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IEC urges Finance Ministry to designate acting director as chief accounting officer

The Independent Electoral Commission has written to the Minister of Finance demanding that Acting Director of Elections Lydia Macheli be formally designated as the Commission's Chief Accounting Officer within 14 days, warning that continued inaction constitutes a breach of statutory duty and threatens the constitutional independence of the institution.

By SEIPATI MATOBO



The Independent Electoral Commission has sent a formal letter to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning requesting the urgent designation of its Acting Director of Elections as Chief Accounting Officer, citing mounting legal obligations under the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act 2011 and the National Assembly Electoral Act 2011.

In the letter, dated 12 May 2026 and signed by IEC Chairperson Rev. Dr John Maphephe, the Commission says the designation is not a matter of administrative convenience but a statutory requirement with direct consequences for the Commission's ability to manage public funds appropriated by Parliament.

The substantive Director of Elections resigned in February 2026. The Commission subsequently appointed Ms Lydia Macheli as Acting Director of Elections with effect from 10 February 2026, and formally communicated the appointment to the Ministry of Finance on 20 February 2026, together

with a request for her designation as Chief Accounting Officer. The Ministry has not responded.

“The failure to designate the Acting Director of Elections as CAO constitutes a breach of statutory duty and is inconsistent with the principles of legality, rationality, accountability, and the rule of law.”

IEC TO MINISTER OF FINANCE, 12 MAY 2026

The Commission's letter draws on independent legal opinions which conclude that under section 144(5) of the National Assembly Electoral Act 2011, the Director of Elections, including any duly appointed acting Director, is by operation of law the Commission's Chief Accounting Officer. The opinions further confirm that the Minister of Finance is legally mandated under sections 2, 4(g), and 6 of the PFMAA to designate a Chief Accounting Officer for each government spending unit, and that this obligation is functional rather than discretionary.

The legal advice also holds that the Minister has no authority to disregard or substitute the designation flowing from the Commission's lawful appointment of the Acting Director, and that failure to act is inconsistent with the principles of legality, rationality, accountability, and the rule of law.

**KEY LEGAL FRAMEWORK
SECTION 66 CONSTITUTION OF LESOTHO**

Establishes the IEC as a constitutionally autonomous institution not subject to the direction or control of any person or authority in the exercise of its functions.

SECTION 144(1) ELECTORAL ACT 2011

Designates the Director of Elections as Chief Executive Officer and head of administration of the Commission.

SECTION 144(5) ELECTORAL ACT 2011

Makes the Director of Elections, by operation of law, the Chief Accounting Officer responsible for financial control and accountability.

SECTION 4(G) PFMAA 2011 Mandates the Minister of Finance to designate a Chief Accounting Officer for each government spending unit. The obligation is peremptory, not discretionary.

The IEC warns that the absence of a formally designated Chief Accounting Officer creates institutional uncertainty, risks non-compliance with statutory public financial management obligations, and may negatively affect the Commission's operational readiness as it prepares for the 2028 Harmonised Elections. The letter further notes that the Commission is currently implementing recommendations from regional and international observer missions, including the SADC Electoral Observation Mission and the European Union Election Observation Mission. These reforms include strengthening the electoral register, institutional capacity building, enhanced stakeholder engagement, and expanded voter education. Continued inaction on the CAO designation, the Commission warns, risks slowing the implementation of those programmes.

The IEC requests that the Minister designate Ms Macheli as Chief Accounting Officer within 14 days of receipt of the letter, in compliance with section 4(g) of the PFMAA. Copies of the letter were sent to the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Minister of Law and Justice, Leaders of all Political Parties, the Forum of Political Parties, the Attorney General, the Auditor General, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences, the UNDP Resident Representative, the European Union Representative, and the SADC Advisory Council and IDEA International.

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Trade ministry PS spent M1.65m on 18 international trips, Parliament hears

The Ministry of Trade and Industry's Principal Secretary undertook 18 international trips between July 2024 and April 2026, with Parliament hearing that total expenditure on air travel and subsistence allowances exceeded M1.65 million.

By **THOLOANA LESENYA**



The Ministry of Trade and Industry's Principal Secretary (PS) spent more than M1.6 million on international travel between July 2024 and April 2026, according to information tabled in the National Assembly on Thursday. The figures were revealed by Deputy Prime Minister Justice Nthomeng Majara in response to questions from Basotho National Party (BNP) leader Machasetsa Mofomobe, who sought details regarding the PS's appointment, the number of foreign trips undertaken, destinations visited, travel costs, subsistence allowances and the overall expenditure incurred since she assumed office in June 2024. Breakdown of costs Majara disclosed that the PS undertook 18 international trips over the period under review. The visits took her to a number of countries across Africa, Europe, Asia and North America as part of government and trade-related engagements.

According to the breakdown presented in Parliament, government spent
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M715,747.80 on subsistence allowances while M936,860.00 was paid for air travel, bringing the total expenditure to more than M1.65 million. ITEM AMOUNT (M)
Air travel M936,860.00 Subsistence allowances M715,747.80 Total M1,652,607.80
The records show that the PS travelled most frequently to South Africa, making eight visits. Other destinations included Botswana, Namibia, Morocco, Cameroon, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, India and Japan, with two trips made to the Asian nation.

Purpose of the trips The Ministry explained that the trips were undertaken in pursuit of its mandate to advance Lesotho's trade and industrial development agenda. The PS reportedly attended a range of international meetings, conferences and forums focusing on trade, investment and regional economic cooperation. Among the engagements cited were meetings involving multilateral trade organisations, conferences on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and sessions organised by the Southern African

Customs Union (SACU) Secretariat. Such forums are generally aimed at strengthening international partnerships, attracting investment opportunities and discussing policies that affect trade among member states.

Parliament's oversight role The disclosure comes at a time when government spending continues to attract public attention amid ongoing economic challenges facing the country. Questions surrounding the cost and necessity of official travel have become increasingly common as legislators seek greater transparency and accountability in the management of public resources. Mofomobe's questions formed part of Parliament's oversight role, which allows Members of Parliament to seek explanations from ministers and government officials on the use of taxpayers' money. Requests for detailed travel expenditure have become a recurring feature of parliamentary proceedings, particularly in light of concerns about the growing costs associated with official foreign trips. While government maintains that participation in international forums is essential for promoting national interests and securing development opportunities, critics often argue that such travel must demonstrate measurable benefits to the country. The debate has intensified in recent years as citizens grapple with rising living costs and persistent unemployment.

Supporters of international engagement contend that attendance at trade conferences and regional meetings enables Lesotho to remain informed about global economic developments, negotiate favourable trade arrangements and strengthen relations with development partners. They further argue that opportunities for investment promotion and market access often emerge from such interactions.

However, others believe government departments should continuously assess whether every trip is necessary and whether virtual participation could reduce expendi-

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Six men jailed 10 years for fatal mob assault in Berea

Six men from Sehlabeng sa Thuathe have been sentenced to 10 years each after the High Court found they fatally assaulted a man they suspected of being a thief, then left him injured and bound outside in the cold without seeking medical help.

By THOLOANA LESENYA



The High Court has sentenced six men from Sehlabeng sa Thuathe in Berea to 10 years's imprisonment for the fatal assault of a man they suspected of being a thief. The convicted men are Thabang Mohale, Moeketsi Mphafi, Thabang Ntsoele, Thabiso Kompfi, Lebhang Thejane and Motaba Hlohlongoane. They were accused of killing Phakiso Likofi Lebina on October 27, 2021, after finding him at Mohale's home during the early hours of the morning.

What the evidence showed Evidence presented before the court showed that the deceased was discovered at the house at around 3:00 a.m. The six men assaulted him with sticks and sjamboks, claiming they were trying to restrain him because he was attempting to flee and resisting

arrest.

The accused later contacted the police and reported that they had apprehended a suspected intruder. However, they did not inform officers that the man had already been assaulted and seriously injured.

Medical evidence revealed that Lebina suffered a fractured skull, broken fingers and severe bruises across his body. The head injury caused bleeding on the brain, which ultimately led to his death.

Arguments before the court During the trial, defence lawyer Advocate Rasekoai Thoahlane argued that the accused did not intend to kill the deceased.

He maintained that the assault was not prolonged and that the injuries became severe because several people participated in the attack. He further argued that the deceased remained alive for some time after the assault ended and that the prosecution had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the accused intended to cause his death.

The prosecution rejected that argument. Advocate Nthabiseng Nkoe told the court that the men showed no concern for the victim's wellbeing despite seeing that he was seriously injured. She said they left him lying outside in the cold with his hands tied and failed to seek medical assistance.

"They saw his condition and did nothing to help him."

Adv. Nkoe further submitted that all six accused actively associated themselves with the assault and therefore acted with a

common purpose. She said they should have restrained the deceased and handed him over to authorities rather than repeatedly attacking him.

Limits of a citizen's arrest A key state witness, Senior Inspector Masoli Khoanyane of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service, testified that community members have the legal right to carry out a citizen's arrest if they suspect someone has committed a crime. However, he stressed that such arrests must be carried out lawfully and without unnecessary violence.

He told the court that suspects should be handed over to the police and that injured persons must receive immediate medical attention. According to the officer, it would be unusual for police to instruct members of the public to keep an injured suspect at the scene instead of taking them for treatment.

Khoanyane said that when he arrived at the scene after seeing a message in a community WhatsApp group, he found the deceased lying on the ground, unable to speak properly, with sticks next to him. He advised that the injured man should be

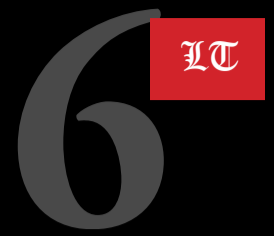
taken to hospital. Sentence and mitigating factors In passing sentence, the court took into account the seriousness of the offence and the loss of life that resulted from the assault. However, it also considered mitigating factors in favour of the accused.

The six men expressed remorse for their actions and acknowledged their role in the events that led to Lebina's death. The court also heard that they made a contribution of M7,000 to the deceased's family, a gesture regarded as an attempt to make amends and show sympathy to the bereaved family. Despite these factors, the court found that the assault was unlawful and that the accused failed to protect the life of the deceased after inflicting serious injuries on him.

Justice Tšeliso Mokoko subsequently sentenced each of the six men to 10 years in prison, bringing to a close a case that has drawn attention to the dangers of mob justice and the limits of citizen's arrests. The judgment serves as a reminder that while members of the public may assist in preventing crime and apprehending suspects, they are not permitted to take the law into their own hands. Suspects must be handed over to the authorities and treated in accordance with the law, regardless of the allegations against them.

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Continued from Page 4

ture without compromising outcomes. The increasing availability of digital conferencing platforms has fuelled discussions on how governments can strike a balance between international representation and cost containment. Ministry's broader budget Although the figures released in Parliament relate specifically to one senior official, they have reignited broader conversations about public sector expenditure and value for money. Analysts note that transparency in reporting travel costs is important for maintaining public confidence in government

institutions and ensuring accountability.

Information obtained by this publication further shows that the ministry was allocated M423.8 million in the 2025/2026 financial year budget. The allocation is intended to support various programmes aimed at promoting industrial growth, strengthening trade competitiveness and improving the country's investment climate. The Ministry of Trade and Industry plays a central role in advancing Lesotho's economic growth strategy through industrialisation, export promotion and investment attraction. Its responsibilities

include supporting local businesses, facilitating trade agreements and creating an enabling environment for economic development.

The disclosure of the PS's travel expenses is expected to fuel further debate both inside and outside Parliament regarding government spending priorities and the effectiveness of official foreign missions. While the trips were linked to trade and economic development initiatives, lawmakers and members of the public are likely to continue scrutinising whether the benefits derived justify the costs incurred.

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NUL takes VC recruitment battle to Court of Appeal, seeks to halt High Court proceedings

NUL and co-respondents have approached the Court of Appeal on an urgent basis, seeking to halt High Court proceedings and remove the presiding judge in a case brought by Vice-Chancellor Professor Kananelo Mosito over the university's recruitment of his successor.

By **LEMOHANG BOTSANE**



The National University of Lesotho (NUL) and other respondents in a court case involving the university's Vice-Chancellor recruitment process have approached the Court of Appeal on an urgent basis seeking to stop proceedings in the High Court and remove the judge handling the matter.

The case was brought by Professor Kananelo Mosito, the current Vice-Chancellor of NUL and President of the Court of Appeal, who is challenging the university's decision to begin recruiting a new Vice-Chancellor. The latest development follows a High Court ruling that it has jurisdiction to hear

the matter. The court also dismissed an application by NUL seeking the recusal of the entire High Court from dealing with the case.

Following that ruling, the respondents informed the court that they had filed an urgent application before the Court of Appeal seeking a stay of execution of the order directing that the main case proceed. They are also seeking the recusal of Justice Molefi Makara, who is presiding over the matter.

NUL argues perception of bias
NUL argues that there is a reasonable possibility that judges of the High

Court may be perceived as biased because of Professor Mosito's position as President of the Court of Appeal. During arguments before the High Court, counsel for NUL, Advocate Mamello Makau, said the application was aimed at protecting public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

She argued that Professor Mosito's professional relationship with High Court judges could create a perception that judges may not be completely independent when deciding a case involving

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him. According to Advocate Makau, the concern is not necessarily whether judges would actually be biased, but whether an informed member of the public could reasonably believe that impartiality might be compromised because of the existing institutional relationship. She submitted that public confidence in the justice system depends not only on judges being impartial but also on them being seen to be impartial.

The application for recusal was also supported by an affidavit filed by NUL Council Chairman Dr. Khabele Matlosa. In his court papers, Dr. Matlosa stated that the university has a reasonable apprehension that judges of the High Court may find it difficult to adjudicate impartially in a matter involving a colleague who also serves as the head of the country's highest appellate court. He argued that judges may be reluctant to make decisions that could place them in conflict with the President of the Court of Appeal. Dr. Matlosa further claimed that Professor Mosito possesses personal characteristics that could potentially intimidate colleagues or influence judicial officers, and alleged that there was a possibility he could attempt to exert pressure on judges hearing the matter. Mosito disputes any suggestion of influence Professor Mosito strongly opposed the application. His lawyer, Advocate Dominic Metlae, argued that there was no basis for suggesting that his client could influence High Court judges.

Adv. Metlae told the court that Professor Mosito does not control the work of High Court judges and has no authority over their judicial decisions. He further argued that although High Court judges may sit as acting judges of the Court of Appeal from time to time, this does not place them under the authority of the President of the Court of Appeal.

According to him, judges perform their duties independently and are appointed through constitutional processes overseen by the Chief Justice. "The fact that judges may serve in different courts does not mean they are subject to the control of the President of the Court of Appeal."

The allegations made by Dr. Matlosa have been strongly disputed by Professor Mosito. The core dispute: was recruitment lawful? At the centre of the dispute is the university's decision to begin a process to recruit a new Vice-Chancellor while Professor Mosito remains in office. Professor Mosito argues that the recruitment exercise is unlawful because it was initiated before a vacancy existed.

According to documents filed before the court, he contends that the process violates Section 16 of the National Uni-

versity of Lesotho Order of 1992, which governs the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor. He maintains that the university acted outside the powers granted by law when it commenced the recruitment exercise before the position became vacant.

The respondents, on the other hand, dispute that interpretation and maintain that the recruitment process was lawful. Their position is that the matter should not proceed before Justice Makara while questions regarding judicial impartiality remain unresolved. The respondents therefore want the Court of Appeal to intervene and suspend the High Court proceedings pending the outcome of their urgent application. What happens next The dispute has attracted significant public interest because it involves one of the country's most senior judicial figures and the leadership of the National University of Lesotho, the country's largest institution of higher learning. The Court of Appeal is expected to determine whether the High Court proceedings should be halted and whether Justice Makara should continue presiding over the matter before the substantive issues can be fully argued.

As the legal battle continues, both sides remain firm in their positions, setting the stage for what is likely to be a closely watched court showdown over university governance, judicial impartiality and the interpretation of the law governing the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor.



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Business & Economy

10

IT

Markets, Monetary policy & the structural forces shaping Lesotho's economy

CBL seminar examines geopolitical risks to financial stability

The Central Bank of Lesotho convened financial sector leaders in Maseru to examine how global tensions are rippling into the country's financial system and what steps the sector must take to stay resilient.

By LEMOHANG BOTSANE



The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) brought together experts and industry leaders on Tuesday for a seminar on keeping Lesotho's financial system strong in the face of global risks. The event took place in Maseru under the theme "Geopolitical Risk: Implications for Financial Stability." The meeting focused on how wars, trade disputes, and political tensions around the world are starting to affect smaller economies like Lesotho. Speakers talked about why it matters for the country to build a financial system that can handle shocks from outside, and what steps can be taken to prepare.

Experts warn of growing pressure at home Nkhahle Seeiso, Head of Financial Stability at CBL, shared key findings from the bank's 2025 Financial Stability Report. This was the 10th edition of the report. Seeiso said that managing risk well is the foundation of a stable financial system. He explained that a

resilient system is not one that never feels pressure, but one that can bend under stress without breaking.

"Resilience means the system can absorb shocks and keep working for households and businesses"

He added that risks inside Lesotho have been rising. Families, companies, and government are all feeling the strain. Businesses are struggling because demand from outside the country has dropped. At the same time, new tariffs and trade rules set by other countries are making it harder and more expensive to trade.

On the government side, Seeiso said that revenue improved slightly in 2025, but it is still not strong enough. This leaves less room for the government to spend on emergencies or support programmes, which makes the country more vulnerable if another crisis hits. Insurance sector looks for local solutions Mpho

Vumbukani, CEO of LNIG Hollard, spoke about the role of the insurance industry in managing risk. He said insurance exists to help people and businesses recover when unexpected events happen.

Vumbukani noted that the current global situation makes this job harder. With so much uncertainty in the world, insurers have to be careful about how much risk they take on. He said he hopes that current geopolitical tensions will be resolved soon, so that businesses and households can get some relief. To make the local insurance sector stronger, companies are now looking at new ways to share risk. One approach is co-insurance, where several local insurers cover one big risk together. This keeps more of the risk inside Lesotho before it is passed on to large international re-insurance companies. The goal is to build more capacity and stability within the country's own insurance market.

The seminar spotlighted that global events, even those far from Lesotho, can affect prices, jobs, and the cost of borrowing money at home. When external demand falls, local companies earn less and may cut back on hiring. When tariffs go up, imported goods become more expensive, putting pressure on households. CBL said it will continue to monitor these risks and work with banks, insurers, and other financial institutions to make sure the system stays stable. The bank also stressed the need for businesses and households to be aware of these risks and plan ahead. The Financial Stability Report is published yearly by CBL to give the public and policymakers a clear picture of the health of Lesotho's financial sector and the challenges ahead.

Business & Economy

Markets, Monetary policy & the structural forces shaping Lesotho's economy



Gem Diamonds: fewer carats sold but higher prices at Letšeng in Q1

Gem Diamonds posted revenue of \$32.1-million from its Letšeng mine in Lesotho for the March 2026 quarter, sustained by exceptional large-stone sales despite a fall in overall carat volumes, with all operational metrics remaining within full-year guidance.

By STAFF REPORTER



Gem Diamonds (LSE: GEMD) recorded revenue of \$32.1-million for the quarter ended 31 March 2026, with its primary production export of 16,727 carats achieving an average selling price of \$1,501 per carat, up 17% on the previous quarter. The company also sold an additional parcel of ten diamonds each weighing more than 10.8 carats, generating a further \$7-million in revenue. Production at the Letšeng mine, situated in the Maluti mountains of Lesotho, was weighted toward the lower-grade Main Pipe in line with the mine plan, with a reduced contribution from the higher-value Satellite Pipe.

“Large exceptional diamonds continue to underpin Letšeng’s value proposition.”

GEM DIAMONDS, Q1 2026 RESULTS STATEMENT

The highest price achieved during the quarter was \$32,908 per carat for a 52.24-carat white diamond. Four stones sold for more than \$1-million each, generating aggregate revenue of \$9.9-million. Ore treated slipped 3% quarter-on-quarter to 1.33-million tonnes, while carats recovered rose 3% to 21,605. The fall in carats sold, down 21% to 16,727, reflected the deferral of certain parcels into the second

quarter rather than any operational shortfall. Waste stripping increased sharply to 70,943 tonnes from 48,304 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2025, reflecting continued investment in mine development. Two diamonds exceeding 100 carats were recovered during the period: a

191.82-carat Type IIa white diamond and a 100.71-carat Type I faint yellow diamond. Both are scheduled for sale in the quarter to 30 June 2026.

LETŠENG Q1 2026 KEY METRICS

METRIC Q1 2026 Q4 2025
Revenue \$32.1-million —
Carats sold (primary export) 16,727 ct —

Average price per carat \$1,501/ct
\$1,283/ct

Carats recovered 21,605 ct —
Ore treated 1.33-million t 1.37-million t

Waste stripped 70,943 t 48,304 t
Diamonds >100 ct recovered 2 —
Highest price achieved \$32,908/ct
(52.24 ct white) —

Gem Diamonds holds a 70% interest in Letšeng, which is widely regarded as the world’s highest dollar-per-carat kimberlite diamond mine. The results reflect the mine’s structural dependence on large, exceptional stones to maintain revenue at times when production is weighted toward the lower-value Main Pipe. The broader diamond market continues to face pressure from weaker consumer demand and competition from laboratory-grown stones, which have eroded pricing in the smaller-carat commercial segment. Letšeng’s concentration in large natural diamonds of gem quality has provided a degree of insulation, though the company recorded a net loss and negative free cash flow for the 2025 financial year. Management confirmed that all key operational and financial metrics for the first quarter remain within the company’s full-year 2026 guidance.



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Business & Economy

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IT

Markets, Monetary policy & the structural forces shaping Lesotho's economy

Dangote opens refinery listing to African investors as South Africa's pension giants signal partnership interest

Aliko Dangote has told Africa's largest pension fund that the planned stock exchange listing of his petroleum refinery is designed to open industrial wealth creation to ordinary Africans, as South African institutional investors signal growing appetite for large-scale continental infrastructure.

By STAFF REPORTER



The President and Chief Executive of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote, made the remarks during a visit by the leadership of South Africa's Government Employees Pension Fund, the Public Investment Corporation and Alterra Capital Partners to the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals complex and Dangote Fertiliser Limited in Lagos.

The South African delegation included GEPEF Chairperson Frans Baleni, GEPEF Principal Executive Officer Musa Mabeša, PIC Deputy Chairperson Mongwena Maluleke, PIC Chief Executive Officer Patrick Dlamini, and Alterra Capital

Partners Managing Partner Genevieve Sangudi.

The GEPEF is Africa's largest defined benefit pension fund, managing the retirement and associated benefits of more than 1.8 million public sector workers in South Africa. The PIC, which manages approximately 230 billion United States dollars in assets largely on behalf of the GEPEF, is the continent's largest asset manager. Dangote said Africa's next phase of economic growth must be anchored on large-scale industrial projects capable of creating jobs, strengthening domestic production capacity and generating broad-based prosperity. "We are opening the doors for investors

to participate directly in Africa's industrial future and the prosperity it will create."

— Aliko Dangote, President and CEO, Dangote Group Dangote said the refinery reflects the scale of untapped opportunities within Africa's energy market, particularly as most African countries remain dependent on imported refined petroleum products despite growing industrial demand. He noted that demand for polypropylene, aviation fuel and refined petroleum products had exceeded earlier projections, reinforcing the commercial viability of the project. "We thought about Nigeria first and then exports, but even with our current production, we are practically living hand to mouth because the market demand is extremely high," he said.

GEPEF Chairperson Frans Baleni said the refinery demonstrated that Africa can execute transformational infrastructure projects when backed by visionary leadership, long-term investment and strong technical expertise. "If it can be done anywhere else in the world, it can be done in Africa. This project has shown that the continent is capable of achieving world-class industrialisation at scale," Baleni said. He added that the significance of the project extends beyond Nigeria's borders. "What has been built here is reshaping how the world should think about African industrial capability, and it should reshape how Africa thinks

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Business & Economy

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Markets, Monetary policy & the structural forces shaping Lesotho's economy

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about itself. For too long, projects of this magnitude have been associated with other parts of the world. The Dangote Refinery and Petrochemicals

Complex is a powerful demonstration that, with visionary leadership and long-term capital, that perception no longer holds.

This is the kind of African-led industrial scale that institutional investors on this continent should be backing," he said. PIC Chief Executive Patrick Dlamini described the refinery as one of the most transformative industrial projects undertaken on the continent. Invoking former South African President Nelson Mandela, he said: "It always looks impossible until it's done.

This project is redefining the story of Africa and the possibilities of Africa." Dlamini said PIC was actively seeking long-term partnerships aligned with infrastructure development, industrialisation and economic transformation across Africa. "What we have seen today reinforces our conviction that the next chapter of African

prosperity will be written through partnership between African institutional capital and African industrial champi-

ons. There is real strategic alignment between Dangote's industrial agenda and how we are positioning our portfolio, and we look forward to exploring meaningful avenues for collaboration," he stated.

The visit comes amid a separate development at the Group. Dangote Industries Limited has commenced preliminary activities for the execution of the Olokola Deep Seaport project, a multi-billion-dollar maritime and industrial infrastructure initiative at the Olokola Free Trade Zone.

The project spans more than 10,000 hectares across Ogun Waterside Local Government Area of Ogun State, stretching to Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State along the Gulf of Guinea coastline. It forms a central part of the Group's Vision 2030 expansion agenda.

Managing Director for Infrastructure and Logistics at Dangote Industries, Captain Jamil Abubakar, described the proposed seaport as a strategic gateway that would transform host communities and Nigeria's export capacity. "The Olokola Port project is a major step in opening up Nigeria's economic potential, strengthening trade, reducing pressure on existing ports and support-

ing industrial growth. It will create real opportunities for host communities through jobs, business activities and long-term developments across both Ogun and Ondo states," he said.

Abubakar said the port was designed as a logistics gateway for an integrated industrial ecosystem that would strengthen Africa's maritime trade and regional commerce. The facility is intended to facilitate exports of fertilisers, petrochemicals and refined petroleum products, while also supporting future liquefied natural gas exports and the importation of industrial equipment.

During community engagement visits to Ode-Omi in Ogun State, Araromi Seaside Kingdom and Igbokoda in Ondo State, traditional rulers expressed support for the project. The Lenuwa of Ode-Omi, Oba Folailu Adekunle Hassan, approved the commencement of survey activities. The Alara of Araromi Seaside Kingdom, Oba Adeoloye Olawole, pledged both physical and spiritual support.

Dangote Industries said the seaport is expected to drive large-scale economic activity, create jobs, attract foreign direct investment and strengthen Nigeria's participation in intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area.



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Editorial

The Tribune's position, and voices that challenge, provoke and inform



Too young to lead? Too old to learn? Lesotho cannot afford either excuse

Kofi Annan once said you are not too young to lead and not too old to learn. That quiet sentence has a great deal to say to this country right now.

By Editorial



There is a tendency in Lesotho, as in many places, to treat age as a qualification in itself. The young are told to wait their turn. The experienced are told they already know everything worth knowing. Kofi Annan, the late Ghanaian diplomat and United Nations Secretary-General, had a gentle but firm response to both camps. You are not too young to lead, he said, and not too old to learn.

That sentence is deceptively simple. Read it slowly and it pushes back against two of the most stubborn obstacles in public life: the gatekeeping that keeps capable young people on the margins, and the complacency that keeps experienced people from growing. Both are costly. In a country still finding its feet across so many sectors, Lesotho can ill afford either.

You are not too young to lead. And
Lesotho Tribune. lesothotribune.co.ls . Information Liberates

you are not too old to learn. The case for young leadership does not rest on novelty. It rests on energy, proximity to the problems, and an absence of the political debts that accumulate over decades in office. Young Basotho are finishing university, starting businesses, building things in their communities, and navigating a world their elders did not design. That is not a disadvantage. That is exactly the preparation that many forms of leadership require.

At the same time, the call for experienced voices to keep learning is not an insult. It is a recognition that the world moves. Laws change. Technologies shift. Communities evolve. The minister who last studied a subject in 1994 is working from a map that no longer matches the territory. Wisdom is a real thing, but it requires maintenance. The good news is that

these two ideas are not in competition. The most functional institutions tend to be the ones that move people across generations rather than sorting them into separate camps. Mentorship, succession planning, and honest internal conversation are not soft management concepts. They are how organisations survive their founders and outlast their original moment.

The most functional institutions move people across generations rather than sorting them into separate camps. Lesotho has a young population. The median age sits well below thirty. That is a resource, not a problem to be managed until it ages out. How the country chooses to engage that resource, in government, in the private sector, in civil society, will shape what kind of place this is in twenty years. And the people currently in senior positions have a direct role in that outcome, not just through policy, but through the daily decisions about who gets a seat in the room and who is asked to wait outside. Equally, learning does not stop at a certain rank or a certain age. Some of the most important developments in Lesotho's economic and civic life in the coming decade will be driven by forces that did not exist when current leaders were trained. Climate adaptation. Digital financial services. Regional trade under new frameworks. The leaders who thrive will be the ones who remain genuinely curious.

Annan spent his career trying to build institutions that were larger than any one person's ego or generation. That ambition seems worth borrowing. Not too young to lead. Not too old to learn. It is a short sentence. But it describes an entire civic philosophy.

Opinion

Official Statements, government communications, and institutional announcements



Russian ambassador hails Lesotho's heroes and calls for stronger partnership on Africa Day

Ambassador Roman Ambarov has extended congratulations to Lesotho on Africa Day and Heroes Day, reaffirming Moscow's readiness to deepen bilateral ties and urging Maseru to engage as the continent reshapes itself into a multipolar order.

By Staff Reporter



In a message issued on 25 May, Ambassador Ambarov described the date as carrying a double significance for the Mountain Kingdom, uniting what he called the rhythm of pan-African solidarity with the deep pulse of national remembrance.

Africa Day marks the founding of the Organisation of African Unity in Addis Ababa in 1963, when African leaders resolved to end colonialism and forge a common destiny. Ambarov said Russia, then the Soviet Union, had stood with Africa in that struggle, citing a shared belief in every nation's right to chart its own course free from

external domination.

On Heroes Day, the Ambassador drew a line from King Moshoeshoe the Great through the Gun War to the political pioneers of independence and the human rights defenders who sheltered the persecuted during apartheid. He described Lesotho's heroes as woven into the fabric of the African Renaissance, and said Russia honours their memory with a deep understanding of the cost of defending sovereignty. Ambarov presented his Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Letsie III on 27 August 2025. He said the King had spoken of the need to evolve the histor-

ic friendship into a stronger and more efficient partnership for the twenty-first century. The then Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Lejone Mpotjoane, had echoed that sentiment, indicating Lesotho's readiness to deepen dialogue and explore new horizons. "These are not abstract figures or distant promises. They are signposts on a shared road towards food sovereignty, economic resilience and a more balanced global partnership."

— Ambassador Roman Ambarov

In February 2026 the Ambassador conducted a working visit to Maseru, during which the capital hosted for the first time a reception marking Russian Diplomatic Workers' Day. The event celebrated 46 years of formal bilateral relations. During the reception, Ambarov noted that Russia-Africa trade has reached approximately 27 billion United States dollars and said Russia is ready to support Lesotho in energy security, agriculture and grain supply.

The Ambassador also said Russia looks forward to hosting a Lesotho delegation at the third Russia-Africa Summit in Moscow, scheduled for 28 to 29 October 2026.

Ambarov extended wishes of sound health and success to His Majesty King Letsie III, the Prime Minister and the Government, and offered his respect to every family in Lesotho.

Source: Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho. Message issued on the occasion of Africa Day and Heroes Day, 25 May 2026.

Mbeki says leaders, not migrants, caused SA's economic decline

Former president Thabo Mbeki pins South Africa's high crime and unemployment on his successors rather than undocumented Africans, and warns the country is allowing the real culprits to escape scrutiny.

BY SEIPATI MATOBO



Thabo Mbeki says South Africa's high levels of crime and unemployment are the result of leadership failures, not undocumented migrants, as he pushes back against growing anti-immigrant sentiment. Mbeki was addressing the NEPAD high-level business breakfast and Africa Day Lecture in Cape Town on Thursday, where he warned that South Africans are pointing fingers at the wrong people while ignoring the real causes of the country's economic decline.

"Jacob Zuma and Cyril Ramaphosa caused high levels of crime and unemployment, not illegal immigrants. I was the head of state here; there were undocumented immigrants, and the economy was growing. Crime levels were down."

His remarks directly reference the administrations of Jacob Zuma and Cyril

il Ramaphosa, which he links to the country's economic downturn following years of stronger growth during the early democratic period.

Mbeki says while concerns about unemployment and crime are valid, blaming foreign nationals is misguided.

"Huge levels of unemployment, that's correct. High levels of crime, that's correct. But the finger is being pointed at the wrong people."

He points to South Africa's economic trajectory between 1994 and the late 2000s, saying the country experienced steady growth, reaching rates of up to six per cent, despite the presence of undocumented migrants. "From 2009, it goes the opposite direction. It's not caused by undocumented immigrants, the people who caused that decline, are laughing in the corner there, because we are pointing somewhere else."

Mbeki argues that political and structural factors, rather than migration, are behind the country's economic struggles, warning that misdirected blame risks deepening divisions and failing to address the real issues.

He also reflects on what he describes as a decline in African unity and integration since the early years of democracy. "That sense of African integration that we had 25 years ago has receded. Why? That's a question we must ask and answer."

Mbeki has emphasised that migration to South Africa is deeply rooted in the continent's shared history, particularly the role African nations played in supporting the anti-apartheid struggle.

"The continent came to own South Africa; this was not just a South African struggle, it was their struggle." The former president predicts that migration into South Africa will continue regardless of policy responses.

"The Africans will continue to come to South Africa. It doesn't matter what you do. You can't change the hearts and minds of these Africans." Mbeki cautions that calls for foreign nationals to go home ignore this historical context and are unlikely to solve domestic challenges.

"You are not going to solve the problem of unemployment here by shouting against undocumented Africans and leaving the culprits." Instead, he urges South Africans to confront the root causes of economic decline and joblessness, warning that failure to do so will allow those responsible to evade accountability.

Science & Technology



Technology, Connectivity and the digital transformation of economics like Lesotho

Senate committee calls for STEM focus and scholarship reform to combat youth unemployment

The Senate's SDG Committee has urged the government to modernise higher education and redirect scholarship funding towards science and technology disciplines, warning that the current mismatch between qualifications and labour market demands is deepening youth unemployment.

BY THOLOANA LESENYA



The Senate Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Committee has called on the government to place greater focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, saying it could help tackle the growing problem of unemployment, especially among young people.

The call was made during the presentation of a committee report on measures that could be taken to address unemployment in Lesotho.

Education must keep pace with the job market. Presenting the report on behalf of the committee chairperson, Principal Chief of Leribe, Chief Joel Motšoene, said the country needs to urgently review and modernise programmes offered by universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning. He said many courses currently offered do not fully match the skills required by today's job market. According to Chief Motšoene, the world of work is changing rapidly as technology continues to transform industries and create new opportunities. As a result, countries that invest in science and technology education are better positioned to create jobs, attract investment and compete in the global economy. He noted that many of the employment opportunities available today require technical knowledge and practical skills related to science and technology. For this reason, he said Lesotho's education system must evolve to keep pace with international

developments and changing labour market demands.

"The country needs an education system that prepares young people for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

Chief Motšoene highlighted several sectors that have the potential to create significant employment opportunities if properly developed. These include agriculture, mining, water management and road construction. He explained that these sectors require skilled workers such as engineers, technicians, scientists, information technology specialists and other professionals with technical expertise.

The chief also stressed the importance of innovation and research in driving economic growth. He said countries that invest in science and technology are often able to develop new products, improve productivity and attract businesses looking for skilled workers. Redirect scholarship funding towards STEM Supporting the committee's recommendations, Senator Dr. Thabiso Lebesse said the government should carefully examine the types of qualifications it funds through scholarship programmes. Dr. Lebesse acknowledged that programmes such as philosophy, sociology and history remain valuable because they contribute to knowledge, culture and critical thinking. However, he argued that employment opportunities in those fields are generally fewer when compared to STEM-related disciplines.

He said science and technology fields continue to play a major role in modern economies and are among the fastest-growing areas of employment worldwide. "As much as we appreciate other fields of study, we must also recognise where the labour market is moving."

He suggested that the government review its scholarship policy and consider directing more financial support towards programmes that are linked to industries with higher employment potential. According to Dr. Lebesse, increasing support for STEM education would not only benefit individual students but would also contribute to national development by creating a workforce with the skills needed to support economic growth.

Youth unemployment a persistent crisis

His proposal comes at a time when many young graduates continue to struggle to find employment despite holding university qualifications. Concerns have often been raised that there is a mismatch between the skills produced by educational institutions and those required by employers. Youth unemployment remains one of Lesotho's biggest socio-economic challenges. Every year, thousands of young people complete their studies and enter the labour market, but only a limited number of jobs become available. This has left many young people unemployed for long periods, creating frustration and increasing pressure on families and communities.

The Senate committee believes that improving education and skills development could play a key role in addressing the problem. Members argued that while job creation depends on many factors, including investment and economic growth, the country must ensure that its workforce has the skills needed by employers. They further noted that sectors such as agriculture and mining could create more opportunities if supported by modern technology, innovation and skilled professionals. The committee also emphasised the importance of preparing young people for careers in emerging industries, including information technology, renewable energy and digital services.

The senators agreed that education reform should be viewed as a long-term investment in the country's future. They warned that without changes to the current approach, unemployment is likely to remain a major challenge. They further stressed that government, educational institutions and the private sector should work together to ensure that training programmes meet labour market needs and equip students with practical skills.

Chief Motšoene and Dr. Lebesse both maintained that Lesotho has the potential to reduce unemployment and strengthen its economy if it invests strategically in education and skills development. The senators concluded that unless decisive action is taken to align education with economic realities, many young Basotho will continue to face limited employment opportunities despite years of study.

Science & Technology



Technology, Connectivity and the digital transformation of economics like Lesotho

Lesotho launches first phase of e-government services platform

Lesotho's shift to digital government services has cleared its first milestone, with officials cautioning that full back-end automation will come in stages as each phase is tested and validated.

BY LEMOHANG BOTSANE



Lesotho's push to move government services online has reached its first stage, with officials saying more improvements will follow until the entire process is fully automated behind the scenes. Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation (MICSTI), Kanono Ramashamole, said e-services will go through several stages of development before they are fully linked to government back-end systems. He made the remarks on Wednesday while officiating a validation exercise for the new e-services platform at the ICT boardroom. Representatives from different government ministries attended the meeting, with Ramashamole joining virtually.

Speaking to participants, the Principal

Secretary explained that this first phase is about testing whether the initial system works as intended. MICSTI is leading the project as the front-desk ministry responsible for digital services.

"This is the first stage of automation. We want to check if it is successful before moving to the next level. If this project succeeds, it will help cut down long queues and make it easier for Basotho to access government services."

Cross-ministry cooperation required Director General of Information Communications Technology, Thapeli Tjabane, also addressed the meeting and stressed that digitising government services is not a one-day job. He said it requires support and cooperation across

all ministries and departments.

Tjabane added that MICSTI has been working with partners such as Computer Business Solutions (CBS), who provided training and demonstrated how the system will work from start to finish. The training is meant to ensure that government staff understand how to use the platform and support citizens once it goes live.

Less paperwork, faster service One of the participants, Ts'ebeletso Mofolise from the Ministry of Public Service, said the project will help improve record-keeping and reduce manual paperwork.

"This system will make it easier to record data accurately and reduce the amount of manual work staff have to do. It will save time for both government workers and the public"

The ICT department within MICSTI is leading the rollout of e-services and is working closely with other ministries to speed up the shift to online service delivery. Ministries involved in the current phase include Home Affairs, Public Service,

Public Works and Transport, and Finance, among others. Officials said the goal is to eventually allow citizens to apply for documents, pay fees, and access other services online without having to visit government offices in person. For now, the validation exercise will help identify any gaps and ensure the system is ready for wider use. MICSTI said more updates and training sessions will follow as the project moves to the next stages of automation.

Farmers Corner



Small holder farming, land, climate risk, and Lesotho's climate risk

Chilli, garlic and tomato prices surge at Johannesburg and Pretoria markets, raising fresh produce costs for Lesotho border traders

Wholesale horticulture prices recorded at South Africa's two largest fresh produce markets during the week of 4 to 8 May 2026 show sharp increases in staple vegetables that move daily through the Maseru Bridge and Ficksburg border crossings.

BY SEIPATI MATOBO



Traders who source fresh produce from the Johannesburg and Pretoria wholesale markets for resale in Lesotho faced significantly higher input costs in early May 2026, with chillies, garlic, yellow pepper and carrots recording some of the steepest weekly price increases tracked by the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The department's Directorate of Agribusiness Support and Development Service published a horticulture market analysis for the week of 4 to 8 May 2026, tracking average prices on the Pretoria and Johannesburg fresh produce markets across 19 vegetable and five fruit lines. The document, issued by the Limpopo provincial government, is used by agribusiness operators and traders across the northern supply corridor that feeds into Gauteng and, by extension, into cross-border commerce with Lesotho.

Chillies recorded the largest week-on-week increase in the vegetable category, rising 75,85 per cent to an average of R309,28 for a 5 kg unit, against R175,88 the previous week. The average price per kilogram was recorded at R61,86, with an estimated price per ton of R61 856,10. Garlic rose 44,27 per cent over the same period, from R232,38 to R335,26 for a 5 kg unit, at R67,05 per kilogram. Yellow pepper increased 73,75 per

cent, from R257,88 to R448,05 for a 5 kg unit, the highest unit price of any commodity in the vegetable category. Carrots rose 27,41 per cent to R77,67 for a 10 kg unit. The department's analysis notes that carrot prices are expected to fluctuate until end of season, when higher volumes may stabilise the price. Cucumbers increased 32,19 per cent, from R154,50 to R204,23 per 10 kg unit. Tomatoes, among the most widely traded vegetables at the Lesotho border, rose 14,92 per cent to R128,35 per 10 kg unit, at R12,84 per kilogram.

The department noted that tomato prices may move sideways in line with seasonal trends. Not all commodities moved upward. Beans recorded the sharpest decline in the vegetable category, falling 23,28 per cent from R169,15 to R129,76 per 3 kg unit. Spinach fell 3,41 per cent and red pepper declined marginally by 0,49 per cent.

In the fruit category, mangoes fell 17,12 per cent to R79,28 per kilogram, while oranges dropped 69,27 per cent from R191,07 to R58,72 per 10 kg unit. Avocados and grapes both moved higher, by 8,70 per cent and 13,60 per cent respectively. The price movements carry direct implications for informal and small-scale traders who cross the Maseru Bridge, Ficksburg and Caledonspoor border posts daily to purchase produce at South African wholesale markets for resale in Lesotho. A peer-reviewed study published in the Journal of Agribusiness and Rural Development on 11 May 2026 confirmed that the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market acts as a price leader across the national market, with price shifts at the Johannesburg market rapidly transmitted to Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Durban and Cape Town. Bloemfontein is the closest major wholesale hub to the Lesotho border crossings.

The Limpopo department's analysis does

not address cross-border trade directly. The Lesotho Ministry of Trade, Industry, Business Development and Tourism had not responded to a request for comment on whether wholesale price movements at South African markets are being monitored at border level at the time of publication. Onions, a commodity central to Lesotho household consumption and street trade, rose 4,90 per cent to R75,33 per 10 kg unit. The department's analysis attributed the increase to a decrease in supply and stated that reduced stock was directly driving the price movement in the onion market. Potatoes increased 6,64 per cent to R45,37 per 10 kg unit, with the department noting that supply variation had led to instability in that market. Cabbage, one of the lowest-priced vegetables in the analysis at R20,21 per 10 kg unit, rose 2,22 per cent. The department noted that an increase in stock is expected to influence further price variation.

COMMODITY	UNIT
Chillies	5 kg
Yellow pepper	5 kg
Garlic	5 kg
Cucumbers	10 kg
Carrots	10 kg
Tomatoes	10 kg
Potatoes	10 kg
Onions	10 kg
Cabbage	10 kg
Grapes	kg
Avocados	kg
Spinach	bag
Red pepper	5 kg
Beans	3 kg
Oranges	10 kg
Mangoes	kg

Source: Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Directorate of Agribusiness Support and Development Service, Market Analysis: Horticulture, 4–8 May 2026.

Farmers Corner



Small holder farming, land, climate risk, and Lesotho's climate risk

Lesotho hosts ARIPO symposium on plant variety protection and food security

Lesotho convened regional partners and agricultural experts to advance the protection of new plant varieties, with officials linking stronger intellectual property systems to food security and climate resilience across Africa.

BY LEMOHANG BOTSANE



Lesotho brought together agricultural experts, government officials, and regional partners on Wednesday for a symposium focused on protecting new plant varieties and strengthening food security across Africa. The event was organised by the Ministry of Law and Justice through the Office of the Registrar General, working with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO). It was held under the theme: “Nurturing Agricultural Innovation, Advancing the Protection of New Plant Varieties for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Africa”

The symposium gathered officials from government, agricultural specialists, intellectual property experts, development partners, and stakeholders from across the region.

Their main goal was to discuss how to better protect new plant varieties and put the Arusha Protocol into practice. Breeders’ rights at the heart of ag-

ricultural innovation Officially opening the meeting, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Selibe Mochoboroane said protecting new plant varieties is key to driving innovation and attracting investment in agriculture. He explained that plant variety protection gives plant breeders exclusive rights over new varieties they develop, as long as those varieties are distinct, uniform, and stable. This means that when a breeder creates a new type of maize, bean, or vegetable that is different from what already exists, they can benefit from their work.

“By giving innovators these rights, we encourage them to keep investing time and resources into research and development. This leads to better seeds, higher yields, and crops that can withstand drought, pests, and changing weather patterns.”

The minister noted that the symposium shows Lesotho’s commitment to working with other countries in the

region on intellectual property and agricultural growth.

Arusha Protocol to streamline cross-border protection He said Lesotho is currently in the process of domesticating the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. The protocol aims to create a single, harmonised system for plant variety protection among ARIPO member states. This would make it easier for breeders to protect their work across several countries at once, instead of applying separately in each country.

Once in place, the system is expected to make it simpler and faster for farmers in Lesotho and the region to access improved seed varieties, which can help increase food production and income. Mochoboroane also connected the symposium to the work of His Majesty King Letsie III, who has been a strong advocate for nutrition and food security. He said that building a more resilient agricultural sector and supporting continuous innovation are essential if Lesotho and other African countries want to tackle malnutrition and cope with the effects of climate change.

“Without new and improved varieties, our farmers will struggle to keep up with challenges like erratic rainfall, new pests, and poor soils. Protecting innovation gives us a better chance to feed our people and grow our economy.”

Participants at the symposium agreed that stronger plant variety protection systems can help Africa reduce its dependence on imported seeds, support local breeders, and improve food security in the long term.

Arts & Sports

The stories Lesotho about itself - on the field, on the stage, and on the page

22



Lesotho Sends 14 Athletes to Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games

BY LITS'ITSO LETSUNYANE



The 2026 Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow are approaching, and Lesotho will be sending a compact but promising delegation built around two sports, athletics and boxing.

The Games, scheduled for July 23 to August 2, will feature 10 sports, including several fully integrated Para-sports but athletics and boxing will be Lesotho's main targets.

Glasgow 2026 presents an opportunity to showcase the upcoming talent of the new generation of athletes from Lesotho. The athletics squad will consist of eight athletes divided between men and women.

Men's Team

- * Mojela Koneshe — 100m / 200m
- * Neo Ntelele — 200m / 400m
- * Kente Mokheseng — 200m / 400m
- * Kamohelo Mofolo — 5000m / 10000m

Women's Team

- * Malia Nalane — 100m / 200m
- * Mamakoli Senauoana — 200m / 400m
- * Manqabang Tsibela — 800m / 1500m
- * Nthabiseng Lekotoko — 5000m / 10000m

Mojela Koneshe enters the Games as one of the athletes to watch after producing very impressive performances during the 2026 season. His participation in both the 100m

and 200m will likely place him among Lesotho's most closely followed competitors in Glasgow.

Neo Ntelele and Kente Mokheseng will strengthen Lesotho's 200m and 400m representation, after qualifying with satisfying times. On the women's side, Malia Nalane and Mamakoli Senauoana provide similar balance in the short sprint categories, and have both had good seasons this season.

In middle-distance competition, Manqabang Tsibela will compete in the 800m and 1500m, races that often demand tactical discipline and strong finishing ability.

Meanwhile, Kamohelo Mofolo and Nthabiseng Lekotoko will carry Lesotho's long-distance hopes in the 5000m and 10000m events, categories in which athletes from Lesotho have historically earned continental and international respect. Lesotho's boxing delegation consists of six athletes.

Men's Team

- * Refiloe Thai — 70kg
- * Pooana Khoahli — 65kg
- * Toka Litabe — 60kg
- * Mathealira Scholohohlo — 55kg

Women's Team

- * Realeboha Segoete — 60kg

* Rapelang Maselela — 57kg

The Boxing Team notably carries medal ambitions, and they may ultimately provide Lesotho with some at Glasgow 2026.

The men's squad covers multiple weight divisions, allowing Lesotho representation across lightweight and welterweight categories. Refiloe Thai and Pooana Khoahli are expected to face highly competitive opposition from boxing powerhouses such as England, India, Australia, and Nigeria.

On the women's side, Realeboha Segoete and Rapelang Maselela will compete in divisions that continue to grow in quality and international attention within Commonwealth competition.

The inclusion of both male and female boxers also reflects the continued development of women's boxing in the country.

Overall, Lesotho is expected to send a 14-athlete delegation. While Lesotho may not arrive in Glasgow with one of the Games' largest teams, the delegation represents a blend of youth, developing talent, and growing ambition. For many of these competitors, Glasgow 2026 will not only be about medals, but also gaining experience on one of the Commonwealth's biggest sporting stages.