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FRIDAY 08 AUGUST 2025 | Vol 7 Issue 31

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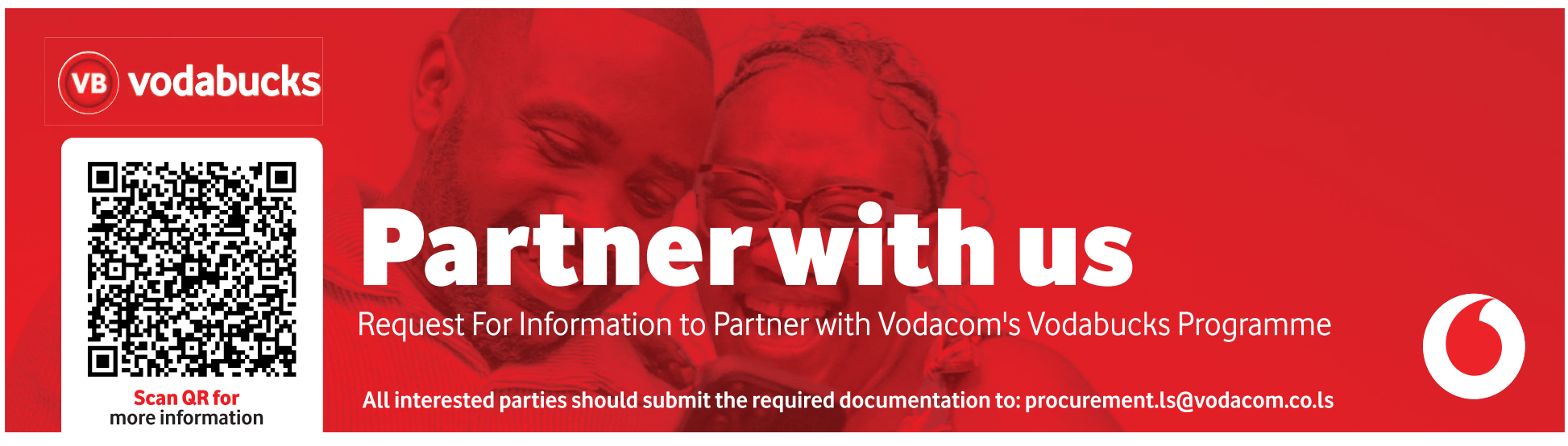

NEWS



Lesotho's water paradox

By 'Mantšali Phakoana
Senior Reporter

Despite being known as the "Kingdom in the Sky" and home to Africa's highest mountain ranges and abundant water sources, Lesotho is facing a mounting crisis: nearly one-third of its population (31 percent) has no access to clean and safe water.

While the country exports billions of litres of water to neighbouring South Africa through the multi-billion maloti Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), hundreds of thousands of Basotho continue to live without reliable access to safe drinking water, a basic human right.

This paradox has sparked growing concern, with health, education, agriculture, and livelihoods bearing the brunt of the water shortage. In rural areas, women and girls spend hours walking long distances to fetch water, often from contaminated sources shared with livestock.

Lesotho plays a key role in supplying water to South Africa through the LHWP, established in 1986. The project has become a major revenue source for the country, but little of that benefit trickles down to communities in need.

"The situation is dire," says Mathealira Lerotholi, Programme Manager of the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II (LLWDP II). "We are exporting clean water, yet our own people drink from unprotected and unsafe sources. It is both ironic and tragic."

Lerotholi was speaking during a stakeholder consultative workshop held in Mafeteng last week for zones 6 and 7 of the LLWDP II, a national water supply initiative supported by development partners including the World Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the European Union.

The LLWDP II is part of a broader effort to bridge Lesotho's rural-urban water divide. Backed by over M1 billion in funding, the project seeks to improve water access in underserved lowland areas through a series of infrastructure investments.

Construction is already underway in zones 2 and 3, which cover Hlotse and Maputsoe. Work in zones 6 and 7 - Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek - is expected to begin in October 2025. At the heart of the plan is a 635km pipeline from Mojira to Mafeteng, set to deliver approximately 57 million litres of water daily and benefit an estimated 280,000 people.

"The areas targeted were selected based on the severity of water shortages, drought vulnerability, and potential impact on local livelihoods," noted Lerotholi.

But while infrastructure development is central, officials stress that social, economic, and environmental concerns are also being prioritised.

According to Lerotholi, one of the leading causes of poor access to clean water in Lesotho is that many rural communities share sources with animals.

"This leads to contamination and increases the risk of waterborne diseases," he pointed out.

He further revealed that although Lesotho contributes only three percent of the Orange-Senqu River Basin's land area, it generates a significant share of the basin's water. Yet, South Africa occupies 65 percent of the basin's land area, Botswana eight percent, and Namibia 24 percent.

"It's a wake-up call. We lose 42 percent of our water due to leaks and inefficiencies, and at the same time, we're paying for the infrastructure that pipes our water to South Africa. Meanwhile, our people remain thirsty," he said.

During the workshop, Nthame Monare, LLWDP's Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Specialist, explained that the project has a robust compensation policy to ensure fairness and transparency in managing the negative impacts of construction.

The compensation framework, introduced in 2022, complies with national laws and international best practices. It covers loss of land, physical relocation, and business disruption.

"For example, affected residents received M28 per square metre of agricultural land in zones 3 and 4. So far, 56 out of 64 impacted communities



PROGRAMME MANAGER LLWDP-II, MATHEALIRA LEROTHOLI

have been compensated. The remaining eight will receive compensation once the design reviews are completed," she explained.

Monare also confirmed that in zone 6 alone, 48 communities in Likhoele will be affected by the Mojira-Mafeteng pipeline. Informal businesses and farmland in areas like Ha Tsietsi, Mojira, and Matsekuoa are also expected to experience disruptions.

To stimulate local economies, LLWDP II has committed to sourcing general and unskilled labour from project-affected communities.

Monare highlighted that labour recruitment for the project follows the Labour Act of 2024, which guarantees the right of every Mosotho to work.

"Approximately 638 general labourers and 1,000 unskilled workers will be hired. Skilled positions will be advertised, while unskilled jobs will be allocated through local recruitment committees," she said. These committees will include the District Administrator (DA), District Council Secretary, Principal Chiefs, and affected local councils, with oversight from LLWDP officials.

Monare also urged workers to adhere to the Health and Safety Act of 2024, warning that alcohol or drug use on site would lead to immediate dismissal. "Safety is non-negotiable," she stated.

In an effort to stimulate regional economic development, LLWDP II is also prioritising local procurement. Amelton Ntšekhe, the project's Environmental, Health and Safety Officer, announced that local suppliers in the mining and minerals sector will be given preference for materials like sand and quarry.

"Supporting local businesses helps the economy grow. But for companies to qualify, they must be formally registered, hold a valid trading license, have an environmental clearance certificate, and a mining lease," he indicated.

Ntšekhe urged local entrepreneurs to prepare their paperwork in advance. "The opportunity is here, but businesses must be ready."

He added that procurement will align with the Constitution of Lesotho, the Minerals and Mining Act of 2015, the Mining and Minerals Policy, and the Environment Act of 2008, to ensure sustainable and lawful development.

Phoqoane MP 'Matankiso Tekane has welcomed the project, calling it a timely intervention for the water-starved districts of Mohale's Hoek and Mafeteng.

"For too long, our people have struggled to access clean water. This initiative is a game-changer," she said.

She acknowledged that the LLWDP has learned important lessons from its earlier phases and encouraged project managers to apply those insights to zones 6 and 7 for better implementation.

Tekane called for greater transparency and inclusivity in hiring and procurement processes. "We urge the project to ensure that our people not only get jobs but also gain skills that can sustain them beyond the project lifespan," she said.

Despite the significant progress of LLWDP II, the broader national picture remains concerning. Lesotho's water infrastructure remains underdeveloped, poorly maintained, and vulnerable to climate shocks. Droughts are increasing in frequency and severity, placing further strain on limited resources.

The country's water loss rate, estimated at 42 percent, indicates serious inefficiencies in the water distribution system.

Analysts say urgent reforms are needed in policy, governance, and public investment to transform Lesotho's water sector from a source of crisis to a driver of development.

There is also a growing call for the government to renegotiate the terms of the LHWP to better reflect the needs and welfare of its citizens.

As climate change continues to threaten water security globally, Lesotho must act fast to protect its greatest natural resource, not just as a commodity for export, but as a lifeline for its people.

Lesotho's water paradox is a sobering reality: a nation that gives water to others while its own people go thirsty. Projects like the LLWDP offer a pathway to address the crisis, but they must be matched with accountability, community participation, and long-term planning.

If implemented well, LLWDP II could offer more than clean water; it could restore dignity, unlock economic potential, and bring justice to communities long overlooked by development.

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NEWS

Murdered cop's family runs to SADC

By 'Mantšali Phakoana
Senior Reporter

The family of a police constable allegedly murdered by his colleagues in March 2016 says they have lost faith in the country's justice systems and are contemplating approaching the South African Development Community (SADC), to put pressure on the government to accelerate the case.

Police Constable (PC) Mokalekale Khetheng was allegedly murdered on March 25, 2016 after disappearing from the Hlotse Police Station following an arrest in connection to an arson.

Senior Superintendent (SSP) Thabo Tšukulu, Sub-Inspector Haleokoe Taasoane, Inspector Mathibeli Mofolo and Sub Inspector Mabitle Matona have been arraigned before the courts in connection with the death.

Since then, Khetheng's family has accused the government of manipulating court proceedings, fearing this could see suspects walking scout free.

They also fear that the suspension of Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane by Prime Minister Sam Matekane on June 30 this year over allegations of incompetence could scuttle investigations into his death.

They therefore, implored the government to either reinstate Adv Motinyane to finalise the case or appoint a seasoned DPP with expertise to handle high-profile cases.

Failure to do this, they vowed this week, they would seek intervention from SADC in a desperate bid for long awaited justice.

The family accused the government of failing to handle the case with fairness and impartiality, given the high status of the suspects involved.

In an interview with theReporter this week, Khetheng's brother, Mabula Khetheng expressed concerns that the timing of Adv Motinyane's suspension is highly suspicious, coming as it does when the case is nearing its conclusion.

She took over the prosecution of PC Khetheng's case in September 2023, following the withdrawal



POLICE CONSTABLE MOKALEKALE KHETHENG

of South African Adv Shaun Abrahams, who had previously been handling the matter.

Khetheng said they believe Adv Motinyane's suspension could create opportunities for suspects in the case to create loopholes and walk free, given that she was already familiar with details of the matter.

Khetheng cited that they were not informed of the release on bail of former Police Commissioner Molahlehi Letsoepa, who was later included as a suspect in the case, as an example of miscarriage of justice.

He noted that while his four juniors were detained, Letsoepa, one of the last to be apprehended, was surprisingly the first to be granted bail.

The family claims they were not even informed about the bail proceedings, let alone given a chance to express their concerns.

Khetheng also expressed concern that the Minister of Labour and Employment, Tšeliso Mokhosi, - who was defence minister at the time of his brother's death - continues to discharge his duties freely despite being implicated in the case.

"All these examples don't give us hope that justice will be served. We are worried that government authorities are manipulating the courts and the suspects might just walk free," he said.

He also indicated that they have since learned that the Acting DPP, Adv Lehlanako Mofilikoane is related to one of the suspects (name withheld).

That makes her not eligible to handle that case as it would be a conflict of interest, he added.

"We have also learned that when Adv Motinyane was suspended, she was not able to make a proper handover of the files pertaining the case to the Acting DPP, which means there might not be enough information or details on the case for whoever would be in that office."

Khetheng said the DPP who might take over office would need time to familiarise themselves with the details of the case, while Adv Motinyane was already well-versed with its details.

It gives us suspicions that the government is manipulating the court in this case, Khetheng noted.

He appealed to the government to either reinstate Adv Motinyane to finalise the case or appoint a seasoned DPP with the expertise to handle high profile cases like this one, rather than rushing to push the case.

The family has also taken its concerns to the office of the Acting DPP Lehlanako Mofilikoane, through a letter dated August 1, 2025, and signed by Khetheng's brothers; Mabula and Thabiso.

Adv Mofilikoane was unavailable for comment when reached by this publication, instead referring questions to the Public Relations Officer Manager in the Ministry of Law and Justice, 'Malesaoana Mohale.

The letter was also copied to the Attorney General, Adv Rapelang Motsieloa and the Minister of Law and Justice, Richard Ramoeletsi.

When contacted for comment yesterday, Mohale confirmed receipt of the letter and said it was responded. However, the family had yet to collect the response.

She added that Adv. Mofilikoane had recused herself from the matter due to a conflict of interest.

"The case has long passed the investigation stage. we are now at the stage of defence case and the case will be led by the DPP's office without any conflict of interest. The substantive DPP was not prosecuting alone in that case. There is someone who is familiar with the facts of this case and will therefore, continue from where they ended. A prosecutor does not have a part-heard. Any competent prosecutor can proceed with the case from where the initial prosecutor ended.

"The prosecutor or Chief Attorney allocated to proceed with this case from where the substantive DPP stopped is competent and has all necessary skills required. This decision has been made with careful consideration of all relevant factors aiming for Justice and fairness in the legal process," Mohale said, in a written response to this publication.

In the letter, the family formally express their growing unease with the handling of the case and the pace at which this is being done.

They believe that a substantive DPP is essential to ensure a fair and impartial investigation and to bring those responsible to justice.

The case has reached a stage where the accused are required to answer to the charges brought against them, they said.

However, there appears to be uncertainty about the leadership of the prosecution in the case, they alleged.

"We recently engaged with the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions to share our family's concerns, particularly around the absence of a substantive DPP, who has been actively involved in the case for a considerable time.

"She (Adv Motinyane) was handling this case with diligence, having inherited it from the former South African National Director, Advocate Shaum Abrahams. It is our firm belief that the victim's family would best be served by having a substantive DPP continue with the prosecution," the family wrote.

They submitted that it was not only a matter of legal strategy, but also of public confidence in the justice system and accountability.

"We urge all relevant authorities to consider this request seriously and ensure that the case proceeds without delay, under the guidance of experienced and senior leadership. We seek justice for Mokalekale and we trust that justice will not fail him or us," they pleaded.

The trial is set to proceed today.

Lesotho, SA police probe mysterious military camps

By 'Mantšali Phakoana
Senior Reporter

Lesotho and South African police have agreed to a seven-day deadline to establish a joint framework to investigate allegations that some Lesotho nationals are undergoing military training at camps in the neighbouring country.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Lesotho's Commissioner of Police, Advocate Borotho Matsoso and his South African counterpart, Fannie Masemola in Maseru on Monday this week.

The meeting was aimed at discussing the claims as well as to share data collected by the intelligence from both countries. It is expected to give feedback upon expiry of the seven-day deadline.

Adv Matsoso recently asserted that the Lesotho authorities have credible information about Basotho nationals undergoing military-style training at certain farms within South Africa.

However, South African authorities say it is too premature to say whether Basotho military-style training is not happening in South Africa, as investigations are underway.

The alleged illegal activity is said to be done by a group called Malata Naha, which means 'retrievers of land', consisting of a group of young Basotho men reportedly planning to use force to reclaim what they see as their 'stolen' Basotholand.

The group is believed to be led by the Member of 11th Parliament and leader of the Basotho Covenant Movement (BCM), Dr Tšepo Lipholo. Dr Lipholo has been leading the crusade in demanding the return of Lesotho's 'land stolen' by South Africa, including parts of the Free State, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces.

Earlier this year, Dr Lipholo travelled to the United Nations where he submitted a claim that sought to reclaim land lost during the colonial era.

Dr Lipholo is in remand prison facing charges including sedition and incitement. He is also accused of violating the dignity and reputation of the Royal family by allegedly declaring himself as Paramount Chief of Basotholand and encouraging young Basotho to prepare for armed struggle.

The legislator is expected to appear in court on Monday next week for bail application.

Dr Lipholo has reportedly been making similar claims in audio clips circulating on social media platforms.

In an interview with theReporter this week, the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) spokesperson, Senior Superintendent Mpiti Mopeli, noted that the two countries are currently jointly working together to share information on the alleged training camps.

Snr Sup Mopeli noted that the meeting was convened after the Lesotho police formally requested assistance from their South African counterparts to investigate these claims.

He revealed that the police chiefs agreed that they will do a review in the seven days, after comparing joint intelligence gathered by their security agencies.

South African authorities have said they have so far found no evidence of organised military training, despite thorough investigations by the Hawks and other security agencies.

Meanwhile, the Co-Chairperson of the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJoints) in South Africa, Lieutenant General Tebello Mosikili told South Africa media after the meeting that there were pockets of individuals who were found in some parts of South Africa, bordering with Lesotho and inland, which were concerning.

Lieutenant General Mosikili added that the expansion of the investigation would go beyond what would be considered as a military setup, but to look at any form of training because they believe it might be masqueraded as any other form of training.

According to Lieutenant General Mosikili, a group of about 100 suspected Lesotho nationals have been arrested and charged with being in South Africa illegally, as investigations deepen.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including Deputy Commissioner of police responsible for operations, Deputy Commissioner Likhama Moqhebi, senior officers from the Lesotho Mounted Police Service Crime Intelligence unit, specialised operations and the detectives' unit.

The South Africa delegation included the Deputy National Commissioner of Policing and Co-chair of the NATJOINTS, Lieutenant General Tebello Mosikili, the head of Interpol in SA, a senior officer from SAPS crime intelligence, and a senior officer from the Department of Home Affairs.

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EDITORIAL

Lesotho's water resources need to benefit all Basotho

In one of the most disturbing revelations, it has emerged that despite its abundance of water resources, Lesotho is facing a mounting crisis: nearly one-third of its population (31 percent) has no access to clean and safe water.

While the country exports billions of litres of water to neighbouring South Africa through the multi-billion maloti Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), hundreds of thousands of Basotho continue to live without reliable access to safe drinking water, a basic human right.

This paradox has sparked growing concern, with health, education, agriculture, and livelihoods bearing the brunt of the water shortage. In rural areas, women and girls spend hours walking long distances to fetch water, often from contaminated sources shared with livestock.

Lesotho plays a key role in supplying water to South Africa through the LHWP, established in 1986. The project has become a major revenue source for the country, but little of that benefit trickles down to communities in need.

An officer of the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II (LLWDP II), describes the situations as dire, and charges that the country is exporting clean water, yet its own people drink from unprotected and unsafe sources.

We could not agree more. It does not make sense that we cannot feed ourselves and continue to suffer some of the worst effect of climate change when we have such an abundance of water. Our farming continues to be rain-fed and we do not have proper irrigation infrastructure that is easily accessible to every Mosotho. This is madness.

Like we always say, the natural resources of a country are a sovereign property of its people. We remain unshaken and unapologetic on this matter.

The hardest question: what is to be done about Israel and Gaza?

By **Steven Boykey Sidley**

Israel/Gaza and Iran have dominated global headlines for many months now, notwithstanding Russia/Ukraine and the very loud Trump show. Every time this columnist thinks he has something to say on the subject, the ground shifts, emotions get in the way or facts on the ground become impossible to verify. The whole matter sometimes feels as bewildering as a house of mirrors.

I subscribe to a number of Israeli WhatsApp news sites. I tune in to Al Jazeera, as well as to the left-wing, anti-government Israeli news outlet Haaretz and to others on the opposing side. Also, like most people, I get a smorgasbord of international Middle East news from both left-leaning and right-leaning news outlets like The Guardian, The New York Times, CNN, The Wall Street Journal, Fox and The Financial Times. And then, of course, social media. Any attempt to stay objective while reading these sources is certain to drive anyone mad. There is no way to know the truth. Each pursues its own. Each platform deflects, nudges, edits, colours and, sometimes, simply lies about the situation. Facts dissolve into a slurry of interpretation.

All of this is complicated by my own history as the child of parents whose European branch of the family tree was truncated by the Holocaust. But we soldier on, trying to look at the situation with as objective an eye as possible (probably an unrealistic aspiration as, I am sure, is true of other commentators of different persuasions likewise trying to rise above their personal biases).

So what do we know for sure? About 1,500 people, mainly Israelis, including women and children, were brutalised, kidnapped or killed on 7 October 2023. The Dinah report on what happened that day, recently released, supplies photographic, video and medical evidence, as well as interviews (from both perpetrators and victims), which would sicken the most battle-hardened commentator.

And then, of course, there are the dead civilians, the keening mothers, the destruction and starvation currently happening in Gaza – also sickening, with a death toll of many tens of thousands, a significant number of those civilian deaths. While some try to argue that Hamas is responsible, there is plenty of evidence here to solidly implicate the government of Benjamin Netanyahu, even though Hamas may well be aiding and abetting the civilian misery which serves its PR cause.

In light of this, how are we to make sense of it all? To assign culpability, responsibility, to quantify redress, imagine renewal? To see a path through all of this pain?

I recently attended a private event of concerned, influential and (mainly left-wing) liberal Jews, about which I will say little out of respect for the gravity and confidentiality of the event, which



sought to air and discuss some of the sacred, and not-so-sacred, cows treading on those barren Middle Eastern pastures. What I will say is that I found insufficient succour there. It is not enough to be horrified at the conditions in Gaza. We need to answer the question: what next? Not tomorrow, but in the longer term. No good answers were forthcoming, at least not for me.

There is a liberal Jewish cohort that believes the two-state solution is a pipe dream and that the only solution lies in the establishment of a non-ethnic democracy that encompasses both Jews and Palestinians under a single benevolent governance – a broad church, if you will (if you'll excuse the metaphor). This seems even more of a pipe dream to me. There are seven million passport-holding Israeli Jews. All are Zionists. (If you hold an Israeli passport and love your country, you are a Zionist, no matter what your politics. The word "Zionist" has become deformed. Its original meaning simply referred to those who believed in the right to a Jewish homeland, just as Palestinians believe they have a right to theirs.)

What do the one-staters intend to do about seven million Israeli citizens who do not want a single-state solution? To say nothing of the two million Israeli Arabs who hold full citizenship rights and enjoy free access to Israel's thriving economy. You simply cannot impose a single-state solution on a reluctant citizenry without provoking violence that would make the current mess look tame.

There is a vanishingly small percentage of current Israeli passport holders who would agree to it, even among those who are solidly and passionately sympathetic to the Palestinian cause in this conflict.

There is also no chance of a single-state solution being imposed by the United Nations. There is no precedent for this sort of interference and it would surely contradict the UN's founding principle of the sovereignty (and equality) of member states.

Then there are those who argue that the Israeli state is illegitimate and has no right to exist. This is an even less-useful position to adopt. Israel exists because the UN granted it the right to do so in 1948. Any discussion about Israel's legal "right" needs to be argued at the UN (surely a fruitless prospect – the UN has never expelled a member), or Israel's enemies will have to conquer the country militarily (there is also little chance of that). Israel's "right to exist" is a pointless and wasted conversation; it is little more than playing "what if" with history.

There is a cohort who believe that some members of the right wing of the Israeli government should be held accountable for various excesses of this war and that a two-state solution is the only possible road to travel and must be hammered into place via coordinated international economic and political pressure. This seems to me the only reasonable position to hold, even if the two-state solution has been tried continuously for decades without success.

It is, of course, also true that there are those who think Israel is doing what it needs to do and has no other option – other than annexing Gaza and the West Bank perhaps, although none of these people was at the event I attended. I will not comment further on that can of worms other than to say I do not agree, and I believe the misery it would bring to all parties would be significant and endless.

Over the course of the past week the global community has started to shift more aggressively towards the two-state position, including Canada, France, Australia, the UK and others who signalled recognition of a Palestinian state. Notwithstanding that it is somewhat premature (there is no proposed shape or form to the Palestinian state on the table), such a statement of intent from some of Israel's historical allies sends a powerful message and ramps up the pressure on all parties to find a two-state solution.

While it may cause discomfort to many Israelis, Isaac Saul from Tangle explains why it is bad for Hamas:

"The form of recognition is called 'de jure', meaning 'in law'. France, Canada, Australia, and other countries are now set to extend de jure recognition to Palestine as a legitimate and sovereign state, which would allow for the establishment of embassies and the signing of international compacts and treaties. However, these countries are considering recognising the entity of Palestine and not the rule of Hamas, which Canada, Australia, and the European Union continue to list as a terrorist organisation... in effect, these recognitions are mounting diplomatic pressure for the removal of both Israel and Hamas from Gaza as one entity under one government."

Finally, there is one more narrative in the Middle East conflict which keeps popping up via well-intentioned commentators: if the parties in South Africa could do it, then the Palestinians and Israelis can find a way forward together. I find this view fatuous. The situation is not remotely comparable. At least, not in the current political climate, when there are two messianic ethno-nationalists on either side each claiming God-given rights and screaming at each other across an abyss in a language neither understands.

Bridging that gap, particularly in the face of an extreme right-wing Israeli government which talks about annexations on the one side and Iran/Hamas/Hezbollah's endless public roaring about annihilating Israel on the other, will take a lot more than a new Mandela. DM

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Lesotho workers condemn denial of healthcare to Basotho in South Africa

The Migrant Workers Association of Lesotho has condemned the denial of healthcare services to Basotho migrants living in South Africa, saying it is a violation of their human rights and international law.
In a statement on Tuesday, the association's executive director, Lerato Nkhetše, said the refusal to treat Basotho, especially in Gauteng, where migrants are reportedly blocked from accessing medical care at clinics and hospitals unless they produce South African IDs, is a violation of their right to health.

Speaking to GroundUp, Nkhetše said the association was compelled to speak out after receiving over 60 reports from members who were denied access to clinics and hospitals, mostly in Soweto.

External risks threaten economic recovery – CBL

By Neo Kolane
Senior Reporter

Lesotho's economy showed signs of modest recovery in May 2025, supported by stronger private consumption and a resilient manufacturing sector, particularly textile exports to South Africa. However, this momentum remains fragile and is vulnerable to a range of external shocks, the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) has warned.

This outlook was shared by CBL Governor, Dr Maluke Letete, during the 114th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held this week in Maseru.

Dr Letete said while the economy gained some traction in the first half of the year, several downside risks threaten to stall or reverse the gains. These include weakening global demand, higher trade costs, the withdrawal of major donor-funded programmes such as Compact II, and persistent challenges in the mining sector.

On a positive note, inflation eased to 4.3 percent in June 2025, mainly due to lower international oil prices and a stronger loti against the US dollar.



CENTRAL BANK OF LESOTHO GOVERNOR, DR MALUKE LETETE

Dr Letete noted that while inflation is expected to remain contained in the short term, Lesotho remains exposed to imported inflationary pressures, particularly from South Africa.

Turning to the fiscal position, he reported a government budget deficit of 4.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in May 2025.

Revenue, excluding Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts, remained stable. Meanwhile, government spending fell, primarily due to a reduction in grants to extra-budgetary institutions and lower capital investment, Dr Letete said.

He noted that public debt also recorded a marginal decline, falling to 54.8 percent of GDP.

The external sector, he added, registered an improvement, driven by rising textile exports and an increase in SACU receipts. As a result, Net International Reserves (NIR) rose by US$50.95 million to US$1.12 billion as of July 22, 2025.

The MPC reviewed current risks to economic growth and inflation, alongside regional monetary policy trends and the need to maintain credibility in Lesotho's exchange rate peg with the South African rand.

To sustain this peg and support price stability, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to holding adequate foreign reserves.

"Maintaining parity between the loti and the rand is central to anchoring inflation expectations and promoting macroeconomic stability," Letete pointed out.

In light of South Africa's recent policy rate cuts and contained domestic inflation, the MPC saw a narrow opportunity to ease Lesotho's monetary stance without jeopardising external balance. As such, the committee resolved to lower the CBL policy rate by 25 basis points - from 7 percent to 6.75 percent per annum.

The NIR target floor was also raised from US$830 million to US$840 million, which the MPC deemed sufficient to safeguard the exchange rate peg.

Dr Letete stressed that the fixed exchange rate regime remains the cornerstone of Lesotho's monetary and price stability framework. In the absence of an independent exchange rate, sound monetary policy and prudent reserve management are essential.

The CBL will continue to monitor both domestic and international developments closely — particularly trends in inflation, fiscal policy, SACU receipts, and South Africa's monetary direction.

"The MPC stands ready to adjust the policy stance if risks to the exchange rate peg or domestic price stability intensify," he concluded.



Econet Expo powers Lesotho's digital leap

By Boitumelo Motsemoholo
Junior Reporter

Mobile network company, Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) is set to host its annual Econet Expo from August 26 to 30, a four-day technology showcase aimed at accelerating Lesotho's journey into the digital age.

Now in its third edition, the expo has grown into the country's flagship digital innovation platform. First launched in 2023, the event has become a space for showcasing cutting-edge products and services that are reshaping how Basotho live, work, and do business.

The General Manager of Marketing Communications and Customer Experience at Econet, Puleng Masoabi, said the Expo is more than just a tech fair, but a celebration of digital transformation.

"This year's theme, Digital First: Shaping Lesotho's Tomorrow, reflects our commitment to making sure no one is left behind as we move toward a digitally inclusive future," she said.

Masoabi described the Expo as an immersive, hands-on experience for individuals, households, small businesses, and large enterprises alike.



'MATHABO MASOABI, ECONET'S GM OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

She noted that visitors will get to engage with the company's latest digital solutions, from high-speed connectivity and smart home technologies to business tools and mobile financial services.

Attendees can expect live demonstrations of cutting-edge digital products, one-on-one consultations with ETL experts, and practical solutions tailored for homes, SMEs, and corporate clients.

The goal, Masoabi said, is to empower attendees with technology that simplifies life, boosts business productivity, and drives innovation.

"We're excited to host an event of this scale. The Expo aims to bridge Lesotho's digital divide while cementing Econet's position as the leader in life-changing digital solutions," she stated.

Key highlights of the Expo include:

- Smart home setups that promote convenience and security
- Cashless financial technologies to support faster, safer transactions
- Tools for improving education and engaging children in digital learning
- Business solutions to enhance operational efficiency

Masoabi emphasised that the Expo is designed to inspire and inform, whether visitors come from the public sector, private enterprise, education, or civil society.

"This is not just an exhibition; it's a digital festival. There will be live demonstrations, giveaways, customer support, and expert-led discussions that offer real insights into how technology can transform everyday life.

"Our vision is to lead Lesotho into a future where digital tools are accessible, affordable, and transformative for all," she added.

The Expo demonstrates Econet's evolution from a traditional telecom operator into a forward-thinking digital services provider with a strong focus on innovation and impact.

It will take place in Maseru and is open to the public. Businesses, government officials, students, and tech enthusiasts are encouraged to attend.

Kingdom of Lesotho
Ministry of Health

(Firm Selection)
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, UPGRADING, AND RENOVATION OF FOUR (4) HEALTH FACILITIES IN RURAL LESOTHO.

RFP/QCBS/MOH/2025/26-06 ***First Date of Issue: 01-07-2025***

1. **Introduction**
The Ministry of Health, on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, invites qualified, experienced, and reputable consulting firms or consortia to submit technical and financial proposals for conducting feasibility studies for the following health facilities:

a) Construction of a New Health Centre at Senqunyane, Berea District
b) Construction of a New Health Centre at Ketane, Mohale's Hoek District

These feasibility studies are aimed at informing infrastructure investments that support Lesotho's national health development goals, improve access to primary health care, and contribute to the realization of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. **Scope of Work**
The assignment involves:

- Technical, environmental, and economic viability assessments;
- Health service demand analysis and infrastructure planning;
- Environmental and Social Impact Screening (ESIA);
- Development of site-specific investment plans and implementation frameworks.

3. **Eligibility Criteria**

This RFP is open to national and international consulting firms or joint ventures that meet the following criteria:
- At least 10 years of experience in conducting multidisciplinary feasibility studies in the health or social infrastructure sector;
- A proven record of delivering at least three (3) comparable assignments in similar rural or developing contexts;
- Demonstrated financial stability, qualified personnel, and the ability to work in remotely located and topographically challenging environments.
- Local participation is encouraged, and preference will be given to consortia that include Lesotho based experts or firms.

4. **Enquiries & Further Information**
Clarifications may be requested in writing by email to the following addresses no later than ***25th August, 2025: satbhssles@gmail.com cc:- motsukunyanemolise@gmail.com.***

5. **Selection Criteria**
- Selection Method: Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) and only bidders whose technical proposal has scored 70% and above will be invited for Financial Proposal Opening.
- Proposal Format: Technical & Financial Proposals to be submitted in separate sealed envelopes. Technical Proposal 4 hard copies & 1 soft copy in Flash Disk (Word documents Converted to PDF).
- Proposal Document: Free, fill the bidding document request form.
- Submission Deadline: 12th September 2025 at 11:00hour (Lesotho Time).
- Submission Venue: Ministry of Health Procurement Office, Maseru.

6. **Proposal Submission**
All proposals must be written in English and properly completed. Proposals must be hand delivered to the address below. Proposals submitted via email will not be considered.
Attention: Procurement Manager
Ministry of Health, Corner Constitutional and Linare Road
Maseru, Lesotho
The Ministry of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals without obligation to award the contract.

KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT FOR SAFE SPACES.

1. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Project Management Unit (MOFDPPMU) has funds under the Global Fund grant and intends to apply part of the funds for payments under the contract for **"The supply, delivery and installation of equipment for safe spaces."**

2. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Project Management Unit (MOFDPPMU) invites sealed quotations from eligible and qualified suppliers for **"The Supply, Delivery and Installation of equipment for safe spaces"**

3. The items, quantities and the expected delivery period are as shown on the table below:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRITPTION	DETAILED DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	BED	Bunker bed 3/4	9
2	SHEETS WITH PILLOWCASES	Sheet set for ¾ Bunker bed	18
3	BLANKET	Grey blanket 150cmx200cm	27
4	MICROWAVE	32 Litres	3
	MINI FRIDGE	130 Litres	3
	TELEVISION	32 Inch	3

4. Interested eligible Suppliers may obtain a complete set of Request for Quotation Documents in English from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning – Project Management Unit (MOFDP-PMU) website on free download: https://www.mofpmu.org.ls/tenders/ The telephone number is **+266 22 324 023.**

5. Request for Clarifications may be sent in writing to the following email addresses monyamae@mofpmu.org.ls not later than 8th August 2025.

6. It is mandatory for suppliers to submit the following valid documents: (a) A Relevant Valid Trader's License; (b) A Valid Tax Clearance Certificates, (c) VAT Registration Certificate (**Non-compliance with the above requirements may invalidate a quotation**)

7. Delivery of equipment should be within Four (04) weeks

8. Quotation shall be valid for a period of **Sixty days (60) Days** after quotation opening.

9. Labelling of Quotations: Quotations in MUST be clearly **labelled "Supply, delivery and installation of equipment for safe spaces"**

10. **Submission of Quotations:** Quotations **MUST** be deposited in the tender box situated at the reception area below **on or before 12th August 2025 at 12:00hrs**.

The Procurement Committee Secretary
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Project Management Unit
4th Floor, MGC Office Park,
Corner Pope John Paul II and Mpilo Boulevard,
Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho.

11. **Telefax and Email quotation will not be accepted.**

12. DISCLAIMER: PMU is not bound to award the contract to quotations with the lowest price or any price. PMU reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations and or to cancel this procurement process at any time prior to contract award if the circumstances so require.

We look forward to receiving your Quotations and thank you for your interest in this project.

Procurement Office

inCONVERSATION

Meri Hyöky

The Hub looks back with pride as it turns 10

The Hub, a creative technology lab within the Morija Museum and Archives Arts Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary on Saturday.

Since its establishment, the facility has empowered the youth and helped them develop their skills.

In this interview with ***theReporter's Neo Kolane, Meri Hyöky, the founder and coordinator of The Hub***, reflected on their 10 years of empowering youth and the lab's plans for the future.



What does the 10-year milestone mean for The Hub, and what has been its biggest achievement?

Over the past 10 years, we have been able to host thousands of visitors to our educational exhibitions, organise community clean-up campaigns, produce music, win awards for our films, host internships, and serve more than 70,000 meals. We've also run weekly programming for 125 children and adolescents providing comprehensive nutritional and educational support, and a holistic environment for personal and professional growth.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of an incredible team. We say that it takes a village, and it truly does. It's extraordinary what our volunteers, staff, interns, facilitators and friends have poured into The Hub over the past decade.

Some of our proudest successes are the incredible young people who have grown with us, who first picked up a camera at The Hub, and are now making a living with their art.

What was the original vision behind The Hub and how has its management team kept that vision alive over the past 10 years?

As a computer nerd passionate about art and access to education, I began dreaming of a space where young people could access computers, the internet, and digital skills training. Originally a photographer, graphic designer, and web designer, I wanted to share these skills as a way to tackle youth unemployment.

I then chose to partner with the Morija Museum and Archives as the home for this vision, and on August 11, 2015, The Hub officially began its work.

Over time, it has grown into a broad and holistic youth centre that goes far beyond digital skills to support young people in multiple aspects of their personal and professional development.

What have been the most significant leadership changes during this decade, and how have they shaped The Hub's evolution?

I have remained as the coordinator of The Hub since its inception, and the team has evolved over time. From a few volunteers in 2015, the centre has grown to a team of more than 20.

The key role of administrator has had several people who, due to the nature of The Hub's programming, build their skills in project management, writing, multitasking, attention to detail, teamwork and more.

Former administrator Maleshoane Mohanoe is now leading the incredible work of the Kutlong Hearing Foundation.

Current administrator Pontšo Sekhesa is thriving in her role and has managed projects, including the Hair Salon Project, working tirelessly with our local and international partners to ensure the success of the pilot.

I view The Hub as a stepping stone for students and young professionals to build skills and gain experience, and then move on to bigger opportunities.

The production team has also seen many young people build their skills in photography and filmmaking and move on to new challenges outside The Hub.

What funding or relationships have enabled The Hub to grow?

The growth that The Hub has seen has been made possible by the commitment of partners like Vodacom Lesotho Foundation, who have been with us since day one. We also thank collaborations with the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) and the generosity of Glasswaters Foundation, among many others. This has enabled The Hub to be the only initiative of its kind in Lesotho.

How are key programmes like Skills & Soup, Media Literacy, and Artivism managed, monitored, and adapted over time?

The Hub's team shares responsibility for various projects including Skills and Soup programming, Media and Information Literacy programming, and Artivism initiatives. Progress is regularly monitored, new opportunities are identified, and responsibilities for implementation are divided among the team.

What systems does management use to track youth engagement, learning outcomes, and community impact?

The Hub uses an annual monitoring and evaluation process to track the impact and needs of Skills and Soup programming. There is also regular monitoring of school reports, questionnaires among workshop participants, and weekly progress meetings with the team to troubleshoot problems, track youth engagement, learning outcomes, and community impact.

In what ways has The Hub's management cultivated strategic partnerships with Morija Museum and Archives and the European Union?

I conceptualised and founded The Hub in partnership with the Morija Museum and Archives as a project of the institution. We continue to function under the umbrella of the institution, although The Hub conceptualises, fundraises, manages, and reports on all of its own projects independently. We strive to maintain an amicable and professional relationship with the Morija Museum and Archives.

The Hub has partnered with the European Union on several environmental education and community clean-up initiatives, and we hope to continue to strengthen this key relationship.

How does management maintain strong relationships with local leadership, community stakeholders, and national institutions?

The Hub maintains strong relationships with local leadership, community stakeholders, and national institutions by ensuring our objectives are closely aligned with serving the community.

For example, through our Skills &Soup program, we empower youth by providing nutritious meals, STEAM education, and mental health sessions.

We also host Hub Talks, which are open for the community to learn directly from invited experts. To reach an even wider audience, especially young people, we air our podcasts on KEL community radio station, offering motivational content to inspire and educate.

Our organisation also provides internet access to the community, making our space a valuable resource hub. We have installed a climate change exhibition around our premises, open to both community members and visiting schools, to raise awareness and encourage environmental action.

We actively participate in community life by attending events when invited and regularly inviting the public to ours.

Our management team remains accessible, fostering open communication and responsiveness. Additionally, we prioritise local partnerships, from sourcing goods and services locally to hiring community-based transportation providers. This not only supports the local economy but also strengthens our ties with the people we serve.

As The Hub enters its second decade, what are the key management priorities over the next five years?

The Hub will continue to seek further long-term partnerships for support with operational and programming costs.

Our team will continue to build each other up, fostering an environment that has high expectations of ourselves and striving for constant growth. We feel that this prepares us to aim to be the best versions of ourselves and be ready for any opportunities and challenges in the future.

FEATURE

Denial of healthcare to Basotho in SA condemned



The Migrant Workers Association of Lesotho has condemned the denial of healthcare services to Basotho migrants living in South Africa, saying it is a violation of their human rights and international law.

In a statement on Tuesday, the association's executive director, Lerato Nkhetše, said the refusal to treat Basotho, especially in Gauteng, where migrants are reportedly blocked from accessing medical care at clinics and hospitals unless they produce South African IDs, is a violation of their right to health.

Speaking to GroundUp, Nkhetše said the association was compelled to speak out after receiving over 60 reports from members who were denied access to clinics and hospitals, mostly in Soweto.

"We receive alerts from our WhatsApp groups for different provinces, where members post about what's happening in their areas. It became clear the issue was widespread and serious," he said.

Nkhetše said women are the most affected, as they make up the majority of Basotho migrants in South Africa and are more likely to seek medical services and follow up on treatment.

"Denying healthcare to Basotho immigrants not only inflicts harm on individuals [and] undermines the core principles of human dignity and equality that are non-negotiable in any just society," Nkhetše said.

He called on authorities in both Lesotho and South Africa to investigate the violations, hold those responsible accountable, and implement measures to ensure immediate and equitable access to healthcare for all Basotho living in South Africa.

While South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and several human rights organisations have condemned such xenophobic actions – often carried out by members of Operation Dudula – Nkhetše expressed disappointment with Lesotho's own Parliament, particularly when a request for an urgent debate on the issue was rejected.

On Monday, Professor Nqosa Mahao, leader of the Basotho Action Party, made a special appeal to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Tlohang Sekhamane, for Parliament to discuss the situation. Sekhamane declined, arguing that allowing the request without evidence would "set a bad precedent".

In response, Nkhetše said, "We wonder what evidence is needed when the situation is all over the media, with videos and reports of non-South Africans being expelled from clinics."

He said the Lesotho government needs to act urgently, suggesting that Lesotho embassies and consulates in South Africa should be equipped with permanent clinics for Basotho.

"If riots like those led by Operation Dudula occur, at least our people would have a place to run to for healthcare. Even if the consulates are far, it's still better than travelling all the way back to Lesotho," he said.

Nkhetše warned that the current situation could seriously undermine Lesotho's efforts to combat HIV and other public health crises.

"In Lesotho, many clinics are reporting rising numbers of defaulters because patients collect medication in South Africa. If they are turned away there, they simply stop taking their medication," he said.

Lesotho ministers to engage with South Africa

Last week, while briefing the media on cabinet decisions, Minister of Communications Nthati Moorosi confirmed that the issue had reached the highest levels of government. She stated that the cabinet had instructed the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs to initiate negotiations with their South African counterparts.

"We have seen videos of South Africans physically removing non-citizens from clinics and hospitals. It puts us as the Basotho nation in a very difficult position," Moorosi said.

She noted that South Africa had recently agreed to allow Basotho to stay in the country for up to 90 days.

Moorosi said, "Our plea is simple. If you give Basotho citizens permission to be in South Africa lawfully, then you must also allow them access to essential services like healthcare. Otherwise, what message are we sending?"

She called for an immediate end to discriminatory practices in South African health facilities. "Access to healthcare is a human right, wherever you are." - GroundUp

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE LATE MOLEBOHENG EMMA MPASI E845/2025

Notice is hereby made in terms of Section 44 of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act No 2 of 2024 that all creditors of the deceased are called upon to lodge their claims with the executor of the said estate within thirty (30) days of this publication. All debtors of the deceased are also called upon to pay their indebtedness to the office of the executor below.

The address at which the said claims can be lodged is mentioned hereunder.

DATED AT MASERU THIS 6th DAY OF AUGUST 2025.
M S LEGAL MINDS CHAMBERS
1ST FLOOR, ROOM 10, SPEEDY COMPLEX
MAIN TRAFFIC CIRCLE, MASERU
CONTACT: +266 50221556
Email: hmakhabanem@yahoo.co.za

MAKHABANE MASUPHA Esq.
Executor Dative



RETAIL NEWS:

Shein, Temu growth puts thousands of SA retail jobs at risk

Offshore e-commerce retailers, such as Shein and Temu, are rapidly gaining ground in South Africa's retail clothing, textile, footwear and leather sector, displacing thousands of local jobs, including in e-commerce.

This is creating an urgent need for digital transformation, including the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI).

The Localisation Support Fund (LSF), in a recently released report, found that Shein and Temu's presence in the local market has already resulted in millions of rands lost in local manufacturing sales, and more than 8 000 direct and indirect jobs lost between 2020 and 2024.

Key to a brighter future for Lesotho's youth

By Boitumelo Bulane
Junior Reporter

A new one-week master class aims to equip children aged 7-12 with essential life skills. Dubbed "Kiddiquette," the programme focuses on manners, social graces, and confidence-building to prepare them for future leadership roles.

The "Kiddiquette" master class is a fresh initiative from IPCS, a firm that has historically trained adults in diplomacy and etiquette. Held on July,7 2025 at Ha Thetsane, the programme is tailored to a younger demographic.

It aims to fill a crucial gap in children's development in Lesotho by providing skills that are not typically taught in a traditional classroom setting.

In an interview with theReporter, the mastermind behind the programme, 'Mathabang Fanyane, a specialist in communications and diplomacy, believes that the skills taught are not just about politeness.

Fanyane explains that their primary goal is to help children develop social skills, build confidence, and foster positive relationships within their communities.



SPECIALIST IN COMMUNICATIONS AND DIPLOMACY, 'MATHABANG FANYANE

The curriculum is comprehensive, covering everything from general table manners to self-love and positive affirmations. It also includes an important segment on "Healthy Screen Time," an effort to counter the negative impacts of social media on young people.

According to Fanyane, social media has become a source of comparison and depression among young people, leading them to seek validation through likes and followers. The "Kiddiquette" programme aims to address this by teaching children the importance of finding balance between their real lives and their online personas.

It encourages them to engage in physical play and practical activities at home, such as gardening or helping with chores.

Fanyane also highlighted the importance of equipping children with "practical tools" to deal with bullying, noting that many children are too afraid to report such incidents.

The programme focuses on empowering them to stand up for themselves and others without resorting to violence, and to report bullying promptly to adults.

A unique feature of the master class is the "Global Awareness" module, which focuses on "Greatest African Inventions" and "African Role Models."

Fanyane noted her observation that children are increasingly influenced by Western culture, often at the expense of their own.

She said it's important to remind them who they are and where they come from. By introducing children to pioneering African figures and telling the positive story of the continent, the programme seeks to instil a sense of cultural pride and patriotism.

She believes that understanding one's heritage is crucial for navigating the present and shaping the future.

The "Kiddiquette" programme is a paid-for event, costing M1600, which covers a full meal, snacks, and a certificate of completion.

Fanyane hopes to cultivate a generation of confident and self-sufficient young people who will go on to become leaders in various spheres.

The certificate given to participants is a symbol of their newly acquired life skills, which are crucial for success in personal relationships and overall well-being.

IPCS is also considering making these trainings ongoing in response to requests from parents.

ROLL
REGENERATION OF LANDSCAPES AND LIVELIHOODS

Invitation for Bids

Maseru, Lesotho
August 6,2025
Re: Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Beneficiaries
Ref No: LSO-2000002340-0156-G-ICB

1. The Government of Lesotho has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with ROLL project.
2. The Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods includes ensuring that rural communities adopt transformational practices for regenerated landscapes & sustainable livelihoods. The expected outputs are reduction of environmental degradation and improved livelihoods of participating communities. The duration of the project is eight years and it is implemented in six districts (Butha-Buthe, Leribe,Berea, Thaba Tseka, Qacha'snek and Quthing)
3. This IFB follows the general procurement notice that appeared on **national newspapers, Newsday on the 25 April 2025, Public Eye on the 18 April 2025 and one international newspaper, mail and guardian on the 23 May 2025**
4. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities ("bidders") for the provision of PPE for Beneficiaries. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
5. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to the restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver the goods and related services.
6. The goods and related services, and the contract expected to be awarded.

Supply and Delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

7. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD procurement handbook which is provided on the IFAD website https://www.ifad.org. The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award. **Full bidding document can be accessed by sending an email to:procurement.roll@gov.ls**
8. Please note that a pre-bid conference **will not** be held as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.
9. Bids must be delivered to the address below and in the manner specified in the BDS ITB 25 no later than **13 October 2025** at **10:00 a.m** local time
   Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods
   Post Office Building, Level 7
   P.O.BOX 92, MASERU
   E-mail:**procurement.roll@gov.ls** and copy to **morakanyane.mafatle@gov.ls**
10. Bidders should be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened to the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (as required) in the manner and amount specified in the bid data sheet.
11. Please note that electronic bids shall not be accepted as defined in ITB BDS 25.

Yours sincerely,

Procurement Manager
Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods
P.O.BOX 92 MASERU
E-mail:**procurement.roll@gov.ls**

IFAD
Investing in rural people

OPEC FUND

gef

Textile sector still in limbo despite tariff relief

By 'Mantšali Phakoana
Senior Reporter

The local textile industry is anxiously awaiting investors' reactions following a revised 15 percent new tariffs imposed on Lesotho by the United States (US).

The new US tariffs on imports from Lesotho and several countries were announced on Thursday last week, bringing major changes to cross border trade.

For Lesotho, the 15 percent tariff effective August 1, 2025 is a climb down from the 50 percent announced a few months ago.

President Donald Trump says the tariffs are aimed at encouraging US consumers to buy more American-made goods, increase tax, and boost investment.



TEXTILE WORKERS

Although the US reduction of Lesotho's tariffs from 50 percent to 15 percent might seem like a significant advantage, uncertainty lingers in the textile sector.

Some hesitant investors say the new reduced tax is a substantial burden, particularly since they previously invested under a zero percent tariff.

Local textile unions are currently engaging with investors to gauge the industry's prospects and potential implications for workers.

The secretary of United Textiles Employees Union (UNITE), Solong Senohe, said September will be a crucial month for determining the fate of textile workers, as it will reveal whether investors have placed orders and are willing to absorb the 15 percent US tariffs.

According to Senohe, Lesotho's competitiveness in the textile industry will continue to be challenged by Swaziland and Kenya, which both enjoy a 10 percent tariff.

This disparity may prompt investors to consider relocating to these countries, potentially impacting Lesotho's textile sector, he said.

However, Senohe noted that the union has engaged with investors, and so far, they have expressed no intention of leaving Lesotho due to the 15 percent tariff.

"There is still uncertainty on the future of the textile industry in the country as we do not know how many investors would be willing to stay over a 15 percent tariff," Senohe said.

He stated that the challenge is significant, especially for Taiwanese investors who initially set up factories in Lesotho when there were no tariffs.

"We can recall that most of the investors in the textile sector, especially Taiwanese, invested in this country because there were zero tariffs. That means the new 15 percent will remain a challenge to them because there was initially no plan for them to pay such tax," he noted.

However, he indicated that some investors, particularly those from Taiwan, were currently negotiating with American buyers to share the 15 percent tariff.

"However, we will only know in September when we learn if investors have placed orders and are ready to pay the 15 percent tariff, as negotiations between investors and buyers are underway," Senohe pointed out.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho, Dr Letete Maluke, this week expressed concerns about the potential impact of the 15 percent US tariff on the country's textile industry.

Dr Maluke shared Senohe's sentiments that the tariff will put Lesotho at a disadvantage compared to competitors like Kenya and Ethiopia, which are subject to a 10 percent tax.

"This disparity will worsen things, particularly for the US market. The higher tariff could lead to decreased exports and revenue for Lesotho's textile sector," Dr Maluke warned, when sharing a statement of the 114th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Tuesday.

However, he noted that there was hope as some companies are diversifying their export markets.

"We have seen companies shifting their export markets from dependency on the US to the South African market, which has opened doors for us to continue exporting," he said.

Dr Maluke indicated that the current global policy environment is uncertain, affecting business projections and costs.

He further called for collective action, urging Lesotho to come together to identify realistic intervention gaps and find solutions.

"As Lesotho, we need to come together, advise each other on realistic intervention gaps to plug in," he advised.

During a press conference on Friday, Minister of Trade, Industry and Business Development, Mokhethi Shelile shared a different view that the 15 percent rate would ease the burden to exporters, particularly the textile and apparel industry that has endured four months of uncertainties since April this year.

"We are still committed to continue negotiations so that our exports can enjoy the minimum tariffs that the US applies to other countries, which is 10 percent," he said.

Shelile also stated that the government is committed to continue advocating for the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which provided Lesotho and other eligible Sub-Saharan African countries with duty-free and quota free access to the US market.

The plight of the textile industry could have severe and far-reaching consequences for Lesotho's economy, given that it employs around 15,000 workers.

Several major textile companies, including Maseru E-Textiles, Precious Garments (Pty) Ltd, Formosa, Taiwan, Neinshin, and Tzet, have already sent workers on three-month leave and are reportedly preparing for a potential shutdown this year.

This would further exacerbate the country's unemployment crisis, that was declared a national disaster by Prime Minister Sam Matekane a month ago.



Court dismisses man's M10k compensation claim

By Boitumelo Bulane
Junior Reporter

The Matala Local Court has dismissed a Maseru man's bid for compensation for raising a child that is not his.

This after it found that he had failed to provide evidence of expenses incurred.

Thabo Theletsane had sought M10,000 from his partner, 'Mahlompho, after DNA tests revealed he was not the biological father of her second son.

Court President Mantšieng Ramashamole presided over the case, in which Theletsane had sought for intervene in his dispute with 'Mahlompho.

Their dispute arose after Theletsane discovered that a child he had raised for 11 years was not his. DNA results, which were entered as Exhibit A in the case, proved he was not the father of the boy child born in 2013.

Theletsane told the court that he had been in a relationship with Mahlompho and they had two children together, a boy and a girl.

He claimed that a year after the boy's birth, he noticed the child did not resemble his other children. He said at that time, he wanted to conduct a DNA test, but 'Mahlompho refused.

The matter was brought to court in 2023 after 'Mahlompho took him to the Maintenance Court to get him to contribute to the children's upkeep. It was at this point that Theletsane petitioned the court to issue an order for a DNA test for the boy, which subsequently revealed he was not the father. This prompted him to seek compensation for the period between 2014 to 2023, during which he said he had raised the child.



MATALA LOCAL COURT

Mahlompho, in her defence, said she would not compensate Theletsane.

She told the court that she had been the one providing for the children since 2014 by selling clothes and working at Theletsane's pawn shop. 'Mahlompho told the court they had a joint account at the pawn shop, but Theletsane would take the money and send it to his own children. She claimed that Theletsane is seeking compensation now after she stopped working there.

'Mahlompho further argued that Theletsane had no genuine interest in the child and couldn't even state the amount of the boy's school fees, his birth date, or his current grade.

She presented the maintenance court papers as evidence that she had to seek legal intervention to get him to provide for the children. He did not do anything for them, she submitted.

'Mahlompho also demanded that Theletsane provide evidence of the expenses he incurred and stated that she could not recall a time when he gave her money.

In her final judgment, Court President Ramashamole dismissed the case.

She stated that Theletsane did not have any evidence to show he incurred the expenses he was claiming.

Ramashamole added that no one had forced him to raise the child, and therefore, 'Mahlompho would not be required to pay the M10,000 he was seeking.

Kingdom of Lesotho
Ministry of Natural Resources
Specific Procurement Notice
Invitation for Bids [IFB]
Small Works
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

IFB Number: AfDB/LRWSSP/W02B
Employer: Ministry of Natural Resources (Commission of Water)
Project: Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project
Contract title: Construction of Water Supply Systems in from drilled boreholes
Country: Lesotho
Grant No.: 5550155001751
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (National) (OCBN)
OCBN No: AfDB/LRWSSP/W02B
Issued on: 07th August 2025

1. The Kingdom of Lesotho has received financing from the African Development Fund (ADF) [hereinafter called "the Bank"] toward the cost of the Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for Construction of Water Supply systems from drilled boreholes Lot 1-Ha Lihanela and Ha Mphoto ,Ramohajane, Ha Katu and Maccuba Water Supply Systems and Lot 2-Ha Mohlakaso, Ha Ramokotjo, Ha Motanyane and Ha Mokhohla and Popa Ha Maama Water Supply Systems. The Scope of Works for each Lot is as follows;

LOT NO.	SCOPE OF WORK
Lot 1-Ha Lihanela and Ha Mphoto ,Ramohajane, Ha Katu and Maccuba Water Supply Systems	•6x10m³ elevated plastic tanks, •1x30m3 pressed steel tank, •1x15m³ stonemasonry storage tank •1x25m3 stonemasonry storage tank • 1x10m3 stonemasonry storage tank •53 public standpipes, •21990.6m pipe laying of HDPE ranging from 75mm to 25mm diameter •4 grunfos pumps and accessories • 61 solar panels
Lot 2-Ha Mohlakaso, Ha Ramokotjo, Ha Motanyane and Ha Mokhohla and Popa Ha Maama Water Supply Systems	•4x10m3 elevated platic tank, 2x15m3 •stonemasonry storage tank, 1x35m3 •stonemasonry storage tank, 1x7.5m3 •stonemasonry storage tank •18 473.9m pipe laying of HDPE pipes ranging from 63mm to 25mm diameter • 96m pipe laying galvanised iron •38 public standpipe • 4 grunfos pumps and accessories • 40 solar panels

For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
2. The Ministry of Natural Resources (Commission of Water now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders (Category A and B Registered with DRWS/Ministry of Works (BDS)) for Construction of Water Supply systems from drilled bore holes: Lot Lot 1-Ha Lihanela and Ha Mphoto ,Ramohajane, Ha Katu and Maccuba Water Supply Systems and Lot 2-Ha Mohlakaso, Ha Ramokotjo, Ha Motanyane and Ha Mokhohla and Popa Ha Maama Water Supply Systems.

3. Bidders may bid for one or all two contracts (lots), as applicable and as further defined in the bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.

4.Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (National), OCBN procedures as specified in the Bank's Procurement Framework - November 2018, and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.

5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Lowlands Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Project, LNDC BLOCK B-Level 4, Maseru. Attention**:** Procurement Specialist email: rapakeng@yahoo.com and inspect the bidding document during office hours 8h00 to 16h30 at the address given below.

6. The bidding document in English may be requested by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the email address above and the document will be sent by email no hard copies are provided.

7.Bids must be delivered to the address under 10 below on or before 10h30 10th September 2025. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on 11h00 on the 10th September, 2025.

8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration.

9."Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document."]
10. The address referred to under 7 above is:
Department of Rural Water Supply (DRWS) Office
Resource Centre, Next to Appropriate Technology Services (ATS)
Khubetsoana, Main North 1 Road, Maseru, Lesotho.

11. Bidders must be aware that there will be ***NO*** Pre-bid meeting.

12. Bidders must ensure that the packages containing their submissions are properly labelled as follows: "*Construction of Water Supply systems from drilled boreholes (AfDB/LRWSSP/W02B)*".

Kingdom of Lesotho
Ministry of Natural Resources
Specific Procurement Notice
Invitation for Bids [IFB]
Small Works
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

IFB Number: AfDB/LRWSSP/W01B
Employer: Ministry of Natural Resources (Commission of Water)
Project: Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project
Contract title: Construction of Construction of Water Supply Systems in Berea and Maseru Districts
Country: Lesotho
Grant No.: 5550155001751
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (National) (OCBN)
OCBN No: AfDB/LRWSSP/W01B
Issued on: 07th August 2025

1. The Kingdom of Lesotho has received financing from the African Development Fund (ADF) [hereinafter called "the Bank"] toward the cost of the Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for Construction of Water Supply systems in Berea and Maseru districts: Lot 1-Ha Matlere and Ha Nthafa Water Supply Systems, Lot 2 Ha Lekete and Foto Water Supply Systems and Lot 3-Ha Lebakae Water Supply System. The Scope of Works for each Lot is as follows;

LOT NO.	SCOPE OF WORK
Lot 1-Ha Matlere and Ha Nthafa Water Supply Systems	•Construction of Stonemasonry Tanks-sizes-2m³ to 10m³ •Concrete Standpipes-9 in number •Spring Catchments-5 No. •Source Pipeline (Dia. 40mm G.I.) -105m •Main pipeline (Dia. 40mm HDPE)-510 m •Distribution pipelines (HDPE- Dia. •25mm and 32mm) - 4120m •Pumping- ➢ SQF 2.5-2, ➢ 3 No.,Solar panels and ➢ 3 core Amoured Cable (Dia. 10mm2 430m ➢ Pump accessories
Lot 2-Ha Lekete and Ha Foto Water Supply Systems	•Elevated Plastic Tank-10 m³ •Stone Masonry Tank- 10 m³ •Concrete Standpipes- 11 no •Pump Main-HDPE-Class 16 (Dia. 50mm - 660m) •Distribution pipeline-HDPE (Dia. 25 to 32mm - 2361m) • Pumping- ➢ SQF 2.5-2, pump ➢ 13 No.,Solar panels and ➢ Pump accessories.
Lot 3-Ha Lebakae Water Supply System	•Stone masonry Tank- 10 m³ •1 No. Spring Catchment •Concrete standpipes- 9 no. •Source Pipeline (Dia. 40mm G.I.) -13 m •Pump Main pipeline - HDPE Class16 Dia. 63mm - 619m •Distribution pipelines ➢ HDPE Class 12 - Dia. 50mm – 239m ➢ HDPE Class 12 - Dia. 25mm - 2724m •Pumping ➢ SQF 1,2-3 Pump ➢ 5No.,Solar panels and ➢ Pump accessories

For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
2. The Ministry of Natural Resources (Commission of Water now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders (Category A and B Registered with DRWS/Ministry of Works (BDS)) for Construction of Water Supply systems in Berea and Maseru districts: Lot 1-Ha Matlere and Ha Nthafa Water Supply Systems, Lot 2 Ha Lekete and Foto Water Supply Systems and Lot 3-Ha Lebakae Water Supply System.

3. Bidders may bid for one or all three contracts (lots), as applicable and as further defined in the bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.

4.Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (National), OCBN procedures as specified in the Bank's Procurement Framework - November 2018, and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.

5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Lowlands Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Project, LNDC BLOCK B-Level 4, Maseru. Attention**:** Ralibejoane Rapakeng email: rapakeng@yahoo.com and inspect the bidding document during office hours 8h00 to 16h30 at the address given below.

6. The bidding document in English may be requested by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the email address above and the document will be sent by email no hard copies are provided.

7.Bids must be delivered to the address under 10 below on or before 10h30 09th September 2025. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on 11h00 on the 09th September 2025.

8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration.

9."Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document."]
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Department of Rural Water Supply (DRWS) Office
Resource Centre, Next to Appropriate Technology Services (ATS)
Khubetsoana, Main North 1 Road, Maseru, Lesotho.

11. Bidders must be aware that there will be ***NO*** Pre-bid meeting.

12. Bidders must ensure that the packages containing their submissions are properly labelled as follows: "*Construction of Water Supply systems in Berea and Maseru districts (IFB No: AfDB/LRWSSP/W01B)*".

Scott set to drop soulful amapiano track

By Boitumelo Motsemoholo
Junior Reporter

Lesotho-based electronic music producer and DJ, Lehlohonolo Seitlheko, popularly known as Scott, is gearing up to release his latest single Qamako on August 15, a track he says represents a deeper, more spiritual side of amapiano music.

Featuring high-profile collaborators Muziqal Guru, Tonique, Shashie, and Mosimoli, Qamako is set to showcase Scott's signature blend of electronic dance music infused with soul, rhythm, and meaning.

Scott said the song is not just for dancing, but is also about consciousness; a sonic journey that speaks to the connection between the body and spirit.

According to Scott, the inspiration behind the track was shaped by none other than Kabza De Small, South Africa's amapiano legend dubbed the 'King of Amapiano'.

"Kabza has deeply influenced how I think about music. It's not just sound, it's an experience," he said.

Known for his versatile sound rooted in house and electronic dance music, Scott has made a name for himself as a trailblazer in Lesotho's music scene.



LEHLOHONOLO SEITLHEKO, AKA SCOTT

His earlier work, including the critically acclaimed album Scott's Emulsion and the hit single Wantiva Na, earned him back-to-back Best House Producer awards at the Lesotho Music Awards.

His journey to fame was accelerated by collaborations with regional music heavyweights such as MacG of Podcast and Chill fame, and Nkanyezi Kubheka, who helped introduce Scott's mixes to broader audiences.

Since then, his music has been featured on multiple digital platforms, cementing his status as one of Lesotho's most globally visible producers.

While proud of his roots, Scott is firmly focused on the future. "I'm not just trying to break into the international scene, I want to lead it," he pointed out. With each release, he pushes boundaries and defies expectations, earning a loyal fan base at home and abroad.

He describes Qamako as a milestone in his evolution. "This isn't just another track; it's a message. It's about inner awakening through music. Amapiano has that power, and I want to show people just how deep it can go," he added.

Scott's consistency and innovation continue to win over fans who follow his journey across social platforms and music streaming sites. Whether producing beats in his Maseru studio or headlining events across southern Africa, he remains committed to elevating his sound and expanding his reach.

As he gains recognition beyond Lesotho, Scott's goal remains the same - to produce music that touches souls. With Qamako, he hopes to bring people closer to themselves, through rhythm, emotion, and energy.

Scott's upcoming release promises not only to dominate the dance floors but to redefine how Basotho and global audiences experience amapiano.





10TH CORPORATE CHALLENGE SET TO TEST TEAM SPIRIT



By Boitumelo Bulane
Junior Reporter

The much-anticipated Corporate Challenge returns for its 10th edition on October 3, 2025, marking a decade of team-building, wellness, and camaraderie among Lesotho's corporate sector.

Hosted by Liopelo Events, the milestone event promises an action-packed day at Maseru Mall, blending physical endurance with professional networking.

What began as a modest obstacle race has grown into a flagship corporate event, attracting hundreds of participants annually.

Mamphono Khaketla, Events Director at Liopelo Events, said the Challenge has become "more than just an obstacle course."

She described it as a powerful morale booster and networking opportunity that continues to bring together professionals, colleagues, and friends from all sectors.

This year's event will feature a rigorous 25-obstacle course, including crowd favourites like the mud crawl, tyre run, and monkey bars. Teams of five - either all-male, all-female, or mixed - are encouraged to register. The fee is M3,400 per team, and Khaketla revealed that one company fielded 11 teams in 2024.

She said they are aiming to beat that record this year, and went on to encourage individuals to form teams with friends, family, or even neighbours.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary, a VIP Marquee will be introduced, offering CEOs of sponsor companies and special guests a premium space to relax and network.

"It's not just about competition - it's about celebrating a shared commitment to wellness and unity," Khaketla noted.

The day will begin with registration at 8am, and the first wave of teams is set to start at 10am. Companies can select their preferred start times for better coordination.

The prize-giving ceremony is expected around 3pm, following the final team's finish.

Food and beverage vendors at Maseru Mall will offer exclusive packages for the day, and organisers are exploring the possibility of an after-party on site, tapping into demand from previous participants.

"It's the perfect lead-up to Independence weekend, and we're working to make it even more festive," added Khaketla.

Sponsorship packages remain open, offering companies a chance to register teams, sponsor prizes, or choose from curated sponsorship options. The deadline for team registration is Sunday, August 31, 2025. Companies can sign up via contact details available on the Corporate Challenge social media pages.

As the countdown to the 10th edition begins, organisers are pulling out all the stops to ensure it's the most memorable yet.

With strong backing from the business community and high enthusiasm from returning participants, the 2025 Corporate Challenge is shaping up to be a true celebration of teamwork, resilience, and corporate unity.

