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THURSDAY July 21 - 27, 2022

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**STATE OWNED ENTITIES FAIL TO PAY DIVIDENDS**

*...as Letšeng and CBL remain the only ones that are able to pay*



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• Gauteng farm owner arrested alongside 97 illegal miners with majority from Lesotho



## BORN ON THIS DAY July 21

- 1924 - Don Knotts, American most beloved actor of all time, often considered a major influence on other actors and entertainers
- 1943 - Edward Herrmann, American narrator who scored a show on the History Channel and PBS such as Nova
- 1951 - Robin Williams, American finest comedian of all time, began his career as a stand-up comedian and soon moved to act in television and films. Though widely recognised for comedic skills, the immensely talented Williams proved his versatility by taking up and successfully performing more serious roles in films like Good Will Hunting
- 1955 - Marcelo Bielsa, Argentinean football manager and coach of Leeds United, best known for remarkably improving the performance of the players he coaches
- 1971 - Charlotte Gainsbourg, daughter of French singer, made her singing debut at age 12
- 1981 - Marshall McLuhan, Canadian philosopher, with his concept of global village. He predicted the World Wide Web three decades before its invention and is also remembered for coining the expression
- 1991 - Sara Sampaio, Portuguese actress and model renowned for her work as a Victoria's Secret Angel.

## NewsBriefs

### Saved by VAR! Last-gasp penalty steers Banyana Banyana to Women's Afcon final

- South Africa will face the host nation Morocco in the final on Saturday
- Banyana defence was kept busy and made to remain focused throughout



Banyana Banyana proceed to the final against Morocco

**JOHANNESBURG** - Banyana Banyana claimed a dramatic 1-0 victory against Zambia at the Mohammed V Stadium in Morocco to book their place in the Women's Africa Cup of Nations final.

South Africa will face the host nation Morocco in the final on Saturday (22:00) at Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium.

Banyana were again far from their best in a match that could have gone either way, as Zambia certainly looked as if they were up for the challenge.

The South African defence was kept busy and made to remain focused with Grace Chanda and Siomala Mapepa. The duo paired up in the Zambian attack on numerous occasions to crack and slice open the South African defence that nearly let in a goal or two.

Chanda ensured Andile Dlamini remained sharp as the Banyana keeper made two goal-saving blocks from the Zambian captain, with both efforts provided by Mapepa.

The nerves seemed to have gotten the betterment of Banyana in the first half despite seeing much of the ball but not causing any real threat to Zambia.

Fifteen minutes into the second-half, the referee gave Banyana a penalty after Lushomo Mweeba brought down Noxolo Cesane.

After much deliberation, VAR (Video Assistant Referee) pulled its weight and insisted that it was a free kick instead, which was the correct call.

In the final ten minutes, both Zambia and Banyana went for broke.

Chanda caught Dlamini off her goal line, but her dipping 18-yard strike went wide off the target.

A minute later, South Africa nearly took the lead through Hildah Magaia after Jermaine Seoposenwe laid a timely slip-through ball towards her, but Zambia's Catherine Mushonda made a world-class save.

With the match heading towards stoppage time, Seoposenwe was brought down on the edge of the penalty area. Again, VAR was called into action after the referee waved and instructed that play could continue.

After being called to the VAR screen, the referee reversed her decision and pointed to the penalty spot.

The Zambians were befuddled but did not make too much fuss about it.

Linda Motlaho coolly slotted home the penalty with a right-footed strike that entered the bottom left corner that went beyond Mushonda's reach to ensure Banyana reached their fifth Women's Afcon final. - News24

## FastFACTS

### There Are 7,100+ Islands in the Philippines

The Archipelago of the Philippines is made up of 7,641 islands – several hundred more than the 7,107 islands scientists previously believed the country contained.

New mapping research revealed the additional land masses a couple years ago, prompting "The Inquirer" to note, "The change is a reminder of how knowledge, even scientific knowledge, is a matter of faith...It's good for our critical thinking to be reminded of the contingency of 'expert knowledge.'"

The southern Pacific islands were named for King Philip II of Spain. The country's largest island is Luzon, spanning 42,458 square miles.

## On This Day in History

### 1778



July 21

### The Battle of the Pyramids

On July 21, 1778, battle of the Pyramids, also called battle of Embabeh, military engagement in which Napoleon Bonaparte and his French troops captured Cairo. His victory was attributed to the implementation of his one significant tactical innovation, the massive divisional square.

Bonaparte, then a general and key military adviser for French Revolutionary government had proposed the invasion of Egypt earlier.

Control of Egypt would provide France with a new source of income while simultaneously blocking the Red Sea, a major route of English access to India, thus disrupting a significant source of revenue for France's main European opponent.

The plan was quickly approved.

## ALL JOKES ASIDE

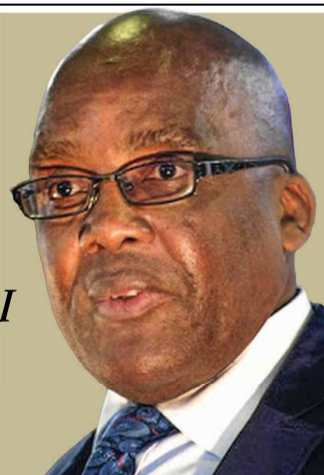
Bishop TD Jakes is returning to Texas after a speaking engagement. When his plane arrives, there is a limousine there to transport him to his home in Dallas. As he prepares to get into the limo, he stops and speaks to the driver. "You know," he says, "I am almost 50 years old and I have never driven a limousine. Would you mind if I drove it for a while?" The driver says, "No problem." Bishop TD Jakes gets into the driver's seat, and they head off down the highway. A short distance away sits a rookie state trooper operating his first speed trap. The long black limo goes by him doing 70 in a 55 mph zone.

The trooper pulls out, easily catches the limo, and gets out of his patrol car to begin the procedure. The young trooper walks up to the driver's door, and when the glass is rolled down, he is surprised to see who is driving. He immediately excuses himself, goes back to his car, and calls his supervisor. He tells the supervisor, "I know we are supposed to enforce the law, but I also know that important people are sometimes given certain courtesies. I need to know what I should do because I have stopped a very important person." The supervisor asks, "Is it the Governor?" The young trooper says, "No, he's more important than that." The supervisor says, "Oh, so it's the President." The young trooper says, "No, he's even more important than that." The supervisor finally asks, "Well then, who is it?" The young trooper says, "I think it's Jesus, because he's got TD Jakes for a chauffeur!!!"

## Quotes & Quips!

*"We can no longer allow our country to be the stomping ground for all the rascals and low-lives of the world running here and using our democracy. I am coming for them. When all of them are in jail, locked up, and the keys have been thrown away, then I will step down – only then,"*

*on the thousands of undocumented foreigners who are believed to be responsible for scores of criminal activities throughout South Africa*



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



# Give us

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**Lesotho makes efforts in fight against human trafficking**

4



# Metro BUSINESS

## CURRENCIES

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

|                     |                             |       |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Loti/SDR            | Special Drawing Right (SDR) | 22.36 |
| Loti/Dollar         | United States (US\$)        | 17.10 |
| Loti/Rands          | South African (ZAR)         | 1.00  |
| Loti/Euro           | European Union (€)          | 17.48 |
| Loti/Yuan           | Chinese (¥)                 | 2.53  |
| Loti/Yen            | Japanese (¥)                | 0.12  |
| Loti/Pound Sterling | British (£)                 | 20.52 |

## COMMODITIES

| STOCKS      |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| S&P500      |  | 3,955.13  |
| NASDAQ100   |  | 11,857.72 |
| Nikkei225   |  | 27,680.26 |
| Dow Jones30 |  | 31,862.01 |
| FTSE 100    |  | 7,285.10  |
| JSE         |  | 67,191.00 |
| Hang Seng   |  | 20,890.22 |

## PRECIOUS METALS (Rates in US Dollars)

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Gold p/ounce       | 1,714.15 |
| Platinum p/ounce   | 888.05   |
| Silver p/ounce     | 18.98    |
| Copper p/ounce     | 3.31     |
| Brent Oil p/barrel | 98.86    |

## EQUITIES

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Bonds          | 18.44 |
| Treasury Bills | 3.67  |
| Interest Rates | 91    |

## AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

## ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre      | M16.35 |
| Unleaded 95 p/litre             | M16.55 |
| Diesel 50PPm p/litre            | M16.65 |
| Paraffin p/litre                | M12.00 |
| Water (Domestic) p/litre        | M5.53  |
| Water (Industrial) p/litre      | M15.03 |
| Electricity (Domestic) p/unit   | M1.38  |
| Electricity (Industrial) p/unit | M0.26  |
| Gas p/kg                        | M20.00 |

**NEO SENOKO**  
[business@maserumetro.com](mailto:business@maserumetro.com)

# State owned entities struggle to pay dividends

...as Lets'eng and CBL remain the only ones that are able to pay

**MASERU** - Lets'eng Diamond and the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) are the only two state-owned entities that were able to pay dividends during the financial year 2020/21 while government on other hand remains deep in debt, thus threatening its position at the face of its potential lenders.

Dividends represent cash received by government during the year on profits declared by enterprises to their shareholders for the previous year's performance.

Out of 15 entities, Lets'eng and the CBL paid dividends totaling M238 million thus to the dissatisfaction of the acting Auditor General, Monica Besetsa.

"In my last year's report, I expressed my dissatisfaction on monitoring of dividends receivable by government. The situation has not improved as out of 15 entities, only two entities paid dividends," Ms Besetsa said in the latest edition of the Audit Report on the Consolidated Financial Statements of the government for the year ended March 31, 2021.

The report contains a summary of the most significant audit observations that may have significant impact on finances, resources and service delivery, or if not corrected, may adversely affect financial governance and controls.

These audit observations were communicated and discussed with the Accountant General, respective Chief Accounting Officers of Ministries concerned and Heads of

Statutory Bodies.

Lets'eng Diamond paid M120 000 000 while the CBL separated with a sum of M17 840 000 in dividends.

Lets'eng is 30 percent owned by government while the CBL is fully government owned.

Since the financial year 2018/19 to date, no more than five companies were able to pay dividends to government.

The 2018/19 fiscal year in fact, has been the most successful, with a total of five companies being able to pay. In the financial year 2019/20, only three entities managed to pay.

Over the years, many state-owned entities in the country have struggled to pay dividends to shareholders, including government, a sign that government should relook into its dividends policies going forward to avoid any further inconsistencies. While these bodies struggle to pay dividends, the burden is becoming heavy on the state, which is hovering deep in debts.

"As at March 2020, public debt had slightly decreased from M19.320 billion to M18.250 billion as at March 2021, thus representing a decrease of 6 percent. Domestic debt amounted to M3.481 billion and external debt was M14.769 billion as at March 31, 2021," Ms Besetsa further noted.

The public debt liability is a major



Lets'eng Diamond Mine in Mokhotlong

government liability and key sustainability issue for the government of Lesotho. It requires comprehensive, accurate and timely records for good management. The public debt statement shows the particulars of outstanding

external and domestic loans. External loans are raised from bilateral, multilateral and commercial sources while domestic loans are raised by the sale of development stocks, treasury bonds and through banking institutions.

# Business

# Lesotho makes efforts in fight against human trafficking



US ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer

**NEO SENOKO**  
business@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** - Lesotho has been upgraded to Tier 2 of the Watch List in the newly released Trafficking in Person Report

despite the country not fully meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

The 22nd annual Trafficking in Person Report was released on July 19 at an event in Washington, DC, United States of

America (USA).

The US ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer presented the report to the Minister of Home Affairs, Motlaletoa Letsosa on July 18.

"An estimated 25 million people around the world are subjected to human trafficking, each one a human being exploited in some way either for labour, services or sex. Through force, through fraud, through coercion, traffickers violate the most basic right of people to be free.

"I want to commend the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho for its progress in making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but I also note much hard work remains ahead. I have shared with Minister Letsosa specific goals and objectives for Lesotho's pursuit of a strengthened response to human trafficking, consistent with international law. The U.S embassy will continue to work closely with officials across the Lesotho Government and with civil society to ensure that Lesotho continues to make progress in ending this horrific modern day slavery," Ms Brewer also said.

The report shows that the Government of Lesotho demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period, considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity, hence an increase to Tier 2.

These efforts included identifying more trafficking victims and increasing investigations and prosecutions. The government launched its national action plan and allocated funding for implementation, finalised and implemented guidelines for victim identification and referral to care and increased its anti-trafficking training and awareness raising efforts for law enforcement, diplomats and

the general public.

"However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. Several investigations and prosecutions from the previous reporting period including cases of alleged official complicity were still pending," the report said.

The government did not amend existing laws that created jurisdictional issues that prevent magistrate courts from issuing the maximum penalty for trafficking crimes.

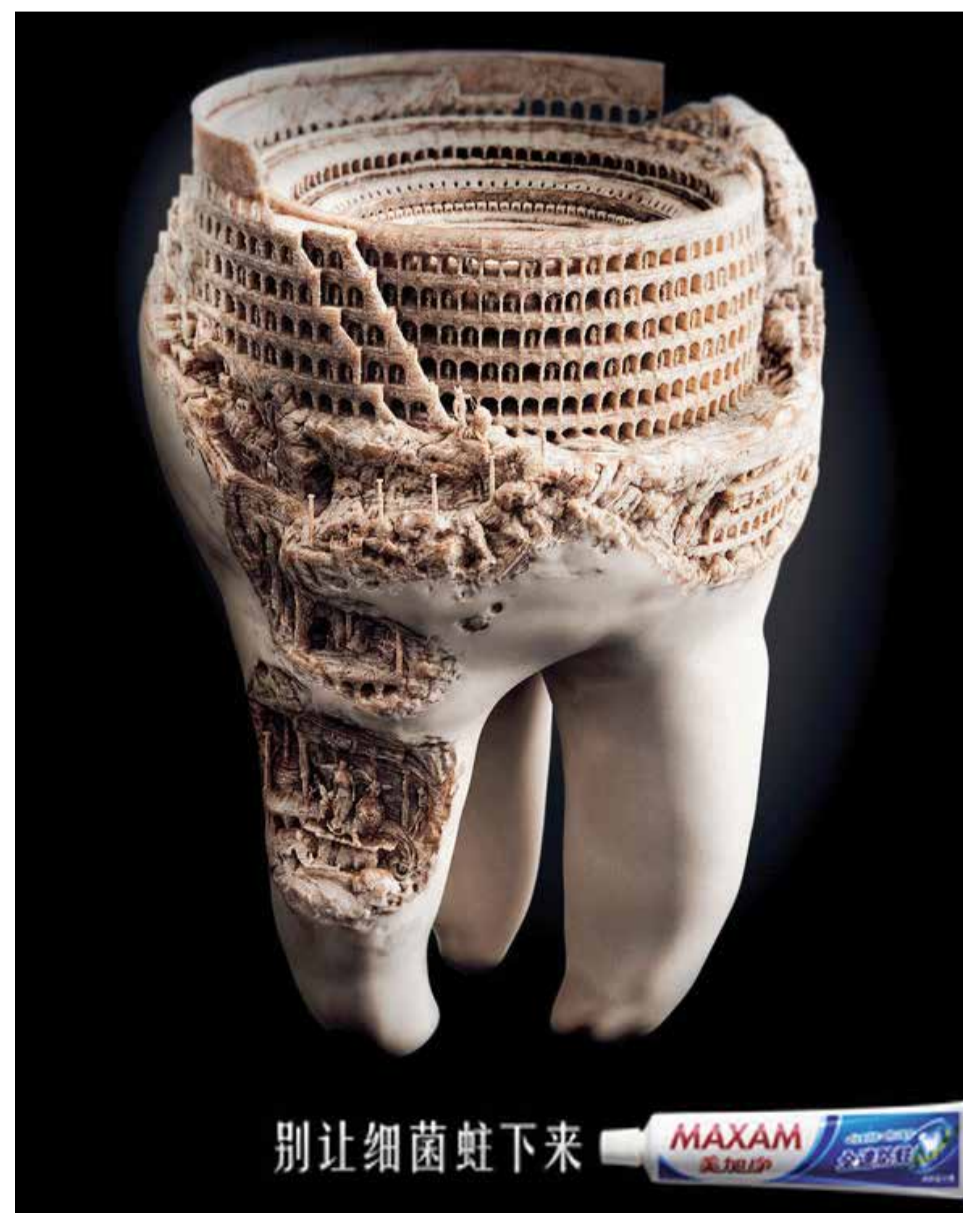
The government continued to rely on one NGO to provide all services to trafficking victims in the country with nascent government funding and shelter options remained limited.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (TVPA), requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress. The goal of this report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against trafficking in persons. The U.S Government's approach to combating human trafficking is consistent with the TVPA and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transitional Organised Crimes. The TVPA recognises the crime of human trafficking includes obtaining victims labour or services through force, fraud or coercion, whether overtly or through psychological manipulation, or using a child under the age of 18 in a commercial sex act.

Any country to which the TVPA's minimum standards apply must be included in the Trafficking in Persons Report and assigned to one of three tiers or watch list.

The 2022 report assesses the anti trafficking efforts of 188 governments including the USA and Lesotho. Countries assessed as fully meeting the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking are placed on Tier 1.

Those assessed, as not fully meeting the minimum standards but making significant efforts to meet them are placed on Tier 2. Countries that are assessed as not fully meeting the minimum standards and not making significant efforts to do so are ranked Tier 3.



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... as the Seriti sa Makhoarane Heritage and Tourism Network empowers young people

# 13 young professionals receives apprenticeship certificates

**STAFF REPORTER**  
news@maserumetro.com

**MASERU** – Thirteen young professionals who completed a two-year Youth Apprenticeship Programme organised by the Seriti sa Makhoarane Heritage and Tourism Network (SSM) were last week Wednesday awarded certificates by the Ministry of Finance. The farewell ceremony was held at the Morija Museum and Archives (MMA).

The recipients were awarded certificates based upon the specific work they did, including Heritage Conservation & Restoration Planning as well as Heritage Mapping and Tourism Routes. The Heritage Conservation and Restoration Planning certificates were awarded to Lehlohonolo Tšephe, Mokoteli Loko, Mpho Mphofe, Retšelisitsoe Nthaha and Lehlohonolo Ramoreboli.

Recipients of the Heritage Mapping and Tourism Routes certificates included Itumeleng Linoko, Malentsoe Letlaka, Maneo Sekata, Kalane Khoete, Ramahlape Motsaofi, and Neo Makhalanyane, as well as two MMA staff members who participated in the programme – Liako Mahao and Matšelisio Phethoka. SSM was legally registered in February 2020 as a non-profit making organisation. The Makhoarane area is composed of the core area and the outlying areas.

The core area includes four villages of great heritage value, namely: Morija,



The 13 young professionals after receiving their certificates

Matsieng, Makeneng and Phahameng being sites that have deep and varied history, heritage and traditions associated with the nation-building efforts of King Moshoeshoe I and his successors. The outlying area is divided into four clusters, including Ha Moruthoane, Ha Toloane, Mantsaneng and Makhoarane Plateau. SSM has been anchored by the two local

heritage institutions: Morija Museum & Archives (1956) and Royal Archives & Museum (2012) in collaboration with the Makhoarane communities.

The placing of the apprentices emerged from a partnership with the Ministry of Finance through its Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP) locally known as Lihalahala, which commenced in July 2020.

The apprentices were mentored by Stephen Gill, Pusetso Nyabela and 'Maneo Ralebitso, who are members of the SSM Administration Unit.

The Relationships Inspiring Social Enterprise (RISE) as strategic partner organised technical supervision, which was provided by the Technical University of Milan (Italy) and Cape Town Architects and Heritage and

Conservation experts. Additional financial assistance was provided by the Italian Embassy in Pretoria. On behalf of the organiser, the Chairperson of the SSM Management Committee, Tšele Lemeke expressed his profound gratitude to the youth for a job well done.

"It is sad that your time with us has come to an end," he said, commending the apprentices for the hard work they did.

Mr Lemeke said the apprentices were fortunate that the Ministry of Finance organised the programme designed to give young people the much-needed work experience.

One of the supervisors, Mr Gill said it was gratifying to have worked closely with the restoration team, adding that a lot of ground was covered in the past two years. The apprentices, he said among others worked on the technical drawings of historic and heritage buildings in Makeneng and Morija and emergency interventions on a few badly damaged historic buildings in Makeneng.

He said it was a pity that the apprentices were leaving before the master plan for the Lerotholi Royal Village in Makeneng had been finalised.

"I hope the technical guidance you received has not only sharpened your skills as professionals but has also broadened your outlook in terms of what you could do next," he noted.

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## during lockdown.



TRUSTED QUALITY PROUDLY LESOTHO



TRUSTED QUALITY PROUDLY LESOTHO

# Comments & Letters

## Something should be done about human traffickers

The Editor,

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is said to be making significant efforts to do so.

The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity; therefore, Lesotho was upgraded to Tier 2.

But what is the government doing with those who are found responsible for trafficking our brothers and sisters in hundreds?

Is the government really doing enough to investigate, prosecute, and convict the traffickers like the international community claims?

It is high time these criminals who are wrecking havoc on so many lives were brought to justice.

Lekhotsa Motanteli  
Ha Matala, Maseru

## Election date is set, may the best leader win

The Editor,

The Director of Elections has been directed to conduct general elections in accordance with the National Assembly Electoral act, 2011.

October faces the polls to decide which political party will run this country for the next five years.

It is an important day in the lives of every citizen because we get a chance to decide our future.

Voting is not just a right, which many gave up their lives to achieve, but we have a duty as citizens to exercise that right. Maybe that is why the elderly are more prepared to get their fingers stained with the voting ink in order to feel the pride of making a change.

In recent years, the number of parties contesting the elections has increased tremendously, but the number of people willing to cast their vote has dropped down considerably compared to in the past.

This cannot be that voters are lazy or totally ignorant of what is at stake, but they feel alienated from politicians and the electoral process.

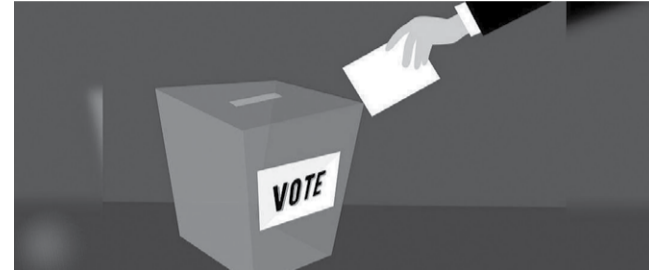
Many voters feel underserved by politicians, using words such as neglect in relation to their elected parliamentary representatives.

It reinforces the profoundly held, and not very helpful belief that politicians enter politics only out of self-interest and in order to steal from national coffers.

It possibly is wishful thinking, however, that voters would vote parties out even if their MPs have repeatedly failed them, since they have proven repeatedly that they are for the most part tribal and stick to colours, rather than ideas.

The question now is, which of the 60 plus parties will win and why?

Khahliso Molupe  
Lithabaneng, Maseru



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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Let's empower SOEs to up their game

State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) should up their game in order to be in a good position to pay government dividends.

SOEs represent companies that are either 100 percent owned and controlled by the state and companies in which the state has a controlling interest either directly or otherwise. The other companies included are those in which the state holds equity of 50 percent or less.

When managed well, SOEs can create value; perform vital services that are required for poverty reduction and shared prosperity that are central to a lower middle-income country such as Lesotho. However, mismanaged, SOEs can be a budgetary burden and can cause contingent liabilities. Some of them continue to put pressure on the national budget.

Ability of these firms to pay dividends to government goes a long way towards a strong government purse that is in turn able to contribute in other development projects.

There are significant financial flows between the state and SOEs and invested enterprises. Dividends are part of such inbound flows other import duties; royalties and taxes just to mention a few. So companies that fail on several occasions to pay dividends call to question important issues about the rationale of government investment. In her latest Audit Report on the consolidated financial statements of the government for the year ended 31st March 2021, Acting Auditor General Monica Besetsa stated that only two companies were able to pay dividends during the financial year 2020/21. Out of 15 entities, only two paid dividends totaling M238 million while the other 13 entities have not paid even a cent. The Auditor General has expressed her dissatisfaction, specifically, on monitoring of dividends receivable by government. She said the situation has not improved since her previous report where similar concerns were raised. So in order to address this matter, which has been a challenge for so many years, government should come up with strategies that will force SOEs to put more effort, be profitable and be able to pay dividends. Failure to come up with these strategies and policies simply means that same challenges are likely to pursue. Management of these companies shall continue to decline because there are no monitoring mechanisms in place to stimulate performance.

At the moment, those who are in charge of these firms are just there to take money out of government purse and go home.

A lot needs to be done to deal with this matter.

## TRANSFORMING OUR MINDS – HEARTS AND BRAINS – CAN ONLY BE A SUPPORTED INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

When the repressor came to extract our ancestors for slavery and enlist others for local colonial labour, they herded them together, killed a few of them openly to instill fear and obedience, then they shackled them individually, one at a time, to long chains that conjoined them. Then they went into the long process of taming them.

We need each other's support to relax and harmonize our hearts and rewire our individual brains back to our unviolated, original, natural state they were created for.

Although we need to be guided and supported to relax and harmonize our hearts and rewire our brains, we must take the responsibility to do so, heal from the mental dis-eases we discussed in past articles, and transform.

We were Form A students who had just completed our rights of passage when one of us made a decision to transform. It was different type of transformation, all the same a transformation of the mind – heart and brain – and behaviour. We played football, and like almost all of us he was "right footed", as people are used to calling those who have chosen to restrict their competence to just one foot. The same is the case for the use of hands. Genes or heredity, you may wish to ascribe it to. In some instances, parents (or society) may even pressurize young children to adopt use of their right limbs. Almost all societies and cultures conform to these tendencies and behaviours like human tendencies to choose the wide gate in Matthew 7: 13-14. This has come down through generations like the curse

in Deuteronomy 5: 8-10. I am not even suggesting that being right footed or right handed is wrong in any way.

On that morning, our colleague informed us that he was going to learn to use both of his feet for playing football. To achieve that he said that he would henceforth only use his left foot until he had achieved the level of competence in it that he wanted; and he enlisted us to hold him

accountable to commitment. For months, even as we played our informal, behind boys' hostel, competitive games he just used his left foot. You would have seen the struggle; and we could only imagine the discomfort as he struggled to get the ball to his left foot even when it would have been easier, more comfortable, to use the familiar right foot. None of us ever bothered to join him. The very few who tried would only do so for a few kicks and give in to the comfort of the familiar. One day, after those many excruciating months he announced that he had achieved his goal, his left foot was now as skillful as his right foot; and he would begin to use both feet. All we could do was to congratulate him for his determination and persistence. On the other hand, we became beneficiaries of a (self-created) ambipedal player.

The experiment with monkeys showed us how pain and fear can transform minds and change natural behaviour to self-destructive behaviour and culture; and how the culture can pass down through generations, even when the initiating stimulus has been terminated.

### SUSTAINING QUALITY PEACE & RESILIENCE

BY MAFOLE SEMATLANE



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# Metro



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# Raising the minimum wage won't save SA

A new minimum wage, to be implemented in March, is set to be discussed later this year. While it might seem both compassionate and logical to explore an increased minimum wage for South African workers, the truth is it would be far better to abolish the minimum wage than to increase it.

This year has seen a record rise in the cost of living. Fuel prices are rising every month. Electricity prices go up while the lights stay off. And the price of food and essentials skyrocket across the board. With that in mind, it seems reasonable to raise the minimum wage. If costs are rising, minimum-wage workers need to be able to afford the new expenses, right?

But the minimum wage isn't some universal fix-all for South Africa's ills. As of the first quarter of this year, unemployment was 34.5%. This is a conservative estimate, disregarding those who have given up on finding employment. Even with this conservative estimate, one in three people is unemployed.

The minimum wage doesn't help you if you don't have a job. In truth, a higher minimum wage just raises the expense per worker for the employer. The more an employer has to pay an employee, the fewer employees they can hire. In addition, if the minimum wage rises above the value that a worker actually produces, they lose their job, as there is no point employing someone who "produces" a loss for the business.

The minimum wage does not help the unemployed. If anything, it contributes towards unemployment.

Above that, general wage rises are almost always accompanied by rising prices. A minimum wage increase will pass on extra expenses to the employer, who will have to pass those expenses on to the consumer. That means the cost of living will rise even more.



generally embracing a free market, and South Africa won't need a minimum wage. Businesses will have to compete for decent workers and there will be jobs for anyone willing to work.

All it takes is the state cutting red tape and stepping away so business and individuals can make the rational

choices that will lead to a better future.

*Nicholas Woode-Smith, an author, economic historian and political analyst, is a contributing author for the Free Market Foundation. The views expressed in the article are the author's and not necessarily shared by the members of the Foundation.*

## My Take

By Nicholas Woode-Smith



Any increase a minimum wage worker receives is soon nullified by inflation. Trying to raise the minimum wage above inflation doesn't solve matters, as prices will be pushed up by the rising minimum wage; a terrible cycle.

Even if some workers do benefit from the minimum wage going up, the majority will soon be hit from all sides by rapidly rising prices. Those who haven't received a pay rise because they earn above the minimum wage, or are unemployed, will be given no increase to deal with soaring costs.

Many businesses, especially small ones, have tight margins. An increased minimum wage could push them overboard and lead to the business going bankrupt and all its employees becoming unemployed.

South Africa already has a minimum wage. It being too small or large is irrelevant. What is relevant is that many businesses are still not compliant with the law and that many are willing to work for below minimum wage because a low-paying job is better than no job. Many businesses wouldn't survive if they were to pay their workers more.

The fact that there is such a huge xenophobia problem is partly because there is a perception that foreign workers are undercutting South Africans by working for less than minimum wage. Perhaps, then, the solution is to abolish said minimum wage.

The fact of the matter is the minimum wage law is, in reality, unimplementable in South Africa. People need jobs and will work for whatever they can get, so they can survive. A privileged legislator cannot reasonably set such a blatant restriction on employment.

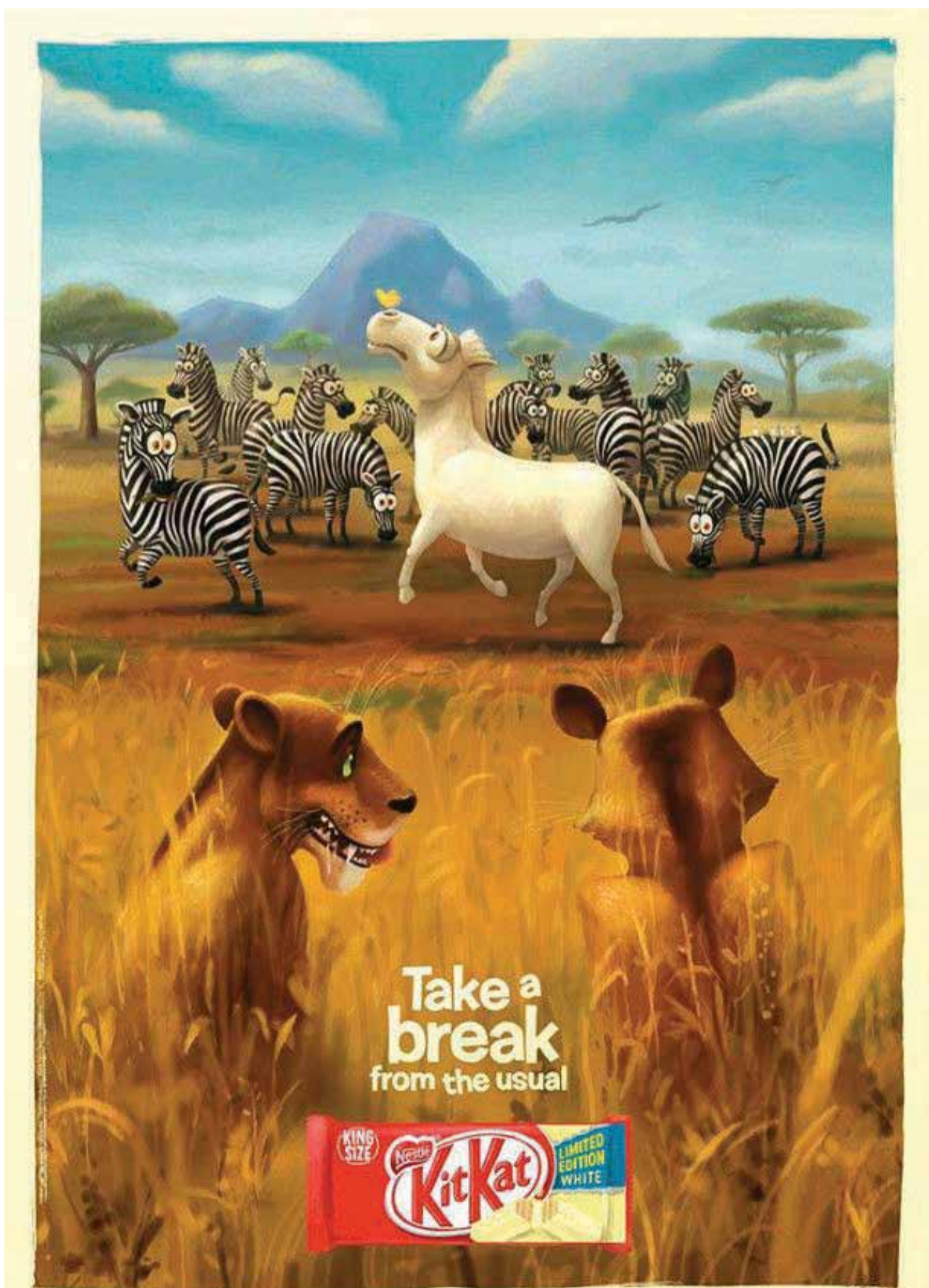
It is clear that the minimum wage should not be raised. It will lead to increased unemployment, rising cost of living, failing small businesses and further economic decline.

So what is the solution?

How can we create more, higher-paying and fulfilling jobs?

The country needs to grow its economy if it is to produce more and better jobs. That means cutting red tape. Rather than raising the minimum wage, abolish it. Recognise that the true minimum wage is what an individual is willing to work for and an employer is willing to pay.

Couple that with deregulating the labour market, removing Eskom's monopoly, cutting tax and spending, and



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Sneaker Planet

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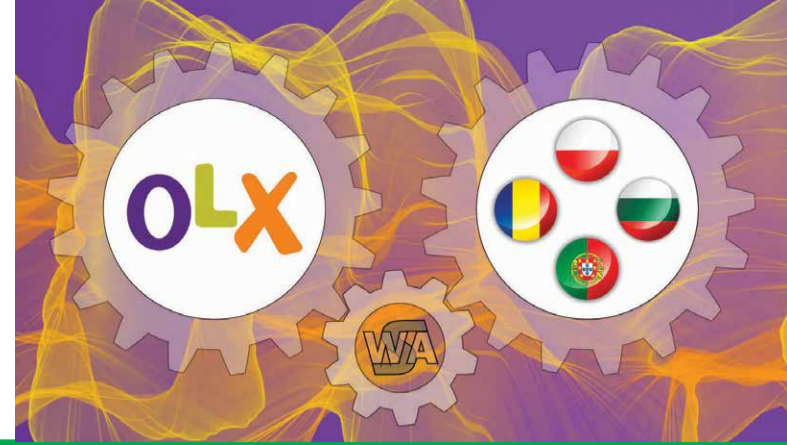


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**MASERU** - There is an alarming rate of STI's, HIV and unplanned pregnancies among young people exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AIDS Health Foundation (AHF)'s Africa Bureau Chief, Dr Penninah Lutung has said.

This, she said is indicative to a large extent of a gap in accurate knowledge, life skills and information.

Dr Lutung made these remarks at the launch of protect the child campaign that was held virtually in Maseru this week.

According to her, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is a fundamental part of the right to health.

She said when there is support for the availability and accessibility to appropriate health-related information, that shows a respect for young people' rights to be informed, healthy and live in dignity, which are critical for individual and community well-being.

On the contrary, CSE has been proven to have immense benefits for young people's health and overall well-being in spaces where they exist.

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), access to CSE decreased the number of young people engaging in sexual intercourse early and promoted positive attitudes towards sexual and reproductive health.

Again, it decreased risky behaviours and strengthened young people's self-efficacy and knowledge to refuse unwanted sex, negotiate condom use, prevent HIV, STI's and unplanned pregnancies as well as tackle harmful gender norms.

To commemorate the international day of the African Child 2022, AHF launched its protect the child campaign, targeting livelihoods of minor children.

The theme highlights the need for access to age-essential or preventing HIV, STI's and unplanned pregnancies among adolescents and young people.

AHF's Country Programme Manager, 'Mapaballo Mile said the campaign is in response to the pushback and contention

## Rate of STI's among youth skyrockets – AHF



AHF country programme manager, 'Mapaballo Mile

that often plague conversations and implementation around CSE, mainly from governments, parents, teachers and religious leaders because it is believed to encourage sexual activity.

Working together with government facilities as well as CHAL, she said as AHF, they will work hard to reach young people in the hard to reach areas in order to protect them.

Mrs Mile said a lot of young people are diagnosed with HIV, adding that most of them are also found with STI's.

Some, she said fall pregnant at an early age and the majority of them are stigmatised by their peers, forcing them to even drop out of school.

As AHF, she said they want to ensure the safety of every child, everywhere.

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**Pop a Probiotic**

To keep yeast infections at bay, head for the vitamin aisle. Supplementing with "good" bacteria (for example, Lactobacillus or Bifidobacterium) may help restore the balance of bacteria living in the female genital tract and inhibit the growth of yeast in women with recurrent infections. Foods such as naturally fermented sauerkraut, kimchi, and kefir, as well as yogurt with active cultures, also contain these bacteria.

**Bone Fracture Recovery Weeks 3 to 5**

It is important for your broken bone to be immobilized during healing, but muscles begin to atrophy when you do not use them. You may get weak and stiff. If your

doctor prescribes physical therapy during this time, do the exercises as instructed. It will help alleviate stiffness and build muscle. Movement also helps break down scar tissue. You may

also start getting used to gradually using the injured body part again, however slowly and gently. Your doctor may order an X-ray to check the progress of healing of the injury.

# Standard Bank drops mandatory Covid vaccines in SA

*...as new CCMA ruling calls them 'unconstitutional'*



Standard Bank in South Africa

**JOHANNESBURG** - Standard Bank has withdrawn its Covid-19 vaccination policy with immediate effect, with approximately 95% of its employees already vaccinated.

In an emailed statement, the bank said it took a range of factors into account in reviewing its policy, including recent regulatory developments, the current state of the pandemic in South Africa, and the high vaccination rate amongst its employees. In a statement issued to employees at the end of June, Standard Bank South Africa chief executive officer, Lungisa Fuzile said that the country

had reached a significant milestone in managing the Covid-19 pandemic and that the bank would be revising some of its safety measures and the existing Covid-19 policy and protocols.

"Based on the current context of the pandemic, we believe that our vaccination policy is no longer required. Consequentially, it is no longer compulsory for employees to be vaccinated, or to produce a negative PCR or Rapid Antigen test if they are unvaccinated, in order to enter our premises," said Fuzile.

He emphasised that, even though

the bank had withdrawn the policy, it continues to support and encourage vaccination. Should circumstances with respect to the pandemic change, the bank may, in future, adjust and review its policy and protocols in order to maintain a safe working environment, he said.

"Thank you for all your efforts in helping us maintain a safe working environment and continuing to serve our clients in what has been a challenging time for many of us," said Fuzile.

'Unconstitutional'

Standard Bank's decision comes after recent Commission for Conciliation,

Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) rulings took various positions – for and against – mandatory vaccine policies.

In the past, the CCMA ruled that workers who were fired for refusing to take the vaccine were dismissed fairly. However, more recent rulings have found in favour of employees, citing unfair dismissal. The latest CCMA case found vaccine mandates to be 'unconstitutional'.

The latest case centred on a senior inventory controller who worked for a company which supplies equipment to hospitals and other end-user, said Bankey Sono, director at Werksmans Attorneys.

On 22 July 2021, the employer communicated its mandatory vaccination policy. In terms of clause 6, it was a requirement for all employees to vaccinate and clause 10 stated that "[e]mployees who refuse to be vaccinated will be in breach of the Company Policy and their services may then be terminated for operational reasons".

"After the refusal of the employee to vaccinate, the employer took the decision to retrench her. The employee referred a dismissal dispute related to operational requirements to the CCMA related to the non-compliance with the employer's mandatory vaccination policy."

The CCMA was therefore called upon to determine whether the dismissal of the Applicant was fair or not.

The CCMA held that the dismissal of the employee was substantively unfair and in the words of the senior commissioner 'in fact unconstitutional'.

The commissioner was of the view that mandatory vaccination policies are unconstitutional and that the rule in respect of mandatory vaccination was unreasonable.

"Despite the nobility of the declaration by the CCMA, only the High Court can pronounce on the unconstitutionality of a policy and the said unconstitutionality has to be confirmed by the Constitutional Court. Constitutionality simply does not fall within the purview of the CCMA," Sono said.

Furthermore, on 22 June 2022, the minister of employment and labour published the Code of Practice: Managing Exposure to SARS-CoV 2 in the workplace which remains applicable. In terms of this code, employers may continue developing and enforcing mandatory vaccination policies. This is subject to employers firstly conducting a Risk Assessment and concluding a plan in terms of which employees identified in the risk assessment must be vaccinated.

"It is the outcome of the risk assessment that directs the Employer's decision whether or not to have a mandatory vaccination policy in place, in order to ensure the safety of their workplace. The obligation to ensure safety in the workplace stems from the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) read together with Regulations to the OHSA and the code itself."

"Whilst the award raises interesting and important questions surrounding the constitutionality of mandatory vaccination policies, in the face of the Code, there is nothing in the law as it currently stands that prohibits employers from having and enforcing mandatory vaccination policies in respect of their individual workplaces," Sono said. - BusinessTech





Coffins of the 21 teenagers who died in a bar in East London, South Africa

# Methanol found in 21 teens who died in South Africa bar

**JOHANNESBURG** — Methanol was found in the blood of the 21 teenagers who died last month in a bar in South Africa's city of East London, according to a health official. Methanol — often called wood alcohol — is a toxic chemical and if ingested even small amounts of it can be fatal.

The teenagers died at the Enyobeni tavern in East London's Scenery Park township in the early hours of June 26, shocking the country and resulting in several investigations by the police and liquor license authorities. Many of the teens, ranging in age between 13 and 17, were found dead in the tavern, their bodies slumped across tables and couches and collapsed on the dance floor, according to officials.

“

*The one used in normal liquor is ethanol. There is a slight difference in name, but the difference is huge in that methanol is poison*

Final toxicology reports will show if the levels of methanol were fatal and South Africa's police will determine whether anyone will face criminal charges for the 21 deaths, national police minister Bheki Cele has said.

Methanol is a colorless liquid used industrially in antifreeze and paint remover. It's toxic to humans. Public health expert professor Sue Goldstein, from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, warned that ingesting even small amounts of methanol can be lethal. Methanol is

sometimes used in making illicit alcohol, she said.

“The one used in normal liquor is ethanol. There is a slight difference in name, but the difference is huge in that methanol is poison.

“These are early stages, but we don't know if there was homemade alcohol there perhaps and the levels of methanol which were found in the people who died,” said Goldstein. Methanol can cause blindness and can cause brain and organ damage. Drinking even small amounts can lead to death, say experts. The toxic effects of methanol are often delayed so if poisoning is identified early an antidote can be given to reduce deaths.

Because methanol is cheap it has been used in making illegal alcoholic drinks, sometimes called moonshine. Other incidents of suspected methanol poisoning in South Africa were in May and June 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown when liquor sales were banned. Police reported that a man had died in the small town of Brakpan, far east of Johannesburg, from organ failure caused by homemade liquor bought from an illegal trader. Seven people died in the Western Cape province after consuming homemade alcohol that was laced with methanol, police said.

Outbreaks of methanol poisoning have occurred around the world. Even though consumption of methanol can easily be fatal, it accounts for less than 1% of all alcohol-related deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

The medical charity Doctors Without Borders established a special Methanol Poisoning Initiative in 2012 to help create effective responses to outbreaks of methanol poisoning and to make an effective antidote more widely available. — Los Angeles Times

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# The world in 10 minutes

## SOUTH AFRICA

### ANC deputy secretary general Jessie Duarte has died

ANC deputy secretary general and veteran anti-apartheid activist Yasmin "Jessie" Duarte died in the early hours of Sunday morning after a lengthy battle with cancer. Duarte, 68, who had been a political activist since her teenage years, had been forced to leave her party work late last November due to the severity of her illness and had been on medical leave.

Duarte was a lifelong political activist and a former politician and diplomat who had risen to the top of the governing party's leadership in 2012.

Family spokesperson Zane Dangor confirmed Duarte's death early on Sunday, saying that she had fought bravely against the disease, to which she had finally succumbed. She will be buried on Sunday afternoon.

Duarte, who was born in Coronationville, Johannesburg, was a founding member of the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) – an affiliate of the United Democratic Front (UDF) – serving as its provincial secretary in the then Transvaal. An accountant who was recruited into politics by the later Albertina Sisulu, Duarte was detained for her activities under the State of Emergency in 1988 for several months and served with a restriction order on her release.



## HAITI

### Thousands trapped without water in Haitian capital, official says

Thousands of Haitians are trapped in capital city Port-au-Prince without access to water, food or other essential supplies, according to aid groups and a local official. Residents in the neighbourhood of Cité Soleil have been isolated by ongoing fighting between rival groups vying for control, according to the neighborhood's mayor Joël Janeus.

"The situation is critical and it's getting worse by day. My team and I counted 52 dead and 110 people injured. The gangs have been shooting for nearly a week now and they still have munitions," Janeus told CNN last Wednesday. "I am calling for the government to intervene before more people die, thousands of people are trapped without food and water," Janeus said, adding that he himself is in hiding.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), a medical humanitarian group, had warned earlier in the week that lives were at risk due to the difficulty of delivering vital aid, including water, in an embattled area of Cité Soleil called Brooklyn.



## UKRAINE

### Six die in shelling as new assault looms in Ukraine

Six people have been killed in shelling in an eastern Ukrainian town as Russia eyes its next major offensive.

Five bodies were found in the rubble of a house in Toretsk, in the Donetsk region, while another person died in hospital, emergency services said. The Ukrainian military said Russia appeared to be regrouping for an offensive towards nearby Sloviansk.

The city was captured in 2014 by pro-Russian separatists who held it for nearly three months. Now it is once again set to become a key battleground. Since Russian troops began their invasion in February, President Vladimir Putin's original war aims have been drastically curtailed. The military abandoned its efforts to take the capital, Kyiv, and focused instead on the eastern Donbas region.

In another development, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has ordered generals to focus on destroying Ukraine's long-range missile and artillery weapons. The defence ministry said the weapons were being used to shell residential areas of eastern Ukraine under the control of Russian-backed separatists, and to set fire to wheat fields and grain storage silos.



## AFGHANISTAN

### Afghan earthquake: At least 1,000 people killed and 1,500 injured

A powerful earthquake has killed at least 1,000 people and injured 1,500 in eastern Afghanistan, an official of the ruling Taliban told the BBC.

The Taliban appealed for international help for the rescue effort as pictures showed landslides and ruined mud-built homes in the province of Paktika.

The quake struck shortly after 01:30 (21:00 GMT Tuesday) as people slept.

Hundreds of houses were destroyed by the magnitude 6.1 event, which occurred at a depth of 51km (32 miles).

It is the deadliest earthquake to strike Afghanistan in two decades and a major challenge for the Taliban, the Islamist movement which regained power last year after the Western-backed government collapsed.

The earthquake struck about 44km from the city of Khost and tremors were felt as far away as Pakistan and India. Witnesses reported feeling the quake in both Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, and Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

Taliban officials asked the UN to "support them in terms of assessing the needs and responding to those affected", Sam Mort from Unicef's Kabul unit told the BBC.



## FRANCE

### Ferocious European heat heads north

Western Europe faces more sweltering temperatures on Tuesday as a ferocious heatwave heads north.

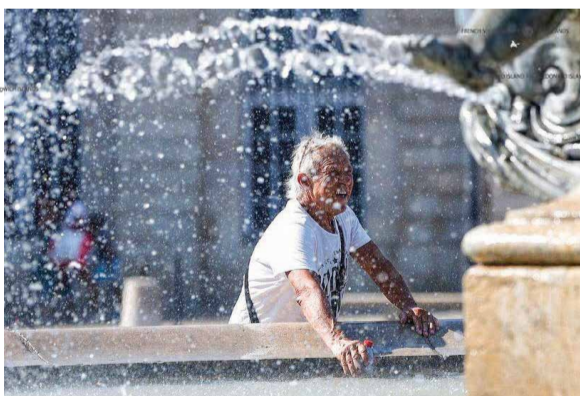
In France and the UK extreme heat warnings were issued while northern Spain recorded temperatures of 43C (109F) on Monday.

Deadly wildfires in France, Portugal, Spain and Greece have forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

The UK is expected to see its hottest day ever and experts say parts of France face a "heat apocalypse".

Two people were killed by forest fires in Spain's north-western Zamora region and trains in the area were halted because of fire near the tracks. An elderly couple died while trying to escape fires in northern Portugal.

Several parts of France saw their hottest-ever days with the western city of Nantes recording 42C, the national weather office said. Wildfires in recent days forced more than 30,000 people to flee, with emergency shelters set up for evacuees. A zoo with 1,000 animals was among the areas evacuated.



## ZIMBABWE

### Zimbabwe food crisis: Could sorghum and millet replace maize?

In what would have been unthinkable a few years ago, the Svosve family in north-eastern Zimbabwe is ditching maize for indigenous grains in order to overcome persistent drought and food shortages.

This is despite the fact that maize is second only to water in importance in the average Zimbabwean household, as maize flour is used to make the national food – sadza. Maize is not only a staple and a status symbol for farmers, but also an important cash crop.

But low yields have forced the Svosves, who are subsistence farmers, to focus more on growing sorghum and millet – both of which were staples before Portuguese traders in the 1500s brought maize from the Americas, according to historians. When BBC News visited the Svosves at their homestead in Mduzi, a semi-arid area with grey-coloured stony soil, members of the family were crowded around a threshing machine spitting out buckets of grain.

Family head Lovmore Svosve said they would have plenty to eat, even though the rainy season was disastrous.



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## Be Car-Smart

### WesBank's tips for used car buyers

With many consumers feeling a pinch in their wallets, largely because of the ongoing pandemic and the economic uncertainties that come with it, WesBank has seen a fundamental shift from new car buyers looking to the used car market for their transport needs.

In August 2021, finance applications for used cars were more than double those received for new cars. In light of this, WesBank offers the following advice to prospective buyers on how to approach second-hand vehicle purchases, as well as some common pitfalls to avoid.

A used car's history is the most important information a prospective buyer should investigate.

**Buyers should actively seek out as much as possible about the car they have their eye on, and should be mindful of:**  
total mileage

the age of the vehicle  
any possible accident history  
overall vehicle condition  
the service history of the car, as documented in its service manual or digital service book in some more premium models.

It is not always possible to find out every detail about a used car's history, but building a profile that is as complete as possible helps minimise the risk of buying a lemon. This exercise can also help determine a car's market value. Any combination of age, mileage, service history, condition and ownership history can affect the price of a used vehicle.

For example, a three-year-old car owned by one person and has 30 000km on the clock with a full service history, is worth more than a similar car with patchy or no service history at all. Similarly, a car with higher mileage but in perfect condition can be worth more than one

with lower mileage but with worn seats, dented body panels and general neglect for condition.

In order to budget properly, it is also important to know the replacement costs for wear and tear items such as tyres, brakes, clutches and scheduled services, which can be expensive while adding to the overall maintenance costs and upkeep of a car. For example, higher-specification or sportier models often come with low-profile tyres which generally cost much more than the high-profile tyres on more entry level models. A few simple internet searches for the prices of replacement items on any particular car can help prepare you for these expenses further down the road.

There are also factors that affect affordability, so buyers are advised to consider costs that would affect their total monthly budget. These include costs for insurance, fuel and annual vehicle licensing fees. Contact your insurer for a quote on premiums ahead of purchases, and research what expected average fuel consumptions are for the car you're looking at. Tally these costs and add them to your monthly

budget for a clear picture of any vehicle's total cost of ownership.

Pay close attention to a car's current mileage and investigate when the next scheduled service is.

Think carefully before you make your purchase. Buying a vehicle from a recognised establishment can safeguard you from trouble if any issues arise shortly after you take delivery of a used car. The best form of recognition is to look for an establishment that is a member of the Retail Motor Industry Organisation, the National Automobile Dealers' Association or a major car brand's franchised dealership.

There are advantages to the consumer when purchasing a used vehicle in the franchised environment. These include formal manufacturer-approved used car programmes as well as manufacturer standards that have to be applied to a used car before it can be sold on the floor of a franchise. A consumer may not be provided with this when buying a vehicle from private sellers, other non-franchised environments.

## All new Lexus LX premieres as the 2nd model of Lexus' next generation

*... as the flagship SUV aims to provide an exceptional driving experience and expand our customers' diverse life experiences*



As the second model of the next generation of Lexus following the NX, Lexus held the world premiere of the new LX today in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The official reveal video is available online.

The new LX, which embodies the brand's commitment to meeting the diversifying needs and lifestyles of customers, is scheduled to go on sale in South Africa in the first quarter of 2022.

Since its establishment in 1989, Lexus has always been committed to the spirit of innovation and has continued to take up the challenge of providing new technologies and value to its customers. Since its launch in 1996, the LX has been well received as Lexus' flagship SUV due to its high-quality, ride comfort, and driving performance that can withstand all kinds of roads around the world. This has been achieved by refining the founding concepts of the LX: "reliability", "durability", and "rough-road driving performance". The LX has sold a cumulative total of approximately 500,000 units in more than 50 countries and regions as of the end of August 2021. It's worth mentioning that in South Africa, the LX does considerably well in the market too.

The new LX is designed to provide vehicle occupants with exceptional comfort and enrich their life experiences. While maintaining a traditional body-on-frame structure to ensure reliability, durability, and driving performance, it renews its characteristics by adopting the new GA-F platform, realising a weight reduction of approximately 200 kg, and achieving a digitally-developed high-rigidity body.

The new LX will be available with a high-output, high-torque 3.5-liter V6 twin-turbo petrol engine and a powerful 3.3-litre V6 diesel twin-turbo engine.

Electronically controlled brakes (ECB) and an electric power steering system (EPS) are also adopted to ensure customers will be able to enjoy Lexus-unique driving performance to the fullest, both on-road and off-road. These innovations, plus the adoption of two new available powertrains, will also contribute to improved environmental performance, reducing annual CO2 emissions when the vehicle is in use by approximately 20 percent on a global cumulative basis compared to the previous model, thus contributing to the realisation of a carbon-neutral society.

In harsh off-road environments, to promote a safer and more comfortable driving experience, the instrument panel features Lexus' first dual display with a 12.3-inch upper screen and 7-inch lower screen, as well as Back Underfloor View, which

displays the area beneath the rear part of the vehicle as a world first.

The new LX is more personalised, with the newly added VIP grade, which is specially designed with four independent seats for elegant and safe travel on all kinds of roads, and the F SPORT grade, which allows customers to enjoy sporty driving on winding roads. Lexus South Africa will confirm the local spec packages at launch timing.

New 22-inch forged alloy wheels employ the high contrast of black and machined brilliance to

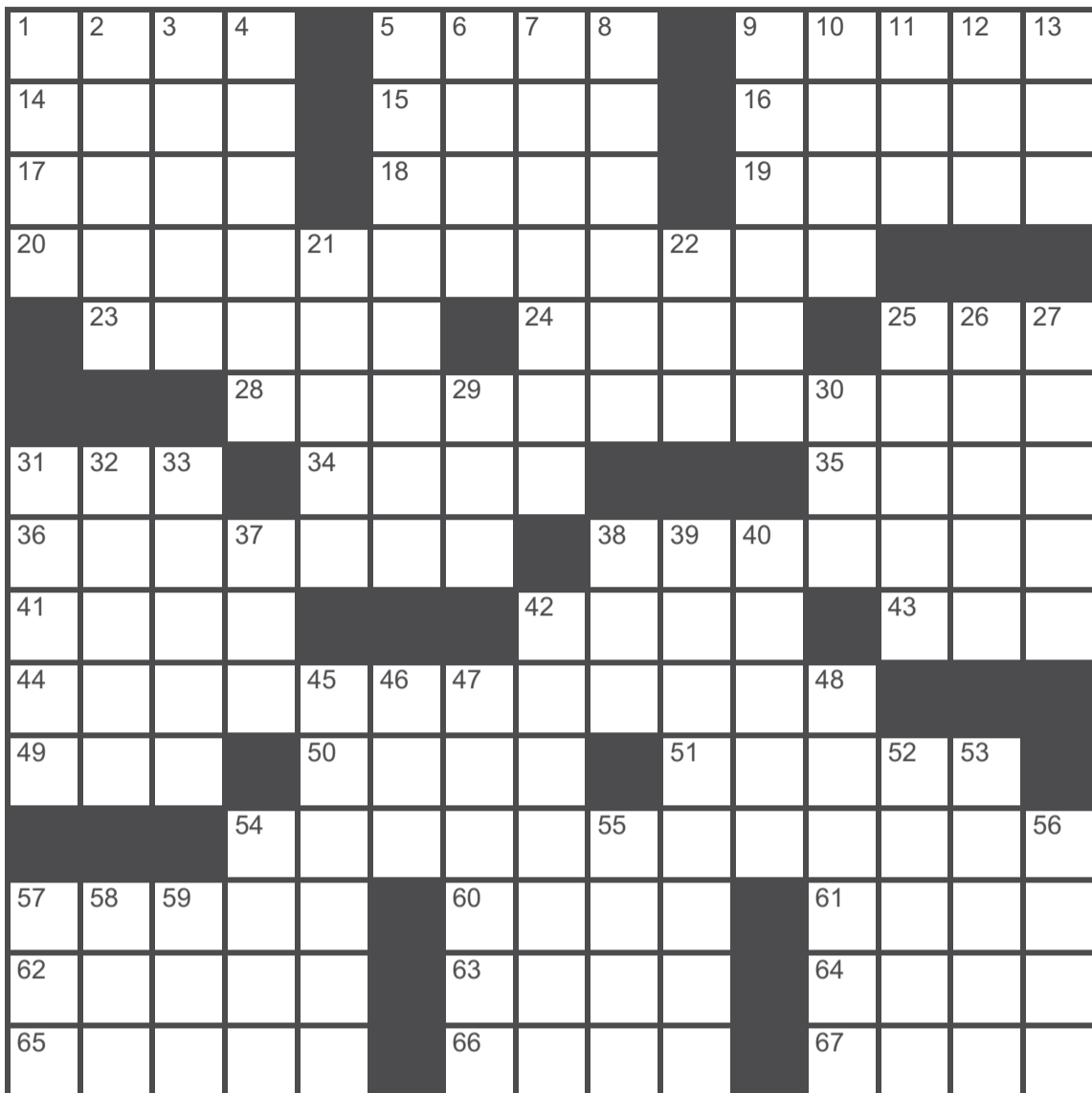
emphasise that they are the largest ever offered by Lexus.

#### STYLING

In terms of styling, while pursuing a design that contributes to athletic performance and function (a design perspective that began with the new NX), ideal proportions are expressed through a blending of sophistication, power, and presence befitting a flagship SUV. Among other featured technologies, Lexus' first fingerprint-authentication push-start switch contributes to reducing the risk of theft.

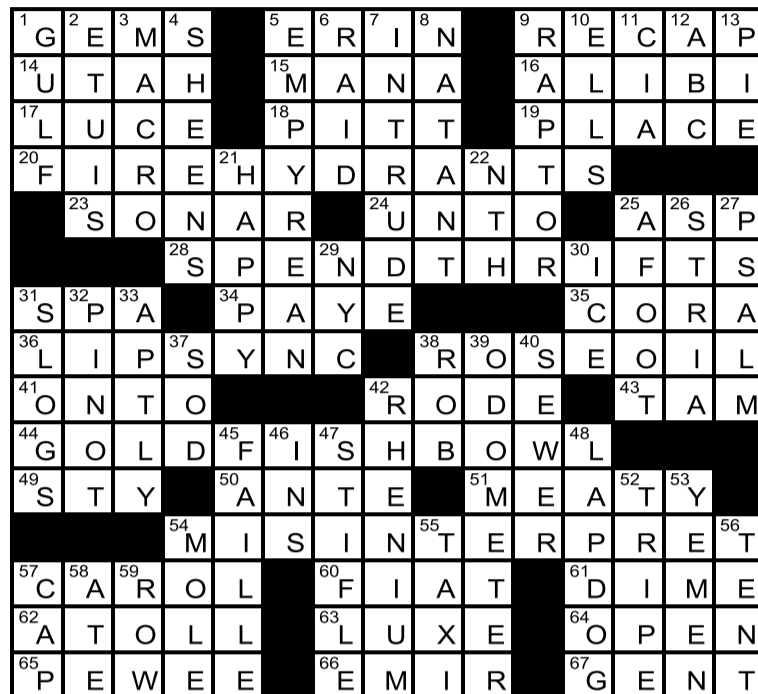
From a branding perspective and following the NX, the Lexus brand badge placed in the centre of the rear has been renewed from the conventional L-shaped logo to the new "LEXUS" logo to symbolise the next generation of Lexus. For the rear combination lamps, tail lamps have been adopted that combine an L-shape and a continuous axial flow from the front to the shoulders and then to the rear silhouette. The styling emphasises the new LX's lively and sharp design and expresses Lexus consistency.

## General Crosswords



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

## Last Week's Solution

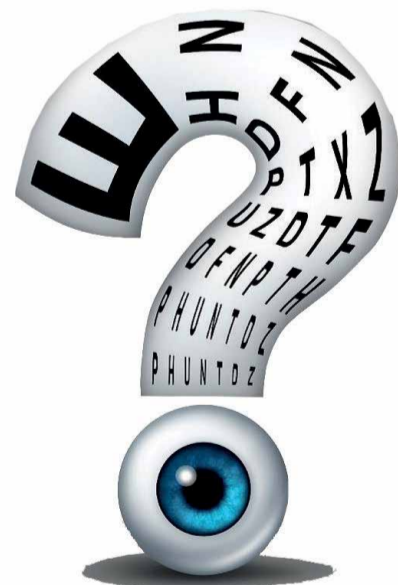


- 21. Like some remarks
- 22. Royal insomnia cause
- 25. Moses' brother
- 26. Glide
- 27. Excited, with "up"
- 29. Couple
- 30. PC "brain"
- 31. Inscribed pillar
- 32. Scintillas
- 33. Believe in
- 37. Mincemeat dessert
- 38. Big coffee holder
- 39. Concerning the country
- 40. Milling machinery
- 42.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

## So You Think You are Geneius

### Question (Answer next week)

A man gave one son 10 cents and another son was given 15 cents. What time was it?

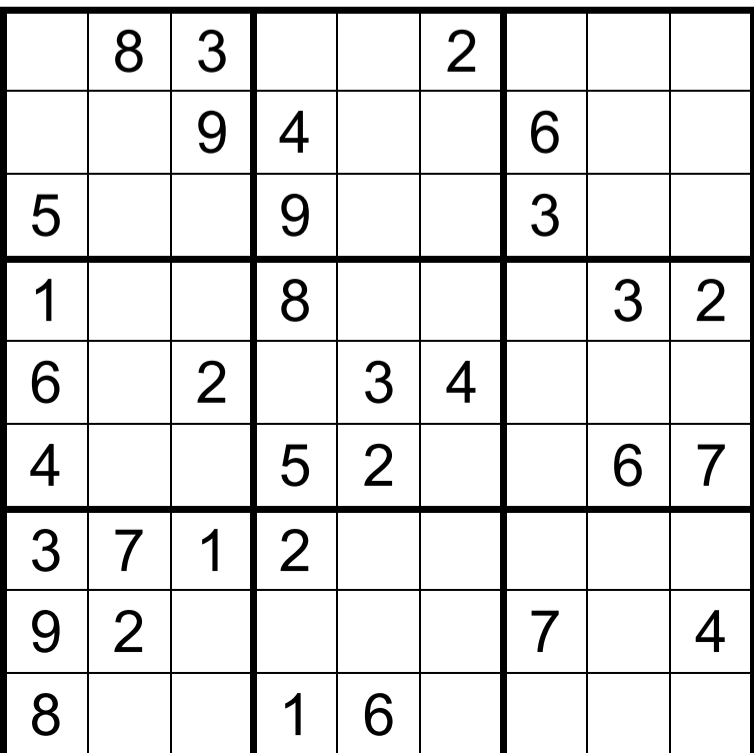


### Last Week's Answer



A KEY.

## 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

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

# Metro SPORTS



Likuena striker Katleho Makateng wearing number 12

## Makateng is hot property in SA

**MASERU** - New poster boy of Lesotho football, Katleho Makateng is attracting a lot of attention from South African clubs and agents who are racing for his signature ahead of the new season.

The 23-year-old hit the ground running playing for Likuena in his first COSAFA Cup tournament winning back-to-back Player of the Match awards as the national team registered 2-1 victory over Malawi and Mauritius.

According to sources close to the developments, clubs and agents have been tracking down the striker after his exploits at the recently ended regional tournament.

Reports in South African media this week show that Soweto giants, Kaizer Chiefs, who are said to have contacted the player had been planning a trip to Lesotho to hold talks with Makateng's club, LDF.

"Yes, there are clubs and agents that made contact with the player while he was still in Durban having impressed in the Likuena games at the recent Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup," the source said.

"The clubs obviously want to sign him to come and play in South Africa

while the agents want to have the player in their stable."

The deadly LDF forward who hails from Pitseng in Leribe had a very special 2020/2021 season scoring a whopping 20 goals in his maiden season of topflight football.

He had a clean sweep in the end of the Season Vodacom Premier League awards, where he took home the Player of the Season, Players' Player of the Season, Top Goal Scorer as well as the Young Player of the Season awards.

Makateng has also been impressive in his six caps for the senior national team, scoring three goals in six games.

He made his

Likuena debut in a goalless draw against Seychelles in the Africa Cup of Nations preliminary round and announced his arrival at the international stage with a brace in the return match played at Dobsonville Stadium in March.

The forward's progress suffered a setback during Likuena's warm up friendly match against Namibia in May, when he suffered a severe concussion that ruled him out of friendly matches against Ethiopian and the opening Africa Cup of Nations match against Comoros. It was in this

match that it was reported that scouts from Kaizer Chiefs and Mamelodi Sundowns as well as other big South African clubs, had made their way to Wits Stadium to watch the striker in action.

He finally returned to action late in June as a late substitute when Likuena held continental powerhouses Ivory Coast to a goalless draw at the Dobsonville Stadium.

Makateng came through the ranks playing for Litšilo in the A Division before moving to LDF, where he made a big impact in his first season as the Motheo Mohapi-coached side finished the 2020/2021 campaign in second position behind Matlama.

He was also a member of the Leslie Notsi's Makoanyane XI that reached the final of the 2017 COSAFA Under-20 Championship, where they had to settle for silver after losing 2-1 to South Africa.

Richard Bay from Durban preparing for their debut season in the South African DSTV Premiership and First Division side TTM and Chiefs are said to be the clubs that have already talked to the marksman.





utility player says.

"I won a lot of trophies with the club including two league titles as well as a lot of individual awards. I really enjoyed myself with Lioli and I think my stay at the club was one of the best moments of my career.

"Winning the Player of the Season award remains the biggest moment of my career. I don't think it means I was the most talented player in the league, but it was a reward for the hard work I had put in towards the success of my team," he says.

Kamela states that donning the national team colours, where he was part of the Likuena squad that reached the semi-finals of the COSAFA Cup in 2013 and the quarterfinals in 2016 was a special moment for him.

"It's not every player that gets the chance to represent his country in international competition and at that time as well, I believe there were a lot of other talented players that could have made the national team, but did not put enough hard work to impress the coaches," Kamela says.

"So, for me to have been given that opportunity to don the colours of my country is something I do not take lightly at all. It was a reward of the hard work I put in training as well as for my club to impress the national team coaches. It was a very special moment of my career."

His national team career started at Makoanyane XI, where he played a pivotal role as the Notsi squad secured qualification to the CAF Under-20 Championship at the expense of Mozambique, South Africa, and Uganda.

"Scoring my first goal against Mozambique in the qualifiers, where we beat them 6-1 at Setsoto Stadium and helping my country qualify for the tournament was very special. It was a very proud moment for me and every member of the team," he recalls.

The former Likuena utility player says seeing his younger brother Khubetsoana, growing to follow in his footsteps is also a proud moment for him and his family.

"I'm very proud of him in that he decided to follow in my footsteps making football as his preference ahead of the other things. He has been able to make a name for himself as well which makes everyone in the family very proud of his journey," Kamela concludes.

# Jerry Kamela reminisces on his colourful career

**MIKIA KALATI**

**MASERU** – Former Likuena utility player, Jerry Kamela has had a decent career since coming through the ranks playing for now defunct Joy FC, alongside the national side captain, Basia Makepe.

Now playing for his home team Linare, Kamela's colourful career blossomed after he and Makepe left their beloved childhood club, Joy for the greener pastures at Lioli, where Kamela would win every trophy on offer and remained a regular for Likuena.

"I will always be grateful to the late former Joy FC, owner DR. Knight (may his soul rest in peace), for the role he played in making it possible for me and other players from Leribe to live their dream of playing football from a young age," says Kamela.

He made his full debut in the first round of the 2008/09 season against a star studded

Likhopo side that had the likes of Bokang Mothoana, Likano Teele and the late Motlatsi Shale.

"I feel indebted to him and it's a pity he passed on, which was a very sad moment for me and other players he groomed at Joy, where I started in the Under-12 teams until I was promoted to their senior team at the tender age of 16."

While Kamela's career was already attracting a lot of attention as a junior player as a member of the Leslie Notsi's Lesotho Under-20 team that qualified for the African Youth Championship in 2011, it's after making the move to Lioli that his career enjoyed a lot of success.

"Moving to a club like Lioli that had big names and a rich history was a challenge by itself. It needed me to dig deeper and double my efforts at training to make the grade," Kamela says.

"Making the starting line-up and maintaining it was very difficult and I had to be at my best at all times. I must say, the support I received from the management of the club and my teammates really helped me to remain grounded and motivated. I had good support systems by my side even outside of Lioli with the likes of Mabuti Potloane and Mkwanazi Heshepe.

Kamela admits that he played his best football at Tse Nala where he won every trophy on offer in the domestic league and was also crowned the Player of the Season during the 2015/16 campaign having played a vital role as the Teyateyang-based outfit lifted a double of the league and Top 8 titles.

"It was an honour for me to play for a team with such a rich history and boasting a very powerful squad at that time. I enjoyed every minute of it and I'm grateful that I contributed towards its success," the former Likuena