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MASERU, LESOTHO

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THARI

King Letsie III Breaks Tradition, Registers Company Behind Africa's First Just Energy Fund

By Staff Reporter

MASERU

His Majesty King Letsie III has registered a company to champion what could become Africa's first national Just Energy Transition (JET) programme. The HMKLIII Just Energy Transition Fund—established with the King's endorsement and direct involvement—seeks to transform Lesotho into the continent's first carbon-neutral country while laying the foundation for a new, sustainable economic model. The initiative, known as the HMKLIII JET Fund, is unlike any other in Lesotho's history. Spearheaded by the monarchy and backed by the country's highest political offices, the programme positions Lesotho at the forefront of renewable energy and climate-resilient development in Southern Africa.

“Opportunities to completely redirect a country's economic trajectory with a single, cohesive programme are rare,” notes a project brief. “We have such an opportunity with Lesotho's HMKLIII Renewable Energy Programme.



There is a narrow window of opportunity created by the South African power crisis. If we miss this chance, it is unlikely we will get a second one.”

A New National Pathway

The HMKLIII Fund is more than a green energy venture—it is a comprehensive national strategy designed to wean Lesotho off declining remittances from migrant mineworkers and reduce reliance on imported electricity from South Africa.

Its objectives include:

- Transitioning Lesotho to a 100% renewable energy economy by 2050
- Exporting clean electricity to South African mines and the Southern Afri-

can Power Pool

- Investing proceeds into social development and ecological rehabilitation, notably through the Renoka Programme

- Meeting and exceeding Lesotho's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement

The Fund is currently seeking catalytic funding to kickstart its initial projects. Early supporters will be offered convertible notes with potential for strong equity returns. Developers are invited to form equity-sharing partnerships, ensuring inclusive benefit from Lesotho's clean energy transition.

Governance at the Highest Level

The HMKLIII initiative

is governed by a board of seasoned professionals and global advisors, under the royal stewardship of His Majesty King Letsie III and Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi of the Royal Bafokeng Nation. The leadership structure is designed to ensure integrity, transparency, and international credibility.

Board of Directors:

- Independent Non-Executive Directors: TP Nchocho, Raphael Vermeir CBE, Usha Rao-Monari

- Executive Directors: Prof Michael Solomon, Stephen Phakisi

- Senior Advisors to the Board: Mark Cutifani CBE, Michael Murphy

This governance framework reflects a deliberate effort to blend local “ownership” with global standards.

Political and Diplomatic Support

The initiative enjoys cross-ministerial support within Lesotho's government, ensuring smooth integration across national development goals:

- The Hon. Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane, Prime Minister and Minister of Environment

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- The Hon. Dr. Retselisoaie Matlanyane, Minister of Finance
 - The Hon. Lejone Mpotjoane, Minister of Foreign Affairs
 - The Hon. Mhloni Moleko, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy
- International development partners are also backing the programme:**
- EU Ambassador Paola Amadei
 - UK High Commissioner Harry MacDonald
 - UN Resident Coordinator Amanda Khozi Mukwashi

A Strategic Alliance with the LHDA

One of the Fund's strongest assets is its partnership with the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), which oversees the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP). LHDA's expertise in dams, tunnels, and hydroelectric infrastructure will be central to the JET programme's successful rollout. The LHDA, which operates the hydro plants at Katse and Muela, will be responsible for developing the power generation and transmission infrastructure under the HMKLIII mandate.

Flagship Energy and Infrastructure Projects

The HMKLIII Fund has laid out a comprehensive pipeline of renewable energy and infra-

Officers	Persons with significant control
1 active person with significant control / 0 active statements	
Mohato Bereng Seeiso ACTIVE	
Correspondence address 2nd Floor College House, 17 King Edwards Road, Ruislip, United Kingdom, HA4 7AE	
Notified on 10 January 2025	
Date of birth July 1963	
Nationality Mosothe	
Country of residence Lesotho	
Nature of control Ownership of voting rights - 75% or more	
Right to appoint or remove directors	



structure developments:

- Maputsoe Solar Farm (100 MW): A plug-and-play project leveraging Lesotho's high solar irradiance, capable of feeding both domestic and future industrial energy needs.
- Floating Solar on Katse & Mohale Dams (650 MW): These installations will complement the proposed Kobong Pumped Storage Scheme, with interim use in the national grid or exports.
- Let-seng-la-Terai Wind Farm (1,000 MW): A long-term wind project situated in the highlands, expected to involve 150 turbines in mountainous terrain.
- Kobong Pumped Storage Scheme: Reassessed for feasibility under the new energy mix, this project aims to use renewables to power hydro-lifts, avoiding previous cost barriers tied to Eskom's pricing.
- Oxbow Hydropower Scheme (80 MW): Currently under

study by Artelia, this gravity dam and head-race tunnel setup offers peak power capabilities and will integrate into Phase II of LHWP.

- Katse Dam Data Centre (100 MW): Tapping into Lesotho's cool climate and abundant water, this high-capacity centre will link with South Africa's thriving data infrastructure, serving cloud and AI sectors with low latency.

Digital Backbone for a Greener Economy

Lesotho's ambitions include positioning itself as a regional digital hub, taking advantage of South Africa's advanced telecom infrastructure. With copper networks being phased out and fibre expanding rapidly, the conditions are right for high-speed data-driven economic growth.

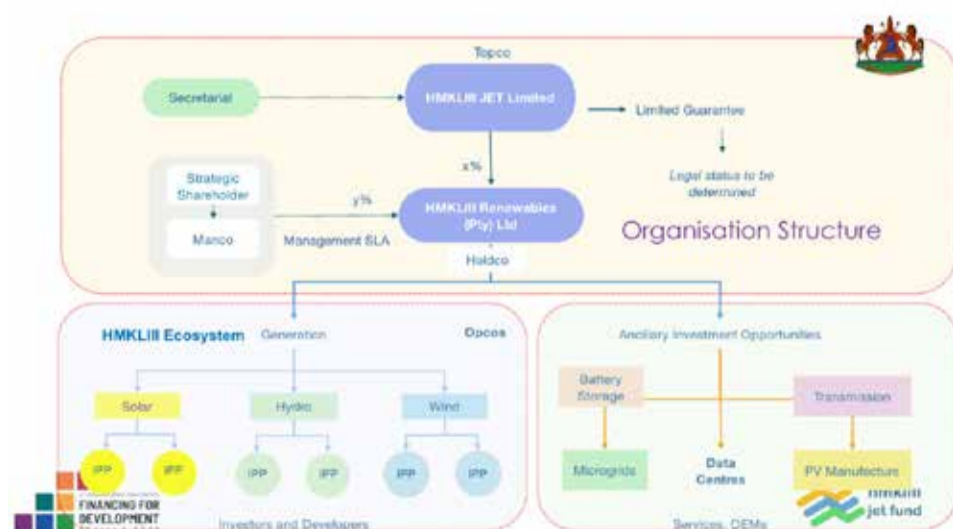
Government incentives aligned with the AfDB-funded e-Government strategy further support ICT expansion, while the proximity to Johannesburg's digital markets makes Lesotho an ideal base for cross-border data services.

Why It Matters Now

The HMKLIII JET Fund represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform Lesotho's economy, environment, and global relevance. By integrating clean energy generation, regional exports, digital infrastructure, and social reinvestment, the initiative presents a model of sustainable development grounded in national ownership.

That His Majesty King Letsie III would lend his name—and formal registration—to the initiative underscores its significance.

Far from being merely symbolic, the King's involvement signals that climate action and energy sovereignty are not abstract ideals, but national imperatives. Should the HMKLIII vision succeed, Lesotho will not only become the first country in Africa with a fully renewable energy sector, it will demonstrate that even small nations, with the right leadership and strategy, can become global pioneers in the fight against climate change.



Chief Justice Accuses Senior Judge of Misconduct in Explosive Leaked Letters

By: Staff Reporter

Maseru

The highest echelons of Lesotho's judiciary are engulfed in a scandal of epic proportions, as an explosive paper trail leaked to Lesotho Tribune reveals a deepening conflict between the Honourable Chief Justice S.P. Sakoane and Justice Maseforo Mahase, the country's most senior puisne judge.

The unprecedented correspondence lays bare startling allegations of judicial misconduct, miscommunication, and apparent procedural defiance at the Palace of Justice. What began as a procedural dispute has now escalated into a constitutional crisis, with the Chief Justice threatening to trigger Section 121(5) of the Constitution, potentially paving the way for a tribunal to investigate Justice Mahase's conduct. Chief Justice: "You have spurned justice and betrayed court procedure" In a letter dated 11 June 2025, Chief Justice Sakoane accuses Justice Mahase of improperly presiding over two urgent matters — CIV/APN/0086/25 and CIV/APN/0089/25 — without being officially allocated to do so. The Chief Justice states bluntly:

"You admitted that this was contrary to the Practice Direction No.2 of 2024 but could not say why you did this."

The correspondence goes further, citing corroborating reports from Assistant



Registrars Kholoane and Marketso, and Clerk Nkoho, that the files had been moved without proper authorization, allegedly at the instruction of Advocate Fusi Sehapi — a move that bypassed the Assistant Registrar responsible for allocations.

The Chief Justice did not mince words:

"I consider that you have deliberately conducted yourself in a manner unbecoming and subversive of the administration of justice."

Justice Mahase Hits Back: "I have been deceived"

In her written response dated 13 June 2025, Justice Mahase mounts a vigorous defense, denying all accusations of self-allocation and judicial insubordination. Instead, she blames miscommunication and outright deception by her staff and legal counsel. "I heard the matter CIV/APN/0086/25 because I was told you had instructed that I do so," she writes. Mahase insists she was "on call" during the week in question and acted on the good faith word of her Clerk and Counsel Sehapi, who allegedly told her the Chief Justice had directed the matters to be placed before her. Notably, she claims to have only read through one file — CIV/APN/0089/25 — and denies ever presiding over it.

On the matter of a matrimonial case, CIV/T/376/2021, which the Chief Justice says she refused to hear, Mahase explains she merely sought clarification:

"I asked both Assistant Registrar Maiketso and my Clerk to seek guidance from the Registrar. The Practice Directive is silent on urgent interlocutory applications."

She further pleads for professional grace as she nears the end of her career:

"I am a very short way to retirement. Please allow me, Honourable Chief Justice, the time to serve this nation diligently with sincerity and dedication." Chief Justice Fires Back Again: "You are not on call. You were never on call."

In a damning final salvo dated 17 June 2025, Chief Justice Sakoane categorically rejects Mahase's version of events. He accuses her of relying on "hearsay from your Clerk" and ignoring clear court procedures.

"You were not on call in the first place. All Judges and lawyers know the Urgent Court is presided over by the Chief Justice unless advised otherwise."

He further criticizes Mahase for seeking guidance from clerical staff on legal matters already assigned to her:

"Since when do Judges seek clarification from administrative staff on the propriety of dealing with matters they are seized with?"

Perhaps most alarming is his final warning:

"Your response is not persuasive. What remains for me is to refer the matter for deeper enquiry by an independent body in terms

of Section 121(5) of the Constitution."

This section allows for the establishment of a tribunal to investigate a judge's conduct and could potentially result in removal from office.

What This Means for the Judiciary

Judicial insiders speaking to Lesotho Tribune on condition of anonymity describe the fallout as "the worst institutional rupture in a generation." They warn that it risks undermining public confidence in the impartiality and integrity of the courts, especially with sensitive cases — including high-stakes matrimonial disputes and politically volatile matters — pending judgment. One senior advocate noted:

"It is not merely about who heard what case. This is about whether there is a rule of law at all — or just rules that change based on whispers in court corridors."

As the country awaits clarity, the larger question looms: Has Lesotho's judiciary reached a breaking point?

What's Next

With the Chief Justice poised to escalate the matter constitutionally, all eyes are now on the Judicial Service Commission and potential tribunal processes. Legal analysts suggest that unless resolved swiftly and transparently, this dispute could set a troubling precedent — and drag the courts into the very political controversies they are meant to rise above.

For now, the nation watches with unease as two titans of the judiciary battle it out in a saga that is equal parts procedural and profoundly personal.



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Lesotho Tribune

By: ELEANOR BECKER

From the 2025 tax year, the South African Revenue Service (Sars) is tightening its net around tax residency – particularly for South African expats.

In an update at the end of June, the authority said SA tax-resident and non-resident taxpayers would receive updated ITR12 and IRP6 tax-return types based on their registration status. The ITR12 return displays separate sections for residents and non-residents, and will show if a taxpayer ceased to be a resident, according to Sars. Taxpayers can customise their return according to the SA-sourced income they received.

‘The system will programmatically finalise the return and not route it to manual intervention,’ Sars added. Similarly, the IRP6 presents SA tax residents and non-residents with applicable resident or non-resident returns. Taxpayers who ceased SA tax residency during the year of assessment will get both the resident and non-resident ITR12 questionnaire, and both a resident and

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Sars tightens its net - this time around SA emigrants

Clarity, formality and accuracy are non-negotiables when ceasing tax residency, according to Tax Consulting South Africa.



non-resident return. The ITR12 and IRP6 forms allow these expats to indicate income received or accrued and their deductible expenses incurred during the year of assessment, said Sars.

‘The date that the taxpayer ceased to be resident as approved through the RAV01 process will prepopulate on the return,’ according to a note by Tax Consulting South Africa’s legal manager for cross-border taxation, Delano Abdoll, and expatriate tax attorney Mornay Bornman on Wednesday. Taxpayers inform the revenue service that they’ve ceased to be SA tax residents through the registration, amendments and verification (RAV01) form on eFiling - including the official date they ceased tax residency.

Down to the letter

Another significant change as of 30 June 2025 is that Sars’ Notice of Non-Resident Tax Status confirmation letter now clearly states the qualifying basis under which someone ceased residency.

This would be either through the ordinary res-

ident test or a double tax agreement (DTA). Temporary non-residents living and working abroad for shorter periods of time can use DTAs between SA and their host country to temporarily cease tax residency. The letter confirms that Sars’ eFiling records show an individual has updated their tax residency status from a normal to a non-resident taxpayer.

Previously, the effective date of cessation was the main focus in the letter, according to Abdoll and Bornman. They added that by recording the basis of cessation, Sars has improved its ability to track the legal justification behind a taxpayer’s exit from the tax net.

‘This is no minor administrative update. It signals a more transparent, and potentially more enforceable approach by Sars in monitoring tax residency and future tax compliance,’ they emphasised.

‘The qualifying basis of being recorded as a “non-resident” taxpayer in South Africa has a direct bearing on how foreign-sourced income is to be declared in one’s future tax filing obligations.’

They explained that South Africans who followed the formal financial emigration process through Sars don’t have to motivate their non-resident status to Sars annually. They only have to declare SA-sourced income for tax purposes, not foreign-sourced income.

However, non-residents using DTAs to temporarily cease tax residency must motivate to Sars every tax year why they’re eligible to claim DTA relief as a non-resident.

They must declare all local and foreign-sourced income to Sars, even though the DTA ensures their foreign-sourced income is non-taxable, according to Abdoll and Bornman.

New tracking powers

Sars has also enhanced its record-keeping of taxpayers’ tax residency status, allowing it to monitor re-entry into SA by taxpayers who previously ceased tax residency.

‘The new verification step appears to be for purposes of recording the taxpayer’s future tax-filing position with the reinstated date on the Reinstatement Date of RSA Tax Residency line item on the RAV01-form,’ said Abdoll and Bornman. ‘Previously, Sars’ verification process was limited to when taxpayers ceased to be South African tax residents only. The life cycle of one’s non-residency status now has a definitive start and end date.’

‘Choosing wisely how expatriates go about requesting their non-resident status from Sars is now more important than ever,’ they noted, adding that taxpayers’ relevant supporting documents may remain on Sars’ records long after their Notice of Non-Resident Tax Status confirmation letter was issued.

200+ Inmates to be released on parole

By: Tholoana Lesenya

MASERU

At least 240 inmates will be released on parole in celebration of King's birthday.

This was publicized by the Minister of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation, Nthathi Moorosi when unpacking Cabinet decisions on along the week. Moorosi said the decision was reached upon realization that it has been a while since inmates were released on pardon or parole.

She added that as part of the celebration, the King will present awards to some members of security agencies and civilians for outstanding service. In another issue, Hon. Moorosi said the Department of Home Affairs has extended working hours for issuance of identity cards, birth and death certificates.

"Offices open at 7:00 am during the week and at 08:00 am to 16:00 pm on weekends only at offices based at Maseru Mall," she said. In the mean-



time, Moorosi said the Cabinet has advised itself to inform the nation about issues it discussed weekly on Wednesday. This year's King's birthday will be celebrated in Berea on the 17th day of July. Ex-inmates association has applauded the government for finally releasing 240 inmates on

parole in celebration of King's birthday. Crime Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Ex- Offenders Association (CRROA) Executive Director, Nkalimeng Mothobi had stated that it has been years since mass of inmates were released in this manner, appealing to such in-

mates to live pleasantly with the public as their release indicates that they have been rehabilitated. "We also advise the public not to discriminate these ex-offenders while the association supports them and will ensure that they reunite with the public," he specified.

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Mahao's nephew says his uncle was shot without warning



By: Tholoana Lesenya

MASERU-

The 37th witness in the murder trial of Maaparankoe Mahao, Mahao Leuta Mahao who is the deceased nephew has told the court this week that his uncle was shot without any warning on the 25th day of June 2015.

He indicated that gunshots were fired at a truck in which he was travelling in with his cousin Mabilikoe Leuta Mahao and the deceased. Mahao showed that this was after a white double cab had overtaken their truck,

entered their lane and suddenly stopped in front of their truck, forcing his uncle to make a violent stop as he was driving the truck.

The witness gave evidence that three men came out of the other vehicle and turned their rifles on them. He said while he and his cousin raised their hands, the deceased kept both his hands on the steering wheel. He added that then another vehicle arrived and stopped on the side of the deceased and gunshots were fired with rapid succession.

Mahao informed the

court that the deceased tried to crawl out of the truck while he and his cousin were already out. He indicated that the head of the deceased popped out of the truck, then he lost strength and became motionless. He stated that the deceased fell on the ground with his face down.

Advocate Kabelo Letuka, one of the defence lawyers in this trial, has told the court that an unfortunate event in which Maaparankoe lost his life was taken advantage of. He said this during cross-examination of Mahao's nephew.

Adv. Letuka indicated that the prosecution has handled the case in an unfortunate manner. He added that some people took advantage of the incident in which a person lost his life. He pointed out that there is a different charge in the indictment which states that the accused contravened section 31 (1) of the Penal Code Act which relates to aggravated assault. He said it is alleged that they fired rifles inside a vehicle in which the witness was a passenger and resulted in him sustaining injuries on his face.



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Lesotho Tribune

By: Staff Reporter

Vodacom Lesotho is quietly but firmly repositioning itself as one of the country's most ESG-conscious corporations—backing that stance with investments in renewable energy, digital inclusion, and ethical governance.

Environmental Commitments: Real Shifts, Not Green Talk

Vodacom Lesotho has gone beyond token gestures. Its Maseru headquarters now runs entirely on solar energy, setting a national benchmark for green infrastructure. Over 100 of its 410 cell towers have also been converted to solar power, reducing diesel dependence while improving network reach in rural areas.

The company has re-

tained its ISO 50001 Energy Management certification and has planted more than 20,000 trees across several districts to combat soil erosion and restore degraded land. These aren't pledges, they're measurable actions.

Social Investment: M120 Million for Inclusive Growth

Through the Vodacom Lesotho Foundation, the company has injected over M150 million into community development since 2009, with another M120 million committed

for the next five years. Its flagship "m-mama" project uses mobile connectivity to deliver emergency maternal transport in remote areas, a practical innovation with life-saving outcomes.

On the education front, Vodacom has rolled out digital learning labs and coding programs like "Code Like a Girl" to bridge the tech gender gap. These efforts target both urban and rural schools, ensuring no region is left behind.

Governance: Ethics Over Optics



Vodacom Lesotho hasn't shied away from tough conversations on corruption. In April 2025, the company hosted a high-level national forum on ethical business conduct and compliance, drawing government, private sector, and civil society players into one room.

It enforces a zero-tolerance anti-bribery policy and requires mandatory training on corporate integrity across its operations. It's not just ticking boxes, it's drawing a line in the sand.

Looking Ahead

In a country where ESG often remains a footnote, Vodacom Lesotho is rewriting the script. Its investments are structured, its reporting is visible, and its impact is trackable. Whether it's reducing carbon emissions or enabling digital access for underserved communities, the company is placing long-term sustainability at the centre of its commercial strategy. Lesotho's ESG narrative might still be in its early chapters, but with Vodacom Lesotho leading by example, the story is getting stronger.

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Lesotho Tribune

By: Editorial

The Kingdom of Lesotho celebrated its Bicentennial as a Nation in 2024. Over a large part of this period. However, despite this significant milestone, we are still classified by the United Nations as one of the world's Least Developed Countries. We Basotho are a proud nation and are sufficiently realistic to accept that only we can remedy this undignified status. We also know that we cannot do this without help. This does not mean the charity of development aid, but dignified, substantive and competitive investment.

Lesotho's stock in trade is a high-quality suite of renewable energy resources and a plentiful supply of the purest mountain water. In a world dominated by fossil-fuel energy, climate change is out of control, progressive drought is rampant and uncontaminated water is a rarity. We are poised to establish a substantial, sustainable renewable energy and water economy. Our priority is to satisfy the deficit in our domestic energy demand and then to harness this potential by exporting clean energy and

EDITORIAL

Empowering Lesotho Unlocking Finance to Drive the Energy Transition in a Land- Locked Developing Country”



higher quality water supply to the region. In doing so we will also be meeting our commitments to the Paris Accord, and will conceivably become the first country in Africa to be a fully carbon neutral electricity generator.

We need investment in our renewable energy and water sectors, not charity. We are also humble enough to recognise that we cannot develop our renewable energy sector without investment, financial and technical sup-

port as well as institutional capacity if we are able to achieve our ambitions. I thank you on behalf of the people of Lesotho. His Majesty King Letsie III

Continues in page 24

Army Commander testifies in Mahao's murder trial

By: Tholoana Lesenya

MASERU

The current Commander of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Lieutenant General (Lt. Gen) Mojalefa Letsoela has taken a stand this week in a case in which nine army members are charged with the murder of Maaparankoe Mahao. The Army Commander becomes the 38th witness in this case after the nephew of the deceased, Mahao Leuta Mahao completed his testimony.

In his testimony, he stated that in 2015 there were assertions of mutiny within the LDF as per intelligence. He pointed out that an order was issued to suppress the mutiny, following constitution of a Court martial. Lt Gen Letsoela has evidence that on the 14th day of May 2015, three investigation teams were organized on an operation to suppress the mutiny in order to facilitate appearance before the Court martial. Moreover, He told the High Court that an operation order issued in 2015 for the arrest of mutiny suspects is unacceptable. Lt Gen Letsoela stated that the document dated the 13th day of May 2015 has some shortfalls.



Lt. Gen Letsoela highlighted that it does not meet the terms of the LDF Military Service Writing Conventions. He stated that wording and jargon used make it impossible for him to know who the author of the document is. He added that there seems to be a duplication of level of authority. The witness showed that his observation as per the operation order, is that the operators were given limits to use minimum forces whenever necessary. He added that use of firearms was only restricted as a last resort. He added that there were measures of safety for all operators for their own safety and minimization of risk. Lt Gen Letsoela also pointed out that there were cautions of life casualties with the ultimate aim to arrest. He however told the court that he fails to

understand what happened at the scene. Lt Gen Letsoela stated that he does not understand who called for firing of three shots under the conditions of a controlled operation.

The cross examination of Lt Gen Letsoela has failed to continue as it was scheduled on Friday this week. The trial could not go ahead as one of the defence lawyers Advocate Silas Ratau was not present and there was no one standing-in for him. The Court was informed that he had earlier said he has a funeral to attend but has not made any communication to any of his colleagues to stand-in for him, hence leaving his clients unrepresented.

The accused who are represented by Adv. Ratau, Litekanyo Nyakane and Haleokoe Makara, each told the

court that they are not aware of the whereabouts of their legal representative. They indicated that it will not be in their best interest that the case proceeds in his absence.

The duo told the court that issues that are being discussed are intricate and they rely on him to explain to them, therefore he has to be present. They therefore requested that the case be postponed.

Lead Prosecutor in this matter Advocate Rethabile Setlojoane indicated that he agrees with the accused that issues being discussed are complex therefore it is fair that each party is represented. He indicated that will help avoid loopholes in the future. He therefore agreed to the postponement. The matter was accordingly postponed to the 28th day of July this year.



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Lesotho Tribune

By Malefo Thinyane

As winter deepens across Lesotho, vegetable prices continue to climb, straining household budgets and challenging local retailers. The combination of cold weather, limited local production, and rising import costs is driving up prices for key staples, with tomatoes and green peppers remaining particularly scarce and expensive. What's Driving the Price Increases?

- **Reduced Local Supply:** Cold temperatures have curtailed local vegetable production, increasing reliance on imports.
- **Inflationary Pressures:** Overall inflation remains elevated, with food prices being a significant contributor.
- **Rising Import Costs:** Increased transportation expenses and currency fluctuations are adding to the cost of imported vegetables.

FARMERS CORNER

Vegetable Prices Surge Amid Persistent Winter Chill



Lesotho: Price Changes in the Past Two Weeks

Vegetable	Price (per kg)	Change (%)
Tomatoes	M20.00	+8%
Green Peppers	M18.50	+10%
Potatoes	M6.50	+5%
Onions	M7.00	+6%
Cabbage	M4.00	-5%

Source: Lesotho Tribune, local market checks, Author estimates

South African Market Prices

Prices across the border remain more stable, but exchange rates still matter:

- Cabbage: R3.00/kg (down 5%)
- Potatoes: R50.73/10kg (down 5%)
- Onions: R65.00/10kg (up 6%)

Tomatoes: R14.00/kg (up 10%)

Source: Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market

What This Means

- Limited Local Production: Cold weather restricts what farmers can grow, leading to decreased local supply.
- Higher Import Costs: Imported vegetables are more expensive due to rising transport costs and currency fluctuations.

Challenges: Less rain and extreme weather conditions are making farming more difficult.

Inflation Impact: Rising food prices are contributing to overall inflation, affecting the cost of living.

What You Can Do

For Farmers:

- Focus on cold-resistant crops like

cabbage, carrots, spinach, and beetroot.

- Consider season extension techniques such as tunnels or greenhouses to prolong growing periods.

For Retailers:

- Source stock from South Africa when local supplies are low.

- Plan ahead for high-demand items like tomatoes and peppers, which are expected to remain expensive.

For Shoppers:

- Opt for more affordable vegetables currently in season, such as cabbage, spinach, and beetroot.

- Be prepared for continued price increases on tomatoes, green peppers, and carrots in the near term.

Looking Ahead: Mid-July Forecast

- Tomatoes may rise by another 8–12% if import levels remain low.

- Green Peppers could increase by a further 10%.

- Potatoes and Onions might stabilize or fall slightly if more stock arrives from South Africa. The next Market Report will be released on 18 July 2025.

RSL Launches New Trade Rule to Empower Basotho Agents

By: Malefo Thinyane

Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) started a new process on 1 July 2025 that could change the way foreign businesses operate in Lesotho. It's called the Agents of Foreign Firms (AFF) declaration, and it's been developed with help from the Agents of Foreign Firms Association of Lesotho (AFFAL). The goal is to make sure trade is more transparent, taxes are paid properly, and Basotho benefit more from cross-border deals. For a long time, some foreign companies have worked through informal agents. This often meant they didn't pay the right taxes, moved money out of the country without being noticed, and treated workers unfairly. Now, with this new system in place, that kind of behaviour will be harder to get away with.

The new AFF declaration is built into systems that RSL already uses to manage trade and taxes, like ASYCUDA World and the Public Sector Revenue Management System. This means RSL can now track things more closely, making sure both the government and local workers get a fair deal.

What's different about



this system is that it gives Basotho agents the legal right to represent foreign companies. Only licensed, local agents will be allowed to submit customs documents and handle trade on behalf of foreign businesses. That way, Basotho won't just be left out of deals that happen in their own country, they'll be right in the middle of them.

This rule is backed by Code 8294 from the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Business Development. It's not just about paperwork...it's about giving locals more

control in the economy. If a foreign company wants to do business in Lesotho, they'll have to work through someone who's been approved and licensed right here. RSL has put systems in place to make sure the rule is followed. If someone isn't registered, they won't be allowed to submit customs declarations. That means less tax dodging and fewer loopholes. And with Lesotho taking this kind of step, the country is showing real leadership in how trade should be handled in the region. This change isn't just

about rules, it's about fairness. It's about making sure money made in Lesotho benefits the people who live here. It's about protecting jobs, collecting the taxes that fund public services, and giving Basotho a bigger role in international trade. A Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2024 between RSL and AFFAL makes this partnership official.

With this move, Lesotho is making trade work better for everyone, not just big foreign companies, but local people too.



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16

Lesotho Tribune

By Hlalele 'Neko

Eleven people are dead. They burned in a car crash in Kolonyama, Leribe. It's hard to wrap your head around that—burned alive, on a public road, in a country with police stations and government departments and ministers.

Apparently, the crash involved three vehicles: a Sprinter minibus, a VW Polo, and a Corolla. The Sprinter was carrying young people headed to church in Maseru. That part sticks with me. They were going to church. Not that it makes the loss more tragic than any other, but still—something about the simplicity of that journey makes it hit harder.

Reports say nine people in the Sprinter burned to death. Two others from the Polo died on the spot. It happened at Ha Molipa, around 10 in the morning. A known black spot. Local people say it's a place where accidents happen all the time.

So... if it's so well-known, why does it keep happening?

The MP for the area, Lempe Mahlathini, said he's been asking for speed humps.

OPINION

What happened in Kolonyama shouldn't have happened



He even asked for pastors to come pray over the area. And I suppose that's... I don't know, kind? But is prayer really the answer when lives are being lost because of road design and poor enforcement?

I mean, think about it. What would've changed if speed humps had been installed two months ago? Would those eleven people still be alive? I can't say for sure. No one can. But they'd have had a better chance, right?

And the response—this part gets under my skin. Witnesses say emergency services didn't arrive in time. Firefighters? Nowhere. Ambulances? Delayed. The victims were just... left. People watched. I don't blame the bystanders. What could they do? It's the system that failed. We don't talk about fire

response enough. It's not something that comes up unless there's a disaster. But this—this is exactly why it matters. There's no reason people should die in a burning car because no one had a fire extinguisher. Or training. Or a working system to call for help.

And the scary part? This isn't new. Lesotho's emergency systems have been broken for years. Some towns don't even have fire trucks. Others have trucks that work but no fuel. Or no staff. Or both. And if you live far from a district capital? You're basically on your own.

There's something else too, and maybe this is just me, but I've noticed we tend to move on quickly. It'll trend on Facebook for a day. There'll be calls for action. A press release, maybe. Then we'll wait for the

next crisis.

But shouldn't this be the moment we stop doing that?

Speed humps won't fix everything. Better signage, stronger policing, public awareness—all of it matters. But even those things won't bring back the people who died.

So what do we do with that? I guess I'm writing this because I don't want to forget. And maybe you don't either. Maybe next time you drive past that stretch of road, you'll slow down. Not because it's the law. But because you remember what happened.

And if you're someone who works in government, or planning, or law enforcement, maybe you can do something about it.

Or maybe you won't. That's the part I'm still unsure about.



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Lesotho Tribune

By NUL Innovation Hub

A Nutrition student at the National University of Lesotho (NUL), Retšepile Thekiso, says the peels of onion, lemon, and ginger—the parts we usually throw away—can be used for more than just compost! “These peels are packed with beneficial compounds. Instead of discarding them as waste, I used them to create a tea that help manage weight and improve health,” she said.

She calls her creation Morali Extract Tea, a natural, health-promoting herbal infusion made by drying and blending onion, lemon, and ginger—including their peels!

Retšepile developed this idea to address two serious problems in Lesotho: the growing burden of obesity and lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and cancer—and the food waste crisis.

“People are throwing away the most valuable parts of these ingredients,” she said.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NUL STUDENT TURNS KITCHEN WASTE INTO A HEALTHY TEA!



“The peels have powerful natural compounds that fight disease, boost metabolism, and help regulate weight—but most people don’t know this.”

And so the idea of Morali Extract Tea was born. Here’s how it happens. First, Retšepile carefully collects fresh onion, lemon, and ginger—including their peels. She washes them thoroughly to remove dirt and harmful residues. Then she dries them at 105°C to lock in the nutrients. After drying, she crushes them into a fine powder, ready to be brewed into tea.

And this is not just ordinary tea.

The peels contain bioactive compounds rarely found in such high concentration in the edible parts of these plants.

Onion peels, for example, are rich in quercetin and kaempferol—substances that reduce inflammation, fight harmful free radicals in the body, improve blood sugar levels, and help burn fat.

Lemon peels are packed with hesperidin and d-limonene. These help lower blood pressure, improve cholesterol, support the immune system, and may even reduce appetite.

And ginger peels contain compounds called gingerols and shogaols—which are famous for fighting inflammation, improving digestion, and stimulating the body’s natural fat-burning process (thermogenesis). Retšepile said, “When you combine these ingredients, you get a tea that doesn’t just taste good—it supports your body’s metabolism, helps control weight, and reduces the risk of serious diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure. And you’re using parts of food that are usually wasted!”

“It’s about the circular economy,” she said. “Instead of throwing away useful food parts, we give them a second life as a health product. This reduces waste and creates business opportunities.”

And what about taste? Retšepile said that early tasters of the tea liked its fresh, herbal aroma and

mild, slightly spicy flavour. “The combination of lemon and ginger gives it a nice warmth,” she added.

“And the onion taste is subtle—not overpowering.” But there are some challenges she overcame.

For example, drying the peels must be done carefully to preserve the nutrients. If they are overheated, the valuable bioactive compounds could be destroyed. Retšepile worked hard to find the right drying temperature and time to keep the good stuff intact.

Another challenge is ensuring a consistent taste and quality—because the strength of these natural ingredients can vary depending on where and when they are grown.

Because this tea focuses on boosting metabolism rather than forcing quick weight loss, it avoids the risks of some commercial weight-loss products. Many slimming teas rely on laxatives or harsh stimulants.

Morali Extract Tea gently supports the body’s natural processes—making weight management healthier and more sustainable.



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Lesotho Tribune

By Staff Reporter

The dismissal of Nhlamulo Ndhlela as the deputy chief whip of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MKP) has not caused the party to disintegrate, according to deputy president John Hlophe. Hlophe, the MKP's parliamentary leader, said that redeployment occurs for strategic reasons rather than out of personal preference.

"I see no reason why the redeployment, the fact that Nhlamulo Ndhlela is no longer a whip, should be in the headlines," Hlophe said. "It doesn't indicate that the party is falling apart. We have been here. I have been here in parliament leading this caucus for over a year now, and the party is not falling apart."

Mngxitama rejoins whippery team

He clarified that it was somewhat difficult to inform Ndhlela that his position as deputy whip

AFRICA

'Nhlamulo Ndhlela wanted Jacob Zuma to sanction his sacking, I refused'



had been terminated because he said he had not received the letter of termination.

Despite being handed the letter, Ndhlela attended a whippery meeting and was informed that he would receive it following the meeting. After receiving the letter, Ndhlela contended that Jacob Zuma, the party president, ought to approve his dismissal, according to Hlophe.

"I am a deputy president, and the president made it very clear that I must not be a crybaby on issues relating to parliament.

"If there are any changes of a structural nature, changes that are necessitated because we want to make ourselves effec-

tive, I have a say in that regard, subject to conferring with him where necessary," he said.

He also announced the return of Andile Mngxitama to the whippery team.

Makhubele remains chief whip

He also disputed and dismissed claims that the caucus wanted to remove Colleen Makhubele from the position of chief whip, highlighting that Makhubele, who has been serving for a month, has been doing well.

"If any complaint is made against any staff member or any MP, it is brought to me because I am ultimately responsible.

"There is no letter; there

is no petition in terms of which MPs are calling for the head of the chief whip.

"This is a figment of someone's imagination, quite frankly. I would have been the first person to receive that petition.

"Obviously, if the petition is against me, I would not expect the MPs to give it to me; they would probably give it to the chief whip, who would in turn forward it to the president sitting in Nkandla comfortably," Hlophe said.

Zuma did not receive any complaints about Makhubele so far, and this meant she remained in position until, according to Hlophe, she was recalled strategically.

Dr Lipholo Arrested for Demanding Return of Lesotho's Stolen Land

By: Staff Reporter

Dr. Tšepo Lipholo, leader of the Basotho Covenant Movement (BCM) and Member of Parliament, is facing charges of incitement, provocation of peace, and contempt for allegedly making inflammatory remarks about Lesotho's Royal Family. According to the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), Dr. Lipholo is accused of disrespecting the monarchy on various public platforms. He was arrested on

Weds by heavily armed Lesotho Defense Force and Lesotho Mounted Police Service officers surrounded his home before making the arrest, confiscated computers and other equipment.

The charges come amid Dr. Lipholo's controversial campaign to reclaim territories he asserts were historically part of Lesotho but are now within South Africa. Earlier this year, he submitted a petition to the United Nations seeking the return of the Free State province and parts of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape .

This move has drawn criticism from both Lesotho's government and international observers, with some labeling his actions as "constitutional delinquency" .

Further controversy surrounds allegations that Israeli-linked operatives are funding Dr. Lipholo's land reclamation efforts. While these claims have not been independently verified, they have raised concerns about the role of Israel in Lesotho's domestic affairs.

In addition, a voice note circulating on social media pur-

portedly features Dr. Lipholo encouraging young men to prepare for military training. The authenticity of the recording remains unconfirmed, but it has intensified scrutiny of his activities.

Dr. Lipholo's wife, 'Mathapelo Lipholo, had earlier this year filed a High Court application seeking to prevent his arrest, arguing that he is being targeted for his political beliefs and advocacy. She has also requested protection from the United Nations Security Council, citing concerns for his safety .



Conflict of Interest Clouds LAM as Kondic Joins Air Botswana Board

In Mozambique, LAM demands exclusivity, but Kondic has accepted a position at Air Botswana. Is this a strategic mistake or a backroom deal? "It's a blatant conflict of interest," an aviation expert tells DW.



By Deutsche Welle

Another scandal is stirring the Mozambican airline: the new manager of LAM (Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique) has also taken on the role of chairman of the board of directors of Air Botswana airline, albeit in a non-executive position. In Mozambique, the case raises few doubts: it's a serious conflict of interest.

LAM was forced – after the news was published by Air Botswana and widely commented on social media – to issue a statement in which, among other points, it stressed that Dane Kondic should work for the company on an “exclusive basis”.

One question arises: shouldn't this point have been duly safeguarded in an employment contract with an experienced and reputable company?

Aviation expert Alves Gomes believes so and suspects that amateurism prevailed in this agreement. Gomes, who points out other strange aspects in this connection, also raises the possibility that Kondic already has one foot outside LAM.

DW Africa: Does this imbroglio at LAM involving Dane Kondic reveal a conflict of interests?

Alves Gomes (AG): It is clear that this is a conflict of interests.

In other words, a person cannot be working for one company in Maputo and another similar one in Botswana, unless the two companies have an alliance or partnership, which is not the case. So, it is a clear case of conflict of interest.

DW Africa: In its statement, LAM reaffirmed that Kondic must be with the company on an exclusive basis. Doesn't it seem strange to you that such an important aspect as this was not taken into account by LAM?

AG: I find it very strange. This reminds me – although it is not the case – of a couple in which one of the spouses finds the other in bed with a lover.

In that case, there is still the possibility of reconciliation, but at a business level that is not possible. And I find it strange that, even after confirming the acceptance of Mr Kondic to the Board of Directors of Air Botswana, LAM is still trying to recon-

cile his exclusive role. This means that this had not been taken into account.

When you sign a contract, you need to define the conditions very clearly. The LAM statement indicates that this condition was not met.

DW Africa: So are we talking about some kind of amateurism or some unclear intention?

AG: I am more inclined to the first hypothesis: amateurism. I cannot see a businessman hiring a manager without clearly defining his conditions, and then that same manager feeling free to take on another position in another country, especially in a potentially competing company.

So there is something here that is not very well explained. On the one hand, it is very strange that Mr Kondic feels so free to take on a position in another country, while he had already taken on – or not – functions at LAM. This is what remains to be clarified: what his actual responsibility was to LAM.

DW Africa: Given that the Botswana company is a potential competitor of LAM, what would the issue of confidentiality be like, for example, with Kondic in important positions in both companies?

AG: It is clear that this is a huge conflict – it is antagonistic – even if Air Botswana, which is the case, were not a direct competitor of LAM. Air Botswana could only compete with LAM on flights to Johannesburg, where LAM also operates. This is not the case. But it does mean that Mr Kondic,

even in a non-executive position at Air Botswana, has access to information from both sides, with which he can play and favour one side or the other. Therefore, there is a clear conflict of interests here.

From a business perspective, this is clearly unacceptable, at least within what I understand as a board member's role. I'm not even considering being chairman of the board or managing director; just being a board member is enough to create a conflict of interest.

DW Africa: And whose responsibility would this conflict of interest be? Kondic's or LAM's?

AG: That's what's not clear. In other words, for Mr Kondic to have decided to take on this other portfolio in Botswana, it's because he feels comfortable within what he agreed with LAM. Either he feels comfortable doing it, or there's something wrong with it.

Either he feels comfortable doing so, or there is something that has not yet been explained – perhaps he has no contractual obligation to LAM.

In fact, one is left wondering, when reading the statement from the board – also non-executive – of LAM, that because the three directors of the companies are financing LAM's recovery, none of them is an executive, they have taken the position of trying to renegotiate what Mr. Kondic's role would be within LAM.

DW Africa: Given this imbroglio, do you think Kondic has already left LAM?

AG: I think so.

Source: Deutsche Welle



23

Lesotho Tribune

By Litšitso Letsunyane

Lesotho's own Kamohelo Mofolo is fast becoming a name to watch in international road running. The 19-year-old has just been ranked 130th in the world for men's road running by World Athletics, climbing nearly 90 places from his previous global standing.

Mofolo's rise is no fluke. In 2025 alone, he has posted personal bests of 27:53 in the 10km and 1:00:52 in the half marathon—times that would earn respect even among seasoned elites. Earlier this year, he claimed victory at the Absa RUN YOUR CITY TSHWANE 10K, clocking 28:40 on the

ARTS & SPORTS

Kamohelo Mofolo Cracks Top 130 in the World



streets of the South African capital. What makes Mofolo's story even more remarkable is that much of his early training was self-directed. "It's a God-given talent," he told *The Top Runner*, explaining how he coached himself through tough races and training blocks without formal support. That grit and drive have

since caught the eye of international coaches, including James McKirdy from the United States, who now helps guide his training. Born on November 1, 2005, Mofolo is still in the early stages of what promises to be a long and successful career. His recent performances suggest he's not just a rising star from Lesotho—he's a seri-

ous competitor on the world stage.

"I want to compete overseas and represent my country with pride," Mofolo said in an earlier interview. Judging by the numbers, he's well on his way.

With his rapid progress, discipline, and determination, Kamohelo Mofolo is not just climbing the global rankings—he's sprinting up them.

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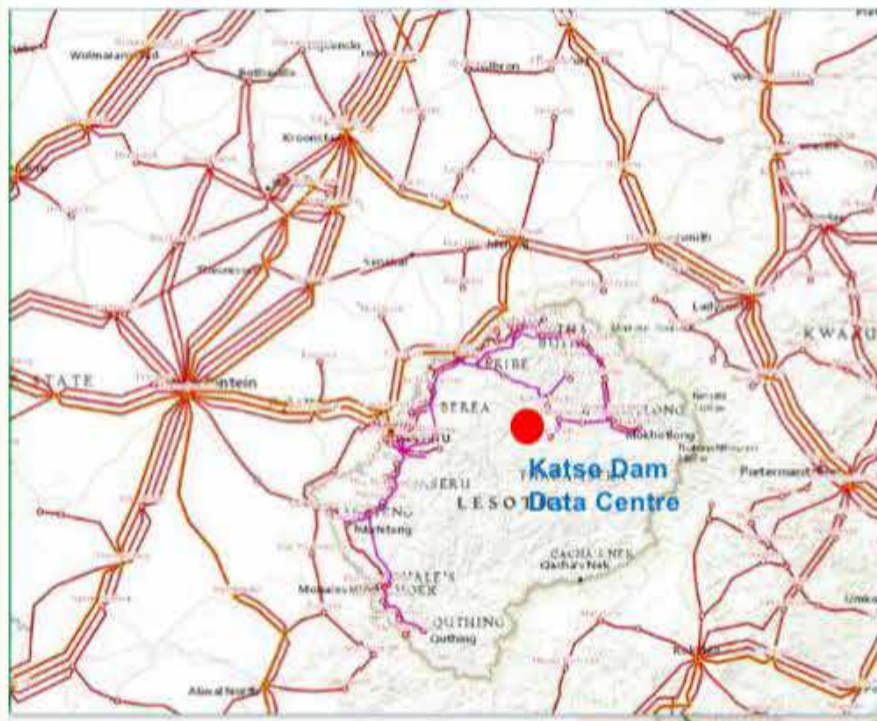
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- Contribute to substantive climate change mitigation through sustainable support for programmes protecting the Maluti wetland's and rangelands; and
- Improve access to low-cost clean energy for all Lesotho citizens, including those have no access to grid electricity; and
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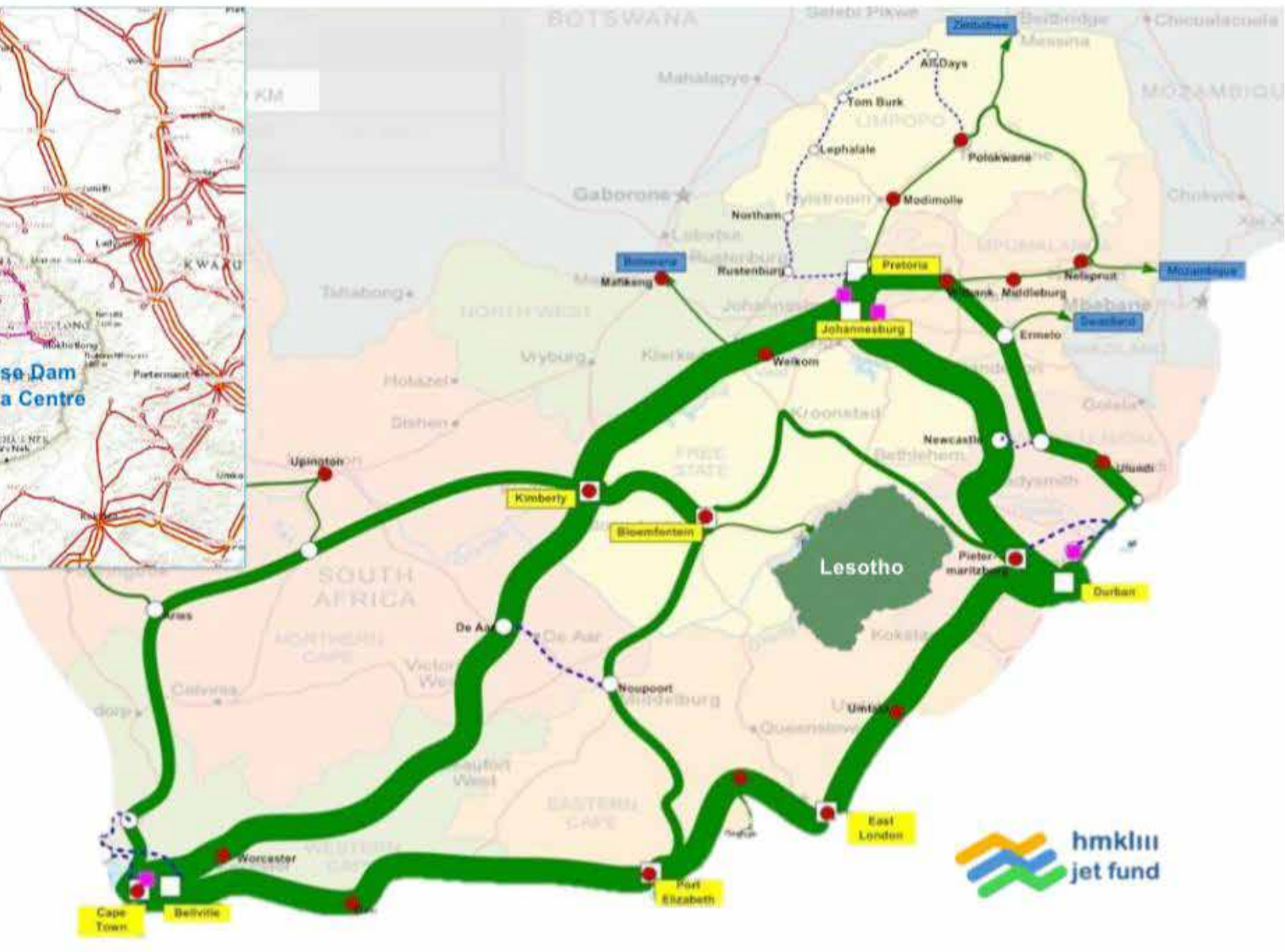


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Lesotho's Proximity to South Africa's Broadband Fibre Network



Eskom's Primary Transmission Corridors skirt Lesotho

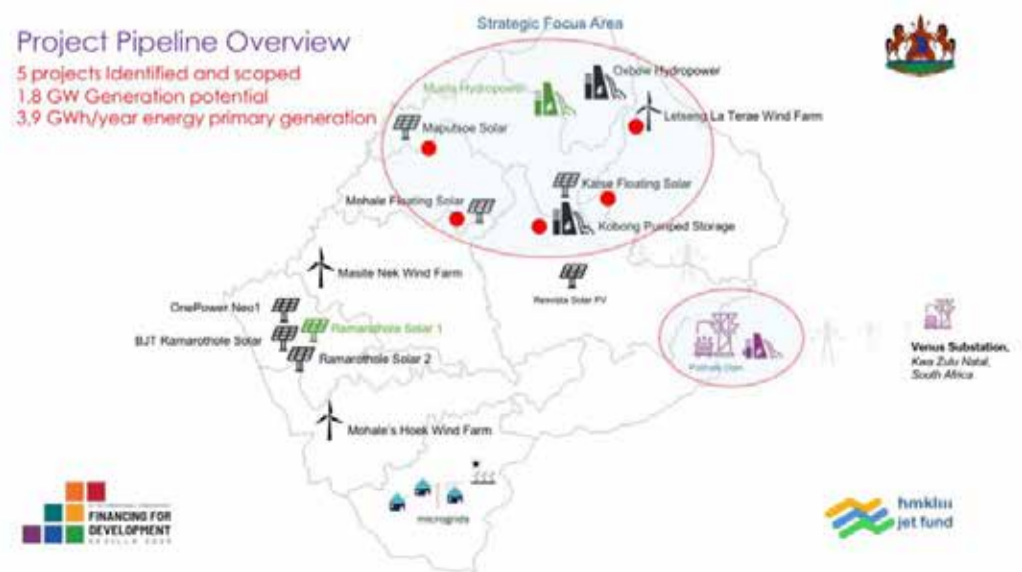


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Project Pipeline Overview

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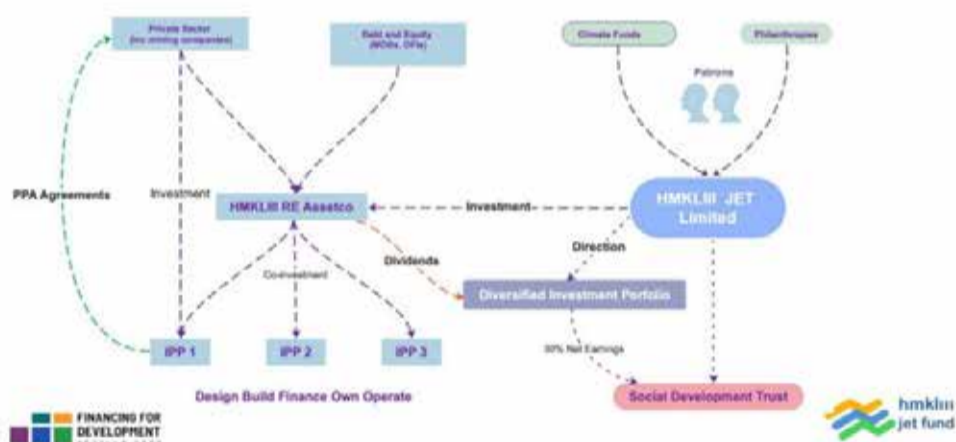




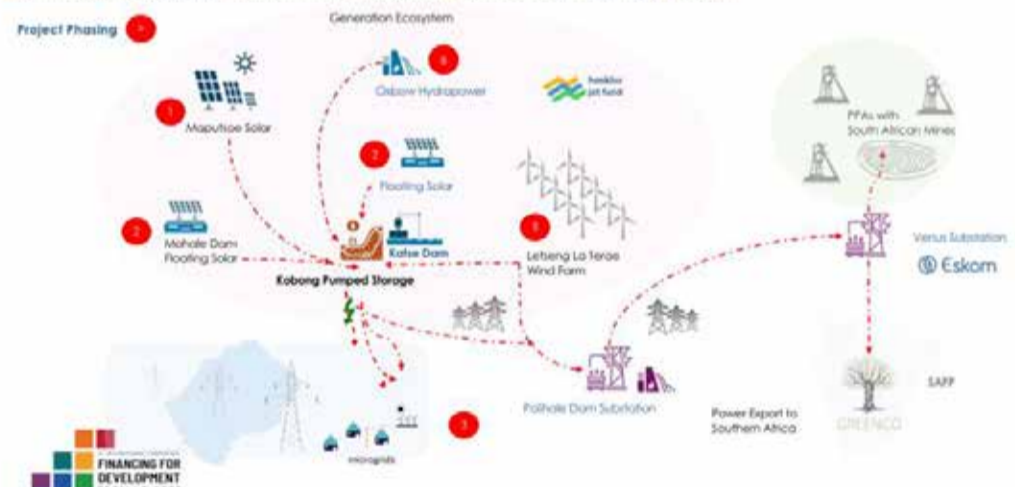
For 150 years of our 200 year history as a discrete and proud nation, Lesotho has been economically reliant on wage remissions from supplying migrant labour to the South African mining industry. This is an undignified and unsustainable basis for our economy.....



Conceptual Structure



The HMKLIII Kobong Ecosystem Concept: Renewable Energy Export



The Kobong Ecosystem Concept Extended

