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MOHAHLAULA
AIRLINES

Maseribane Likely To Be Appointed As Nutrition Advisor To Matekane

BY: Lesotho Tribune

Sources with knowledge of discussions within government say Prime Minister Sam Matekane is considering appointing former Cabinet minister and former Ambassador to Italy, Thesele Maseribane, as his Nutrition Advisor, as the administration weighs options to elevate nutrition and food security as a national development priority. Former Cabinet minister and former Ambassador to



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Lesotho Tribune
— Information Liberates

Funeral Home Seeks Court Order After Bodies Allegedly Swapped

By: Tholoana Lesenya

MASERU-

A Maseru-based Funeral Company has approached the High Court seeking urgent permission to exhume a body after it emerged that two deceased men were allegedly buried in the wrong graves following a mix-up at a mortuary. Naledi Funeral Planners (Pty) Ltd has filed an urgent application before the High Court of Lesotho after what it describes as a “genuine and unintended mistake” led to the burial of the wrong body at a funeral held earlier this month. According to court documents seen by this publication, the matter involves the late Seabata Samuel Ramohapi and Khotso Elliot Khohlooa, who were both admitted to Naledi Funeral Planners’ mortuary at Khubetsoana, Maseru, on 21 December 2025. In a founding affidavit deposed to by the company’s Chief Executive Officer, Mosoeu Mabote, the funeral home explains how the two bodies were received, identified by family members on different dates, and pre-



pared for separate funerals in different districts. “I am a Mosotho male adult and Chief Executive Officer of the Applicant,” Mabote states in the affidavit. “The facts in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge, recollection and from documents in my possession, both true and correct.” According to the court papers, both men died on the same day and were brought to the mortuary from different places. The body of the late Khotso Elliot Khohlooa was collected from Ha Khohlooa in Thaba Bo-

siu, while that of the late Seabata Samuel Ramohapi was collected from Maseru District Hospital. Death certificates for both deceased were issued and attached to the court application. The funeral of Khohlooa was scheduled for 10 January 2026. On 9 January, members of the Khohlooa family went to the mortuary to identify the body. The affidavit states that the family initially debated whether the body was indeed that of their relative, but eventually confirmed that it was Khotso Khohlooa and

authorized the funeral home to transport the corpse to Ha Khohlooa, Thaba Bosiu, where the funeral was to take place the following day. “On 10 January 2026, the funeral of the late Khotso Khohlooa took place and the burial of a person who was believed to be Khotso Khohlooa was effected to finality,” Mabote told the court. The second funeral, for the late Seabata Samuel Ramohapi, was scheduled for 17 January 2026 at Malealea in the Mafeteng district.

On 16 January, a repre-

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representative of the Ramohapi family, Lehlohonolo Ramohapi, went to the mortuary to identify the body. After viewing it, he confirmed that it was that of Seabata Ramohapi and authorised Naledi Funeral Planners to transport it to Malea-lea. However, the situation took a dramatic turn upon arrival at Malea-lea.

According to the affidavit, once the coffin arrived and family members viewed the body, they realised it was not Seabata Ramohapi.

“Upon arrival at Malea-lea, the casket carrying who was believed to be Seabata

Ramohapi was dropped off by the Applicant’s employees,” the affidavit reads. “When the Ramohapi family members identified the corpse they discovered that the said corpse was not Seabata Ramohapi and they alerted the Applicant’s employees.” The body was immediately returned to Naledi Funeral Planners’ mortuary at Khubetsoana on the same day. Following internal investigations, the funeral home says it became clear that a serious mistake had occurred.

“It appeared that indeed there had been a mistaken burial because the remaining corpse which

was returned is that of Khotso Elliot Khohlooa who had to be buried at Ha

Khohlooa, Thaba Bosiu on 10 January 2026,” Mabote stated.

“This is to say, the person buried instead of the aforementioned person is Seabata Samuel Ramohapi.”

In simple terms, the funeral home alleges that Seabata Ramohapi was buried in Khotso Khohlooa’s grave, while Khotso Khohlooa’s body remained at the mortuary and was mistakenly taken to Malea-lea.

Naledi Funeral Planners is now asking the High Court to issue an urgent order allowing the exhumation of the remains of Seabata Ramohapi from the grave where he was mistakenly buried, so that both families can rebury their loved ones correctly and with dignity.

“It is based on the above facts that a mistaken burial has taken place,” Mabote told the court.

“We humbly pray this Honourable Court to order exhumation of the remains of

Seabata Samuel Ramohapi promptly to rectify the mistake which was genuine and not in any manner whatsoever willful.”

The funeral home further explained that the families want to proceed with the funerals as soon

as possible, noting that some relatives had travelled long distances and were still waiting.

“The bereaved families want to proceed with the funerals forthwith as relatives living far are still here hence urgent relief is sought,” the affidavit reads.

Mabote stressed that the matter is extremely urgent, not only for emotional reasons but also for health concerns.

“The longer the body stays in the grave it will decay enormously thereby posing health risks and skeletonizing,” he said. “The mistaken burial needs a quick resolution in order

to provide closure and allowing the family to grieve appropriately.” He also told the court that there is no alternative remedy but to approach the High Court.

“I contend that this matter is extremely urgent and needs swift action in order to rectify the error and prevent further complications,” he said.

The funeral home argued that granting the application would not prejudice any of the respondents, but that refusing it would cause serious harm to both families.

“If the application is not granted, the Applicant and families

affected stand to suffer unfathomable prejudice because the deceased persons will have been buried improperly, not by their families and not at their destined places of rest,” Mabote stated. Naledi Funeral Planners also told the court that the incident has placed its reputation at risk. “The Applicant will be equally prejudiced as this will paint a wrong image and put the Applicant’s name into dispute thereby having an adverse impact on the Applicant’s business that it has invested so much in,” the affidavit reads.

The company has therefore asked the court to grant the application urgently, with any conditions the court may consider appropriate. Several parties have been cited as respondents in the matter, including family

representatives from both sides, the Senekane D07 Community Council, Chief Matlole Matlole of Thaba Bosiu, the Ministry of Health, the Officer Commanding Pitso Ground Police, the Commissioner of Police, and the Attorney General.

The funeral home argues that the High Court has jurisdiction because the events occurred within Maseru and the nature of the relief sought falls under its authority.

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Vodacom Bursary Beneficiaries Take Off

By: Lemohang Botsane

MASERU

Vodacom Lesotho has sent off six new recipients of the Vodacom Foundation Bursary Programme, who will pursue undergraduate studies at South African universities. The new cohort includes scholars with disabilities, who will study Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Disability Studies.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vodacom Lesotho Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Mohale Ralebitso, congratulated the recipients, saying they were among the top five per cent of applicants who had been shortlisted for the bursary. "The global economy is a challenging environment that requires special skills," he said. "The courses you are pursuing will contribute significantly to the economic development of Lesotho." Mr. Ralebitso reminded the beneficiaries that they were not expected to repay the bursary financially, but rather by "lifting others" and contributing to the growth of their communities.



"Let us ensure that Lesotho thrives and does not become the headlines for wrong reasons," he said, commending Vodacom customers for their support, which benefits the young generation. Vodacom Lesotho Foundation Senior Specialist, Mrs. Pinki Mokoena, said the programme targets vulnerable students who have passed the Lesotho General

Certificate of Secondary Education (LGCSE) and qualify for the specified courses. "We received 180 applications, and only six scholars were selected from Leribe, Maseru, and Berea," she said. The selected students will pursue their studies at South African universities, and the Vodacom Foundation will cover their tuition fees. The programme aims to empower young

Basotho and contribute to the country's economic growth. The send-off ceremony was attended by representatives from Vodacom Lesotho, the Ministry of Education, and other stakeholders. The event marked the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of the bursary recipients, who are expected to become future leaders and change-makers in their communities.

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Informant Admitted to Mutiny Plot

By: Tholoana Lesenya

MASERU

A soldier testifying in the Mahao murder trial has told the High Court that an army informant once admitted to him that he was part of a secret plan to carry out a mutiny in 2015, which included plots to kill senior army officers.

Corporal Molise Molieleng, who is appearing as the second defence witness, made the revelations while giving evidence before Justice Charles Hungwe. Molieleng is a member of the Lesotho Defence Force Special Forces Unit and was also a personal bodyguard to Brigadier Mokaloba.

He told the court that an informant, who is also a member of the army and whose identity he asked the court to keep secret for safety reasons, approached him with disturbing information. According to Molieleng, the informant said he was part of a conspiracy within the army to commit mutiny.

Molieleng testified that the informant told him there was a plan to assassinate Brigadier Mokaloba, Captain Hashatsi, and other members of the top army command. He said the informant explained that the first target was Brigadier Mokaloba.

"The informant told me that there was a plan to ambush Brigadier Mokaloba's vehicle near the military hospital," Molieleng said. "He said this would happen as the Brigadier was driving to his house inside Makoanyane Barracks." The witness explained that the informant went into detail about how the attack was supposed to be carried out. He told the



court that the informant said two separate teams had been organised for the mission.

According to Molieleng, the first team was supposed to open fire on Brigadier Mokaloba's vehicle near the military hospital. If that team failed to kill him, a second group would be waiting in a nearby village to "finish the job." Molieleng told the court that he took the information very seriously because of his close working relationship with Brigadier Mokaloba and the seriousness of the alleged plot. He said that after hearing the story, he tried to find Lieutenant Hlehlisi and Captain Hashatsi so that he could share the information with them. While searching for them, he met three of his colleagues. He then arranged for the informant to repeat the same story in their presence.

"The informant explained everything again in front of my colleagues," Molieleng said.

"He told them about the plan, the targets, and how the ambush was supposed to be carried out."

He testified that after hearing this, the four soldiers, he and the three colleagues

decided that the information was too serious to keep to themselves. They agreed that it had to be reported to their superiors immediately.

However, the informant refused to go with them. Molieleng told the court that the informant begged to be excused, saying that if he was seen in their company, the people behind the conspiracy might suspect him and kill him. "He said his life would be in danger if he was seen with us," Molieleng explained. "He feared the conspirators would kill him if they thought he had exposed them."

The four soldiers then went to Captain Hashatsi's house because they could not reach him by phone. When they arrived, they informed him of what they had been told.

Molieleng said Captain Hashatsi immediately contacted his superiors. Shortly afterward, Major Lekhooa and Captain Sechele arrived to hear the information for themselves.

The witness testified that when they explained the alleged plot, Major Lekhooa did not seem fully convinced. Because of this, Molieleng said he was instructed to go and fetch

the informant so that he could personally confirm the story.

"I was asked to bring the informant so that he could repeat what he had told us," Molieleng said. "Major Lekhooa wanted to hear it directly from him." Molieleng did not, at that stage, explain to the court what happened next regarding the informant, but his testimony formed part of the defence's effort to show that there were serious mutiny threats within the army at the time.

The evidence comes in the long-running trial in which nine members of the Lesotho Defence Force, including retired army commander Lieutenant General Tlali Kamoli, are charged with the murder of Maaparankoe Mahao.

Mahao, who was also a former army commander, was shot and killed on June 25, 2015, at Ha Lekete in Mokema. The accused are alleged to have carried out the killing during an operation that the army said was aimed at arresting suspected mutineers.

Apart from murder, the accused are also facing other serious charges linked to the same events, including attempted murder, theft, and unlawful damage to property.

Molieleng's testimony is part of the defence case, which is attempting to paint a picture of an army under threat from internal plots and conspiracies at the time of Mahao's death.

The trial continues before Justice Charles Hungwe, who is expected to hear more witnesses as both the defence and prosecution seek to support their versions of what led to the fatal events of June 2015.



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Lesotho Tribune

By: Lesotho Tribune

The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences' intervention in the National University of Lesotho has come under renewed scrutiny following the arraignment of senior academic Professor George Mosotho on corruption and fraud charges amid



Prof. Dr. Kananelo E. Mosito KC, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, National University of Lesotho

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Lesotho Tribune

By: GONTSE PHALA

Symmetry's Ubaydullah Hassen resigned after more than four years with the firm, joining independent discretionary fund manager (DFM) Equilibrium this month.

According to Kim Rassou, head of discretionary fund management at Symmetry, Hassan had been operating under supervision and 'made valuable contributions as part of the team' but his role was not at the senior decision-making level (as originally implied in an earlier version of this article).

Rassou added that the team 'thoroughly enjoyed working with Ubayd and wish him

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Symmetry portfolio manager Ubaydullah Hassen resigns

Hassen moved to DFM Equilibrium this month after more than four years with his former employer.



great success on his journey'.

Before his time at Symmetry, Hassen worked at Sanne Management Company, Perpetua Investment Managers, Matrix Fund Managers

and Sygnia Asset Management.

He is a CFA charterholder, holds a bachelor's in economics and statistics, and another in financial analysis and portfolio management, both from

the University of Cape Town.

Old Mutual Multi-Managers rebranded to Symmetry last June.

This article has been updated to clarify Hassan's former role at Symmetry.

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legal authority. He contended that sections 16(2) and 16(6) of the National University of Lesotho Act can only be triggered once a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chancellor has arisen. No such vacancy exists, as the incumbent Vice-Chancellor's contract runs until 31 July 2026, while the term of the current Council expires in June 2026.

Professor Mosito described the purported constitution of the JCCS as ultra vires and a nullity in law, warning that it risks producing an illegally constituted committee, a tainted recruitment process, and likely judicial intervention. DCEO's role questioned. At the same time, the DCEO moved to involve itself in the matter, demanding documentation from NUL and instructing the suspension of all activities relating to the recruitment of a Vice-Chancellor while it conducts what it termed preliminary investigations.

However, when approached by Lesotho Tribune for comment, the DCEO denied knowledge of the letter allegedly authored by the Directorate and addressed to the NUL Registrar that forms the basis of the inquiry into the recruitment process. The denial has added a further layer of uncertainty to an already complex situation, particularly given the formal tone, directives, and statutory references contained in the corre-

spondence seen by this publication.

Allegations of influence and internal fault lines. Sources within NUL had suggested that the unfolding corruption case against Professor Mosotho could not be viewed in isolation from the broader governance and leadership disputes at the institution, including disagreements surrounding senior appointments.

However, Professor Mosito has categorically rejected any suggestion of his involvement in the events leading to Professor Mosotho's arrest or prosecution.

In a formal response to Lesotho Tribune, Professor Mosito stated that he did not report Professor Mosotho to the DCEO, had no knowledge of the allegations prior to their appearance on social media, and played no role whatsoever in the investigative or prosecutorial processes. He further clarified that his involvement with the NUL Innovation Hub is limited to strategic academic oversight and institutional support, and does not extend to investigations, disciplinary action, or law-enforcement functions, which fall outside his mandate.

Addressing claims of a link between the corruption case and the JCCS dispute, Professor Mosito said he was unable to discern any rational or factual connection between the two matters. He emphasised that the JCCS is appoint-

ed by Council, not by the Registrar; that Professor Mosotho was not a member of the JCCS; and that he himself was not present at the meeting at which the committee was purportedly constituted.

"The suggestion that I played any role in Professor Mosotho's plight is therefore factually incorrect and logically unsustainable," Professor Mosito said, adding that verification could be sought directly from either Professor Mosotho or the DCEO. Lesotho Tribune notes that Professor Mosotho has not been charged in relation to the Vice-Chancellor recruitment process, and no documentary evidence links him to any alleged interference in that process.

Silence from other key stakeholders

Lesotho Tribune also put detailed questions to the NUL Registrar seeking clarification on the governance dispute, the recruitment process, and the implications of the corruption case for institutional integrity. At the time of publication, the Registrar had not responded.

A broader constitutional concern

What remains unresolved is a fundamental constitutional and governance question: where does the mandate of an anti-corruption agency end, and where do institutional autonomy, administrative law, and judicial oversight begin?

An academic legal mind

who requested to remain anonymous opined that not every unlawful administrative act constitutes corruption. Statutory non-compliance is ordinarily addressed through internal remedies or judicial review. Corruption investigations, by contrast, require allegations of abuse of office for personal gain, bribery, or economic offence.

"DCEO involvement in the recruitment process of NUL is shocking, perhaps they have a genius explanation of why and how they think it is within their mandate to be involved," she concluded.

With a senior academic now facing prosecution for corruption in one context, and the anti-corruption agency appearing to involve itself in a contested recruitment process in another while denying authorship of the correspondence in question, the boundaries between law, governance, and institutional politics have become increasingly blurred.

As the criminal case against Professor Mosotho proceeds, and as questions persist over the legality of recent decisions at NUL, the University finds itself at a critical juncture. Whether this episode strengthens accountability or undermines institutional stability may ultimately depend on clarity of mandate, transparency of process, and adherence to the rule of law.

Read both letters on www.lesothotribune.co.ls

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Lesotho Tribune

By: Lemohang Botsane

LERIBE

The Government of Lesotho has embarked on an ambitious project to transform the country into a leading exporter of off-season deciduous fruits in the Southern Hemisphere. The multi-phase initiative, which began in 2007, aims to boost commercial horticulture and focus on deciduous fruit production. Over the past decade, the project has made significant strides, with three pioneering farmers selected to trial various deciduous fruit varieties, including apples, plums, peaches, apricots, and cherries, during the pilot phase (2007-2013). The success of this phase led to the establishment of the first pilot commercial farm, Likhothola Fruit Farm, in 2012.

Lesotho's unique micro-climate, high cold units, and abundant resources make it an ideal location for deciduous fruit production. The country has a long history of household production of apples and peaches, and its early varieties are ready for market before South Africa. This gives Lesotho a

FARMERS CORNER

Lesotho Aims To Become A Major Player In Deciduous Fruit Production



competitive edge in the regional and global markets. The project has received additional financing to scale up commercial fruit production across Lesotho. Two new commercial farms, Maoamafubelu Fruit Farm and Likhetlane Fruit Farm, were established in 2015, expanding the total area under cultivation to 41.5 hectares. The current phase, which started in September 2022, focuses on further expanding commercial deciduous fruit production and establishing the Lesotho Horticultural Incubation and Training Center.

The center will play a crucial role in strengthening skills, innovation, and market readiness in the sector. According to Mrs. Maprinse Phothane, a shareholder and supervisor at Likhothola fruit farm, "new farmers are very fortunate because they attend trainings before going to the market." She encouraged farmers to produce more as the market is currently wide open.

However, Phothane also highlighted the challenges faced by farmers, including water supply issues and theft. "It was not easy at first because of certain challenges – we struggled with water supply, but recently the water issue has been sorted after working closely with our chiefs she said. Theft remains one of the biggest challenges faced by farmers.

Despite these challenges, the project has made significant progress. Key achievements include the establishment of 7 commercial deciduous fruit farms,

planting of 46,879 tree seedlings, establishment of a sorting and packing facility, installation of an irrigation system, and training of 190 farmers, including 46 women and 53 youth.

The Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project (CAFI) recently held a two-day workshop for farmers in Leribe, focusing on marketing. Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture's Marketing department attended the event, which provided a platform for farmers to share their experiences and challenges.

The vision is to make Lesotho a leading exporter of off-season deciduous fruits in the Southern Hemisphere, leveraging its competitive advantages, including abundant labor, competitive tax rates, and access to regional and global markets. With continued support and investment, Lesotho is poised to become a major player in the deciduous fruit industry.



Roma Farmers Reeling as Lumpy Skin Disease Claims Cattle

By Seipati Matobo

Roma

Roma farmers are facing mounting losses as lumpy skin disease spreads rapidly across the area, killing livestock and deepening anxiety among small-scale cattle owners. More than 30 cattle are reported to have died so far, with fears that the toll could rise as access to vaccines and treatment remains constrained.

One of the affected farmers, Malefane Raletsela from Ha Mafefoane, told this publication that he has already lost three cows, including calves. He said the disease has swept through kraals in the area, affecting not only his herd but those of neighbouring farmers as well.

“This disease has killed many of my cattle, and those of our neighbours,” Raletsela said. “We are watching animals die almost helplessly.”

Raletsela said he is aware of at least 15 other farmers in surrounding villages who have also lost cattle in recent weeks. For many households in Roma, cattle are not only a source of income but a form of savings and social security, making the losses particularly



devastating. Farmers have also expressed frustration over the cost of vaccination. According to Raletsela, farmers are being charged M200 per cow, about USD12.50, for the vaccine. He said the fee is beyond the reach of many livestock owners, especially those with larger herds.

“My understanding was that government would be considerate during this period,” he said.

“The M200 they are charging is extremely steep. The majority of us simply cannot afford M200 per animal.”

Lumpy skin disease is a viral disease that affects cattle, causing fever, skin nodules, reduced milk production and, in severe cases, death. Outbreaks often spread quickly,

particularly where vaccination coverage is low and animal movement is difficult to control.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition has acknowledged challenges in responding to the outbreak. The ministry has reported a shortage of lumpy skin disease medication, which has hampered efforts to contain the spread.

Mr Lereko Masupha, the ministry’s Chief Information Officer, confirmed the shortage. He said medication that had previously been collected from unaffected districts and redistributed to areas experiencing outbreaks has now been depleted.

“The rate of infection is increasing,” Masupha said. “This has forced the ministry to prioritise af-

ected districts while we wait for new supplies.”

Masupha said the ministry is in the process of procuring additional lumpy skin disease medication and vaccines.

He assured farmers that distribution would begin immediately once the supplies become available.

“The Ministry is purchasing lumpy skin medication and will distribute it as soon as it is available,” he said.

In the meantime, farmers in Roma say they are left counting their losses and hoping for urgent intervention. Many are calling for subsidised or free vaccination during the outbreak, warning that without swift action, the disease could wipe out herds that families have built up over decades.

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EDITORIAL

When Governments Treat Streetlights as Achievements, Something Has Gone Wrong



15

Lesotho Tribune

By: Editorial

This is not an argument against infrastructure, stupid! Streetlights, water features, roads and public spaces matter and in many cases they are overdue. But when governments begin to treat such as achievements in themselves, rather than as tools meant to improve the economic position of households, something has gone wrong. Development is not proven by what can be photographed at night. It is proven by what changes, quietly and materially, in the lives of ordinary people. There is a moment that every Mosotho recognises. You drive past a newly installed streetlight or pause near a water fountain that did not exist a year ago. It looks impressive. It photographs well. It signals movement. Someone somewhere will call it development. But then you go home. And at home, the ques-



tions begin to intrude. Has anything in my life actually changed. This is the uncomfortable question we are not being asked to confront. Not by government. Not by opposition. Not even by ourselves. Development, if it is to mean anything beyond concrete and cables, must eventually arrive at the level of the individual household. It must be felt in quieter, less visible ways. In the ability to save. In incomes that stretch beyond the end of the month. In households that can absorb a shock without collapsing. In young people who plan rather than

merely survive. Economists have a term for this, even if we do not use it in everyday language. Real development is not just aggregate growth or visible infrastructure. It is welfare improvement at the household level. It is when productivity rises and people retain more of the value they create. It is when livelihoods stabilise and economic anxiety recedes. By that standard, we must ask honestly whether our recent “developments” have delivered anything meaningful. A streetlight does not pay school fees. A fountain does not create

disposable income. A paved circle with coloured lights does not turn informal work into secure employment. These things may improve aesthetics. They may even improve safety at the margins. But they do not change the economic position of a household. This is where the conversation becomes uncomfortable, because it forces us to separate visibility from value. Governments everywhere love projects that can be seen. They are measurable, ribbon friendly, and easy to defend in speeches. But households do not live in speech-

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es. They live in balance sheets, even if they do not call them that. Income in. Expenses out. Debt accumulating quietly. Savings postponed indefinitely. If development were real, more Mosotho households would be saving, not borrowing. They would be building buffers, not relying on overdrafts and mashonisa. They would be upgrading their skills, not waiting for the next public works programme. They would feel, in their daily decisions, that the economy is working with them rather than against them. Ask yourself a simple

question. Compared to five years ago, are you more financially secure. Not more hopeful. Not more impressed. More secure.

Can you handle an unexpected expense without panic. Can you go three months without income if things go wrong. Can your children realistically imagine a future that is not dependent on state employment or migration.

If the answer is no, then whatever development is being advertised is not reaching its intended destination.

This is not an argument against infrastructure. Roads, lights, and public spaces matter. But they

are inputs, not outcomes. They are tools, not proof. When governments begin to treat them as achievements in themselves, something has gone wrong. Real development is boring to photograph. It shows up in tax data, savings rates, employment stability, productivity, and household resilience. It shows up when people argue less about survival and more about opportunity. It shows up when politics loses some of its desperation because citizens are no longer economically cornered.

We should be worried that our political debate has been reduced to

aesthetics. That we are being asked to clap for installations while households quietly deteriorate. That public money is being used to signal progress rather than to produce it.

Every Mosotho should pause and reflect, not angrily but honestly. Has my life materially improved. Am I better off in ways that matter. Or have I simply become more accustomed to looking at things that look like development. Until development arrives in people's pockets, their savings accounts, their job security and their sense of economic dignity, it remains decoration.



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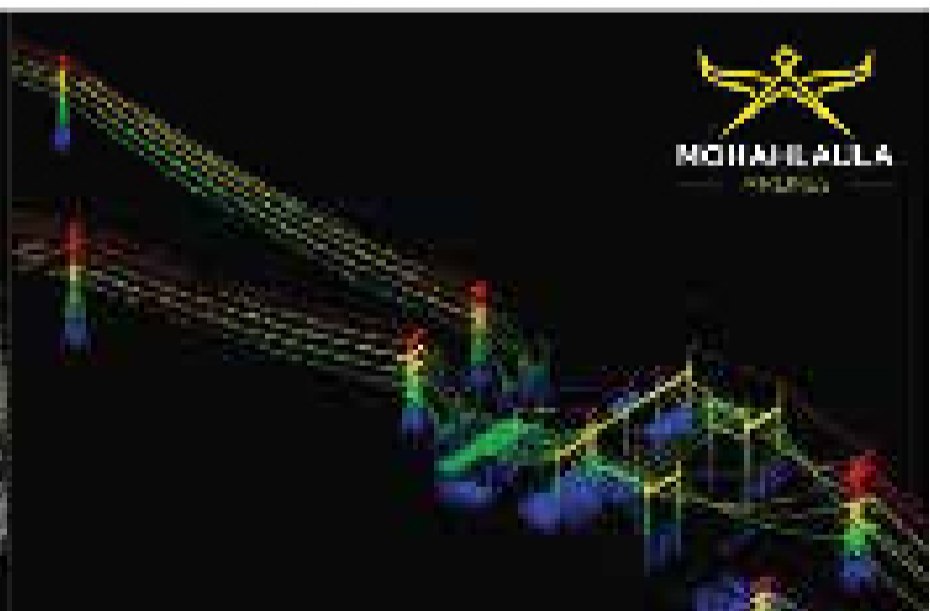
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Lesotho Tribune

By Litšitso Letsunyane

Matlama Football Club defender and defensive midfielder Molefe 'Linaoa' Thatho has been forced to bring his playing career to an end following a serious medical condition that doctors say could be life-threatening if he continues with football. The unfortunate situation stems from an incident that happened in Matlama's match against Limkokwing FC, in one of the final fixtures before Christmas last year. During that encounter, Thatho collapsed on the field and briefly lost consciousness. He then received immediate medical attention and was rushed to the hospital, where a doctor confirmed that he had sustained a serious condition. Medical examinations revealed that Thatho's heart had been affected

ARTS & SPORTS

Matlama's Molefe Thatho Forced to Retire Football Due to Medical Condition



and was not functioning as it should. The attending doctor warned that continuing to play football could place the young man's life at risk, advising that he be kept away from competitive action to avoid further damage. Thatho was effectively given a stark choice; give up football or draw closer to death. Following the incident, Matlama Football Club confirmed that the player was placed in isolation as a precautionary measure. The club also arranged further medical assessments, taking Thatho to other doctors and specialists to seek confirmation of the initial diagnosis and recommenda-

tions. These consultations all pointed in the same direction, reinforcing the advice that Thatho should remain in isolation and avoid professional football. After constant consultations with medical specialists, a final decision was reached. On Tuesday, 20 January, Molefe Thatho was officially forced to hang up his football jersey and boots at a young age. The decision followed further expert medical advice that confirmed the initial findings and concluded that continuing his playing career would pose serious risks to his health due to the heart condition. Despite the gravity of the

situation, Matlama moved swiftly to support their player. The club pledged to honour Thatho's contract in full, ensuring that he continues to be paid even though the agreement has not yet expired. Furthermore, the club committed to providing any other assistance he may require during this difficult period. Matlama officials stated that their response is driven by principle as much as compassion. The club said it wants to set an example, emphasising that Thatho is one of their own, who suffered an accident while serving the team.

Rather than part ways with the player, Matlama Football Club has chosen a different path. The club has taken Thatho into its technical team, allowing him to continue serving Matlama in a new capacity. In this role, he will remain fully supported by the club as he transitions from playing to a different phase of his football career.

This move shows the team's commitment to player welfare and loyalty, turning a tragic and potentially fatal setback into an opportunity for continued involvement within the club structure, while prioritising the health and the safety of the young, talented defender.

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