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THURSDAY September 9 - 15, 2021

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WFP ADDRESSES FARMERS CONCERNS 3



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Regulars

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- Molibeli looks to Rwanda for policing cooperation
- Abrahams withdraws as lead prosecutor
- Mofomobe takes oath as small business minister



BORN ON THIS DAY

September 8

- 1983 - Kyle Davies, American baseball player, born in Decatur, Georgia
- 1983 - Cleveland Taylor, English-born Jamaican footballer, born in Leicester, United Kingdom
- 1984 - James Hildreth, English cricketer, born in Milton Keynes, United Kingdom
- 1984 - Farrah Gray, American entrepreneur and author (Reallionaire), born in Chicago
- 1986 - Justice Chibhabha, Zimbabwean cricketer, born in Masvingo, Zimbabwe
- 1986 - Luc Richard Mbah a Moute, Cameroonian basketball player, born in Cameroon
- 1990 - Alexandre Song, Cameroonian footballer, born in Douala, Cameroon
- 1990 - Shaun Johnson, New Zealand Rugby League halfback (Auckland Warriors)
- 1990 - Magnus Larsson, Danish rock bassist (Lukas Graham - "7 Years"), born in Denmark
- 2000 - Victoria Federica de Marichalar y de Borbón, granddaughter of King Juan Carlos I of Spain

NewsBriefs

Sekola promises to bring arsonists to book

THABA-TSEKA – The Minister of Police, Lepota Sekola has pledged that the rampant torching of homes in Tlokoeng, Thaba-Tseka will be a thing of the past as soon as a police post has been built in the neighbouring village of Bobete.

He was addressing a public gathering in Ha Khoaisanyane last week after a recent spate of arson cases in the village.

Mr Sekola warned the residents of the village to instantly refrain from criminal activities or face the might of the law.

He further warned the perpetrators of the acts that the government will not tolerate the criminal activities, which are destroying people's lives and property.

"We are aware that we are dealing with a stubborn community, but things will calm down within a week as it is only a portion of the community that is involved in these activities," the minister said.

"I am going to work hard to ensure that there is a police post built in the neighbouring village of Bobete," he further promised.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Minister of Law and Constitutional Affairs, Advocate Lekhetho Rakuoane said in the past years, stock theft was high in the area, adding that it appears people have now changed to arson.

"It is even disappointing to hear that this happened after the hours when liquor stores were supposed to have closed. It is clear that the root cause of these acts is drunkenness," the minister also said.

A Member of Parliament for Semena,



Minister of Police, Lepota Sekola

Tlohelang Aumane said the number of crimes that are taking place in Tlokoeng should ring a bell to the police that something is not right in the area. He said the lack of regular police patrols in the area promotes criminal activities, adding that things will soon change. LeNA

FastFACTS

Mount Everest is bigger now than the last time it was measured

Mount Everest may not have physically grown, having reached maturity a long time ago, however, the most recent measurement performed by surveyors representing China and Nepal has the mountain peak standing taller than we'd thought in the past. Previous readings have ranged from 29,002 feet above sea level in 1856 down to 29,029 in 1955, according to NPR. But after the long process of measuring the mountain with GPS devices, experts have now stated that Mount Everest stands at a whopping 29,031.69 feet, due to plate tectonics.

On This Day in History

1776

September 09

United Colonies renamed "United States of America"

On September 9, 1776, the Continental Congress formally declares the name of the new nation to be the "United States" of America. This replaced the term "United Colonies," which had been in general use.

In the Congressional declaration dated September 9, 1776, the delegates wrote, "That in all continental commissions, and other instruments, where, heretofore, the words 'United Colonies' have been used, the stile be altered for the future to the 'United States.'"

A resolution by Richard Henry Lee, which had been presented to Congress on June 7 and approved on July 2, 1776, issued the resolve, "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States..." As a result, John Adams thought July 2 would be celebrated as "the most memorable epoch in the history of America." Instead, the day has been largely forgotten in favour of July 4, when Jefferson's edited Declaration of Independence was adopted. That document also states, "That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES." However, Lee began with the line, while Jefferson saved it for the middle of his closing paragraph.

By September, the Declaration of Independence had been drafted, signed, printed and sent to Great Britain. What Congress had declared to be true on paper in July was clearly the case in practice, as Patriot blood was spilled against the British on the battlefields of Boston, Montreal, Quebec and New York. Congress had created a country from a cluster of colonies and the nation's new name reflected that reality.

US travellers warned to avoid Lesotho

Lesotho is one of the 16 new destinations that the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified as the top risk designation of "Level 4: COVID-19 Very High."

The other 15 include Andorra, Curaçao, Gibraltar, Greece, Guadeloupe, Iran, Ireland, Isle of Man, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malta, Martinique, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Martin and the US Virgin Islands.

US citizens have already been advised

against travel to the above mentioned countries. They have also been warned to stay away from countries with more than 500 COVID cases per 100 000 residents in the past 28 days, which includes popular tourist spots such as the UK, Spain and Maldives.

"That means the US citizens should avoid travel to these places and, if they really must travel, they should be fully vaccinated," the disease control centre also said. CNN Travel

ALL JOKES ASIDE

A Jewish businessman in America

A Jewish businessman in America decided to send his son to Israel to absorb some of the culture of the homeland. When the son returned, the father asked him to tell him about his trip. The son said, "Pop, I had a great time in Israel. By the way, I converted to Christianity."

"Oy vey," said the father. "What have I done?"

He decided to go ask his friend Jacob what to do. Jacob said, "Funny you should ask. I too sent my son to Israel, and he also came back a Christian. Perhaps we should go see the rabbi and ask him what we should do." So they went to see the Rabbi. The Rabbi said, "Funny you should ask. I too sent my son to Israel. He also came back a Christian. What is happening to our young people? Perhaps we should go talk to God and ask him what to do." The three of them prayed and explained what had happened to their sons and asked God what to do. Suddenly a voice came loud and clear from Heaven. The Voice said, "funny you should ask, I too sent my son to Israel..."

Quotes & Quips!

"Globalisation has made access to information cheap and easy, hence this cooperation through which sharing of best policing practices, exchange of training programs, joint bilateral operations and sharing of information on issues of mutual interest shall all be exhibited,"

said Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli after signing a joint communiqué with his Rwandan counterpart, to cooperate for a better policing



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Letšeng shrugs off Covid woes

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Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	20.28
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.25
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	16.83
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.20
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	19.61
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.50
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.83
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	10.58
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.035
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.023
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.31
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.95
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.19
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	3.80
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.44
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.72
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.19
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	3.88
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.34

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS	
S&P500	4,517.43
NASDAQ100	15,649.59
Nikkei225	30,181.21
Dow Jones30	35,088.11
FTSE 100	7,126.38
JSE	65,594.00
Hang Seng	25,227.98

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold p/ounce	1,787.79
Platinum p/ounce	986.00
Silver p/ounce	24.10
Copper p/ounce	4.24
Brent Oil p/barrel	72.49

EQUITIES	
Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Maize Meal p/kg	M7.00
Wheat Meal p/kg	M10.00
Cabbage p/kg	M14.00
Potatoes p/kg	M10.50
Brown Bread p/loaf	M10.00
White Bread p/loaf	M11.00
Sorghum Meal p/kg	M25.00
Brown Beans p/kg	M30.00
Tomato p/kg	M15.00

Eggs p/tray	M45.00
Milk (fresh) p/litre	M16.00
Milk (sour) p/litre	M20.00
Rice p/kg	M30.00
White Sugar p/kg	M22.00
Brown Sugar p/kg	M25.00
Beef p/kg	M85.00
Mutton p/kg	M90.00

ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M15.25
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M15.15
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M14.85
Paraffin p/litre	M10.50
Water (Domestic) p/litre	M5.53
Water (Industrial) p/litre	M15.03
Electricity (Domestic) p/unit	M1.38
Electricity (Industrial) p/unit	M0.26
Gas p/kg	M20.00

WFP addresses farmers concerns



WFP Country Representative and Country Director, Aurore Rusiga

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Weak rural infrastructure, limited technical expertise as well as limited access to

credit and investment capital are at the heart of failing agricultural projects in Lesotho. Climate change and outdated farm technologies and farm management practices coupled with lack of access to markets are also high on the

list, posing major challenges to the sector that contributes less than 10 percent to the country's national gross domestic product (GDP).

To address some of these long standing challenges, the World Food Program Lesotho (WFP) in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, on Tuesday held a two-day workshop on the importance of marketing linkages in value chains in Lesotho.

The overall objective of this market linkages forum was to improve the marketing of horticultural and other agricultural produce, including small stock like poultry, while promoting strategies for increasing food and nutrition security.

The first of its kind, the forum was further aimed at helping smallholder farmers with information on structured markets that are available countrywide.

Linkages forums are further meant to facilitate the flow of produce between the different levels of the marketing system, improve relations between farmers and buyers as well as minimise conflicts between involved parties. Linkages further harmonise marketing bottlenecks such as quality and price issues while at the same time addressing issues of post-harvest losses.

"We all know that it is globally recognised that smallholder farmers and small businesses are the hidden heroes of the food systems managing at least half of our food economies.

"It is therefore imperative to support them through access to an efficient, functioning and equitable marketing system, and this is an opportune time for all national stakeholders to actively participate in providing their contributions towards ensuring a successful marketing system," WFP Country Representative and Country Director, Aurore Rusiga said in her remarks on Tuesday.

She projected that the sector has the highest potential to increase food security, reduce rural poverty and generate both on and off-farm

employment opportunities as well as contribute to the sustainability of economic growth and resilience for the country.

Agriculture plays a significant role in the country's economy, as over 70 percent of the country's population lives in rural areas and depends, directly or indirectly, on agriculture for employment and livelihood.

The National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II) has agriculture as one of the key areas for the development and growth of the country's economy.

However, the sector, according to WFP, suffers from low levels of productivity and commercialisation which has made the country heavily dependent on food imports to meet domestic consumption needs.

Speaking at the same event, the Director of Marketing in the Ministry of Agriculture, Lekhoee Makhate said although smallholder farmers engage in many interrelated markets, they however, face challenges in securing market access continuously.

The government, he said has an essential role to play in addressing farming enterprises, specific constraints and maximising potential for sustained access to reliable markets.

"Recent ongoing developments relating to marketing infrastructure call for proactive designing of strategies to link farmers with markets. Continued importation of basic food items deprive smallholders an opportunity to penetrate identified markets," Mr Makhate said. Among other things, he said there is a need to promote inclusive participation in local food systems by engaging relevant value chain actors. He said the country needs to develop smallholder targeted infrastructure such as irrigation, processing, storage and packaging facilities to enhance competitiveness and reduce seasonality of insecurity and food waste. There is also a need to invest in capacity building, research and smallholders adapted innovation technologies and technology transfer, as well as promote diversification to increase resilience to climate change while reducing farm income fluctuations.

Policy and institutional arrangements including partnerships related to value chains functioning meant to empower smallholders should also be established.

Business

Letšeng shrugs off Covid woes

...as the mine registers 50 percent revenue increase



The Letseng Diamond Mine in Mokhotlong

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - GEM Diamonds Limited, which owns 70 percent of Letšeng Diamond has shrugged off the disruptive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, registering a 50 percent revenue increase to US\$ 104.5 (M1,497, 012, 660.00) million, compared to the same period the previous year.

Among other things, Letšeng, which is 30 percent owned by the government of Lesotho, was able to recover three diamonds greater than 100 carats, achieved an average price of US\$ 1886 (M26 996.20) per carat while the highest price achieved was US\$ 119 886 (M1, 718, 602.97) per carat for a 3.35 carat pink diamond.

The highest price achieved for a Type IIa white diamond was for a 254 carat diamond that was sold at US\$40 139 (M575, 405.01) per carat. The underlying earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) from continuing operations improved by 207 percent to US\$ 34.7 million (M497,435,257) against US\$ 11.3 million (M161, 989 million) in 2020, with attributable profit of US\$ 9.3m (M133, 310, 385) achieved.

Gem Diamond revealed this when announcing its 2021 half year results for the six months ending June 30. The results were published on Thursday last week.

The group ended the period in a strong cash position with a cash balance of US\$33.9 million (M485, 937,855) and drawn down facilities of US\$14.3million (M204, 982, 635), resulting in a net cash position of US\$19.6 million (M280, 955, 220) and unutilised available facilities of US\$61.0 million (M874, 401, 450).

"The Group's Letšeng operation has managed to operate in line with its normal operating activities during the period, despite numerous challenges presented by the continuing impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the availability of spares and limited access to certain skills and services due to lockdown and travel restrictions, as well as a high rainfall season which impacted both mining and treatment activities.

"Despite these challenges, waste tonnes mined during the period were 10.2 million tonnes, ore tonnes treated were 3.1 million tonnes, 58 831 carats were recovered and the mine's 2021 production metrics remain on track," Gem Diamond said in its half year results. In line with the Group's commitment to delivering sustainable shareholder returns, the group further revealed that dividends were also paid to shareholders on June 15.

"The board proposed a dividend of 2.5 US cents per share, US\$3.5 (M50, 206, 275.00) million which was approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 2 and paid to shareholders on June 15," Gem diamond added.

Furthermore, the group's Business Transformation (BT) programme remains on track to deliver the targeted US\$100 (M1,434,410,000.00) million in revenue, productivity and cost saving, measured against the 2017 base by the end of 2021.

Since its inception, the BT programme has, according to Gem Diamond, delivered US\$95.4 (M1, 368, 427, 140.00) million net of fees and costs. The reduced costs and improved efficiencies realised through the BT initiatives have been critical in maximising operational cash flows over the past three years.

Going forward, Gem Diamonds continues to advance to key technologies to identify locked diamonds within kimberlite and to liberate diamonds using a non-mechanical process.

"While the enhancements and troubleshooting of the pilot plant operation were hindered by COVID-19 related travel restrictions, the group has made steady progress through collaboration with its technical partners to advance the detection of diamonds within kimberlite and will greatly reduce diamond damage and reduce operating costs whilst adding significant value for its shareholders," Gem Diamond further revealed.

The group will continue to focus on the health and safety of its workforce. It will also continue to support surrounding communities and assist the government to manage the impact of the pandemic.

At an operational level, the group will continue to realise the benefits from the BT programme to drive efficiencies and cost reduction initiatives to maximise cash flows and maintain its status as a responsible, safe and low cost operation.

The group believes this focus helps it achieve its strategic objectives and will continue to unlock value for its shareholders.

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VCL Financial Services Manager Director, Palesa Mphunyetsane (left) and Mpesa Commercial Manager, Malatola Phothane

VCL launches new Mpesa App

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Roughly a month after going independent, VCL Financial Services has launched a new "My Mpesa App" that will allow customers to transact easily as the company moves along with new technological developments.

Vodacom Lesotho revealed in July that its Mpesa division would now operate under a newly set up independent company known as VCL Financial Services.

Authorised by the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), the entity is now a licensed financial services provider, fully owned by Vodacom Lesotho.

The new Mpesa App was launched on Wednesday and will

allow only registered Mpesa clients to transact with ease as compared to the normal USSD offering.

At the moment, only Android users will be eligible to use the App while iPhone users on the other hand will be catered for at a later stage.

Currently, users will be able to send and receive money, pay bills as well as buy with the new Mpesa

App.

The VCL Financial Services Managing Director, Palesa Mphunyetsane said during the launch on Wednesday that the new App is aimed at improving service delivery, in a world where technology keeps on evolving.

She said the App is only available to Android users because many of the company's more than

800 000 clients use it.

"More than 800 000 clients use smart phones; while around 524 000 use our Mpesa service. And around 99 percent of these clients use Android phones while only 1 percent is on iPhones. That is why we focused on Android users, but we will move to other users in the near future," MS Mphunyetsane said.

Due to its convenience, she said the new App will help clients to avoid challenges that include sending money to a wrong person, a process that takes a long time to recover the money through the use of the USSD service.

"The USSD service will still be available for our clients while we keep on developing the App going forward. It is further important to take this moment to appreciate all our Mpesa users and business partners who continuously keep helping us achieve our goals," she said. Similar sentiments were echoed by Malatola Phothane, Manager Mpesa Commercial at VCL Financial Services, that smartphone users who have accounts on Google play store should go to search "My Mpesa App" and download the Lesotho version.

"Users will find a list of other Apps, but should focus only on the Mpesa App Lesotho. Very soon the App will have all the services offered by our normal USSD service, but for now, we decided to focus on the most important offerings," Mr Phothane said.

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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.

Liengane Mosola,
Sehlabathebe, Qacha's Nek

We would like the PM to open the entertainment industry

The Editor,

Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro is well aware that Lesotho like other countries in the region is sitting on a ticking time bomb in a form of unemployment as per various studies by development partners and the Bureau of Statistics at the Ministry of Development Planning. The Disc Jockey Association of Lesotho (DJALE) has therefore taken it upon itself to help put the high rate of unemployment in the country under control by not relying on government's hand-outs. But despite their efforts to comply with the Public Health (COVID-19) (Risk Determination and Mitigation Measures) regulations 2021, local Dee Jays and musicians have been at the receiving end since night clubs and social spaces have been closed. These are people who solely depend on events and renting out sound systems for social events in a bid to earn a living.

To further illustrate how the regulations have had an impact on the entertainers' lives, they are now unable to pay rent at their places of residence which puts them at odds with landlords. They are hungry and their respective insurance policies have lapsed.

They are also unable to pay their own employees or support their families.

DJM. (A member of DJALE)
Ha Leqele, Maseru

Lesotho might not benefit under Free Trade Agreement

The Editor,

The much awaited continental free trade area will not be of much benefit to Lesotho if the country does not upsurge its preparations on time. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a free trade area founded in 2018, with trade commencing as of January this year. The agreement is the largest in the world in terms of the number of participating countries since the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). In Lesotho, the main challenges include the absence of the department of standards as well as a lack of quality infrastructure. The country is also faced with a lack of diversified exports and imports, most from South Africa. The absence of the department of standards for instance means the country will not be able to export some of its products to the formal continental market and that on its own means the revenue will move to the direction of other countries other than the Mountain Kingdom. Just as it happened with AGOA, it seems like Lesotho will struggle to make the desired impact with the AfCFTA. Since the beginning of AGOA in 2001, Lesotho has only been able to benefit through the textile and apparel sector while there are more than 6 400 product lines eligible under the agreement.

Other sectors of the economy have been struggling to export under AGOA. Recommendations are that Lesotho should clean her house first to avoid the same challenges experienced under AGOA.

Robert Lethibelang
Mazenod, Maseru

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Medical oxygen is imperative in the treatment of COVID-19

Medical reports and journals show that medical oxygen is the single most essential medicine for treating patients with COVID-19.

Nonetheless, this vital component used in the fight against the fatal respiratory virus is not readily available in most hospitals where such patients are treated.

The lack of the oxygen and other related supplies has among others resulted in many lives being gratuitously lost on most hospital beds.

Such deaths could have been evaded with less aggravation if health centres and hospitals were equipped with adequate and necessary medical oxygen supplies.

Patients in hospitals across the world have complications because of delays in receiving critical medical treatment. The inevitable truth is that the advent of the fatal COVID-19 has underlined countless cracks in most health care systems around the globe. This is evident even in countries with the best economies and offer top notch health care services like South Africa. The country (SA) with some of the best health facilities in the continent is among others experiencing serious bed shortages while several of its hospitals grapple with limited oxygen supplies to treat patients with the respiratory disease.

The shortage of medical oxygen is prevalent in most African countries and Lesotho has not been spared from the dearth.

Media reports show that the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine and all the protocols prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) can alone not overcome the deadly virus that has already consumed a total of 4 602 971 people as of September 8, 2021.

Statistics show that there are currently 222 897 358 confirmed COVID-19 cases in 221 countries in the world.

The lack of the vital medical oxygen in local hospitals has however, prompted Lesotho to start producing some for its own people. In December 2020, the Partner in Health (PIH) Lesotho - supported Botšabelo Hospital became the first health facility in the country to install a new oxygen plant.

PIH Lesotho, known locally as Bo-Mphato Litšebelatsong Tsa Bophelo, opened the plant in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The facility is housed in a renovated shipping container on the campus of the country's only health centre for patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

On July 16, the Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle officiated the launching of another oxygen plant worth M8 million at the Berea Hospital in Teyateyaneng.

Launching yet another medical oxygen plant at the Mafeteng Treatment Centre on Friday, Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro pledged that the Ministry of Health will work tirelessly to curb the spread of the pandemic, warning that the nation must also be engaged on how to protect itself from the deadly disease.

"The toughest time was in January when the second wave hit the country as there was no medical oxygen for severely hit patients," he recalled.

Zuma needed to have met these conditions to get medical parole ...Did he?

Correctional Services boss Arthur Fraser appears to have skipped a step to authorise the former president's medical parole.

Former President Jacob Zuma had to have one or more of 23 specific medical conditions to be granted medical parole and this condition had to have been confirmed by a medical advisory parole board to secure his get-out-of-jail-free card.

But the Department of Correctional Services will neither name nor confirm whether the medical advisory parole board was convened before Zuma's appeal for parole was granted by Correctional Services Commissioner Arthur Fraser on September 5.

The parole system sets out a detailed rule of law process before medical parole can be granted, as George Aloysius Pillay set out in his master's thesis.

Read against the rapid way in which Zuma's was granted, it is clear that corners were cut by Fraser, who goes back a long way with the former head of state. Fraser is alleged in reports to have given the so-called 'spy tapes' to Zuma which contained details of how his Arms Deal corruption prosecution by the National Prosecuting Authority may have been politically tainted. Later, as DG of the State Security Agency, Fraser commandeered a private intelligence army that served Zuma as the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture has been heard.

Medical parole is granted if the offender is terminally ill or suffers from one of the conditions set out in the graphic, if the risk of reoffending is low, and if there are appropriate post-release conditions for the inmate's supervision, care and treatment.

Zuma would have had to lodge an application – likely through his team of military doctors or his lawyers – setting out his medical incapacity, which limits his ability to take care of himself or to undertake the normal daily activities of life.

This application must have been approved and recommended by the Estcourt prisons boss (where he was or is still being held) and then submitted to a Medical Parole Advisory Board to recommend the release of the inmate on medical parole.

This is where the story gets murky: the Correctional Services Department would not say who was on the board, if it convened, to hear Zuma's request or application for parole and what the outcome of its deliberations was.

According to Pillay, the board comprises 13 independent medical practitioners who monthly review applications from the country's 243 prisons. It makes decisions by a

majority vote, but the Daily Maverick has been told of concerns that Fraser overrode its decision.

The Medical Parole Advisory Board is guided by the conditions

map, we outline here "but may consider any other condition that is not listed" provided it complies with the principles of parole. Only if this board recommends parole can it be granted; a step that Fraser appears to have overridden to help get Zuma home to Nkandla.

Zuma was jailed for being in contempt of court, and the judgment which sent him to prison for 15 months was taken to a rescission hearing. The Constitutional Court has not ruled on the application for rescission of its entire judgment. Correctional Services Department spokesperson Singabakho Nxumalo did not respond to five requests for information and comment from the Daily Maverick. A source in the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services said all the steps for medical parole had been adhered to.

The infectious conditions for which the Commissioner can grant medical parole are: Aids, severe cerebral malaria, MDR or XDR TB and one other. The non-infectious conditions are several cerebral conditions, including a severe head injury with an altered level of consciousness. It includes COPD, cardiac conditions, malignant cancer and organ failure, and severe rheumatoid arthritis. Until now, Zuma's social media posts suggest he was in rude health.

The DA announced on September 7 that it is taking the decision to grant Zuma medical parole on review.

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Standard Bank PRO, Manyathela Kheleli

Standard Bank provides free financial guidance

MASERU – In a bid to ensure customer financial discipline, Standard Lesotho Bank provides free financial education to its clients in order to appreciate the fundamentals of good management of personal finance, Mr. Manyathela Kheleli, Standard Bank's Director of Communication and Public Relations says. At the bank, he said usually encourages employers to contact it in order to provide the service for free and in some instances, it also offers rehabilitation services when dealing with clients with huge debts.

Mr Kheleli said the bank has a loan engine, driven by a highly sophisticated system that uses behavioural scoring to determine who gets instant offers for loans.

"This means it is not humans who decide to give loans, but, the computer based on the conduct of the client when using their accounts. If clients do not default on their loans,

make provisions to cover their debt, orders, stop orders and keep good conduct, the system gives them high score and are able to get instant loans on regular basis," he said.

This shows, he noted that discipline is important, adding that clients who do not have a good financial discipline are not able to get instant loan benefit.

He said not all customers are honest, however, they have a robust system and staff that deal with recoveries.

"To minimise risk, we use the credit bureau services to ascertain the credit behaviour of our customers and do not give credit to customers with a bad credit record," he said.

He said the bank practices responsible lending as the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) mandates that they provide loans that are manageable and not render people indebted.

"There are thresholds determined by calculation of installments which determine how much can be given out in loans, as well as basing themselves on the total financial obligations of customers including other loans they have elsewhere to determine their repayment ability," he noted.

The bank has among other increased its credit risk appetite to offer more loan amounts to demonstrate its commitment to partner with Basotho in order to help grow the economy.

Mr Kheleli has appealed to Basotho to be more prudent on how they manage their finances during these difficult times, advising them to save and invest even little amounts for rainy days.

LeNA

WASCO begs clients to pay

MASERU – The Water and Sewage Company (WASCO) has strongly urged its customers to stop negotiating with the utility company and pay their outstanding water bills.

"Most customers approach our offices to negotiate instead of paying their bills, the majority of them are business owners who have money but are simply not paying," said WASCO's Public Relations Manager, Lineo Moqasa. She said the clients should pay their water bills and not prioritise other bills over water because they cannot live without it.

"It is surprising how people cannot owe electricity and airtime but are prepared to ignore their water bills," Mrs Moqasa said.

The unpaid bills, she noted, hinder the company from providing quality services as it cannot afford to pay suppliers for equipment used on daily operations, amongst others. "Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority expect us to perform but it is very unfortunate that the company cannot operate without money," she added.

She warned that soon, WASCO will no longer be open for negotiations.

The company has given its customers an opportunity to approach its offices for negotiations to confirm their outstanding bills and make payment arrangements.

WASCO is currently disconnecting services for customers who failed to pay their outstanding bills before August 19. It is estimated that the customers owe the company a sum of M17million.

WASCO is a company duly established under the Water and Sewerage Company (Propriety) Limited (Establishment and Vesting) Act, 2010 Enacted by the Parliament of Lesotho.

It serves over 300 000 people in the urban centres with potable water in the country together with industries and commercial premises. LeNA

GUCCI
FIND YOUR MAGIC

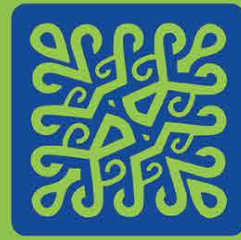
GUCCI BLOOM
NATURAL ESSENCE OF FLORES

GUCCI INTENSE OUD

GUCCI

GG

VISIT MASERU MALL



MASERU
—MALL—

SHOPRITE

game



goldrush



The Cleaning Brothers

Dry Clean & Laundry



Edgars



ACKERMANS



TORGA OPTICAL



Standard Lesotho Bank

LIBERTY



ALo CaNN

A Lesotho Origin CaNNabis





Medical oxygen a prevalent problem in African countries – Majoro

MASERU – Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro says when the deadly COVID-19 pandemic first attack Lesotho in 2020, there was a serious of shortage of medical oxygen and the problem was prevalent in most African countries.

He made these remarks on Friday during the launch of a medical oxygen plant at the Mafeteng Treatment Centre.

The premier said the Ministry of Health is working tirelessly to curb the spread of the pandemic, adding that the nation must also be mentored on how well to protect itself from the virus.

Dr Majoro said the toughest time was in January when the second wave hit the country as there was no medical oxygen for severely hit patients, urging all to remain vigilant at all times.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle said the Mafeteng, Berea and Motebang Treatment facilities will serve as regional centres. The Queen Elizabeth II



Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro

Hospital will serve the central region while the Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital will remain

as the country's referral facility he said, adding that the ministry has a clear plan when it comes to

health issues.

Mr Sekatle said there is no doubt concerning services offered at the Mafeteng treatment centre as it has best buildings with quality equipment operated by highly qualified staff.

He said the reason why most COVID-19 patients perish is they come to the health centres too late for treatment, urging them to always get early medical attention.

For his part, the Principal Chief of Likhoele, Chief Lerotholi Seeiso commended the ministry for ensuring that health professionals from Tšepong Hospital were evenly placed within various health facilities across the country.

He confirmed that the Mafeteng Treatment Centre provides quality services to the patients, requesting everybody to observe the World Health Organisation (WHO) protocols at all times.

Member of Parliament for

Mafeteng Constituency, Temeki Tšolo warned health professionals to accordingly advise the people about vaccinating for the pandemic.

The Mafeteng District Medical Officer, Dr Mahali Ntšasa said the hospital has so far conducted 863 COVID-19 tests with 73 confirmed cases, 85 recoveries and nine related deaths.

She said for a long time, the hospital operated without enough medical oxygen but now through the newly launched plant, they are able to save many lives.

Dr Ntšasa applauded the government for the medical oxygen initiative, pledging to protect the plant for the benefit of those in need of COVID-19 services.

LeNA

Lesotho launches branded condoms, lubricants

LINEO MABEKEBEKE
health@maserumetro.com

MASERU - In a bid to prevent HIV/AIDS and make condoms more attractive for effective and efficient use, Lesotho recently launched the new packaging of branded male and female condoms as well as lubricants labeled, Plug 'n Play.

During the launch which was held in Maseru on Saturday, challenges facing condom programming in Lesotho that led to the design of the new condom packaging were highlighted.

These included insufficient access to condoms by youth, key and vulnerable populations.

It also emerged that lubricants do not reach female sex workers and men who have sex with other men.

Then there was also the issue of distrust or dislike of female condoms and low uptake despite promotion efforts due to culture and other socio economic reasons.

The HIV/AIDS Manager in the Ministry of Health, Dr Tapiwa Tarabiswa said to address the challenges, the ministry in collaboration with UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, Key Populations and Youth Representatives undertook a

market survey and analysis on the needs of different groups of people, hence the development of a culturally acceptable, attractive and accessible condom designed to cater for different subgroups within the population.

"As we launch the condom, we believe it will go a long way in supporting the country in efforts to further reduce the incidence of HIV and ultimately end AIDS by 2030," he said.

Dr Tarabiswa said Lesotho has set some key prevention targets including that 90 percent of people aged 15 and over at risk of HIV, have access to a combination of HIV prevention packages and at least 40 million male condoms and one million female condoms and the required number of water based lubricants will be distributed by 2023.

The UNFPA Assistant Representative to Lesotho, Motšelisi Molorane-Moeno said HIV prevention seems to still be falling into cracks due to more emphasis on HIV treatment as part of the country's investment case.

She said the scope of the response has always been inadequate to address the diverse sources and drivers of the epidemic with limited comprehensive combination

prevention packages that can make a significant and recognisable dent in the new infections.

Ms Molorane-Moeno said as a result, there has been slow progress in the prevention of new infections despite the gains that the country has made.

"This has also been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has now made us divert some of the attention and financial support to it and the lockdown measures that saw some prevention activities being halted especially at community levels. She however, applauded the Government of Lesotho for recognising this oversight by being signatory to the Global Prevention Coalition and further committing to the HIV Prevention 2025 Road Map in the High Level Meeting that was held in June in New York.

"By so doing, the government and all partners have to put emphasis on high impact interventions to be implemented from national, district and community levels to reduce transmission of new infections," she said. The Director General in the Ministry of Health, Dr 'Nyane Letsie said Lesotho is part of the International HIV Prevention Coalition having endorsed the Global HIV Prevention Road Map- Lesotho



Ministry of Health's Director General, Dr 'Nyane Letsie

2020 HIV Prevention Road Map and the recent commitment to accelerate HIV prevention and reduce new infections by 75%. She said the high HIV prevalence rate combined with unintended pregnancy pose serious challenges to society and have an

adverse impact on Lesotho's scarce resources.

Dr Letsie acknowledged the financial and technical support of UNFPA on the project saying without it, the project would have failed.

The world in 10 minutes

TUNISIA

Tunisian sets himself alight in anti-government protest

The family of a young Tunisian who died after setting himself alight says he took his own life because of injustice endured at the hands of the state.

Neji Hefiane had been shot and injured while protesting during the 2011 revolution which ousted President Ben Ali.

His family said he did everything possible to try to get compensation but received nothing.

Mr Hefiane's death echoes that of Mohammed Bouazizi, who died after setting himself on fire in an act that triggered the Tunisian revolution, and the uprisings that followed across the Arab world.



TANZANIA

Tanzania bans newspaper for 'misleading' headlines

A Tanzanian newspaper has been suspended for 30 days for publishing false information, the government spokesperson has said.

The weekly publication, Raia Mwema, headlined a story linking the gunman who attacked soldiers near the French embassy last month to the ruling party. The spokesperson Gerson Msigwa said this violates the information act and could threaten the country's security.

He displayed two other headlines from the newspaper that he said were misleading.

The suspension is meant to give the publication time to change their operations. This is the second publication to be banned in Tanzania since President Samia Suluhu Hassan took office.

The ruling party-owned Uhuru newspaper was suspended after publishing a story saying that the president would not run in the 2025 elections.



MALI

Police storm Mali jail to free detained commander

Mali's anti-terror police have been widely condemned after armed officers marched on a prison to demand the release of their commander - who was then set free. The exact circumstances of how Oumar Samake was released are not clear.

Some reports say prison guards stepped aside, while others say the government ordered his release to avoid unrest.

Commander Samake was accused of murder over the deaths of at least 14 anti-government protesters in July 2020.

Mali's interim government condemned the action by "uniformed and armed men" from the Special Anti-Terrorist Forces (Forsat) in a TV statement, AFP news agency reports. The Malian Association of Human Rights (AMDH) said it was "deeply shocked" and called it a serious attack on the rule of law.

It said officers had fired shots in the centre of the capital, Bamako, before heading to the city's central prison, where Forsat commander Samake had been detained hours earlier.



USA - UTAH

Woman attacked by alligator says 'I love him' and it shouldn't face any consequences

An animal handler attacked by an alligator as crying children looked on has said she "loves" the reptile and that it should not face any consequences.

Lindsay Bull was left wrestling with the creature after it clamped its jaws down on her hand in front of guests during a child's birthday party at Scales & Tails in Salt Lake City, Utah. Lindsay Bull describes the eight-foot creature - given the Star Wars-inspired name Darth Gator - as a "member of her family", while its owner says the reptile was "just having a bad day". She was eventually rescued from the alligator.

Darth Gator, after visitor Donnie Wiseman leapt into the water and clambered on top of the animal.

Video of the incident was viewed by millions online, but Ms Bull and the reptile centre's owner say it should not come to harm as a result of the attack.

Ms Bull, who avoided losing her limb after undergoing surgery, said: "We are going to fight as long as we can to keep him. As long as he is in our care and it is our choice, no consequences are going to happen to him. He was just doing what an animal does."



USA - MICHIGAN

Michigan Parents Owe Son \$30,441 (M436,000) For Tossing Out Prized Porn Collection

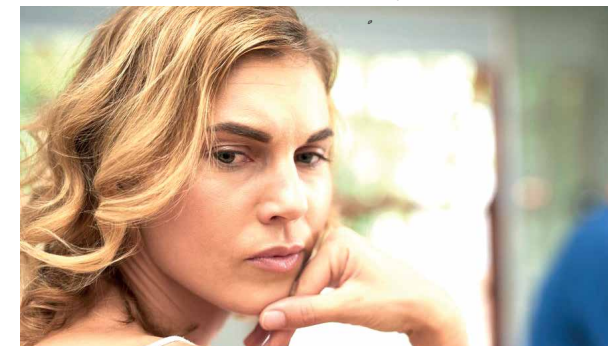
U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney ruled that David Werking's parents had no right to throw out the collection of films, magazines and other items.

A judge has ordered a western Michigan couple to pay M436,000 to their son for getting rid of his pornography collection. U.S.

District Judge Paul Maloney's decision last week came eight months after David Werking, 45, won a lawsuit against his parents. He said they had no right to throw out his collection of films, magazines and other items. Werking had lived at their Grand Haven home for 10 months after a divorce before moving to Muncie, Indiana.

The judge followed the value set by an expert, MLive.com reported. Werking's parents also must pay M208,000 to their son's attorney.

After moving to Indiana, Werking learned that his possessions were missing.



UNITED KINGDOM

Bride slammed for lying about child-free wedding to exclude niece over her appearance

A furious wedding guest took to Reddit to ask users whether they were in the wrong for confronting the bride and groom about their strict wedding rule after they were accused of ruining the big day. A bride has been slammed after she was caught lying about having a child-free wedding to avoid inviting her niece. The bride's sister was furious when she discovered the truth about her wedding after she arrived at the do to find loads of other children there. On Reddit, the woman explained that her 15-year-old stepdaughter, Jane, has a burn scar on her neck and over half of her face from an accident that took place four years ago. She added: "She's already gotten tons of insensitive comments but to me and her dad she's still the most beautiful soul. My family's been supportive and loving towards Jane."

Revealing that her sister and now-husband got married a few days previously, she added: "They told me and my husband they decided the wedding will be child-free. Meaning Jane couldn't come. But when the day rolled around, they couldn't believe their eyes."

"My husband and I got to the venue and the first thing we noticed was kids... Kids of all ages all around the venue. My husband literally stopped walking. He paused for few seconds, looked at me then let go of my hand and said he was outta there. Confused, the woman claims she went straight over to her sister and husband to confront them, asking them why they hadn't allowed their niece to come too.

"I blew up at them asking why they lied about this being a child-free wedding when it wasn't. I asked them in front of everyone why they decided to basically lie to me and my husband and get us to exclude our daughter?"

"Why? Is Jane somehow different from the other kids who showed up?"

"My sister tried to calm me down but I bluntly asked if it was cause her step-niece has a burn scar/visible injury that she and her husband were too ashamed of."

Ngatane wows judges at Miss Culture Lesotho 2022

KABELO MASOABI

MASERU – BEAUTY queen, Thabelo Ngatane on Saturday wowed audiences and judges at the ongoing Miss Culture Lesotho 2022 beauty pageant to secure a leading position in the first physical elimination round of the contest.

The physical round which was held at the AME Hall in Maseru in front of adjudicators accounts for 70% of the total score.

Ngatane's overall score in the physical event was 59 out of 70, putting her ahead of Paballo Mokheseng at 49, Nthabeleng Molelengoane with her 45 and Limakatso Falatsa at 36.

"This means that if Ngatane could work harder on her popularity contest, she has a good chance of beating the other contestants in the next round, which began this week

and ends in November, leading to the next physical contest," says the director of the Film Sector Groundbreakers Lesotho, Aubrey Silinyana.

"Had Falatsa who is in fourth position not scored good points from the May 2021 Popularity Contest, she would have been among those who were eliminated from the first round of the race.

"You will remember that she worked hard and smart to be in third position in the Popularity Contest and finished with 3 743 votes for the month," he says.

Falatsa did not perform as well as expected at the Physical Elimination Contest and failed to impress the judges.

As the popularity battle continues, the management of the pageant says M4 000 in cash prizes is up for grabs for the top



Leading beauty queen, Thabelo Ngatane

three Miss Culture Lesotho female contestants.

"The coordinating team of the pageant wishes all the 26 Miss

Culture Lesotho semi-finalists well, as they finally begin their last Popularity Contest. We trust that our 28 000 Facebook followers

will continue to vote for them by liking or reacting to their posts," Selinyana says. Reatile Molefe is the reigning queen

NUL lecturers bring 'mamokhorong to live



Motlatsi Nteko displaying a portrait of the Tšepo Tshola

KABELO MASOABI

LERIBE – 'Mamokhorong, which is also known as Sekhankula, is one of the latest inclusions in the fabric of traditional

Basotho music. In a bid to preserve the Sesotho culture, a two-man show by the National University of Lesotho (NUL) male lecturers, Tšepiso Rantšo and Mape Mohlomi is rapidly gaining

momentum in the country and beyond the borders by promoting this traditional musical instrument. The duo has formed a music group called Rantšo Le Mohlomi and plays 'Mamokhorong to produce

fresh songs of a different nature. Their music with much Afro-Jazz rhythm features drums, lead and bass guitars and keyboard played by renowned music producer, Nkosi James Nikelo, who also mastered the production of their album, titled "Bothoto Ke Lefa".

The two academics from the Department of Humanities at NUL believe that more needs to be done to document, preserve and recreate old types of Basotho music and instruments.

"We hope that one day the university will create the NUL Department of Music for such purposes and more," they say.

"I played Sekhankula even before I attended primary school, following in the footsteps of my elder brothers," says Rantšo, whose love and mastery of this deeply traditional music seems to be at odds with his status as a lecturer at the country's largest university. Of course, he doesn't mind killing such outdated perceptions.

"Despite practicing the instrument for many years with my friends, I only managed to create beautiful music out of it when I was in Standard 7. Most of my peers never lived to do it. They all gave up," he recalls. He adds: "It may

look simple, but Sekhankula is one of the hardest instruments to master. It needs patience, passion and time. If you don't have a combination of the three, you won't make it."

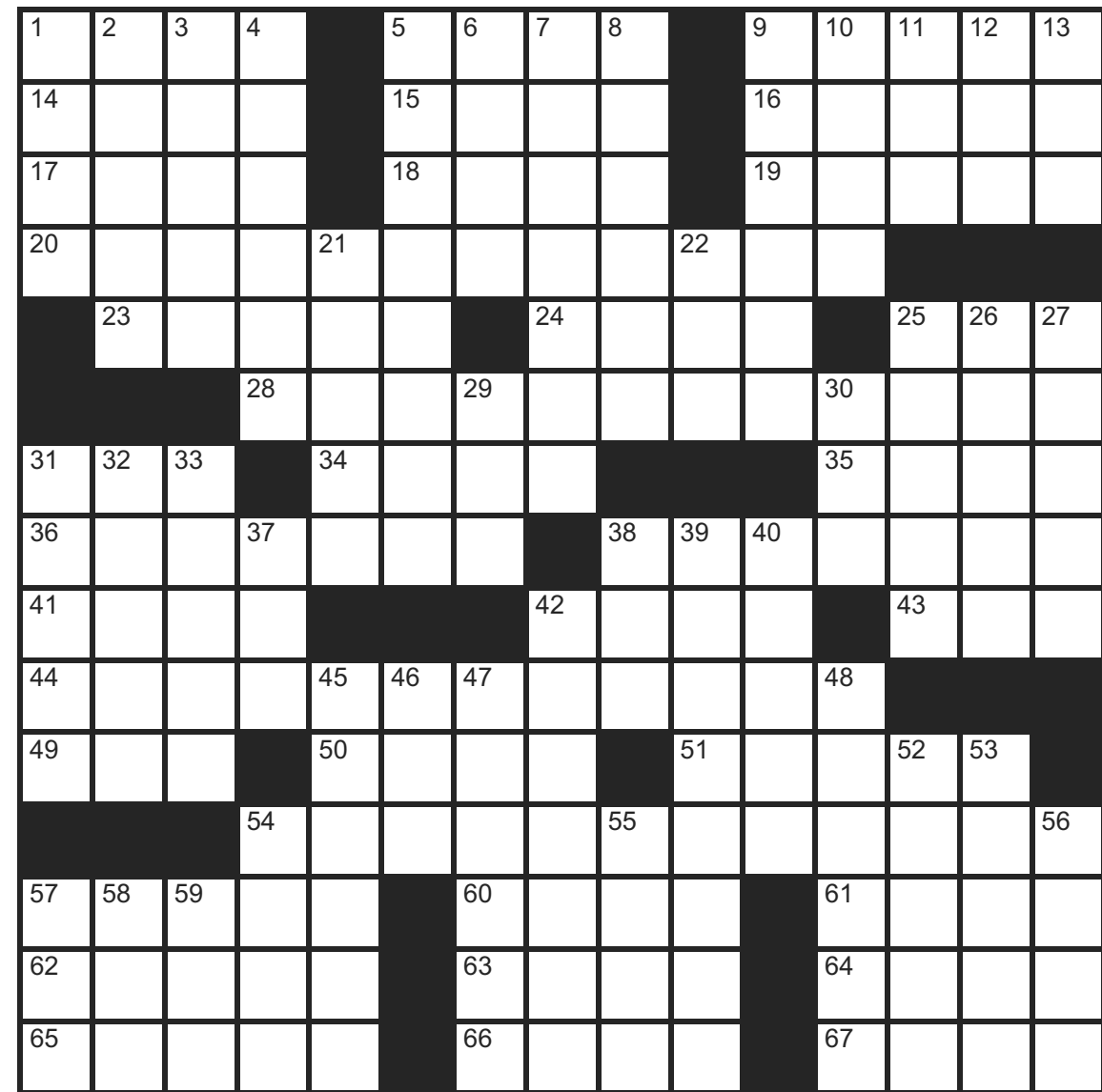
After he finished high school, he spent two years herding cattle and sheep during which time he honed his Sekhankula skills to his level best. Music composed by 'Mamokhorong players is usually circular in form, consisting of a repeating verse-chorus-verse-chorus structure. The songs tend to deal with topical issues and personal experiences. The instrument usually complements the vocals, or substitutes the melody in place of the voice, while the most proficient players weave "Serobebe" whistling and praise poetry into their performances. Rantšo Le Mohlomi's debut album, available on media platforms and on CD, was released in June and carries 11 tracks including "Bophelo Bo Joalo", "Bothoto Ke Lefa", "Kobo E Thokoa", "Likhomo Basotho", "Shapa Tsotsi" and "Lerato La Bacha".

Its music video was released in August. In the video, Rantšo plays 'Mamokhorong while Mohlomi dances with two young dancers.

SKIN UNDER CONSTRUCTION



General Crosswords

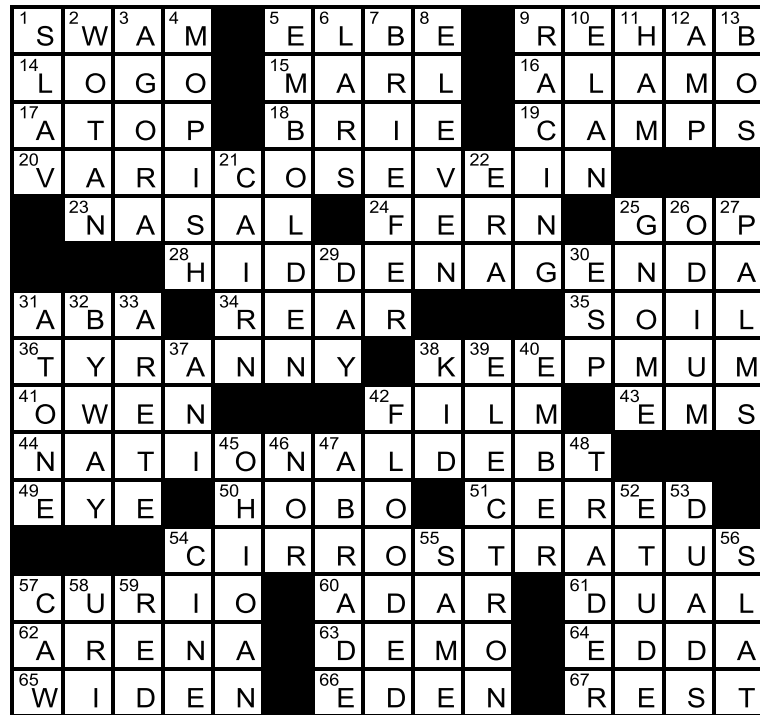


- Across**
- 1. Priests' vestments
 - 5. It's outstanding
 - 9. Window alternative
 - 14. Lampblack
 - 15. Civil Aviation agency
 - 16. Fruit tree
 - 17. One for the road
 - 18. Closed
 - 19. Picture
 - 20. Treat
 - 23. Beach souvenir
 - 24. Mideast ruler
 - 25. _____ Today
 - 28. A luxury car or house
 - 31. Greyhound, e.g.
 - 34. Swedish rug
 - 35. Canvas
 - 36. Release

- 38. Pardoned
- 41. Open delight
- 42. Tropical root
- 43. Sawbuck
- 44. Loading platform
- 49. Look at
- 50. Balsam
- 51. "When pigs fly!"
- 54. Redeeming quality
- 57. Conspiracy
- 60. Challenge
- 61. Adorn
- 62. Mites
- 63. Arab ruler
- 64. "If all ___ fails..."
- 65. "M*A*S*H" extra
- 66. Frost-covered
- 67. Went out, as a fire

- Down**
- 1. Pronto
 - 2. Prizefighter Joe
 - 3. Bungle
 - 4. Stirs up
 - 5. Shows off
 - 6. Genuine
 - 7. Type of architecture
 - 8. Emblems
 - 9. Queen's home
 - 10. Poetic foot
 - 11. Health resort
 - 12. Fall behind
 - 13. Female sheep
 - 21. Extreme
 - 22. "_____ the season ..."
 - 25. Destroyer destroyer
 - 26. Work out

Last Week's Solution



- 27. Kind of wrench
- 29. Listening device
- 30. Car ad abbr.
- 31. Military call
- 32. Untwist
- 33. Part of an act
- 37. Managed
- 38. _____ Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- 39. Citrus grove
- 40. "I read you"
- 42. Tragic wave
- 45. Slanted
- 46. Remembrance Day mo.
- 47. Sailplane
- 48. Sidestepped
- 52. Dangerous bacteria
- 53. Recycle
- 54. Wrapped garment
- 55. Depressed
- 56. Hightailed it
- 57. Video maker, for short
- 58. Crackerjack
- 59. Defective

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

An explorer went wandering one day, one mile south, then one mile east, then one mile north, and he was back where he started - what colour was the bear which was eating his sandwiches?

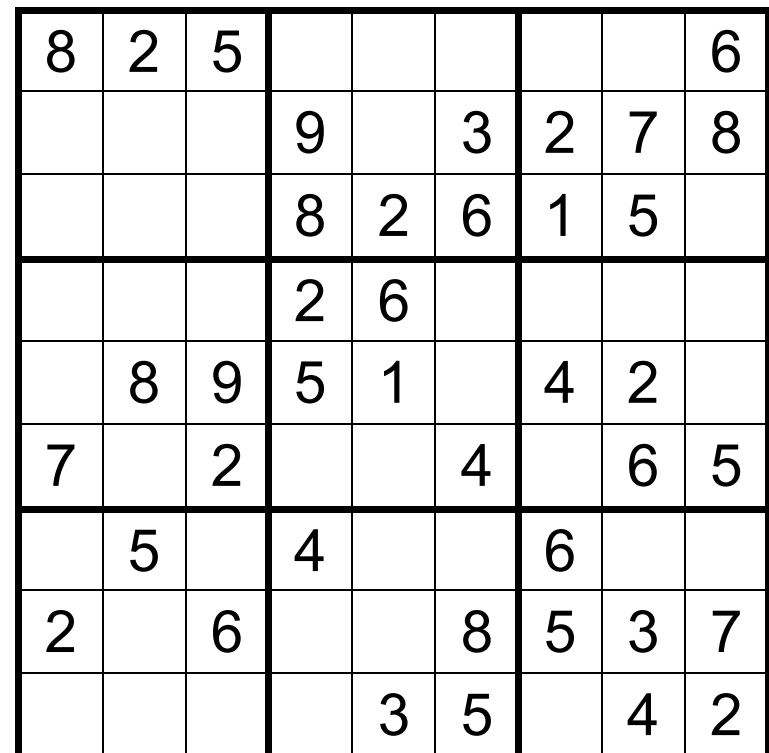


Last Week's Answer



This is not really a puzzle, merely a curious and clever piece of text

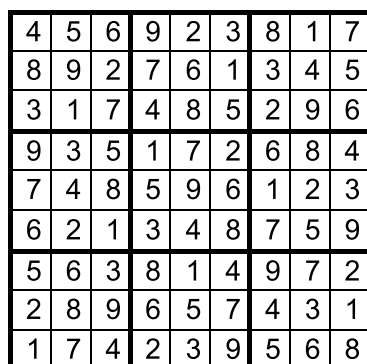
Sudoku Puzzle



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



Metro Motoring

For everything Car in Lesotho

E-mail: motoring@maserumetro.com

Tel: 266 2232 5494

Be Car-Smart

Use Your Eyes

A bad driving habit is focusing on the road in front of you or at the bumper of the car ahead. Practice looking farther ahead. By the time you're in the turn, for instance, you should be looking ahead at your exit. It may feel like this will cause you to run off the road, but it won't. Your peripheral vision will keep you in line.

Keep your eyes up and look ahead, not just at the road or vehicle immediately in front of you, but further down the road so you can anticipate. You should be looking about 15-20 seconds ahead of your vehicle, farther if you can.

In respect to this, what should you do with your eyes while driving? Focus your eyes on the vehicle in front. Keep watching the traffic all around you. Keep your eyes fixed on the rear view mirror. One may also ask, what are the three types of vision when driving? For safe driving, fleet drivers must have their eyes on the road, hands on the wheel, and full attention and focus on the task at hand. These three types of distracted driving - visual, manual and cognitive - are what can be the most risky.

Correspondingly, how often should you move your eyes while driving? Keep your

distance: Maintain a following speed of two seconds behind the car ahead on city roads, 3-4 seconds on the highway, and 4 seconds on on-ramps. The eyes have it: Move them, every two seconds. Glance, don't look.

How do you use your peripheral vision when driving? Peripheral vision is a little less obvious, but it's super important for driving. Basically, peripheral vision is what you see out of the corner of your eye when looking straight ahead. Peripheral vision lets you see when other cars are passing you, while still allowing you to focus on what's in front of you.

Gathering information with your eyes is called visual perception. Safe driving depends on your ability to notice many things at once. To get the right information to the brain, a driver's eyes have to move constantly and pick out the appropriate spots at the right time.

Our eyes provide two types of visions: Central vision and Peripheral or side vision.

Our central vision covers about three degrees of our visual field and peripheral vision, or side vision, covers the rest. The three degrees of central vision is a very small area in your total field of vision. But central vision allows us to make very important judgments like estimating distance and understanding details in the path ahead.

Our peripheral vision is not as sharp as central vision, but it is more sensitive to light and motion. That's a good thing because it helps us detect events to the side that are important to us, even when we're not looking directly at them. Events like cars entering our field of vision from the side, or warning lights from ambulances, police cars, and other emergency vehicles are all observed using peripheral vision.

Land Rover Special Vehicle Operations creates Ultimate Range Rover Sport SVR

The new Range Rover Sport SVR Ultimate edition adds SV Bespoke exclusivity to 423kW high-performance flagship - the fastest and most powerful SUV available from Land Rover.

Special Vehicle Operations has launched a special edition Range Rover Sport SVR with spectacular new solid glass flake paintwork options for the first time.

Featuring a selection of exclusive paint colour combinations and tailored interior detailing by the SV Bespoke vehicle personalisation team, the 423kW Range Rover Sport SVR Ultimate edition enhances the visual appeal of the fastest and most powerful vehicle in the Land Rover family.

Three hand-finished exterior paint choices include new Maya Blue Gloss and Marl Grey Gloss colours, both of which are exclusive to the Ultimate edition. Delicate and highly reflective fine white glass flake particles in the solid base coat give an intense star-like sparkle. A third option, for a stealthier look, is Ligurian Black Satin. Each colour features a Narvik Black contrast roof. The SV Bespoke team's attention to detail extends to Black knurled Range Rover lettering on the bonnet and tailgate, with exclusive contrasting Fuji White edging which is also used for side fender accents.

A body-coloured carbon fibre vented bonnet, 22-inch five split-spoke forged alloy wheels and black brake calipers reinforce the Ultimate edition's strong presence, complementing the SVR's Narvik Black contrast roof, door mirror caps, front grilles and grille surrounds, front wing detail and tailgate finishers. Range Rover Sport SVR is the fastest, most powerful and most dynamic Land Rover ever produced. Now in its second generation, the current model is powered by a 423kW version of the 5.0-litre V8 supercharged engine, which produces 700Nm of torque - sufficient to power the SVR from 0-100km/h in just 4.5 seconds and a top speed of 283 km/h. Mark Turner, Commercial Director, Land Rover SV Bespoke, said: "Range Rover Sport



SVR redefined Land Rover high-performance capability when it was introduced in 2014. We've sold more than 20,000 examples to date and demand for the SVR's characterful mix of power, luxury and thrilling dynamics continues to grow every year. The SV Bespoke personalisation features of this Ultimate edition elevate its appeal even further."

The craftsmanship of the SV Bespoke team is also evident inside. Specially commissioned

chrome-finished SV Bespoke B-pillar badges, black anodised metal gearshift paddles and Ultimate edition illuminated treadplates enhance the recommended Ebony and Cirrus interior, which incorporates SVR-embossed lightweight Performance Seats in Windsor leather and contrasting Suedecloth.

Hannah Custance, Design Manager, SV Colour and Materials, said: "Our SV Bespoke design team is always pushing the boundaries

to create stunning vehicle colours with enhanced individuality. This is the first SV Bespoke edition we've offered with beautifully textured and reflective glass flake paint finishes, which puts the Range Rover Sport SVR Ultimate edition at the forefront of our innovative approach to personalisation."

Range Rover Sport SVR Ultimate edition will be available in South Africa early in 2022 with pricing to be available closer to the time.



Taekwondo body prepares media for AUSC Games

TEBOHO JAFETA
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MASERU – AS part of preparations for the upcoming Maseru 2020 African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Games scheduled for December, the Technical Directorship of Confederation of Southern African Taekwondo Associations (COSATA) held a one-day training programme for local sports reporters.

The focus was on the competition rules and interpretation of taekwondo. The training was held on Tuesday at the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation office in Maseru. In his opening remarks, the Chief Executive Officer of the games' Local Organising Committee (LOC), Morake Raleaka said the regional tournament would not be held without the support of the media.

"We are going to host these games in the COVID-19 era, so we have to work hard to make our budget inclusive of all the circumstances. The aim is to still host the games without spectators, so it is through the media that we will be able to reach every part of Lesotho and the entire southern African region during the games.

"We are currently holding orientations

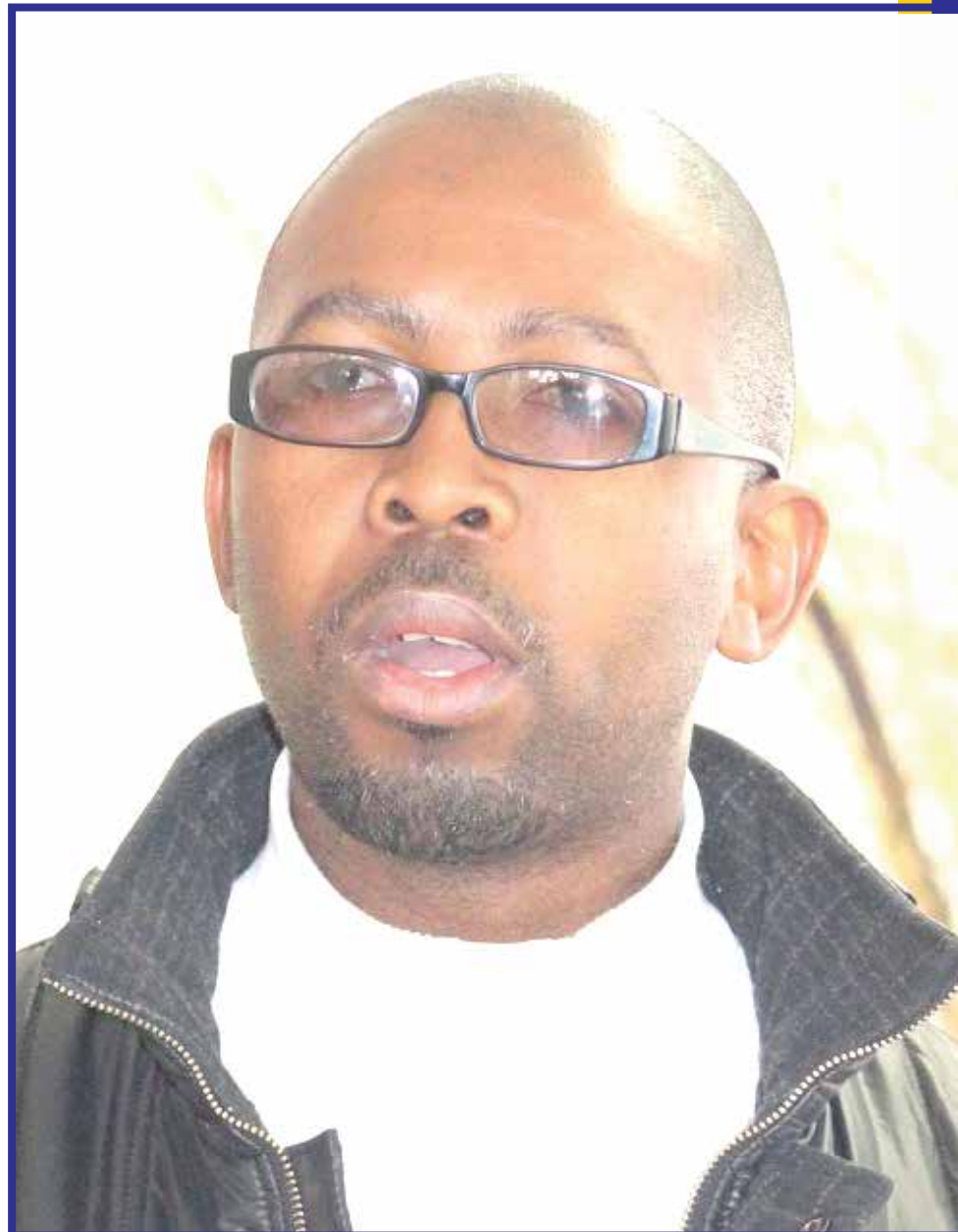
for the new LOC support staff in order to speed up the preparation process. Taekwondo is the first sport to induct the media ahead of the games, so it will be an honour for other sporting codes to follow suit," he said.

For his part, AUSC Region 5 Taekwondo Technical Delegate, Moshoeshe Molapo said as a new sporting code in the AUSC Region 5 programme, COSATA found it befitting to introduce the media to the competition rules and regulations in order to report well on the sport, before and during the games which will be held from December 3 - 12.

He said the Daedo Protector Scoring System (PSS) will be used during the taekwondo competition as Region 5 countries asked COSATA to allow them to use the system because many of them already possess the relevant equipment.

Molapo was quick to mention that in several competitions, he noticed that some athletes and coaches from Africa did not understand the competition rules, resulting in most athletes losing matches due to lack of knowledge of the essential rules and interpretations.

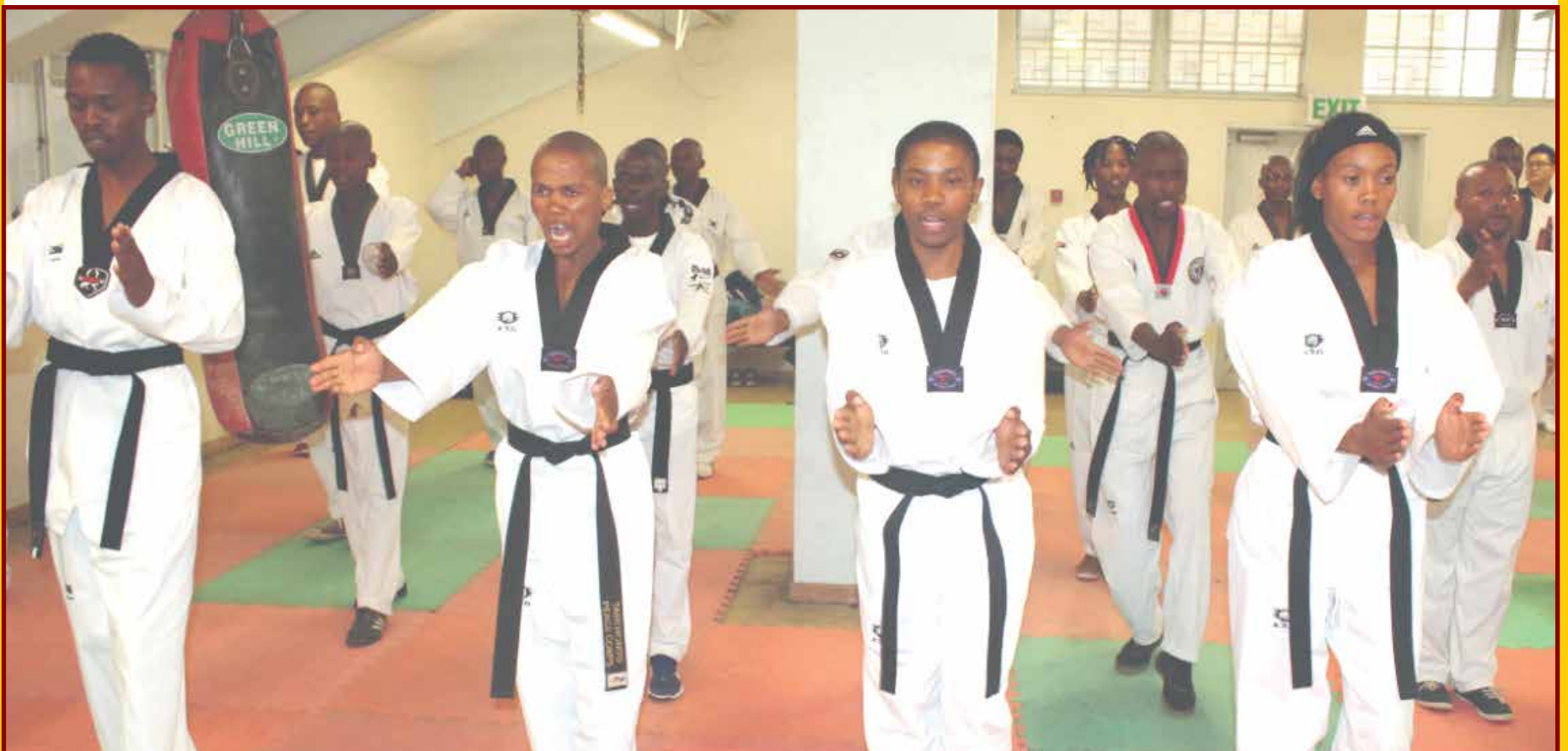
"Hence, it is crucial that they learn these rules to avoid such unnecessary disappointments. I am available to



AUSC Region 5 Taekwondo Technical Delegate, Moshoeshe Molapo

assist local athletes and coaches with these rules education which keep changing every now and again. It is

therefore imperative for both athletes and coaches to be well informed about these things," he noted.



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MASERU – WITH the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) presidential elections fast approaching, the Maseru District Football Association (DIFA) President, Lijane Nthunya is set to challenge the association's long-running boss, King's Counsel Salemane Phafane for the top seat on September 11.

LeFA Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi told Metro that all protocols have been observed and the association is working as per guidance of the state mitigation strategy like it happened during last year's congress.

The campaign process, he said ends seven days before election day, announcing Nthunya and Phafane as the only candidates so far.

For his part, Nthunya said he is mainly focused on making football a viable industry in Lesotho through putting emphasis on youth development. The idea, he further showed is to allow children to learn the football culture from an early young age by assigning qualified personnel to train them.

"The other target is to develop infrastructure in the form of grounds, that is, construct good quality grounds with natural grass in every district," he said.

In order to achieve this goal, he noted that LeFA would have to partner with the government through the ministries of public works, agriculture, sports, education and water.

"The role of the Ministry of Public Works involves ensuring that skilled people are deployed in the construction of the grounds. The Ministry of Agriculture will be in charge of guiding us in planting the natural grass in pitches while the water ministry will show us how to rightly irrigate the grounds. The education ministry should be engaged through including sports in its curriculum so that we will be able scout talent at grassroots level in schools," Nthunya said.

He further said his focus is to restructure LeFA through making DIFAs independent from the body so that they could run their own district affairs and have their own coaches and referees' committees that will recruit more personnel at district level.

"I also aim to ensure that LUCSA, LISA and LEPSSA have their own district committees to run their affairs at district level and report to the LeFA.

"My focus will also be to engage some of our football legends to be part of football administration to get proper

Nthunya vies for top LeFA post



Maseru District Football Association (DIFA) President, Lijane Nthunya

guidance and learn from their experiences.

"We need to engage in skills development and train coaches at all the levels, from basic and grassroots level to CAF A Licence so that all our coaches will be qualified. We need to train referees to ensure that all people who administer games are well skilled.

"We need to make football valuable by having transparent administration in order to attract investors through displaying good results.

"The presence of investors makes it easy for clubs to grow, developing the leagues in the process.

"There is need to largely publicise the sport so that a huge number of Basotho get interested in the sport and get involved. We will consequently have marketable players at national level that will attract foreign teams. Some of the world's great footballing countries like Brazil focus on exporting quality players, hence contributing to the country's economy," he said.

Phafane who has been at the helm of the association for the past 16 years was not available for comment.

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*Germs that cause plaque, gingivitis and bad breath



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MASERU - Retired American track and field star athlete and long jump specialist, Jackie Joyner-Kersey once said, "Age is no barrier, it's a limitation you put on your mind."

As the saying goes "Age is no limit," which simply means one can achieve whatever they desire to attain, notwithstanding their age.

Baholo "Beberto" Motene was able to prove that in July 2020 when she became President of the National Women Football Committee (NWFC) at the age of 28.

She arrived there through sheer hard work, dedication and perseverance.

Her success cuts across all the angles, from being a no-nonsense defender on the football field, to one of the most admired young female football administrators in Lesotho.

Motene won five Vision 2020 trophies and gold medals with the Berea District team from 2007 until 2011. She also won a silver medal at the Lesotho Institutions Sports Association (LISA) Coca-cola Games with Phomolong High School in 2008.

She won a bronze medal at the 2009 Confederation of School Sport Associations of Southern Africa (COSSASA) with Team Lesotho in Swaziland.

She won seven titles and gold medals in the Maseru Super League from 2007 until 2014 with Likhosatsana FC before bagging the 2015 inaugural Women Super League trophy with the same team.

She holds a Sports Administration Level One certificate obtained from the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) in 2013.

Her character as a game changer never stops, because in 2016, she negotiated the enrollment of 15 Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Ladies players into the army and those players are now full members of the LDF.

Motene won three Women Super League trophies and three gold medals with the army side from the 2017/18 to the 2019/20 season.

She holds the Young Participants certificate obtained from the LNOC in 2018.

Born on July 24, 1992, Baholo Motene is the daughter of Likoche and 'Matumelo Motene of Ha Leqele, on the outskirts of the Maseru. She is the second born in a family of four - two girls and two boys.

She was born and bred in Ha Leqele and did her primary education at Lithabaneng Primary School in 2005 before she proceeded to Sefika High School where she obtained her Junior Certificate (JC) in 2007. She moved to Maseru Day High School

Tough defender, a game changer, Baholo "Beberto" Motene



where obtained her Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) two years later.

She began playing football at primary school where she also sang for the school choir.

She became serious about football in secondary school and joined the school team as a Form B learner.

She made her mark during a LISA tournament where she showed her real prowess as a footballer.

She was later invited by the Phomolong High School coach, Tholang Tohlang to play for his team in the finals.

Between 2004 and 2006, she played for her men's home team, Barcelona FC which occasionally featured real talented girls.

For a short while in 2006, she joined the Mighty Vultures of Roma under the mentorship of former LeFA Women Football Desk Officer, Tjamela Tjamela.

That further opened doors for her because thereafter, she became a wanted lady by most local women's teams.

She was later that year invited to play for the Berea District at the Vision 2020 Games and played under the stewardship of Ketsibile "Killer" Phatsoane. She played alongside other great female footballers including among others,

'Mamoroesi Likotsi, 'Mamoruti Ntsiki, Matšeliselo Rantjana, Palesa Mpetla and Boitumelo Rabale.

In those days, the formidable Senate Letsie who currently plays for Kick4Life Ladies played for the Mophale's Hoek District team.

In 2007, after an impressive display at the Vision 2020 Games, she joined Likhosatsana FC under Phatsoane. She later that year received the National Under-17 squad call up and remained with the side until 2009.

She made several appearances for the national senior team Mehalalitoe, competing at among others, the FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers and the COSAFA Women's Championship such as the 2011 edition in which Mehalalitoe went down 4-0 to hosts Zimbabwe. They went on to beat Mozambique 3-2 before losing 5-2 to Malawi.

Motene enrolled in the army in 2014 while still playing for Likhosatsana.

In 2016, she influenced the purchase of Likhosatsana Women Super League status to LDF and became the manager and founding member of the LDF Ladies.

She played for the club until April 2020 when she officially hung her soccer boots. She is deployed in the LDF Sports Unit.

She is the Team Manager of Mehalalitoe, a position she has held

since 2019.

She was elected as the National Women Football Committee President in 2020.

Apart from playing and managing women football, she volunteered at LeFA during the national team events, by assisting the Secretary General, Mokhosi Mohapi with allocation of tickets and accommodation of VIPs.

Some of the people who helped her achieve her goals in football administration include the former Women Football President Maleshoane Mokhathi (2013). She also looks up to Mohapi, Posholi Posholi, Phatsoane, Lehloenyha Nkhasi, Chris Bullock and Tjamela.

She regards Bullock as a great mentor who made her discover herself as a footballer.

"He believed in my capabilities and made me the Women Super League Committee Secretary in 2018," she says.

As an upcoming player, she looked up to Lisebo Ramakatsa, a talented player who made waves in local soccer scenes.

"When Lisebo retired at Likhosatsana, I even took her favourite jersey number 15, she was my real heroine," she recalls.

Motene who is now 'Matlhokomelo Fothoane, is married to Lehlohonolo Fothoane. Apart from football, she enjoys reading.