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THURSDAY December 16 - 22, 2021

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UK REMOVES LESOTHO FROM TRAVEL RED LIST



- Red list reintroduced in November as precaution after emergence of Omicron variant
 - Lesotho shocked by the ban since no Omicron variant detected in the country
- 3

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- Russia bans travel from Lesotho



BORN ON THIS DAY

December 16

- 1957 - Jean-Marie Messier, French businessman, born in Grenoble, France
- 1961 - Irene Sáez, Venezuelan beauty queen crowned Miss Universe 1981 and politician
- 1967 - Jenn Thompson, American actor (Dee-Harper Valley PTA), born in NYC, New York
- 1969 - Sergei Fedorov, Russian NHL forward (Detroit, Olympic silver 1998), born in Pskov, Russia
- 1973 - Shandon Anderson, American NBA forward (Utah Jazz), born in Atlanta, Georgia
- 1978 - Ryo Kawakita, Japanese guitarist (Maximom the Hormone), born in Tokyo
- 1981 - Chelsea Hersholt, American actress (Major Dad)
- 1982 - Anthony Callea, Australian singer and songwriter, born in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 1982 - Tuka Rocha, Brazilian racing driver, born in São Paulo, Brazil
- 1982 - Dominik Werling, German footballer, born in Ludwigshafen, Germany

NewsBriefs

Lesotho has potential to be giant trout producer

...as a great number of people fish on small and large scales for local consumption and export purposes



MASERU – Mokheseng Notši, the Deputy Commissioner of Cooperatives at the Ministry of Small Business Cooperatives and Marketing says Lesotho's clear, glassy rivers and beautiful mountains make it a hotspot for fishing activities which through the development and establishment of cooperatives could be a great opportunity for job creation across the country.

He said the fishing industry in the country has grown tremendously over the past few years, adding that with foreign support and investment from the private sector, there is great potential for massive production.

Mr Notši said a great percentage of the country's population practices fishing both on small and large scales for local consumption as well as export purposes.

Trout farming was first introduced in Lesotho in the 1880s, mainly for sport fishery.

However, in 1960, commercial production began in the country and has developed immensely over time.

There are two main types of trout found in the freshwater bodies in Lesotho.

These are the brown trout, also known as the *Salmo trutta* and the rainbow trout, otherwise known as the *onchoryncus mykiss*.

Lesotho produces about 300 metric tonnes of trout each year. Most of its production is large trout weighing 1kg and above. This is the standard size that is harvested mostly for commercial purposes.

LeNA

Metsing, Mochoboroane treason case to proceed next year

- LCD leader still remains at large after he failed to show in court
- Charges already read to the accused and they are yet to plead

MASERU – THE treason trial against two prominent politicians and five soldiers including the former army boss was on Monday set to continue from January 10 – 20, 2022 for hearing in the High Court.

Chief Justice Sakoane who is presiding over the case said it in the interest of the accused that there are no further delays in the proceedings, adding that the case should continue hastily.

The two accused politicians are former Deputy Prime Minister and leader of Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), Mothetjoa Metsing and the Minister of Development Planning who is also leader of Movement for Economic Change (MEC), Selibe Mochoboroane.

Metsing who became a fugitive after he failed to show up in court last week still remains at large.

He could therefore not be joined in the trial like his co-accused Mochoboroane was, after he appeared in court alone.

The two politicians are charged together with former Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Commander, Lieutenant General

Tlali Kamoli along with Captain Litekanyo Nyakane, Lance Corporals Motloheloa Ntsane and Leutsoa Mofsieloa.

Chief Justice Sakoane on Monday ordered the prosecution to provide the defence with the further particulars it had requested on or before January 7.

This, after the court was informed that King's Counsel (KC) Motiea Teele, who represents Metsing and some of the accused soldiers, had previously requested further particulars, which he was however not provided with.

The judge also ordered the prosecution to categorise its witnesses, in order to show as to which ones will be fact witnesses and which will be expert witnesses.

He said that will help make the case manageable, adding that it will also be for the benefit of the defence team because it will know the direction the case is taking.

The charges the accused face include murder, attempted murder, risk to injury or death and aggravated assault. Charges have already been read to the accused and they are yet to plead. Metro/LeNA

FastFACTS

South Sudan is the youngest country in the world

Some countries are hundreds of years old, while others can trace their nation's history back for thousands of years. But South Sudan in North Africa just gained its independence from Sudan in 2011, which currently makes it the youngest country in the world.

On This Day in History

1998



December 16

President Clinton orders air attack on Iraq

On December 16, 1998, President Bill Clinton announces he has ordered air strikes against Iraq because it refused to cooperate with United Nations (U.N.) weapons inspectors. Clinton's decision did not have the support of key members of Congress, who accused Clinton of using the air strikes to direct attention away from ongoing impeachment proceedings against him. Just the day before, the House of Representatives had issued a report accusing Clinton of committing "high crimes and misdemeanours" related to the Monica Lewinsky scandal, in which Clinton had - and then lied about - an illicit sexual liaison with an intern in the Oval Office.

At the time of the air strikes, Iraq was resisting unfettered access by U.N. inspectors to its alleged operations to build weapons of mass destruction. Fearful of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's belligerence, and his penchant for using those weapons against his own people, the U.N. sent in weapons inspectors in 1997. After repeatedly refusing the inspectors access to certain sites, Clinton resorted to air strikes to compel Hussein to cooperate.

Many in Congress agreed with Republican majority leader Trent Lott that the timing of the air strikes was "suspect" and "cursory." In their opinion, the air strikes were simply a ploy to direct the public's attention away from the impeachment proceedings, and would ultimately prove futile in persuading Hussein to comply with the U.N.'s demands. Lott and his cohorts considered sustained bombardment of Iraq and the direct overthrow of Hussein the only way to end Iraq's weapons program. Clinton, in a televised public address that day brushed aside the criticism, saying that the Iraqi president was wrong if he thought "...the serious debate [on impeachment] would distract Americans or weaken our resolve to face him down." He emphasized that his decision to launch air strikes was critical to America's vital interests and to the security of the world.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

What is the exact difference between a split second and a nanosecond?

I have discovered the answer to a question that has been puzzling scientists for hundreds of years.

What is the exact difference between a split second and a nanosecond?

My girlfriend and I were getting ready to go to a movie when, right as we were about to leave home, my girlfriend asked me the question all guys dread.

She asked, "Does this make my butt look big?"

If I had said "no" in a nanosecond, we'd have been out the door.

Since I took a split second, she had to go to the mall and buy new outfits with jewellery, shoes, and purses to match.

Quotes & Quips!

"Para sports enable young people to demonstrate that sporting success and excellence is not only reserved for the able bodied. Inclusivity is at the centre of the Commonwealth Games and the 2022 Birmingham Games will include the largest integrated para sport programme of any Commonwealth Games to date,"

says Anne Macro, the British High Commissioner to Lesotho as the mountain Kingdom prepares for the next week arrival of the Queen's Baton. The Queen's Baton Relay signifies the beginning of the Commonwealth Games



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CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	22.239
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	15.94
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	18.22
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.54
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.14
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	21.43
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	11.53
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	2.07
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	11.82
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.039
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.029
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.33
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	1.03
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.22
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	4.31
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	5.16
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.84
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.21
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.40
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.37



Half of children in Lesotho multi-dimensionally poor - report

4

Metro BUSINESS

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS		PRECIOUS METALS	
S&P500	4,634.09	Gold p/ounce	1,769.95
NASDAQ100	15,914.90	Platinum p/ounce	921.45
Nikkei225	28,459.72	Silver p/ounce	21.58
Dow Jones30	35,544.18	Copper p/ounce	4.20
FTSE 100	7,208.95	Brent Oil p/barrel	73.05
JSE	71,814.00	EQUITIES	
Hang Seng	23,416.31	Bonds	18.44
		Treasury Bills	3.67
		Interest Rates	91

AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M16.60
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M16.80
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M16.60
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

UK removes Lesotho from travel red list

...Red list reintroduced in November as precaution after emergence of Omicron variant

NEO SENOKO

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MASERU – Lesotho has since Wednesday been removed from the United Kingdom (UK)'s travel red list.

The country is part of 11 nations including all Southern African Customs Union (SACU) member states that have been set free, allowing travel to continue between these countries and the UK.

Apart from SACU member states, other southern African countries that have been removed from the red list include Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The red list was reintroduced in late November as a precaution after the emergence of the new Omicron variant.

The UK Health Secretary, Sajid Javid said the new virus has spread so widely that the rules no longer have much purpose.

"Now that there is community transmission of Omicron in the UK and Omicron has spread so widely across the world, the travel red list is now less effective in slowing the incursion of Omicron from abroad," he told the British parliament this week.

Meanwhile, all UK arrivals from red list countries are required to pay for and self-isolate in a pre-booked, government approved hotel for 10 days.

But with these 11 African countries being removed from the list, it has been confirmed that those currently in managed quarantine would be allowed to leave early and follow the rules as if they arrived from a non-red list country.

These developments come shortly after both Southern African Development Community (SADC) and SACU expressed dissatisfaction on the imposition of travel ban, arguing that it is unfair, irrational and unscientific.

SACU particularly cited that the ban would impact transparency in the sharing of information relating to Covid-19 in the future.

"The ban is particularly a crushing blow to our tourism industry and for the many lives and livelihoods that depend on it," SACU revealed during its virtual meeting recently.

The travel ban would further impact negatively on the economies of the region, undermine the recovery efforts and further increase poverty and hunger amongst people.

The new coronavirus variant was first detected in South Africa and has caused global alarm resulting in many European Union (EU) states resolving to suspend travel from southern Africa.

The United States (US), among other nations, also implemented similar travel restrictions in an effort to curb the spread of the new strain and despite those actions the variant has been reported in dozens of countries and several American states in recent weeks.

The UK has recorded more than 4 700 Omicron corona virus cases, according to Reuters, with 10 of the infected people being hospitalised.

At least one person in the UK has died after contracting the variant, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, announced on

Monday.

The Lesotho Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, 'Matšepo Molise - Ramakoae said they were shocked by the decision to ban travel from Lesotho, especially since there was no research done to confirm that the country has the Omicron variant.

"We therefore did not say anything to the UK Government, as we had expected it

to deal with the matter accordingly.

The Government of Russian Federation has over the weekend also imposed travel ban on Lesotho and nine other countries including Botswana, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Eswatini, the Republic of South Africa and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.



Minister 'Matšepo Molise - Ramakoae

Business

Half of children in Lesotho multi-dimensionally poor – report

- A total of 52.5 percent of rural children are deprived in three or more deprivations
- Multi-dimensional child poverty is higher in rural areas by 19.4 percentage points compared to urban areas

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Almost half of the children in Lesotho, (45.5 percent) are multi dimensionally poor, a newly released multi-faceted child poverty report has revealed.

The document, which was prepared as a

collaboration between the Bureau of Statistics (BOS), the Ministry of Development Planning as well as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) shows that an alarming 94.6 percent of Basotho children experience deprivation in at least one dimension.

It mainly focuses on eight dimensions including education, nutrition, health and protection from violence, which are measured

at the level of the child while the other four, comprising of water, sanitation, housing and access to information are measured at the household level, meaning that they affect all household members equally, regardless of age.

Even though there are eight dimensions in total, three age groups, 0-23 months, 5-12 years and 13-17 years were assessed against seven dimensions defining their welfare, while



UNICEF representative to Lesotho, Anurita Bains

six were considered for the aged group, 24-59 months. One or more indicators define each dimension.

"These multi-dimensionally poor children experience, on average, 55.6 percent of all possible deprivations, that is, equivalent to 3.49 out of a total of seven deprivations. The proportion of deprived children with simultaneous deprivations is higher in rural areas than in urban," the report says.

A total of 52.5 percent of rural children are deprived in three or more deprivations compared to 33.1 percent of urban children who are deprived in three or more deprivations.

In fact, multi-dimensional child poverty is higher in rural areas by 19.4 percentage points compared to urban areas. More boys, 48.2 percent are multi-dimensionally poor as compared to girls at 43 percent.

Male headed households have higher proportion of multi-dimensionally poor children relative to female headed households.

"51.9 percent of children living in a household whose head has primary or no education are deprived in three or more dimensions compared to 34.7 percent when the head has secondary education and 17.5 percent if the household head has vocational or university degree. Households with five or more children record 58.7 percent child poverty rate. This figure drops to 39.8 percent when there are at most two children in the household," adds the report.

According to the UNICEF representative to Lesotho, Anurita Bains, there are clear and specific actions that can be taken by the country to reduce multi-dimensional poverty and make progress for the community and for every child.

Among other things, she noted that the country needs to continue efforts to improve access to clean water and basic sanitation, especially in schools and communities as well as put more focus on nutrition for pregnant women and children in the first 1000 days of life.

"With focused programmes and outreach, we can make progress against this indicator, which remains stubbornly high. The impact of COVID-19 on children in terms of learning has been devastating. But before the pandemic, we knew that children were not achieving the levels of learning expected for their age.

"I want to acknowledge the efforts by the Lesotho Government to get children back in school during the pandemic, this has been an important step during these unprecedented times," Ms Bains also said.

Additionally, she noted that scaling up reception year classes will set the foundation for lifelong learning for children, which is a critical way to improve learning outcomes.

Other recommendations include accelerating access to electricity, especially in the highlands and foothills, using green energy solutions as well as expanding the successful Child Grant Programme so that all poor and vulnerable households are reached.

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SACU laments travel ban on member states

...the body says the ban is unfair, irrational and will impact transparency in sharing of Covid-19 related information

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – The Southern African Customs Union (SACU), a customs union among five countries of southern Africa including Lesotho, Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia and South African has lamented the decision by several European countries to impose travel bans on its members, saying it will have malevolent repercussions on the region.

The body says the ban is unfair, irrational, unscientific and will impact transparency in the sharing of information relating to Covid-19 in the future.

The decision came following the detection of the Omicron Covid-19 variant.

SACU has expressed concerns that the decision is an act against

and punishment for openness, transparency and discourages high quality scientific practices.

The travel ban will further impact negatively on the economies of the region, undermine the recovery efforts and further increase poverty and hunger amongst people.

“The ban is particularly a crushing blow to our tourism industry and for the many lives and livelihoods that depend on it,” SACU revealed during its virtual meeting recently.

The new coronavirus variant was first detected in South Africa and has caused global alarm resulting in many European Union (EU) states resolving to suspend travel from southern Africa. These countries have also been urged to discourage travel to those countries.

SACU has therefore called upon the World Trade Organisation (WTO), an intergovernmental organisation that regulates and facilitates international trade between nations to expedite the decision on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver that enables its member states to produce vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and support the discovery of the new variants.

In July this year, WTO members agreed to continue consideration of the proposal for a temporary waiver of certain TRIPS obligations in response to Covid-19 and other related proposals.

“Finally we wish to implore the



SACU Executive Secretary, Paulina Mbala Elago

world community to work together to develop a coordinated global response to the pandemic in order to respond effectively by ensuring equitable access to vaccines, with adequate tracing and vaccine manufacturing capabilities,” SACU added.

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health the new Omicron coronavirus strain already found in 63 countries worldwide will surpass Delta in

spreading speed.

“As of December 9, 2021, cases of human infections with this variant have been identified in 63 countries across all six WHO regions,” reads the overview by WHO.

It is not clear yet, why the new strain is spreading so fast, the health body adds.

“However, given the current available data, it is likely that Omicron will outpace the Delta variant where community transmission occurs,” the report further shows.

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Comments & Letters

The LRCS needs to be applauded

The Editor,

Having a friend who stands by you through your darkest hour is something to be grateful for. The Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) stood with us at our lowest, when we thought our lives were over, after our homes were blown away by strong winds that ravaged Sehlabathebe in Qacha's Nek from August 26 -28.

We saw a true friend in the LRCS after those disastrous times. Words alone cannot express how indebted we are for the kindness and generosity we saw at the hands of the association and its staff. We received food parcels, mattresses and blankets and the noble gesture has not gone unnoticed.

The Society's mental health and psychosocial support unit is still helping us to deal with the ordeal and the impact of its work is truly amazing. Although we are not completely healed yet, there is however, light at the end of the tunnel because we are now able to comfort our own children who suffered the same fate.

We all need help from time to time. We are hopeful that our government will also step up and land a helping hand somehow.

Liengoane Mosola,
Sehlabathebe, Qacha's Nek

Let us take care of people with dementia

The Editor,

Caring for a loved one with dementia poses many challenges for families and caregivers. People with dementia from conditions such as Alzheimer's and other related diseases have a progressive biological brain disorder that makes it difficult for them to remember things, think clearly, communicate with others and take care of themselves.

It is very challenging to look after a relative or a friend who has dementia.

It is important for people to look after their own health, but it is equally important to take care of our ill relatives, friends and neighbours.

The problem with memory loss is that it takes a while to detect it in another person and sometimes it can be mistaken for other illnesses or conditions.

As the World celebrates Dementia Day every year on September 21, we should all remember to give support to people out there who are struggling to remember things as well as they did before. The aim of the commemoration is to raise awareness around, educate, encourage support and demystify dementia.

Mammota Libe
Tsakholo, Mafeteng

Basotho have a right to service delivery

The Editor,

The general elections are just around the corner and people will soon be casting their votes to elect their leaders. But the sorry fact is the same people who expect to be re-elected into power fail to deliver when the nation is so desperate for services.

The list of our needs as citizens is endless. After all, we have a right to live here and expect to be served.

But the question is, why can't our leaders make a little difference and make us happy by addressing especially our basic needs?

The nation is thirsty, despite the volumes of water that are even exported to South Africa.

The sorry state of our roads is mind-boggling when motorists are paying hefty tariffs to keep their vehicles on public roads. As Basotho, we demand service delivery because it is our right.

Tieang 'Noko
Lekhalong Ha Tsosane, Maseru

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

How children in Lesotho experience poverty

In the past 15 years, Lesotho enjoyed a steady growth in GDP of around 3 percent, and the national poverty rate has decreased from 56.6 percent, in 2002 to 49.7 percent in 2017.

Despite the overall improvement in national poverty, many Basotho children and adolescents are still living in multi-dimensional poverty.

Knowing which children are poor, where they live, and the make-up of their household is important-not only to understand the situation, but also to design the right policies and implement the programmes that will address and reduce poverty for every child. With this commitment in mind, UNICEF, together with the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics (BOS) in the Ministry of Development Planning conducted a "MODA" analysis for Lesotho.

MODA stands for Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis and is a specific tool that UNICEF developed so that it can go beyond measuring poverty by household income and expenditure alone.

Instead, MODA allows the UNICEF to focus on how people, especially children, experience life. To achieve this, MODA measures the poverty of outcomes. Put simply: MODA allows the UNICEF to measure what goods and services a family is able to access for their children to achieve their well-being and full development. MODA's unique advantage versus other poverty measures is that it captures how children at different ages uniquely experience poverty. The methodology is, in fact, able to dissect what children would be deprived of, at different ages, in terms of key results of cognitive and physical development and of well-being and the extent to which the different deprivations overlap. Inspired by the Convention of the Rights of the Child, a key international convention ratified by Lesotho, the MODA methodology is context specific, with each country determining what dimensions are most important for its children's development. In Lesotho, eight dimensions were measured in the MODA analysis. Four dimensions are measured at the household level because they affect all household members equally, regardless of age: water, sanitation, housing, and access to information. The other four dimensions: nutrition, health, education, and protection from violence, are measured for each child. Depending on the age of the child, different measures are applied. The focus in Lesotho, looked at four distinct age groups of children: infancy (0-23 months), early childhood (24-59 months), primary childhood (5-12 years) and adolescence (13-17 years).

Findings from the MODA analysis are a sobering wake up to all: more than two in five children, or 45.5 percent of all Basotho children, are multi-dimensionally poor. That is, almost half of children in Lesotho are deprived in three or more dimensions of poverty. Alarmingly, almost all children, 94.6 percent, experience at least one deprivation.

New analysis shows that more than 2 in 5 children are poor in many overlapping areas.

Whether you are a boy or a girl, living in an urban or rural area, the size of your household and the number of years of education of your parent or caregiver has an impact on child multidimensional poverty.

Here, therefore, are some important additional facts from a newly released multi-faceted child poverty report.

- ♦ Small children are far more vulnerable than older ones. This is true for children worldwide. In Lesotho, 68.8 per cent of children from 0 to 23 months of age are multi-dimensionally poor, whereas only 38.2 per cent of Basotho children aged five to 12 years are poor.

- ♦ Unique to Lesotho, slightly more boys (48.2 per cent) than girls (43.0 per cent) are multi-dimensionally poor.

- ♦ Thaba Tseka (65.4%) and Mokhotlong (63.8%) have the highest rates of poor children, while Leribe and Maseru (both at 37.8 per cent) have the lower rates. On examining the urban, rural divide, multi-dimensional child poverty remains highest in rural areas at 52.5 per cent compared to 31.1 per cent in urban areas.

- ♦ If your caregiver has no or fewer years of education, you are more likely to be deprived in more overlapping areas. Perhaps not surprising, the larger your household is (seven or more members), the higher the child poverty rate.

- ♦ Male-headed households have a higher proportion of multi-dimensionally poor children than female-headed households.

There is some good news – if we compare to the first multi-dimensional child poverty analysis done in 2014 in Lesotho, there has been an improvement in most dimensions of deprivation for children. The analysis conducted in 2014 reported 65.4% of Basotho children as living in multidimensional poverty.

Since then the country has reduced that number by almost 20 percentage points, which is laudable.

But these declines and comparisons take place with data before COVID-19. We know COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the country, the economy, families and children. We will need to focus and accelerate the pace of programmes that address child poverty if we are to continue to make progress toward the SDG target of halving child poverty by half by 2030.

How can we continue to make progress? The report outlines a number of important recommendations. I'd like to highlight four:

1. We need to improve access to clean water and basic sanitation, especially in schools and communities, something so critical, especially in light of COVID-19. We know from MICS 2018 data that 4 in 5 households in Lesotho had access to basic drinking water while only half of the households had access to basic sanitation. This can and should be addressed. We also know Lesotho is on the path to ending open defecation, and if we support rural communities to do this, Lesotho can achieve the target of zero open defecation.

2. The process led by the government for every child to get a

birth certificate is improving. Being registered from birth allows children to be counted in government systems and programmes, including the

government-led Child Grant Programme, which provides cash transfers to households most in need. But the MODA analysis showed that only 27% of children 0-23 months are currently registered in the national system. We need to accelerate this process and support communities and

facilities to have easy access to registering the birth of a newborn.

3. As noted in the 2018 MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey), Lesotho has a high rate of stunting among children, at 34.5 per cent. With a focus on nutrition for pregnant women and children in the first 1,000 days of life as noted in the Lesotho Food and Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan, we could make progress against this indicator, which has stubbornly remained high.

4. The impact of COVID-19 on education and learning for children was devastating. But even before COVID-19, we knew that children were not achieving the levels of learning for their age. For example, the 2018 MICS revealed that less than half of children aged 7 to 14 years (44.2 per cent) showed foundational reading skills in either English or Sesotho. And that while four out of five children completed primary school, only 1 in 3 children completed upper secondary school. Efforts by government to get children back in school during the pandemic must be acknowledged and is an important step in the right direction. Together, as partners and government, we need to continue to ensure that children receive quality education when they are in school and can continue learning beyond the four walls of a school. Scaling up reception year classes will set the foundation for lifelong learning for children and is a critical way to improving learning outcomes. Furthermore, the youth should be supported to complete their education by promoting access to alternative learning pathways, including employability and life skills, especially for those out of school.

Reports such as the MODA help us deepen our understanding of what life is like for children in Lesotho in 2021. We must use this information to inform our investments, our policies, including informing the development of the National Strategic Development Plan II and our programmes. Let's use the evidence and data to reduce child poverty, diminish deprivations for infants, children and adolescents and create the opportunity for every child to realize their dreams.

Anurita Bains is the UNICEF Representative in Lesotho



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GIVE US NEWS

If you have any News Tip you would like to share with us, send an email with your contact details and phone number to: editor@maserumetro.com.

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Minister of Home Affairs, Motalentoa Letsosa

Clashing schedules at border affect tax collection

...time differences make work at the border a bit difficult because normally both sides should complement one another

QACHA – The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic since its advent in 2019 and all restrictions that have been put in place in order to curb the spread of the fatal virus have among others forced border management services to be unusually second-rate.

Efforts by border managers to keep the virus under control instigated several challenges that made movement across the borders relatively difficult.

In spite of all the challenges met, they had to find a way out to continue providing services to travelers and that included scheduled time operations to among others open and close borders and the kind of people who are allowed to cross borders.

Mantši Tšeane, the Qacha's Nek District Administrator (DA), said things have been uncomfortable on their side since the outbreak of the pandemic, with the South African (RSA) border

management schedules clashing with theirs and causing a lot of confusion to travellers in the process.

He said the RSA border opens at 8am and closes at 4pm while Lesotho's opens at 730am and closes at 6pm every day.

Mr Tšeane said the time differences make their work a bit difficult because normally they should complement one another as the two sides work hand in hand on a daily basis.

"Traders now have to leave their vehicles, especially loaded lorries on the other side of the border on their way back to home because the border closes too early, this has led to theft of their equipment and loss of several property because there is insufficient security at the border," he said.

He said they try their best to harmonise the situation at the border but to no avail, adding that lately, that has resulted in countless cases of illegal entry and departure from the country.

These acts, he said not only put people's lives at risk because they cross at dangerous points but they also affect proper collection of taxes by the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA).

"This is because taxes cannot be collected at these dangerous points where people illegally cross, especially at night," he said.

He therefore pleaded with all the relevant stakeholders to get fully involved in the matter, especially at this time of the year when many people who work in South Africa return to Lesotho for the holiday season," he adds. LeNA



JOB SPECIFICATION – STATUTORY & COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Main Purpose of the Role

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Key Deliverables

1. Statutory: Administer compliance by the company with the Companies Act and all related legislation and ensure compliance with corporate governance guidelines, codes and regulations.
2. Compliance: Perform compliance planning, develop compliance policies and procedures and collaborate closely with the operations teams as required. Review and monitor internal practices and procedures to ensure compliance with regulatory and Group requirements and current policies

The Candidate

We seek the following in our desired candidate:

Qualification Requirement

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2. A relevant Compliance Officer's Examination experience will be advantageous.

Experience / Background Preference

1. Candidates will have no less than three years relevant experience.
2. Experience within the financial services industry is essential.
3. Familiarity with and knowledge of the compliance and regulatory requirements of a financial institution operating in Africa will be advantageous.
4. A strong command of English, both written and verbal, is a requirement of the role.

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Please forward applications to Teboho Mokhali: mokhalit@lesana.co.ls

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If you do not hear from us within two weeks, please consider your application for this particular vacancy unsuccessful. In this instance, please be assured that we shall retain your application and will be in touch should a suitable opportunity arise in the future.

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Ministry rolls out Pfizer vaccine campaign for kids

...as the public complains that population group aged between 12 and 17 has unduly not received essential COVID jobs

LINEO MABEKEBEKE
health@maserumetro.com

MASERU – The Ministry of Health will on Wednesday roll out a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination campaign aimed at children aged between 12 and 17.

This, after the public complained that the population in that age group has unduly not been receiving the essential COVID jobs since Lesotho received its first COVID-19 vaccine earlier this year.

“

Consistently wear your mask when you are around others. Regularly sanitise or wash your hands with running water. Observe social distancing guidelines

According to a notice released by the ministry this week, districts which will first initiate the use of the Pfizer vaccine include Maseru, Leribe, Berea and Mafeteng, while the remaining ones will follow later.

Parents and guardians of children in the said age group are therefore urged to ensure that their children go to the selected health facilities for vaccination.

The public is also reminded that this is the type of vaccine which needs to be kept under extremely cold temperatures and that it requires ultra-cold consistent storage at about minus 70 to minus 80 Degrees Celsius.

Those who have not yet vaccinated are further urged to vaccinate as the country begins to see high numbers of positive cases.

Pfizer vaccine is the first on the market that consists of actual genetic information from a virus in the form of messenger RNA, a type of molecule whose usual job is to transport copies of genetic instructions around a cell to guide the assembly of proteins.

The MIT Technology Review has also shown that the new vaccine, delivered as a shot in the arm muscle, contains an RNA sequence taken from the virus itself.

On November 10, Lesotho received its first donation of 100 620 doses of the Pfizer vaccine through the COVAX facility in coordination with the African Union

(AU).

The donation was aimed at supporting Lesotho's national vaccine campaign and helping protect Basotho from the ravages of the COVID-19.

The shipment was part of the consignment of millions of COVID-19 doses donated to African countries through the COVAX facility, in close coordination with the AU and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

As the country heads into the festive season, the US ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales has consequently appealed to Basotho to put more effort to recover from the devastating effects of

COVID-19.

She further warned them to ensure that all continue to adhere to safety precautions as guided by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other agencies like the CDC and the Ministry of Health.

“Consistently wear your mask when you are around others. Regularly sanitise or wash your hands with running water. Observe social distancing guidelines,” Ms Gonzales noted.

The vaccine donation signifies a continuation of the USA's global leadership in public health and the international COVID-19 response, which is said to be critical to ending the pandemic.



The US ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales

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The world in 10 minutes

USA

Trump slams Israel's Netanyahu for congratulating Biden

Former President Donald Trump lashed out with profanity at Benjamin Netanyahu for congratulating President Joe Biden on his victory in last year's election, an Israeli newspaper has reported.

Trump accused the former Israeli leader of disloyalty, saying he had helped Netanyahu in his own elections by reversing decades of U.S. policy and supporting Israel's claims to territory seized in war. Trump is still falsely claiming the U.S. election was stolen from him.

In interviews earlier this year with the Israeli journalist Barak Ravid, Trump expressed fury at a video Netanyahu circulated online in which he congratulated Biden.

"Nobody did more for Bibi. And I liked Bibi. I still like Bibi," Trump said, referring to Netanyahu by his nickname, in the remarks published by the Yedioth Aharonot newspaper. "But I also like loyalty... Bibi could have stayed quiet. He has made a terrible mistake."



THAILAND

A Thai chain's cannabis pizza is trendy, but it won't get you high

One of Thailand's major fast food chains has been promoting its "Crazy Happy Pizza" this month, an under-the-radar product topped with a cannabis leaf. It's legal but won't get you high.

Veterans of the backpacker trail, familiar with the legendary pizza parlors of neighboring Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh that offer powerful marijuana as an optional condiment, might feel downright cheated.

"Of course, they cannot get high," Panusak Suensatboon, general manager of The Pizza Company, said in an interview this week. "It's just a marketing campaign, and you can taste the cannabis and then if you have enough, you maybe get a bit sleepy."



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Camel Beauty Contest Rocked By Botox Scandal

This year, authorities discovered dozens of breeders had injected camels' heads and lips with Botox to make them bigger.

Saudi authorities have conducted their biggest-ever crackdown on camel beauty contestants that received Botox injections and other artificial touch-ups, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported Wednesday, with over 40 camels disqualified from the annual pageant.

Saudi Arabia's popular King Abdulaziz Camel Festival, which kicked off earlier this month, invites the breeders of the most beautiful camels to compete for some \$66 million in prize money. Botox injections, face lifts and other cosmetic alterations to make the camels more attractive are strictly prohibited. Jurors decide the winner based on the shape of the camels' heads, necks, humps, dress and postures.

Judges at the monthlong festival in the desert northeast of the Saudi capital, Riyadh, are escalating their clamp down on artificially enhanced camels, the official news agency reported, using "specialized and advanced" technology to detect tampering.

This year, authorities discovered dozens of breeders had stretched out the lips and noses of camels, used hormones to boost the beasts' muscles, injected camels' heads and lips with Botox to make them bigger, inflated body parts with rubber bands and used fillers to relax their faces.



SOUTH AFRICA

Nine-year-old's opera voice wows social media

A video of a nine-year-old South African girl singing Franz Schubert's Ave Maria has captured people's hearts and racked up nearly half a million views on Twitter.

Gugulethu Ndzendze from East London has been making waves locally for some time, especially since her mother shared a video in September of her singing O Mio Babbino Caro.

Since then she has been invited to take part in a UK-based TV talent contest and will be singing at the opening of parliament next year, her father Bongani Ndzendze told South African news site IOL.

"Gugulethu is very talented, especially for someone her age. When her video was shared and went viral, it opened our eyes at how talented she is," Bongani is quoted as saying.

On Twitter people have left comments reflecting how amazed they are at Gugulethu's abilities.

"Not much leaves me totally arrested, but this did. I feel like I've just listened to a major classical artist of tomorrow," one person said.

"That sounds like a voice that has studied for years, not like a 9 year old. Literal goosebumps listening to the smooth and effortless transitions," wrote another.



GHANA

Unvaccinated barred from going to Ghana

Ghana is introducing some of the world's strictest Covid travel rules, by banning any adult who has not been vaccinated from flying in and there is no option to self-isolate.

Ghanaian citizens and residents abroad are exempt for up to two weeks, but will be required to get jabbed upon landing at the airport.

The authorities say they are concerned about a surge of infections over the festive period.

Alongside the new measures, Ghanaian authorities will also still insist that all arrivals present a negative PCR test.

All Ghanaians flying out of the country will also need to be fully vaccinated.



MOROCCO

Lectures in court over sex for grades in Morocco

Four lecturers at a leading university in Morocco have appeared in court over accusations of offering students better grades in exchange for sex.

The academics have been charged with incitement to debauchery, gender discrimination and violence against women. They have not yet pleaded.

This is the latest sexual harassment scandal to hit a Moroccan higher education institution.

However, it is rare for a case to be brought to court.

The lecturers are from the Hassan I University in the city of Settat, about 80km (50 miles) south of the main city, Casablanca.

A fifth lecturer is facing charges of indecent assault and battery.

Maputsoe gig targets factory workers

...as 'Makhubelu' plans to hold audiences in stitches at his next stand-up comedy show



Makhubelu with South African actress Lillian Dube last weekend in Leribe

KABELO MASOABI

LERIBE – BUDDING local stand-up comedian, Litabe Kotelo, better known

as 'Makhubelu' is expected to hold audiences in stitches at a comedy session scheduled for Wella's Park in St Monica's, Leribe, on Saturday.

The much-anticipated show titled: Factory Summer Madness, basically organised as a closing party for factory workers in Maputsoe, will also feature

heavy-duty famo artist, Sphaka along with up and coming local disc jockeys (DJs) such as DJ Shaker, DJ Darling K, and Dj Chacha.

This will be the second time that Kotelo performs at the venue. In 2019, he had the audience laughing its lungs out at the First Annual Comedy Night gig held at the same joint.

In the famous and brief 'Makhubelu' movies, Kotelo portrays a vicious rural woman who ill-treats her elderly and unemployed husband, "Seoelo".

In real life, Kotelo is a down-to-earth and qualified high school male teacher who is actually quite modest.

Like the community influencer that he is, 'Makhubelu' who is a high school teacher, is a household name in the country. He normally celebrates his birthdays by visiting inmates at prisons around the country.

Advising the youth about following their dreams, Kotelo says it is imperative for them to move out of their comfort zone and discover their individual talents.

"You should learn to use your talents to your own advantage if you want to get far in life," he says, adding however, that every road has its own challenges.

On several occasions, the talented entertainer has complained about being harassed by fans who accuse him of being gay because he impersonates a woman in his brief comedy films.

"Makhubelu has talents she is yet to show to the world. What if you were to go to church and find her behind the piano playing soothing melodies? Lesotho's new and rising comedian has many videos on YouTube, if you want to have a good laugh, download 'Makhubelu Part 3,' suggests a fan, 'Mamotena Sethoba from Maputsoe.

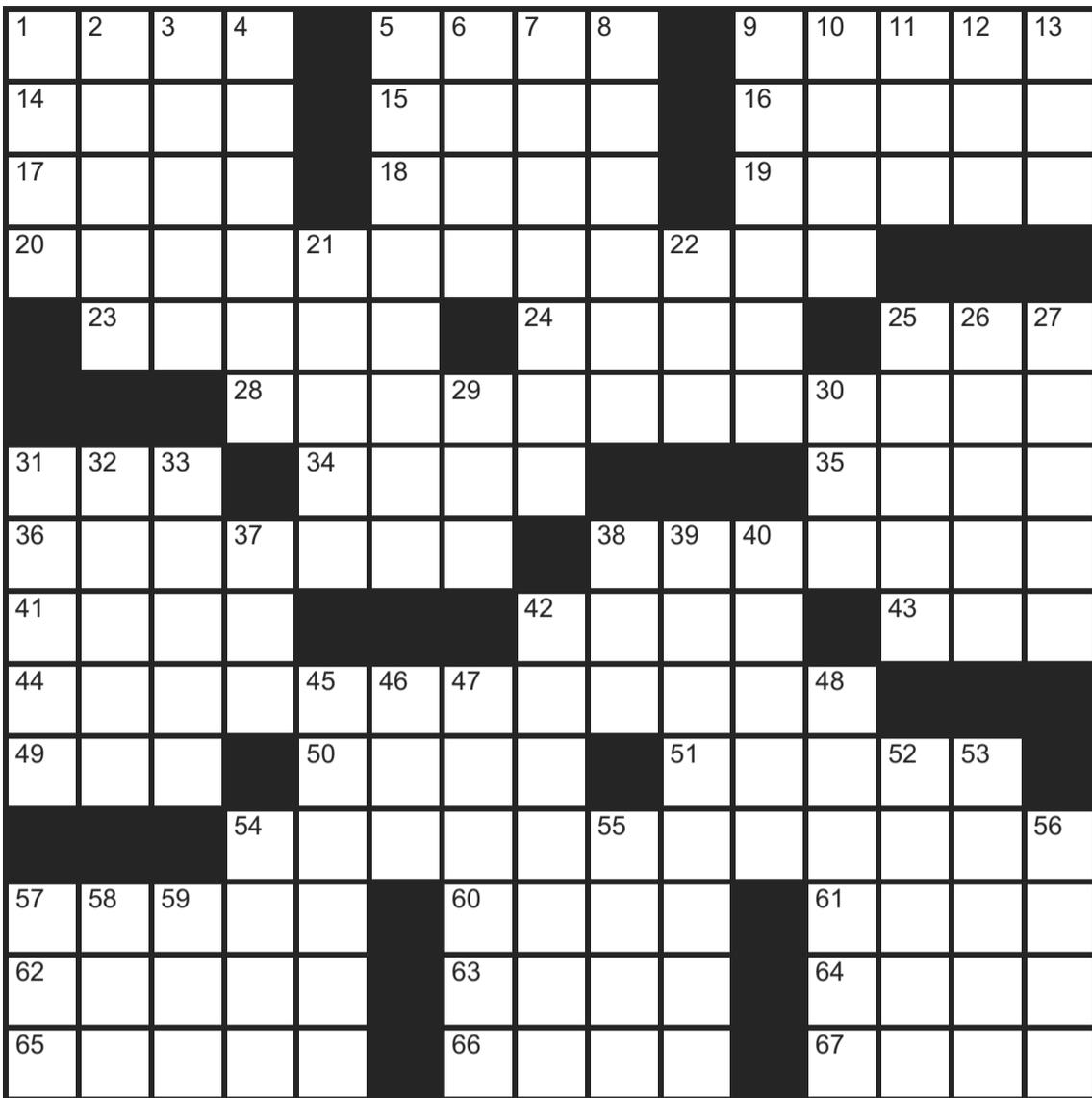
In other events, he collaborates with Bofihla 'Lilaphalapha' 'Neko, who is an actor, producer and director of the Sesotho comic movie series, Lilaphalapha.

'Neko is no newcomer to the game and has played leading roles in the four Lilaphalapha comedy movies produced so far.

Famo musician Sphaka is expected to be in his best form on Saturday, much to the delight of the factory workers who are crazy about his music.

Sphaka climbed to the limelight after he released hit song titled, Lipapatlele that went viral.

General Crosswords

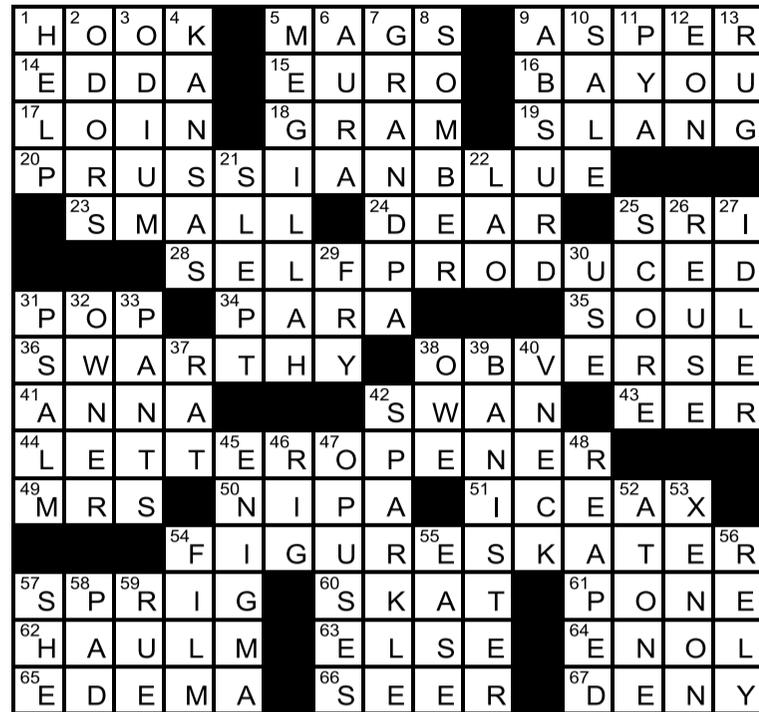


- Across**
- Cut short
 - Hindu deity
 - Prophesy
 - Civil rights activist Parks
 - _____ the Terrible
 - Muddle
 - Greasy
 - Fodder holder
 - Kitchen light
 - Skull breadth ratio
 - Mideast leaders
 - Lip-_____
 - Certain investment, for short
 - Numerical
 - Outback runner
 - Golf ball props
 - Opening time, maybe
 - Gate

- Arm shield
- Brilliantly colored fish
- Trattoria order
- "Are we there?"
- Retrogression
- Bard's "before"
- Shade of black
- Milky gems
- Actualize
- Turning point
- Curbside call
- Brother of Cain
- Parenthetical comment
- Freudian topics
- Cub Scout groups
- Makeup problem
- Landlord's due
- Blackthorn fruit

- Down**
- Gator's kin
 - France's longest river
 - Muhammad's religion
 - Heathen
 - Fiasco
 - Nefarious
 - Overnight cases
 - Nom de guerre
 - Appearance
 - Popular computer operating system
 - _____ Friday
 - Roswell sighting
 - Same old, same old
 - Livid
 - Genetic stuff
 - In a cold manner
 - Hindu queen
 - It may be red

Last Week's Solution



- Egg warmer
- Calligrapher's purchase
- Lyric poem
- Someone down in the dumps
- Grammar topic
- Everyday article
- Kind of part
- Member of the AFL-CIO
- Take over, in a way
- Superior or favorable position
- Fix
- Wane
- Line-up
- Water nymphs
- Record company
- Kind of pad
- Fountain order
- Neurotransmission site
- Ultimatum word
- _____ de deux
- Doctrine: Suffix
- Contend (for)

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

My bath has two taps and a plug hole. The cold tap on its own fills the bath in 12 minutes, the hot one in 5 minutes. The plug hole can drain the bath in 30 minutes with the taps off. How long will the bath take to fill if I leave both taps on with the plug left out?

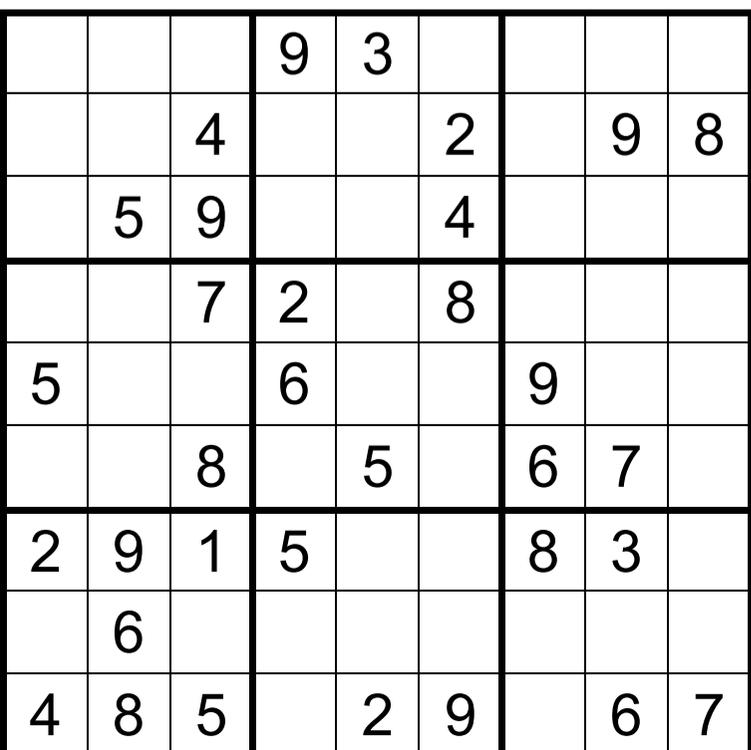


Last Week's Answer



White, because he was at the north pole and saw a polar bear.

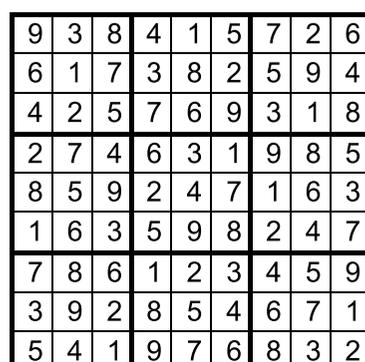
Sudoku Puzzle



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

Use Your Headrest

Before you hit the road, sit up straight, raise your head as high as you can, and press it into the headrest. Hold it there for five seconds, then relax and repeat five times. This will improve your posture and put muscles like your multifidus to work to keep your spine erect. This, in turn, will reduce the strain on your neck.

If you ever find yourself in a car that's submerged under water, your first instinct should be to try and open either the window or the door in the first few seconds of touching water. Unfortunately, if you wait

any longer than that, the lopsided ambient water pressure subjected to the car will make it impossible to open the car door, and the now ubiquitous power windows will likely short out.

Sure, you could wait until the pressure has equalized on both sides of the car, but this usually happens after the car fills with up water and hits the bottom of wherever you're sinking into.

By the time the car door can be safely opened, you'll be dead.

Another tactic, which is preferable to

waiting and dying, is to take action. Look around your car and search for any sharp or blunt objects, (skateboard, umbrella, hammer, gun) which you can then use to try and shatter the glass window and escape.

If you can't find anything, you might resort to kicking or punching the window with your fist. Bad idea. Save your energy and oxygen.

So as the car is filling with water and it's slowly creeping up your legs and past your waist, what other options do you have other than accept your deadly fate?

Serving to prevent severe neck injuries, removable headrests can also help save your life when your car is sinking in water.

While not ALL headrests are detachable, the majority of them are. It makes the seats easier to install and uninstall by the factory, and allows many seats to lay back flat when removed.

Luckily, this can also serve another purpose.

If you're in a sinking car, remove the headrest from your seat. Place one of the two metal rods between the window and the door and insert it into the car. Make sure to slide it in on one of the bottom two edges of the window, because that's where it's weakest.

After the rod is snug inside, pull the headrest towards you and the window should shatter. You can see this method being performed in a sinking car (at 0:20 seconds) in the video below.

With a simple pull the entire glass will shatter (so close your eyes), allowing you to easily break off the glass that hasn't fallen, with your hand.

So if you ever find yourself in this disastrous situation, don't panic and just remember about your headrest - it may just save your neck in more than one way.

New Amarok: From South Africa to the World



since way back in 2011. Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles is a partner of the Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA) in their important rhinoceros protection work.

Completely new vehicle with "clear Volkswagen DNA"

Looks good, and is highly capable: the new Amarok not only has a completely new appearance inside and out, but in future also has even more extensive equipment on board, which is useful not only when being utilised as work tools. "The Amarok makes possible what in many places appears impossible at first sight: it makes things easier for its users by assisting them in their work and everyday lives", says Dr Lars Krause, Brand Board of Management Member for Sales and Marketing at Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. "That's because the Amarok provides solutions that enable our customers to achieve their goals – especially when things get difficult."

Now in its third generation, the new vehicle has significantly more driver assist systems and knows how to impress customers in terms of connectivity. The Amarok will from 2022 thus be featuring innovations that have not been seen before in this segment. And it will still, of course, not be deterred by any rough terrain.

As Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles' all-rounder, the new Amarok impresses with its compelling lines and its overall appearance. "The striking front, and above all the defining X design clearly distinguish the new Amarok and emphasise its claim to be leading the way", confirms Albert-Johann Kirzinger, Head of Design at Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. "We've given the strength and power of the new Amarok an unambiguous expression—with clear Volkswagen DNA, inside and out." This shows the confidence of the model, which impresses visually with a puffed-out chest and which supports the men and women making the future.

Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles' Amarok has been in series production since 2010. The premium pick-up used to be made in Hannover and will continue to be built in Pacheco in Argentina. The newest version will also be built going forward in the South African city of Silverton. Over the last decade, more than 800,000 vehicles have been sold globally, solving challenges for their owners and drivers on many continents.

In the southern hemisphere the vehicle – the only one to date with V6-cylinder diesel engines as drive system to make a name for itself in pick-ups' so-called B segment – is still going strong. In Europe it will again be possible to order the Amarok as a new vehicle from late 2022.

Whether it be getting medicine and food to remote locations, protecting wildlife in the African savanna or saving lives at the beach, the places where pick-ups are used are infinitely varied. Be it simply driving on open land like building sites or on rough tracks –the highlights of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles' new Amarok are without

doubt its versatility and off-road capabilities. Developed by teams in Australia and Europe, the premium pick-up is being produced in future in South Africa. In 2022, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles' new Amarok will make its debut and be available then to order in the first few markets.

No matter whether it be in South Africa or

Australia, pick-ups represent an approach to life and without them certain tasks would be impossible to master. When faced with large loads, challenging country tracks or off-road terrain, everyone is then happy to have a pick-up they can rely on. The Amarok has thus, for example, been used for wildlife preservation in South Africa



Bantu FC

No need to press panic buttons - Bantu president



Bantu President Leuta Leuta

MASERU – LEUTA John Leuta, Bantu FC President, says it is too early to press the panic buttons for the Mafeteng-based outfit after last weekend's loss to LDF in their first match after the long layoff.

The defending league champions have also lost several their players, who have failed to show up for training since local football activities were given the green light to resume.

The trio of Bokang Sello, Lekhooa Khoete and Keamogetse Wolff reportedly went AWOL and are yet to report for camp since the club returned to training while the team has parted ways with its star defender, Lebohang Shelleng.

"It is true we have released some of our players since local football was on a long break," Leuta said.

"Some came to us and warned us that they have been offered a chance to play elsewhere and we couldn't stand in their way because in South Africa, their leagues were still in action.

"It is true that we had an awfully huge squad so much so that in some positions, there were about three players fighting to be in the starting line-up."

The Bantu President also rubbished reports that the management of the team has been in talks with former head

coach, James Madidilane over the possibility of re-engaging him.

"None of us has ever contacted Madidilane over a possible return to the club and he has also rubbished allegations of such talks," the Bantu boss stated.

"Bob Mafoso is our coach and still has a year to go on his contract. He is holding training sessions as we now speak.

"He has a bereavement hence he was not on the bench in last weekend's loss to LDF, but there is no need for our supporters to panic over that loss," he said.

Leuta feels that the defeat to LDF should not be a reason to panic and is adamant that they will get their groove back soon, especially after the long layoff due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is part and parcel of football. I know people are used to Bantu dominating having nearly gone unbeaten last season before football was halted by the pandemic," he says.

"We were bound to lose at some stage and what is important now is how to regroup and find the way to the top again," he adds.

Bantu will be in action again this weekend as they face LMPS at Ratjomose Barracks in the Vodacom Premier League catch up matches.

Maseru 2020 Youth Games give life to Lesotho



Seabata Tsemane of Lesotho

TEBOHO JAFETA
sports@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Dr Mohale Mabaleha, the Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee of the just ended

African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Maseru 2020 Games says the ninth edition of the regional tournament has greatly boosted the economy of the country.

AUSC Girls Football player of the tournament, Lubasi Pumulo of Zambia,

“The games brought a massive growth in the country’s economy. Several accommodation places housed our guests during their stay here. Local business people who are in catering also greatly benefitted.

“Transport operators who were engaged at the games also made good returns from the competition. The Rapokolana High Altitude Sports and Recreation Training Centre has been upgraded to global standards and will be able to entice more international athletes. Communities from around the facility will also benefit as soon as the centre becomes fully functional like they did during the construction of the access road,” Dr Mabaleha said on Sunday during the official games closing ceremony at the Setsoto stadium.

He said during the past two weeks, athletes and officials from all over southern Africa were able to bond and share ideas on sports.

“We had already welded like brothers and sisters, like mothers and fathers and just when we were about to enjoy the togetherness, we are required to gather here and bid farewell to each other.

“In this journey of a thousand miles, we have passed through narrow paths and several swamps.

“Chef de Missions, we invited you and assured you that we were 99.9% ready. But when you arrived here your evaluation process suggested otherwise. Instead of crucifying us, you rolled up your sleeves and let your hands get dirty for the sake of sports. I am proud to announce

that we made it, we did it. Confederations, you did great, no one can organise sports without you. Thank you for making the games a success. I thank the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the support staff. Our volunteers, both local and international, you stood above all challenges. I love you. Today I truly respect the power of unity. Where there is unity, there is always victory. We couldn’t have reached here had it not been through the unity,” he said.

For his part, Region 5 Organising Committee (ROC) Chairperson, Stanley Mutoya said as the curtain comes down to mark what has become the closure of the ninth edition of the games, Lesotho successfully hosted the games under very strict COVID-19 conditions.

“Accommodation facilities might not have been in the state we had wanted, the competition facilities might not have been ready by the time we wanted them, the ROC might not have the brains we wanted, but here we are. Students at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the Lesotho College of Education (LCE) will be ushered to the modernised facilities. The high altitude facility in Ha Rapokolana has been brought to life again. Life in that rural area will never be the same again. Setsoto stadium can now host national and international track and field events,” he proudly noted.

The games were officially closed by Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro and the next edition of the regional competition will be hosted in Malawi in 2022.





Versatile athlete, focused individual, Machachamise Ntšinyi

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MASERU - Scottish-born inventor, scientist, Alexander Graham Bell once said "Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work in hand, the sun's rays do not burn until brought to a focus."

Top weightlifter, Machachamise Ntšinyi, 23, who was first introduced to the sport over four years ago, reckons that concentration, commitment and hard work are key to success in any field.

When he began pumping iron on a serious note around 2017, the youthful athlete who was at the time a strong rugby winger put all his focus and energy on learning the new craft.

"I remember how I used to practice with a PVC pipe so that I could grasp the technique, I was coached by my long-time mentor, Relebohile Motjamela who still guides me even today. He actually encouraged me to quit rugby but I was not so sure initially.

"The following year (2018) I decided to focus my full attention on weightlifting and hung up my rugby boots. Before then, I used to play both sports interchangeably because I really loved rugby, but Ntate Motjamela managed to convince me to focus on weightlifting. He told me he wanted me to travel the world and that was the opportunity I wanted to experience. With time, I fell in love with the sport and it came quite close to my heart," he recalls.

He won gold medals in all the national weightlifting championships he competed in.

In rugby, he lifted the 2015/16

Lesotho Rugby League trophy with Maseru Giants.

Born on April 29, 1998, Machachamise Ntšinyi is the son of 'Matli and 'Makorina Ntšinyi of Qoaling, Maseru. He is the first born in the family of three - two boys and a girl. He was bred in Ha Seoli.

He finished his primary education in 2009 at the Seventh Day Adventist Primary School in Maseru before he proceeded to Lesotho High School where he obtained his Junior Certificate (JC) in 2013 and high school leaving certificate in 2015.

In 2020, he graduated with an Honours Degree in Human Resources Management from the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT).

During his high school days, Ntšinyi was a proficient rugby player. His outstanding performance in the sport gave him a chance to join the national team that was composed of players from several local high schools.

Among others, the team represented Lesotho at the Ace Magashule Cup in 2015 in Bethlehem, Free State Province.

Ntšinyi later joined Maseru Giants and competed in several competitions in South Africa and played in the Griffons League in the Free State with the team.

He is a graduate of the Lesotho Olympic Academy 3rd Young Participants Session, an education programme by the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) intended to equip young athletes with administration skills in order to prepare them to become future sports leaders.

"So far I have not acquired many sports qualifications as I



am actually focusing on developing my career as an athlete. I am still optimistic to achieving many sports qualifications in future given that I am still young and have a long career ahead of me. So I invest a lot of my time in better training and ensuring that I become the best version of myself," he says.

He attributes his success in weightlifting to people like his parents, Motjamela, the Lesotho Weightlifting Federation (LWF) and some of his friends.

He also looks up to Mosito Lehata, the fastest man in Lesotho as one of the people who helped him work hard for what he wants.

"The man is a great achiever and one of the greatest athletes to come out of Lesotho. He has given me a few pointers towards being a professional athlete.

"Another person who inspires me a lot is Boitumelo Rabale, the Mehalalitoe and South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies' captain who also happens to be my home girl.

"She is a talented footballer who works hard on and off the field. I am truly proud of her and always look up to her," he adds.

Ntšinyi regards Mauritian weightlifter, Dinesh Pandoo as his greatest rival.

"There are many competitors in my weight category, but Pandoo is in a class of his own, I always train with him in mind," he admits.

His future plans include qualifying for the Olympic Games. "I would love to be an Olympian too. I also look forward to writing on weightlifting in order to ensure that there is good development among young weightlifters. I would also wish to operate a sports academy someday."

Apart from sports, he also loves music and enjoys singing choral music.

He also loves food and enjoys video games during his spare time.