



THE MEDIA’S POWER TO CROWN KINGS



facebook

Metro

News you can use

Metro

Maseru Metro

Just now •

Urgent appeal for Basotho safety in SA

An urgent appeal for the safety and protection of Basotho living and working in South Africa has gained momentum amid reports of rising xenophobic tensions and targeted attacks. On May 3, 2026, Lesotho’s High Commissioner to South Africa, Mr. Lerato Nkhetsé, publicly called on the South African government to safeguard Basotho migrants, citing escalating risks from vigilante groups and discriminatory practices. This plea underscores longstanding vulnerabilities for the estimated 300,000 Basotho who cross the border daily for work, remittances forming 40% of Lesotho’s GDP...[See more](#)



The media’s power to crown kings



RANTAU TLALI MAKHETHA

MASERU- this past weekend, the Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution, known as SECTION 2, issued a formal statement to mark World Press Freedom Day.

This year’s commemoration, centred on the theme “Shaping a Future at Peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development, and Security,” served as a backdrop for the organization to detail its perspectives on the current state and future trajectory of Lesotho’s media landscape.

The statement expresses a conviction that a free and independent media, spanning both traditional and digital formats, is a necessary component for the health of the nation’s constitutional democracy.

Rather than viewing the press as a mere observer, the document characterizes the media as an “extraordinarily powerful” entity capable of shaping public opinion, setting the national agenda, and holding those in authority accountable.

The statement argues that the ability of the press to inform and mobilize citizens makes it one of the most significant forces within any democratic framework. To illustrate this influence, SECTION 2 points to the political climate of the United States, where observers have noted that independent media played a decisive role in the political rise of Donald Trump.

According to the statement, this occurred through the amplification of specific voices and narratives that resonated with large segments of the American population. This example is used to demonstrate how media platforms,

This year’s commemoration, centred on the theme “Shaping a Future at Peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development, and Security,” served as a backdrop for the organization to detail its perspectives on the current state and future trajectory of Lesotho’s media landscape.

particularly those that are new and independent, possess the capacity to influence political outcomes in a decisive manner.

In the context of Lesotho, the statement asserts that the nation’s future is currently held by two primary forces: the youth and the media. The document claims that these two groups together have the power to shape public discourse and mobilize the citizenry to such an extent that they will ultimately decide who becomes the next Prime Minister of Lesotho.

Consequently, the organization argues that the power to determine the country’s direction now rests largely with these demographics.

Because of this perceived influence, the statement

emphasizes that it is critical for the media—especially the growing independent and “new media” sectors—to recognize their own strength.

A significant portion of the statement is dedicated to a warning against external control. The organization urges media outlets to refuse manipulation, using the metaphor that the media must not “let the tail wag the dog”.

This suggests that rather than serving narrow political interests, the press should assert its independence and establish its own agenda based strictly on the public interest.

The document notes that since SECTION 2 was established in 2023, both traditional and digital



media have consistently amplified the group’s statements and helped broaden public discourse regarding constitutional matters.

The statement characterizes this as an ongoing partnership that has assisted in bringing constitutional issues to the forefront of national conversation.

Special attention is given to the rise of digital platforms, with the statement highlighting the increasing influence of “new media,” specifically mentioning Facebook.

These platforms are described as a critical source of information for Basotho, providing real-time updates and a variety of perspectives that traditional media may struggle to provide.

The organization notes that while this citizen-driven media is not formally regulated in the same way as traditional outlets, it plays an essential role in keeping the public engaged in national affairs.

The statement suggests that this digital ecosystem allows for a democratization of information, providing a platform for citizens whose voices might otherwise remain unheard.

However, the document also balances this support for digital platforms with a call for ethical behaviour.

It urges content creators and social media users to uphold standards of accuracy and responsibility.

The statement warns that the irresponsible dissemination of information can lead to a loss of public trust and may even undermine social cohesion.

Therefore, while the organization believes this new media ecosystem should be nurtured and protected, it maintains that this growth must be

accompanied by an adherence to ethical standards.

To address these concerns, the statement issues several specific calls to action for national stakeholders.

First, it calls for the respect and defence of freedom for both traditional and new media without favour or fear.

Second, it emphasizes the need to protect journalists and digital content creators from harassment, intimidation, or any form of undue interference.

Third, the document encourages the promotion of responsible journalism and information-sharing across all available platforms.

It asks stakeholders to recognize that independent social media plays a role that is complementary to traditional media in strengthening the democratic process.

The statement concludes by reaffirming the organization’s commitment to working with both traditional and vibrant new media to promote governance, accountability, and constitutionalism within Lesotho.

It maintains that a press that is both free and responsible—whether operating online or offline—is one of the strongest pillars of a democratic society.

The document ends with a final plea to protect and strengthen press freedom in all its forms, reiterating the warning not to allow the “tail to wag the dog” in the pursuit of a just society.

This statement on World Press Freedom Day serves as an overview of how SECTION 2 views the press not just as a tool for communication, but as a primary architect of Lesotho’s political future

2

ND ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL VALUE CREATION CONFERENCE 2026 - KHOTLA

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, EESG AND POLICY REFORMS:
Building Intergenerational Value and Economic Resilience

KEY NOTE SPEAKER:
HONOURABLE LEJONE MPOTJOANE
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations



MRS TEBOHO MALISEBO MOKELA
Government Secretary



ADVOCATE SELEBALO NTEPE
Board Chairman, IoD Ls



MRS. CAROLYN CHALMERS
Governance Expert (SA)



DR KHALI MOFUOA
Senior Lecturer
NW Business School



Mr. NKARENGALPHONSE LETSIE
Deputy Board Chairman, IoD Ls



Mr. ROBERT LIKHANG
Chairman
Mohlomi Code Committee



Mr. CHAKA NKOFO
Chartered Director



Mr. TS'EPO FELIX LETSOELA
Finance & Investment Expert



Mrs. MABAKUBUNG PITSO
Deputy Accountant General, GOL



Mr. THABO STEPHEN MONYAMANE
Board member & Entrepreneur



Mr. CHABA MOKUKU
Managing Director, CAFI



ATTORNEY TISETSO SELLO-MAFATLE
Corporate & Commercial Lawyer



Ms. MAZVI GUNI
Chairperson FNB Lesotho BOARD



Mr. THUSO GREEN
Board Chairman, SMIC



Mrs. MAMOTLOHI MOCHEBELELE
Principal Officer, Pension Fund



MC
Ms. LERATO MPHAKA



MC
Mr. TOKISO TKAY NTHEBE

MORE SPEAKERS LOADING...

TICKETS ARE LIMITED!

07-08 MAY 2026

VENUE: 'MANTHABISENG CONVENTION CENTER

ticketbox

 NON-MEMBER:
M5 000 PP

 IOD MEMBER:
M4 500 PP

 5 DELEGATES (5% OFF):
M4 750 PP

 10 DELEGATES (10% OFF):
M4 500 PP

Women's Caucus Convenes Stakeholders on Gaps in Domestic Violence Act



LIAPENG RALIENGOANE

Maseru- The Women's Caucus on Monday convened a multi-stakeholder workshop in Parliament to assess implementation gaps and challenges surrounding the Counter Domestic Violence Act of 2022, bringing together key actors in the fight against gender-based violence.

Delivering opening remarks, Deputy Secretary of the Women's Caucus, 'Manthabiseng Maea, said the workshop aimed to create a platform for frank engagement on the Act, its implementation hurdles and existing gaps. She noted that the discussions brought together representatives from the Ministry of Gender, non-governmental organisations, the police,

prosecution and other critical partners. "This engagement is about reflecting on how far we have come with the Counter Domestic Violence Act of 2022 and identifying areas that require strengthening," Maea said.

Acting Director Ministry of Gender and Social Development, Mapuleng Secheche outlined the core objectives of the legislation, stating that the Act seeks to safeguard the rights of victims while preventing domestic violence and addressing related matters. She emphasised that the law represents a significant step in reinforcing protections for survivors.

Highlighting the strengths of the Act, UNFPA Gender Officer Adv. Matšelis Mokone pointed to provisions that simplify access to protection orders. She

explained that survivors can approach courts directly to apply for protection, a move that removes barriers and accelerates access to safety.

Mokone also noted the stringent penalties contained in the Act, including life imprisonment for perpetrators convicted of murder, describing this as a strong deterrent and a demonstration of the seriousness with which such crimes are treated.

However, participants also raised several concerns regarding implementation. Among the key challenges identified was the lack of adequate training for community leaders, which limits their ability to effectively collaborate with relevant committees. It was also noted that existing shelters largely cater to women, leaving male survivors without

support services.

Additionally, stakeholders observed that many survivors remain unaware of the existence of shelters, pointing to gaps in public awareness and outreach. Concerns were also raised within the prosecution sector, where it was argued that listed offences under the Act do not significantly differ from existing laws and that the role of prosecution remains limited in practice.

In closing, Deputy Chairperson of the Women's Caucus, Dr. Pinki Manamolela described the workshop as "eye-opening," expressing appreciation to all stakeholders for their contributions. She voiced optimism that the discussions would translate into meaningful improvements in the implementation of the Act.

"We are hopeful that

this engagement will bear good fruits and lead to stronger protection systems for all victims of domestic violence," she said.

The workshop marks an important step in strengthening collaboration among institutions tasked with addressing domestic violence, as the country continues efforts to enhance legal and support frameworks for survivors.

The Women's Caucus is a parliamentary body comprising women legislators from different political parties who unite on issues of national importance affecting women and vulnerable populations. Its work focuses on promoting gender equality, influencing legislation and advocating for stronger protections against gender-based violence and discrimination.

Robert Mugabe's son deported from South Africa over firearms offence



MAYENI JONES

The youngest son of Zimbabwe's late former leader Robert Mugabe has been deported from South Africa and has arrived in Zimbabwe, following an order from a Johannesburg court. Bellarmine Mugabe pleaded guilty to pointing a firearm and illegally being in the country earlier this month after he was arrested following the shooting of a 23-year-old man at his home. The

28-year-old was also ordered to pay a fine of \$36,000 (£26,700), which he did before being allowed to leave South Africa.

His co-accused, and cousin, Tobias Matonhodze - who pleaded guilty to attempted murder, illegal immigration, possession of ammunition and defeating the ends of justice - was sentenced to three years in prison.

Both men were arrested on 19 February when police were called to Mugabe's home in the upmarket Johannesburg suburb of Hyde Park.

A man who worked at the premises was taken to hospital in a critical condition after he was shot.

Prosecutors previously told the court that the shooting followed a row between the three men inside the property, and that the victim was shot twice in the back outside as he tried to flee.

The authorities have yet to find the gun.

Mugabe was also previously charged with attempted murder, but after Matonhodze pleaded guilty, the charge was dropped.

The charge of pointing a gun relates to a separate, unrelated incident but Mugabe agreed to have the two cases heard together, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) told the BBC earlier this month.

Handing down his sentence, the judge said the gun was a toy but that it was "likely to lead a person to believe it was a firearm". Mugabe has had multiple brushes with the law. In 2024, he was arrested for allegedly assaulting a police officer in the Zimbabwean border town of Beitbridge.

He was given bail but a warrant for his arrest was later issued after he failed to appear in court, Zimbabwe's state-run Herald newspaper reported at the time.

The following year, he was arrested for assaulting a security guard at a mining site in Mazowe, an hour's drive north of the capital, Harare. The case remains ongoing.

Bellarmino Mugabe is one of two sons Robert Mugabe had with his second wife, Grace.BBC

Kagame Heads to Gaborone to Deepen Rwanda-Botswana Bilateral Ties



DAVIS MUGUME

President Paul Kagame is set to undertake a two-day working visit to Botswana beginning May 6, 2026, in a move that signals continued efforts to deepen bilateral cooperation between Rwanda and the Southern African nation.

The visit comes at the invitation of Botswana's President, Duma Gideon Boko, and is expected to provide an opportunity for the two leaders to review the state of relations and explore new avenues of partnership.

According to a statement from the Office of the Botswana Government, the visit "marks an important step in advancing Botswana-Rwanda bilateral relations towards high-impact economic partnerships, as a framework for deepening

bilateral engagement." **Strengthening Economic and Technical Ties**
A number of agreements are expected to be signed during the visit, focusing on trade and investment as well as institutional collaboration between the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). Beyond traditional areas of cooperation, the visit is likely to place renewed emphasis on Rwanda's rapidly evolving ICT and artificial intelligence ecosystem—an area Kigali has positioned at the center of its economic transformation agenda.
Over the past decade, Rwanda has invested heavily in digital infrastructure, including nationwide broadband connectivity, smart governance systems,

and innovation hubs. The country has also advanced policies that support data-driven growth and emerging technologies such as AI. Engagements with Botswana could create space for knowledge exchange, joint innovation programs, and partnerships linking public institutions with tech entrepreneurs in both countries.
A Growing Regional Partnership
Rwanda's reputation as a regional technology hub has increasingly attracted international partnerships in fintech, e-health, agri-tech, and digital public services. This progress is anchored by initiatives such as Kigali Innovation City and a vibrant startup ecosystem. Officials view AI as a strategic tool to improve service delivery and enhance efficiency in sectors like healthcare

and agriculture. In this context, discussions may explore how both nations can collaborate on building digital skills, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and leveraging technology to accelerate inclusive growth.
Rwanda and Botswana have maintained cordial relations anchored in shared priorities around governance and economic transformation. Both are often cited as Africa's most stable, reform-oriented economies.
Recent mobility arrangements further reflect this partnership, with Botswana citizens currently eligible for a free 30-day visa on arrival in Rwanda, while Rwandan citizens can enter Botswana visa-free for up to 90 days. Officials say these travel policies are part of broader

efforts to promote trade and tourism, making it easier for business communities to move between the two nations.
Continental Impact
Analysts suggest the meeting between Kagame and Boko could also touch on broader continental issues, including the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and coordinated approaches to regional peace and security.
The visit underscores Rwanda's continued diplomatic outreach as Kigali seeks to strengthen strategic partnerships that support its development agenda and expand its economic footprint across the continent. Further updates are expected following the conclusion of the two-day engagement.
-KT PRESS

Loss of 5,000 US troops in Germany is just the tip of the challenge facing Europe

TIM LISTER

Hardly a week passes without some new spat between the Trump administration and Europe.

But in a year that has seen a major dispute over tariffs, US President Donald Trump threatening to annex Greenland and disagreements over aid to Ukraine, the most pressing threat facing Europe is the ongoing transatlantic rift over NATO.

Trump has declared that the US will withdraw 5,000 – and probably many more – troops stationed in Germany, after German Chancellor Friedrich Merz criticized the US handling of the Iran conflict, saying Tehran had humiliated Washington.

Trump also took a swipe at Spain and Italy for not helping the US campaign against Iran.

Asked if he would consider withdrawing US troops in those countries, Trump responded: “Probably... look, why shouldn’t I? Italy has not been of any help to us and Spain has been horrible, absolutely horrible.”

Spain has denied the US military permission to use its bases or its airspace for missions or strikes linked to the conflict. Trump’s criticism of Italy comes despite its Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, being a key ally.

Trump has long complained that the US is unfairly shouldering the burden when it comes to western security, once singling out European economic powerhouse



Members of the US military train in Germany - Trump says he’s withdrawing 5,000 and more could follow.
Sean Gallup/Getty Images

Germany as “delinquent” on the issue. The partial US withdrawal is another iteration of this saga – but one that underlines bigger problems.

As US willingness to underpin European security frays – and the Russian threat grows – Germany, the United Kingdom and France are promising to usher in a new era of spending.

But they have a mountain to climb, and not very long to do so.

US shifts priorities

“If we are to remain transatlantic, we must strengthen the European pillar within NATO,” German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said Saturday after Trump spoke of pulling out troops.

Pistorius suggested the drawdown was expected, calling it “foreseeable.”

Likewise, Merz told German channel ARD on Sunday that “there is no connection” between the friction with Trump and the reduction in US troops, according to a Reuters translation of the interview.

Thousands of US troops remain in Germany, although levels are a fraction of what they once were.

As of December 2025, 36,436 US active service members were stationed in Germany, according to US Defense Department data.

At the height of the Cold War, some 250,000 active-duty troops were based in what was West Germany.

The umbrella has been taken down even though Russia remains a threat – and the latest US move “underscores the need for Europe to invest

more in defense,” NATO spokesperson Allison Hart said Saturday.

Washington wants to focus on challenges “where only American power can play a decisive role” in Asia and its own hemisphere, according to a senior Pentagon official, Elbridge Colby.

It is demanding “much greater efforts by our allies to step up and assume primary responsibility for the conventional defense of Europe,” Colby added.

In the US perspective, he said, “there is nothing anti-European about this vision.

To the contrary, it reflects hope and indeed confidence in Europe’s capacity to act substantially and vigorously.”

Some Europeans see it differently – as a loss of solidarity and

common purpose – and a striking example of US unilateralism.

“The greatest threat to the transatlantic community is not its external enemies, but the ongoing disintegration of our alliance,” Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Saturday.

“We must all do what it takes to reverse this disastrous trend.”

Reversing the trend requires higher defense spending among most NATO members, a resurgence of weapons production, investment in new technologies and deeper collaboration.

On current plans, Europe’s defense annual spending is set to almost double by 2030, reaching nearly \$750 billion.

But using that money wisely also demands a different mindset.

When it comes to defense, governments jealously guard national preferences, so there has been an historic lack of collaboration in production and procurement.

Smaller production runs mean that equipment like the German Leopard battle tank costs far more than its US counterpart, analysts say.

The US produces one main battle tank; Europe makes a dozen.

The collapse of a Franco-German project to build a new generation of jet fighters is an example of irreconcilable national interests.

Amid constant bickering over leadership of the project, the CEO of French plane-maker Dassault, Eric Trappier, said of their neighbor: “If they want to do it themselves, let them do it themselves.”

- CNN

A Theme for the Boardroom, Not the Factory Floor: How Mokhosi Missed Workers' Day Again

**RANTAU TLALI
MAKHETHA**

Let us begin with a concession. The idea of psychosocial wellbeing in the workplace is not, in itself, a bad one. In a well-functioning labour environment where wages are paid on time, where workers are not afraid to raise grievances, where employers are held to account by a vigilant inspectorate — attention to mental health and the social dynamics of work is a legitimate and even necessary conversation. In Scandinavia, where robust worker protections underpin such discussions, psychosocial frameworks have meaningfully improved conditions on the shop floor.

The concept has value. The question is not whether it is a worthy idea in the abstract. The question is what it means here, in Lesotho, in 2026, when the most pressing daily reality for most workers is not psychological stress in the clinical sense, but the far older and more urgent stress of not having enough money to live on.

That is the context in which Minister Tšeliso Mokhosi and his Ministry of Labour and Employment must be judged this Workers' Day.

Not against an ideal version of labour governance, but against the specific and documented failures that have accumulated on his watch and, to be fair, on the watches of his predecessors.

Mokhosi did not create every problem he has inherited. The Labour Code's enforcement gaps predate him.

The Labour Court's inaccessibility to ordinary workers is a structural failure that has been building for years.

The chronic underfunding of the Labour Inspectorate is a budgetary problem that involves the Ministry of Finance as much as it involves him.

These are systemic issues, and fairness demands we say so. But fairness also demands that we ask what a sitting minister has done with the authority he holds — and on that question, the record is troubling.

The minimum wage remains a source of deep grievance. Increments, when they come, consistently fail to keep pace

with the rising cost of basic goods.

Workers in the textile and garment sector — the backbone of Lesotho's formal economy and a sector dominated by women — have seen their real purchasing power erode year on year. There have been consultations.

There have been tripartite engagements. There have been committee meetings and position papers.

What there has not been, with any consistency, is a minister willing to use the full weight of his office to push through meaningful wage adjustments against employer resistance.

The tripartite process is important and should be respected. But tripartism without political will behind it becomes a theatre of delay, and workers are not fooled by the performance.

Consider the woman who wakes before five each morning in Sehlabeng sa Thuathe, takes two minibuses to reach the factory by seven, stands for the better part of ten hours on a concrete floor, and returns home after dark to a family she barely sees.

She is not a metaphor. She is a specific and repeated reality across this city and others. Her psychological stress is real, but it does not originate in some abstract deficit of workplace wellness culture.

It originates in wages that do not cover her rent, in a supervisor who threatens dismissal if she takes too long in the bathroom, in the knowledge that if she is injured at work the compensation process will take years she does not have.

When the Ministry of Labour offers her a theme about psychosocial environments, it is not meeting her where she is. It is speaking, loudly and confidently, past her entirely.

It would be unfair to suggest the ministry has done nothing at all. Labour desk services have been extended to some districts. There have been efforts, however modest, to bring awareness of workers' rights to communities outside Maseru.

These should be acknowledged. But acknowledgement is not absolution. A ministry that achieves small things while the large things remain broken cannot expect applause.



The large things — enforcement, wages, access to justice, protection for informal workers — are what Workers' Day is fundamentally about, and it is on those large things that this government continues to fall short in ways that cause genuine, measurable harm to real people.

There is also a growing category of worker that the ministry seems ill-equipped to even think about: the informal and gig worker, the street vendor, the piece-rate labourer, the domestic worker employed without a written contract and dismissed without recourse.

Lesotho's informal economy has expanded significantly, absorbing workers who fall outside the formal protections of the Labour Code and who have virtually no institutional advocate.

This is not a new phenomenon, but it is an accelerating one, and the ministry has offered no coherent policy response.

To focus Workers' Day on psychosocial dynamics in formal workplaces while this growing underclass of workers remains entirely invisible is not merely a missed opportunity. It is a statement of priorities, even if an unintentional one.

The choice of this year's theme also raises a subtler concern. When labour ministries in developing economies adopt the vocabulary of international development organisations and global HR frameworks without

the material conditions to support that vocabulary, they risk something more than irrelevance.

They risk a kind of conceptual colonisation — a gradual displacement of locally grounded understandings of worker dignity by frameworks designed for, and in the interests of, very different contexts.

Psychosocial wellbeing as a concept travels well in policy documents and donor reports. It does not travel as well to a construction site in Leribe where safety equipment is absent and injury compensation is a rumour.

The ministry should be suspicious of frameworks that make its reports look sophisticated while leaving its workers exactly where they were.

None of this is to say that Mokhosi is indifferent to workers' suffering in any personal sense. He may well feel genuine concern. But governance is not measured in sentiment. It is measured in what changes, and what does not.

The test of any labour minister is whether, at the end of his tenure, workers are materially better off and better protected than when he arrived.

On that test, based on what is observable, the case for the defence is weak. Mokhosi wants next year's Workers' Day to mean something different, there are concrete places to start.

Fund the Labour Inspectorate adequately and hold it to measurable targets. Establish

a fast-track mechanism in the Labour Court for wage theft cases, so that employers who steal from their workers face real and swift consequences.

Commission and publish a credible study on informal workers and table a policy framework to begin bringing them within the law's protection. Engage meaningfully with trade unions — not ceremonially, but in ways that produce binding commitments. These are not revolutionary demands.

They are the basic functions of a labour ministry doing its job. They do not require a new theme. They require a decision to govern.

Workers' Day belongs to the workers. It was taken from governments and employers by people who bled for it, and it should not be handed back to them in the form of a theme chosen to satisfy an international reporting calendar.

Lesotho's workers deserve a government that treats May 1st as a moment of accountability rather than a moment of branding.

They deserve a Minister of Labour who arrives on this day with something more to offer than good intentions and borrowed language.

The psychosocial environment of Lesotho's working class will improve when their wages, their rights, and their safety improve.

Until then, the theme is just noise.

CONTACT US

NEWSROOM

Email: editor@maserumetro.com
Tel: 266 58 86 5494

ADVERTISING:

sales@maserumetro.com
Tel: 266 68 81 2200

WEBSITE:

www.maserumetro.com



MetroNewspaper



MaseruMetro



MaseruMetro



Maseru Metro News



Metro

B BUSINESS

Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle."
- Napoleon Hill, author

Out of your vulnerabilities will come your strength." - Sigmund Freud, neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis

STD Bank supports China trade symposium

NEO SENOKO

MASERU-Standard Lesotho Bank (SLB) has demonstrated its continued support for the second annual Xport China Sourcing and Global Trade Symposium, an initiative designed to bolster the economic bridge between the Kingdom of Lesotho and the People's Republic of China.

By supporting this symposium, the Bank is reinforcing its role as a key facilitator of international trade, providing local businesses with the strategic tools and financial security necessary to navigate the complexities of global markets.

Central to this initiative is the Bank's dedication to removing the historical barriers that have hindered local entrepreneurs from scaling their operations internationally.

Through its robust partnership with the Industrial and Commercial Bank



of China (ICBC); the world's largest bank and a 20% shareholder in the Standard Bank Group, Standard Lesotho Bank offers a "bootson-the-ground" advantage that acts as a secure intermediary for Basotho traders.

This partnership ensures that local businesses have a trusted advocate in China to assist with supplier verification and factory inspections, significantly reducing the risks of fraud or substandard

product delivery. "Our support for the China Sourcing Symposium is a testament to our commitment to driving Lesotho's growth by empowering our SMEs.

By providing direct currency settlement and physical supplier verification through our agencies in China, we are ensuring that our clients can trade with confidence and competitive efficiency," Standard Lesotho Bank Head of Trade Lisemelo Khomari said during the event on Saturday.

Furthering this support, Standard Lesotho Bank has streamlined the financial logistics of the trade process by enabling direct transactions in Chinese Yuan (CNY).

This critical service allows local businesses to bypass the traditional requirement of converting currency into US Dollars, thereby saving on exchange spreads and reducing transaction fees.

By integrating these services into its digital

and business banking platforms, the Bank provides an end-to-end trade solution that covers everything from price negotiation to compliance with SABS standards.

Standard Lesotho Bank remains a dedicated partner to the Basotho business community, continuously evolving its trade finance offerings to meet the demands of a globalized economy.

By fostering these strategic international connections, the Bank is not only supporting individual businesses but also contributing to the broader economic stability and heritage of the Kingdom.

Standard Lesotho Bank is a leading financial institution and a member of the Standard Bank Group, currently celebrating over three decades of service in the Kingdom.

The Bank is committed to driving Africa's growth through innovative personal and business banking solutions.



Govt. urged to act against Xenophobic attacks in SA

NEO SENOKO

MASERU-The Migrant Workers' Association of Lesotho has urged government to take action by engaging directly with South African authorities at the highest levels amid rising Xenophobic attacks.

The rising tide of xenophobic violence directed at foreign nationals in South Africa is alarming.

These attacks have resulted in the destruction of property, loss of livelihoods and in the worst cases, tragic loss of life.

"We cannot, and we will not turn a blind eye to the challenges that our Basotho brothers and sisters face in these harsh conditions," the Executive Director of the Migrant Association of Lesotho Lerato Nkhetse said in a statement.

The association has further called on government to take action and advocate for safety of Basotho citizens abroad, calling upon the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations particularly, to activate the country's consulates and the High Commission in South Africa without delay.

This, the association said is not just a diplomatic duty, instead, it is a constitutional

obligation to protect the citizens.

"It is your responsibility to advocate for the safety and well-being of Basotho citizens abroad. Silence in the face of danger is not acceptable.

Your people need you to speak out and intervene to safeguard our lives and property."

"Establish emergency hotlines where Basotho can seek assistance and make proactive visits to affected communities to assess their needs and offer guidance.

You must arrange for shelter and legal support for those who find themselves in crises.

The Basotho community needs to feel your presence and

protection during these tumultuous times," Nkhetse added.

The association is concerned by the apparent lack of a clear safeguarding strategy for Basotho who may potentially become victims of these attacks and therefore believes that Basotho deserves a well thought out emergency plan and not a void filled with silence or inaction.

"We would also like to remind the government of South Africa that Basotho have contributed significantly in building its economy over the years.

Our community stood shoulder to shoulder with you during the fight against apartheid,

illustrating our deep commitment to mutual respect and solidarity," Nkhetse highlighted.

He urged Basotho migrants to prioritise safety by among others, avoiding high risk areas and keeping regular communication through emergency contacts.

Xenophobia has long been an issue in South Africa and in recent months, more anti-migrant incidents have been reported, some of which included violence against foreign shopkeepers.

Escalating xenophobic attacks in South Africa have sparked diplomatic protests by other African countries that includes Nigeria, Ghana and Mozambique.



HEALTH

WHO, MOH Rally Media for Responsible Health Reporting



that progress in health depends on teamwork across sectors.

Collaboration between government, scientists, health workers and the media was identified as key to improving health outcomes and building public trust.

The workshop further equipped journalists with practical skills to communicate complex health issues effectively, empowering them to produce credible, confident, and impactful reporting.

As misinformation continues to pose a threat to public health, stakeholders urged the media to remain vigilant and committed to truth, ensuring that accurate information reaches communities across the country.

The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts by WHO and the Ministry of Health to strengthen health communication and support informed decision-making among Basotho.

LIAPENG RALIENGOANE

MASERU- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health have called on journalists to uphold accuracy, clarity, and ethical standards in health reporting, emphasizing the media's critical role in promoting public health and combating misinformation.

This call was made during a media training workshop held in Maseru yesterday, where health officials and media practitioners gathered to strengthen collaboration and improve the communication of scientific information.

Speaking at the event, WHO Representative to Lesotho, Dr. Innocent Nuwagira highlighted the media's responsibility in shaping public perception and influencing behaviour. "Journalists are the bridge between

science and society. Your reporting must remain factual, responsible, and rooted in evidence," he said, urging the media to actively counter misinformation.

Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Health, 'Mants'oanelo Monyobi, echoed the call, stressing that effective communication is essential to a strong health system.

She noted that journalists play a key role in ensuring that the public receives timely and accurate health information.

Also addressing the workshop, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Llang Maama emphasized the importance of translating complex medical and scientific information into clear, accessible messages that can be understood by all Basotho.

The training was held as part of the World Health Day 2026

commemorations, observed annually on April 7.

This year's theme, "Together for Health: Stand with Science," calls for global solidarity in advancing science-driven solutions to health challenges.

Presentations at the workshop highlighted that the campaign marks the beginning of a year-long global initiative focused on scientific collaboration, evidence-based decision-making and the One

Health approach, which recognizes the link between human, animal, and environmental health.

Participants were reminded that in today's fast-paced information environment, responsible communication is just as important as scientific expertise.

They were encouraged to report accurately, avoid sensationalism, and ensure that health messages are clear, relatable, and inclusive.

Speakers also stressed





SOCIETY

Metro

Angélique Kidjo is still moving the world

Metro

KIBO NGOWI

It's on songs like I'm On Fire, an uptempo dance tune in which Angélique Kidjo evokes the spirit of Fela Kuti with the help of Nigerian highlife duo The Cavemen, that you appreciate the breadth and depth of Kidjo's musical palette.

The song comes roughly halfway through HOPE!!, a 16-track album that sees the Beninese legend going everywhere from Atlanta to Kinshasa and Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg in search of sonic building blocks.

At the age of 65, you'd be forgiven for thinking Kidjo might feel she's said and done enough but the acclaimed singer shows no signs of slowing down.

She has performance dates lined up across Europe with stops in England, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Poland and Switzerland between May and November. I first got the chance to see her perform at the Culture Summit in Abu Dhabi last year where she turned a formal TED-styled conference into a Coachella-esque concert in the desert.

HOPE!! is an album that comes four decades deep into one of the most decorated careers of any African musician and contains much of the grounded versatility that has taken Kidjo to stages across the world. It also arrives at a moment shaped by personal loss and reflection, with the death of her mother becoming a quiet but persistent presence throughout the project.

"This album was in the making since the release of Mother Nature," she says, referring to her 2021 album. "And I haven't done anything because in the meantime, my mom passed away. So I paused a lot of things to grieve."

Creating the album became part of the grieving process for Kidjo: "I promised my mom I would record my own version of Malaika because she would always ask me to sing it for her before she died, but for a long time I couldn't do it," she explains.

"So I said I have to do a whole album to fulfill this promise that I made to my mom. And somehow I did with this album. She has been somehow all the way guiding me to everything that I do. That's the feeling that I have because I felt her presence completely throughout

this album." That sense of presence is most clearly felt on the album's closing track, a sweeping orchestral version of Malaika featuring French singer Florent Pagny. The song itself carries a long history. Written by Tanzanian composer Adam Salim in 1945 and later recorded by Kenyan musician Fadhili William, it has become closely associated with Miriam Makeba, whose rendition introduced it to global audiences.

Kidjo's version honours that lineage while adding her own emotional imprint, moving between the original Swahili lyrics and a new set of lyrics in French.

Elsewhere, the album moves with a restless sense of curiosity. Its collaborations stretch across continents and genres but they are held together by a clear sense of purpose that Kidjo returns to repeatedly when she talks about her work.

"For me, it's always about the song. I'm always at the service of the song," she says. "My music is not for me to keep. I grew up with the philosophy from my parents that when you surround yourself with people to talk about something that is meaningful, it's more powerful. The message is delivered more powerfully."

That philosophy runs through the album's extensive list of collaborators, 15 featured artists in all, across the album's length of just under an hour.

The opening track Bando brings together Pharrell Williams and Quavo, formerly of the Atlanta trap trio Migos. It's a surprising collaboration that turns a word for an abandoned house used for cooking and selling drugs, into an upbeat anthem about overcoming struggle. Pharrell no doubt brought some of the sensibilities he used to produce Cliche's Let God Sort Em Out.

On Aye Kan, Ayra Starr adds a contemporary Nigerian pop sensibility, while Fall On Me pairs Kidjo with PJ Morton for a more soulful exchange. Each collaboration is shaped by the question Kidjo poses to herself in every creative encounter. "What can I learn? What can the person learn from it and how and why are we telling this story?"

The answers shift from track to track. Oyaya brings together Nile Rodgers and Brazilian artist IZA, creating a groove that feels at home in both Lagos and Rio.

Superwoman with



Dadju carries a smoother, more melodic energy, while Kakua featuring Diamond Platnumz leans into the rhythm of Tanzanian Bongo Flava. There's a sense that Kidjo is intentionally drawing unexpected connections between people, locations and musical styles.

That instinct is perhaps most evident on Sunlight To My Soul, where the Soweto Gospel Choir provides a powerful choral backdrop and on Joy, where Davido brings a buoyant Afropop energy. Even the inclusion of Jerusalem, originally by Master KG and Nomcebo Zikode, feels like a continuation of a song that has already travelled far across the world.

Kidjo's ability to hold all these threads together speaks to a career built on consistency and a refusal to be confined by expectations. That consistency was recognised last year when she became the first Black African artist to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I think that it means my consistency in my work and forecasting the richness of the culture of this continent has resonated so far that I am able to be there," she says. "So it means the door is open now to all of us. So let's get to it."

The statement carries the same sense of collective thinking that defines her approach to music. Success, in her view, is something that gains meaning when it creates space for others. It's a perspective shaped by

the artists who came before her, figures like Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela, whose careers unfolded in far more restrictive circumstances.

"We paid a huge price for the youth today to be able to put out their music and deliver it instantly," she says. "It was a battlefield filled with a lot of bombs."

Her advice to younger musicians reflects that history: "Today is easier. And easy means you have to be more aware. Don't take anything for granted because things that are easy are the most complicated. Be strategic. I've never thought of my career being a fashion or being something of the moment. "And AI is going challenge authenticity today. Be authentic. Speak up for yourself. Be consistent in your work. Be a hard worker and don't settle for less. And be respectful of yourself and others."

She continues with a clarity that comes from experience. "Music is a very possessive mistress. I mean, there's no compromise there because if you start compromising, you fool only yourself. You don't fool the public but without the public, you don't exist."

The emphasis, once again, returns to the relationship between artist and audience, a dynamic that cannot be sustained through shortcuts.

"You can be pretending and getting millions of likes and clicks but where you can actually make a difference is on stage in

how you perform and how you're there on time to do what you have to do." That commitment to performance remains central to Kidjo's identity. It is also where her seemingly boundless energy becomes most visible. When asked where that energy comes from, she doesn't hesitate.

"The energy comes from my mother," she says. "She raised 10 children. And my mom, from the moment she woke up at five o'clock in the morning everyday she was on her feet and she was always the last one to sleep."

The memory is vivid, almost cinematic. "As a little girl, I was looking at her like, on what battery is she running?"

It's a question that still lingers, even as Kidjo mirrors that same pace in her own life. "I have that energy because I know it's possible to have the energy to do so many things during the day. And if it makes you happy, why should I stop doing it?"

That sense of joy is embedded throughout HOPE!!, even in its quieter moments. It is there in the rhythmic pulse of Nadi Balance with Fally Ipupa, in the warmth of For Me featuring Charlie Wilson and in the expansive closing gesture of Malaika.

Kidjo herself seems content to let listeners find their own path through it. "It's no longer in my hands anymore once it's released. It's in the hands of everybody. So just feel free to do whatever you want and have fun with it."

- MAIL AND GUARDIAN

Downs Thrash City To Move Five Clear Of Bucs



Mamelodi Sundowns moved five points clear at the top of the Betway Premiership table after defeating Polokwane City 3-0 on Sunday afternoon.

Miguel Cardoso brought in Tashreeq Matthews and Thapelo Moreno following Wednesday's win at Lindokuhle Mathebula from six yards out while Jayden Adams also had seen his towering header saved after 25 minutes.

One of those crosses eventually paid off in the 32nd minute when Teboho Mokoena did well to pick out Rayners, who sent a header into the far corner for his 12th league goal of the campaign, moving him one behind Golden Boot leader Sede Dion.

Sundowns dominated from the onset with Polokwane defending with all their players deep in their own half,

although they did have a couple forays on the counter to try and catch out Sundowns' high line.

The Brazilians kept bombing cross into the area as the first half went on, with Iqraam Rayners sending a header straight at Lindokuhle Mathebula from six yards out while Jayden Adams also had seen his towering header saved after 25 minutes.

One of those crosses eventually paid off in the 32nd minute when Teboho Mokoena did well to pick out Rayners, who sent a header into the far corner for his 12th league goal of the campaign, moving him one behind Golden Boot leader Sede Dion.

The Brazilians carried that momentum into the second half and doubled their lead on 55 minutes when Matthews collected a pass from Zwane before cutting inside and curling one into the far corner.

The Polokwane outfit were given a lifeline on 63 minutes after being awarded a penalty for a handball from Aubrey Modiba.

Captain Puleng Marema stepped up but slipped before he took spot-kick and sent his effort over the crossbar.

Sundowns coach Miguel Cardoso responded with a double change for the final 20 minutes as Adams and Zwane made way



for Khuliso Mudau and the returning Nuno Santos with one eye on Wednesday's clash against Kaizer Chiefs.

The hosts went onto bag a third goal with five minutes left on the clock when Santos got his name on the score-sheet with a close-range finish after linking up with fellow substitute Brayan

Leon to round off a good afternoon for the league leaders.

- SOCCER LADUMA



AmaZulu push for an African spot, motivated by Durban City's success

Metro **MIHLALI BALEKA**

AmaZulu coach Arthur Zwane says they are highly motivated to join Durban City in the CAF Confederation Cup next season, adding further reward to the foundation laid by the KwaZulu-Natal top-flight clubs.

AmaZulu are among the most improved teams not only in KZN, but in the elite league this season. They are currently fourth on the standings – a long-standing target of club president Sandile Zungu since taking over a few years ago.

Usuthu's season could get even better, as they are within touching distance of a third-place finish, which guarantees qualification for the Confederation Cup next season. They trail third-placed Chiefs by five points with four games to play. AmaZulu coach Arthur Zwane says they are highly motivated to join Durban City in the CAF Confederation Cup next season, adding further reward to the foundation laid by the KwaZulu-Natal top-flight clubs.

AmaZulu are among the most improved teams not only in KZN, but in the elite league this season. They are currently fourth on the standings – a long-standing target of club president Sandile Zungu since taking over a few years ago.

Usuthu's season could get even better, as they are within touching distance of a third-place finish, which guarantees qualification for the Confederation Cup next season. They trail third-placed Chiefs by five points with four games to play.

Vodacom Premier League 2025/26 Season
Log Standing as per Week 28

POS	CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	LIYABATHO FC	28	17	8	3	57	18	39	59
2	BANTU FC	28	16	7	5	45	24	21	55
3	MATLAMA FC	28	15	10	3	36	21	15	55
4	LIFOFANE FC	28	16	6	6	40	23	17	54
5	MAJANTJA FC	28	15	8	5	40	25	15	53
6	LIOLI FC	28	13	10	5	37	20	17	49
7	LDFC	28	12	10	6	37	24	13	46
8	LINARE FC	28	12	6	10	40	30	10	42
9	LCS FC	28	11	9	8	27	21	6	42
10	LMPS FC	28	6	14	8	27	27	0	32
11	MACHOKHA FC	28	6	6	16	16	34	-18	24
12	LIMKOKWING FC	28	5	8	15	23	43	-20	23
13	MANONYANE FC	28	4	10	14	32	50	-18	22
14	MEMBERS FC	28	4	6	18	20	54	-34	18
15	LIPHAKOE FC	28	2	11	15	12	39	-27	17
16	MAROALA FC	28	3	5	20	16	52	-36	14

Vodacom Premier League 2025/26
Week 29 Fixture

Saturday, 09 May 2026

Playgrounds

Liphakoe FC

V

Majantja FC

10:00

Setsoto

Bantu FC

V

LCS FC

12:30

Setsoto

Liyabatho FC

V

Lioli FC

15:00

Setsoto

Maroala FC

V

Matlama FC

17:30

Setsoto

Sunday, 10 May 2026

Playgrounds

Lifofane FC

V

LU FC

13:00

S.Thejane

Linare FC

V

LDFC

15:30

S.Thejane

Members FC

V

LMPS FC

15:00

Ratjomose

Manonyane FC

V

Machokha FC

15:00

Bambatha

Snap Every Goal with vPhone 4G Plus

64GB Ram 5000mAh

Prepaid Price

M1049

Kick off the game with KICKA 7+ 4G

32GB Ram 3000mAh

Prepaid Price

M899