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THARI

Thursday, 18 July 2024

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# Weekly Observer

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## Ex-miners protest delays in compensation Payments

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**KHOSI PHEKO**  
Maseru

# Ex-miners protest delays in compensation payments

Basotho ex-mine workers are expressing their frustration over delays and complications in receiving compensation from the Tshiamiso Trust. The Trust, based in the Republic of South Africa, was established to disburse funds to mineworkers who contracted silicosis and tuberculosis (TB) while working in South Africa's gold mining sector. However, the Trust is facing heavy criticism for its poor communication methods, which many claimants believe are obstructing the payment process.

Since the compensation process began in 2019, thousands of Basotho claimants have accused Tshiamiso of either delaying or failing to fulfil its obligations. With the process set to end in 2031, workers are worried that time is fleeting and that they might not receive the compensations they are entitled to.

The Trust was created following a class-action settlement agreement between claimant attorneys and several mining companies, including African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye-Stillwater, and Gold Fields.

To qualify for compensation, mineworkers must meet specific criteria. Current and former mineworkers across Southern Africa with permanent impairment due to silicosis or work-related TB, or their dependents if the workers are deceased, can apply. A mineworker must have performed risk work at one of the qualifying gold mines between March 12, 1965, and December 10, 2019.

Compensation amounts vary based on the severity of the disease. For silicosis, the payments are as follows: Class One pays up to M78,732, Class Two up to M168,712, and Class Three up to M281,187. A special award for claimants in Silicosis Class Three with additional medical conditions pays up to M562,375. Dependent silicosis in Category A pays up to M112,475, while Category B pays up to M78,732.

For TB, compensation is categorized into three degrees: First Degree pays up to M56,237, Second Degree up to M112,475, and Historical Tuberculosis Claimants (those with TB but without a medical report) can receive up to M11,247.

During a recent parliamentary sitting of the Social Cluster Portfolio Committee, Tshiamiso Trust CEO Munyadziwa Kwinda reported that 138,000 workers have lodged claims, with 52,000 of them being Basotho,

## • Tshiamiso Trust Under Fire for Communication Failures



**Munyadziwa Kwinda**

representing 38 percent of the overall claimants. Of the roughly 18,000 claimants who have been compensated, 7,918 are Basotho, accounting for 43 percent of all settlements regionally.

"The amount of money paid to Basotho to date is M700 million. When we look at the total amount paid to all claimants in the region, which is around M1.6 billion, 43 percent of that was paid to Basotho," Kwinda stated.

Kwinda also highlighted a major challenge in disbursing funds that many death certificates across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region do not specify TB or silicosis as the cause of death, which is a requirement for the Trust. Additionally, many claimants become unreachable due to outdated contact information, significantly delaying the process.

"To address these issues, we are extending our services. For example, in Lesotho, we have eight lodgement sites. We had opened another center in Thaba-Tseka to make our

services more accessible, but had to close it due to low uptake. We are also operating mobile units for medical examinations and are now looking at having fixed service providers," Kwinda said.

Tshiamiso's Chief Operating Officer, Tina da Cruz, explained that the Trust's mobilization strategies are based on Section 11 of the deed. Initially, they used a track-and-trace strategy but have since moved to a pull strategy, encouraging claimants to contact them directly.

"We communicate regularly and have spent over M30 million on communication across the region, informing people about the Trust and the lodgement process. In 2021, we conducted a six-week communication campaign. We also conducted outreach activities in Lesotho, covering eight districts," Da Cruz explained.

Booi Mohapi, representing Justice For Miners (JFM), criticized Tshiamiso for overlooking communication barriers, including

language differences and accessibility issues. Although Sesotho is common in both Lesotho and South Africa, it is written differently, creating challenges when updates are sent via mobile messages. Mohapi also noted that many claimants do not have smartphones, making it difficult to access information online.

Basotho Action Party (BNP) leader Machesetsa Mofomobe echoed these concerns, emphasizing that Lesotho's mountainous terrain makes it difficult to reach some areas, impacting both physical accessibility and telecommunication. He suggested utilizing local government structures and community leaders to improve communication and support for claimants.

"Not all radio stations can reach the entire country. Even if you have a cell phone, calling South Africa is expensive. We need to find cost-effective ways to search for and identify claimants through local government and community networks," Mofomobe advised.





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## KHOSI PHEKO

Maseru

# LMPS warns against bribe exchange between police, civilians

The Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS) has strongly exhorted the public to refrain from any acts of bribery with the police officers in exchange of snubbing criminal offences. The LMPS warned that, serious measures would follow to anyone found guilty of such.

While presenting the Police Weekly reports at the Police headquarters on Tuesday, LMPS deputy spokesperson, Inspector Mareabetsoe Mokoka warned against this in light of recent reports where four men namely; Natai Mphofe (48), of Ha-Bua-sono, Berea, Seutloali Thabo (37) of Mount Moorosi, Quthing, Teboho Mahlomola (32) of Matsieng in Maseru and Mosiuoa Phenthi (37) of Ha Jimisi Mazenod, Maseru and Thakeli Ts'elisehsang (37), Nketsi Mabote (38) of Maputsoe in Leribe district and Liteboho Mohasoa (32) of Qeme Ha-Mohasoa, in Maseru. These men were accused of road offences and offered bribes in return.

"The court granted them a bail of M500 each and an assurity of M5000. They failed to pay at the time and only Nketsi Mabote



Mareabetsoe Mofoka

who managed to pay while others were taken to prison. We will recall that one senior deputy Commissioner visited several radio stations to raise awareness of this issue of bribe. It is a serious crime and it has to stop. All those who are known to be participating in these acts shall not succeed from now onwards" she said.

In other reports, a 55-year-old man named Rets'elisiso Nkholise of Quthing

appeared before the district's magistrate court on July 11, accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl. The court found the suspect guilty and was sentenced 10 years in prison without a fine.

In Qacha's Nek, a 60-year-old man named Taunyane Sejono appeared before the district's magistrate court on July 15 accused of possessing an illegal firearm called .38 special and three bullets. Mofoka

added that he was apprehended in a search and seize operation for illicit guns on July 13 in the area.

"The court found him guilty and was sentenced to one year in prison or to pay a fine of M2000. He did manage to pay the fine and was acquitted," she said.

Furthermore, she disclosed that a 31-year-old woman of Berea is facing charges of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old boy. Reports indicate that on July 7, the victim and the woman were commissioned at the suspect's house to get some item but upon their arrival, the woman then demanded sexual intercourse to the lad.

The young boy defiantly refused and while the matter continued for some time, to her worry, the suspect's mother went to the house to check what could be the hold up. There she discovered that the woman is demanding sex from her son.

"Investigations are still in progress and the suspect will soon appear to the courts of law once everything is finalised," Mofoka said

## TS'EPISO SERABELE

Maseru

In a landmark event for Lesotho, the Ministry of Health celebrated the graduation of 49 members from the Advanced Volunteer Health Corps (AVoHC) Surge Response Team.

The ceremony, held in Leribe last Sunday, marked the culmination of an intensive training program aimed at enhancing the nation's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

In a world increasingly driven by technology, the disparity in internet access is a growing concern. For many in remote areas of Lesotho, connectivity is not just a convenience but a lifeline. Liteboho Letlatsa shares a harrowing tale of how her grandmother's skepticism about charging their phones stems from a tragic event where two young girls were murdered while walking long distances to charge theirs.

In an interview with the Weekly Observer, Letlatsa painted a vivid picture of life with limited access to technology. "Imagine having to wait until dawn just to get a signal for an important call," she said. "It's not only frustrating; it's also a matter of life and death in some cases."

The elderly suffer significantly from poor connectivity. Letlatsa's grandmother has to stand in specific spots in their house to make and receive calls, turning emergencies into desperate situations. For residents of rural areas like Joala-Bohlo, unreliable internet is not just a frustration but a hazard. As digital communication becomes ever more integral to modern life, addressing this issue grows increasingly urgent.

This digital divide starkly separates urban from rural areas in Lesotho, prompt-

## Bridging the digital divide: The struggle for internet connectivity



ing calls for robust efforts to bridge this gap. Ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their location, have access to reliable internet connectivity is becoming a national priority.

Government-owned essential service providers, such as water and electricity companies, enjoy free access to land for their infrastructure. In contrast, telecommunications companies face hefty costs for land access to install their infrastructure. Puleng Mathabo Masoabi, Acting General Manager in the Marketing Communications & Customer Experience department at Econet Telecom Lesotho, confirmed that the company has invested over M300 million (Maloti) in the past three years for the installation of Base

Transceiver Stations (BTS) and system upgrades.

The significant financial burden on telecom companies raises questions about the fairness of the current arrangements with the government. Additionally, vandalism and theft of copper, generators, fuel, fiber power cables, and wooden poles exacerbate connectivity issues. "The overall damage from these acts exceeds 3 million Maloti each year, hindering our efforts to keep Basotho and businesses connected," Masoabi noted.

Mateboho Makote from the Land Administration Authority (LAA) underscored the importance of land planning and allocation for development, as stipulated in the Land Act of 2010. She empha-

sized that private companies, including telecommunications providers, must be involved in this process. However, for BTS installations, land must be claimed, and a lease obtained.

Advocate Nteboheleng Makae highlighted the critical link between internet access and the protection of fundamental human rights, as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of Lesotho. She stressed that the lack of internet access in rural areas significantly hinders the realization of these rights, particularly the rights to information, association, and education.

Makae further explained that the uneven distribution of internet connectivity creates an information gap between urban and rural areas, limiting rural communities' ability to stay informed and participate in the socio-political life of the country. This digital divide not only impedes access to information but also restricts freedom of expression. Without reliable internet, rural citizens struggle to participate in public discourse or engage in political activities, leaving their voices unheard and perspectives excluded from mainstream narratives.

Makae's insights suggest that while Lesotho has made strides in safeguarding fundamental human rights, the inequality in internet access presents a significant barrier to ensuring these rights are enjoyed universally. Addressing this issue is crucial for the inclusive development of the nation.



# King Letsie III Birthday pictures







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# Youth business seminar to empower entrepreneurs

**MPOLAI MAKHETHA**

Maseru

The Basotho Youth Business Seminar, founded by the renowned Afro DJ Motlatsi Makhetha, is set to provide young people with crucial business knowledge and motivation. This inaugural event will be held on September 21, 2024, at Global Guest House.

Makhetha, widely recognized for his expertise in organizing entertainment events, was inspired to create this seminar by the large audiences he attracts. He now aims to bring people together for a business-focused initiative. The seminar is open to individuals aged 18-40, whether they are already entrepreneurs or aspire to become one.

The seminar will cover essential top-



**Afrodeejay**

ics such as the importance of registering businesses, financial education, and bookkeeping, with presentations by experienced business professionals. "This seminar will be beneficial to many young people, as it is affordable, with tickets priced at only M150," Makhetha explained.

In an interview with the Weekly Observer, Makhetha emphasized that this event is just the beginning, with plans for more seminars to follow. These events will offer aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to learn from successful businesspeople. "I will measure the success of this seminar by seeing that the youth are well equipped with business knowledge and motivated to act on their ideas," he said.

Makhetha believes that young people can achieve great success if they pay attention to their surroundings and learn from others. He urges the youth to seize such opportunities. "There are people with brilliant ideas; they should pray for guidance and wisdom," he concluded.

**KHOSI PHEKO**

Maseru

# Lesotho Law Society president denounces unethical behavior in legal profession

Advocate Lintle Tuke, president of the Law Society of Lesotho (LSL), has called out unethical practices tarnishing the reputation of the country's legal profession. Speaking at the LSL's annual general meeting (AGM) held at Avani Maseru, where he was re-elected unopposed, Tuke addressed pressing issues such as fraud, sexual harassment, and unregistered practitioners posing as lawyers.

In his speech, Tuke lamented the "problematic and unethical behaviour" among some legal practitioners, stating that such actions have severely damaged the profession's image. He highlighted instances of male lawyers defrauding clients and sexually harassing female colleagues, leading to a sense of embarrassment among ethical lawyers.

The LSL president outlined efforts to tighten regulatory measures to restore the profession's integrity. He stressed that all lawyers must register with the LSL and produce valid practicing certificates to clients as proof of their standing. He also condemned senior male lawyers and judicial officers for engaging in sexual harassment and criticized those working unprofessionally from their homes without proper court attire.

The AGM, attended by lawyers from Lesotho, eSwatini, and South Africa, as well as officials from the Legal Practice Council of South Africa and the SADC Lawyers Association, also

saw the presence of Minister of Justice and Law, Richard Ramoetsi. In his remarks, Ramoetsi emphasized the importance of making legal services accessible to all citizens and commended the LSL's active participation in recent constitutional reforms.

Ramoetsi also introduced the new High Court Civil Litigation Rules, 2024, which aim to enhance court efficiency and justice administration. Despite some controversy, he expressed confidence that these rules would improve the legal system with the guidance of experienced professionals.

Other key positions within the LSL were confirmed during the AGM, including the uncontested re-election of Advocate Mokhorro Makara as vice-president and Advocate Ithabeng Phamotse as secretary-general.

The AGM's agenda also included discussions on the challenges and achievements in legal practice and a review of the organization's audited financial statements.

Advocate Tuke's address underscored the urgent need for ethical reform in Lesotho's legal profession, signaling a committed effort to uphold justice and restore public trust.





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WOMEN APPRECIATION  
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# Parliament may spend up to R14 million for its opening address

INTERNATIONAL  
CORRESPONDANT

Parliament has indicated that it has budgeted between R6 million and R14 million that will be used during the opening address set to take place on Thursday at the Cape Town City Hall.

The opening of parliament address takes place once every five years, after the provincial and national elections, to outline the new administration's plans while also marking the official opening of the new five-year term of Parliament.

Speaking during a media briefing on Wednesday, Secretary to Parliament, Xolile George, said they have made that budget because in 2023 during the State of the Nation Address, they had a budget of R8.4 million.

"This is just a budget the actual expenditure may be less or slightly more depending on the reconciliation that we will be doing but this is the amount we have set aside based on the nature and scale," he said.

However, the National Council of Provinces chairperson, Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, said that this budget doesn't include a gala dinner as it has been cancelled due financial constraints.

In June, George said Parliament has almost doubled its budget for the seventh administration and they have set aside R58 million.



The opening of parliament will take place at the Cape Town City Hall on Thursday, July 18. Speaker Thoko Didiza says so far, they are not aware of any MPs who plan to boycott the event

"In 2019, we budgeted R43 million for transition, in 2024, we budgeted R58 million. The budgeting is to make transitions for candidates, for flights, accommodation, tools of trade, inductions, and more," he said at the time.

Meanwhile, Speaker of the National Assembly, Thoko Didiza said so far, they are not aware of any members of parliament who plan to boycott the opening of parliament.

Her statement comes after uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MK) snubbed the first sit-

ting of the National Assembly.

MK party members were disgruntled with outcome of the May 29 national elections claiming the results were rigged and insisted on a recounting of ballots. - IOL

# EFF is not vanguard of the poor, VBS is an example - Steenhuisen

INTERNATIONAL  
CORRESPONDANT

The DA leader John Steenhuisen has taken a swipe at the EFF leaders Julius Malema and Floyd Shivambu, saying they spent VBS money on luxury items instead of uplifting the lives of the poor.

He said this was clear that the EFF was not in the business of protecting and ensuring that people were freed from poverty.

"The money was not spent on social good, projects that would uplift and save the poor, instead it was spent on luxury items, splurges at the Durban July on

campaign, and other luxury goods.

"It shows that the EFF has no intention of being the vanguard of the poor, this is a mask that they use to justify the types of activities that they get up to," he said.

Steenhuisen made the remarks during a briefing in Cape Town on Wednesday.

VBS Saga: AfriForum to lay charges of corruption, fraud, and money laundering against EFF's Malema and Shivambu

'Our people need justice': Khumbuzo Ntshavheni wants orange overalls for VBS looters

National Treasury celebrates Matodzi's conviction in VBS Mutual Bank scandal

Minister Groenewald to review parole laws

This was to outline the party's expectations for President Cyril Ramaphosa's opening of parliament address.

Ramaphosa is expected to deliver his speech on Thursday in a joint sitting of two houses - the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

The opening happens once every five years, after the national general elections.

This address will be delivered under a new government, the Government of National Unity (GNU).

Steenhuisen's remarks came after the

bank's chair, Tshifhiwa Matodzi, alleged that Malema and Shivambu accepted bribes from the bank.

Matodzi pleaded guilty to 33 charges, including corruption, theft, and money laundering.

He said that the EFF has received monthly donations and a so-called business loan of millions of rands from the bank since 2017 through a front company, Sgameka Projects.

Malema and Shivambu benefited personally, according to Matodzi's allegations.

During the briefing, Steenhuisen promised to rescue South Africa from radical and anti-constitutional forces.

He was referring to the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and MK Party.

"Where the EFF and MK seek to break our country, the DA seeks to build it. And where the EFF and MK seek to undo the progress made by a free and prosperous South Africa, the DA will fight to advance it," he said.

He continued to say that his party will, through the GNU, demonstrate to South Africans what the DA can do at a national level when allowed to govern.

He further called for unity in the new government arrangement. - IOL



DA leader John Steenhuisen has taken a swipe at the EFF leaders Julius Malema and Floyd Shivambu, saying they spent VBS money on luxury items instead of uplifting the lives of the poor



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**TOP 10 NOMINEES**

**1. AGRICULTURE**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME  | DISTRICT    |
|------|---|-------------|
| A1   | KATLEHO MPOPO (PEACE FARM)                              | BEREA       |
| A2   | LIMPHO CAROL MALEHI                                     | MASERU      |
| A3   | LITSITSO MPESI  | MASERU      |
| A5   | MAMELLO MAKHOBOTLOANE (MHA FIELD FRESH)                 | LERIBE      |
| A6   | MAMMATLI MPHEI  | BOTHA BOTHE |
| A7   | MAMOTHIBE MOTHIBE (MOTHIBE FAMILY FARM (MOFAFA))        | MASERU      |
| A10  | MASEENG MOTAUNG (MEJAMETALANA POULTRY AND PIGGERY FARM) | MASERU      |
| A12  | MATLOTLA ROSE MPITI                                     | QACHA'S NEK |
| A13  | MATUMANE MATELA (LEKHOAKHOA FARMS)                      | BEREA       |
| A14  | MOLULA MATOBA   | QUTHING     |

**4. ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME   | DISTRICT      |
|------|--|---------------|
| D1   | SETSOTO HLOHLOMI   | MASERU        |
| D3   | LERATO MPHAKA (LEARNING MINDSET FOUNDATION)  | MASERU        |
| D4   | MALEBOKA MAKHEMENG (ELECTRICIAN)   | MASERU        |
| D5   | KATLEHO TAUHALI (CATA ACADEMY)   | MASERU        |
| D6   | MANEO MAPHARISA (GIRLS CODING ACADEMY)   | MAFETENG      |
| D8   | MANTOPI LEBOFA   | QACHA'SNEK    |
| D9   | MALITHA MOCHOCHOKO (BETHEL BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (BBCDC))                                      | MOHALE'S HOEK |
| D10  | NTELEKENG MPHASANE (IT TECHNICIAN AT MS FABRICATIONS AND ENGINEERING)  | LERIBE        |
| D11  | KANANELO RATS'OELE (ELECTRICIAN)   | MASERU        |
| D13  | MANTSEBO MOLAPO (INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LECTURER AT LIMKOKWING UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) | MASERU        |

**7. MANUFACTURING**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME  | DISTRICT      |
|------|---|---------------|
| G2   | BOKANG MATLOSA (NECTA/THOLOANA CARBONATED SOFT DRINKS)                | MASERU        |
| G4   | KARABELO SYLVIA RALETEBELE (KARABELO RALETEBELE)                      | MASERU        |
| G5   | MALESHOANE AGNES QLOTI  | MASERU        |
| G7   | TSOANELO SOKO   | MOHALE'S HOEK |
| G8   | HESSIE MOFOLO (HESSIE'S CREATION)                                     | MASERU        |
| G9   | JOALANE MOHALE CODE (FRANJO HERBAL PRODUCTS)                          | MASERU        |
| G11  | MAMAGINGER KAPHE KOTOANE  | MASERU        |
| G12  | MAFULE PATI (DIVINE RANGE COLLECTIONS (DIVINE GINGER & DIVINE WATER)) | QACHA'S NEK   |
| G13  | 'MAMOLETANE TS'OLO (Noma Clothing Institute)                          | LERIBE        |
| G15  | RELEBOHILE HLABANA (RELE JEWELLERY & CRAFTS (HABO UPIKOKO))           | MASERU        |

**10. SECURITY, LAW & ORDER**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME   | DISTRICT    |
|------|--|-------------|
| J1   | MANTAI MOFOMOBE (LESOTHO CORRECTIONAL SERVICE)               | MASERU      |
| J2   | BOKANG RAMOTENA  | MASERU      |
| J4   | MALEHLOKA THAKALEKOALA (LESOTHO CORRECTIONAL SERVICE)        | MASERU      |
| J5   | MALISEMA MOEKETSI MARUMO (LESOTHO DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY)  | LERIBE      |
| J6   | MATSELISO MAKAMPANE (LESOTHO MOUNTED POLICE SERVICE)         | MOKHOTLONG  |
| J7   | MATHABISO FAKO (HELICOPTER TECHNICIAN)                       | MASERU      |
| J8   | 'MALIKULI SABA MOTHUOQA (LDF QUEEN'S EXPEDITION HIKING TEAM) | LERIBE      |
| J10  | BELINA NTLAMA  | MASERU      |
| J11  | RETHABILE MOKETE   | MASERU      |
| J13  | REITUMETSE MOTSELEBANE                                       | BOTHA BOTHE |

**2. BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME                                       | DISTRICT   |
|------|--|------------|
| B1   | GLADYS MALEOA (ENHLE COUTURE & ENHLE BRIDAL)         | MASERU     |
| B2   | ITUMELENG MOTHABI (BIL GROUP OF COMPANIES)           | MASERU     |
| B4   | KOTULO KOPO (TWENTY-3 EVENTS)                        | MASERU     |
| B5   | LIKOMANG MAKETSI (KOTO KOTO'S OFF SALES MAPUTSOE)    | LERIBE     |
| B6   | TSOANY PEBANE (KISSED BY TSOANY)                     | MASERU     |
| B7   | MABASIA KHOMONNGOE (KB INSTALLATION AND KB CATERING) | MAFETENG   |
| B8   | MALIAKO MPOPO  | MOKHOTLONG |
| B11  | MOTSELISI TAUNYANE (TSELI GENERAL CAFE MAPUTSOE)     | LERIBE     |
| B12  | NGOAJANE TSIKOANE (HOUSE OF GLAM LESOTHO)            | MASERU     |
| B13  | PULANE PHOHELE (FLEX COLLECTIONS)                    | MASERU     |

**5. HEALTH SERVICES**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME  | DISTRICT      |
|------|---|---------------|
| E1   | LEBOHANG MOTHAE   | MOHALE'S HOEK |
| E2   | 'MANTHOLI THATHO (QUEEN 'MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL)                    | MASERU        |
| E3   | RETHABILE MOHALE  | THABA TSEKA   |
| E4   | TLHOLOHELO LEFALATSA (MAFETENG HOSPITAL)                                | MAFETENG      |
| E6   | MATEBOHO SEBOKA (BATHOPELE POLYCLINIC AND MATERNITY)                    | MASERU        |
| E8   | MORATUOA CHECHI MOLELEKOA (QUEEN MAMOHATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (CASUALTY)) | MASERU        |
| E9   | MATEBOHO KHOARAI-MOTHUPI (DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE QUTHING)         | QUTHING       |
| E10  | MATHATO NKUATSANA (ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND GENDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH)     | MASERU        |
| E11  | MATHE LETSIE (BOTSABELO CLINIC (SENKATANA))                             | MASERU        |
| E15  | THIBELLO LEKOEKOE   | BOTHE BOTHE   |

**8. TOURISM & HOSPITALITY**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME  | DISTRICT |
|------|---|----------|
| H4   | MABOHLOKA POPANE (MONAKALALI BAKERY AND COOKIES)                                    | LERIBE   |
| H6   | MAMELLO FOLOKO  | MASERU   |
| H7   | MAMOHLE MOTLOANG (GOLDEN POT B&B AND CATERING)                                      | BEREA    |
| H8   | MANTHATISI MONICA MOPELI MAKONG   | MASERU   |
| H10  | MATSELE NONIABULO MOKUKU MO-KENELA (CEO & EXECUTIVE CHEF AT SHEPHE EXECUTIVE CHEFS) | MASERU   |
| H11  | MATSELISO MPUPUTLA  | LERIBE   |
| H12  | MATSEPO DIDI MANAKO (DIDI'S EVENTS & DELECTABLE RESTAURANT)                         | MASERU   |
| H13  | MORETLO LITABE (ACTIVE LESOTHO)   | MASERU   |
| H14  | REFILOE MOKOTELI  | LERIBE   |
| H15  | RETSHEPILE AMELIA NTAI (TSHEPI'S EVENT)   | MASERU   |

**3. CREATIVE INDUSTRY**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME   | DISTRICT |
|------|--|----------|
| C1   | KUTLOANO MORAKE (HARMONY CREATIVES)  | MAFETENG |
| C2   | BARBIE KALEBE  | MASERU   |
| C3   | KANANELO MAPHATHE (LIVING BY ART & DESIGN)   | MASERU   |
| C5   | LIMAKATSO CONNIE TS'OSANE  | MASERU   |
| C6   | LINEO SEBOHOLI   | MASERU   |
| C7   | LITEBOHO KHAKHANE  | MAFETENG |
| C8   | MAKHANYA CHECHELA  | MASERU   |
| C11  | MOLEBOHENG KHALI (MOLE FASHION DESIGN LECTURER SCHOOL OF CRAFTS AND DEVELOPMENT LESOTHO) | MASERU   |
| C14  | ROSE MOLEBOHENG MOLATELLE (ROSEMO-COUTURE)   | MASERU   |
| C15  | TUMELO MOTENE (PROWESS DIGITAL STUDIO)   | MASERU   |

**6. LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME  | DISTRICT    |
|------|---|-------------|
| F4   | SR. VITALINA 'MAMELLO DOTI (SEBOCHE HOSPITAL)   | BUTHA-BUTHE |
| F5   | MAMPHO LETSHABA   | MAFETENG    |
| F6   | MASEFANTS'I MOPELI (PABALA COSMETICS)   | MASERU      |
| F7   | MASIBONGILE TIKISO  | MASERU      |
| F8   | MOJABENG SENKAL-NDEBELE   | BOTHA BOTHE |
| F9   | MOSOETSI MOKAEANE   | MASERU      |
| F10  | NTHABELENG MOEPI SEFATSANE (PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE MOHLANAPENG HEALTH CENTER CHAL - THABA TSEKA) | THABA-TSEKA |
| F11  | PEARL LAWRENCE  | BEREA       |
| F12  | PUSELETSO RAMOKHETHI  | MASERU      |
| F13  | REFILOE MABULARA MOTLOMELO (Maseru District Manager Lesotho Red Cross Society)                            | MASERU      |

**9. TEACHING, TRAINING & ADVOCACY**

| CODE | NAME & SURNAME   | DISTRICT |
|------|--|----------|
| I1   | KOPO BOISON  | MASERU   |
| I2   | LINTLE MASASA  | QUTHING  |
| I5   | MAKHUKHUMALA KAMA  | MASERU   |
| I6   | MALEHLOENYA NKHASI (A DISABILITY SPECIALIST IN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIT IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING) | LERIBE   |
| I7   | MAMELLO LEXOMOLA (CLEAR ROADWAY REHABILITATION/ACTIVATE PATHWAYS)  | LERIBE   |
| I8   | MAMOOKHO JUSTINAH SELELKE  | MASERU   |
| I9   | MANTHATISI MOLELEKOA   | MASERU   |
| I11  | MATHUSANANG DAMANE (PRINCIPAL (THATELENG DRESSMAKING AND FASHION DESIGN SCHOOL MOTSEMOCHA QUTHING))                  | QUTHING  |
| I14  | TS'EPANG MOKUENA (BOIPABOLO JUNIOR SCHOOL Administrator)   | MASERU   |
| I15  | NTS'EPASE MOSOTHO  | MASERU   |

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# Health talk and Patient care

with  
Mosiuoa  
Lesuhlo

## Understanding Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)



**S**exually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) are infections primarily spread through sexual contact. They pose significant public health challenges globally, affecting millions each year. This article aims to provide an overview of common STDs, their symptoms, prevention methods, and the importance of treatment.

### Common STDs and Their Symptoms

#### 1. Chlamydia

- Symptoms: Often asymptomatic. When present, symptoms include painful urination, lower abdominal pain, and discharge from the penis or vagina.

- Impact: Can lead to infertility if untreated.

#### 2. Gonorrhoea

- Symptoms: Burning sensation during urination, increased discharge, and in men, painful or swollen testicles.

- Impact: Can cause serious complications like pelvic inflammatory disease

(PID) in women.

#### 3. Syphilis

- Symptoms: Painless sores, followed by a rash. If untreated, it can progress to severe health issues affecting the heart and brain.

- Impact: Can be fatal if not treated.

#### 4. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- Symptoms: Flu-like symptoms initially. Progresses to AIDS if untreated, significantly weakening the immune system.

- Impact: Lifelong condition requiring ongoing treatment.

#### 5. Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- Symptoms: Often asymptomatic. Can cause genital warts and is linked to cervical cancer.

- Impact: Some strains can lead to cancer if not monitored.

#### 6. Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

- Symptoms: Painful blisters or sores on the genitals or mouth.

- Impact: Recurrent outbreaks, although the frequency and severity can decrease over time.

### Prevention Methods

1. Use of Condoms: Consistent and correct use of condoms significantly reduces the risk of STDs.

2. Regular Screening: Regular medical check-ups and STD screenings are crucial, especially for sexually active individuals.

3. Vaccinations: Vaccines are available for some STDs like HPV and Hepatitis B.

4. Limiting Number of Sexual Partners: Reducing the number of sexual partners can lower the risk of contracting STDs.

5. Mutual Monogamy: Engaging in a mutually monogamous relationship where both partners are tested and free of STDs.

### Importance of Treatment

Early detection and treatment are vi-

tal. Many STDs can be cured with antibiotics if caught early. For incurable STDs like HIV, effective treatment can manage symptoms and reduce transmission risks.

### Stigma and Awareness

Stigma surrounding STDs can prevent individuals from seeking help. Public education and open conversations about sexual health are essential in combating this stigma. Awareness campaigns and accessible healthcare services play critical roles in reducing the prevalence of STDs.

### Conclusion

Understanding STDs, their symptoms, and prevention methods can lead to healthier sexual practices and reduce the incidence of these infections. Regular medical check-ups, safe sex practices, and public awareness are key components in tackling the global STD challenge. For more information, consult healthcare providers and trusted health resources.



# Streaming platform offers diverse local content



**LIJENG MORUTHANE**

Maseru

Lesotho's entertainment landscape is undergoing a digital revolution with the launch of novice online movie streaming platform, offering viewers an unprecedented selection of local films and TV shows.

From instant hits to original productions, this new platform is not only captivating audiences but also showcasing the nation's rich storytelling traditions on a global stage.

In a recent interview with the Weekly Observer, Sky Kingdom TV Information Technology Manager Masilonyana Letebele provided insights into the platform's offerings, reception and future plans.

The platform is said to boasts a diverse library tailored for Basotho viewers, including popular titles such as Lilaphalapha 4, Makhubelu 4, Chelete Ha se Moleko, Choose Maikhetela, Litsela tsa Khale, Brutal Truth, Ke Reng Uena o Reng, LECSA Shows, Selalome,

Moshanyana oa Sankatana, Nyamatsana, Kau la Phoho, and Petsoa Majoeng.

"This eclectic mix of local productions ensures a rich viewing experience for subscribers," he said.

According to Letebele, upon its launch, the platform witnessed a surge in interest, with up to 5 000 views in the initial days and around 1 200 registrations. However, only about 100 of these registered users converted to paying subscribers and growth has since slowed.

"Despite this, the platform's stability and the ability to produce and launch original TV shows like Choose Maikhetela, Chelete Ha se Moleko and Brutal Truth stand out as early success stories," the Manager noted.

New content was initially added weekly, but recent months have seen a slowdown. Subscription plans are competitively priced, starting at M50 for a monthly subscription, with options for three months, six months and annual subscriptions.

All plans grant access to the entire con-

tent library, although there are currently no free trials or discounts for new subscribers.

"Other thing we can note is the fact that the system is stable and has never disappointed anyone viewers in terms of availability."

The platform recommends an internet speed of 10 Mbps for smooth streaming but does not enforce a minimum speed requirement.

"The platform supports high-resolution streaming and offers adaptive streaming to manage varying internet speeds."

The platform's Co-Founder assured that accessibility is a key feature, with the platform available on web browsers across mobile phones, smart TVs and computers, although a dedicated mobile app is still under development.

"While most content lacks subtitles, producers are encouraged to include them to appeal to international audiences."

Speaking of international reach, the platform has no geographical restrictions,

and has audiences from locations such as London, the United States of America and Australia who also access the content at the same rates as local users.

He went on to add that user experience enhancements like parental controls and multiple profiles are not yet available, but users can log in from up to three devices simultaneously.

Customer support is said accessible via WhatsApp and email, with queries typically resolved within a day. This efficient support system ensures a seamless experience for subscribers.

In terms of exclusive content, the platform has successfully produced shows promoting financial responsibility and romantic relationships, further cementing its role in enriching local entertainment.

"Since the platform is still on its infancy state, we haven't included the adult content which will require parental controls," Letebele concluded.



## KHOSI PHEKO

Maseru

# Lebina views for success with Linare

## • As he reflects his period at Matlama

New Linare football club forward, Hlomelang Lebina is vying for success with his new side. Lebina upholds that winning is his top priority and he is willing to do everything to his ability to achieve this.

The 21-year-old skipper completed his move to the Leribe based club a fortnight ago on a two year agreement from last season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL) runners up Matlama.

Lebina departs Matlama after just one season since joining from the Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS). He joined "tse Putsoa" after a glorious 2022/23 campaign where he finished the season as VPL stop goal scorer with 15 goal in his first season in Leoto's top flight league. His achievement attracted interest from several top clubs but decided to join the club he supported from childhood being Matlama.

While his one year spell with the Maseru based side did not go according to expectations, he still managed to net four goals and

provided several assist in 28 matches. He also leaves with two trophies which he won at his time with Matlama and they are; the Alliance Winter Challenge where he also scooped the



Hlomelang Lebina

player of the tournament and this year's edition of the prestigious People's Cup after his former side triumphed 4-3 on penalties at the final against the Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS).

Speaking to the Weekly Observer Sport during the week, Lebina said he leaves Matlama with a smile on his face as he is decorated with two major titles. "I won two trophies with Matlama, so I am leaving without regrets. I also won some individual awards with my dream team and for that, I am happy," he said.

He said he is now seeking a new challenge with Linare and he is optimistic that he will help them to achieve great things. "I think it is a good team while assessing it for the past two seasons and so I feel like I can win trophies there as well," Lebina said.

# Moerat becomes 66th test captain, set to lead new-look Boks against Portugal

## INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDANT

Salmaan Moerat will complete his formal leadership rise when he captains a new-look Springbok team against Portugal in Bloemfontein on Saturday.

Moerat was a former SA Schools and Junior Springbok captain, and will now have the honour of being the 66th Bok captain for the one-off Test against the Tier-Two nation.

In all there are seven new caps in the match-23, mostly among the forwards, while the starting backline has a wealth of experience.

Centre Lukhanyo Am is back for his first Test since playing against Argentina in 2023, and forms a potentially exciting combination with André Esterhuizen.

Wing Kurt-Lee Arendse plays again after featuring against Ireland, while Makazole Mapimpi is restored to the left wing with Aphelele Fassi at fullback.

Up front, though, the side is inexperienced.

Sharks flank Phepsi Buthelezi will make his debut alongside Ben-Jason Dixon, with his first start, and Evan Roos, in the back row.

RG Snyman partners Moerat in the second row, while Thomas du Toit anchors the scrum at tighthead.

Bulls hooker Johan Grobbelaar is on debut alongside Jan-Hendrik Wessels at loosehead, and on the bench there are potential debuts for hooker Andre-Hugo Venter, lock Ruan Venter, scrumhalf Morné van den Berg and fullback Quan Horn.

"Portugal are a quality team as we saw with their victory against Fiji in the

Rugby World Cup (RWC), while they also drew their clash against Georgia 18-18," said coach Rassie Erasmus.

"It was important for us to select a quality team with a bunch of experienced players, while at the same time delivering on our objective of growing our squad depth by naming a few debutants."

Erasmus said he was pleased to be able to hand the captaincy to Moerat, whose track record as a captain was a testament to his abilities as a fine leader.

"Salmaan commands respect from his teammates, so we'd like to congratulate him on this achievement, and we have no doubt that he'll take on this responsibility as well as he has for the other teams he has led," Erasmus said.

"He has come through the SA Rugby ranks and he went on to captain the Junior Springboks and SA Schools teams, as well as the Stormers and Western Province, which speaks volumes about his quality as a player and a captain."

The match marks the first appearance of the Test season for Rugby World Cup winners Am, Manie Libbok (fly-half), Cobus Reinach (scrumhalf), Trevor Nyakane and Du Toit (props).

Eight players were members of the match-23 that defeated Wales 41-13 in London in the team's opening match of the season in June: Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu, Fassi, Mapimpi, Esterhuizen, Roos, Dixon, Moerat, and Ntuthuko Mchunu (prop).

"Most of the so-called younger players have been exposed to Test rugby in one way or another by either playing against Wales or Ireland, or have been around



the squad, so they are all well aware of the standards we expect on the field and the way we do things," said Erasmus.

"All of the uncapped players, apart from Ruan Venter, were also members of our training squad in June, and we were very impressed with the way they fitted into our structures and their work ethic. We have full faith in their abilities, and we're excited to see what they offer on the field on Saturday.

"The squad also includes a few RWC winners and experienced campaigners, who will play a vital role in guiding the young players and keeping things calm in the pressure situations."

Erasmus said he expected a fierce battle against Portugal: "They proved that they could compete successfully against some of the top teams in the world, and we believe they will lift their game even more this weekend given the magnitude of facing the Springboks.

"This occasion will really excite them,

and they'll certainly give everything to make a statement for the Tier Two nations, so we have to deliver a top-quality performance to get a result.

"This match is also an opportunity for us to work on what went wrong last week and finish the Castle Lager Incoming Series on a high note, so we will treat them and the occasion with the respect it deserves.

"There are no easy games in Test rugby, and for us personally, it's important to live up to our standards and build momentum going into the Castle Lager Rugby Championship."

Springboks:

15 Aphelele Fassi, 14 Kurt-Lee Arendse, 13 Lukhanyo Am, 12 Esterhuizen, 11 Makazole Mapimpi, 10 Manie Libbok, 9 Cobus Reinach, 8 Evan Roos, 7 Ben-Jason Dixon, 6 Phepsi Buthelezi, 5 RG Snyman, 4 Salmaan Moerat (captain), 3 Thomas du Toit, 2 Johan Grobbelaar, 1 Jan-Hendrik Wessels



# Weekly Observer Sport

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# FRL to celebrate Kings birthday in style

**KHOSI PHEKO**  
Maseru

As a way of celebrating His Majesty King III 61st birthday, the Federation of Lesotho Rugby (FRL) will host a tournament this coming Saturday on July 20.

Dubbed the King's Birthday Rugby Sevens, this is said to be the first ever sevens (7s) tournament dedicated to honour the King's birthday at the Mabote Beavers Rugby Ground at Ha-Mabote in Berea.

Although it will be held three days after His Majesty's birthday celebration which was on

Wednesday July 17, the one day tournament will feature local males and females' teams.

The participating teams are; Mabote Beavers, Maseru Warriors, Mabita Gorillas,

Liqhomane, National University of Lesotho (NUL) Spears and Leostho Rugby Academy. All

the six participating teams are expected to compete on both categories of both men and women.

Speaking to the Weekly Observer Sport on Tuesday this week, spokesperson of FLR,

Morapeli Motaung, said their biggest year is to host the tourney annually if matters permit.



He said the idea was initiated last year but did not succeed due to lack of sponsors.

"We want this tournament to grow big, and for that we want to hold it every year starting this weekend," he said.

He also added that, the sole pur-

pose of the tournament was to commemorate the King's

special day more particularly because he was their patron.

He further told this publication that, the prize monies and awards will be finalized either

tomorrow (Thursday) or on the day

of the tournament." We are yet to finalize with the

sponsors on the prizes, what I can say for now is that, this is a winner takes all and all the

details regarding that will be shared soon," he said.

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