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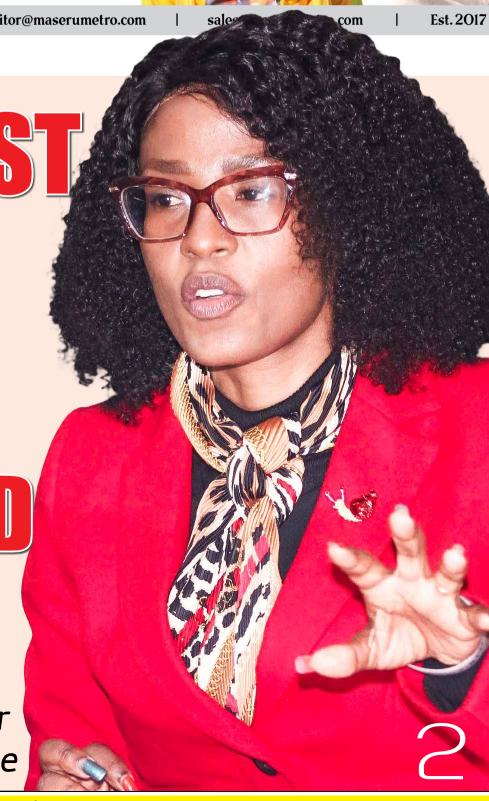
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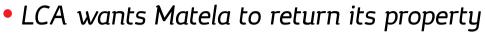
- LCA wants Matela to return its property
- The former LCA chief asks for another judge to hear her case



### National News

## Case against erstwhile LCA boss rescheduled

The former LCA chief asks for another judge to hear her case





Former LCA boss, Advocate 'Mamarame Matela

MASERU – The former Chief Executive Officer of the Lesotho Communication's Authority (LCA). Advocate Mamarame Matela who is being sued by the authority will have her day in court on November 25 when the case against her proceeds.

The matter was postponed last week after the respondent filed an appeal against a decision by the High Court.

The court had earlier dismissed an application by the respondent who had argued that the court did not have the jurisdiction to hear the matter.

The arguments on jurisdiction were made after the same court heard and dismissed an application for recusal of the judge who presided over the case.

Matela wanted the presiding judge to recuse himself from the case on the grounds that he might be bias in dealing with the matter.

She had argued that owing to a personal relationship her family and the judge's had, coupled with their respective professional relationship, the judge might not be able to bring an impartial mind in the case.

She said during her tenure of office at the LCA, the authority fined Vodacom Lesotho M8.5 million for non-compliance.

At the time, she said, the judge's wife acted as a legal advisor to Vodacom.

She had also shown that legal advisors

are among others mandated to ensure that the companies they present do not incur unnecessary costs.

She had argued that the judge's wife might have discussed the matter with her husband out of frustration and fear of a disciplinary action being taken against her, as a result, a reasonable person might form an opinion that the judge might be bias in the case

In his submission, Attorney Qhalehang Letsika for the LCA argued that Matela had not established evidence that the judge was likely to be partial adding that her allegations were baseless.

He had therefore asked that the

application for recusal be dismissed with costs.

The respondents had in their papers argued that the fact the judge had taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and other laws as well as to administer justice without fear or favour, would enable him to carry out his oath of office diligently.

They assumed that the judge could disabuse his mind of irrelevant personal beliefs and predispositions.

The LCA is in the main matter asking the court to issue an order against Matela to return properties belonging to the authority, which are still in her possession.



### National News



The closed P&T Garments Factory in Mafeteng

## Mochoboroane promises to open closed factory in Mafeteng

STAFF REPORTER

**MASERU** - P&T Garments located in Mafeteng will resume operations upon the completion of the Makhaleng dam, leader of the Movement for Economic Change (MEC), Selibe Mochoboroane has said.

He was addressing his followers on Sunday at a political rally that was held in the Qalabane constituency in Mafeteng.

66

The Makhaleng dam will also be used for irrigation purposes so that the community could help fight hunger well-prepared. "On another issue, our egg circles that have not been operational in the district for quite a long time must be resuscitated

Mochoboroane who is also the Minister of Development Planning said the dam would be built in Mohale's Hoek with the financial assistance of the World Bank and the European Union

As he is about to leave his cabinet position for the new government to be formed after the October 7 general elections, he said everything was in place for the construction of the dam to commence in January 2023.

"Now a feasibility study and design of the dam have been



Leader of MEC, Selibe Mochoboroane

completed," he said, adding that the completion of the dam would be a breakthrough for the factory to resume its operations.

He said he conducted a research to establish the reason the factory was shut down in the first place, leaving scores jobless and hundreds trapped in wretched poverty.

"My findings revealed that the district of Mafeteng does not have enough water to get the factory up and running in full swing," he said.

Upon completion of the dam, water woes in the southern districts of Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek and Quthing will be a thing of the past.

"I no longer want to hear any stories of the firm not operating after the completion of the dam, Mochoboroane said.

This is, after the people of Mafeteng demanded to know as to what the minister was planning to do with the factory that was shut down in 2010.

The community complained

about wallowing in virulent poverty as there are no jobs in the district to put bread on their

About 2300 people directly lost their jobs when that factory closed its doors to business over 12 years ago.

Mochoboroane said the people of Mafeteng have to work in that firm and refrain from relocating to other districts in search of job opportunities.

He said he would leave his office a contend man knowing that his plan to supply water to the district was in the pipeline.

"The Makhaleng dam will also be used for irrigation purposes so that the community could help fight hunger wellprepared. "On another issue, our egg circles that have not been operational in the district for quite a long time must be resuscitated," he said, adding that the chicken slaughter house that has also been dysfunctional for years should be put back to

Mochoboroane said producers have to know where to take their produce to earn a good living.

There should be market for their products in the district," he said, adding that the value chain should also be enhanced with local products. - LeNA



MEC supporters at Leshoboro Stadium in Mafeteng

## National News

## Lesotho has enough land to feed nation – Kabi



Leader of ABC, Nkaku Kabi



MASERU – Leader of the All Basotho Convention (ABC), Nkaku Kabi says Lesotho has enough arable land that can produce sufficient food to feed the entire nation and export surplus to other countries.

He was speaking on Saturday during a visit to the state-owned Radio Lesotho where he explained that the quality of Lesotho's soil was as good as South Africa's.

The ruling party's leader was speaking during a programme where political leaders are given air space to present their manifestos to the electorate in preparation for the upcoming general elections scheduled for October 7.

Kabi who was elected ABC leader earlier this year, replacing the founder, Motsoahae Thabane said his statement was based on a study made by experts within the party.

"The soil in the neighbouring South Africa is not made of gold, we have as good loam soils as the SA that can produce enough food for everybody," he said.

He said it was high time that the Lesotho Agricultural College (LAC) was able to produce animal feeds for poultry, pigs, cattle and sheep, so that Basotho could stop importing animal feed from South Africa.

He appealed to Basotho to be wise enough to elect people who will be able to implement their parties' manifestos.

"Some of the leaders are merely in this race in order to remain in Parliament, they have no intentions or the ability to take this country to greater heights," he said.

Kabi who is former Minister of Agriculture and Food Security pleaded for the protection of wetlands in order to preserve the country's water sources.

"Their preservation will among others stop key structures such as the Mohale and Katse dams from becoming white elephants. These important dams will eventually dry up if no measures are taken now to conserve our wetlands," he said.

He believed that over grazing is a major source of soil erosion which has left many mountains without any vegetation for

Commenting on the country's diamond industry, he said only a small portion of the local diamonds recorded as many continue to slip through the fingers.

He said if ABC, which has been in power since 2017 returns to rule, he will make proper monitoring of the mining processes to ensure that all recovered diamonds are reported and recorded for the benefit of the country. He promised that construction of new schools, especially in the highlands will be his priority with a view to reduce the distance travelled by learners between home and school.

He further promised to create more employment and grow the economy while discouraging illegal miners to go to work in closed SA mines.

"This is because some of these illegal miners end up committing crimes in the SA, which could spoil bilateral relations between the two countries," he also said. -

## LTDC honours women in tourism



Mahlakapese Guesthouse in Ha Setene, Leribe

**MASERU** – The Minister of Tourism, Environment, and Culture, Ntlhoi Motsamai says since women ventured into tourism, they have positively impacted the country's economy.

She said it was therefore imperative to encourage women to work hard, support each other and build their own legacy.

The minister was speaking last week at an event that was held in Leribe where the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC) honoured and celebrated women in tourism.

The event was part of the Africa Women's Month Celebration.

The Woman in Tourism Programme is an initiative that seeks to drive and support the development, empowerment, and promotion of women in the tourism sector.

Ms Motsamai told participants

at the event that she was grateful to be part of the beautiful celebration, promising that next year's event would be bigger and better.

She, however, said there was still a lot to be done in order to grow the tourism sector, urging the participants to visit LTDC for guidance.

For his part, the Chief Executive Officer of LTDC, Dr Retšelisitsoe Nko thanked all relevant stakeholders for their contribution, saying the celebration would not be a success without their unwavering support.

He said more women venturing into the tourism business align with SDG5 which is aimed to achieve gender quality and empower all women and

Dr Nko wished them well in their future endeavor, saying they should continue leading in the tourism business as the statistics show.

He said collaboration and sharing of knowledge are key in this business.

Speaking at the same event, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Recreation, Dr 'Mamoeketsi Ntho said tourism coordinated different sectors, adding that there was a value chain hence tourism could impact the economy positively.

She noted that one of the ministry's mandates was to support women in business, politics, and social empowerment hence they were supporting women in business.

On behalf of the women in tourism business, the owner of Mahlakapese Guesthouse in Ha Setene, Leribe, Matšeliso Mokuoane said they were ready to



The Minister of Tourism, Environment, and Culture, Ntlhoi Motsamai

support each other to grow their businesses by joining hands so as to transform domestic tourism as well as marketing Lesotho at the international level.

"The main challenges that hinder the growth of tourism in this country include failure to network as well as market our businesses. However, it is time for us to bring about the change we want by uniting to make Lesotho known for its uniqueness," she

As part of the celebration, awards of excellence were presented to various tourism businesses including Mlex

Beauty Spa, Mahlakapese Guesthouse and Limkokwing **University of Creative** Technology (LUCT).

Women in big business were encouraged to adopt the upcoming ones to track progress and assess the impact whilst putting in tailored and short interventions to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

Women from different sectors were given a chance to present and share knowledge in order to equip women in tourism with the necessary information that will help enhance business. -



## Africa News

## Mine flood disaster: De Beers says it doesn't own Free State dumps

- Flooding damaged property and killed at least three people
- De Beers stopped operations at Jagersfontein over 50 years ago



Houses and cars washed away by the dam water in Jagersfontein

A dam at South Africa's abandoned Jagersfontein diamond mine collapsed early Sunday, triggering heavy flooding that damaged property and killed at least three people.

About nine houses were swept away and more than 20 damaged by flood waters after the dam wall of the historic mine collapsed, Nathi Shabangu, a spokesman for the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy said via SMS.

The presidency said on Sunday that four people have been reported missing while 23 patients have been treated for hypothermia and four for broken legs.

The mine in the Free State, formerly owned by De Beers, was shut in the 1970s.

The dam collapse also resulted in the loss of power in the small town of Jagersfontein, about 100 kilometers from Bloemfontein, the regional capital, and other nearby townships. Floodwaters and mud cut off Eskom's access to a key electrical substation. The utility is working to restore supplies, it said in a statement.

The mine's dumps and slime still "belong"

to De Beers and the government's access has been restricted by a court order, Shabangu said. "We also have reports that the mine has been sold to other parties, without the involvement of the DMRE as per the court order," he said.

De Beers told Fin24 in a statement that it had stopped operations at Jagers fontein over 50 years ago and eventually sold it in 2010.

"We have seen reports about the incident at Jagersfontein, and we share the concerns of the nation for the residents of the area.

"De Beers Group ceased operations at Jagersfontein in 1971 and despite having the sold the operation, along with its associated liabilities in 2010, we stand ready to provide technical assistance and support to the government should it be requested by the Minerals Council South Africa.'

Minerals Council South Africa, a mining industry lobbying group, said the cause of the dam collapse was unknown.

The Jagersfontein assets are not currently owned by any of its members, and it has no information about the ownership structure or the standard of management of the dumps, the



group said in a statement. President Cyril Ramaphosa is expected to

visit the area later on Monday.

### Eleven migrants die in latest Mediterranean accident

At least 11 people are thought to have died in miles further up the coast near Chebba, a shipwreck off the coast of Tunisia, with 12 others still missing.

Tunisia's coastguard rescued 14 people after the boat, which was carrying 37 migrants to Italy, sank on Tuesday

Five more bodies were recovered on Saturday night, the state news agency TAP says, bringing the death toll to 11.

More than 1000 migrants are thought to have died this year attempting to cross the central Mediterranean.

The figures are from the UN agency, the International Organisation for Migration. Of the 1033 migrants classed as dead or missing, 960 are thought to have drowned.

The Tunisian boat set off from the Sfax region, with the boat sinking around 40

The coastline around Sfax has become a major departure point for people trying to cross the Mediterranean in the hope of reaching Europe.

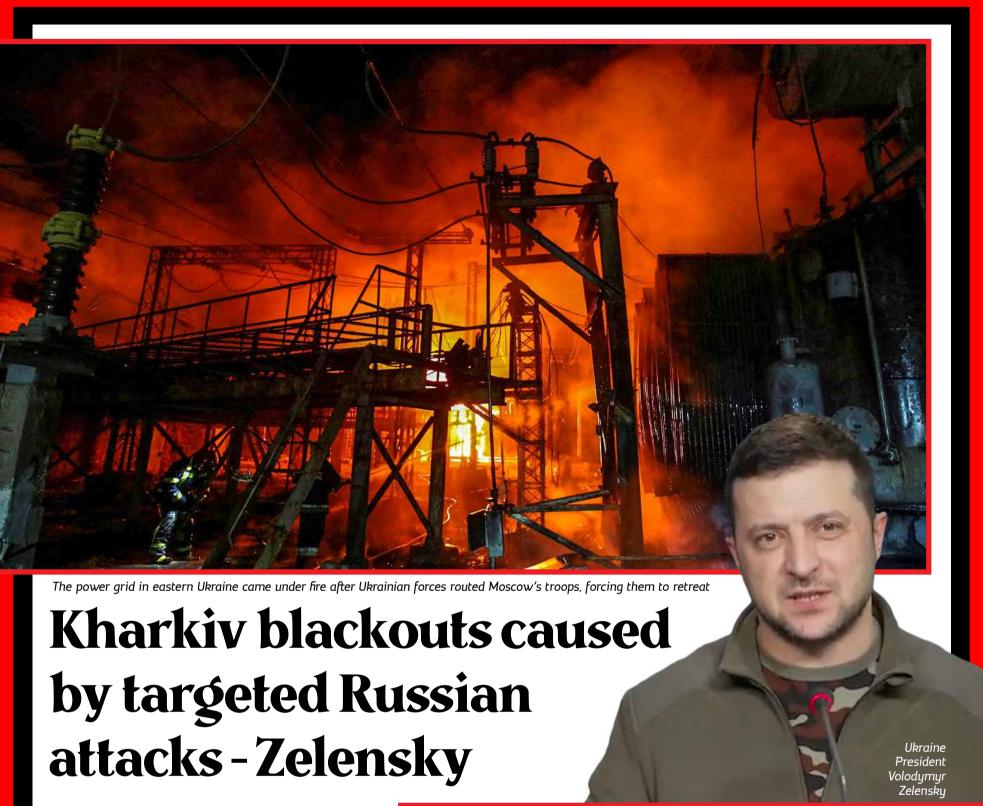
The Italian island of Lampedusa lies in between the eastern coast of Tunisia and Sicily and is often a destination for those attempting to reach Europe from north

According to the EU border agency Frontex, there were 52 000 "irregular entries" via the central Mediterranean route between January and August this year, with the migrants mainly from Tunisia, Egypt and Bangladesh.

- BBC News



A Tunisian national coast quard helps a child to get off a rescue boat back in April



Russia aims to "deprive people of light and heat" by causing power cuts across eastern Ukraine in revenge for a Ukrainian counteroffensive, President Volodymyr Zelensky has said.

Blackouts reportedly affected millions of people in the eastern Kharkiv and Donetsk regions. The Kharkiv city mayor says power is now restored.

It comes after Ukraine said it had retaken over 3000 sq km (1,158 sq miles) in an eastern counter-offensive.

The BBC cannot verify these figures.

Kharkiv mayor Ihor Terekhov said Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure left much of his city without power or water on Sunday evening.

He called it a vile and cynical attempt at revenge for the Ukrainian army's recent successes.

What sounded like two further missile strikes were heard later in the evening, the BBC's international correspondent Orla Guerin reported from Kharkiv.

Mr Terekhov and the region's governor called for calm, saying the emergency services were working to repair damage and put out fires.

The governor of the neighbouring Sumy region said over 130 settlements in one district alone were without power.

Similar problems have been reported in Dnipropetrovsk and Poltava regions.

In a defiant post on social media after the power cuts, President Zelensky accused Russia of carrying out "terrorist acts" by targeting civilian infrastructure.

"Cold, hunger, darkness and thirst are not as terrible and deadly for us as your 'friendship and brotherhood'," he wrote on Telegram.

It comes after a remarkable Ukrainian advance, which if confirmed will mean Ukrainian forces have tripled their territorial gains in little over 48

President Zelensky said 1,000 sq km had been retaken on Thursday evening. That figure rose to 2000 sq km on Saturday evening, then to 3 000 on Sunday.

UK defence officials estimated that Ukraine has recaptured territory at least twice the size of Greater London - more than 3,000 sq km - in the Kharkiv region since



Firefighters work at a site of a thermal power plant damaged by a suspected Russian missile strike.

Wednesday.

They added that Ukrainian army's successes would have "significant implications" for Russia's overall operational design.

Journalists have been denied access to the front lines but several videos on social media show Ukrainian troops present in towns and villages that were until recently held by Russia.

Ukrainian forces entered the key town of Balaklyia on Friday. Russia later confirmed the withdrawal of troops, to "bolster efforts" on the Donetsk front.

The vital Russian-held supply

towns of Izyum and Kupiansk were taken by Ukraine on Saturday. Russia confirmed its forces' retreat from both towns, which it said would allow them to "regroup".

Valerii Marchenko, mayor of Izyum, said residents should be able to return to the town in about 10 days for the first time since it was captured by Russia in March.

Two-thirds of the population had fled, he told Newshour on the BBC World Service, but most wanted to go back despite extensive destruction and a lack of energy, water or communications.

Izyum was probably the

biggest logistical hub for the Russian army, he said, as it was a gateway to Sloviansk and Kramatorsk in the Donbas region. where Russia wanted to advance.

But Russia still holds around a fifth of the country, and few imagine a swift end to the war.

In an interview with the Financial Times, Ukraine's Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov warned of the potential for a Russian counter-attack.

"A counter-offensive liberates territory and after that you have to control it and be ready to defend it," Mr Reznikov said. - BBC News



**EDITOR'S NOTE** 

### **UNDP** and Econet Telecom Lesotho empower local women entrepreneurs

Local entrepreneurs have over the years been experiencing major challenges, struggling to make ends meet, particularly during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the entire sector is failing to make a significant impact in the local economy, women entrepreneurs are particularly the most vulnerable and underperforming.

Access to finance is one of the biggest challenges they usually encounter, at some point leading to the ultimate collapse of their businesses. Other women fail to even transform their ideas into reality because of absence of funds and other necessities.

In essence, it means women entrepreneurs really need more support from different stakeholders to ensure progress. Thanks to organisations such as the UNDP and Standard Lesotho Bank, which are currently putting women at the forefront and assisting them to build their businesses.

Just this week, the UNDP decided to join hands

with Econet Telecom Lesotho to among others, uplift women entrepreneurs towards realising their

For instance, under the initiative known as "Her Empire" the UNDP enrolled 18 women who lead their own enterprises in different sectors. This is the first cohort of women-led enterprises being enrolled in this initiative, which was launched in May.

The main objective of the initiative is to ensure that women-led enterprises improve their business capacities, transforming into iconic business frameworks pioneered by women and are able to compete at the highest level of service provision including participation in public and private procurement processes.

Initiatives of this nature should indeed be applauded because they will certainly unleash the potential of women entrepreneurs which unfortunately has been overlooked for many years.

Women entrepreneurs in Lesotho should

be in a position to play a spirited role towards development, however, as it stands, their businesses are faced with many challenges such as lack of capital, access to markets among others. This perhaps is because the government has failed and continues to undermine the power of women in business, hence, no word, apart from the private sector, is being said by the state about developing the sector.

Further applause should be directed towards Standard Lesotho Bank through its women empowerment programmes that are aimed towards women empowerment. The bank has in recent years fully been acknowledging women in business and making sure that they thrive.

Such actions should be sending strong messages to other relevant stakeholders to be more willing to support women entrepreneurs. Only then shall we see the required improvement in the country's economy coupled with reduced unemployment.

**Speak OUT!** Your opinions matter. This page is dedicated to those who wish to express their views.

## Women's Month may be over, but the demand for economic equality is an ongoing struggle

A universal basic income grant would provide women, especially those heading households, with financial security to be able to reach their full potential. A robust women's entrepreneurship sector has the potential to change the fabric of South African society as we know it

We live in a country where 42% of households are headed by women. A female-headed household refers to a situation where a woman is in charge of managing a family as a result of the father of children living in a household either having disappeared, divorced or separated from the mother of his children, emigrated

Currently, South African recipients of the Child Support Grant (90% of whom are women) share that money in households because there are no social security grants available to working-age adults who are unable to find work.

During the Covid-19 lockdown periods, the government introduced the R350 Social Relief of Distress grant (SRD) that was payable to poor working-age people. For many people, the SRD grant became a lifeline, but some people in government object to the SRD grant saying it is a waste of limited state

Those same government officials who took issue with the SRD grant are reluctant about supporting a proposed Universal Basic Income Grant (Ubig), which has been on the table for discussion for a while now. This is an argument for how women could be empowered through a Ubig.

The proposed Ubig would be a government programme through which every South African adult citizen receives a set amount of money regularly. How much each person receives under a Ubig plan depends on a number of factors such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation, and employment incon

Other countries, including Canada, are discussing the implementation of a Ubig too. More than half of all South Africans live below the upper bound poverty line and 25% of the population live in starvation.

Women are more vulnerable than men because of higher poverty rates and fewer job opportunities and this is felt particularly for female-headed households where intergenerational poverty transmission or self-reproducing poverty happens. Executive Director of Social Policy Initiative (SPI) Isobel Frye argues that poverty burdens women more, and black African women, in particular, suffer the most, given the intersectional dynamics of race, class and gender. And of course, we have a high incidence of absent fathers, in South Africa.

### **OPINION**

By Alexandra Will



According to Frye, "women are registered as caregivers

for over 90% of recipients of the Child Support Grant, and yet 10.5 million women are Neets (Not in Employment, Education or Training) compared to 8.5 million men – 6.5 million women applied for the SRD grant in February 2022 compared to 4.8 million men. Caregiving prevents many women from being able to find paid work, as they cannot leave their dependents alone, and care work is not compensated".

Frye argues that a universal basic income grant "would

enable women to have more control over their lives with a little bit more income. It also would delink income from caregiving, recognising women's rights separately from being caregivers which is important to do as part of a permanent contestation of patriarchal norms".

In addition, anecdotal evidence collected by SPI identified how fathers feel more able to be with their children when they can bring some of their R350 to these visits. This promotes responsible parenting and children's sense of identity.

Furthermore, a Ubig could assist self-starting entrepreneurial women, including street traders, by providing them with venture capital and support they need to build their businesses. In South Africa, street traders are primarily women. In this sense, a Ubig would provide women (especially those heading households) with financial security to be able to reach their full potential. A robust women's entrepreneurship sector has the potential to change the fabric of South African society as we know it.

Canadian health economist with expertise in the feasibility of basic income Evelyn Forget argues that "[basic income] is a promise that no matter what happens in your life, no matter what happens to the economy or to society, everyone will have access with enough money to live a dignified life". A Ubig is primarily about dignity, and the possibility of it happening in our country largely rests on political will.

Just because August, "Women's Month" is over does not mean the struggles of women are over; they are far away from reaching the dream of equality, and the Ubig can go a small way towards realising this. - DM

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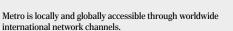
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Maseru Metro news





Putin uses food as a weapon of war

I want to start our conversation this week by reminding everyone that any agreement with Russia is not worth the paper it's printed on. Any deals with Russia are absolutely nonsensical and useless.

Do you remember just a bit over a month ago the world agreed on a deal with Russia to stop blocking vital grain exports to ease the global food crisis sparked by Russia's unprovoked invasion in Ukraine? Do you remember all the speeches they were making on how they are worried about world famine and especially so for their partners in Africa? Do you remember their Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergei Lavrov running all around Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, and the Republic of Congo screaming right and left that Russia is not to be blamed for the food crisis in Africa and they are doing their best to help? Remember?

Well, unsurprisingly, all lies. Since their blackmail on blowing up Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station wasn't as successful as they had hoped – due to the West considering applying Nato's Article 5 in response to a possible accident at Zaporizhzhia, Russia decided to go back to blackmailing the world with food.

Last week Vladimir Putin threatened the grain deal in his aggressive speech during the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum held in Russia. Seems all the "backward winning" of Russia's military in Ukraine resulted in their willingness to renew their naval blockade in the Black Sea and continue threatening the African continent with a food crisis.

This is unsurprising to all of us in Ukraine because they are still attacking our grain silos with missiles all the time, on top of having stolen all of the grain and agricultural machinery from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Furthermore, we have the Kremlin's mouthpiece Margarita Symonyan stating on stage during a conference: "All of our hopes are for famine. I mean, when famine really starts, they'll have a chance to re-think everything and lift the sanctions and will become our friends because they'll understand that it's impossible not to be our friends."

Thus, unfortunately, I must conclude that since Russia is unable to break any of us Ukrainians, they're going to do all they can to come back to their diabolical initial plan to create a Russian-made famine around the world to spread death and chaos. And since our global food supply is already extremely damaged by warming temperatures and the coronavirus pandemic, Russia can successfully weaponise the global food supply crisis.

So, when you read or hear: "Russian president says he wants to revise the agreement to allow export of Ukrainian grain from the Black Sea", that means Russia is ready to starve the most vulnerable countries by blocking grain exports and destroying

Now, it is important to remember that prior to Putin starting this war in Ukraine, the world was not in a good place with food security to begin with. We've managed to survive, those of us who did, two years of the horrific worldwide pandemic, and we of course are clearly faced with the huge impacts of climate change.

Add Russia's unprovoked barbaric offensive on one of the largest agricultural countries in the world and you've got yourself



The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov

a recipe for disaster. Food insecurity is one of the biggest challenges our world faces and we need to be vigilant and aware, especially when Russia creates global food crises while spending millions to spread disinformation.

Now, I want to share a few key points with you to help you pinpoint disinformation and understand who is starving your family, friends, and people and be ready to do something about it. are nonsensical as the West isn't blocking ports in Odesa,

Third, when Russia promises something along the lines of discounts for products they stole from Ukraine, please remember that they've broken every agreement they've made. For example, they once signed a Budapest Memorandum with a pledge to never attack Ukraine if we give up nuclear weapons. And then they've attacked Ukraine and are now trying, but are clearly failing, to hold the EU hostage by blackmailing them with turning off the gas so they'll freeze during the winter. The EU has its gas storage more than 90% filled already, two months ahead of schedule, so, believe me, they'll be just fine. I'm happy to state that I can't say the same for Russia.

Fourth, when Russia promises you help and partnership, I urge everyone to remember that it is yet another lie. Until Russia's invasion, Ukraine was one of the largest exporters of grains and vegetable oils, exporting grain to meet the needs of 400 million people worldwide. It is impossible for them to grow that much volume of crops — if they could, they would have done it by now. So yes, Russia can and will promise you to fill that gap, but NO, they absolutely cannot. What they can do and are doing is using food as a weapon. Because of Russia's disgusting, barbaric behaviour, up to 47 million more people could face acute food shortages in 2022, bringing the total to 323 million by the end of this year.

Russia has created food crises in the world and they are the ONLY ONES responsible for the global food security crisis and a high risk of multiple famines this year. None of it was happening before they attacked Ukraine.

Russia is the ONLY country that is using food as a weapon by blocking grain exports to vulnerable countries. - DM



By Liubov Abravitova

First, Russia is the ONLY country now trying to destroy the UN-brokered agreement for maritime grain exports from Ukraine. They are the ONLY country that is doing everything they can to create famine. They've already killed 50,000 of their soldiers in Ukraine, they lied to their own army telling them we will be greeting them with flowers, and just sent them to be burnt alive. If that is how they treat their own do you think they would give a single thought about the citizens of other countries? The answer is obvious.

Second, when you see any Russian disinformation narratives about the causes of food insecurity, please remember that they are THE ONLY ONES blocking the food supply. Their absolutely laughable fairy tales about "Western desire for global dominance"



### **CURRENCIES**

**COMMODITIES** 

STOCKS

NASDAQ100 Nikkei225

Dow Jones30

**EQUITIES** 

Treasury Bills Interest Rates

(How Lesotho's Loti fared against world major currencies this week)

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	22.04
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	17.35
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.89
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.43
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.12
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	19.93

# UNDP, Econet seal partnership to assist women entrepreneurs



# We to the first of the first of

FTSE 100		7,183.88
JSE		67,729.53
Hang Seng		19,532.17
PRECIOUS METALS	(Rates in US Dollars)	
Gold p/ounce		1,678.65
Platinum p/ounce		815.00
Silver p/ounce		18.05
Copper p/ounce		0.22
Brent Oil p/barrel		93.71

27.924.82

AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)						
Maize Meal p/kg	M7.00	Eggs p/tray	M45.00			
Wheat Meal p/kg	M10.00	Milk (fresh) p/litre	M16.00			
Cabbage p/kg	M14.00	Milk (sour) p/litre	M20.00			
Potatoes p/kg	M10.50	Rice p/kg	M30.00			
Brown Bread p/loaf	M10.00	White Sugar p/kg	M22.00			
White Bread p/loaf	M11.00	Brown Sugar p/kg	M25.00			
Soghum Meal p/kg	M25.00	Beef p/kg	M85.00			
Brown Beans p/kg	M30.00	Mutton p/kg	M90.00			
Tomato p/kg	M15.00					

<b>ENERGY</b> (Rates in Maloti/Rands	)
Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M22.20
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M22.65
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M23.20
Paraffin p/litre	M17.80
Water (Domestic) p/litre	M5.53
Water (Industrial) p/litre	M15.03
Electricity (Domestic) p/unit	M1.38
Electricity (Industrial) p/unit	M0.26
Gas p/kg	M20.00
= =	

## SLB offers financial solutions to local SMMEs

NEO SENOKO

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MASERU - In a bid to overcome challenges regarding access to finance for local Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs), Standard Lesotho Bank has introduced a number of solutions to make it easy for businesses to grow and realise their dreams.

Through enterprise banking, which is a division of the bank that services SMMEs, the bank has continued to expand its footprint through making Basotho's dreams a reality.

The new Customer Value
Proposition for enterprise banking
provides Basotho businesses with
pre-scored lending that provide
SMMEs faster access to finance and
cover those pressing needs required
that keep businesses running.

These include working capital loans, order finance loans, overdrafts, vehicles, and asset finance loans that enable Basotho to purchase stock, machinery, trucks, and property to grow their businesses.

"As an example, our new order financing solution no longer requires financial statements and security, this new development makes it easier for Basotho businesses to get access to finance that it also quicker to process. These products help ease the lives of SMMEs owners by offering convenient, affordable, and reliable services to boost their businesses," Standard Lesotho Bank said this week.

The new enterprise banking proposition further aligns with



Standard Lesotho Bank

Standard Lesotho Bank's far-reaching pledge to respond meaningfully to the massive unrest that has been suffered by small businesses and help them as they try to recuperate post the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

Enterprise banking offers SMMEs a variety of options to access banking and financial services with convenience, reliability, and affordability. By constantly reimagining its commitment with SMMEs and altering its operations to be agile, the bank is moving away from a transactional relationship towards one that is more transparent, lasting, and dependable.

Essentially, Standard Lesotho bank has and continues to position itself as a trusted partner for Basotho SMEs.

COVID-19 set several businesses back, while some sadly closed completely. The bank however, reached out to Basotho SMMEs to give them hope and rebuild their companies.

During the height of the Covid when the whole world was engulfed by a state of uncertainty and businesses were failing to realise profits, the bank provided several measures to keep businesses afloat.

Among some of the COVID-19 reliefs was a debt relief package for businesses and individuals worth over M624 million to account holders with existing loans with the bank.

Additionally, in December 2020, the Bank awarded 10 winners recapitalisation finance to the value of M600 000 through the Entrepreneurs Support Competition, with the goal to still further support businesses that were enduring the COVID-19 impact.

Enterprise banking solutions place the power at the fingertips of businesses with accessible and fast self-service banking services that allow them to pay suppliers and employees from the comfort of their own businesses. That way, business owners are able to spend more time focusing on growing their businesses.

"The challenges of the past years have led the bank to refocus and strengthen how it communicates to the wider Basotho community. Through the enterprise campaign, the bank aims to equip business owners across Lesotho with technical and business support to help them in rebuilding their establishments.

Essentially, the campaign aims to be a real-time case study providing insights on how businesses react to changing conditions and how Standard Lesotho Bank holds their hand at every step of the way.

"We believe that all dreams are possible, no matter how big or scary. Even when they tell you that you can't, we believe you can. So, trust us to get you there and be by your side when you build and manage your business," said Standard Lesotho Bank Head of Business and Commercial Banking, Keketso Makara.

Makara added that these interventions are a clear demonstration that the bank has the interest of Basotho businesses at heart at the time of hardship, but now that the economy is returning to normalcy, the focus is to grow Basotho and revive the economy.

## UNDP, Econet seal partnership to assist women entrepreneurs

**NEO SENOKO** 

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**MASERU** – The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Lesotho has partnered with local telecommunications giant, Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) to among others support and grow women-led businesses in the country.

The two organisations confirmed their partnership through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday.

Apart from revisiting and reflecting on the incredible journey between the two institutions, the MoU will add new ventures to the existing partnerships between the two, starting with support to another UNDP accelerator lab initiative, which seeks to support women businesses.

The initiative, known as "Her empire" was kick-started in May, enrolling 18 women who lead their own enterprises in different sectors.

This is the first cohort of women-led enterprises being enrolled in the initiative.

The main objective of the initiative is to ensure that women-led enterprises improve their business capacities, transforming into iconic business frameworks pioneered by women and are able to compete at the highest level of service provision, including participation in public and private procurement

Among other things, ETL has pledged to support the initiative with technologies required to enable women-led enterprises to thrive in a world filled with uncertainty.

"COVID-19, devastating as it was, opened up other technological opportunities for businesses where we saw a rise in e-commerce across borders. We believe that this collaboration will assist in responding to some of the emerging issues faced by women-led small businesses while also enabling the generation of employment opportunities.

"On behalf of UNDP let me say I am very pleased to be a part of this event today where we ae going to unveil an improved MoU between UNDP and Econet. UNDP



UNDP acting Resident Representative, Nessie Golagai-Gould

has had a long and extensive experience in supporting the government of Lesotho and Basotho communities in various initiatives across the pillars of the work we do, which is in economic growth, governance and peace building environment and climate change to accelerate the transformation of this country and the resilience in the midst of numerous development challenges, not just in country but regionally and globally as we look at climate change, and the war in Ukraine and other issues, particularly those emerging

post COVID-19," UNDP acting Resident Representative Nessie Golagai-Gould said.

UNDP has developed a new strategic plan for 2022-2025 which employs three enablers, digitalisation, strategic innovation and development finance as drivers of change.

The UN has always recognised that to achieve the agenda 2030, it cannot just be done by the government and civil society but private sector is a key partner in the transformation of the global landscape.

In Lesotho, UNDP has developed several

digital solutions for government in health, community policing, and some systems to capture and analyse data to help in strategic delivery of different ministerial mandates including the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) database for the Ministry of Small Business and the waste management information system for the Ministry of Tourism.

Based on this experience, Golagai-Gould said it was imperative for UNDP to partner with private sector entities, particularly those in ICT digital telecom sectors like Econet to provide the technical support-required resources.

"UNDP embraces the value additions that this partnership has brought and it also has been an important enabler which fits into its new strategic plan."

For her part, ETL public relations officer, Puleng Litabe hailed the partnership, saying the UNDP needs creativity, technology and financial resources from all stakeholders in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

'This is where Econet Telecom Lesotho comes in as a technology company. So in partnership with different stakeholders, different ministries from the government of Lesotho, UNDP launched numerous projects such as the one called partnerships for plastic life cycle management project that involves plastic free Wednesday. Another one is capacity building for women-led enterprises in Lesotho known as "Her Empire," Litabe

Between 2019 and 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak, UNDP accelerator lab developed two digital solutions, one for the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) and another for the Ministry of Health. For both applications, Econet provided free internet to zero rating processes. The two applications were supported technically by developers from National University of



Econet Telecom Lesotho headquarters

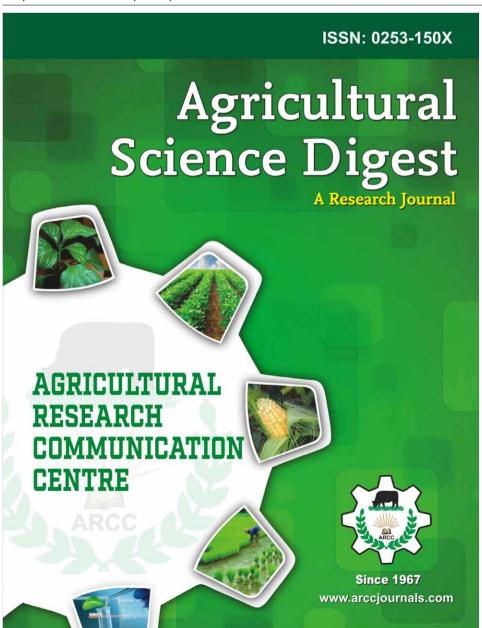
## Agriculture

## Cattle industry welcomes lifting of ban on livestock movement

 Industry leaders have welcomed South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza's decision to lift the countrywide ban on the movement of cattle introduced to contain the spread of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)



Beef cows on a South African farm



"The minister's decision was based on the work done by the State Veterinary Service, private veterinarians, and animal health technicians over the past 21 days."

The Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO) expressed gratitude at the decision and thanked Didiza for taking role players' pleas about the economic impact of the ban on the beef industry into consideration in her decision-making process, according to Gerhard Schutte, CEO of the RPO.

However, Herman de Wet, regional chairperson for TLU SA in KwaZulu-Natal, said while the lifting of the ban was welcome news, it was concerning that it had not been implemented more stringently.

"If such a movement restriction is ever implemented again, it needs to be done more consistently," he told Farmer's Weekly.

"Cattle were still being transported in KwaZulu-Natal during the ban, and several [South African Police Service] officers weren't even aware of the ban until I brought it to their attention."

Ngcobo said Didiza had already acknowledged that "things had to be done differently going forward".

To limit the spread of the disease as far as possible, she repealed the control measures relating to FMD as prescribed in the Government Notice No. 2075 of 10 May and Government Notice No. 2391 of 18 August, and allowed movement under certain conditions in all areas of the country, except in the new disease management areas in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Free State, he said.

Ngcobo added that it was encouraging that the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and Northern Cape did not report a single case before or during the 21 days of the ban

Cape did not report a single case before or during the 21 days of the ban.

"In Limpopo, we will retain the disease management area in the protected zone and

[surrounding areas].

"In the Free State, the disease management area will cover those areas where no improvement has been observed, such as Marquad, Viljoenskroon, and Harrismith," he

In KwaZulu-Natal, the disease management measures would be retained in the KwaNongoma, Ulundi, KwaHlabisa, eHluhluwe, and eMtubatuba areas.

Ncgobo added that, going forward, all livestock movement had to be accompanied by a declaration from the owner that the animals were FMD-free; a declaration from the recipient undertaking to isolate the animals for at least 28 days before introducing them to the main herd; and all the necessary stock theft documents.

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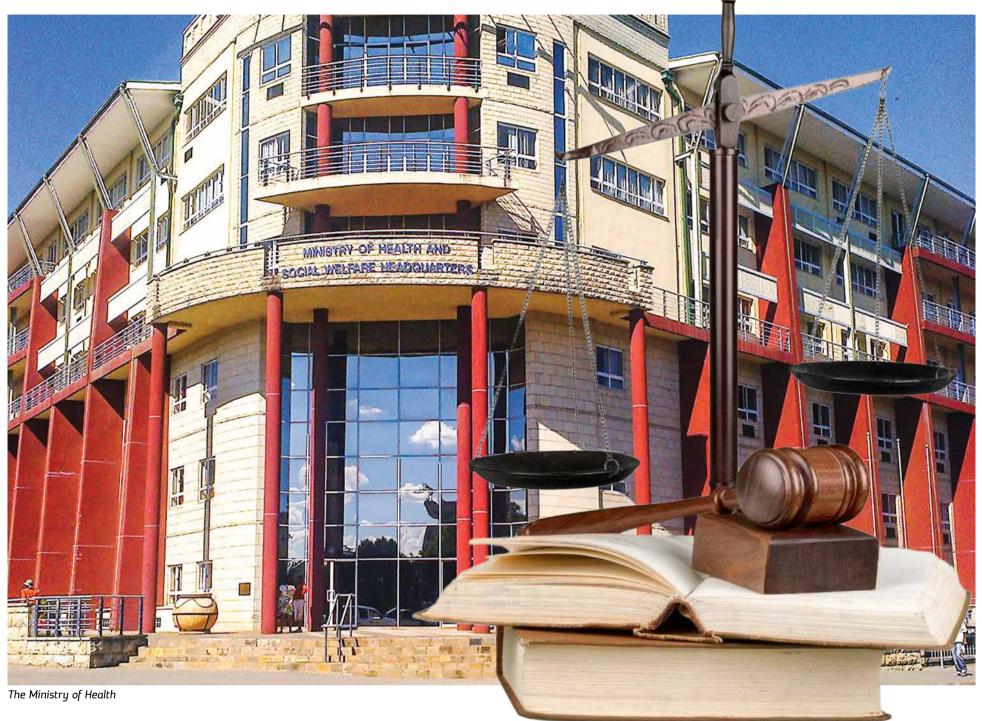
Cattle were still being transported in KwaZulu-Natal during the ban, and several [South African Police Service] officers weren't even aware of the ban until I brought it to their attention.

Schutte explained that the RPO was also working on a contingency plan in conjunction with the National Animal Health Forum and the agriculture department.

"On Tuesday [13 September] industry experts and officials from the department will have a workshop to work on a long-term strategy [for the future]." —Farmer's Weekly

## Metro

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# Maseru doctor challenges appointment of medical council

MASERU – A prominent Maseru medical doctor who faces disciplinary charges has filed an application before the High Court challenging the appointment of a disciplinary committee of council intended to chastise him.

Dr Hlalele Mofubelu is asking the court to review, set aside and correct a decision of the President of the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Council of Lesotho who is the 1st respondent in the matter and Vice-President of the same council who has been cited as the 2nd respondent, purporting to act and holding themselves out as Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Council of Lesotho, and as such purporting to appoint the disciplinary committee of

Mofubelu is further asking that the decision of both respondents purporting to be in the panel of the Disciplinary

Committee of Council be declared unlawful and invalid, and of no consequence and effect in law.

He is alternatively requesting the court to issue an order declaring as unlawful and invalid, and of no consequence and effect in law, the decision of the 1st respondent, appointing Dr Chale Moji, Dr Teboho Thabane, Dr Litheba Nteene, Dr Nonkosi Tlale and Dr. Lucy Mapota, who are 3rd to 7th respondents respectively, members of the council.

Mofubelu insists that in law, there is no disciplinary committee of council which has been put in place and no disciplinary process may legally be undertaken by such a body which is non-existent before the

He says to undergo the disciplinary process before the non-existent body is not only an irregularity, but an injustice on his

part.

He says to be hauled before a council which has not been established by law would be to undermine his fair trial rights entrenched in the Constitution.

He added that the prejudice against him was grave, serious and beyond repair.

He alleges that in 2019/2020, membership of the elected members of the council who were elected by classes of medical practitioners, dental surgeons and pharmacies, and membership of appointed members of the council was terminated by operation of the law on expiry of three years in office.

He adds that after the expiry of the prescribed three years in 2019/2020 to date, only the President and the Vice-President remained in office according to the provisions of the law.

He says there has never been any

ministerial appointment of members of the council in terms of the powers granted by

Mofubelu says the decision to constitute the disciplinary hearing committee was taken by the President and the Vice-President purporting to act as the

Such council, he notes did not quorate as prescribed by the law, adding that any decision taken by the President and Vice-President purporting to act as a council is unlawful, irregular and taken without jurisdiction by the two officers.

He says they clearly did not understand the law which regulates the affairs of the council and upon which they may act and the provisions which demarcate the area of powers to be exercised by the council itself and not the individual members of the body. —Lena

14. Metro Wednesday, September 14, 2022

### Health

## SA province takes grassroots approach to COVID-19 vaccination

LIMPOPO - One of the strategies that have boosted South Africa's COVID-19 vaccination drive involved decentralising the rollout to the grassroots.

Provincial health authorities deployed teams to communities to ensure an increased update of the vaccine. The mobile health teams are part of a broader strategy by the country to curb COVID-19 infection. In addition to the vaccination, the teams also provide other services such as HIV testing.

Westfalia Fruit Estate is located on the outskirts of Tzaneen, in the north-western region of Limpopo Province, South Africa.

The farm's quiet exterior belies its significance in South Africa's agricultural industry. It is the biggest avocado producer in the country and exports this sought-after fruit to places its farm workers have only seen on cinema screens.

Inside, the farm is abuzz with activity. On Tuesday, the district's department of health set up mobile health services on a lawn just outside the main production area. A wide range of primary health services, including COVID-19 vaccination, was being offered to the workers. They were queuing for vaccination, HIV tests, pap smears, minor ailments and could even consult with a dietician.

The makeshift tents were arranged in a flow akin to a brick-and-mortar clinic, making health services easily accessible to the farm's thousands of seasonal workers.

Wilson Molekoa is a food production manager at the farm. Originally an engineer from South Africa's political capital city, Pretoria, he has come to appreciate the rhythm of farm life.

"It's humbling being out here in nature. Being a city boy, farm life has shown me the importance of preserving our natural world," he said.

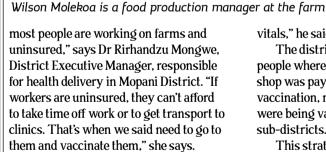
"When I heard that there is a programme coming to the worksite to give



2021 and this is my third one. My health is my priority," he said.

These mobile health services are part of the district's broader strategy to bring COVID-19 vaccination services to the people.

"Based on the population and unemployment rate in Mopani District,



Malatia Reggae, a seasonal farm worker from a neighbouring region and father of five, arrived to get his third vaccine.

"I came for the booster. Since I got my two injections, I was worrying why I hadn't got the booster. So now I am happy I got it,"

In the meanwhile, Molekoa had finished his 15-minute observation after vaccination and was pleased that he could get straight back to work.

"The great thing about these programmes coming to this side is that you don't even have to leave your workplace," he

"I can get my vaccination, my blood pressure taken, the HIV test, and I don't have to take a day off. It's quite convenient to have a one-stop place to take care of all your

vitals," he said.

The district's strategy of reaching people where they work, worship and shop was paying off. At the beginning of vaccination, more than 1000 people a day were being vaccinated in each of its smaller sub-districts.

This strategy is paying off. 56% of people 12 years and above in Mopani have received their primary vaccination series.

Now that the vaccination response has matured, it is important that COVID-19 vaccination services are integrated into primary health services, offering people boosters to further protect their health, says Dr Mongwe.

Partnerships are key to achieve these results, she adds. Her colleagues agree.

"One of the things that we appreciate as a province is the support we've received from the WHO," says Dr Musa Sebati, the lead for COVID-19 vaccine safety in the Limpopo Province Department of Health. "For us we are looking forward in the future to partner with WHO in improving the quality of care we are rendering to the people in Limpopo," she says. - WHO Africa



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## Masuku on how Comic Con Africa changed his life

Comic Con Africa is set to take place at the Johannesburg Expo Centre in Nasrec from September 22 - 25, promising an unforgettable experience with an amazing line-up of African artists who will showcase their talent at the continent's largest multigenre pop-culture and gaming fostival

Ahead of the festival, IOL Entertainment spoke with Nommo Award-nominated comic book artist and writer Bill Masuku. The Zimbabwe born artist is the creator of "Razor-Man", "Welcome to Dead World" and "Captain South Africa".

Masuku has been attending Comic Con Africa since 2018 after getting a "life changing email" inviting him to the festival. It took him over an hour just to settle down and respond to the email as he was overwhelmed with emotion and admitted to imposter syndrome creeping in, at the time.

He is glad that he responded "yes" to the invitation as several doors have opened for him since. "I've been able to guest lecture the Wits University Digital Arts course on Afro Manga (African Comics inspired by the Japanese industry), showcase my work at DC Comics' international event

DC FanDome, and I've been able to get in a steady income through commissions and collaborations with other artists exhibiting," he shared.

In 2020, Comic Con Africa had to take place virtually due to

restrictions on large gatherings but now Comic Con lovers will finally be able to gather together in person.

Masuku shared his thoughts on why Comic Con Africa is a great way to revive the industry.

"It's not only a meeting place of buyers and sellers but also talent and investors. Having spoken to other exhibitors, it's common for the sales made on their books to be reinvested into larger print runs or hiring assistants, speeding up the frequency that content can be created," he explained.

While having festivals such as this is good starting ground to help revive the industry, Masuku notes that a combination of things can be done.



Comic book artist and writer Bill Masuku

"Most people underestimate the power of journalism - having a trusted entity spotlight a book or local creator gives them legitimacy to their craft.

"Where there are dedicated sports journalists, and those keeping track of politics, the same can be done for the digital arts (animation, game design, comic books, and so on), which then strengthens the pipeline from people training to joining the workforce.

"I guess the other idea at the top of my head would be having the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture give validity to local storytelling by having graphic novels in schools, which will ultimately lead to better depictions of African characters, higher literacy, opportunities to refurbish historical events, all of these books become source material for movie and series adaptations. The possibilities are endless," he pointed out.

Masuku cannot wait to get his hands on new "Manga" and some international and local comic books when he attends Comic Con Africa later this September.

"There has always been something timeless about comics for me but I also could be holding the next big Netflix/Live Action adaptation when I pick up a new book and that makes me feel far more connected to the stories."

With several Netflix stars such as "13 Reasons Why" actor Ross Butler and "Stranger Things" actor Jamie Campbell Bower expected to attend Comic Con Africa, Masuku adds that meeting them is another reason to attend.

Cosplay is always a big highlight of Comic

Con with contestants dressed up as their favourite comic book characters. In 2016, one contestant dressed up as Masuku's character Razor Man.

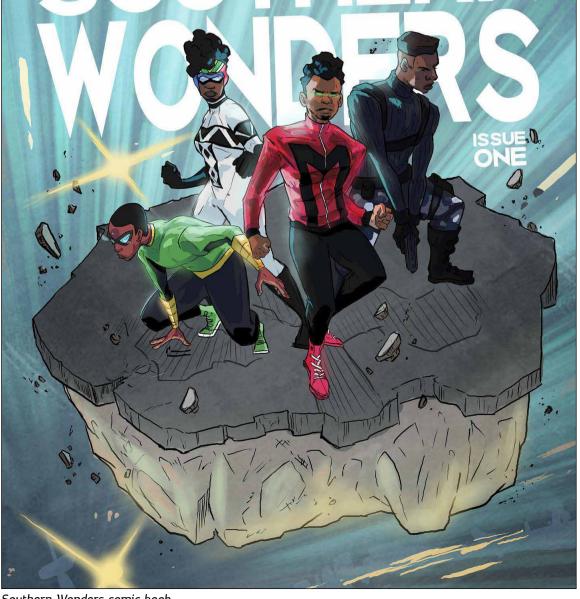
He admitted that when people hear about his comic ideas, he is often met with "lukewarm and cautious curiosity" reactions, so someone being able to breathe life into his vision was a heartwarming experience.

"Seeing someone being inspired enough to craft my 2D idea into wearable appreciation was more than heart-warming, it reminded me that even if the likes on posts aren't high, what I do matters."

Masuku is also working on a personal initiative to lower the barriers of entry for those hoping to step into a career in comic books

"With Volume one of 'Captain South Africa' nearing completion, from volume two onwards I'd like to hire new writers, artists, colourists, graphic designers, copywriters, and editors.

"The goal is to do a combination of training and collaboration to teach those interested how best to get their foot in the door, giving them as polished a portfolio as possible so they have higher chances of being hired by African or international comic book publishers," he concluded. -101



Southern Wonders comic book



Kugali Anthology comic book

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# Sundowns stay top, Chiefs continue to struggle



Sundowns players celebrate a goal

The weekend action in the DStv Premiership saw champions Mamelodi Sundowns retain top spot on the log, while heavyweights Kaizer Chiefs continue to struggle after they could only draw 1-1 away to Marumo Gallants in the lone match played on Sunday.

Bahlabane Ba Ntwa looked on course for a first victory of the season thanks to Mahlatse Makudubela's early strike at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium, but a red card for the hosts' Ismael Toure and a late equaliser from the Amakhosi's Zitha Kwinika

ensured the spoils were shared.

The result extended Gallants' winless start to the season to seven games and saw them rise to 15th, while Chiefs are just

two points and one position better off after registering a third straight league match without a victory.

The round opened on Friday evening with SuperSport United recording a third successive win, as they defeated Maritzburg United 2-1 away from home thanks to second-half strikes from defenders Thatayaone Ditlhokwe and Onismor Bhasera.

Saturday afternoon featured 2-1 away wins for Chippa United and Stellenbosch FC over AmaZulu and Swallows FC respectively, before a brace from Zakhele Lepasa took Orlando Pirates back to winning form, as they defeated TS Galaxy 2-O at the Orlando Stadium.

That result took the Buccaneers to the top of the standings, but they were soon pushed back down to second spot when Saturday's night game brought a 2-1 win for leaders Mamelodi Sundowns at home to Golden Arrows.

The Brazilians recorded back-to-back league wins for the first time this season thanks to a first-half strike from Peter Shalulile and a second-half own goal from Arrows defender Siyavuya Ndlovu.

Abafana Bes'thende levelled the game in-between via Pule Mmodi, but were ultimately outclassed in their search for a third straight win.

The DStv Premiership will resume next weekend, 17-18 September, with a

slate of six matches, headlined by Kaizer Chiefs hosting SuperSport United and AmaZulu visiting Mamelodi Sundowns.

### WEEKEND RESULTS

### Friday 9 September

Maritzburg United 1-2 SuperSport United

### Saturday 10 September

AmaZulu 1-2 Chippa UnitedSwallows FC 1-2 Stellenbosch FCOrlando Pirates 2-O TS GalaxyMamelodi Sundowns 2-1 Golden Arrows

Sunday 11 September Marumo Gallants 1-1 Kaizer Chiefs DStv Premiership News