born in Boston, Massachusetts
- 1986 - Josh Morris, Australian rugby league player for St. George Illawarra Dragons
- 1987 - Nikki Gil, Filipina actress, host and singer, born in Manila, Philippines
- 1988 - Daniel Schwaab, German footballer, born in Waldkirch, Germany
- 1988 - Jeremy Lin, American NBA player (Toronto Raptors), born in Torrance, California.

NewsBriefs

Judge ill health disrupts Metsing, Mochoboroane trial

MASERU - Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane's poor health condition last week prevented the trial in which two political leaders are challenging the powers of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) from proceeding.

Mothetjoa Metsing and Selibe Mochoboroane are in the application attacking the ability of the DPP to try them and institute a summary trial.

They also question the manner in which the indictment was filed and how the DPP exercised her powers.

The case was accordingly postponed to August 31 on which date both parties are expected to address the court on merits of the application.

Chief Justice Sakoane had previously begun hearing preliminary arguments in the matter, thus bringing hope that the case which had been pending for months would finally proceed to finality.

The two leaders argue that the DPP did not follow proper procedure when she summarily indicted them and joined them in a criminal case pending before the High Court.

In their preliminary arguments, they submit they have not approached the court as accused while the respondents insist that they are accused persons because they have been served with an indictment as well as a notice of trial.

Metsing is the leader of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) and also former Deputy Prime Minister.

Mochoboroane is the leader of the Movement for Economic Change (MEC) and Minister of Development Planning.



LCD leader, Mothetjoa Metsing

They have since been trying to secure immunity from prosecution, but all their attempts have been unsuccessful

If joined, they will become co-accused to some members of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) who are among others accused of killing Sub-Inspector Mokheseng Ramahlolo of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) during an incident that happened at the police headquarters on August 30, 2014.

WASCO disconnects services over unpaid bills

MASERU - The Water and Sewage Company (WASCO) has started disconnecting services for customers who failed to pay their outstanding bills.

The disconnections, which began in Maseru villages including Lower Thetsane, Matala Phase 2, Khubetsoana, Ha Mabote, Lithabaneng and several business establishments, are expected to spread to other areas, including the rest of the districts.

WASCO's Public Relations Manager, Lineo Moqasa says they are disconnecting services for every customer who has an outstanding bill, notwithstanding the amount they owe.

The utility company, she said gave its customers a chance to approach its offices for negotiations, in order to confirm their bills and make a payment deal.

"However, some customers did not even bother to come over, hence the decision to disconnect the services."

Ms Moqasa said the outstanding bills have negatively affected the company's operations as it is unable to implement and complete minor projects within allocated time due to financial constraints.

She said among others, it is unable to attend to damaged pipes on time, adding that technical services also require the same money which customers fail to pay.

"The company understood that customers were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and did not disconnect services in 2020, which is why it only urged them to pay their bills instead," she said. Earlier this month, WASCO warned its customers to pay their outstanding bills before August 19 to avoid disconnections.

It is estimated that the customers owe the company cash worth M171Million.

LeNA

FastFACTS

The fastest gust of wind ever recorded on Earth was 253 miles per hour

Hang on to your hats because this isn't your average wind storm. In 1996, a tropical cyclone named Olivia hit off the coast of Barrow Island, Australia with such a force that it broke an incredible record. According to The Weather Channel, "Olivia's eyewall produced five extreme three-second wind gusts, the peak of which was a 253 mph gust," which blew past the previous wind record of 231 mph set in Mount Washington, New Hampshire back in 1934.

On This Day in History

1957

August 26

Russia tests an intercontinental ballistic missile

The Soviet Union announces that it has successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of being fired "into any part of the world." The announcement caused great concern in the United States, and started a national debate over the "missile gap" between America and Russia.

For years after World War II, both the United States and the Soviet Union had been trying to perfect a long-range missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Building on the successes of Nazi Germany in developing the V-1 and V-2 rockets that pummeled Great Britain during the last months of World War II, both American and Russian scientists raced to improve the range and accuracy of such missiles. (Both nations relied heavily on captured German scientists in their efforts.) In July 1957, the United States seemed to win the race when the Atlas, an ICBM with a speed of up to 20,000 miles an hour and an effective range of 5,000 miles, was ready for testing. The test, however, was a disaster. The missile rose only about 5,000 feet into the air, tumbled, and plunged to earth. Just a month later, the Soviets claimed success by announcing that their own ICBM had been tested, had "covered a huge distance in a brief time," and "landed in the target area." No details were given in the Russian announcement and some commentators in the United States doubted that the ICBM test had been as successful as claimed. Nevertheless, the Soviet possession of this "ultimate weapon," coupled with recent successful test by the Russians of atomic and hydrogen bombs, raised concerns in America. If the Soviets did indeed perfect their ICBM, no part of the United States would be completely safe from possible atomic attack.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

When Jesus and Moses go golfing

Jesus, Moses, and an old man go golfing. The first one to tee off is Moses. He smashes the ball and it is heading right for the water hazard before the green. Moses raises his club, the water parts, and the ball makes it to the green.

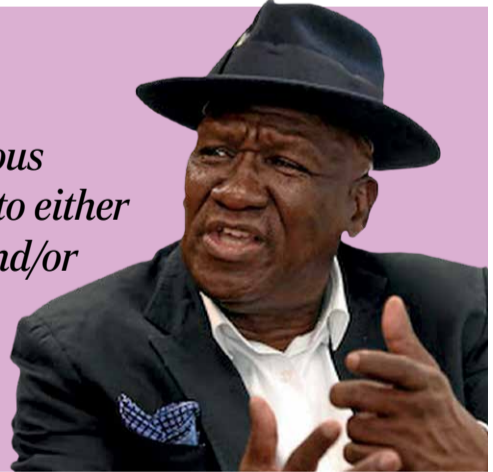
Jesus gets up to swing, cranks it out, and it is headed for the water hazard. Jesus closes his eyes and prays. The ball skips across the water and lands on the green two feet from the hole. The old man's turn comes and he drives the ball. The ball looks like it is going to drop directly into the water. A fish jumps from the water hazard swallowing the ball, as an eagle drops from the sky, grabbing the fish.

As the eagle flies over the green, a bolt of lightning strikes the eagle, making it drop the fish. As the fish hits the green, it spits out the ball and the ball falls into the hole, making a hole in one. Jesus looks at Moses and says, "I really think I'm leaving Dad at home next time!"

Quotes & Quips!

"This office is aware that Major General Khan signed various financial related documents and authorisations delegated to either the Chief Financial Officer of the Secret Services Account and/or Divisional Commissioner during this period,"

Said SA Minister of Police, Bheki Cele on General Feroz Khan's controversial acting appointment as Head of Crime Intelligence after the suspension in December 2020 of Divisional Commissioner Peter Jacobs by National Commissioner Khela Sitole.



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Firm forces workers to take COVID job

4

Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.5
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.96
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.60
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.31
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.14
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.56
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.88
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.92
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	11.06
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.036
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.024
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.33
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.95
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.20
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	3.99
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.63
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.85
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (AED)	4.07
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.35

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,499.79	Gold p/ounce	1,789.22
NASDAQ100	15,369.15	Platinum p/ounce	1,004.20
Nikkei225	27,724.80	Silver p/ounce	23.80
Dow Jones30	35,461.81	Copper p/ounce	4.27
FTSE 100	7,150.12	Brent Oil p/barrel	70.79
JSE	67,453.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	25,652.65	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	M15.25
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M15.15
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M14.85
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

SACU revenues below historic 30% average



Lesotho Revenue Authority Commissioner General, Thabo Khasipe

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues which account for

50 percent of Lesotho's revenue have been declining and are currently below their historic average of 30 percent.

A recent African Development Fund (ADF) report on the Supplemental Finance

of the Lesotho Tax Modernisation Project (LTMP) has revealed the substantial decline.

The decline is believed to have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This, coupled with an increase in government spending needed to fight the pandemic, will further tighten the fiscal space.

SACU consists of Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia South Africa and Eswatini.

The economic structure of the union links member states by a single tariff and no customs duties between them. The member states form a single customs territory in which tariffs and other barriers are eliminated on substantially all the trade between the member states for products originating in these countries, and there is a common external tariff that applies to non-members of SACU.

The agreement establishes a common revenue pool consisting of all customs, excise and additional duties collected in the common custom area. A revenue sharing formula is then used for determining each member state's shares out of the common revenue pool.

In practice, duties are collected by all member states and transferred to the common revenue pool on a quarterly basis. Each year, revenue shares are determined by the council of ministers and payouts to member states are made.

"The fiscal deficit, which was initially projected at -3.9 percent and 3.6 percent in 2020 and 2021 respectively, is projected to further deteriorate to -7.8 percent and -5.2 percent of GDP in 2020 and 2021 respectively, in the baseline scenario, and -8.5 percent and -5.7 percent in the worst case scenario," the report has shown.

The current low levels of domestic revenues have negative implications for the country's fiscal stability and severely compromise its capacity to finance development programmes. In September last year, the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) Commissioner General, Thabo Khasipe delivered a chilling warning that the spread of the pandemic means that the SACU collections will suffer and decline drastically.

"Also, SACU revenue which is collected by the five member states when trading with the rest of the world will be affected. Without adequate international trade due to the pandemic, there is no money collected in the form of tariffs. No SACU money to share by member states means no revenue for LRA and the government of Lesotho," the Commissioner General had warned.

He highlighted the importance of dealing with the pandemic, saying there is no LRA unless the pandemic is dealt with accordingly.

He said no job is better than that of fighting the pandemic if the country is to avoid the economic Armageddon ahead.

In recent years, Lesotho's economic performance has been negatively affected by sluggish global economic growth amid a major downturn in emerging markets and advanced economies as well as South Africa, its main trading partners.

Sustained political instability in the country, coupled with slow economic growth in South Africa has also contributed to slow economic performance.

Real GDP growth rate is estimated to have averaged 1.6 percent between 2015 and 2019 and is projected to average 0.6 percent between 2019 and 2021, largely attributed to the expected negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which is already affecting the fiscus.

Business

Firm forces workers to take COVID job



NACTWU Secretary General, Sam Mokhele

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – While it is clear that nobody should be forced to take a COVID-19 job in the country, a clothing manufacturing firm in Maputsoe, Leribe, Ever Unison Garment, has been coercing its employees to take the vaccine or face retrenchment.

The company operates in retail services, packaging solutions, industrial services, steel products, clothing and accessories as well as plastic products, among others.

Ever Unison has been undertaking these illegal acts as part of a legitimate health and safety measure to ensure safety at the work place as production continues.

But the conduct has been put on hold, thanks to the intervention of the National Clothing Textile and Allied Workers Union (NACTWU).

Many workers who did not want to be vaccinated were forced to take the job for fear of losing their jobs in an already difficult economic condition exacerbated by the pandemic.

There are many reasons why people may object vaccines. For some, religious beliefs do not allow them to take vaccines while others simply have medical reasons which prevent them from being vaccinated.

But there are some who are plainly afraid to

take the job.

After learning about the forced vaccinations, NACTWU was quick to warn the firm to refrain from such acts. The trade union also blew the whistle to both the Ministry of Labour and Employment and that of health.

“We were told that employees were threatened to be fired if they did not want to take the vaccine. Knowing that it was against the law to do that, we took the responsibility and notified the Ministries of Health and that of Labour to deal with the matter. The good thing is at that time, no one had been fired yet,” NACTWU Secretary General, Sam Mokhele told Metro.

In June while receiving his second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro admitted that the vaccine is voluntary, adding however, that it is important for every Mosotho to get vaccinated to lower the risks of dying from the pandemic.

“I wish to implore the Ministry of Health, working together with its partners including the Lesotho Private Sector to expedite the vaccination programme so that all Basotho in the country and South Africa are fully vaccinated by Christmas,” Dr Majoro further reiterated earlier this month when receiving the first vaccine shipment from the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust.

The Prime Minister is currently recuperating after testing positive for the pandemic last week.

Vaccination of factory workers began a few weeks ago, with many expressing their excitement for finally receiving the vaccine.

With the ongoing economic challenges in the textile sector, which have seen many people losing their jobs, it has become increasingly difficult for some to decline the job.

Just recently, Nien Hsing International, a denim wear manufacturing company began the process of retrenching around 2 500 employees as it prepares for a complete shutdown.

The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions in the supply chains have been identified as the main reasons for such huge job losses.

The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) has expressed its concern in respect of the downscaling of operations by key players in the sector, which resulted in considerable job cuts.

Following engagements with these companies, the LNDC revealed that among other things, the companies cited deteriorating investment climate as another major factor which affected them negatively.

“

We were told that employees were threatened to be fired if they did not want to take the vaccine. Knowing that it was against the law to do that, we took the responsibility and notified the Ministries of Health and that of Labour to deal with the matter. The good thing is at that time, no one had been fired yet

As a result, the LNDC has initiated negotiations with key stakeholders to jointly address issues that negatively impact the investment climate. The corporation has also resuscitated the Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT), which is a high level problem solving forum led by the Minister of Trade and Industry to address investor's grievances.

The main objective of the task team is to facilitate collaboration with key stakeholders to improve the investment environment to restore investor confidence.

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New diamond mine opens in Mokhotlong

MOKHOTLONG – Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu **(pictured)** says opening a mine is huge move towards the development of any country as a government is expected to create employment opportunities for its people.

He was speaking in Mokhotlong on Friday at the launch of a new diamond mine that is run by the Thaba Telle Mining Company. The mine is owned by Lehlohonolo Nthonto who is the first Lesotho national to be issued a licence to run a mining company in the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister commended the Ministry of Mining for the move, saying that it is a perfect step to

take towards developing the economy of the country.

“I am happy that the owner of the mining company is not only a Mosotho businessman but he is also a resident of Mokhotlong where most of Lesotho’s natural resources are found in abundance,” he said.

He was quick to show that more mines should be opened in the country to create jobs and fight unemployment.

Speaking at the same event, the Minister of Mining Serialong Qoo said the ministry is committed to improving the mining sector and ensuring that Basotho own and run the sector for the economic growth and development of their country.

He said before the end of the year, three more mines will have been launched, adding that the Lihobong Mine which had been closed for a year will be opened next week. Mr Qoo said the road leading to the Thaba Telle mining site will soon be constructed, adding that the Thaba Telle Mine is anticipated to be the second largest mine in

Mokhotlong after Letšeng.

For his part, the Minister of Forestry Ranges and Soil Conservation, Motlohi Maliehe said it is encouraging for the country to have a Mosotho owning a mining company.

He said while developments are taking place, the environment should also be protected. He appealed to the mine to provide Mokhotlong farmers with fodder to feed their livestock as the mine will occupy the ranges with its operations, leaving the livestock with insufficient land for grazing.

The Chairperson of Natural Resources Committee in Parliament, Kimetso Mathaba said the opening of the mine indicates that there is intention to improve and promote the mining sector in Lesotho.

In his brief remarks, Mr Nthonto thanked the government through the Ministry of Mining for issuing him with a mining licence and allowing operations to kick start at the mine.

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Comments & Letters

Was the government ever ready?

The Editor,

When the vaccination campaign first started, we were told that as soon as we have taken our shots, we would get our COVID-19 Vaccination Cards.

A COVID-19 Vaccination Card is a record showing information such as the dates one received the jab(s) and the brand of vaccine they received. The card also contains information identifying the recipient and their address.

Though people are not forced to take the vaccine, but being in possession of the card can prompt or encourage others who have not taken their shots to go ahead and vaccinate.

But for some reason, recently, vaccination centres are no longer offering the said cards.

The health ministry claims it has ran out of the cards, advising recipients to return at a later stage for the documents.

This conduct only goes to show that our government was never ready to embark on the campaign because the vaccination process has only just began but there are no cards to provide.

Libuseng Makhabeng,
Upper Moyeni, Quthing

Grounds not yet constructed for AUSC Region 5 Games

The Editor,

Our country appears to be hesitant to start preparing for the upcoming AUSC Region 5 Games.

The games which were initially scheduled for December last year were postponed to this year in December, due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

The government was supposed to have started building sports fields and accommodation facilities for the contestants and officials, but to date, nothing has been started.

It is not clear whether or not Lesotho plans to host these games because if anything, the country is running out of time. The games are just around the corner but nothing appears to be happening at among others, the Lepereng Sports Grounds, where the main construction is supposed to take place.

The question is, if no construction is underway now, when will it start? What about the budget allocated for the construction, is it still there or the funds have already been diverted to other "better projects?"

Thabiso Qhoai,
Qoaling, Maseru

All the best to LDF Ladies

The Editor,

LDF Ladies this week trooped to the inaugural CAF Women Club Champions League COSAFA qualifiers in Durban, South Africa, to have their names written in history books as they become the first women football team to represent Lesotho at the regional tournament.

The team will be in action on Thursday against Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies at the King Zwelithine stadium. The army ladies are also featured in Group A with Botswana's Double Action Ladies and the Manzini Wanderers Ladies of Eswatini.

Basotho should rally behind the team, irrespective of the outcome of the competition.

The team's newly appointed head coach Lengana Nkhethoa with the assistance of Moroosi Lasaro and Lire Phiri have planned to do everything in their power to see the squad to the next stage of the competition.

Two teams from each group are set to advance to the CAF Women's Club Champions League scheduled for Egypt later this year and hopefully, our army ladies will be among those who will make it through.

Lisebo Motseka,
Mazenod, Maseru

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Threatening employees to take COVID jobs is despicable

The fight against the fatal COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. The number of new cases reported worldwide keep going through the ceiling with no sign of relenting.

Reports by the World Health Organisation (WHO) show that more than 4.5 million new cases and 68 000 new related deaths were recorded across the globe, last week alone. The cumulative global caseload now stands at more than 211 million, with the total death toll exceeding 4.4 million. Lesotho's fight against the virus illustrates a picture of a fierce scuffle that is only getting worse by the day.

This is despite the government's conceited efforts to put a handle on the crisis and get the spread of the virus under control. Three days ago, the country's cumulative caseload was 14 382 from a total of 146 348 tests conducted, with 6 763 recoveries and 400 related deaths.

Although the figures are not necessarily too accurate, but that is an indication of a pending disaster, given the country's ailing health care system and its population.

The whole idea behind vaccinating people for COVID-19 is, of course to protect them against the deadly virus and to help end the crisis caused by the pandemic.

As things stand, the government of Lesotho has not yet enacted a law coercing the nation to take COVID-19 jobs, which means the vaccination process still remains a voluntary act. Therefore it is illegal for any company operating in the country to force its employees to take the vaccine or face retrenchment if they fail to come to the party. What happened at the Ever Unison Garment in Maputsoe was uncalled for not to mention despicable.

The company recently ordered its employees to take the COVID-19 test or face the door, by way of forced retrenchment. While it is imperative for people to protect themselves against the deadly virus through among others, taking the COVID job, people however, have tons of reasons for not taking it. Some are poorly informed about the importance of vaccination and only need to be properly enlightened. Others are scared to take vaccine owing to the countless myths surrounding it.

Many believe they are still healthy and do not need to be troubled with the intricacies of the COVID job.

But threatening to fire workers if they decline to take the vaccine is taking it a bit too far.

The intervention of the National Clothing Textile and Allied Workers Union (NACTWU) in the matter was a welcome move.

Nonetheless, legal actions still need to be taken against the company for intimidating its employees in order to preempt similar conduct in future.

Mine workers are at high risk of contracting COVID-19 ...their mass vaccination is essential

LUPHERT CHILWANE

Mine workers are vulnerable to the virus since, in most instances, they operate in deep-level, labour-intensive conditions that are crowded and enclosed. The growing number of COVID-19 infections requires urgent attention.

It is the employer's responsibility to fight COVID-19 in workplaces; we can't be praising the fish for swimming. As such, it is very encouraging to see the number of mine workers opting for vaccination against COVID-19.

It is even more encouraging to see them calling on everyone in their respective communities to do the same. Now that the vaccination roll-out has begun, we should be demanding detailed plans on how the government and mining companies will make good on the vaccination promises.

There are about 385 mines in South Africa employing about 506 220 workers. As of June 15, 36 476 mining sector employees had tested positive for COVID-19 and 422 had died. This is the time for all of us to pull together, especially for mining communities, mostly in semi-urban and remote rural areas. Workers across all sectors must be included in real decision-making on matters that affect their lives. The time for action is long overdue but we must act with haste, to save lives.

The increasing number of workers getting the job is not only a progressive move, but a step in the right direction to reinforce individual responsibility between the private and public sectors. However, it must not have unintended consequences against the gains of bargaining powers and hard-fought worker's rights.

Trade unions such as the National Union of Mineworkers made calls as early as 2020 for all mining stakeholders to try to prioritise workers for a vaccine as soon as one became available.

The union is on record as having reconfirmed its support for the country's national vaccination programme and has urged all industry employees to get vaccinated as

soon as they can.

Mine workers are seen as a vulnerable cohort in terms of contracting the virus since, in most instances, they operate in deep-level, labour-intensive conditions that are crowded and enclosed. The growing number of COVID-19 infections requires urgent attention.

COVID-19 should be declared an occupational disease so that workers can receive compensation when they fall ill or die from the disease.

It is the duty of all stakeholders to ensure that they continue to implement precautionary non-medical measures to prevent

the escalating spread of the virus, such as screening and testing, physical distancing, wearing masks and sanitising hands.

Companies should also continue to adequately educate employees and communities about the danger of COVID-19, and how to prevent it.

The government has been initiating phases of the vaccination programme, specifically allocating R10-billion to buy and distribute the vaccine.

It is indeed encouraging to see reports that massive vaccination programmes for mine workers are being launched in the platinum mines of Limpopo, and that more than 100 000 mine workers have so far received their jab. Importantly, however, every worker has the right to agree or refuse to be vaccinated and there should be no legislation that compels them. Those who choose not to must take preventive measures.

Stakeholders must take emergency action and work with haste to save the lives of mine workers and surrounding communities. We cannot start claiming a victory or praising the fish for swimming while the pot is still boiling on the stove. DM



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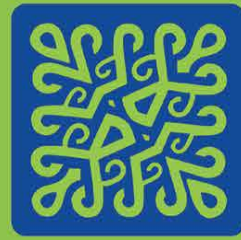
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Lesotho receives Sinopharm vaccine from China

MASERU – The Government of Lesotho on Friday received 203 340 doses of Sinopharm vaccine from the People's Republic of China.

Handing over the vaccine, the Chinese ambassador to Lesotho, His Excellency Lei Kezhong said the donation is a testimony of true friendship and strong bilateral relations between the two countries and their people. The vaccine, he said will help to boost the efforts of Basotho who are already engaged in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Kezhong said both Lesotho and China have been standing together in this battle, adding that so far China has donated eight batches of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical equipment to Lesotho. Last year, China also provided Lesotho with medical experts to assist in the fight against the pandemic.

Mr Kezhong said China has continuously been fulfilling its commitment to making COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, and to date, the

country has donated the vaccines to more than 100 countries.

The country he said has so far exported to more than 60 countries a total amount of more than 770 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

“China will continue to provide vaccines to the world, in particular to the developing countries and conduct operations in vaccine production as well.”

The pandemic, he said is wreaking havoc across the world, killing millions and putting many lives in great danger.

In the face of such major crisis, and indeed a fierce battle between mankind and the coronavirus, Mr Kezhong said the international community should be united with greater solidarity and cooperation.

The politicisation of the pandemic or the global origin tracing of the virus, he said will not help anybody but the virus will only bring damage to international anti-

epidemic cooperation.

He added: “We should continue to redouble our epidemic prevention and control methods.”

He said from the 203 340 doses, 3 400 will be used to immunise Chinese nationals living in Lesotho.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the government, the Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle said Lesotho is ranked high amongst countries that are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said a total of 12 4000 people has already been immunised and with the efforts it takes to source the vaccines in this economic crises hitting globally, the vaccine is as good as others. Mr Sekatle said the vaccine has been approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO), appealing to Basotho to urgently get vaccinated.

WHO's Dr Richard Banda said their mandate is to ensure everybody's safety, promising



Chinese ambassador to Lesotho, Lei Kezhong

to continue showing the extra ordinary effort in the fight against the pandemic. Another batch of 60 000

doses of Sinopharm vaccine bought by the Lesotho Private Sector is expected to arrive in the country next week.

Severe COVID jab side effects rare – Sekatle



Health Minister Semano Sekatle

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health@maserumetro.com

MASERU - The Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle says the benefits of taking the COVID-19 vaccine in order to protect people from severe coronavirus related illnesses or deaths completely outweigh any potential risks.

He said recorded adverse side effects of the COVID vaccine are rare hence, the government will keep the vaccination campaigns going at all costs. Mr Sekatle said mild to

moderate side effects after taking the jab are normal signs that the body is developing protection against COVID-19.

Possible side effects, he said include a sore arm, tiredness, mild fever, body or headache, adding that these are unlikely to last more than a few days.

“These can be managed through resting, drinking plenty of fluids and medication for managing fever and pain, if necessary,” he said.

Any symptoms that persist or worsen, he said should be discussed with a healthcare professional. Mr Sekatle said the ministry is deeply saddened by the passing of five people in Leribe after they received Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 jabs. The government through the National Expert Committee with the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other partners he said is investigating the incidents, adding that the team is already on the ground reviewing epidemiological facts.

“The ministry will continue monitoring the use of the COVID-19 vaccines to identify and respond to any safety issues that might arise, and through that process to assure they remain safe for use,” he said.

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*Germs that cause plaque, gingivitis and bad breath

The world in 10 minutes

DENMARK

Human library takes world by storm

The Human Library is a global innovative and hands-on learning platform now embedded in high school to higher learning in order to help create more inclusive and cohesive communities across cultural, religious, social and ethnic differences.

The human libraries, where people hire persons instead of books to listen to their life stories for about 30 minutes, are now spreading across the world. The Human Library or "Menneskebiblioteket" as it is called in Danish, was created in Copenhagen in the spring of 2000 by Ronni Abergel and his brother Dany and colleagues Asma Mouna and Christoffer Erichsen.

The original event was open eight hours a day for four days straight and featured over fifty different titles. The broad selection of books provided readers with ample choice to challenge their stereotypes and so more than a thousand readers took advantage leaving books, librarians, organisers and readers stunned at the reception and impact of the Human Library.



TANZANIA

Tanzania leader criticised over stereotype on women

Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan is being criticised online for her remarks on female footballers having "flat chests" and being unattractive for marriage.

The president was speaking at state house in Dar es Salaam to receive a trophy won by the national under-23 men's football team for the season's Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (Cecafa) challenge cup.

She said while some of the sportswomen were married, most of them were not, "and for the way they are, a life of marriage... is just a dream".

The president said sportspeople were living a tough life after their career in sports and asked the authorities to ensure their future was well taken care of after retirement.



SOUTH AFRICA

SA police hunt serial cat-killer

South African police are hunting for a serial cat-killer in a Cape Town suburb.

The disfigured bodies of 42 cats have been found since mid-July in Manenberg, on the city's outskirts.

Alan Perrins from the Animal Welfare Society of South Africa said all the cats had been tortured and disemboweled. Post-mortems on two of the cats revealed their hearts and lungs were removed as well.

Recently police briefly arrested a 40-year-old, but the person was released due to a lack of evidence connecting him to the killings.

Manenberg resident Faiza Jacobs lost three cats. First "Potato" went missing in March, then "Smokey" went missing on 10 July. By then more people starting saying their cats were missing, and posting pictures of disfigured cats they had found.

"If I had to think what my cat went through... She was cut open from tail to neck. Her whole esophagus and heart were removed," she told the BBC.



ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia plans to launch Facebook rival

Ethiopia says it plans to develop its own social media platforms after accusing global companies like Facebook of acting against the interests of the country.

The director of the government's Information Network Security Agency, Shumete Gizaw, told local media that Facebook and Twitter had become instruments for political forces.

He criticised the fact that some accounts had been blocked and content removed.

Ahead of elections in June, Facebook said it had removed a network of fake accounts that were linked to the government agency that is responsible for monitoring telecommunications and the internet.

Mr Shumete also said Ethiopia was developing platforms that can substitute the messaging programme WhatsApp and the video conferencing platform Zoom.



UGANDA

Uganda police hunt mass chapati buyers

Police in Uganda's northern district of Moroto have started arresting people buying five or more chapatis, suspecting they could be feeding cattle rustlers in the region, the Uganda Radio Network (URN) reported.

"We have received information that those buying many chapatis take them to the warriors in the bushes," Micheal Longole, the Karamoja region police spokesperson, is quoted as saying by URN.

He said stopping the supply of food to cattle rustlers would force them out of hiding and surrender their weapons.

Local peace activist Mark Koryang said the initiative would not work. "These warriors can survive without even eating chapati," he said.

SWITZERLAND

WTO boss welcomes bias ruling over 'grandmother' jibe

The head of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, has welcomed a ruling by the Swiss media regulator that found a newspaper headline describing her as a "grandmother" after her appointment to lead the body, was gender-biased.

Aargauer Zeitung newspaper ran the headline: "This grandmother will become the boss of the WTO," after Ms Okonjo-Iweala was appointed in March.

The paper apologised following widespread criticism saying its headline had been "inappropriate and unsuitable".

Mrs Okonjo-Iweala, a Nigerian-American, is a widely respected Harvard-educated development economist. She served as finance and foreign affairs minister in Nigeria and worked for 25 years at the World Bank.

The 67-year-old is the first African and woman to lead WTO.





Lesotho's International performer, Morena Leraba

A windfall for African music industry

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – IN a bid to support the development of music, the Music In Africa Foundation (MIAF) has invited African organisations and performers to apply for grants in the second phase of the Music In Africa Live (MIAL) initiative.

Launched in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, MIAL is offering grants between €6 000 (M124 648.22) and €10 000 (M207 747.04) across three main categories: Showcase, Capacity Building and the newly introduced Music Advocacy.

Eligible creative and cultural industry organisations based in Lesotho, Angola, Botswana, eSwatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and others can apply for the fund.

The press and information officer of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) in Lesotho, Mookho Makhetha, said the programme aims at accelerating development and increasing the capacity of the cultural

and creative sectors in southern Africa.

MIAL is defined as an organisation offering financial support to operators, to enable them to create high-quality performances and promote, market and showcase their content to a wider global audience, primarily via digital means, and to facilitate the creation and dissemination of educational content with a view to upskill and enable professionals to adjust and adapt to the needs of the changing music industry.

In its second iteration, MIAL said in a statement it has introduced a new category – Music Advocacy.

"This category will financially support projects that conduct advocacy aimed at protecting the interests of musicians through the creation of relevant content. It offers an opportunity for musicians who are not often heard, to raise their voices and creatively package their actions in compelling formats that can reach wider audiences," the statement reads.

"Under the Showcase grant worth £6 000, concerts applied for must be held in Africa and completed by

December 30. All concerts applied for must feature live performances.

"For clarity, this means that the audio of performances shall not be coming from pre-recorded materials.

"We welcome concerts of all kinds and there are no restrictions on venues used, as long as the final product is of high quality. Proposed projects must showcase high-quality talent that is ready for regional or international export," MIAL management explained, adding that application deadline is August 29, 2021 at midnight CAT.

Eligible applications will be reviewed by an MIAL jury. The jury will comprise representatives from all five regions of the African continent. All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application by no later than 30 days after the call closes.

MIAL is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, Siemens Stiftung and Goethe-Institut.

To apply visit www.musicinafrica.net/MIAL

Nteko's art speaks volumes

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – ART influences society by changing opinions, instilling values and translating experiences across space and time.

Researches have shown that art affects the fundamental sense of self. Painting, sculpture, music, literature and the other arts forms are often considered to be the repository of a society's collective memory.

"And of course, Art allows us to convey and deal with our emotions. To take a song and play it, is to recreate a moment or represent a feeling, to create a certain atmosphere. Art is what we say without speaking," says Motlatsi Nteko, a local artist who has been largely praised for painting on canvas, an amazing half body image of the late legendary Jazz and gospel singer, Tšepo Tshola.

Canvas is a strong, coarse unbleached cloth made from hemp, flax, or a similar yarn, used to make items such as sails and tents and as a surface

for oil painting.

Nteko's art work was also exhibited at Tshola's state funeral held earlier in July at the Thaba-Bosiu Heroes' Acre, as part of honouring the late International icon.

"We are Xysthus Artists and we aim at impacting people's lives through artistic perspectives art that reaches the heart," Nteko says.

He adds: "Look into the canvas, let your body relax, control your breathing, direct or channel your thoughts into remembering Ntate Tshola, allow your mind to recall it all, play one of his tracks through low frequency volumes. Now, you see what art does to your soul? I know you felt that touch and it's okay to cry and let yourself feel the painting's impact. I don't know why but this drawing also gets me emotional."

The versatile artist who also does hand-sketches on shoes and t-shirts, just to mention a few, says he imagines the Tshola's painting plugged up in a museum.

It has been shown that museums have the power to support artists not just by giving them exhibitions, but by acquiring their work, as well. Through embracing artwork by a diverse group of practitioners, museums can create a more equitable public understanding of art and artists.

The traditional functions of art museums - to collect, preserve, interpret, and present works of art, and to inspire and educate the public—are constantly in flux.

"Then there is this other music video that inspired me into drawing him (Tshola) when he sang 'Now or Never'."

"I also remembered an old interview where he said he was proud to be the first Mosotho musician to sing along great men like Bra Hugh Masekela (also late) and attended big music shows in London, United Kingdom with his former group, Sankomota. The way he recalled his musical journey hit hard for me," Nteko says.

After purchasing from Nteko the painting of Tshola for M5 800, this is



Motlatsi Nteko displaying a portrait of the Tšepo Tshola

what the management of Bokamoso FM (974) had to say:

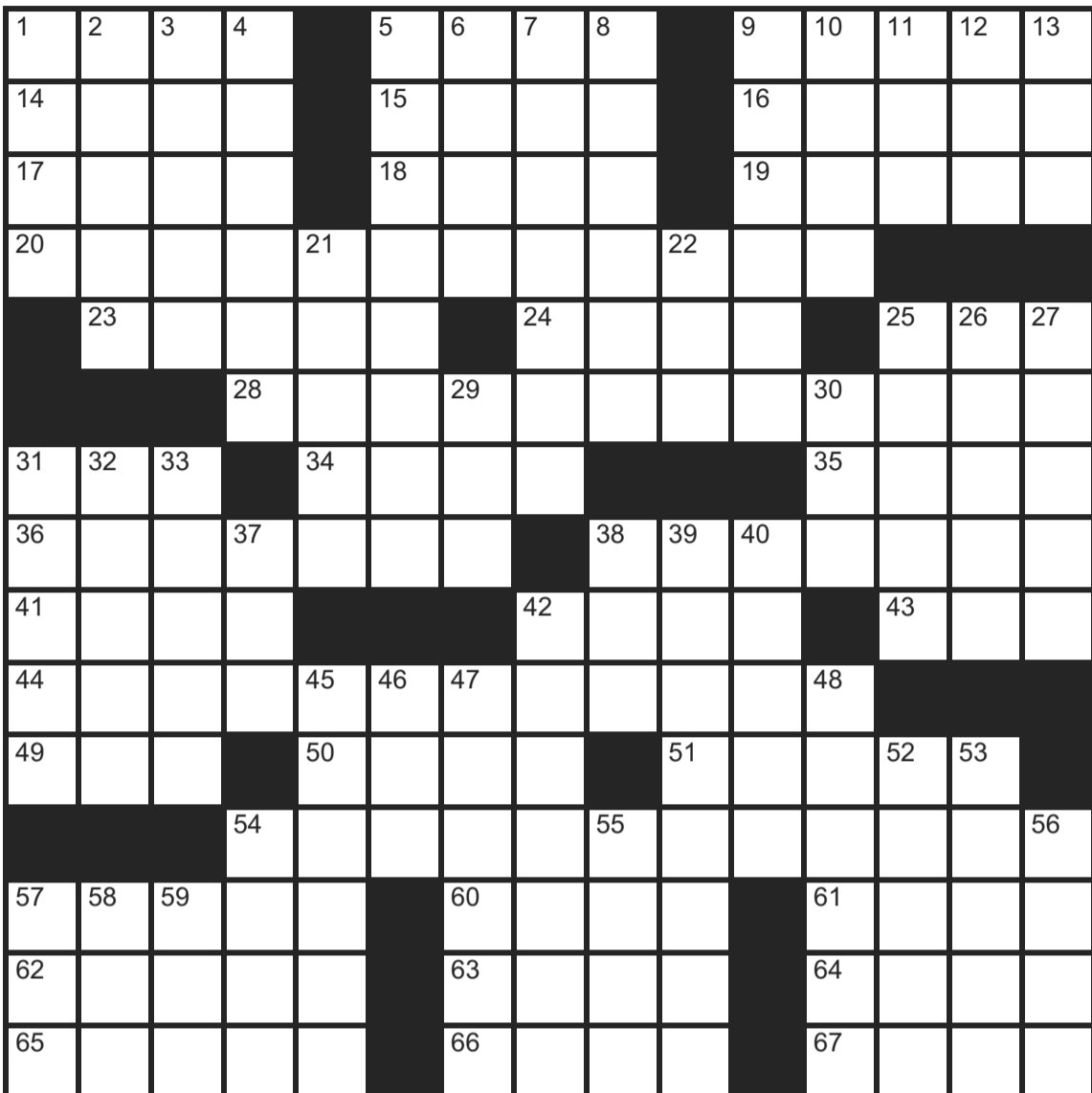
"We can only grow artists if we support their amazing talent. Let's not complain about price yet we buy

expensive clothes from people we don't know. We support our own and grow them until they shine like stars. Bokamoso is home to all kinds of artistes."

SKIN UNDER CONSTRUCTION

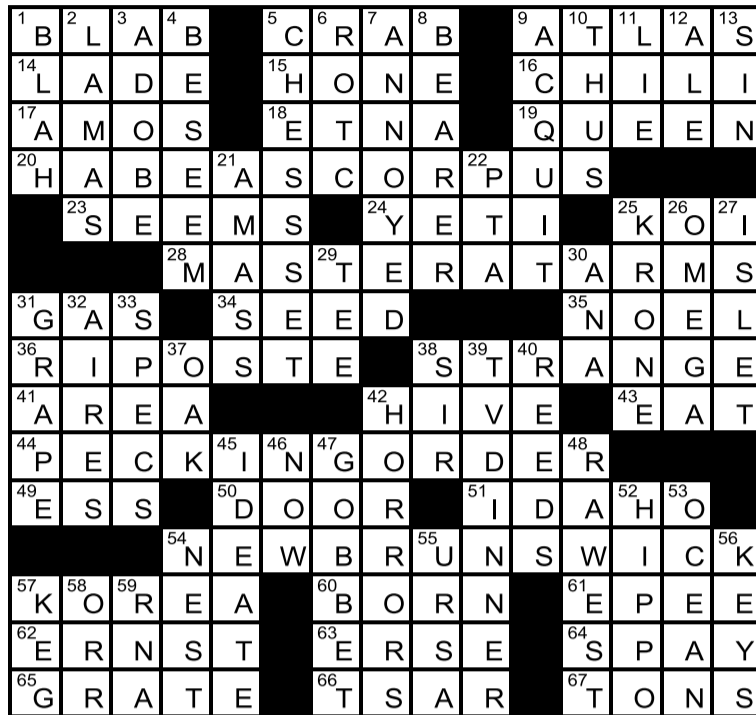


General Crosswords



- Across**
- 1. Sheep's cry
 - 5. Sonic speed
 - 9. Permeate
 - 14. Dolly of "Hello, Dolly!"
 - 15. New York's _____ Canal
 - 16. Hot sauce
 - 17. Bread maker
 - 18. "Buona _____" (Italian _____ greeting)
 - 19. Square dance group, e.g.
 - 20. Confine
 - 23. Barrel part
 - 24. Bulgarian monetary unit
 - 25. Melancholy
 - 28. Tale
 - 31. Bottom line
 - 34. Cheerful tune
 - 35. "Tosca" tune
 - 36. Importance
 - 38. Snob
 - 41. Wrinkly fruit
 - 42. Self-satisfied
 - 43. Fire residue
 - 44. Untruthfully
 - 49. Poetic palindrome
 - 50. Arctic native
 - 51. Squirrel away
 - 54. Subject to the law of another
 - 57. Mineral used as a cleansing agent
 - 60. Originated
 - 61. Think (over)
 - 62. Listlessness
 - 63. French cordial flavoring
 - 64. Actual being
 - 65. Shades of blue
- Down**
- 1. Coalition
 - 2. Jeans brand
 - 3. Deflect
 - 4. Destroyer, in Navy slang
 - 5. Spellbinding
 - 6. God of war
 - 7. Metal band adornment
 - 8. Auditor
 - 9. Meteorologist's line
 - 10. Defensive spray
 - 11. Club alternative
 - 12. Consume
 - 13. "Mangia!"
 - 21. Throat dangler
 - 22. Wrigley Field flora
 - 25. Neighbor of Turkey

Last Week's Solution



- 26. Not quite right
- 27. Life partner?
- 29. Like a fox
- 30. Stetson, e.g.
- 31. Froth
- 32. One who advocates
- 33. Pooh's creator
- 37. Central
- 38. Outback runner
- 39. Luxuriance
- 40. Block house?
- 42. High range
- 45. Joan's "Dynasty" role
- 46. Mouse catcher
- 47. Medicinal syrup
- 48. Kvetch
- 52. Stir up
- 53. Edible red seaweed
- 54. Take
- 55. Fail to mention
- 56. Winter toy
- 57. Get in a pool
- 58. Wee hour
- 59. Biochemistry abbr.

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?

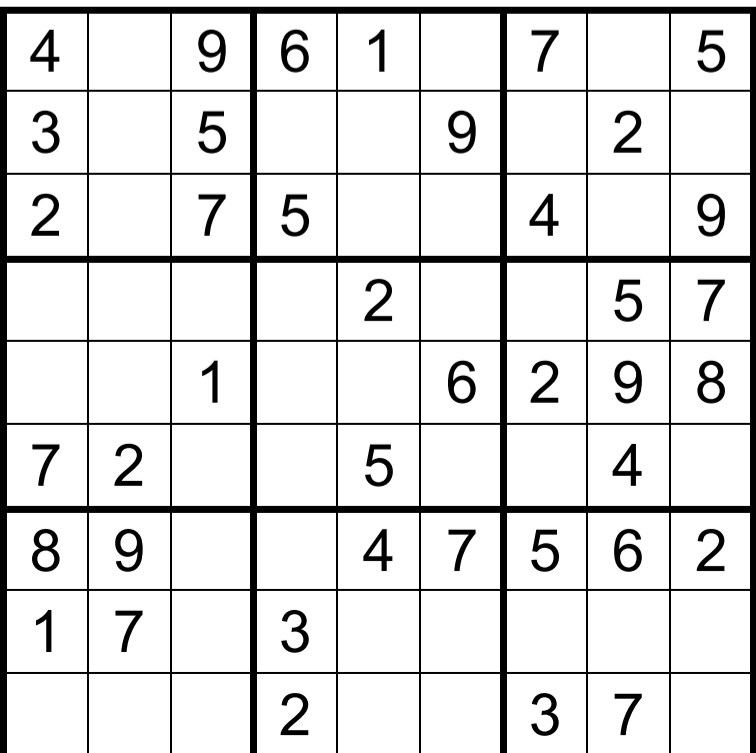


Last Week's Answer



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.

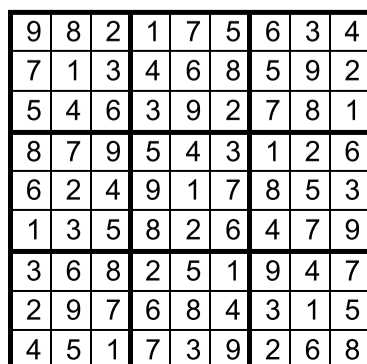
Sudoku Puzzle



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

Add Some Horsepower



If you drive a turbo, all you need is a bit of computer programming to add some power. Whether you're driving a twin-turbo Bentley or a simple 1.8-liter VW diesel, a few minutes of "chip tuning" by your mechanic can add 20 percent more power.

For most gearheads, there is nothing like the rush of pressing down on the accelerator and feeling your car take off with strength and power. Whether you want to explode off the starting line at the track or just want the fastest car on the block, adding more horsepower to your ride can help you achieve your goals.

Before you do any of the modifications on your car, make sure you don't void your vehicle warranty. Also, check your local and state laws: some laws

may limit your performance upgrades. You should also exercise caution to not negatively impact your vehicle's emissions.

Supercharger or turbocharger

See immediate gains in horsepower by adding a supercharger or turbocharger. While this is one of the most expensive options on the list, you'll be impressed with the power that each of these add-ons delivers. Also known as forced induction parts, both of these components force air into your car's engine which improves horsepower and torque.

A turbocharger works with the exhaust system and can potentially give you gains of 70-150 horsepower. A supercharger is connected directly to the engine intake and could provide an extra 50-100 horsepower.

Give your engine more air and more power with a cold air intake. Switching your vehicle's standard air box and filter for a cone-shaped filter and a plastic or aluminum intake tube can help you realize an increase in horsepower.

More air equals more combustion which could

lead to gains of 5-7 horsepower in a typical engine. Please note that if your vehicle is already getting plenty of fresh air, this won't help you much.

Lose weight

It's a fact - a heavy vehicle moves slower. Reducing the weight of your vehicle increases the weight to horsepower ratio. Examine your vehicle for ways to lower your car's weight and to up its power.

Consider swapping out the rims with lighter ones - this can potentially save you 10 pounds per wheel. Changing the battery to a smaller and lighter lithium battery can save 20-30 pounds. Think about replacing body panels with carbon fiber or fiberglass panels to further reduce your vehicle's weight.

Remove parts you deem unnecessary. Not using the backseat? Remove it and the rear seatbelts. Staying cool not as important as performance? Take out the air conditioning unit. Depending on your goals, you need to decide what items are mission critical to your vehicle and which ones you can live without.

Meet the future ... Audi e-tron range heading to South Africa



For over 100 years, Audi's history has been marked by prestige, automotive ambition and technological excellence. From the introduction of quattro all-wheel drive that propelled Audi ahead of the competition in rally motorsport, to numerous wins at the 24 hours of Le Mans with TDI technology. Not forgetting the pioneering of aluminium space frame technology and many other lighting innovations through the years. The Four Rings has proudly progressed premium mobility for customers across the world.

Now, a new era of mobility awaits. Globally, Audi has committed to an electric future: by 2026 every new Audi model launched on the global market will be all-electric. In South Africa, Audi is confidently progressing an electric agenda and will be introducing the e-tron name plate to consumers in quarter one, 2022. This includes six new e-tron models across three different model ranges.

"Across the world, the automotive industry are announcing plans to phase out combustion engines to advance the transformation of the industry for the future. As Audi South Africa

we see ourselves as being in a position to contribute to this global vision, and having the responsibility to do that. Not only are we aligned with the importance of sustainability, but we have the technology, performance and design credentials within our e-tron range, to offer our premium customers an all-electric drive that will inspire and excite," said Sascha Sauer, Head of Audi South Africa.

Audi South Africa is fully embracing the global drive towards premium sustainable mobility and looks forward to progressing this topic locally in an effort to reshape the way South Africans view electric vehicles.

As part of this local commitment, Audi South Africa will introduce a fully-fledged e-tron range in the local market and this will include:

Under the SUV category:

The Audi e-tron 50 and e-tron 55

Under the CUV category:

The Audi e-tron Sportback 55 and e-tron Sportback S

Under the high performance category:

The Audi e-tron GT and Audi RS e-tron GT

This year has already been successful for the Audi brand in South Africa with many new product introductions, and the launch of these electric vehicles early in 2022 will be an exciting crescendo to this new model offensive.

"Announcing our electric vehicle range is a key part our objective to have the youngest and freshest product offering in the market

and we're excited to share more details with our customers on our electric journey over the next few months, leading up to the e-tron range's official model introduction in quarter one next year," Sauer concluded. Product specification and pricing associated with the e-tron range will be announced closer to retail launch.



Lesotho officials test COVID positive at Paralympic Games

TEBOHO JAFETA
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MASERU – Two Lesotho Paralympic Team officials who are currently in Tokyo, Japan for the 2020 Paralympic Games, which began on Tuesday have tested positive for COVID-19.

According to the Lesotho Paralympics President, Limpho Rakoto, the two include the Team Coach, Thabiso Ratsoane and the Team Manager, Stephen Thoahlane.

She said the two tested positive for the disease upon arrival at the airport in Tokyo and were immediately taken to a hotel that is specifically assigned for quarantine purposes where they will be monitored for 14 days.

“Therefore, they are not at the house allocated to team Lesotho at the Paralympic village, but with all members of other teams from different countries who have similar cases. They had been vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to the trip, and their health is relatively stable,” Rakoto said.

Lesotho’s lone track and field athlete at the games, Litšitso Khotlele will compete in the discus throw event for the F61-F64 category on Sunday.

Khotlele and the Team Doctor are considered as close contacts and are

thus undergoing close monitoring with minimal interaction from the public and other athletes.

“Fortunately, the athlete is allowed to attend training at agreed scheduled times. The team Doctor is with her, and proper counseling is being conducted,” Rajkot also said.

After being identified a close contact, Khotlele who was supposed to have raised the National Flag during the opening ceremony on Tuesday was not allowed to attend the parade in accordance with the COVID 19 protocols which were agreed upon by all the involved stakeholders while preparing for these games.

The National flag was therefore raised by a volunteer assigned to Team Lesotho.

Khotlele’s debut in the global multi-sport event was at the 2016 Paralympic Games, which were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where she participated in the women’s discus throw F43–44 event and recorded a best throw of 19.91 metres.

She appeared on 10th position out of 12 contestants.

This is Team Lesotho’s sixth appearance at the Summer Paralympic Games after making its debut at the 2000 Sydney Paralympics in



An amputee athlete at the Paralympic Games

Sydney, Australia where Lesotho was represented by two athletes, including Levy Moshoeshe and (Limpho) Rakoto.

Moshoeshe competed in the men’s 100m and 200m T46 - his best finish was in seventh position in the 100m during the preliminary rounds with a time of 12.76 while Rakoto competed in the 100m T46, finishing sixth in the

preliminary rounds.

There are 4 537 athletes from 163 countries participating in the international competition that ends on Sunday, September 5.

A total of 539 events will be held in 22 different sporting activities according to the organising committee for the games.



Local weightlifters before they went to an international competition in Kenya

Weightlifters prepare for global tourney

TEBOHO JAFETA
sports@maserumetro.com

MASERU – THE Lesotho Weightlifting Federation (LWF) is planning to visit clubs at district level to assess the athletes and coaches’ performance ahead of the World Youth Championship set for October 5 - 12 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The clubs from which the national squad will eventually be formed are also preparing for the World Championships scheduled for November in Lima, Peru.

LWF Public Relations Officer, Nthabiseng Shale told Metro that the tour is part of a campaign meant to entice new players into the sport, adding that a competition will be held on September 11 at Bonhomme High School in Mohale’s Hoek with the aim of scouting players

for the national team.

Shale said the federation will first visit Quthing on August 21 and Leribe on August 28 before moving to other districts.

Only non-contact sports are currently allowed in Lesotho since sporting activities were suspended due to the resurgence of COVID-19 infections in July.

Additionally, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) will hold a constitutional reform congress on August 29 in Doha, Qatar.

The federation on August 17 circulated a revised version of its proposed Constitution with a view to securing its approval at the forthcoming resumption of the IWF’s Constitution Reform Congress. The draft Constitution was approved by the Reform and Governance Commission on August 13 and by the IWF Executive Board on August 15.



President of DIFA Berea, Lekhooa Thabaneng

DIFA Berea unveils new sponsor

MASERU - THE District Football Association (DIFA) Berea has sealed a four-year sponsorship deal with Papillion Fish and Chips to cater for the office administrative issues and wellbeing of its staff.

The deal was signed on Monday during an occasion that was held at the DIFA offices. Papillion Fish and Chips sponsorship which is worth M35 000 per year is set to support DIFA Berea on issues including procurement of computers and other office equipment, stationary as well as a special jersey for the DIFA committee and staff.

Speaking at the event, the owner of Papillion Fish and Chips, Makhalemele Matela said sports play a crucial role in the country, but to maintain uniformity among teams

still remains a critical challenge.

He said the move to invest in the district soccer governing body is meant to boost the association's confidence and help it become identical.

He pleaded with the office to effectively and properly use the equipment so that it would still be in good condition for use in future.

For his part, President of DIFA Berea, Lekhooa Thabaneng said they are grateful for the partnership the signed with Papillion, adding that it will mainly focus on the wellbeing of the office.

"We cannot deny that our office was in desperate need of the equipment until our sponsor came to the rescue," he said.

He said last year one of the teams

affiliated to DIFA Berea failed to attend a play-off in Thaba-Tseka only because the documentation of these players was not properly done.

He said with the new computers, their office work will run smoothly and they will be in a better position to capture all the needed information.

"As the office, we find ourselves using a lot of stationary during player's registration process and now that Papillion Fish and Chips has come on board, we guarantee that even our service delivery is going to improve."

Thabaneng said they used to look shabby in comparison to their counterparts from the districts, adding that they will now look better in their new sponsored outfit.

At least 209 teams have registered with DIFA Berea and two of them are playing in the Premier League, one in the A Division, with others in the B and C Divisions and the Women Super League. *LeNA*

Letsoela orders LDF Ladies to triumph at COSAFA tourney

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MASERU - Army Commander, Lieutenant General Mojalefa Letsoela has instructed the LDF Ladies FC to go and rise above their opponents at the upcoming CAF Women Club Championship COSAFA qualifiers set for August 26 - September 4, in Durban, South Africa.

"Being a soldier is an oath, and an oath is a difficult thing which lies in one's heart and strength. Go and bring us victory. We do not want excuses but victory. In the battle engagement line, when you arrive at the stadium, know that you are in the battle field and know that war has begun, know that you are facing the enemy and you have to use all the power to defeat that enemy.

"You have been appointed to take the lead, as the champions and as the pioneers. That in the history of Lesotho as a whole, I take the code of the President that it is for the first time that you are engaged to go and fight this kind of battle.

"While there, look at the Lesotho flag and know that you should protect it. Your nature of duty points that you must surpass your counterparts. I am committing you to war. Coaches, it is through your leadership and visionary skills that the team will bring us victory. You have to read the



The Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Ladies Football Club

war and act on it. I expect victory," Letsoela said during the team's send-off ceremony that was held at Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena on Saturday.

He also acknowledged the entire Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) for the effort in developing

local football. Speaking at the same occasion, LeFA President, King's Counsel Salemane Phafane said it is the first time in LeFA history that they have a ladies club representing them at this kind of competition.

He further told the President of the Lesotho Women Football

Executive Committee, Baholo Motene to be proud that during her tenure, she is leading the team to the inaugural competition.

"LDF Ladies, go and leave a milestone and set precedence there so that other local teams could also follow in your footsteps and

represent us in future. We have trust in our coaches, you as players and all," he noted.

LDF Ladies left for Durban on Monday morning and will kick start their campaign against Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies on August 26, at the King Zwelithini Stadium at 3pm.



Prolific football administrator, radio presenter, Lebohang 'Sebata' Maketa

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MASERU - Talent alone is not enough, but combined with hard work it makes a perfect combination for success.

This is reflected in the life of one of Lesotho's most successful football administrators, Lebohang "Sebata" Maketa, who made a name for himself in football circles both on home soil and the neighbouring South Africa.

His unique talent and determination has over the years brought him glory that he cherishes today.

Maketa got the opportunity to work for one of the most revered and lucrative media corporations

in Africa, the South African Broadcasting Services (SABC).

As a Public Relations Officer, he led Lioli to their first Top 4 final in 2002 after 20 years since their last appearance in the competition.

In 2006, he pioneered the now defunct Moafrika Marathon that ran from Teyateyaneng to Maseru.

As a General Manager, he led SA African Warriors FC to the National First Division (NFD) playoffs in 2009 but they lost to Black Leopards on aggregate.

He played a vital role as Free State Stars' PRO and secured two sponsorships, the Scorpion Legal Protection and Dihlabeng Local Municipality for the side.

He received the Best Sesotho Commentator Award from the



Free State Department of Sports and Culture in 2009 following his participation in the development of what was then called the Sesotho Vocabulary Legacy Project, aimed at improving both radio and TV commentary during the 2010 World Cup.

In 2011, he launched the Maketa Foundation Soccer Tournament, which ran until 2014 in Tsikoane, Leribe for both high school and home teams as part of giving back to the community.

He established the Prime Minister's Charity Cup held in 2013 in association with the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) and the Premier League Management Committee (PLMC).

His unique talent has over the years granted him the opportunity to direct various local and South Africa major events as a Master of Ceremonies (MC).

He was the MC at the 2010 Nedbank Cup final between Orlando Pirates and Black Leopards at the Mbombela Stadium.

He also directed the OR Tambo Commemoration Soccer Tournament organised by the Free State Department of Sports and Culture in 2011.

Later that year, he was the MC at the Telkom Knockout Cup semifinals between African Warriors and Maritzburg United at the Charles Mopeli Stadium.

In 2012, he led a Business Breakfast Meeting organised by the office of the Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana District in Clerens before directing the Dihlabeng Local Municipality Gala Dinner the same year.

He also directed the 2013 Free State Stars Awards Gala Dinner and the Southern African Inter Municipality Games (SAIMSA) held in Lesotho in 2014.

He was the MC at the 2015 Lesotho Sports Awards organised by Lesotho Sport and Recreation Commission (LSRC).

He directed the 2013 World Cup qualifier between Likuena and Ghana which ended 2-0 in favour of the

latter.

He also directed the AFCON qualifier in Maseru where Likuena went down 3-1 to Algeria in 2015.

Born on September 17, 1973, Lebohang Maketa is the son of the late Ntja and 'Matello Mofeli Maketa of Mathokoane, Ha Mpopo in Leribe.

He is the eighth child in the family of 10 - five boys and five girls.

He did his primary education at Saint Peters Primary School and his high school education at Molapo High School where he obtained his Junior Certificate (JC) in 1992 and his Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) in 1994.

In 1996, he obtained a Loss and Control Management Certificate from James Park Training College while working at Western Areas Gold Mines, before he received a Security Management Certificate from the M.J. Training College in Johannesburg in 1998.

He was accredited by the South African Security Board at the level of management with Grade B.

He was trained as a Surveillance Detective Specialist by the American Embassy in Lesotho in 2001.

Maketa graduated with a Certificate in Marketing from Damelin College in 2004 and a Diploma in Personal Assistant from the same institution in 2006.

He obtained a Diploma in Public Relations and Media Studies from the World Sports Management based in United Kingdom in 2010.

Growing up, Maketa was a sprinter and 200-metre specialist before he played professional football in South Africa.

He ran professionally for the Western Areas Gold Mines club from 1995 until 1997 while also playing football for the mine's club.

He joined Bloemfontein Celtic reserve side from 1998 until 1999 under the late Styles Phumo.

In Lesotho he played for clubs such as Maradona Juniors, Arsenal and Lioli FC. At Arsenal, he used to compete against Moitheri Ntobo and Lehlonolo Matlosa as a central defender under the mentorship of Teboho Spong.

Maketa worked for Burnets and Supreme Furnishers in 2000 before joining the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a Personal Assistant from 2002 until 2008.

His football administration career began in 2002 at Lioli where he worked as the club's PRO after he officially hung his soccer boots.

As a radio personality, Maketa worked part-timely for Moafrika FM where he anchored a popular sports show that was broadcast over the weekends - between 2005 and 2017.

He served as the PLMC's spokesperson for one season before he joined Free State Stars in 2008.

He left Stars in February 2009 and joined the Sharpeville Technical College as Marketing Manager for six months.

He thereafter joined the then National First Division side African Warriors as General Manager in May the same year until June 2010.

In 2010, he moved to Mpumalanga Black Aces for the General Manager role, the club was at the time in the PSL.

He was recalled by the Free State Stars in 2011 and retained his position as PRO until 2015 when he joined the SABC Laduma Sports as a Sesotho commentator for three years.

People who played a major part towards grooming him as a radio presenter include Sebonomoea Ramainoane, Motlatsi Majara, Lehlonolo Menyatsa and Dr Arthur Majara.

In football circles, he followed Kaizer Chiefs boss, Kaizer Motaung and former Chiefs player, Steve Komphela.

"In the radio industry, I have always looked up to various radio personalities including Motlatsi Ncholu and Tumisang Mokoai locally, in South Africa my role models include Chomane Chomane and Thuso Motaung," he says.

Maketa is married to 'Maneo Mphenetha' now 'Matello Maketa and the couple has two children - a boy, 15, and a girl, 11.

He also enjoys listening to music.