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FILM SCREENINGS EXPOSE GBV CHALLENGES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES



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"I Eloped at 15, My Parents Brought Me Back" – MP

Liapeng Raliengoane

MOKHOTLONG – Parents must take a firm stand in protecting their children from early marriage and ensure they remain in school, Women's Caucus member MP 'Masetota Leshota has told community members in Mokhotlong.



Film screenings expose GBV challenges in rural communities



Malebanye added that beyond physical screenings, the organization uses television, radio and social media to extend conversations on GBV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, human rights and other issues to wider audiences, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

She underscored that their intervention does not end when the film screening is over. They work with communities for six consecutive months, allowing for follow-ups, monitoring and continued dialogue.

That the post-screening interventions include case management, psychosocial support, legal advice and referrals for survivors, with follow-ups conducted to ensure affected individuals are connected to appropriate services.

In a nutshell, she stressed that the overall approach is intended to ensure that concerns raised by communities are not left unresolved but instead lead to follow-up, referral, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, monitoring and continued community dialogue.

Transforming gender norms and strengthening domestic violence laws for inclusive protection across Lesotho is a project implemented by Sesotho Media and Development through the support of European Union (EU) and Brot fur die Welt.

Sesotho Media and Development is a non-profit civil society organization committed to leveraging the influential medium of film and media to initiate conversations, challenge societal attitudes and disseminate information in support of human rights.

LIAPENG RALIENGOANE

Facilitated film screenings opened difficult conversations about gender-based violence (GBV), child marriage and sexual abuse in remote areas, according to Sesotho Media and Development (SM&D).

The organisation recently held a screening in 'Melikane, Qacha's Nek, where community discussions highlighted concerns around sexual offences, child marriage and the vulnerability of children in remote areas.

The recent Gender Links 2025 Indicators Follow-up Study states that women reporting lifetime experience of GBV fell from 86% in 2013 to 66.7% in 2025. That 9 out of 10 women who experience intimate-partner violence do not report it to police. Among those who do, only 15.6% see an arrest and fewer than 2% see any court outcome.

An interview with Letšabisa Malebanye, Project Manager at Sesotho Media and Development, revealed that the screenings target communities identified as having high rates of GBV, with the assistance of the

Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS).

"The initiative is aimed at raising awareness of the Domestic Violence Act and other laws relating to GBV, while giving communities an opportunity to discuss problems affecting them," she said.

She added that sexual abuse remains one of the major concerns raised during the screenings as in some remote communities, children walk long distances, sometimes alone, increasing their vulnerability to perpetrators.

Another challenge is limited understanding of consent and laws protecting children from sexual abuse. Thus, communities continue to need education on children's rights, GBV and available reporting and support mechanisms.

She said child marriage has also emerged as a significant concern, with poverty identified as one of the factors that can push families towards marrying off children as a way of reducing their financial burden.

Malebanye says the screenings are designed not merely to show



films but to create a platform for communities to identify their own challenges and discuss possible solutions. "We have seen communities becoming more open and participatory in discussing GBV and other issues affecting them."

She revealed that Sesotho Media and Development has also trained teachers and police officers through a Training of Trainers programme, equipping them with knowledge on identifying GBV, responding appropriately and referring survivors to relevant services.

That young people are being brought into the response through the Change Agents programme, which seeks to empower them to advocate against GBV, raise awareness among their peers and encourage

victims to speak out and seek assistance.

She said Sesotho Media and Development also works with clinics, community structures and other service providers to strengthen referral pathways for survivors requiring healthcare, psychosocial support, police assistance or other services.

Sesotho Media and Development, with assistance from the LMPS and the Ministry of Law and Justice, including the Judiciary, Prosecution Office and Legal Aid Unit, also conducts moot court sessions based on issues raised during the screenings. The sessions are intended to help communities understand court procedures, address misconceptions about the justice system and encourage reporting of offences.

A Pastor who keeps a seat open for LGBTQI+ people



THATO TUMAHOLE

MASERU - “Whose fault is it?” For Rev. ‘Malijo Baji, the answer is simple. “If a person exists, they are God’s creation. To reject them is to reject God and question His creation itself,” she says.

She says this belief shapes both her ministry and her advocacy for greater inclusion of LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and more) people within the church.

Rev. Baji is a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Lesotho. She has served in ministry for seven years and currently leads Makhenzi AME Church in Kolo, Mafeteng. She is widely known for speaking openly about the inclusion of LGBTQI+ people in faith communities.

The AME church, the denomination to which Rev. Baji belongs, has historically maintained restrictive

official positions on same sex relationships. Its Doctrine and Discipline, Aug 2024 states that, “Unions of any kind between persons of the same sex or gender are contrary to the will of God.”

Rev. Baji says her pastoral calling is to minister to all people without exception. “My inclusive ministry is rooted in my own pain.

I was diagnosed HIV-positive in 1999 and at the time the stigma was overwhelming. I experienced deep rejection from society when I needed care the most and that experience became the foundation of my empathy,” she states.

She adds that living through stigma helped her understand what it means to be pushed to the margins, “If LGBTQI+ people are often left behind, then my calling is to make sure no one is”

Rev. Baji explains that her journey as an advocate began outside the church.

“I first came to know LGBTQI+ people through my work as a counsellor

with Population Services International (PSI). “That’s when I started to understand and love them.

Working closely with them changed my perspective. They are good people, like everyone else, they deserve God’s love and blessings.”

She says those experiences gave her deeper understanding of the realities LGBTQI+ people face. “Once I truly knew who they were, I could no longer remain silent. That’s when I began speaking about them from the pulpit.”

Her advocacy later led her to an appointment by The People’s Matrix association to facilitate community dialogues on faith, dignity and inclusion. “I am appointed to lead these conversations; the dialogues are held in church halls and bring together religious leaders and LGBTQI+ communities to encourage understanding.”

Her message to fellow clergy is that a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity does not diminish their worth

before God. “Being LGBTQI+ does not make someone evil,” she pontificates.

Central to her preaching are Genesis 1:27, which teaches that all people are created in God’ image and Luke 6:37 which calls on believers not to judge others.

She often challenges those who discriminate by asking, “Whose fault is it? Is it God’s fault that LGBTQI+ people exist? To me, this means we must stop looking for someone to blame. If God created them, who are we to say they do not belong?”

By framing the existence of LGBTQI+ people as part of God’s creation, Rev. Baji challenges the condemnation that some religious leaders direct towards sexual and gender minorities.

One LGBTQI+ congregant who has worked closely with Rev. Baji described her as a compassionate and welcoming leader. “She treats everyone equally. She loves us, shares the Word of God with us and makes us feel welcome,” the congregant says.

They added that, unlike some churches where LGBTQI+ people have been turned away, Rev. Baji created space for them. “Other church leaders chased us away but Rev. Baji welcomed us. She doesn’t just speak about inclusion, she makes space for it.”

Rev. Baji acknowledges that being an ally in Lesotho comes with personal challenges. She says people often gossip about her and question her own identity because of her willingness to embrace those who are rejected by others.

“I have not faced any formal disciplinary action from church leadership but the whispers are constant.

I know who I am and I know who I am called to serve. I have been the one whispered about, so I will not be the one whispering,” she stresses.

Her message to those who have been rejected by other churches is straightforward. “You are not a mistake. You are a child of God and you are welcome here.”

Rev. Baji concludes by highlighting that the church should be a place of healing, compassion and belonging, not exclusion.

Africa’s solar boom puts Lesotho in the spotlight



Power Shift Africa Director
Mohamed Adow

LIAPENG RALIENGOANE

Lesotho is among a group of African countries where the rapid expansion of solar power could make a significant contribution to electricity supply, with new solar installations in 2026 projected to generate electricity equivalent to 10% of the country’s current annual generation.

The figure is contained in a new analysis by energy think tank Ember and the African Tech Futures Lab, which estimates that Africa is on course to install a record 17 gigawatts (GW) of solar power this year, a 45% increase from 2025.

Power Shift Africa says new figures show solar is becoming a major force in the continent’s energy transition.

The analysis places Lesotho alongside countries such as Sierra Leone, Togo, Somalia, Djibouti, Namibia and Liberia where solar installations are expected to make a particularly significant contribution to existing electricity generation.

Sierra Leone records

the highest projected impact, with electricity from solar installations made this year equivalent to 97% of its current annual generation, while Lesotho stands at 10%.

The findings point to a broader transformation in Africa’s energy sector, with solar increasingly being adopted not only through large-scale power projects but also by households and businesses installing smaller systems.

According to the report, about three-quarters of the solar capacity added across Africa between 2023 and 2025 came from distributed solar, predominantly smaller systems installed by households and businesses.

The researchers estimate that Africa installed about 12GW of solar in 2025, roughly twice the amount recorded by major international datasets.

Director at Power Shift Africa, Mohamed Adow said the continent’s solar transformation was already underway and called for governments and financial institutions to respond to the pace of change.

“Africa’s solar revolution is no longer something we are waiting for, it’s happening right now,” Adow said, arguing that affordable financing, stronger electricity grids, battery storage and supportive policies were needed to sustain the expansion.

The analysis estimates that the 17GW of solar expected to be installed in Africa in 2026 could generate about 23 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity annually.

That amount is equivalent to 2.3% of the continent’s current electricity generation and slightly exceeds Africa’s average annual growth in electricity demand between 2014 and 2024, which stood at 2.2%.

The growth is also spreading beyond Africa’s traditional solar markets. The Democratic Republic of Congo is expected to record a 544% increase in installations, followed by Zimbabwe at 282%, Egypt at 176% and Zambia at 117%.

Adow said the continent should use the growing demand for solar to develop local

manufacturing, create skilled employment and support African industries.

South Africa, which has historically dominated the continent’s solar market, is expected to account for less than 20 percent of Africa’s installations for the first time since 2019.

Chief Analyst at Ember, Dave Jones, said countries were already moving towards faster and cleaner energy systems and that governments that anticipated the shift stood to benefit.

For Lesotho, the projected 10% contribution from solar installations made this year suggests the technology could play a growing role in expanding electricity supply.

However, the report also highlights a challenge facing African countries: much of the continent’s rapidly expanding solar market remains dependent on imported technology.

Africa currently imports about 94% of the solar panels it installs from China, according to the report.

African solar panel manufacturing is projected to quadruple to about 3.5GW in 2026 as new factories come online in Egypt and Tanzania, although much of that production is currently intended for export rather than African markets.

Research Director at African Tech Futures Lab, Joel Nana said, “Across Africa, distributed energy resources are rapidly expanding, in many cases, overtaking grid capacity. Policy makers need to respond to this shift. The choice now is whether these distributed assets remain a parallel power system that compensates for grid failure or are integrated in ways that unleash a wider range of benefits.”

The report, *The Take-off in African Solar That Official Statistics Can’t Yet See*, was produced by Ember in partnership with the African Tech Futures Lab and published on August 27, 2026.

Power Shift Africa is a Nairobi based climate and energy think tank providing policy, analysis, advocacy and communications from an African perspective.

Canada braces for prolonged trade war as counter-tariffs on US take effect

NADINE YOUSIF

Canada's retaliatory tariffs on a range of US goods came into effect on Tuesday, with no sign of a trade deal on the horizon.

The counter-tariffs will apply to nearly C\$28bn (\$20bn; £15bn) worth of American products, from steel to furniture to cotton T-shirts, and will be as high as 50%.

Fresh fish and lobster were also on the list, but Canada later omitted them after pushback from its seafood industry - a sign of the tricky balance it has to strike as it retaliates against its largest trading partner.

Both US and Canadian officials have said they would like to strike a deal, but no movement has been made to resume talks after they collapsed in late August.

Speaking to reporters last week, Prime Minister Mark Carney said that Canada is still in search of a deal with the US that is "durable" and in the best interests of both countries.

"We're ready to sit down and and strike that deal when the Americans are ready," Carney said.

US trade representative Jamieson Greer, meanwhile, said on Thursday that the ball is in Canada's court.

"We offered them the best deal, they looked at it square in the face and turned around," Greer said in an interview with Fox News, adding



that there has been sparse communication with the Canadians since talks collapsed.

In a separate interview with Canadian broadcaster CBC, Greer cautioned against retaliation and suggested the US might hit back by banning the import of some Canadian products.

President Donald Trump threatened on Monday to halt all US business with Canada-based airplane maker Bombardier unless it moved its manufacturing south.

The company is one of the largest in the country, contributing over C\$7bn to Canada's annual GDP in 2024, according to a report commissioned by Bombardier by public accounting firm PwC.

Trump took aim at Canada in a series of other Truth Social posts over the weekend, including one that called Canada's exchange rate with the US "unacceptable".

Another post showed a map of North America - including Canada and Mexico - and Greenland all overlaid with the US

flag.

Canada and the US have the world's largest bilateral trading relationship valued at nearly \$900bn in 2025.

With new US tariffs and Canadian counter-tariffs are now in effect, businesses on both side are scrambling to deal with what comes next.

The US currently has in place a 25% tax on Canadian cars and trucks, as well as taxes on Canadian steel, aluminium and lumber. In late August, President Donald Trump imposed new 50% tariffs on other goods like dairy, alcohol, hockey sticks and perfume.

Canada's counter-tariffs, which were described by Carney as "dollar-for-dollar", will be applied to hundreds of items coming in from the US as of midnight on Tuesday.

They are in addition to existing retaliatory taxes Canada had placed on finished American cars and trucks that are non-compliant with a free trade agreement between Canada, the

US and Mexico, known as the USMCA in the US and CUSMA in Canada.

Polls suggest the majority of Canadians support their country imposing retaliatory tariffs on the US.

But economists warn that the latest counter-tariffs will raise prices for consumers on everyday goods like clothing, food and furniture.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has also urged the Carney government to take a surgical approach to retaliation.

"Businesses understand retaliation but don't want to see endless escalation," said the Chamber's CEO and President Candace Laing in a statement to the BBC on Friday, though she added that businesses "are preparing for this trade dispute to last".

Pushback from the fisheries industry was enough for Canada to alter its counter-tariffs by removing dozens of seafood items to avoid unintended consequences to its own economy.

The lobster industry in both Canada and the US are heavily dependent on the other, with American-caught lobster often sent to north to be processed before it is shipped back to the US and sold.

Ahead of the latest tariffs, Canada's economy had shown signs of resiliency. Its GDP grew 3.3% in the second quarter and it had gained 181,000 jobs from April to July.

But around 41,000 jobs were lost in August, a period that coincided with the new US tariffs on Canada and the collapse in trade talks.

One sector that saw a modest bump was manufacturing - a gain the Canadian government attributes to consumers and businesses buying more made-in-Canada products.

Prime Minister Carney has vowed to diversify Canada's trade away from the US. July figures show the share of US-bound Canadian exports dropped to 66% from an average of 75% before the trade war.

- BBC

Is this the burial of human rights in Lesotho?

LIAPENG RALIENGOANE

Perhaps the most dangerous thing about a human rights crisis is not that violations happen, it is that society slowly becomes accustomed to them.

We read about them, we discuss them for a few days, we express outrage, then another story comes along and we move on.

Lesotho finds itself at an uncomfortable moment. Within days, the country has been confronted with allegations of sexual harassment involving an officer of the Office of the Prime Minister and a member of the public, alongside the alleged abduction and torture of a journalist and human-rights defender Kananelo Boloetse.

These are separate cases and they must be investigated separately. Allegations must not be mistaken for convictions but together, they raise a question that Lesotho cannot afford to avoid: Are we witnessing the erosion of our culture of human rights and, if so, how far has it gone?

The Office of the Prime Minister's response to the sexual-harassment allegation is important. In its September 4 statement, the Office described the allegations as serious and sensitive.

It acknowledged that people reporting sexual harassment and gender-based violence can face stigma, victimisation, intimidation and further harm.

It also said that the matter was brought to the attention of the Commissioner of Police, taking into account the complainant's concerns and fears.

That is the right principle but human rights are not protected by statements alone. They are protected by what institutions do after the statements have been issued.

Investigation is the beginning of accountability, not its conclusion and that is where the public interest lies.

If the police are investigating the allegation, the investigation must be credible, impartial and sufficiently



transparent to inspire public confidence. If there is no evidence of a crime, that should be established through due process.

If there is evidence of a crime, those responsible must face the law. The identity, position or political connections of the person accused cannot determine the outcome. That is what equality before the law means.

While this matter unfolds, another disturbing episode has emerged.

Newsday newspaper reports that its editor and human-rights defender, Kananelo Boloetse was allegedly abducted from his home in Maseru on September 5 by three unidentified men.

According to the statement by the publication, he was questioned about his journalism and human-rights work, assaulted and later abandoned in Thaba-Bosiu.

The newspaper says he was also threatened with death if the incident was reported.

Those are grave allegations and they demand more than outrage on social media. They demand answers: who abducted him? Who assaulted him? Why was he questioned about his journalism and human-rights work? Was the attack connected to his work? Were the perpetrators acting alone and perhaps most importantly: who, if anyone, ordered it?

If a journalist can allegedly be taken from his home, assaulted and threatened because of the work he does, then this is not merely a personal tragedy. It is a threat to the public's right to know.

A journalist does not surrender his human rights because he asks uncomfortable questions. An activist does not surrender his right to security because he challenges power.

A woman does not surrender her right to justice because she makes an allegation against someone connected to the establishment.

An ordinary citizen should never have to calculate whether speaking out is worth the risk. This is why these cases should concern us beyond the personalities involved. The real issue is the strength of our institutions.

A country can have a Constitution that guarantees fundamental rights. It can have laws against assault, sexual violence and intimidation.

It can establish institutions responsible for protecting citizens but the true test of a democracy is what happens when those rights collide with power.

Does the law protect the powerful and the powerless equally? Does a complainant receive the same seriousness whether the accused is an ordinary citizen or someone close to government?

Does a journalist receive protection when his reporting becomes uncomfortable for people in positions of influence? Does the police service investigate allegations without fear or favour?

When state institutions fail, who holds them accountable? These are not abstract questions, they are the questions that determine whether citizens trust the State.

Lesotho has lived through enough political and institutional crises to understand the danger of impunity because impunity does not begin with people openly declaring that they are above the law.

It begins much more quietly, it begins when people stop expecting anything to happen.

When victims stop reporting, when witnesses become afraid, when journalists begin self-censoring, when activists decide that silence is safer than speaking, when citizens conclude that justice depends on who you are and whom you

know. That is when human rights begin to die.

Not necessarily in one dramatic moment. They die slowly, through fear, silence, institutional weakness and the normalisation of wrongdoing. Perhaps that is the question Lesotho must confront now. Are we becoming accustomed to things that should never become normal?

The alleged sexual assault, the alleged abduction, the alleged torture and the alleged intimidation.

These must not become competing political narratives, they must not become ammunition for partisan arguments. They must become tests of our institutions. The Government has an opportunity here. It can demonstrate that its own words about human rights, dignity and protection from victimisation mean something beyond a press release.

It can ensure that the sexual-harassment allegation is investigated properly. It can ensure that the alleged attack on Boloetse is investigated urgently and independently.

It can ensure that journalists, activists, complainants and witnesses are protected from retaliation.

It can make it clear that nobody, whether politically connected or completely unknown is beyond the reach of the law.

Ultimately, this is not about defending one political camp against another. It is about defending a principle.

Nobody is above the law, nobody is beneath its protection.

The question before Lesotho is therefore not simply whether human rights are being violated. It is whether our institutions are strong enough to protect them when it matters most.

Perhaps the most frightening possibility is not that human rights are already dead, it is that we are slowly becoming comfortable attending their funeral.

How much longer before we realise that we are the ones burying them?

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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

Youth encouraged to pay taxes

Metro **NEO SENOKO**

MASERU-In a significant move to promote voluntary compliance, the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) has encouraged young people to understand the importance of paying taxes in order to contribute towards the resources that enable government to provide essential services and develop communities.

The RSL inspired this week during the National Spelling Bee Competition, emphasizing that tax is not simply something that adults deal with when they are running a business or earning an income, but instead, it is part of nation building.

"We want these young Basotho to grow up understanding that when they eventually enter the corporate world, start businesses, employ other or become leaders in their communities, they will also have a responsibility towards the development of their country.

"And that responsibility begins with understanding. Today, we are planting that seed. We are saying to our children: learn



about your country. Understand how it works. Understand where public resources come from. Understand why businesses must formalize, why taxpayers must comply, and why every citizen has a role to play in the development of Lesotho," RSL Deputy Commissioner Customs Advisory Services Thapelo 'Moleli said in his remarks during the event.

Moleli indicated further that the mandate of the RSL goes beyond collecting revenue

as the organization has a responsibility to promote voluntary compliance, educate taxpayers and build a culture where Basotho understand that compliance is part of contributing to the development of the nation.

The Spelling Bee Competition is an annual national spelling competition to improve literacy, English proficiency and public speaking among students.

"Through this competition, together

we are bringing tax education closer to our young people in a way that is engaging, memorable and meaningful.

And I must commend the schools, teachers and parents who have supported these young participants. Behind every confident child standing on this stage, there is a teacher who invested time, a parent who encouraged them, and a school that created an environment where excellence could flourish.

Tomorrow, you

may be writing policies, building businesses, developing technologies, leading organisations and making decisions that affect thousands of Basotho. So dream big.

And as you grow, remember that success is not only about what you achieve for yourself. It is also about what you contribute to the society around you.

We want a generation of young Basotho who are knowledgeable, ethical, responsible and patriotic," 'Moleli added.



SOCIETY

Dolly Parton's most-streamed songs: From 'Jolene' to '9 to 5', the hits that live on

OLUTHANDO KETEYI

Dolly Parton's music has travelled across generations, genres and decades, and the streaming numbers prove that her greatest hits remain as popular today as when they were first released.

Following the death of the country music icon, listeners have returned to her catalogue, revisiting the songs that helped make Parton one of the most influential singer-songwriters of all time.

From the heartbreak of "Jolene" to the workplace anthem "9 to 5", Parton's biggest songs continue to rack up millions of streams across Spotify and YouTube Music.

According to streaming data available on August 26, 2026, Parton's Spotify catalogue has amassed approximately 5.93 billion streams across 742 tracks, including collaborations and featured appearances.

Here are some of her most-streamed songs.

1. "Jolene"

Few Dolly Parton songs are as instantly recognisable as "Jolene".

Released in 1973, the song remains Parton's most-streamed solo recording on Spotify, with approximately 953 million streams.

On YouTube Music, the song has accumulated around 109 million plays.

The song's longevity has been remarkable, particularly given that it was released more than five decades ago.

Its influence has also extended beyond country music, with artists including Miley Cyrus and Beyoncé putting their own spin on the iconic song.

"Jolene" has become more than just a country classic; it is now one of the defining songs of Parton's career.

2. "9 to 5"

If "Jolene" represents Parton the songwriter, "9 to 5" represents Parton the cultural icon.

Released as the title song for the 1980 film "9 to 5", the track became one of the biggest hits of her career.

It currently has approximately 896 million Spotify streams, while its YouTube Music plays sit at around 106 million.

The song became Parton's first No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and earned her two Grammy Awards.

It was also nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

More than four decades later, "9 to 5" remains a workplace anthem and one of Parton's most recognisable songs.

3. "Islands in the Stream" – Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers

Parton's collaboration with Kenny Rogers continues to be a streaming powerhouse.



"Islands in the Stream" has approximately 615 million Spotify streams, while its YouTube Music plays are even higher at around 318 million.

The 1983 duet became a No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 and also topped the country and Adult Contemporary charts.

The song was eventually certified three times Platinum in the US.

Its enduring popularity also highlights the special musical chemistry between Parton and Rogers, whose friendship and collaborations became an important part of country music history.

4. "I Will Always Love You"

Long before Whitney Houston transformed "I Will Always Love You" into a global pop phenomenon, it belonged to Dolly Parton.

Parton wrote and recorded the song in 1973 following the end of her professional relationship with Porter Wagoner.

Her original recording has amassed approximately 168 million Spotify streams.

While Parton's version remains an important part of her catalogue, the song's legacy was dramatically expanded when Houston recorded it for "The Bodyguard" soundtrack in 1992.

Houston's version became one of the most successful singles in music history and introduced Parton's songwriting to an entirely new generation.

5. "Here You Come Again"

"Here You Come Again" marked another important chapter in Parton's career as she moved further into mainstream pop.

The 1977 song has accumulated approximately 156 million Spotify streams and around 23 million YouTube Music plays.

The song became one of Parton's biggest crossover hits and helped establish her as an artist who could move comfortably between country and pop.

It also earned Parton a Grammy

Award for Best Country Vocal Performance, Female.

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9. "When I Get Where I'm Going" – Brad Paisley featuring Dolly Parton

Parton joined Brad Paisley for "When I Get Where I'm Going", a reflective country song that became one of her notable later-career collaborations.

The track has surpassed 70 million Spotify streams.

The song also earned major recognition within country music, including a CMA Music Video of the Year win.

10. "Coat of Many Colors"

For many fans, "Coat of Many Colors" is one of Parton's most important songs, even if it isn't her biggest streaming hit.

The autobiographical song, released in 1971, tells the story of a coat Parton's mother made for her family from pieces of fabric.

It has approximately 70 million Spotify streams and around 42 million YouTube Music plays.

The song has remained central to Parton's legacy because of its deeply personal story about poverty, family and finding pride in what you have.

Parton has previously identified "Coat of Many Colors" as the song she is most proud of writing.

A catalogue that continues to live on

The streaming numbers tell only part of the story.

Parton's influence can be measured through awards, chart records, songwriting credits, film appearances and the number of artists who have revisited her music.

Songs such as "Jolene", "9 to 5", "I Will Always Love You" and "Coat of Many Colors" have moved far beyond their original releases to become part of popular culture.

And while streaming platforms offer a modern way of measuring a song's popularity, Parton's catalogue was already making history long before Spotify and YouTube existed.

Her songs have now found their way into the playlists of multiple generations – ensuring that the woman behind the rhinestones, big hair and unmistakable voice leaves behind a musical legacy that is likely to keep growing.

***Streaming figures are approximate and reflect data available on August 26, 2026. Streaming totals change continuously.**

Oswin Appollis transfer status clarified as exit speculation mounts



Metro **MIHLALI BALEKA**

Reports linking Orlando Pirates talisman Oswin Appollis with a move away from the club during this transfer window are unfounded, IOL Sport has been reliably informed. Appollis recently hogged the headlines,

with various publications reporting that an unnamed club from France's Ligue 1 was in contact with him, his agency, and Pirates regarding a potential transfer this window. Given that the transfer window slammed shut in Ligue 1 on September 1, suggestions pointed toward him either remaining at Pirates or

joining another club on loan until January or the end of the season before officially making his move. After working closely to get clarity on the matter, IOL has learned that the attacker is set to stay put at the club for now, as there are currently no concrete offers on the table for him – particularly from

European suitors. Appollis had a relatively slow start to the season, with Pirates coach Abdeslam Ouaddou maintaining that he and several teammates were still processing the fatigue of the FIFA World Cup, where they guided Bafana Bafana to an impressive knockout stage berth. However, the attacker is gradually finding form. He has already scored two goals and registered two assists in the Betway Premiership, and he will look to help his side defend their crown against Mamelodi Sundowns in the MTN8 final next month.

Appollis' immediate priority is helping Pirates advance to the next round of the CAF Champions League preliminary qualifiers when they host La Cure Waves in their return leg at home on Saturday, following a O-O draw in Mauritius. The Bafana number

seven was reportedly in the radar of FC Porto soon after playing in the World Cup in June and July, with the Portuguese side allegedly tabling an offer for R75 million. Losing a player of Appollis' quality would be a sucker punch for Pirates, who have already parted ways with high-profile stars such as Relebohile Mofokeng and Patrick Maswanganyi. But with Davids having rubbished the exit rumors, Appollis is expected to remain committed to the Buccaneers and rediscover the brilliant form that saw him narrowly miss out on the PSL Footballer of the Season award.



Pitso highlights local-coach advantage after Van Neel's Bafana call-up

Metro **SMISO MSOMI**

Golden Arrows coach Pitso Dladla believes having a locally based coach in charge of Bafana Bafana gives the national team an important advantage when it comes to identifying and monitoring talent. Dladla feels Bafana coach Pitso Mosimane and his technical team had been monitoring Ronaldo Van Neel long before the forward joined Arrows, which could explain his inclusion in the preliminary squad for the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers. Van Neel joined Abafana Bes'thende from Hungry Lions at the start of the season after finishing as the league's leading scorer with 13 goals. Although the forward is still adapting to his new surroundings, Dladla believes his qualities will become increasingly evident as he settles in. "That's what is good about having a local national team coach because coach Pitso and his technical team didn't just start to know Ronaldo Van Neel here at Arrows," Dladla said.

	PLD	GD	PTS
1 Man City	3	5	9
2 Arsenal	3	5	9
3 Hull	3	3	7
4 Chelsea	3	1	6
5 Brentford	3	3	5
6 Liverpool	3	2	5
7 Newcastle	3	2	5
8 Everton	3	2	5
9 Leeds	3	1	5
10 Brighton	3	3	4
11 Man Utd	3	1	4
12 Sunderland	3	0	4
13 Crystal Palace	3	-4	3
14 Ipswich	3	-4	3
15 Bournemouth	3	-1	2
16 Nott'm Forest	3	-1	2
17 Aston Villa	3	-5	1
18 Spurs	3	-5	1
19 Fulham	3	-3	0
20 Coventry	3	-5	0

Vodacom Premier League 2026/27

LOG									
STANDING									
AS PER WEEK 03									
POS	CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	MATLAMA FC	3	3	0	0	9	2	7	9
2	BANTU FC	3	2	1	0	9	5	4	7
3	LIOLI FC	3	2	1	0	7	4	3	7
4	MAJANTIA FC	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
5	LINARE FC	3	2	0	1	8	5	3	6
6	LIJABATHO FC	2	1	1	0	8	0	8	4
7	MANONYANE FC	2	1	1	0	7	3	4	4
8	LIMKOKWING FC	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
9	MIZAMANE FC	3	1	0	2	1	10	-9	3
10	VILLA FC	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	3
11	ILCS FC	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
12	LDF FC	3	0	2	1	3	6	-3	2
13	MEMBERS FC	3	0	2	1	1	4	-3	2
14	LMPs FC	3	0	1	2	3	8	-5	1
15	LIFOANE FC	3	0	1	2	2	7	-5	1
16	MACHOKHA FC	3	0	0	3	2	6	-4	0