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Former LCA CEO In Court For Stealing Property



Ms. Mamarama Matela, former LCA CEO

By Staff Reporter

Maseru

Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) former Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Mamarama Matela, has denied allegations of stealing LCA's gadgets.

Ms. Matela left office on 3 June 2021 after being suspended by then Minister of Communications, Science, and Technology, Hon. Keketso Sello.

Hon. Sello suspended her on allegations of corruptly influencing the awarding of a M531 million tender to Global Voices Group South Africa (GVG) for the supply of a Compliance Monitoring and Revenue Assurance system.

Ms. Matela denied these allegations and filed for reinstatement, claiming she was

being victimized for refusing to solicit a M3 million bribe from GVG on behalf of Hon. Sello to approve the tender. She further accused Mr. Hon. Sello of punishing her for refusing his "sexual advances" and accused then Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro of shielding Sello.

Ms. Matela instead accused her successor, Mr. Nizam Goolam, and Chief Regulatory Officer, Mr. Thato Ponya, of framing her for the theft. Matela made these claims through her lawyer, Advocate Manthatisi Khesue, during a case in which the LCA is seeking an order compelling her to return the Authority's assets, including an iPad, laptop, and voice recorders, which she allegedly kept despite leaving the Authority at the end of her contract on 31 March 2022.

After her suspension, a tribunal was set up to probe her fitness to remain in office, but this was revoked by Hon. Sello's successor, Hon. Sam Rapapa, who decided in January 2022 that she should go on leave pending the expiry of her contract on 31 March 2022.

Since the expiry of her contract, the LCA has sued Ms. Matela to return the iPad, laptop, and voice recorder, which they claim she took with her when she left office. Mr. Ponya testified that when Ms. Matela left her office upon her suspension, she took with her the said laptop, iPad, and voice recorder. However, Adv Khesue argued during cross-examination that it was impossible for Ms. Matela to have taken the gadgets when she left her office, as she had done so under the

escort of security officers. "My client received her dismissal letter the same day she was told to vacate her office immediately with an escort of two security officers. She did not even have time to pack her own things. She has always denied taking those gadgets and informed the Authority that the only thing in her possession was the motor vehicle, which she kept because LCA had not paid her dues. My client alleges that you and Goolam are framing her for taking those gadgets," said Adv Khesue.

Another LCA witness, Keeneue Mohale, who is an LCA board member, reiterated that those gadgets were with Ms. Matela, "the iPad and the laptop are part of the benefits she received as the LCA chief executive officer, but she knew that when her tenure ended, she would have to return them to the Authority. The voice recorder was used by the board secretary, but since the board secretary's resignation, the voice recorder had been with her until her suspension. She never returned any of those things. The voice recorder was used to record the proceedings of the board meetings, including the meeting in which she was suspended after Minister Sello informed the board of irregularities in the awarding of the tender to GVG. Minister Sello ordered that we look into the matter, and the board did," said Ms. Mohale.

Ms. Matela is currently serving at the Lesotho consulate in Durban, South Africa, and according to sources with knowledge, says she is awaiting her appointment as the chief of the mission in Lesotho's embassy in Japan



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ABC On A Renewal Path - Kabi

By Mamello Mochesane

Maseru

The All Basotho Convention (ABC) leader Honourable Nkaku Kabi, is optimistic about the future ABC after a successful National Executive Committee (NEC) elections, in an exclusive interview with Lesotho Tribune, Kabi expressed his unwavering confidence in the new committee's ability to breathe new life into the party.

The newly elected NEC, is made up of the following mix young and experienced professionals

Deputy leader - Samonyane Ntsekele

Secretary General - Thebe Mokoatle

Deputy Secretary General - Tšolo Khechane

National chairperson - Kemiso Mosenene

Deputy National chairperson - Ishmael Mpana

Treasurer General - Thobileng Teboho

PRO - Mphonyane Lebesa
Deputy PRO - Tšeliso Lerata

Secretary responsible for minutes - Likonelo Mothala

In an exclusive interview with Lesotho Tribune, Kabi revealed that ABC has set its sight on reviving ABC's fortunes. Kabi believes that these fresh faces bring with them the promise of transformation, offering hope to disillusioned party members. "Our expectation is that we must work hand in hand with the new committee to rebuild the party, which I believe we will achieve very easily," remarked Kabi, emphasizing the importance



The All Basotho Convention (ABC) leader Honourable Nkaku Kabi

of unity and collaboration within the party ranks.

Addressing the internal strife that contributed to the party's decline, Kabi outlined comprehensive organizational strategies aimed at conflict resolution and grassroots empowerment. The establishment of sub-committees dedicated to managing conflict and engaging professionals demonstrates the party's commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity and accountability.

"ABC has embarked on a mission to quantify its support base through research initiatives led by the secretary-general. Armed with actual data, the party aims to devise targeted strategies

that resonate with voters across urban and rural landscapes," Kabi added

"We are reshaping the party to bring back its integrity and image," affirmed Kabi.

Kabi also highlighted that ABC stands poised to reclaim its position as a formidable political force in Lesotho.

"We have amended our constitution to try and align with changing times so that we are not holding on to the old ways. We are living in the present, not the past," said Kabi.

Kabi concluded by emphasizing that with renewed energy and commitment to change, ABC is ready to write a new chapter in its storied history.

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Lesotho Tribune

By: Staff Reporter

Our analysis will be divided in three parts, **Part 1**: how lifeline tariff is bankrupting LEC, **Part 2**: diagnosis of LEC's real problems and **Part 3**: A 2002 act will sink LEC in couple of years

The report focused on the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) while a second report focuses on the Urban Water and Sewerage Services (UWSS).

Part 1: how lifeline tariff is bankrupting LEC

According to MRC Group and National University of Lesotho Energy Research Centre, who were appointed to carry out the said study, "Separate reports for the electricity and water sectors are provided as the sector characteristics are distinct and there is therefore no advantage in reporting the analysis and results in a combined report..."

"Separate reports also avoid any confusion between the sectors related to the information, analyses, conclusions or recommendations of the study."

Our focus will therefore be on the ESI, lifeline tariff, which was implemented in 2019/20 and its impact was analysed by comparing relevant variables at least 5 years before the implementation

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Gvt and LEWA Setting LEC Up For Failure?



with those recorded in the years that have passed since.

Electricity Consumption and Prices

Nominal (i.e. actual) electricity prices for domestic customers increased before the introduction of the lifeline tariff and even real prices showed a small increase, while

average electricity consumption declined.

Figure 1, which portrays annual trends in weighted average³ nominal and real electricity prices as well as average electricity consumption per customer, shows that the nominal and the real electricity prices were M1.22/kWh and M0.97/kWh in 2014/15, respectively, while electricity consumption was 1,275

kWh per customer. However, nominal electricity prices increased by about 27% to M1.55/kWh in 2018/19, whereas real electricity prices only rose by about 5% to M1.03/kWh over the same period. On the contrary, electricity consumption declined by about 14% to 1,095 kWh per customer.

Thus, customers seemed to have reduced their electricity consumption as it became more expensive over that period.

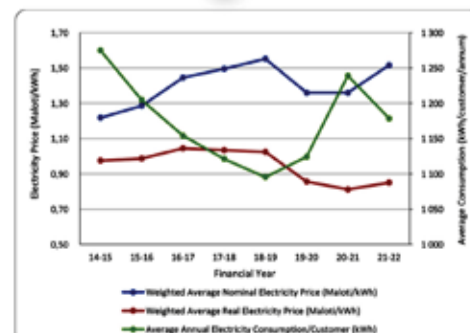


Figure 1: Nominal and real electricity prices vs. average electricity consumption

After the implementation of the lifeline tariff, nominal and real electricity prices fell, on average, while electricity consumption per customer increased significantly (as illustrated

in Figure 1). Introducing a lifeline tariff for every domestic customer without any form of cross-subsidisation had the effect of reducing average nominal electricity prices by about 12% to M1.36/kWh in 2019/20 and the average real electricity prices by about 16% to M0.86/kWh.

Although in 2021/22 the average nominal electricity prices rose by about 11% to M1.52/kWh, the average real electricity prices continued to fall by about 0.1% to M0.85/kWh.

Apparently linked to this overall decline in domestic electricity prices, electricity consumption rose by about 3% and 13% in 2019/20 and 2020/21, respectively, peaking at 1,239 kWh per customer in 2020/21.

However in 2021/22 the average electricity consumption dropped back again by about 5% to 1,179 kWh. This could have been largely caused by the eroded incomes of customers due to the effects of COVID-19 as well as the rising inflation which is largely attributed to the Russia-Ukraine war.

When **Lesotho Tribune**

continues in page 7

Mamohau Pension Fund Scandal



Mamohau Hospital, Photo credit Jonathan Molapo

By: Tebello Kokome

An undesirable situation has transpired between the management of 'Mamohau Hospital and its employees. The employees are not impressed with their management who have supposedly moved their provident fund from Metropolitan Lesotho to Lesotho LNIG. The aggrieved employees attest to the fact that they did not agree to this move and that the migration was not thoroughly explained to them in order for them to consent or dissent. According to the contents of the letter addressed to the hospital's ad-

ministration, the employees say they are not privy of the full details of implications brought by this transition. In a letter dated 19 March 2024, which was addressed to the Head Office of Metropolitan "RE: REQUEST FOR MEETING ON 'MAMOHAU HOSPITAL PROVIDENT FUND UPDATE", the employees stated that subsequent to a meeting with their manager on 8 March 2024, they were informed that the account was said to be INACTIVE since May 2023. This is why the manager deemed it fit to contemplate moving the fund to another insurance

broker. The letter was essentially a plea to Metropolitan to visit 'Mamohau to give clarity to its employees regarding the status of their fund.

Following this, the hospital manager wrote a letter on 22 March 2024 to the employees where she expressed that the hospital has decided to respect their resolution as employees to look into the conclusion reached to change the provident fund administrator. In the letter, Ms. Mokuena stated that the contract between 'Mamohau Hospital and Metropolitan Lesotho had been brought to an untimely end and that

LNIG Hollard would be taking over from March 2024. She also said that the hospital reserves the employees' rights to decide and give a response (in written form) whether they want to be a part of the fund or not. "... subject to the terms and conditions agreed between the hospital and the appointed administrator..."

In response to this correspondence, on 26 March the employees reverted back to the manager, standing their ground to say that the hospital management went ahead to sign a new contract with

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Lesotho Tribune

By: Editorial

The freedom for persons to freely express their opinions is undoubtedly the corner stone of any human lead development, regardless of the particular field. Whether in medicine, culture, arts and politics, development has been a product of allowing discussions to flow freely, it is only when conventional means and ways are challenged that the human race develops. It is because of this feature of the right to freedom of expression that it has found resonance in almost all developed and developing liberal societies. It is so important that governments through their constitution guarantee it to its citizens. It is perhaps why there are phrases such as “I may not agree with what you say, but I am prepared to fight to the death your right to say it” it is *soi sacrosanct* that the right to life itself may be sacrificed in defence of the freedom of expression. Recent developments regarding threats to the Family of the owner of Lesotho Tribune, Phafane Nkotsi, have given us a painful reminder that this very sacrosanct right and indeed a tool of development, rests on very shaky grounds and must be defended at all costs. To give context to the discussion, a brief factual narrative is

EDITORIAL

Defence of freedom of speech and expression



necessary, there was an attempt to shut down Lesotho Tribune as a news paper earlier in February through the courts of Law orchestrated by one Semoli Mokhanoi and Mergence investment, one of his companies. They launched an application before court to interdict the newspaper from publishing matter relating to the management of the Public Officers defined contribution pension fund. This bid to shut down the news paper was swiftly dealt with and dismissed by the courts, in defence of the freedom of expression. Mr Semoli and Mergence must be commended that while they desired for the news paper to be shut down, they approached the courts of law to have it shut down, while the motive may have been sinister, they employed legal mechanisms that are available. When the legal dust has settled, the employees of the Lesotho Tribune newspaper found an ominous note, stating that Mr Phafane Nkotsi

has a lovely wife and that Lesotho Tribune should stop writing articles dealing with the Public Officers Defined Contribution Fund, failing which the peace of his family will be disturbed. Assuming the threat is true, and there in no reason to believe otherwise, the insinuation by the author of the ominous note seeks to instil fear in the owner of the newspaper by threatening to harm his family, on condition that he should stop writing about the stated topic. It must be stated from the onset that while this not is meant to shut down the newspaper, unlike the unsuccessful attempts of Mr Semoli and company, these latter efforts are unlawful, they seek to achieve that which Mr Semoli sought to achieve, but they seek to do so outside the mechanisms of the law. It is this latter attempt that has prompted the writing of this article, strong condemnation must be meted out against the perpetrators who authored the threatening note. Their actions

are meant to put some artificial limits on what Lesotho Tribune should and should not write about, if they are successful, they will be bold and empowered and soon enough they will do the same to other news outlets, and before we know it freedom of speech will be but a figment of our imaginations and fantasies, and human progress will be permanently aborted.

It must also be very clear that freedom of expression is not without its limits, it is also subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by the law and enforced through legal mechanisms. These restraints typically have to do with public order and safety and protection of individual fame and dignity. This is why when Mr Semoli felt that his dignity may be impaired, he approached the courts to protect his dignity. And by doing so, he showed the world that even if you harbour aspirations of shutting down newspapers, at least you should do so through the courts. We however must denounce with contempt all those who seek the same ends with Mr Semoli but through instilling fear and quite literally without any exaggeration terrorism.

It for this reason that all those who are stakeholders in the Media industry, content creators and content consumers alike, must be up in arms in defence of Mr Phafane and Lesotho Tribune and proclaim that, even when we do not agree with what you have to write, we will defend your right to write it with our lives if necessary.

Gvt and LEWA Setting LEC Up For Failure

Accuses GoL of deliberately refusing to implement business licensing regulations



Lebohang Thotanyane

By: Malebabo Maioro

Maseru-

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Association held an-inaugural Basotho Business Empowerment Forum at Victory Hall Maseru on Wednesday 17th April. The purpose of the event was to discuss various challenges faced by Lesotho's small businesses.

Opening remarks by Mrs Malitlou Morojele, informed that in-the 1990s the government formulated trading

enterprise policies, which triggered an influx of Chinese and Indians to enter Lesotho and those policies has immensely disadvantaged local businesses.

Mrs Morojele further lamented that the government formulates-policies but they fail to implement them, "whenever we ask Ministers about the implementation of these policies we are moved from pillar to post".

She also emphasized that corruption has led Lesotho to become a country it is it

is today where foreigners get Lesotho identity documents while residing in their birth countries.

In an effort to share methods that can remedy Lesotho's deficient business sphere, Mrs. Orefitlhile Masire a specially elected member of the Botswana Business Board touched on the importance of indigenization of business ownership in Botswana.

Her insightful talk noted that Business Botswana-changed their country's business land-

scape. The organization is currently representing over 2500 businesses. Mrs Masire further highlighted Botswana's success in business is attributable to the strategies her organization implements and services they provide. She also stated that the wholesalers do not compete with retailers. Big retail shops like Pick n Pay and Woolworths procure fruits and vegetables from local businesses,

"I urge the Government of *continues in page 13*



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Lesotho Tribune

By : BENTHAM SCIENCE PUBLISHERS

A study by Upstate Medical University suggests recreational cannabis might reduce the risk of cognitive decline, challenging earlier research and highlighting the need for longitudinal analysis. A new study by Upstate Medical University researchers shows that recreational cannabis use may offer protection against cognitive decline.

The study, done by Master of Public Health (MPH) student Zhi Chen and Professor Roger Wong, Ph.D., MPH, MSW, analyzed a large data set from the CDC and found that compared to non-users, non-medical cannabis use, such as for recreational purposes, was significantly associated with 96 percent decreased odds of subjective cognitive decline (SCD). Medical and dual (medical and non-medical) use were also associated with decreased odds of SCD, although not significant. Cannabis consumption frequency and method were also not significantly associated with SCD.

Contrasting Previous Research and Exploring New Insights SCD is an important outcome of interest as prior research shows individuals with SCD have a 2 times higher risk for dementia, which currently has no cure or definitive prevention approaches.

Wong said that previous studies have found negative associations between cannabis use and cognitive decline, so the results

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



A UC San Francisco study found that two-thirds of severe COVID-19 survivors in the US continued to suffer from various health issues up to a year after recovery, underscoring the long-term impact of the virus

THC vs. Dementia: Cannabis Linked to Lower Risk of Cognitive Decline

were surprising, though he is quick to point out the study had several limitations and that these results are just a snapshot of one year.

“The main takeaway is that cannabis might be protective for our cognition, but it is really crucial to have longitudinal studies because this is just a snapshot of 2021,” said Wong, assistant professor Department of Public Health & Preventive Medicine. “We do not know if non-medical cannabis leads to better cognition or the other way around if those with better cognition are more likely to use non-medical cannabis. We need longitudinal studies to see long term if non-medical cannabis use is protecting our cognition over time. That’s something we don’t know yet, but that research is hindered since cannabis remains illegal federally.”

Comprehensive Analysis and Study Limitations
Data for this study was obtained from 4,744 U.S. adults aged 45 and older in the 2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). SCD

was a self-reported increase in confusion or memory loss in the past year. Odds of SCD by cannabis use reason, frequency, and method were examined after imputing missing data, applying sampling weights, and adjusting for sociodemographic, health, and substance use factors.

The study differs from previous research in that it focuses on middle-aged and older adults, and it uniquely considers the three facets of cannabis use: type of use (medical or non-medical), frequency of use, and mode of use (smoking, vaping, eating or dabbing). “The reason I think this study is so great is we looked at all the different dimensions of cannabis use,” he said. “The fact that we included all three is a huge contribution to the research because I do not believe such a study has been done before.” Wong said he was surprised that mode and frequency had no bearing on SCD since other studies involving younger participants found a negative connection between brain health

and cannabis use, indicating perhaps that the age of the participants plays a role in the different results.

The study, which was published in *Current Alzheimer Research* was Chen’s final project in the Advanced Biostatistics course in the MPH program taught by Wong.

“I applied the knowledge and analytical skills learned from the courses in the Public Health Methods concentration to this study,” Chen said. “Dr. Wong guided me through the process, from formulating a research question to preparing a full manuscript. I feel fortunate to have incredible professors in our program who train us to become well-rounded public health professionals with the skills for epidemiology and biostatistics work.”

The authors did note some limitations with the study, including the inability to consider state-by-state cannabis regulations; thus, potential selection bias could arise if the population of certain states is either over or underrepresented due to varying measures of cannabis use.

Strengths of the study include using a national data set, which increases the generalizability of the findings. Wong said the difference in protection between medical and non-medical use comes down to the compounds that make up cannabis. Medical-grade cannabis has higher concentrations of CBD whereas non-medical has higher concentrations of THC. Non-medical users often use cannabis to improve sleep and reduce stress. Poor sleep and chronic stress increase the risk for dementia so the protection in SCD could come from better sleep and stress relief that cannabis provides. Medical cannabis is used primarily for pain relief.

“Based on our findings, we don’t see the CBD in medical cannabis being beneficial for cognitive health,” Wong said. Reference: “Association Between Cannabis Use and Subjective Cognitive Decline: Findings from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)” by Zhi Chen and Roger Wong, 23 February 2024, *Current Alzheimer Research*. DOI: 10.2174/0115672050301726240219050051

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Lesotho to try and use all these tips to grow its economy”.

An opportune moment to share ideas on how to put back the economy into Basotho's hands, revealed the long-held frustrations of business owners.

Distraught Teboho Motšepe representing Meat Traders bemoaned the fact that major tenders are reserved for politicians and the butchers receive the shot end of the stick in business opportunities.

“We will never stop stealing Basotho cows because we do not have money to sustain our businesses and if ever the minister of trade does not implement the regulations today he must get out of that door, we do not want him here,” said Motšepe. Motšepe's speech quickly escalated the tone of the event as members of the parliament (MPs) took offence and stormed out of the event.

MPs expressed they felt disrespected and are facing similar problems in their businesses.

Furthermore they are there to listen to the problems and present the issues in parliament. They also mentioned that the speakers at this event are pushing their own political agendas.

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources Moeketsi Motšoane, emphasized that the association wants to divide them as politicians.

Speaking to Lesotho on the sidelines of this event, Mrs. Morojele mentioned that this event was not about politics but people no longer have the patience to wait for empty promises, they have suffered enough. All they wanted were answers and that is where the members of the parliament thought they were being attacked.

She further explained that they do not care about politics all they want is for government to implement the business licensing regulations as passed by Parliament.

When asked whether Basotho do not have the capacity to handle major projects, she explained that Basotho are very much capable of doing any job when given a chance. Lesotho Tribune sought comment from Lebohang Thotanyane and this is what he had to say, “unfortunately there is no political will to implement the preference margin...”

When asked what his views are about the attitude of the current government, who coincidentally are from business, Thotanyane said, “surprisingly like you say these are people from the business sector but one can see that current policies are not pro business in anyway.”

“Government has stopped using middlemen, agents and company reps when in fact the countries they look up to such as Rwanda and Botswana reserved business to natives and even legislated it,” Thotanyane added.

He concluded by saying, “government needs to reconsider its positions on many fronts if it is to achieve the private sector led economy as they say. It is unfortunate that businesses are closing in numbers during their reign and they are doing nothing about it.”

Below is the list of businesses reserved exclusively for indigenous Basotho;

1. International road freight transport and logistics.
2. Road transport & logistics.
3. Motor dealer.
4. Real Estate agency.
5. Clearing agency.
6. Warehousing activities.
7. Retail sale of household fuel, bottled gas & coal.
8. Fast food activities without full restaurant services.
9. Hair dressing and beauty treatment (Division 9602).

10. Repairs & maintenance of Motor Vehicle & motor cycle.

11. Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel (Division 97).

12. Cleaning of motor vehicles.

13. Raising of horses.

14. Raising of sheep and goats.

15. Raising of swine & pigs.

16. Raising of poultry.

17. Sale of livestock & livestock products.

18. Tour operator activities (Division 79).

19. Cleaning activities (Division 81).

20. Landscape care & maintenance service activities (Division 8130).

21. Photographic activities (Division 7420).

22. Retail sale via stalls & market of food, beverages & tobacco products (Division 4781, Retail sale via stalls & market of textiles, clothing & footwear (4782).

23. Retail sale of cultural and recreation goods in specialised stores (Division 476).

24. Activities of business agents and brokers (Division 6622) articles in specialised stores, including wholesale & Retail sale of health related articles or products.

25. Retail sale of animal feeds, including animal & crops medical goods & chemicals.

26. Retail sale of bread & confectionery products.

27. Retail sale of motor vehicle parts & accessories.

28. Repairs of motor vehicle parts including vehicle tyres & motorcycle parts.

29. Retail sale, maintenance

and repair of motorcycles & related parts & accessories.

30. Wholesale and retail sale of alcoholic beverages whether or not consumed on the spot (off-sale, tarven, shebeen & public bar).

31. Wholesale & Retail sale of meat & meat products, including poultry.

32. Retail sale of fruits & vegetables.

33. Growing of fruits & vegetables.

34. Retail sale of prepared meat & meat dishes whether consumed on the spot (Chesa-Nama) without full restaurant services.

35. Supply of liquefied petroleum gas & petroleum products (filling stations).

36. Retail sale in non-specialised stores (Division 471).

37. Retail sale of hardware, paints & glass products.

38. Retail sale of second-hand goods.

39. Retail sale not in stores, stalls or markets.

40. Wholesale & Retail sale of pharmaceutical & medical goods, cosmetics & toilet articles in specialised stores, including wholesale and retail sale of health related articles or products.

41. Mobile food services & other food services.

42. Printing and business support services.

43. Photocopying, document preparation & other specialised office support services.

44. Electrical, plumbing & other construction installation activities (Division 432).

45. Welding services.

46. Repair of footwear & clothing.

47. Metal waste or scraps.

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Green Spikes Challenges LVA's Tournament: League dispute unfolds



By Mamello Mochesane

Maseru- In a recent volley of words between Green Spikes Volleyball Club and Lesotho Volleyball Association (LVA), the spotlight has turned to the integrity of the 2024 League Games held in Roma. The Green Spikes Club has penned a letter of objection to the LVA, citing discrepancies in the invitation process and contesting the exclusion of their female squad from the tournament.

The letter, dated 9th March 2024, outlines the Green Spikes' concerns regarding the 2024 League Games. No-

tably, the team points out that despite their previous league performance, their female team was not invited to the tournament. They reference their 6th position in the 2022 league, emphasizing adherence to Congress resolutions dictating league format and participation criteria.

Additionally, Green Spikes call attention to the relegation and promotion process, asserting that these decisions are governed by LVA Congress resolutions and cannot be altered unilaterally. They demand that the tournament held in March 2024 be declared null and void until all

qualifying teams are properly invited, in accordance with established regulations.

In response to Green Spikes' objections, the President of LVA, Hlapané Tshehlo highlighted procedural errors in the team's approach, questioning the validity of their protest.

Tshehlo stressed the importance of proper communication channels, suggesting that grievances should be addressed through established forums rather than via direct letters. Furthermore, the president pointed out that Green Spikes had an opportunity to raise concerns before the

tournament commenced but failed to do so.

The president also addressed broader concerns about the league's organization, indicating that a virtual meeting would be convened with team representatives to clarify the tournament format and address future concerns.

Additionally, the president dismissed complaints from Mazenod Volleyball Club, citing procedural irregularities and lack of membership registration. He again portrayed that Mahlaseli Volleyball Club also wrote a letter of complaint to LVA, which he had already replied.



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Lesotho Tribune

By Litsitso Letsunyane

In a display of sheer talent and determination, some of Lesotho's finest athletes showcased their prowess on the international stage this weekend. Mokulubete Makatisi and Tumelo Makae, two of Lesotho National Olympic Committee's scholarship students, embarked on challenging competitions, leaving an indelible mark on their respective sports.

Mokulubete Makatisi, fresh from her recent triumph at the Two Oceans Half Marathon in Cape Town last weekend, where she clocked an impressive time of 1:13:52, has now set her sights on the Vienna City Marathon in Austria, that will take place today, April 21st. The marathon will be a grueling 42-kilometer test of endurance, but will also present Makatisi an opportunity to further solidify her credentials as a rising star in long-distance running. With the Paris 2024 Olympics looming on the horizon, Makatisi said she is aiming to meet the stringent Olympic qualifying time of 2:26:50. Her hopes are pinned on a fast-paced race in Vienna, where every stride counts towards her Olympic dream.

Meanwhile, Tumelo Makae, a devoted cyclist in Lesotho's cycling fraternity and a sev-

ARTS & SPORTS

Makatisi and Makae Display Exceptional Performances



Mokulubete Makatisi, athlete

en-time national champion, took to the rugged trails of Namibia for the Nedbank Namibia XC1 Mountain Bike Cross Country event on Saturday 20th April. Recognized by the International Cycling Union (UCI) as a class 1 event for ranking points, the competition offered Tumelo Makae a platform to assert his dominance in the sport of cycling. Tumelo Makae's participation not only adds to his illustrious career but also contributes to Lesotho's standing in the Olympic rankings. Currently sitting at 3rd place in Africa, behind powerhouses South Africa and Namibia, Lesotho's presence in international cycling events is steadily gaining recognition and respect.



Tumelo Makae, a cyclist