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AfDB backs controversial Water & Hydrogen Expo



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AfDB backs controversial Water & Hydrogen Expo

Thoboloko Ntšonyane
MASERU

The African Development Bank has committed to providing the financial backing for the upcoming much touted Water and Hydrogen in a Digital Future Conference and Expo this is amid fears that some people are smelling the rat in this initiative.

This is according to the statement issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Water and Hydrogen Conference and Expo that is scheduled to take place on October 12 – 13 in Maseru.

“The Minister of Natural Resources, Honourable Mhloimi Moleko MP has welcomed that the African Development Bank (AfDB) - the largest development bank in Africa- will participate in, and sponsor the Metsi ke Bophelo Water and Hydrogen in a Digital Future Conference and Expo...,” reads the Ministry of Natural Resources statement.

According to the Ministry, the AfDB has pledged to the tune of 15 000 USD about M285 000 towards the costs of the conference.

In a letter confirming bank’s participation Oswald Mulenga Chanda is quoted saying “the bank believes that the question of what Lesotho can do with its water endowment is an important one, given that, despite this abundance, and the progress



Mr Mashudu-Ramano

made so far to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 targets for water and sanitation for all by 2030, there is still more to achieve these objectives “.

According to Lesotho’s vision of a sustainable digital hydro nation, the government wants “to develop Lesotho to become a sustainable digital hydro nation” and “it aims to develop a strategy that will position

the Kingdom as a sustainable digital hydro nation and to address four overarching themes...”.

The Ministry had said this soon to be hosted Conference and Expo offers a platform for commencement of its journey to the “sustainable digital hydro nation “.

These themes are; Water, Hydrogen and Digital for Life; Water, Hydrogen and Digital for Green Growth and Development; Water, Hydrogen and Digital for Human Capital Development and Water, Hydrogen and Digital for Regional Development.

The Ministry’s dream is to generate 5 000 MW of electricity and to export excess to South Africa and Contribute to the SADC (Southern African Development Community) pool.

The Minister of Natural Resources Hon Mhloimi Moleko has said the conference is expected to attract experts throughout the world who will teach Lesotho on how to leverage the hydrogen related technologies within the water industry.

“Notably you have a Hydrogen whereby the world is moving to Hydrogen as a fuel source, for instance to power planes, to power cars, so you can actually see that the whole world is moving towards Hydrogen as a source of energy.

“Now, with us having water, we actually have abundant Hydrogen but before we can do anything with that, we have to learn about it. We have to have this where [we] as Basotho and the world in general will be taught about Hydrogen, about oxygen so that we can see what kind of projects the government can undertake which are safe and sound for the nation,” the Minister said.

This much anticipated water expo will be hosted by the government in concert with Ramano’s Metsi ke Bophelo Company which is locally registered.

The conference, Communications Liaison Officer, Nthakoana Ngatane said the government had approached and sold its idea of exploring potential benefits within the water sector to Ramano. Ramano, she said, will be critical in guiding Lesotho on how to strategically harness opportunities related to water including consumption and for economic purposes, among others.

She said Lesotho can become a Digital storage of water related information which could be used for different purposes including by academics, researchers, and business.

Ngatane said this conference is going to provide avenues to explore various opportunities within the water sector.

Meanwhile, the expo has received criticism and resistance from some of the majority ruling Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) Members of Parliament (MPs) in a leaked clip expressed concern over this upcoming conference and about one of the figures involved, the prominent South Africa’s entrepreneur Mashudu Ramano who is the founder of Mitochondria Energy Company.

An MP whom this publication could not immediately establish who he was, was addressing Hon Moeketsi Motšoaane who is the Chairperson of the Natural Resources Portfolio Committee to apprise them of

the expo, also latter said he knew nothing about.

Recently, the youth from both ruling and opposition parties convened a press conference where they frowned upon the conference and the undue involvement of some people in the affairs of Lesotho saying caution must be exercised by the government lest, the Fraser Solar saga repeats itself.

There are fears that this initiative is similar to the Fraser Solar debacle that had plunged the country into high costs of protracted legal battle. By way of background, Fraser Solar is suing the government of Lesotho for allegedly breaching the supply agreement to install energy saving equipment.

It is alleged that then Minister in the Prime Minister’s office, Hon Temeki Tšolo signed the agreement on behalf of the government with the German based Fraser Solar for supply of energy saving equipment. Tšolo has since rubbished these allegations also questioning the order of appearance of his name in the document saying despite the names appearing in the document that was not his signature.

The case is still ongoing before the High Court division of Gauteng, in South Africa.

Speaking on Lesotho Television last week, the Ministry said the government is using Ramano features on this project as he is well connected and knows many potential sponsors who could come to invest in this initiative.

Early July, the government launched the Water, Hydrogen, and Future Digital Conference where the Prime Minister gave a keynote address.

During the recent 15th BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Prime Minister, Ntsokoane Matekane extended the invitation to the Heads of State and Government who were participating in that Summit to ascend to Lesotho for this water summit

Extending the invitation to world leaders and those of international institutions, Matekane said: “We welcome strategic partnerships with like-minded nations and institutions. We invite all of you to grace this ground-breaking conference with your presence.”

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Lesotho II

About MCA

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. government corporation focused on assisting countries dedicated to good governance, economic freedom, and investing in people. In May 2022, MCC signed a five-year agreement (“compact”) with the government of Lesotho (GoL) aimed at poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the country. The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA- Lesotho), is an entity established by the Government to act as the accountable entity to implement the Compact, with the authority to bind the Government with regard to all Program activities.

Lesotho Compact

The Lesotho Health and Horticulture Compact aims to benefit 2.5 million people by growing, strengthening, and organizing the private sector in Lesotho and improving the government’s coordination to deliver critical services necessary to support private sector development. It will achieve this goal through investments in Health System Strengthening, strengthening of the business environment and Market Driven Irrigated Horticulture, providing sustainable income for smallholders and increasing climate resilience by replacing rain-fed subsistence farming with irrigated commercial horticulture in select locations. The GoL is committed to passing several key reforms that will help make this compact successful, including reforms that address gender equality, working conditions and worker safety, as well as land and water rights. All of the compact’s projects focus on overcoming barriers to the economic inclusion of women, youth, and the rural poor.

MARKET-DRIVEN IRRIGATED HORTICULTURE (MDIH) PROJECT

The MDIH Project objective is to increase rural incomes related to commercial agriculture, including for women, youth, and the rural poor, and establish a sustainable and inclusive model of irrigation, water resource, and land management. The project provides extensive technical assistance and investments in institutional reforms and capacity building of both the GoL and beneficiaries of the project’s investment in irrigation infrastructure to develop a successful and sustainable horticulture industry. The budget for this project is \$118 million.

Activity Manager Irrigation Infrastructure Development

Objective of this position

The Irrigation Infrastructure Development (IID) Activity Manager will be responsible for the successful implementation of the \$67.3 Million Irrigation Infrastructure Development Activity, which is one of three activities within the Market Driven Irrigated Horticulture Project (MDIH). The other two activities are the Institutional Reform (IR) Activity and the Irrigated Horticulture Support Services (IHSS) Activity. Each of these activities will be separately managed; and overall leadership of the project will be provided by the Market Driven Irrigated Horticulture Director, whom the three activity leads will report to.

The IID manager will be responsible for the activity from initiation of the design, resettlement and environmental assessment work, through to RAP and construction contract implementation. The Activity Manager will be responsible for coordinating the IID activity with the IR and IHSS activities of MDIH, building collaborative relationships with project stakeholders, and overseeing the activity budget. The Activity Manager will also be responsible for ensuring alignment of the activity with the overall objectives of the MDIH Project and Compact and with judicious management of assigned resources.

Primary responsibilities

- Lead the Irrigation Infrastructure Development Activity in line with the Compact requirements, ensuring that cross-cutting requirements (e.g. Gender and Social Inclusion, Environmental and Social Performance, and Monitoring and Evaluation) are implemented in accordance with MCC guidelines and in accordance with infrastructure consultants’ TORs.
- Manage finalization of the design build procurement documents and participate in contract negotiations, manage project engineering design, implementation of construction and post-construction defects liability period including inspections, and contract closeout activities.
- In collaboration with ESP and GSI, ensure that engineering designs and construction contracts have incorporated requirements documented in relevant ESIA/ESMP and RAPs, and in the MCA-Lesotho II Social and Gender Integration Plan (SGIP)
- In collaboration with ESP, GSI and Land, ensure that infrastructure consultant/contractor activities are well-coordinated with IHSS contractor activities.
- Develop and utilize an activity work plan/schedule to track progress and ensure MCA-Lesotho II’s ability to implement the program while managing risks and delays against the established work plan/schedule using data driven monitoring tools.
- In coordination with the other MDIH Activity Managers, the MDIH Project Lead and MCA-Lesotho II’s Deputy CEO for Programs, develop a cohesive management framework, including tools, that integrate project technical and cross-cutting areas.
- Oversee recruitment of the Irrigation Infrastructure Development Activity team as well as training, development, and performance management of these staff to ensure capacity to deliver the IID Activities objectives.
- Represent the IID Activity to the MDIH Project Lead, to the MCA-CEO and, as requested, to MCC and the MCA Board of directors to ensure a common understanding of activity progress with a focus on significant changes to infrastructure designs and implementation issues including those involving schedule and budget.
- Represent the IID Activity to MDIH project stakeholders (e.g. with national/local government counterparts, civil society, project beneficiaries, aligned funders, etc.) and identify, develop and manage potential partnerships that can advance the MDIH project.
- In coordination with the other MDIH Activity Leads, introduce tools to communicate the process and progress of the MDIH project milestones.
- Create and optimize approaches and build consistency in the quality of MDIH project outputs, implementation and assessments of the MDIH project.
- Track (in collaboration with MCA-Lesotho II procurement and finance officer(s)) project financial reporting.
- Track (in collaboration with MCA M&E officer(s)) the implementation of the project activities, reporting regularly on relevant indicators and progress toward MDIH project logic.

Required Competencies

- Four (4) year university degree in Civil Engineering is required
- Graduate level degree in Civil Engineering or related field is an advantage
- Minimum ten (10) years of broad program management experience encompassing cross program oversight and development and management of significant resources, including:
 - Experience managing design and construction of irrigation projects.
 - Experience managing multi-disciplinary technical teams.
 - Stakeholder engagement experience.
- Experience with IFC Environmental and Social Performance Standards or similar international health and safety and environmental and social safeguard measures
- Prefer: Experience implementing FIDIC Red and Yellow Book contracts.
- Experience with planning; budget, schedule, and document controls for infrastructure projects, including those of similar size and scope as this project; Project Management certifications, preferred
- Demonstrated work experience in Southern Africa (previous work experience in Lesotho is preferred)
- Proficiency in English (writing and speaking) is required. Proficiency in Sesotho (writing and speaking) is preferred.
- Must be able to effectively use Google and MS Office applications and learn any specific applications related to work.

Activity Manager Land Reforms

Objective of this position

The Land Reforms Activity Manager will have principal responsibility for providing technical support and strategic guidance to staff and partners designing and implementing land reform components throughout the MDIH Project. The Land Reforms Activity Manager will be responsible for management of all land work, including managing land-related contracts; assuring the technical quality of design and implementation, working with other MCA-Lesotho II staff, pertinent government agencies responsible for implementation, and other partners to address implementation challenges and opportunities; and coordinating with external stakeholders. The Land Reforms Activity Manager will report to the Market Driven Irrigated Horticulture (MDIH) Director.

Primary responsibilities

- As the organizational structure dictates, serve as contract manager effectively and efficiently tracking workplans, deliverables, expiration of contract, financials, monitoring the extensive integration of gender across activities, identifying working effectively to resolve risks or issues, responding to contract questions, providing technical feedback where relevant, facilitating coordination with other contractors or MCA staff, and providing reports to senior management as required.
- Support Project Team and Contract Management Specialist to develop and implement contract management strategies, policies, and procedures to facilitate smooth contract administration.
- Engage MCA-Lesotho II staff, MCC staff, key government counterparts, and consultants to effectively integrate MDIH land activities with other sector and cross cutting activities. This includes consideration of project planning, development, and implementation, including in terms of reference, work plans, designs, contract management, budgets, timelines and monitoring mechanisms.
- Work with key government counterparts and consultants to promote adoption of and implement land related reforms as part of the MDIH activities.
- Liaise and coordinate with Lesotho Government Officials to ensure that all counterparts and stakeholders are aware of project activities, involved in decision making and project implementation, where appropriate, and receive necessary training and capacity building as required to ensure sustainability of the project.
- Participate in advisory boards and committees related to the MDIH project and Land sector generally, as may be required, to guide the land activities and facilitate their sustainability.
- Collaborate with MCA-Lesotho II directors in the management of contracts/projects for the design and implementation of shared projects.
- Propose revisions to project design as needed to address implementation challenges. Oversee and monitor the implementation of revised activities to ensure that identified challenges are being addressed such that Project objectives can be achieved.
- Prepare budget requests and reports related to all land related MDIH activities as required to receive disbursements of MCC funding for project implementation.
- Work with Government, MCC and project private stakeholders to complete required reporting and resolve problems and challenges that arise with implementation of the project.
- Travel to project sites for supervision visits as required to implement the project.
- In coordination with the sector Directors and Deputy CEO, develop and manage partnerships with aligned actors as relevant to advance the compact objectives.

Required Competencies

- Minimum 5 years’ experience working in Land projects, preferably with activities related to land titling, registration, legal and policy reform, and capacity building of land administration institutions.
- Demonstrated understanding of the relevance of gender in land projects, and experience working on at least two land reform projects in which promotion of women’s land rights was an objective.
- Experience working on irrigation and agricultural investment projects is considered an advantage.
- Tertiary degree in land surveying, law, or other field related to land titling and reform.
- Experience working with donor projects in developing countries.
- Minimum five (5) years of broad program management experience encompassing cross program oversight and development and management of significant resources, including:
 - Experience managing multi-disciplinary technical teams.
 - Stakeholder engagement experience.
- A minimum of 5 years of successful technical contract or grant management experience, as evidenced by at least two examples of how the candidate managed a contract or grant to successfully produce deliverables or outcomes within a specified period of time and budget.
- Strong project and contract management skills.
- Proficiency in English (writing and speaking) is required. Proficiency in Sesotho (writing and speaking) is preferred.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Must be able to effectively use Google and MS Office applications and learn any specific applications related to work.

Specialist, Resettlement

Objective of this position

The Resettlement Specialist, reporting to the ESP Director, Program Management Office of the Millennium Challenge Account-Lesotho II (MCA-

Lesotho II) provides substantive expertise to the ESP Team and MCA-Lesotho II Project Directors, implementing partners and project stakeholders to conform with MCA-Lesotho II/MCC frameworks for land acquisition, resettlement and livelihood development across all projects and ensures the integrity of MCC environmental Guidelines, IFC Performance Standards and Lesotho legislation across all program functions are met.

Primary responsibilities

- Oversee the preparation and implementation of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) and manage the monitoring and evaluation of project-specific RAPs.
- Collaborate and coordinate with MCA-Lesotho II Project Directors and Managers, Environmental and Social Oversight Consultant (ESOC), RAP developers, RAP implementers, Land & Gender Consultant, Horticulture, Training, Gender and Social Development Consultant, irrigation design consultants, construction companies, construction supervision engineers, implementing entities, relevant local, regional and national authorities and other relevant entities to ensure compliance of the Compact with MCC Environmental Guidelines, IFC Performance Standards and Lesotho legislation.
- Support Project Team and Contract Management Specialist to develop and implement contract management strategies, policies, and procedures to facilitate smooth contract administration.
- As the organizational structure dictates, serve as contract manager effectively and efficiently tracking workplans, deliverables, expiration of contract, financials, identifying ways to work effectively to resolve risks or issues, responding to contract questions, providing technical feedback where relevant, facilitating coordination with other contractors or MCA-Lesotho II staff, and providing reports to senior management as required.
- Ensure that RAPs are prepared in a way that:
 - Demonstrate the measures taken to reduce involuntary resettlement in line with the objectives of IFC Performance Standard (PS) 5;
 - Demonstrate the completeness of the documents in response to the requirements of IFC PS 5;
 - Highlight a complaints procedure consistent with the MCA-Lesotho II stakeholder input mechanism included in the MCA Lesotho II Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS);
- Address the restoration of livelihoods and vulnerable people affected by the project;
 - Ensure that designs and bid contracts incorporate relocation, compensation, and livelihood restoration issues and provide appropriate access to site information through regular collaboration with MCA-Lesotho II Project Directors and consultants.
- Coordinate with competent authorities to plan and obtain RAP approvals from all designated authorities.
- Oversee the implementation of the RAPs and ensure that implementation modalities and operations are consistent with the approved project-specific RAPs.
- Collaborate with the Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) Director to ensure that gender and social vulnerability issues are integrated into the development and implementation of RAPs, and ensure that all GSI-related provisions in the RAP consultants’ scopes of work are well-implemented.
- Work closely with all sector directors responsible for the implementation of projects that may involve resettlement issues.
- Contribute to the stakeholder engagement plan and coordinate with those responsible to ensure that the impacts and rights of those affected by resettlement are taken into account.
- Coordinate with the Director of Finance, Fiduciary Agent or equivalent function during the development and implementation of the RAP to determine and agree on payment methods for cash compensation, documentation necessary for the approval of compensation payments, preparation of payment lists and all related activities.
- Coordinate as required with the Procurement Director and Contracting Officer as well as with all relevant Government entities, construction contractors, construction supervision engineers or separate contractors or consultants.
- Ensure the integrity of the database associated with the development and implementation of RAPs and manage their consolidation into a Compact database in coordination with the ESP and GIS specialists.
- Develop a Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) program and monitoring systems to monitor the progress of resettlement and displacement and assist in the preparation of progress reports to MCC and the Government using contributions provided by relevant project implementers.
- Develop and implement procedures to manage and supervise new resettlement cases that may occur during construction.
- Develop procedures and tenders for any specialized resettlement-related studies that may become necessary, such as the restoration of livelihoods, vulnerable persons or the acquisition of land that may result in expropriation.
- Coordinate with the ESP Director to manage the ESOC to conduct frequent visits and inspections in areas where resettlement takes place and participate in meetings (according to schedule) with all relevant consultants and contractors; and
- Perform other relocation-related duties and responsibilities as required.

Required Competencies

- Minimum Requirements:
- Minimum of eight (8) years or more of professional experience in a relevant sector in sub-Saharan Africa, which must include at least five (5) years of experience in the field of resettlement and three (3) years of experience with IFC, World Bank or other donor resettlement policies and standards.
 - Proven knowledge of Lesotho’s land and real estate and environmental and social assessment legislation.
 - Experience in managing the development and/or implementation of resettlement action plans in accordance with World Bank OP 4.12, IFC PS 5 or other resettlement procedures of multilateral or bilateral donors.
 - Experience in conducting public consultations and stakeholder engagement processes for resettlement activities.
 - Experience working in the field and on sites, e.g. including field visits and interacting with different stakeholders.
 - Demonstrated experience developing and implementing livelihood restoration programs.
 - Demonstrated understanding and experience working with gender and social exclusion issues in the context of resettlement and land issues.
 - Demonstrated professionalism, good judgment and flexibility to work as required outside of normal working hours to meet the deadlines and needs of the position.
 - Ability to work with multidisciplinary teams and institutions.
 - Technical contract or grant management experience preferred.
 - Demonstrated work experience in Southern Africa (previous work experience in Lesotho is preferred)
 - Proficiency in English (including excellent written and verbal communication skills) is required. Proficiency in Sesotho (writing and speaking) is preferred.
 - Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
 - Must be able to effectively use Google and MS Office applications and learn any specific applications related to work.

Specialist, Social and Behavior Change

Objective of this position

The Social and Behavior Change (SBC) Specialist will have principal responsibility for providing technical support and strategic guidance to staff and partners designing and implementing SBC interventions and supportive components throughout the MDIH Project. The SBC Specialist will be responsible for project planning and management of all SBC work, including SBC-related contract management; assuring the technical quality of SBC-related design and implementation, working with other MCA-Lesotho II staff, pertinent government agencies responsible for implementation, and other partners to address implementation challenges and opportunities; and coordinating with external stakeholders. The SBC Specialist will also assist in monitoring and evaluating programmatic effectiveness and provide technical support. The SBC Specialist will report to the Irrigated Horticulture Support Services (IHSS) Activity Manager, under the Market Driven Irrigated Horticulture (MDIH) Director.

Primary responsibilities

- Manage all SBC-related components of the project, including timelines, budgets, reporting, and other related project management tasks.
- Lead the development of SBC strategy across the project.
- Provide strategic leadership to design, plan, and implement SBC work.
- Oversee programmatic and technical quality of SBC-related components of project interventions, ensuring SBC efforts are evidence-based, community-driven, and in line with the objectives of the project.
- Manage the contracts associated with the SBC components of the project.
- Oversee the monitoring of SBC progress to ensure consistency and coherency across interventions as well as compliance with GoL, MCA-Lesotho II, and MCC policy and guidelines.
- Contribute to the design and implementation of M&E activities, including the development and tracking of SBC-related monitoring indicators as well as any evaluation activities.
- Partner closely with other MCA-Lesotho II staff and pertinent government counterparts.
- In coordination with the IHSS Manager, MDIH Director, the GSI Director and IHSS GSI Specialist, develop and manage relationships with partnering stakeholders to advance the compact objectives related to SBC.
- Work closely with the GSI Director and IHSS GSI Specialist to oversee joint and closely related work under IHSS contracts, related to land and horticulture sub-activities.
- Build SBC capacity within the MCA and with pertinent government counterparts and other key stakeholders, as needed.
- Produce required reports to senior management, government counterparts, and MCC, highlighting key implementation issues and opportunities.
- Prepare communications materials that highlight the project’s SBC work, successes, and lessons learned.
- Work with Stakeholder Engagement Manager and Communications Director on relevant plans and tasks.

Required Competencies

- Minimum Requirements:
- Degree in a relevant social science discipline, such as International Communication, Social and Behavior Change, Social Marketing, Public Health, Health Communication, Health Promotion, Psychology, or other relevant Social Sciences.
 - A minimum six (6) years of progressively increasing technical responsibility designing and/or implementing SBC programs.
 - Ability to provide technical direction to projects, ensure high quality SBC outputs and impact, set realistic priorities, and guide successful implementation of SBC activities.
 - Experience designing and implementing community-based approaches.
 - Experience designing and implementing SBC capacity building tools and approaches.
 - Experience interpreting data to design and measure evidence-based SBC strategies and approaches.
 - Demonstrated understanding of how gender norms influence behavior and project outcomes.
 - Strong project and contract management skills.
 - Demonstrated ability to communicate in a collaborative and respectful manner cross-culturally, using verbal (in-person and virtual) and written form.
 - Strong organizational skills
 - Proficiency in English (writing and speaking) is required. Proficiency in Sesotho (writing and speaking) is preferred.
 - Ability to work independently with initiative to manage high volume workflow.
 - Ability to travel throughout Lesotho.
- Preferred qualifications
- An advanced degree (master’s or Ph.D.) in a relevant social science discipline, such as International Communication, Social and Behavior Change Communication, Social Marketing, Public Health, Health Communication, Health Promotion, Psychology, or relevant Social Sciences.
 - Experience designing and/or implementing projects related to community-led governance, social cohesion, and/or collective action.
 - Experience tackling gender norms through SBC methods.
 - Experience in emerging SBC methods and approaches, such as human-centred design, behavioural economics, and/or digital media.
 - Experience in Lesotho or Southern Africa is highly desirable
 - Familiarity with Lesotho context, structures, and stakeholders
 - Experience and/or expertise in agriculture and gender-based approaches.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted on-line, on or before the application deadline **29 September 2023**. Applications should be accompanied by the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae containing detailed work experience;
- Cover letter confirming interest and availability;
- Soft copies of higher education and professional certificates (if available);

Only applications that come in before or on the application deadline will be considered.

- We thank all applicants. However, note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Submit your application online via: <https://lesotho-jobs.tenderwell.org>

'Informed and engaged citizenry is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy'

The prominent journalist and activist, **Kananelo Boloetse** is synonymous with unwavering commitment to the rule of law, tireless advocacy for the protection of rights, and relentless efforts to hold those in power accountable.

During the year 2021, in what appeared to be a David versus Goliath scenario, Boloetse triumphed over major telecommunications companies in the country where he approached the regulator, Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) to rein in the telecoms for charging out of bundle rates when the subscriber's data had run out without consumers' permission. And indeed he prevailed in that Vodacom Lesotho and Econet Telecom Lesotho send regular notifications nudging subscribers about the amount of data left before their bundles deplete.

Last year he and Advocate Lintle Tuke dominated news headlines when they launched a constitutional challenge to the State of Emergency declaration and the recall of Parliament that was already resolved and both the Constitutional Court and the Court of Appeal ruled in their favour.

The Constitutional Court recently dismissed his case where he and others were challenging the National Assembly's move to reinstate the bills that lapsed upon its dissolution last year. In its ruling, the court said the National Assembly has jurisdiction to recall bills from the previously dissolved parliament. He had since appealed this ruling and the Appeal Court will hear his case in its upcoming October session.

Boloetse has recently announced the establishment of his co-founded organisation, Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution, also known as Section 2, Boloetse vows to passionately uphold and safeguard the Constitution's supremacy in Lesotho. Boloetse and founding members through this organised platform will pursue and ensure checks and balances, democratic governance, accountability and rule of law in a democratic Lesotho.

In this interview with him, **Thoboloko Ntšonyane** finds out what the Section 2 aspires to achieve and how it will champion the supremacy of the Constitution.

Below is the excerpt of the interview.

What is the mandate of the Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution, also known as Section 2?

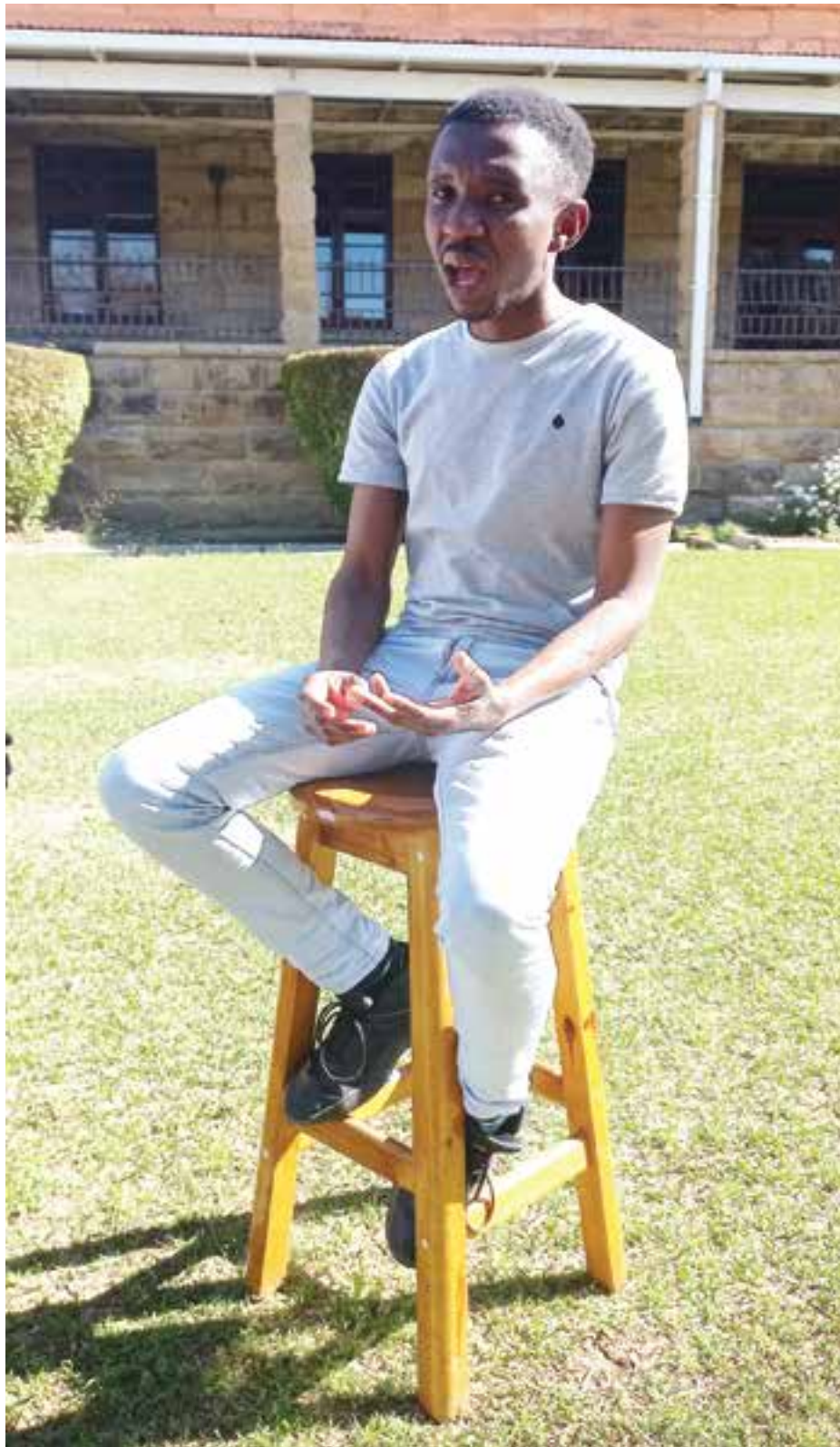
The mandate of the Advocates for the Supremacy of the Constitution, or Section 2, is to vigorously champion and defend the supremacy of the Constitution in Lesotho. We are dedicated to upholding the principles and values enshrined in our constitution, ensuring that it remains the bedrock of our democracy. Through advocacy, legal engagement, and public awareness initiatives, we seek to promote and safeguard constitutional integrity.

Who are the founding members of Section 2?

The founding members of Section 2 are a group of passionate individuals who share a deep commitment to constitutional supremacy. Together, we bring diverse legal expertise, advocacy experience, and a shared vision for advancing the principles enshrined in our constitution.

What unique perspectives or approaches does your organization bring to the table in a landscape already occupied by other institutions? How do you intend to complement the efforts of existing oversight bodies while introducing innovative perspectives on constitutional matters?

Section 2 recognises the valuable roles played by existing oversight bodies such as Parliament, CSOs, the Ombudsman, courts, and the media. Our unique contribution lies in our singular focus on the supremacy of the Constitution. We aim to complement these institutions by providing specialised legal advocacy, targeted public awareness campaigns, and collaborative initiatives to bolster constitutional understanding and



Kananelo Boloetse

enforcement. We introduce innovative perspectives by fostering a culture of constitutional literacy and by engaging with communities at the grassroots level.

Who are the immediate beneficiaries of Section 2, and how is the public going to benefit from this organization? Can you talk to a Mosotho at grassroots level who may not even appreciate the importance of the Constitution within a democratic dispensation like Lesotho?

The immediate beneficiaries of Section 2 are the citizens of Lesotho. Our work directly impacts every Mosotho, regardless of their background or level of legal understanding. At grassroots level, we strive to empower individuals with the knowledge of their constitutional rights and the mechanisms to protect them. For example, if a person faces a situation where their rights are infringed upon, Section 2 will provide them with the necessary support and resources to seek redress. By ensuring that the constitution is upheld, we contribute to a more just and equitable society, where every Mosotho's rights are respected.

What other avenues apart from litigation is Section 2 are going to be exploited in order to ensure the enshrinement of the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land?

In addition to litigation, Section 2 will utilize various advocacy channels, including public awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars. We aim to engage with communities, civil society, educational institutions, and other stakeholders to promote constitutional literacy. Through collaborations with like-minded organisations, we will amplify our collective efforts in upholding and promoting the supremacy of the Constitution.

How will this organisation tackle the otherwise seemingly prevailing trend of citizens being passive rather than active participants in the democratic process?

Section 2 is committed to transforming passive observers into active participants in our democracy. We will conduct extensive civic education programs to empower citizens with the knowledge and tools to engage in the democratic process effectively. By facilitating open dialogues, town hall meetings, and community discussions, we aim to create spaces where citizens feel heard and valued.

We believe that an informed and engaged citizenry is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. Which organisation in Lesotho has talked about town hall meetings? This isn't our idea but it is something that hasn't been done in Lesotho. We are going to do it. We aren't like all these organisations that are based in Maseru. We are going to be the voice of the voiceless.

What long-term goals does your organization have regarding constitutional enshrinement, and how do you plan to achieve them?

Our long-term goals revolve around creating a culture of constitutional consciousness and ensuring that the supremacy of the constitution is upheld in all aspects of governance. We envision a society where every Mosotho is well-versed in their constitutional rights and actively participates in the democratic process. To achieve this, we will continue our legal advocacy, expand our public awareness initiatives, and collaborate with stakeholders to foster constitutional ethos that endures for generations to come.

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Courts are 'not' fighting corruption: Registrar

Thoboloko Nfšonyane

MASERU

Notwithstanding the calls for "all" stakeholders to be involved in the fight against corruption that is seemingly rampant in the country, the courts will not join the bandwagon in this endeavor, the Appeal Court and the High Court Registrar Advocate 'Mathato Sekoai had unequivocally said.

She said theirs is to adjudicate over the matters brought before them.

The Registrar further said while other parties have a particular interest citing police, crown, anti-corruption body, the courts are only neutral players in the broader scheme of things taking neither side.

This Advocate Sekoai said in response to the calls by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) for the judiciary to buy in the appeal to have every institution on board to fight corruption that is seemingly rampant in the country.

It will be recalled that recently the DCEO has been in a crusade to chase those suspected to have a hand in the embezzlement of public funds including the former Principal Secretaries.

Corruption has been said to hold the development and economic progress of Lesotho hostage and there have been efforts to fight it. Be that as it may, there are acts of corruption still happening and some have also been flagged by the annual Auditor-General's report and also the parliament's oversight committee, Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Owing to the arbiter position that the courts hold in either criminal and civil matters, the Registrar said they have found themselves declining to join the campaigns and heed to calls that are agitating for the fight against corruption.

"These people, whether you call them defense lawyers, prosecution, they are party to the litigation but we are not parties.



Appeal Court and High Court Registrar Advocate 'Mathato Sekoai

Our mandate is to hear cases and deliver justice," she said.

There has also been an outcry of the backlog of the cases in the courts where they take very long to be disposed of where in some cases the witnesses even die and the suspects. This has necessitated the country to have specialized courts especially those that will solely handle corruption related matters.

Reacting to the delay in disposing of the cases in courts, Advocate Sekoai said not every case in court is ready for trial. She said there are a number of published protocols including the rules of court and practice directives which illustrate the procedure to be followed when a case is brought before the court.

"A number of those cases get filed and once they get filed they have to be processed in accordance with the rules of procedure which are given more meaning by the practice directives that are issued from time to time and once everything has been

complied with, the case is now trial ready; we start talking now of a date before a particular judge and in so far as the judiciary is concerned and in so far as the understanding of the backlog ...so the definition of a backlog should be when you talk of a backlog for cases before the court.

"Let us focus on the cases that are trial ready because those would be the cases that are awaiting their turn before a judge for the judge to hear that, those are cases that would in fact now be categorized as backlog because we say, save for the availability of the judicial officer these cases are ripe for hearing," she emphasized.

The issue of compounding corruption related offenses in courts could also be attributed to the fact that DCEO does not prosecute them, they have to ask for leave to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)'s office. Meanwhile, the public had expressed the concern in the 'Multi-stakeholder National Dialogue Plenary II Report' for this lack of autonomy of the DCEO

and had called for it to be empowered by law to prosecute and be answerable to the parliament.

DCEO prosecutor, Advocate Mponeng Ranthiti decried understaffing in the saying this causes slow progress on their investigations.

Another issue that had bedeviled the anti-graft body is that of lack of resources especially funds for witnesses' allowances such as accommodation for those coming from far places, food and transport. Unlike in the past where they would give cash to witnesses, the anti-corruption prosecutor said the current government system is not amenable to that arrangement.

She also echoed the sentiments for the establishment of an anti-corruption specialized court which she argued would go a long way towards their effort to fight and arrest corrupt activities in the country. Their efforts she pointed out are undermined by missing dockets in courts, and easy bail granting conditions.

Recovering proceeds of crime, she said is no mean feat especially the female prosecutors saying their lives are in danger as they receive "strange" phone calls and sometimes they are being "followed".

Advocate Ranthiti further urged the government to mount the expertise training citing the limited knowledge they have to investigate cybercrime related crimes. This lack of capacity she said causes the miscarriage of justice.

Deputy Prime Minister who doubles as the Minister of Law and Justice, Justice Nthomeng Majara had also recently reiterated on the establishment of specialized courts in particular corruption saying the current government is giving attention to that need.

"And as we are doing that, I can also assure you that we are also looking into the issue of finances and other resources for those courts including increasing the number of judges," she stressed.

Power struggle rocks continental Parliament

Thoboloko Nfšonyane

MASERU

There has recently been an attempt to usurping the Pan African Parliament's (PAP) President, Chief Fortune Zephania Charumbira by the 2nd Vice-President Dr Ashebir Woldegiorgis Gayo.

Present President of the PAP, Chief Charumbira had temporarily vacated his seat because of the current elections in his country, Zimbabwe. He was also sworn in, on September 7 in the Zimbabwean Parliament.

He is expected to return and resume his duties as the President in line with the provisions of Rule 9(3) of the PAP Rules of Procedure.

Article 5(1) of the PAP Protocol reads: "The Pan African Parliamentarians shall be elected or designated by the respective National Parliaments..."

It is reported that while the President was away, Dr Gayo, arrived at the continental parliament and allegedly arrogated unto himself powers including to announce the vacancy of the Presidency position and making appointments to offices such as that of Director of the Bureau. The seemingly "self-appointed" President had also accused Chief Charumbira of embezzling the parliament's funds to the tune of USD1.2 million, approximately M22.8 million, charges that had also been rubbished by the Parliament.

As this was happening, there was an Acting President already in office, Hon Lucia Maria Mendes Goncalves Dos Passos who is the 3rd Vice-President was appointed by Chief Charumbira as per the rotational principle in place.

It would be recalled that Dr Gayo had previously stood out to be against rotational leadership at PAP.

The attempts by the 2nd Vice-President had since been denounced by the PAP.

In its strong worded statement issued by the Acting President, accused Dr Gayo of being "power hungry" saying he has no business in dismissing anyone from the continental Parliament.

"The allegations of embezzling of USD1.2 million are nothing more than a malicious vendetta of vilification and character assassination driven by the shameless political ambitions of the 2nd Vice-President, Hon. Dr Ashebir Woldegiorgis Gayo, and his cohort.

"In fact, Dr Gayo and his team are frantically trying to 'cook up evidence to back that claim and have been harassing staff in the PAP's Finance Department to give them details of the missions that Chief Charumbira has undertaken since the beginning of the 6th Parliament as well as details of support staff hired during sessions in a desperate bid to find something that can stick," reads the Parliament's statement.

It continues, "The PAP Plenary Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of the Pan African Parliament. No individual has the authority to reverse the decisions of the Plenary, not even the substantive President himself.

"Therefore, only the appointing authority, in this case [is] the Plenary Assembly, can dismiss the President."

PAP has experienced its fair share of challenges and problems since its establishment.

In May 2021, the Plenary session of this Parliament witnessed the objection of the swearing-in of the South Sudan delegation on grounds that they were recently appointed into their national Parliament, and had not been sworn-in as Members in that jurisdiction. This objection was nonetheless overruled through the invocation of the PAP Article 5(1) which states that once a National Parliament had made the designation, the

Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline had cleared them.

Also in 2021, this Parliament was visited by a battle of the "principle of geographical rotation" where some were against the election of Chief Charumbira, from the South region. This caused the suspension of that session and necessitated the intervention of the African Union Commission.

The issue was however resolved and the

elections continued in the next session.

Established on March 18, 2004, following the African Heads of States meeting in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the meeting which culminated in the adoption of the Malabo Protocol, the PAP is a platform for all African states that have ratified this protocol have the representation of five parliamentarians per membership in this continental parliament, for a five-year term in office.

In the similar vein, the African Parliamentary Press Network (APPN), a continental network for Parliament reporting journalists and Parliament information officers, had expressed worry over the leadership tussle at the PAP.

"It is a well-known fact that Parliaments all over the world are masters of their own Rules. The onus to change, amend, or step down this Rule is the sole prerogative of the Parliament itself and no other body or institution.

"The APPN therefore finds it scandalous the recent leadership turmoil at the PAP, where individual Members of the Parliament are alleged to have taken actions that contravenes the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament.

"This should not be tolerated in any terms or form. Parliaments all over the world have their Standing Order, which they comply with strictly. Anyone who falls short of this Rules is dealt with according to the provisions of that Rules, and the PAP cannot be an exception to this rule."

Meanwhile, it is expected that the upcoming Plenary will pronounce itself and probably consider these developments on leadership struggle that had recently unfolded.

PAP was established to "ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development and economic integration of the continent".

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Specific Procurement Notice

Request for Proposals Works (Design and Build) (Without Initial Selection)

Employer: Ministry of Natural Resources

Project: Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II Works (LLWDP-II)

Contract title: Design and Construction of River Intake – Raw Water Pumps and Water Treatment Works, Reservoirs and Pumping Station in Leribe District

Country: Kingdom of Lesotho

Loan No. /Credit No. / Grant No.: 64030 (Portion A) and 64020 (Portion B)

RFP No: LLWDP/W/03(A)

Issued on: 19 September, 2023

1. The **Ministry of Natural Resources** has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project Phase II Works (LLWDP II)**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the **Design and Construction of River Intake – Raw Water Pumps and Water Treatment Works, Reservoirs and Pumping Station in Leribe District**.
2. The **Ministry of Natural Resources** now invites sealed Proposals from eligible Proposers for contract no. LLWDP/W/03(A) for the **Design and Construction of River Intake – Raw Water Pumps and Water Treatment Works, Reservoirs and Pumping Station in Leribe District**.

The Works includes:

- (a) The Hlotse direct river Intake Works and raw water pumps
- (b) The Hlotse raw water rising main
- (c) The Hlotse Water Treatment Works (WTW)
- (d) The Z2PS1 clear water pump station
- (e) The WTW to Z2R1 rising main
- (f) The Z2R1 Khanyane command reservoir
- (g) Z2PS2 clear water pumping station
- (h) WTW to Z2R21 rising main
- (i) Z2R21 Ha Lesiamo reservoir
- (j) Electrical, control and instrumentation for Works components listed (a) to (i)
- (k) Master SCADA system for the Lesotho Lowlands water supply scheme, Zone 2 & 3,
- (l) Ancillary works at intake, WTW and reservoir sites.

3. The procurement will be conducted through international competitive procurement using Request for Proposals (RFP) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Proposers.

4. Interested eligible Proposers may obtain further information from the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project, Procurement Office, Matumelo Daemane, email: procurement@llwdp.co.ls and inspect the RFP Document during office hours between **09h00 to 16h00 hours (local time: UTC+2)** at the address given below.

5. The RFP Document, in the English language, may be purchased by eligible Proposers upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of LSL 4,000 (Four Thousand Maloti). The method of payment will be through EFT Transfer or direct payment into the LLWDP Bank account, that will be made available on request from the Procurement Office, Matumelo Daemane,

email: procurement@llwdp.co.ls. The document can also be downloaded at www.llwdp.co.ls and an access (passcode) to the documents will be distributed by e-mail after receiving proof of payment.

6. A single-stage, two envelope RFP process will be used, and the Proposal will consist of (i) the Technical Part, without any reference to prices; and (ii) the Financial Part, as detailed in the RFP Document. The Technical and Financial Parts of the Proposals shall be submitted simultaneously in two separate sealed envelopes. These two envelopes shall be enclosed in a sealed outer envelope and clearly marked "**Proposal – Original LLWDP/W/03(A) for the Design and Construction of River Intake – Raw Water Pumps and Water Treatment Works, Reservoirs and Pumping Station in Leribe District**".
7. The Proposal, both the Technical Part and the Financial Part, must be delivered to the address below on or before **11h00 (local time: UTC+2) on 20 November 2023**. Electronic Proposal Submission will not be permitted. Late Proposals will be rejected. The Technical Part of the Proposals will be publicly opened in the presence of the Proposers' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **11h30 (local time: UTC+2) on 20 November 2023**. The Financial Part shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Employer until the second public opening of the Financial Part, following the evaluation of the Technical Part of the Proposals. A virtual opening and attendance option will be made available.
8. All Proposals must be accompanied by a Proposal Security of **USD 150,000.00 (or equivalent, in any easily convertible currency, including the local currency)**.
9. All Proposals must be accompanied by a Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and/or Sexual Harassment (SH) Declaration.
10. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful Proposer's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the RFP document."

11. The address referred to above is:

Procurement Office, Matumelo Daemane

Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project – Phase II

788/9 Fairview Avenue

Lower Thetsane, Maseru

Kingdom of Lesotho

Tel: (+266) 22 32 4555

Email: procurement@llwdp.co.ls

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World Vision enters into 4th phase of ECHO

Ts'oloane Mohlomi

MASERU

World Vision Lesotho has launched the fourth instalment of the European Union (EU) funded disaster management project aimed at deterring the effects of natural disasters likely to affect Lesotho.

Dubbed ECHO DRR, (European Civil protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) with the theme "Strengthening and Consolidating National and Community Capacities for Effective Disaster Preparedness and Response in Lesotho" the project was first launched in 2018 and prioritised the rural districts of Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek.

This current version is funded to the tune of 1.7 million Euros and is tipped to last for a duration of two years ending in May 2025 next year. It will focus on Thaba-Tseka, Mokhotlong, Maseru and Leribe districts.

Upon implementation the key results for the project will be Strengthening a Functional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, Strengthening logistics preparedness capacities of local institutions, enhancing coordination among local and national institutions for disaster preparedness, enhancing the Education in Emergencies (EIE) policy environment, and disaster preparedness and response capacities of schools and using a crisis modifier with the aim of assisting households in responding to rapid-onset shocks and emergencies

Speaking at the launch, held yesterday at the Mojalefa Lephole Convention centre, World Vision National Director, Mr James Chifwelu, said World Vision was a Christian organization which operated with respect to other religions, saying in their core values and virtuous principles they always focused on the well being of children and communities.

Mr Chifwelu said World Vision currently receives two primary types of funding, which included sponsorship which supports Area programs (AP's) for up to 15 years, and grants which fund specific projects.

"Today we come together under the auspices of an essential initiative, the European Union Funded disaster risk reduction project. This project represents a continuation and potential consolidation of past European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) projects that have been dedicated to enhancing, supporting, and promoting disaster risk management.

"World Vision's mission has always been to ensure that children realize and live life in all its fullness. Since 1987 we have been operating in Lesotho, within 14 Area programmes spread across eight districts of Lesotho.

"In December, we applied for and were successful in securing the fourth Phase of this project. This achievement solidifies our longstanding cooperation and harmonious relationship with the European Union." He said.

World Vision's work is centred on three key focus areas, intended to bring extreme poverty to an end by reaching children who continue to struggle in the hardest to reach places through livelihoods and resilience, health, HIV nutrition, advocacy, child protect and participation, water,

sanitation and hygiene, and humanitarian emergency affairs.

The three focus areas are long-term development, advocacy and disaster management, hence the current project.

Due to having commenced in 2018 ECHO was extended in both 2020 and 2021, which constituted the first three phases of the ECHO project. According to World Vision, across the phases the project reached over 41,265 individuals and a total of 12,265 children.

The organization says it empowered Village Disaster Management Teams (VDTMs), providing life saving packages.

Enviably, and most recently World Vision claim to have distributed 1million Euros to over 3600 of the most food insecure households in the country mainly in the remote districts of Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Leribe.

Now with the introduction of this cur-

rent 2year project, intended to be implemented in the hard to reach areas of Maseru, Mokhotlong, Leribe, and Thaba-Tseka, the project is likely to have a better outcome now due to possessing the feedback and experiences from the past three versions.

On her part Ms Mamello Tsekoa from World Vision Humanitarian Emergency Affairs said 31,600 households were reached in multipurpose cash transfers, and making reference to The Kingdom of Morocco, which was recently struck by an earthquake, she said it was possible for Lesotho to experience a natural disaster, and therefore emphasized the importance of being ready.

The office of the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) represented by Ms Setori Lejaha welcomed the project saying it would help in facilitating the DMA's job and overall reach.



BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment (Dept. of Forestry) is implementing the "Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods Project" (ROLL) funded by the Government of Lesotho (GoL) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The objective of the project is to ensure that rural communities adopt transformational practices for regenerated landscapes and sustainable livelihoods leading to improved nutrition and adaptation to climate change. This objective is underpinned by four outcomes; 1) Change in resource use practices; 2) Reduction of environmental degradation; 3) Improved livelihoods; and 4) the establishment of a facility and a fund. Therefore, applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for one (1) position of Project Field Officer tenable at the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment (Dept. of Forestry) under Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) project.

POSITION	: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER (1)
PROJECT	: REGENERATION OF LANDSCAPES AND LIVELIHOODS (ROLL)
RESPONSIBLE TO	: COMPONENT A MANAGER
DUTY STATION	: THABA-TSEKA

Overall Scope of Work

Under the supervision of Component A Manager, the Project Field Officer will work closely with District Coordinator in the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment (Dept. of Forestry) of the District he/she will be serving. The Project Field Officer will be responsible for coordination of the technical input from various stakeholder of the project including the line ministries, civil societies, academic institutions and private sector and play a vital role in the supervision of Sub-Catchment Field Facilitators in the project areas of his/her district. The position is hosted at district level.

Main tasks and Responsibilities

- Act as a liaison between the project and stakeholders of various institutions including line ministries, Civil Society Organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector
- Responsible for the implementation of project activities in the district within sub-catchments project areas
- Conduct capacity assessment of the stakeholder institutions and analyse their development activities/projects for improved environmental management
- Facilitate project stakeholder engagement in the development of AWPB and oversee its implementation and report to PC based on inputs from Sub-Catchment Field Facilitator.
- Identify opportunities for synergies with other developmental activities /projects ongoing
- Keep record of all interactions conducted with stakeholders and provide summary report and feedback to PC on monthly basis
- Facilitate the service provided for awareness raising and publicity campaigns to target audiences with specific messages and programs of the project in the district within the Project Areas
- Provide input to management and technical reports from the district to PMU and other documents described for the overall project operations
- Take lead and participate in the training and capacity building workshops of Coalition groups, community councils, interests groups etc. in line with the fulfilment of the stakeholder engagement plan

Competencies

- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong personal management skills.
- Excellent knowledge of MS Office.

- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
- Highest standards of integrity, discretion and loyalty.
- Demonstrated capacity to produce high quality technical reports.
- Solid skills in working and collaborating with line ministries civil societies, user groups local authorities and a team builder is a requirement
- Ability to coordinate and supervise team members

Qualifications and Experience

Minimum Educational Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture, Environment or Natural Resource Management;
- Post Graduate Degree in any of the listed qualification is an added advantage;
- Trainings in participatory methods/approaches is an added value;

Experience

Minimum 4 years' experience in Natural resource management for Bachelors Degree Holders and 3 years for Honor's Degree Holder and 2 Years for Masters Degree Holders.

- At least 2 years of experience in managing teams;
- Prior experience in multi-stakeholder process (engagement, planning, monitoring) is an added value;

Language Requirements

- Fluency in written and spoken Sesotho and English.

Duration of the Assignment

The duration of the assignment will be three (3) years, renewable depending on satisfactory performance.

For a detailed set of TORs please visit the Ministry of Forestry Range and soil Conservation website (https://forestry.gov.ls/news_blog/single.php?id=70). Interested candidates should submit their written applications together with certified copies of their educational certificates and a copy of a National Identity Document to maneojessie@yahoo.com or hand deliver to the HRM Office, Ministry of Environment, Post Office Building, 6TH Floor, Maseru 100, on or before 13th October 2023 at 16:30 pm. Please visit Human Resources Office for further enquiries.



Ministry Of Finance Reflects On SDG Investor Map

Thandiwe Kubere
MASERU

The Ministry of Finance and Development planning and stateholders held a workshop for the validation of the SDG Investor Map report and priorities within the Ministry. The aim was to facilitate endorsement of the emerging priority sectors within the ministry and the investment opportunity areas, as well as the linkages to the national efforts for mobilising investments for SDGs.

The Ministry and different key stakeholders which are; Ministry of Trade and Industry, Small Business Development and Tourism, Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), the Private Sector as well as the Development Partners, deemed it essential to collaborate and access the capacity of Lesotho to access investment opportunities.

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning PS, Nthoateng Lebona declared this opportunity marks yet another important landmark in strengthening the long recognised relationship that exists between the Government of Lesotho and the UN Agencies. She expressed gratitude to the UN agencies for the financial and technical support afforded within the Joint Programme on Economic and Financial Management Integration for Sustainable Development (JP-EFMIS) aimed at promoting integrated planning and financing for sustainable development to accelerate attainment of the SDGs.

The SDG Investor Map initiative was started in 2022 as one of the residual activities of the JP-EFMIS, a joint programme implemented with UNICEF and IOM for establishment of a development finance architecture in Lesotho. The project ended in March 2023, and the remaining activities, led by UNDP, the Integrated Financing Strategy and the SDG Investor Map which are scheduled to conclude by October 2023.

The SDG Investor Map is a market intelligence tool aimed at identifying development sectors and investment opportunity areas for SDG impact. The tool aims to provide business intelligence for the government to identify business opportunities areas with the highest business and development impact in the context of Lesotho and inform investment decisions.

In relation to the National Financing Framework, Lebona said this comes at a time when the Ministry encountered a number of challenges due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic which crippled the global economy, Lesotho being not immune to the catastrophe. "But as servants of the people, we are obliged and feel compelled, to come up with strategies



Finance and Development Planning PS Nthoateng Lebona

and to change the narrative and normalize the situation amidst little or no resources at all, hence the development of SDG investor map", she said.

She highlighted In 2020, the Government with support from UNDP, carried out the Development Finance Assessment (DFA). The DFA is an inception tool of the four-tiered Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) process which provides a broad picture of the development finance landscape and identifies related shortcomings and opportunities to inform enhancement of development finance and strategies for delivery of long-term development results in the country. In that regard, the DFA Lesotho has assessed the government's existing financing strategies, policies and institutional structures and identified specific roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders for implementation of the DFA recommendations (INFF road map).

Lebona declared the assessment identified challenges in mobilisation and management of public financial sources, which include a high over-reliance in traditional and unsustainable sources of development finance such as SACU revenue; limited private sector participation, resulting from lack of incentives to encourage private investment and financing flows towards national development priorities and the SDGs.

"These challenges to development financing have resulted in a financing gap and shortfall of M3.3 billion throughout the NSDP II implementation plan period of 5 years. The situation has further been

worsened by the outbreak and impact of COVID -19. In order to achieve full economic recovery from all these shocks, the government needs to implement deliberate strategies to ensure mobilization of alternative sources of development finance, specifically private capital and as a way of mitigating the scarcity of development financing, the DFA recommends that Government undertake SDG investor mapping to provide a comprehensive picture on potential SDG aligned investments that would provide best returns for economic development, sustainability and achievement of the SDGs", said Lebona.

The assessment sought to determine existing private investment barriers and private sector capabilities with the view to providing recommendations that needs to be done to facilitate private investments and instigate public-private collaboration for mobilising development financing.

Additionally, the assessment provided an understanding of the private sector landscape in Lesotho to identify the bottlenecks and disincentives, investment opportunities and potential sectors that may be earmarked to stimulate private capital investment and ultimately, determine the local private sectors' potential to invest/participate in development initiatives. The assessment has been instrumental in helping the selection of the five sectors, namely, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Health Care, Financial Services and Energy, under the SDG Investor Map which are deemed to have potential to attract more SDG-aligned private investment.

The SDG Investor Map is a market intelligence product aimed at assisting private investors (funds, financiers, corporations), identify investment opportunities and business models that help address the national development needs and advance the national priorities to accelerate achievement the SDGs. The ensuing SDG Investor Maps was assured to also provide insights and tools needed by the private sector to increase their investments towards the SDGs and have potential of making a significant contribution to filling existing financing gaps by mobilizing private capital for achievement of the SDGs. The SDG Investor Map has further been complemented with a rapid assessment of private sector capabilities.

"May I remind you that this assignment, is also aimed to support the Government of Lesotho to achieve key priority Area 1 of the NSDPII which is; promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and private sector-led job creation; and UNDAF outcome 3 which states that by 2023, the Government and private sector should increase opportunities for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, improve food security and decent work for all especially for women, youth and people with disabilities, by facilitating creation of conducive policy environment, providing platforms for dialogue and generating evidence for private – public dialogue" expressed Lebona.

She declared the overwhelmingly high unemployment rate, particularly amongst the youth, still remains the country's biggest challenge. She stated the government could not continue being referred as the largest employer, as its central responsibility is creating an enabling policy environment that facilitates private sector investment. "There is an urgent need for structural shift where the private sector is indeed the main driver of economic activity and job creation", she said.

Therefore, the objective of the workshop was to consolidate potential investment opportunity areas and chart a way forward on how the government might continue improving the investment climate and become able to attract more private investment in the medium to long term.

These efforts are part of the Joint Programme's objective to help national authorities to increase financial resources, improve spending efficiency, tap into remittances, leverage international development cooperation, as well as to promote foreign and domestic private-sector investment.

Outcomes one of the Joint Programme is "Strengthened and gender responsive INFF is developed and implemented",

Continues to page 10...

Ministry Of Finance Reflects On SDG Investor Map

...Continued from page 9

an INFF that promises to preserve fiscal sustainability and stimulate partnerships, especially with the private sector. The ongoing SDG Investor Map also uses Gender and Marginalization lens to ensure that sustainable development is inclusive and covers all segments of society.

Achieving adequate financing is critical to meet the SDGs by 2030 and providing a credible budget to the citizens. The Ministry of Finance and of Development Planning through its different agencies therefore, realised a need to work together towards establishment of a mechanism of documenting Government com-

mitments that are in line with the SDGs, NSDP II and other development agendas, and thus ensure their proper costing for development of credible financing strategy.

Domestic public finance and international development cooperation remain central for the achievement of the SDGs NSDP II and other development agendas. She emphasized that domestic public finance in particular, is the largest and most important source of finance for sustainable development. However, in many developing countries, even with enhanced efforts, domestic resources always remain insufficient.

While international public finance will

continue to play a critical role, particularly in countries like Lesotho with reduced capacity to raise domestic resources as well as those most vulnerable to shocks and disasters, we as a country, also need to join efforts as both government and the private sector to curtail over dependence on external sources which always come with very stringent and somehow costly terms. South-South cooperation will be important.

Many investors and private sector companies are leading the way and investing in the SDGs under innovative categories like 'sustainable finance' or ethical investments. "Tapping into a fraction of this pool for investment towards the

2030 Agenda would have a very large impact. Today's meeting, therefore, aims to validate the roadmap in order to facilitate the adoption of the recommendations as well as to agree on the next steps and timelines", she said. Given the role of financing for the achievement of SDGs and NSDP II and other Development Agendas, the implementation of this roadmap will support the Government of Lesotho to take giant strides towards 2030 and into the future.

"Allow me to reiterate that you engage robustly on the activities of the roadmap and anatomize each recommendation to ensure that we will jointly benefit as a country" she concluded.

Cyber security: Lesotho in desperate need of emergency response team

T'soloane Mohlomi
MASERU

Due to multiple recent global cyber-attacks, Lesotho is said to be in dire need of a Central Incident Response Team (CIRT),

The response team will be precisely tasked with the combating of various inevitable cyber-attacks on the country's digital security grid.

This alarming revelation was made by the International Cyber security Union (ITU) through a recent workshop held Maseru, which was meant to capacitate stakeholders and policy makers while sensitizing them and raising the pressing need of taking cyber security threat very seriously.

The ramifications and impacts of cyber security breaches on world countries has in most cases proved devastating and having a negative impact on the economy in some instances it can take a long time and require a substantial amount of resources to recuperate the imparted losses.

Speaking at a special session held for Members of Parliament (MP) during the four day workshop, Minister of Information, Communications, Science, Technology Hon. Nthati Moorosi said they as parliamentarians appreciated the knowledge they received from the ITU workshop, saying that all sectors of the country could benefit from the important teachings contained in the presentations.

Hon. Moorosi said the workshop had come at a good time when parliament was still in recess as it afforded the house time to deliberate on the plans of action in terms of legislation so that informed proposals can be made at the time when the house commences.

"Due to this important workshop, I hope parliamentarians now have an insight of the importance of the Cyber Security Bill. The digitization of agriculture, the integration of digital identification technologies to enhance financial inclusion and the advancement of e- education in its various facets, the sustainability of enterprises in the digital age are underpinned by the adoption of innovation and digital changes as a strategy for improving the efficiency and

performance by organizations.

"If care is not given such digital exposures can eventually lead to digital disasters or disruptions, both of which require cyber security," she said.

During the workshop which was facilitated by ITU regional cyber security coordinators and experts, Marwan Ben Rached, potential threats to critical national infrastructure were discussed, and using practical examples and occurrences the effects proved harder to recover than was to prevent.

According to the ITU, with natural disaster accounting to \$313 billion of world economic loss, in 2022, in contrast the cumulative damage due to cyber-crime in 2022 amounted to a staggering \$6 trillion.

One international example was an incident known as the Bangladesh Bank Heist, where the servers of the Bangladesh Central Bank were hacked and perpetrators were able to transfer close to US\$ 1 billion from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York account belonging to

the Bangladesh Bank, the Central Bank of Bangladesh.

The ITU warn that Central Banks are primary targets for hackers.

Cyber-attacks can also lead to fatalities and one ITU report from Germany indicated a woman having died due to a computer cyber-attack at a hospital she was rushed to for an emergency.

International relations can also be strained as hackers could use government websites in disseminating false information which could cause damage to reputation or even cause a rift between nations.

Economic impacts are a cause for concern, using real life examples coordinators showed how economies are affected by attacks. On 15 August 2012 Saudi Aramco, one of the world's largest oil company was a victim of an attack which led to the company losing billions of dollars due to a self-replicating virus which infected as many as 30,000 of the company's windows based machines rendering its computers unusable.

Despite Saudi Aramco's vast resources as Saudi Arabia's national oil and gas firm, reports indicate that it took close to two weeks to recover from the damage and with Saudi Arabia being the world's number one oil producer the incident caused a huge spike on global gas prices.

In response to these growing global concerns ITU coordinator Marwan Ben Rashed making an example of Malawi said it was of the utmost important for Lesotho to form a national response team which would always be ready to deal with the threats should they arise.

"It is important to have a Central Incident Response in place both on a national level and even on company levels should these attacks occur because no one is really safe as incidents usually happen without warning.

"These CIRT's should be proactive and not reactive so they can interact with other international bodies to anticipate potential attacks, I really urge government to take this issue seriously and get the ball rolling with legislation," he said.



Minister of Information Communications Science Technology and Innovation (MICSTI) Hon. Nthati Moorosi

Local banks stand out at PMR awards

Thoboloko Ntšonyane
MASERU

The local banks emerged as winners of numerous awards at the annual Professional Management Awards (PMR) Africa Awards when they walked away with many awards for excellent recognition in their products offerings.

Standard Lesotho Bank, FNB Lesotho and Lesotho Post Bank each scooped awards.

Standard Lesotho Bank scooped Business Excellence awards under three categories, from PMR Africa Awards 2023 last week in Maseru.

These accolades were presented to Standard Lesotho Bank at the annual PMR Africa Business Excellence Awards ceremony held in one of the hotels in Maseru last week.

These coveted awards are expected to set a benchmark and enhance excellence in the industry.

The PMR Africa Business Excellence Awards are a testament to the Bank's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional customer service and setting industry standards.

Standard Lesotho Bank stole a show emerging as a standout performer, walking home with both the prestigious Golden Arrow and Diamond Arrow Awards.

The awards are based on a country-wide survey of companies and institutions that are leaders and achievers in their sectors over the past twelve months and are rated randomly via a national sample of 110 respondents comprising CEOs, Managing Directors, business owners, company directors, managers and senior government officials based in Lesotho.

The awards are a culmination of a research process whereby companies and institutions are rated based on respondents' perceptions with a strong focus on evaluating and measuring customer service and customer satisfaction.

Standard Lesotho Bank received outstanding recognition in the following categories:

- Private Banking: Diamond Arrow Award - Outstanding, 1st Overall
- Digital Banking: Golden Arrow Award – Excellent
- Business Banking: Golden Arrow Award – Excellent
- Credit Cards: Golden Arrow Award – Excellent
- Personal Banking: Golden Arrow Award – Excellent.

Anton Nicolaisen, Chief Executive Officer at Standard Lesotho Bank received the awards.

“With a mission to empower clients through top-tier banking services, these accolades from PMR Africa inspire us the Bank to continue setting new benchmarks in the banking industry. The Bank extends its heartfelt gratitude to our valued customers for their trust and support, which drives the Bank to excel year after year,” he exclaimed.

The bank further said in a statement, “these industry awards are a testament to the Bank's efforts to prioritize its custom-



Standard Lesotho Bank Chief Executive Officer Anton Nicolaisen

ers and their financial needs. Standard Lesotho Bank takes pride in its ability to offer innovative banking solutions and a commitment to excellence. With a rich history in Lesotho of serving the Basotho community and a dedication to excellence, the Bank continues to evolve and adapt to meet the ever-changing needs of its customers, while contributing to the growth and development of the country”.

Lesotho Post Bank equally proved their worth in the awards ceremony being the recipients of four accolades in these categories:

- Outstanding service and contribution to the economic growth and development of Lesotho business by business persons, Molefi Leqhaoe: Diamond Arrow Award
- Companies/institutions doing most for economic empowerment in Lesotho: Diamond Arrow Award
- Banks- Agriculture in Lesotho: Diamond Arrow Award
- Investment services in Lesotho: Diamond Arrow Award

FNB Lesotho clinched four awards these categories and were the first overall outstanding in all of them:

- Business Banking: Diamond Arrow Award
- Digital Banking: Diamond Arrow Award
- Credit Cards: Diamond Arrow Award
- Personal Banking: Diamond Arrow Award

It has cemented its mark for being acknowledged for the Most Admirable Financial Services Brands Non-Lesotho for two consecutive years.



Do you have a problem of unqualified staff in your procurement division? ● Does your organisation procure poor quality for lower cost? ● Do you find yourself not doing supplier assessment before doing business or not understanding supplier capabilities? ● Is there lack of transparency and trust in your procurement department? ● Are you constantly doing business without formal contracts or your staff has little or no understanding of procurement functions and processes? ● Do you experience accidental orders and are constantly at loggerheads due to your lack of understanding procurement processes, or having to deal with a boss who does not have a procurement skill?*

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DURATION : 3 days
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Rise International Launches Circular Innovations to Promote Low-Carbon Indigenous and Repurposed Building Materials

Mpho Shelile
MASERU

Rise international, a non-profit social enterprise launched the circular expo at Alliance Française on the 14th September, with the aim of raising awareness on the production and use of low-carbon locally sourced indigenous and repurposed building materials.

It is a well-known fact that construction is a necessary part of infrastructure construction and maintenance, as well as the modernizing our communities. As the global community moves toward sustainable development and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the makeup of our buildings has a massive impact on the overall environmental impact in our societies. Respectively, building operations and construction accounts for 28% and 11% of all global energy-related CO₂ emissions. As a builder, working with sustainable materials is key in gaining a competitive edge in the industry.

Henceforth Rise international with their research team discovered that some insulations and other building materials such as bricks can be low on carbon, for example: Hemp, wool and textile insulation panels. When it comes to “hidden” materials like concrete, the report laments that “end-users do not generally think about their consumption or consider the environmental implications of their usage.” However, the selection of building materials can have a huge impact on the building’s quality and the preservation of the environment at large. Reduction in embodied carbon emissions, which are released during the production and processing of materials before and after construction is becoming increasingly important in the sector. The attractiveness of a building made with sustainable materials is growing too—environmentally-conscious consumers are eager to distinguish themselves as trendsetters in the eco-friendly built environment.

As most of the building material used in construction like; concrete and cement are high carbon dioxide emitting materials that are hazardous (in a longer run) to the environment and people working with them. To overcome this situation an alternative sustainable material has to be used for the construction of eco-friendly buildings. Hemp Crete is a bio composite material which is a prospective material in reducing

greenhouse gas emissions. It can be used in Construction and Insulation activities by Hemp Hurds and lime. Hemp plant grows faster by nature and falls in the category of plants with the strongest plant fiber, due to its fastest and rapid growing nature it can lock up more carbon in it.

In his welcoming remarks The Principal Secretary on Circular Innovations Conference and Expo’s Mr. Moshe Mosaase stated that circular innovation is not just a conference, it is a platform for dialog, collaborations and innovations. It is a space where experts, policymakers, industry leaders and communities can come together to exchange ideas. “As we progress into the 21st century, it is imperative that we find ways to build sustainable houses, ensuring that our growth respects and preserves the environment and cultural heritage that makes Lesotho unique. Rise international has shed light on the vast potential of utilizing locally sourced, eco-friendly materials in our construction practices, by embracing these materials, we are not only reducing the environmental impacts of our building projects but we are also empowering local communities by creating new opportunities for employment and economic growth”.

In conclusion he stated that with this expo he wishes to ensure that everyone present understands the importance of sustainable construction and the role indigenous buildings can play in achieving a free emitted community.

Mrs. Lindy Gill the owner of the first house made of Hemp says she and her hus-

band Steve Gill discovered it in Cape Town and she immediately fell in love with the buildings made out of it, “Hemp is cheaper and I believe it should be able to drive sustainable housing agenda in the country, one important thing is that houses made out of Hemp are warmer in the winter and cooler in summer, and that alone reduces the usage of expensive fossil fuels such as paraffin and charcoal while at the same time helping the environment by reducing carbon emissions”, stated Lindy.

“Hemp Hurd is the woody core of the hemp plant which can be used to make a variety of products, including insulation, animal bedding, and even concrete-like building material. It is an excellent insulator and it’s also fire resistant. It is unfortunately not sold in the country so I had to purchase hemp building materials from our neighboring country South Africa since it cannot be grown in the country due to law prohibiting the growth of Weed (Marijuana), and hemp is almost considered as weed. And Lesotho is the perfect country to grow such plants because of the weather” She added.

She went on to explain that Hemp Crete is a totally permeable building material; meaning it has fully open vapor transmission even though it will prevent liquid water from penetrating through the wall. The gaseous water that flows through buildings as humidity and steam is able to flow into the wall, pass through it, and escape on the other side without really condensing or having a dew point form within the body of the wall itself. This makes it

the perfect material for rainy and temperature-variable climates since these natural structures produce a passive humidity control system that lowers the buildup of moisture, thus reducing the occurrence of issues like molds and rot. Additionally, it helps to produce thermal inertia, a closed system in which water vapor serves as a heat sink to stop the building from being heated or cooled.

On behalf of Irish Aid, Juliet Rouse highlighted that, “climate change is the greatest challenge that we face, we cannot face it alone. Irish Aid and our partners across government departments are working extremely hard to support climate action in developing countries but the level of action needed means we cannot do it alone”

“This is an exciting time for Rise as an organization as this is the beginning of a new era towards a more sustainable built environment industry in Lesotho. As a country we are currently importing over 75% of our building materials from South Africa”, Reitumetsi Nthako the Rise international country director pointed out while highlighting the contribution and importance of the research conducted during the time that took almost a year to complete.

Nthako continued to state that, this research project is the beginning of a new chapter for construction methodologies for industry experts, government officials and private practitioners, “This is definitely a game changing initiative for building environment industry as a whole”



The official launch of the expo



Director of Grants - Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Lesotho II

About MCA

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. government corporation focused on assisting countries dedicated to good governance, economic freedom, and investing in people. In May 2022, MCC signed a five-year agreement ("compact") with the government of Lesotho (GoL) aimed at poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the country.

The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA- Lesotho), is an entity established by the Government to act as the accountable entity to implement the Compact, with the authority to bind the Government with regard to all Program activities.

Lesotho Compact

The Lesotho Health and Horticulture Compact aims to benefit 2.5 million people by growing, strengthening, and organizing the private sector in Lesotho and improving the government's coordination to deliver critical services necessary to support private sector development.

It will achieve this goal through investments in Health System Strengthening, strengthening of the business environment and Market Driven Irrigated Horticulture, providing sustainable income for smallholders and increasing climate resilience by replacing rain-fed subsistence farming with irrigated commercial horticulture in select locations.

The GoL is committed to passing several key reforms that will help make this compact successful, including reforms that address gender equality, working conditions and worker safety, as well as land and water rights. All of the compact's projects focus on overcoming barriers to the economic inclusion of women, youth, and the rural poor.

Objective of this position

The Director of Grants under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer ensures that all grant transactions are implemented in accordance with the MCC Program Grant Guidelines (PGG), consolidates and oversees all grant activities, and reports on the progress of these activities. The Director of Grants serves as the primary liaison between MCC, MCA staff and Grant Managers, and outside entities from a variety of specialized sectors on all grant activities. The Director of Grants also facilitates the smooth interplay between and among all elements of the grants process, inclusive of the key aspect of synchronizing the substance and process elements of grant activities.

Primary responsibilities

Manages all aspects of implementing a Grant Program in accordance with the terms of his/her position description and the responsibilities set forth in the Program Grant Guidelines, Grants Operations Manual, and other guidance as issued by MCC, including activities outlined below.

- Supervises the Grant Manager (s) or Grant Manager consulting firm, minimally starting at the Grant administration stage.
- Engages with the Sector Directors (SDs) and others within the MCA Entity early in the process to develop the Grant Program implementation strategy, identify appropriate Grant Award Procedure(s) and eligibility criteria, coordinates the Grant Requisition Note and gains approval of Grant Program in a Grant Schedule (as part of the Procurement Plan).
- Engages with MCC, as required, in the Grant selection process and during Grant administration and management.
- Approves all written plans developed by the MCA Entity for Co-Creation and coordinates MCC approval when required.
- Reviews and approves, as required, draft announcements for Grants, proposed solicitation documents for Grants and proposed total funds available for Grant Awards that are developed by the SDs or others to confirm consistency with the approved Grant Program, the approved Grants Schedule and the requirements set out in the PGG.
- Organizes and monitors outreach efforts and pre-Application workshops.
- Monitors all discussions, co-creation and negotiation meetings with proposers, applicants and potential grantees.
- Ensures that accurate Grant data is captured and entered into MCC-MIS.
- Monitors or conducts screening of Proposers and Applicants for eligibility by conducting eligibility checks of entities

and proposed Grant Activities and assures that these checks are included in the Concept/Application Appraisal Report and Grant File.

- Monitors together with the Grant Manager that if a proposed subawardee to a Grantee receives most of the key responsibilities to carry out the Grant the Sub-recipient must meet all of the eligibility requirements, be chosen in a competitive process and its Capability Risk Assessment must be equal or lower than the Grantee.
- Supervises and approves the procurement certification process conducted by the Director of Procurement or his/her delegate.
- Liaises closely with the relevant SDs and other MCA Entity agents and consultants on all phases of the Grant award, administration, and management processes, including market research.
- Reviews and approves, as required, Grant Award documentations ensuring that all documents are accurate and signed as required.
- If cost share or leverage is required for a particular Grant Program, prepares the rationale for its determination and ensures that it is accounted for in every proposed Grant Budget (cost share) or Grant Project Description and/or Milestone Disbursement Schedule (leverage).
- Prepares Grant Agreement and ensures it is signed by MCA Entity and authorized representative of Grantees in accordance with instructions from Selection Committee.
- Supervises or reviews and approves, as required, reports submitted by Grantees.
- Ensures (in collaboration with the relevant SDs) that any branding and marking requirements of MCC funded assistance are met.
- Supervises or receives and processes any claims submitted by Grantees.
- Prepares and files (in coordination with the relevant SD(s)), the Contractor Past Performance Reports (CPPRs) of the Grant Manager, if procured.
- Supervises or maintains a Grant file for every Grant that includes documents created by the MCA Entity throughout the Grant cycle from planning through Grant implementation, along with documents and reports created and submitted by the Grantee.
- Supervises or manages the Grant Closeout Process with the Grant Manager, relevant SDs, and consultants.

Required Competencies

- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university in one or more relevant fields (business related field, international development, entrepreneurship) and/or other equivalent experience with extensive implementation and project management skills;
- At least 8-10 years of proven experience as a Grants Director or Manager, or similar role, administering a grants program with deep expertise in grant life cycle administration and compliance on policies and procedures;
- At least 5 years of experience in administration, operations, or management;
- At least 3 years of experience working in the region;
- Willingness to undertake regular field visits and interact with the different stakeholders;
- Fluency in English;
- Supervisory/Managerial experience is preferred
- Experience implementing grants financed by international organizations such as World Bank, MCC, USAID or UN preferred.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted on-line, on or before the application deadline **29 September 2023**.

Applications should be accompanied by the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae containing detailed work experience;
- Cover letter confirming interest and availability;
- Soft copies of higher education and professional certificates (if available);

Only applications that come in before or on the application deadline will be considered.

We thank all applicants. However, note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Submit your application online via: <https://lesotho-jobs.tenderwell.app>



Road Fund

Tender for Supply and Delivery of 2024 Promotional Material

The Road Fund wishes to request for proposals from suitably qualified companies with the capacity to supply and deliver 2024 Calendars, Diaries and Notebooks.

Requirements:

- Suppliers are expected to tender according to the following categories:
Lot 1: Supply of Calendars
Lot 2: Supply of Diaries and Notebooks
- Bidders must be compliant with their tax and licensing obligations; hence a valid company Tax Clearance and valid Trader's License must be submitted;
- Bidders must be locally registered companies;
- Bidders should indicate delivery period from the time of receiving the official order;
- The bidders may be required to submit sample materials at a later stage.

Detailed Specification will be available at the Road Fund website www.roadfund.org.ls.

Submission:

Sealed bids clearly marked "Tender for Supply and Delivery of 2024 Promotional Material" Specifying the Lot Number, bearing no identification of the bidding company should be deposited in the tender box located at the reception area of the Road Fund Offices on or before **Wednesday 27 September 2023 12:00 hrs (Noon)**.

Tenders will be opened at **14:30 hrs** in the presence of bidders who choose to attend the opening.

Central Bank of Lesotho

INVITATION TO TENDER



The Central Bank of Lesotho invites tenders from locally registered, Category A contractors for replacement of ceiling as follows:

LOT NUMBER	Description	Compulsory Site Visit Date
Lot 1	Replacement of ceiling on the Basement: (total area=844m ²)	Thursday 21st September 2023 at 10am
Lot 2	Replacement of ceiling on the Ground floor: (total area=1660m ²)	Thursday 21st September 2023 at 10am
Lot 3	Replacement of ceiling on the first floor (total area=2155m ²) 9m scaffolding is needed	Thursday 21st September 2023 at 10am
Lot 4	Replacement of ceiling on the second floor: (total area=2155m ²)	Thursday 21st September 2023 at 10am
Lot 5	Replacement of ceiling on the third floor: (total area=2800m ²) 24m scaffolding is needed	Thursday 21st September 2023 at 10am

- Detailed tender requirements can be downloaded from the website at www.centralbank.org.ls.
- Bidders may bid for all the Lots or any Lot.
- Electronic PDF email bid submissions/document/folder named the Lot being applied for should be emailed to tenders@centralbank.org.ls. A separate email should be sent for each lot.
- The bid proposal shall be attached to the email as PDF attachments or folder or zipped folder only. Links are not allowed.
- Bids should be received on or before Thursday 28th September 2023. The cut off time for the receipt of the bids shall be 14:30hrs, the recipient time. Bids received after the stated time will not be considered.
- Central Bank of Lesotho is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid and may cancel the bidding process at any stage prior to the award of contract and is not bound to provide reasons for cancellation.
- Clarifications should be directed to **22232126/22232051** and /or mlechela@centralbank.org.ls/mhliomis@centralbank.org.ls.

Closing date for clarifications is **Friday 22nd September 2023**.

M. Lechela (Mrs.)
Secretary, Tender Committee

Granting bail doesn't undermine police efforts, it's a legal right: Chief Justice

Thoboloko Ntšonyane
MASERU

Chief Justice (CJ) Sakoane Sakoane has emphasized that to succeed in the fight against crime, active participation from everyone is required, extending beyond law enforcement and criminal justice institutions.

CJ Sakoane recently made a passionate plea for every citizen to assume their legal responsibilities as empowered by the law in order to fight the scourge of the escalating crime rate in the country.

He gave a keynote address at the recent justice sector forum that had attracted the participation of its actors including the Judiciary, police, the office Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS), Law Society, legal scholars,

civil society organizations (CSOs), presiding officers, Minister of Justice and Law, Justice Nthomeng Majara also former Chief Justice as well as the development partners.

"We meet in times of trouble for our nation, none then disagree that these are the times when crime is spiraling out of control. We hear of senseless and horrible murders almost every day, robberies and burglaries are our daily bread, firearms disappear in armories and exhibit rooms under the watch of the police raising the specter of infiltration and capture by criminal elements.

"We hear of rapes of children, grandmothers, and persons with disability now and then, stock theft has become a national sport. Occupants of public offices have turned them into dens of bribery and corruption as long as there is embez-

zlement of public funds. There is a sense that while the security institutions are winning some of the battles against crime such as these, they are struggling to get to grips with them," he said urging the participants to reflect and "self-correct" so that the "pendulum is stopped swinging in favor" of criminals.

He said the actors in the justice system have heard the society's wails, on the increasing rights on the part of criminality and must heed the clarion call to rise to the occasion and fight crime effectively, and deliver justice speedily.

"This is an opportune moment to look each other right in the eye, and ask firmly but politely who dropped the ball, where and when and why. As we introspect, each institution must not apportion blame without first acknowledging how its own failures and weaknesses impact on the ability of the next one to function with optimal efficiency.

"It is important to appreciate that justice sector institutions are a caravan that travels across the national landscape to deliver justice and protect the rights, freedoms and security of citizens enshrined in the Constitution in chapter 2 thereof.

"A vivid description of each institution's responsibility in this kingdom is given by the Court of Appeal, in the Bolofo case, and this is what the court has said, "the police officer that exercises the power of arrest, and first detention, the judicial officer who is seized with the responsibility to decree the continued detention of the accused, or his release on bail and the terms and conditions, upon which this is to occur, and regulates the conduct of the trial, the Director of Public Prosecutions who determines whether and when the prosecution should be instituted and upon which charges and who exercises a discretion as to whether to oppose bail or not.

"The High Court and the Court of Appeal, as the final arbiters on the fate of the accused persons and ultimately the prison authorities who are obliged to see to the protection of public by ensuring the secure incarceration of those committed to prison and to see to their rehabilitation even the social services that facilitated reintegration of the prisoners into society is part of this unit," said.

The CJ highlighted each institution is not an island but the constituent part of the chain of justice delivery.

The head of the Judiciary added: "It is for this reason that, when society and victims of crime complain that the justice system is failing them, it is then irrelevant which of these institutions is more helpful than the other. All that people care and worry about, are the capabilities and resolve of the security and the justice sector institutions to prevent and combat crime and criminality with vigor so that our kingdom does not become a paradise for criminals.

The war against crime, he said, is too important to be left solely to the security and criminal justice system institutions; society has to join this fight. There are at least several reasons he canvassed why the society needs to join the fight against crime. He said:

- They elect lawmakers in parliament and policy makers in the executive who are ultimately accountable to them.
- They report offenses, give information to law enforcement agencies and act as witnesses in courts to provide relevant evidence. They may be called to serve as assessors in criminal trials.
- They become victims of crime who are directly impacted by crime. Their victim impact evidence is highly useful in determining factors that aggravate crime and call for harsher sentences.
- They participate in crime initiatives, and village watch schemes such as 'mahokela'.
- They are predisposed to becoming involved in crime as suspected offenders themselves. In this way they play a proactive not a passive role, in influencing and manipulating processes of law-making and compliance with the law.

Sakoane also stated that the private sector has the role to play saying the former is involved in security and control measures citing the use of private security companies and the administration of electronic surveillance systems.

In light of these, the Head of the Judiciary underscored that the law empowers people to combat crime, mentioning Criminal and Evidence Procedure Act, No.7 of 1981 which empowers chiefs and citizens.

According to the provisions of this piece of legislation, the CJ said the chiefs are empowered to arrest persons in circumstances where a person is found in possession of any implements of house-breaking, and are unable to account for them satisfactory; persons found in possession of anything reasonably suspected to be stolen or dishonestly obtained; persons loitering any place by night under circumstances which are afford reasonable crimes to believe that they are about to commit or have committed; persons reasonably suspected of committing or having committed an offense



Chief Justice Sakoane P. Sakoane

Continues in the next page....

Granting bail doesn't undermine police efforts, it's a legal right: Chief Justice

It is important to appreciate that justice sector institutions are a caravan that travels across the national landscape to deliver justice

of being in unlawful possession of stolen animals and produce.

He further made mention to the effect that the private citizens are empowered to arrest persons who in their presence commit criminal offences such as treason, murder, sedition, rape, robbery, assault, housebreaking, theft, stock theft, and theft of motor vehicles.

"A private citizen can and should arrest any person who offers to sell porn or deliver any property which is reasonably suspected to be stolen property. A private citizen who rescues or aids an arrested person to escape or who attempts to escape or harbors or conceals such a person is liable to prosecution and punishment for two years in prison. Chiefs and private citizens are empowered to use reasonable force or even to kill a person who flees from arrest and cannot be prevented from escaping by any other means short of killing, such killing is deemed in law to be justifiable homicide.

He said apart from being empowered to arrest criminals, citizens bear duties such as to render assistance when called by the police to arrest suspects and detain them in custody, to attend court proceedings and give evidence when so directed by subpoena issued by courts.

The CJ said the witness who disobeys subpoena or its service is liable to be arrested and detained in custody. Also, the witness who is about to abscond or has absconded can and should be arrested adding that "he or she is not allowed to deny society the truth of what he or she knows".

Sakoane also mentioned that the witness is liable to imprisonment if they refuse to testify in court, and also if they give purged evidence because "justice is the search for truth and not lies".

To the crown, he said it has a corresponding duty to maintain the welfare of witnesses by giving them allowances to travel to court, to eat and to be accommodated and protected.

He said the criminal justice system operates on the following checks and balances: outside the court process the police duty is to investigate and report crimes and arrest persons who are reasonable suspected to be involved in their commission adding that there is "no time limit" to conducting investigations, time limits only kicks in upon a suspect being deprived liberty when arrested and charged.

CJ reiterated that the police had to bring to court a suspect within a 48

hours period and this happens via the prosecutor who takes over and must "carefully and objectively" assess evidence and decide whether this is a prosecutable case or not.

"If such a determination is not possible because of the paucity of evidence, an application is made to remand the accused in custody pending further investigations for a stipulated period. The arrested person remains in custody for a maximum period of 60 days if not released on bail.

"If the accused applies for bail, the court's duty is to determine the application by reference to materials placed before it and where relevant statutory requirements and bail restrictions in serious offenses which are stipulated in the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Amendment Act No. 10 of 2002, in respect of serious offenses, the accused person must satisfy the court that exceptional circumstances exist for granting bail.

"In sexual offenses, the prosecutor is duty-bound to contact a victim and obtain information relevant to the question on whether the bail application should be opposed and if granted the suitable conditions that it should be opposed, CJ emphasized."

He noted that both prosecutions and the accused are entitled to review an appeal decision to grant bail or to refuse bail.

Taking stock on bail, Sakoane said "criminal justice systems of all democratic societies are underpinned by the golden thread of presumption of innocence until proven guilty in the court of law".

He said this "golden thread" is provided for under section 2 (A) of the Constitution. It reads "every person charged with the criminal offense shall be presumed to be innocent until he is proved or he pleads guilty", adding that arrest

and charge of a person does not imply that he has committed an offense.

Bail he said is a conditional release, on the solemn undertaking by the suspect that they will incorporate with police investigations and not jeopardize the trial.

The object of bail, the Judiciary's head said, is neither punitive nor preventative, underscoring that by "granting bail the courts do not undermine the efforts of the police and encourage the commission of crimes".

He said each bail application is considered and decided on the facts of the peculiar case adding that there is no one size fits all formula reaching decisions, it is for this reason bail applications of persons facing similar charges or who are jointly charged may yield different outcomes and bails conditions.

"When accused persons apply for bail as it is their right to do so, the courts always want to know the attitude of the DPP and public prosecutors as officers of the court duty-bound to provide information on any objections forthcoming from investigating officers and by extension victims of crime and the community. The court's responsibility is to balance the scale by weighing the conflicting interests of the victim of the community with the accused right pending finalization of the trial.

"However, the attitude of the DPP and public prosecutors are not controlling...; it does not follow that because the DPP does not object, bails should be granted as a matter of force, courts retain discretion in the matter. The decisive consideration is that an accused person should not be kept in pre-trial detention awaiting perpetual investigations as a form of anticipatory punishment. Ordinarily therefore bail will be granted if to grant it does not prejudice the hands of justice," he stressed.

LESOTHO YOUTH SUMMIT

SPEAKERS:

- Hon. Lesaoana Pitso**, Minister, Gender, Youth, Arts, Culture and Social Development
- Tsepo Nkhabu**, Founder, Hands of Life & Mandela Washington Fellow
- Ed Pettitt**, Researcher, Bullard Center for Environment and Climate Change
- Dr Rachel V. Brown**, Leadership & Communication Specialist
- Detali Anyigbah**, Champion, AU of Young Entrepreneurs & YouthConnekt Specialist
- Caroline Neudegg**, Community Activist, FMR Wales-Lesotho link (British Council), School Governor
- Georgia Stringer**, Member of Youth Parliament United Kingdom
- Hon: Ts'epang Tsita Mosena**, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

THEME : EMPOWERING YOUTH TO GREATNESS

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05 - 07 October 2023

Loading...

Primary Schools trained on Monitoring Water Cleanliness

Thandiwe Faith Kubere
MASERU

The Orange Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) through the Ministry of Natural Resources undertook a training pilot program aimed at educating citizens, particularly primary students, the importance of keeping water sources clean, as well as processes engaged in testing water quality and quantity.

The Ministry and ORASECOM held this momentous activity on September 14th at Mohokare Primary school, which is along the Mohokare catchment at Hasetho village, Maseru. From the Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Water Affairs, Nthathi Toae explained the purpose of piloting this project was to educate, equip students with relevant skills and to train them on simple ways of monitoring the health of rivers using aquatic macro-invertebrates as indicators.

Aquatic macro-invertebrates are insects which include but are not limited to; snails, worms, crabs, dragonflies, beetles and clams that spend at least part of their lives in water. They play a vital role in freshwater ecosystems by recycling nutrients as well as providing food to higher trophic levels. These invertebrates are visible to the naked eye and are ever-present to freshwater ecosystems around the world. They are present in both lotic and lentic ecosystems, often living among the rocks, sand, plants and sediment. She highlighted these animals differ in terms of sensitivity, therefore helping in monitoring the quality and quantity of the water. Some are extremely sensitive such that they die should there be a slight change in water.

She declared the project came about after realizing that as a ministry, they could not reach and monitor all the river basins present in the country as well as to know their value in terms of quality and quantity as per the Ministry's mandate. Therefore, the Ministry deemed it essential to pilot this project which will continue for six months, in which case, the department of water affairs will monitor the selected schools and get monthly data from them.

Given the success of the pilot program, the two ministries; Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Education and Training, will enter into a memorandum of understanding for this program to be part of primary schools curriculum in order to attain greater coverage. "This is also so that children grow up knowing the importance of water as well as the adverse results of polluting the water sources and how that harms aquatic life. Learners will be able to use insects as indicators because they have been taught which ones are found in clean water, as well as those found in contaminated water. The success of this program means we will have an educated society which reserves water and keeps it in a good state", said Toae.

This programme was brought up to ensure that river basins are kept clean and in good condition throughout the four countries partnering for the ORASECOM and share water sources, being Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, as per Lesotho's obligation and signed memorandum since it is where the basin begins. The project is aimed at engaging Basotho nationals, through



Learners educated on water monitoring

local communities to know their water resource.

The training and monitoring on citizen science has went around a couple of schools and aims to go around different primary schools along the Mohokare River so that learners do not encounter the challenge of reaching rivers. "The intention was to go around ten primary schools. In Butha Buthe, the Ministry of Education and Training approved of three primary schools which are Marakabei, Phoku and Paramente. In Leribe, we got St. Luke and Ipopeng. In Berea, we had to reduce the number and took on one school which is Makebe. In Maseru we got Mohokare and Little Darling. And in Mafeteng, where the river now crosses to another country, we got Bolikela AME and Bolikela LEC.

ORASECOM Communications Specialist Boniface Mabeo, declared ORASECOM embarked on this journey because the basin starts in Lesotho. "We found it very important to embark on this project to ensure that the water is pristine because Lesotho is known for very clean and healthy rivers. But over the years because of our project, which is called the Joint Basin Survey (JBS), we have seen the water quality declining and that is why we are part of this project; to educate Basotho, especially the little ones. This is because when we teach them young, we are teaching for the present and future", said Mabeo.

He declared he was aware of what wa-

ter is to Lesotho, what diamond is to Botswana and because of the great value it has, it is essential to amplify what ReNoka and the government have been doing through different campaigns to educate the nation of how important water is and the need to keep it very clean.

On Behalf of the school, Kefuoe 'Moso expressed gratitude to the stakeholders for coming up with such a project that would help monitor the neatness of water as this would also help even in future to live in a healthy and friendly environ-

ment due to keeping it clean. "Water is life. We often come here for drinking water and feeding our animals, so we will do everything in our capacity to keep this source clean. There are other schools which are a bit distant from here, but still benefit from this river so we will take it upon ourselves to share and disseminate the important information we got here today even to our neighbours so that we all undertake our responsibility." She further urged all those who pollute water through disposing waste such as



Water Expert and Student engagement on water monitoring

dirty diapers and plastics to stop doing so as this contaminates the water, declines its quality and makes it unsafe for consumption.

The project significantly comes at a time when the World Rivers Day is approaching, which is on September, 25th, and brings an opportunity to reflect on the roles played by rivers in everyday life, the pressures they face today in a world of nearly eight billion people, and the need to protect and manage them sustainably.

It has been found by UNEP (2022) that rivers are highly diverse and productive ecosystems, contributing to economic growth, food security and human well-being. Globally, an estimated 2 billion people rely directly on rivers for their drinking water. Meanwhile, rivers provide some of the world's most productive fisheries and livelihoods for 60 million people, 55 per cent of whom are women.



Student learning on macro-invertebrates

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PHATLALATSO EA BOJALEFA

RC 8045

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LEBITSO LA MOFU	LEBITSO LA MOJALEFA	SEBAKA SEO MOBU O LENG HO SONA	NOMORO EA SETS'A LE TSEBELISO EA MOBU	KHETHO EA MOJALEFA
Manthabiseng Nehelo	Maboitelo Molefe	Mankoaeng	Bolulo-25122-558	lelapa

LIKHANYETSO KAPA LIPELAELO PHATLALATSONG ENA LI KA ROMELA KA MANGOLO OFISING EA HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL LERIBE PELE HO FETA LIBEKE TSE TSELETSENG (6 WEEKS) HO TLOHA MOHLA LETSATS'I LA PHATLALATSO ENA.

TSEBISO E ETSOA KE LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO EA HLOTSE. LI TLETLEBO TSOHLE LI KA ROMELOA ATERESENG E LATELANG KA MONGOLO:

HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL
P.O BOX 1
LERIBE 300
TEL: 22400709

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF COMPANY

RC 8055

REGISTRED OFFICE ADDRESS

Ms. K Group of companies hereby makes notice of change of the company's address from 424 Maqalika street, Maseru East, Maseru, Lesotho to site 19213-909 Lesotho Housing project, Ha Ntjabane, Teya-teyaneng, Berea, Lesotho.

Notice by the Company Director: Puleng Khaueo

PHATLALATSO EA BOJALEFA

RC 8058

HO BATHO BOHLE BA AMEHANG HO LATELA TEMANA EA LAND 22 EA LAND REGULATIONS 2011 LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO LA HLOTSE LERIBE, LE FETISA BATHO BA MABITSO A LATELANG E LE MAJA-LEFA A LITSA TSE LATELANG TOROPONG EA HLOTSE;

LEBITSO LA MOFU	LEBITSO LA MOJALEFA	SEBAKA SEO MOBU O LENG HO SONA	NOMORO EA SETS'A LE TSEBELISO EA MOBU	KHETHO EA MOJALEFA
Ntsaole Makibi Mosia Makibi	Matsepo Makibi	Tsikoane Leqhutsung Tlotsenyane River Koung Blocks tlotenyane	Unnumbered- Bolulo Tsimo-unnumbered Tsimo-unnumbered	lelapa

LIKHANYETSO KAPA LIPELAELO PHATLALATSONG ENA LI KA ROMELA KA MANGOLO OFISING EA HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL LERIBE PELE HO FETA LIBEKE TSE TSELETSENG (6 WEEKS) HO TLOHA MOHLA LETSATS'I LA PHATLALATSO ENA.

TSEBISO E ETSOA KE LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO EA HLOTSE. LI TLETLEBO TSOHLE LI KA ROMELOA ATERESENG E LATELANG KA MONGOLO:

HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL
P.O BOX 1
LERIBE 300
TEL: 22400709

PHATLALATSO EA BOJALEFA

RC 8059

HO BATHO BOHLE BA AMEHANG HO LATELA TEMANA EA LAND 22 EA LAND REGULATIONS 2011 LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO LA HLOTSE LERIBE, LE FETISA BATHO BA MABITSO A LATELANG E LE MAJA-LEFA A LITSA TSE LATELANG TOROPONG EA HLOTSE;

LEBITSO LA MOFU	LEBITSO LA MOJALEFA	SEBAKA SEO MOBU O LENG HO SONA	NOMORO EA SETS'A LE TSEBELISO EA MOBU	KHETHO EA MOJALEFA
Sefarina Mpoetsi Bolokoe Macdonald	Refiloe Letsie	Ha Tlai-tlai	Bolulo-25114-601	Lelapa

LIKHANYETSO KAPA LIPELAELO PHATLALATSONG ENA LI KA ROMELA KA MANGOLO OFISING EA HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL LERIBE PELE HO FETA LIBEKE TSE TSELETSENG (6 WEEKS) HO TLOHA MOHLA LETSATS'I LA PHATLALATSO ENA.

TSEBISO E ETSOA KE LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO EA HLOTSE. LI TLETLEBO TSOHLE LI KA ROMELOA ATERESENG E LATELANG KA MONGOLO:

HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL
P.O BOX 1
LERIBE 300
TEL: 22400709

PHATLALATSO EA BOJALEFA

RC 8060

HO BATHO BOHLE BA AMEHANG HO LATELA TEMANA EA LAND 22 EA LAND REGULATIONS 2011 LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO LA HLOTSE LERIBE, LE FETISA BATHO BA MABITSO A LATELANG E LE MAJA-LEFA A LITSA TSE LATELANG TOROPONG EA HLOTSE;

LEBITSO LA MOFU	LEBITSO LA MOJALEFA	SEBAKA SEO MOBU O LENG HO SONA	NOMORO EA SETS'A LE TSEBELISO EA MOBU	KHETHO EA MOJALEFA
Nompi Itereleng Senkoto	Penelope Mamokhethi Phakoana	Ha Molibeli	Bolulo-25114-072	Lelapa

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TSEBISO E ETSOA KE LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO EA HLOTSE. LI TLETLEBO TSOHLE LI KA ROMELOA ATERESENG E LATELANG KA MONGOLO:

HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL
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TEL: 22400709

PHATLALATSO EA BOJALEFA

RC 8060

HO BATHO BOHLE BA AMEHANG HO LATELA TEMANA EA LAND 22 EA LAND REGULATIONS 2011 LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO LA HLOTSE LERIBE, LE FETISA BATHO BA MABITSO A LATELANG E LE MAJA-LEFA A LITSA TSE LATELANG TOROPONG EA HLOTSE;

LEBITSO LA MOFU	LEBITSO LA MOJALEFA	SEBAKA SEO MOBU O LENG HO SONA	NOMORO EA SETS'A LE TSEBELISO EA MOBU	KHETHO EA MOJALEFA
Raphaele Motsamai Maqalike	Lekhotla Maqalike	Sebothoane	Bolulo-unnumbered	Lelapa

LIKHANYETSO KAPA LIPELAELO PHATLALATSONG ENA LI KA ROMELA KA MANGOLO OFISING EA HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL LERIBE PELE HO FETA LIBEKE TSE TSELETSENG (6 WEEKS) HO TLOHA MOHLA LETSATS'I LA PHATLALATSO ENA.

TSEBISO E ETSOA KE LEKHOTLA LA TEROPO EA HLOTSE. LI TLETLEBO TSOHLE LI KA ROMELOA ATERESENG E LATELANG KA MONGOLO:

HLOTSE URBAN COUNCIL
P.O BOX 1
LERIBE 300
TEL: 22400709

ESTATE NOTICE

RC 8061

ESTATE LATE 'MAMOSA ELIZABETH NTIKANE E37/2023

Notice is hereby made in terms of Section of the Administration of Estates Proclamation 19/1935 calling upon all persons having claims against the deceased or her estate to lodge same with the Executrix within thirty (30) days of the last publication of this notice. Claims should be lodged at the below-mentioned address:

The Executrix
Estate Late 'Mamosa Elizabeth Ntikane E37/2023
Blossom Consultancy
1st Floor, Room 13
Tradorette Mini Market
Kingsway Road
P O Box 1889
MASERU, LESOTHO
DATED AT MASERU THIS 14TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023
'MASIBONGILE VILAKAZI (ADV.)
EXECUTRIX
(CONTACT NO.50522639)

PHATLALATSO EA BOJALEFA

TSEBISO!!! TSEBISO!!! TSEBISO!!!
HO BATHO BOHLE BA AMEHANG

RC8062

Ho latela temana ea 15 le 44 melaana ea mobu ea (2011), mona ho etsoa tsebisoe ea hore Molula Setulo oa Lekhotla la Mathomo la Puso ea libaka la Lilala A07 o fumane tlaleho e latelang malebana le mobu o neng o sebelisoa ke mofu/bafu ba latelang:

LEBITSO LA MOFU KAPA BAFU	SEBAKA SA MOO MOBU O FUMANEHANG TENG	NOMORO EA TOKOMANE EA KABO	LEBITSO LA MOJALEFA	MOJALEFA O KHETHUOE KE MANG	LIKAMANO LE MOFU KAPA BAFU	MOFUTA OA MOBU
MONATLA MOTUPU	1)ROTHE 2)THOTENG PELA TENANE 3)HA RANTULELA 4) HA TLALI 5)ROTHE	-	THABISO MONATLA	LELAPA	MORA OA MOFU	1)BOLULO 2)TSIMO 3)TSIMO 4)TSIMO 5)MAJARETE A LIFATE A 3

TLHOKOMELISO:

Molula Setulo oa Lilala A07 o hlokomelisa motho / batho b aka bang le tletlebo kapo khanyetso kapa pelaelo khahlanong le moajalefa kapo majalefa a phatlalaitsoeng mona a tlise tletlebo eo ka mongolo e na le setempe sa morena oa moo mobu oo a tletlebang ka ona a leng teng, a ghoaelle kopi ea boitsebisoe bah ae e hlapants'itsoeng, a e tlise ofising ea Lilala A07 pele libeke tse tseletseng phatlalaitso ena e entsoe li fela.

Aterese ea Lekhotla la Lilala A07 ke: P O Box 45,Rothe 195.

TSEBISO!!! TSEBISO!!!

RC 8063

Mona ke tsebisoe ea hore rele litho tsa mokhatlon oa Lesotho Police Staff Association, re ngola molao theho oa mokhatlo oa rona bocha. Nomoro ea ngoliso ke 2000/32.

Mona re kopa mang kapa mange aka bang le khanyetso eat aba tsena a itlalehe liatereseng tsena nakong ea libeke tse tharo ka mora phatlalaitso ena.

Ofisi ea mongoli kakaretso

Government Complex

Pela Queen || ea khale

P.O. Box 33

Maseru 100

Ofisi ea LEPOSA

Teba building

P.O Box 15654

Maseru 100

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF SURNAME

RC 8004

NOTICE is given for general information that I **NALEDI MICHAELA MONETHI**

Intend changing my present surname of **MONETHI**

To that of **MAHLOANE** in the register of the Registrar General

The reason of such a change is that I wrongly assume **MONETHI**

As my surname whereas my right surname is **MAHLOANE**

All persons having objection top this change of surname are advised to Lodge them in writing to the:

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

P.O BOX 174

MASERU 100

NOTICE OF LOST LEASE

RC 8065

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply for a registered Title Deed/ Lease to immovable property registered. Under **No 06472-737** on the **14 DECEMBER 2016** in Favor of **BITSANG THEOANE** in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building(s) and other developments express or implied in certain Plot **No. 06472-737** situated at **MAFETENG URBAN AREA** on Plan **No 06472** As held by the Chief Surveyor.

All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the Land Registrar within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

ADDRESS:
Land Registrar
Land Administration Authority
Lerotholi road

APPLICANT'S NAMES AND ADDRESS
MAMOSIELENG THEOANE
MATLAPANENG
P.O BOX 1360

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team on

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World Patient Safety Day 2023

Message of WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti

The safety of patients is a top priority for us in the WHO African Region and is inherent in all our efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

World Patient Safety Day allows us to highlight this important aspect of our work, and it is celebrated every year on 17 September a raise awareness of the importance of people-centered care and preventing patient harm. Successive annual celebrations since 2019 highlight specific themes that represent a priority area in patient safety.

This year's theme, "Engaging patients for patient safety!" spotlights the requirement for the public to promote healthcare safety through engagement sessions to: First, discuss their role in the co-development of policies, plans, strategies, programmes and guidelines to make health care safer.

Second, offers opportunities to patients and families exposed to unsafe care to share their experiences and tell their stories to improve understanding of the nature of harm and foster the development of more effective solutions.

And third, devise mechanisms to build the capacity of patient advocates and champions in patient safety.

The campaign's slogan, "Elevate the voice of patients!" emphasizes the need to involve patients in their care. Evidence shows that patient engagement reduces health care errors and costs, and improves health outcomes, health care delivery, quality of care and life.

More than 50% of the harm that patients experience is preventable if concerted efforts and requisite investment are done. At WHO and with our partners, we establish mechanisms to steer and coordinate efforts, build required capacity and networks for all aspects of patient safety, including patient engagement, and provide guidance documents and tools for empowering patients and families.

In the WHO Africa Region (AFRO), a number of countries have developed and are implementing National Quality Policies and Strategies (NQPS), including patient safety action plans as well as other safety interventions such as Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) to make health care safer. The voices of patients and families are reflected in our activities through various channels, including patient representation on leadership structures and implementation of client feedback systems. Evidently, more activities need to be done to advocate for the importance of patient and family engagement, patient empowerment, and networks of patient advocates.

The quality of care provided in our member states is often jeopardized

as a result of lack of coordination and fragmentation of quality programmes, human resource challenges, inadequate data to guide decision-making to mention a few.

On this day, we reinforce partnerships for patient safety.

The Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 outlines important guidelines, including identifying local and tailored approaches to:

- Engage patients, families and civil society organizations in the co-development of policies, plans, strategies, programmes, and guidelines to make health care safer.
- Learn from the experiences of patients and families exposed to unsafe care to improve understanding of the nature of harm and foster the development of more effective solutions.
- Build the capacity of patient advocates and champions in patient safety.
- Establish the principle and practice of openness and transparency in health care, including measures for disclosure of patient safety incidents to patients and families.
- Provide information and education to patients and families for their involvement in self-care and empower them for shared decision-making.

However, there are many barriers to effective patient engagement, such as inadequate knowledge and training, unclear expectations, and power dynamics.

It is crucial to recognize that many stakeholders engaged in health and healthcare in our region need to become more familiar with the concepts associated with patient and family engagement, which are key in ensuring patient safety. They also need more capacity to incorporate patient and family engagement into new or existing patient safety and overall service delivery efforts.

Collective efforts to provide educational tools for patients and deliver programmes and services tailored to their needs and preferences can enhance patient experiences and offer beneficial impacts and better clinical and overall health outcomes.

Unsafe health care has resulted in tragic consequences for patients, their families, and communities. It has had far-reaching financial implications for high-income and low- and middle-income countries, with nearly 15% of hospital expenditure and activity attributed to treating safety failures. In the WHO African Region, out of the 21 countries that possess data, only four have a national patient safety action (or equivalent) plan and a system for reporting patient safety incident that results in serious patient harm or death, such as wrong-site surgery; three reported that they had a patient representative on the governing

board in most hospitals; none of the countries had a yearly annual report on patient safety performance or had established a national patient safety network.

Therefore, it is crucial to fully commit to implementing the WHO Global Patient Safety call and accelerate necessary actions to raise patients' voices on this World Patient Safety Day.

I urge our Member States to work together to raise awareness, provide platforms for patient concerns, share initiatives and best practices, and take action to reduce avoidable harm.

As stated in the vision of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030, we can strive towards "a world in which no patient is harmed in healthcare, and everyone receives safe care, every time, everywhere."

Learn more:

WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Engage Patients for Patient Safety

1. The Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030
2. CUSP: Patient and Family Engagement - YouTube
3. A ROADMAP FOR Patient + Family Engagement in Health-

care Practice and Research Practical strategies for advancing engagement in healthcare—starting today. Roadmap-Patient-Family-Engagement.pdf (air.org)


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Lesotho SDG Investor Map validated and receives UNDP support



UNDP Deputy Residence Representative Nessie Golakai-Gould

Thandiwe Kubere

MASERU

With Lesotho moving and working towards attaining the sustainable development goals for Agenda 2030, arose a need for a strategic map to guide the country through the years, taking into consideration its determinations and progress towards that vision.

It is important to note that by 2030, the country hopes to have achieved goals including; zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, quality education, green economy, a development in sustainable economy with private-sector led and more, thus portraying the significance of having a good guideline.

The government of Lesotho through different ministries, seemingly made efforts to work coherently and effectively with its partners to support the society at all levels to address their major challenges and ensure inclusivity, as well as making further progress in accelerating the implementation of the Agenda 2030 of the SDGs.

The SDG Investor Map was described as a market intelligence tool aimed at identifying development sectors and investment opportunity areas for SDG impact. The tool aims to provide business intellect for identifying opportunity areas with highest business and development impact in the context of Lesotho and inform investment decisions. The validation process in Lesotho has identified manufacturing (consumer goods), agriculture and agroprocessing, renewable energy, health care, and financial services as critical for the development of Lesotho, and with the highest potential to attract private investments.

The initiative has been stalling since July 2022 due to multiple resignations of

international consultants. It is currently led by two national consultants with technical support from the Africa Sustainable Finance Hub and UNDP. This validation session has convened the national stakeholders in government, private sector and development partners to endorse the identified investment opportunity areas and mobilise partnerships for implementation. In particular, the SDG Investor Map is proposed to inform and facilitate coordination of the national strategies for mobilising domestic and foreign investment and enable partnerships.

UNDP Deputy Residence Representative Nessie Golakai-Gould, acknowledged the role played by the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) for their collaboration in consolidating the investment opportunities and ensuring that they are all aligned to the national priorities and the comparative advantage of Lesotho, to guarantee high investment returns as well as a strong impact on sustainable development in Lesotho.

“Just to remind you, the government of Lesotho is still in the recovery path to steer the economy in the growth trajectory, guided by the national ambitions for achieving sustainable development, including the Agenda 2030. The SDG Investor Map process is therefore tailored to the government’s desire to realise private-sector led growth through innovative and technology-enabled investments in agriculture, mining, tourism and manufacturing”, she said.

The map process is also expected to provide the government with necessary market information to realize the intersections for development and investment, which will enable the government to mobilize and direct private sector investments towards

SDGs impact.

“The SDG map process takes forward the proposal of the Lesotho Integrated National Financing Framework to support the government to realize and to manage financing for accelerated implementation and achievement of the sustainable development goals of the nation’s priorities”

She highlighted that the development finance assessment concluded that private sector financing through business and Diaspora remittances has the highest potential to impact the development of Lesotho but has today remained under-utilized and largely untapped. She noted that this scan helped the government to identify existing and potential sources of development financing flows and some of the obstacles to mobilization and management of these resources. The validation workshop therefore encouraged the government to leverage on the SDG investor map tool to integrate private sector in the development of Lesotho and to fill the existing financing gap through private capital.

The policy white spaces (gaps) assessment of the SDG investor map process provides a necessary framework for a responsive and catalytic investment climate reform agenda. She therefore concluded by iterating UNDP’s commitment to support the national efforts for achieving inclusive and sustainable development, working with the national partners and stakeholders.

The contribution and input of the national stakeholders in the process was to help identify priority sectors that have been found to address development needs of the country, being Commercial Agriculture, Consumer goods (Manufacturing), Financial Services, Healthcare and Renewable energy, which are also aligned to

the priorities of the Government. Through this process, the priority Sub-sectors were further analyzed, to determine their investment-worth and policy requirements. A list of investment opportunity areas has been developed based on desk research and initial consultations.

The meeting took into consideration the dynamics of the local private sector and the business environment constraints highlighted by the private sector assessment conducted early in the process. The identified main hindrances to private sector development in the country included inadequate business skills, viable and investment-worthy business models and access to financing.

Therefore, the government was encouraged to utilize the findings from the assessment to define pathways for private sector engagement and capacity building, and to identify opportunities within the SDG investor map process to address the identified private sector challenges.

Golakai-Gould emphasized that the platform complements strategic national initiatives such as the nation brand of LNDC, and photobank with LTDC, and should support efforts to enable Lesotho to take advantage of development opportunities, such as those presented by AfCFTA, as well as strengthen mechanisms to coordinate and rally the investment mobilization agenda.

Following this validation workshop, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning pledged to finalize the Lesotho SDG investor map with the prioritized Investment Opportunities Areas. It further appealed for the commitment of all stakeholders to hold the Map in reference to inform policy and strategies to mobilize private capital and investments.

TSHIAMISO TRUST OPENS OFFICE IN THABA-TSEKA

Thaba-Tseka, 18 September 2023: The Tshiamiso Trust has opened a Lodgement Office at Thaba-Tseka Project Area, opposite DHMT offices, Thaba Tseka Police Street in Thaba-Tseka, to assist former gold mineworkers and their families with their potential TB and silicosis claims

This development comes at the request of the Government of Lesotho following a successful outreach event held in Thaba-Tseka in May 2023 and is aimed at assisting more potential claimants in the region to access benefits that may be due to them.

The office, operated by one of the Trust's service providers, TEBA, is expected to be operational for an initial 5-month period, with an extension being dependent on the number of claimants who come forward during that time.

Any mineworkers who meet the criteria below but have not yet lodged a claim with the Trust should make contact as soon as possible to see if they qualify and can be assisted:

- Did risk work at a gold mine between 12 March 1965 and 10 December 2019 AND
- Have been diagnosed with silicosis AND/OR
- Have permanent lung damage from work-related TB that you contracted while working at a qualifying mine or within a year of leaving the mine.

If an ex-mineworker in your family meets the criteria above but has passed away, you may be eligible to lodge a claim on their behalf.

Over 40,000 claims have already been lodged in Lesotho and the Tshiamiso Trust has paid more than R546 million to over 6,000 eligible Basotho beneficiaries.

- The Tshiamiso Trust would like to remind claimants of the following:
- To claim is FREE. You do not need to pay anyone to help you to submit a claim.
 - ONLY the Trust can process claims and will know if a claimant is due compensation.
 - The claims process takes time and you will need to be patient. If anyone says that they can help you speed up the process, it is most likely a scam.

- There are strict requirements for eligibility and medical certification.

Please contact the Tshiamiso Trust on the Trust's international call back number - 00 27 10 500 6186.

Please note that when calling this number, it will sound like it is busy. The call will then drop and then someone from the call centre will call you back. Depending on your mobile or landline network service provider, you might need to have some airtime to initiate the call. Please note the call back might not be immediate if the call centre is experiencing high call volumes.

Visit www.tshiamisotrust.com

CULTIVATING A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURE AND MODERNITY IN THE FUTURE



Abubacar Jabbie

society. Governments, communities, and individuals have a shared responsibility to create an environment where cultural diversity is respected and modern developments are inclusive. Communicating and understanding each other's perspectives will lead to the formulation of policies and practices that harmoniously incorporate culture into the modern world.

The assimilation of culture and modernity is not a simple task, but it is essential for the development of a future that respects diversity, cultural identity, and progress. By embracing cultural diversity in technological advancements, prioritizing education, finding a balance between culture and modernity, focusing on sustainable development, and fostering

collaboration and dialogue, we can pave the way for a harmonious relationship between culture and modernity in the future. The combination of cultural richness and technological advancements will lead to a society where every individual feels valued, connected to their cultural roots, and empowered to contribute to the ever-evolving world.

Culture and modernity are two crucial aspects of human existence that often find themselves at odds with each other. While culture represents the rich heritage, traditions, and values passed down through generations, modernity encompasses the ever-evolving advancements in technology and societal development. It is essential to find a way to assimilate these two seemingly contrasting forces to shape a future where cultural identities are respected, and progress is achieved. Today I'd like to explore strategies and ideas on how to harmonize culture and modernity in the future.

1. Embracing Cultural Diversity in Technological Advancements:

The future must emphasize the integration of cultural diversity into modern technologies. By involving diverse communities in the design and development processes of technologies, we can ensure that the products and services cater to their specific needs and values. This approach would avoid the imposition of a one-size-fits-all mentality and instead foster an inclusive environment that respects and appreciates various cultural perspectives.

2. Education and Cultural Preservation:

Education plays a vital role in bridging the gap between culture and modernity. Schools and educational institutions should prioritize teaching cultural history, traditions, and values alongside modern subjects. By doing so, children will develop a greater understanding and respect for their own culture, as well as others. This approach will strengthen cultural identities while simultaneously providing them with the tools to adapt to the ever-changing modern world.

3. Finding a Balance:

Promoting a balance between culture and modernity is crucial. While embracing technological advancements, it is essential to maintain a deep-rooted connection with cultural values. This can be achieved by infusing traditional artistic and cultural expressions into modern forms of art, literature, and media. Platforms for cultural exchange, such as festivals, exhibitions, and conferences, should be encouraged to celebrate cultural diversity and provide opportunities for traditional art forms to thrive alongside modern innovations.

4. Sustainable Development and Cultural Preservation:

Sustainable development should go hand in hand with cultural preservation. As societies progress, it is imperative to ensure that modern development does not come at the cost of cultural identity. Efforts should be made to preserve cultural landmarks, historical sites, and traditions that are essential components of a nation's identity. Additionally, sustainable practices should be adopted to minimize the ecological impact of modernization, thus preserving the environment for future generations.

5. Collaboration and Dialogue:

To successfully assimilate culture and modernity in the future, collaboration and dialogue must be fostered at every level of

Renewable Energy and How We Can Utilise It



For the past 150 years, we have heavily relied on coal, oil and other damaging fossil fuels to power our buildings, transport, factories etc. The use of these fuel sources has resulted in the carbon levels in our environment to reach exceptionally high levels and led to a global crisis. But times are changing, and we are realising the other amazing options that are much greener and play a key role in protecting our planet from the dangers of climate change.

Renewable energy has an impressive number of benefits that go way past just being "green", which is why the industry is growing constantly. Renewables create jobs, improves the national energy grids, increases energy access in developing countries and lowers energy bills.

Types of Renewable Energy Sources

Solar: Utilising the light and heat that come from the sun

Wind: Using wind power to generate mechanical power or energy

Biomass: Producing energy from chemical energy contained in organic matter

Thermal: Creating power from converting heat into electricity

Hydropower: Generating power from the use of flowing water

How to Make Use of Renewable Energy in your Home

1. Install solar panels to save up to 70% on electricity bills and reduce reliance on the unpredictable national grid. This is the most common and obvious method for homeowners looking to save ener-

gy and cut carbon emissions as you can supply your own free, clean energy.

2. Choose an energy provider using power purchase agreements, meaning they buy their electricity directly from wind farm and solar generators. Some companies can mislead customers by buying from

wholesale markets that depend on REGO certificates which cannot guarantee the percentage of energy coming from fossil fuels vs renewable sources.

3. Upgrade your heating with a renewable source by installing an air source heat pump either as a full replacement or integrated into your current system. Traditionally, a home heating system will create heat by either burning fuels or converting electricity. Heat pumps however are different, as they can transfer existing heat energy from the ambient air, into your home to heat radiators and hot water – even in temperatures as low as -20 degrees Celsius. This impressive technology is what makes heat pumps so efficient to run, as they can deliver more heat energy than the electrical energy they use. The easiest way to understand how an air source heat pump works is to imagine it working like a fridge, only in reverse! With the

There is no doubt that eventually, fossil fuelled systems will be phased out, and renewable systems will become the norm. With the Government currently offering funding to make the switch more accessible, we advise homeowners to investigate the systems for themselves and see how much they could save by installing a heat pump and/or solar panels.

Renewable Energy and How We Can Utilise It - Greener Energy Group



Igniting the flame of possibilities

SELLWANE THAKANYANE

Leseli Mahloane
MASERU

In Mafeteng Thabana-Morena Met-si-Masooana Ha Thakanyane, A young Mosotho woman named Selloane Thakanyane discovered her love for music in a rather unexpected way. Raised in a Christian family that frowned upon “worldly” music, Selloane’s passion for singing took root in secret moments when her parents were away. It was in these stolen instances she found her voice, singing along to albums of Joyous Celebration, Benjamin Dube, and Donny McClurkin.

Selloane’s determination and love for music knew no bounds. Despite her parents’ disapproval of “worldly” tunes, she couldn’t resist the temptation of artists like Beyoncé. She would wait for her parents to leave for work, and then the house would come alive with the sounds of Queen Bey and other musical legends.

But music was just one facet of Selloane’s multitalented character and personality. She defied societal norms and pursued her passion for makeup artistry, even though her father didn’t approve of the beauty art. He constantly urged her to wash her face, but Selloane’s artistic spirit couldn’t be dampened. Today, she proudly owns and operates “Khanya Beauty Studio,” offering makeup services, eyelash enhancements, and ombré eyebrows.

Selloane’s educational journey was marked by challenges and successes. She attended Kingsgate High School from Form A to Form C but eventually transferred to Mt. Tabor for Form D and Form E due to the strict environment and disciplinary measures at her previous school. Her hard work paid off, and she graduated with impressive grades. Continuing her pursuit of knowledge, she studied TV and Film at Limkokwing University, earning her degree.

Because of the high unemployment rates, Selloane chose the path of entrepreneurship. She founded Khanya Beauty Studio as a testament to her unwavering dedication and creativity.

Yet, Selloane’s story doesn’t end there. She explained music always held a special place in her heart, she and her cousins would play karaoke and sing along in front of the TV, which she still does to this day.

Her love story with Pablo DJ is a testament to having the bravery and drive of pursuing whatever she wants. Together, they created a song titled “KEA U RATA,” inspired by their own love story, which endured despite initial skepticism from both of their mothers.

Their mothers’ doubts were rooted in concern for their children’s well-being, fearing that their relationship might



be driven by ulterior motives. However, Selloane and Pablo DJ’s love proved genuine and unbreakable. The song’s lyrics, especially the heartfelt refrain “mama ngiyamthanda,” reflect the depth of their love and their determination to overcome obstacles together.

Their love story caught the attention of Ntate Stunna, a prominent figure in the music industry. He encouraged them to turn their love story into a song. This collaboration gave birth to “KEA U RATA,” a beautiful testament to love’s endurance and resilience.

What sets Selloane apart and makes her an inspiration to many is her unwavering commitment to following her heart and dreams, regardless of societal expectations. She’s faced numerous challenges but continues to show up, radiant and determined, refusing to be defined by her past. Her story serves as a beacon of hope for countless young Basotho girls, inspiring them to chase their dreams and nurture their unique talents.

Selloane’s beauty goes beyond her appearance; she possesses a treasure trove of talents and a vibrant personality that lights up any room. Beyond her looks, she’s a multifaceted individual who brings her unique creativity to the table. Her story resonates deeply with those who aspire to achieve greatness beyond societal

close friends to lovers, their bond deepening through their shared love for music and their genuine connection. Road trips filled with old R&B classics provided the backdrop for their budding musical collaboration. When Pablo DJ recognized Selloane’s exceptional vocal talent, the idea to create music together began to take shape.

Like any up-and-coming artist, Selloane has dreams and aspirations. She draws inspiration from legendary figures in the entertainment industry who have stood the test of time. However, one name shines the brightest in her dreams: Beyoncé. Since childhood, Selloane has been captivated by Beyoncé’s artistry, drive, and dedication. She aspires to follow in the footsteps of her idol and make a positive impact on the youth of her country through charitable work, just as Beyoncé has done.

Selloane and Pablo are gearing up to release their brand new song, “UTHANDO”! Stay tuned for this sensational track.

In conclusion, Selloane Thakanyane’s journey is a testament to the power of self-belief, determination, and the pursuit of one’s passions. Her love story with Pablo DJ, encapsulated in the enchanting “KEA U RATA,” serves as a reminder that love can conquer all obstacles. As she continues to inspire the youth of Lesotho with her multifaceted talents and unwavering spirit, Selloane is destined for a future that shines just as brightly as her remarkable journey.

norms.
The love story of Selloane and Pablo DJ is an evidence of the power of love and determination. They went from being

Promoting Basotho Culture and Music Globally

Mpho Shelile

MASERU

With the aim of promoting Basotho culture and music the European Union (EU) through the sound connect fund donated M1.3 million to two film institutes to assist them in producing a locally made film called 'Lieme ka Lekoa' and 'Morena Lerabe' which will incorporate Sesotho music and culture while also competitive with other international cultural films for an Oscar.

European Union initiative intends to facilitate interdisciplinary exchange between musicians and spoken word artists in the country. It will provide training to participants and offer them showcasing opportunities in South Africa and across Europe, while actively strengthening collaboration between South African artists and European festivals, bookers and programmers. Through its framework, content and methodology, the Global Cultural Leadership Program specifically aims to improve the skills of cultural managers, enhance collaborative peer-to-peer learning, network building and enable them to develop fresh insights into international cultural collaboration practices.

The EU head of delegation, Paula Amadei stated that there were 120 applicants and only 40 of those were selected by the foundation. Among the 40 selected, two of them were Basotho institutes, stressing that this will curb the high unemployment rate and create wealth in the country. "Culture is a sector which can give benefits no matter the size of the country, a country can be small with a little population but have a big culture and creative industry, and I think Lesotho can compete in this area", said Paula.

In collaboration with the Cultural Relations Platform, the project will also offer participants access to a tailored European festival directory, which they can use to explore new partnerships and opportunities. The program offers a set of learning modules, tools and manuals for practice-based learning, giving them opportunities to build meaningful collaborations at the global level and within the European Union (EU). But the production team are a little behind schedule due to lack of funds and will sadly miss this year's European Festival but will be included next year.

The CEO of Gem Institute Miss. Mpho Letima emphasized that at least 60 families from Halebamang, a village located in Roma got to benefit during the production of this film, an estimated one hundred thousand maloti (M100,000.00) was spend during production in the area. "This may seem like some difference but one



European Union Head of Delegation Paula Amadei

must understand the impact it bought to the community with what the villager's had said when they heard we were done shooting and were leaving. What we aim to do is bring the ten tribes of Basotho into the film through the various designs of their cultural clothes and the kind of food they eat. Believe me this was just inspired by a flower found in the mountains of Lesotho called 'mokhabebe' which we are to incorporate in the designs", said Mpho.

She further stated that they are not only focused in this film but have begun reaching out to other talented Basotho producers to bring in their movies, scripts so that more of their films and stories get to be played, "we are hoping their work will start being showcased and they too start earning through their hard work". She concluded by pleading with investors and Basotho at large to pledge donations in support of raising a sum of one hundred and eighty five thousand maloti (M185, 000.00) needed to complete the film.

On behalf of Sky Alpha HD Kabelo Mollo stated that their project aims at promoting musicians by collecting music and videos created to promote and raise awareness on rap and famo music through the history of Basotho, by creating a film on which they have partnered with different countries such as Botswana, South Af-

rica, Zimbabwe and Zambia titled 'Morena Lerabe'. The film will feature the likes of Kommanda Obbs as well as Mahlanya. As Sky Alpha HD they are proud to have produced many musicians and helped them earn a living through their talents. They further emphasized that their mandate is to help all Basotho upcoming artist reach international spaces like they did. "We believe in the power of music, being a radio station we are we see the potential Sesotho rap and famo has and how they are widely loved. The Lesotho rap archive is an indigenous creative knowledge for most of Basotho" said Mollo. "We are still short of a sum of two hundred thousand maloti (M200, 000.000) for further production and we are reaching out to all Basotho and sponsors to help pitch in. We are already raising funds as Sky Alpha by playing at Hip hop Café every Sunday"

His colleague Mr. Tello Leballo aka Dalas T who is a music consultant stated that they intend to sustain this project they are working on for the next ten years, they also wish to create avenues which will aid the creative sector and expand its growth and recognition. "It is our dream that when they step into international platforms they are immediately recognized as Basotho artist", said Dalas T.



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Maloti Mountain Cement Launches the Berea Charity Cup

Mpho Shelile
MASERU

As a way of enhancing the love of football and its great influence in the community around it, Maloti Mountain Cement started an initiative that recognizes and supports the less fortunate by hosting a charity cup annually. With the money collected they plan to help build an orphanage.

The Managing Director of MMC Lehlolonolo Kenny Lephema, declared the company was incorporated five years ago by Mr. Lebona Lephema with the aim of giving back to the community by raising funds for charity organizations and help offer the financial support they need. The tournament is set to take place in Berea on the 4th of October, which will also be Lesotho's 57th Independence Day celebration.

"We have already begun building an orphanage center at Lithabaneng and



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have built two more which are located in Mafeteng and Semonkong and this would be the third one. We decided to contribute and elevate the community where we grew up and promise to make this an annual game, where we will give back to Basotho", He declared. The entrance fee will be thirty maloti per person.

The winner between Bantu and Lioli will get fifty thousand and a cup while the runner up will get twenty thousand Maloti, our other teams Maroala FC and Amigos FC the winner will get twenty thousand while the runner up will get ten thousand maloti, "we also want to change the bad habit of drinking on the 4th October and just let sports unite us as we watch football together. So today I officially launch the Berea charity cup 2023 and may the best teams win", he said.

The president of Lioli FC Lebohlang Thotanyane, commended MMC for accepting their plea to join hands for a positive contribution through football. "We all know that football is the universal language for we are divided as

Basotho and we only ever come together when a match between Bantu and Lioli or Matlama takes place."

Mr. Atang Molise from Amigos FC stated that they are looking forward to the match and are privileged to be included in such a tournament.

The Vise president of Bantu FC Mrs. Mamoji Letsoapo, said she no doubts believes Bantu is keeping everyone awake, she commended MMC for the initiative they have taken in giving back to Basotho. According to her, Bantu is known for their immense support and love for football and promised that their presence will be highly felt at Berea. "We are to do great things with the fifty thousand that will be given to us" she beamed, singing praises for Bantu.

This latest act of service further highlights one of MMC cardinal objectives as a company, which is giving back to communities and lending a hand of support to future generations. Mother Teresa once said – It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.

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