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No vaccination card, ID, no entry at games

14

Informal cross border trade threatens domestic industries

4

FREE Metro

News you can use

LUCT suspends classes

...as students go on strike over unpaid allowances

2



LHWP RECEIVES M1.29BILLION FOR POLIHALI PROJECT

3

Lesotho expects 30 000 more doses of Covid vaccine

9

Regulars

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- Junior national teams in Eswatini for international friendlies
- SADC extends troops operation in Mozambique
- LeFA probes claims of sexual abuse in female squads



BORN ON THIS DAY

- October 7**
- 1971 - Jorge Costa, Portuguese soccer defender and manager (50 caps; FC Porto)
 - 1972 - Erika de Lone, tennis star (1996 Futures-Wilmington DE), born Massachusetts
 - 1972 - J.J. Smith, American NFL running back (KC Chiefs), born in Kansas City, Missouri
 - 1972 - Mike Archie, running back (Tennessee Oilers)
 - 1973 - DeJuan Wheat, NBA guard (Minn Timberwolves)
 - 1981 - Boof Bonser, American baseball player
 - 1983 - Lin Dan, Chinese badminton player (2-time Olympic and 5-time World champion)
 - 1984 - LaRon Landry, American football player
 - 1985 - Digão, Brazilian footballer
 - 1986 - Tom Craddock, English footballer
 - 1991 - Owen Kline, American actor and director, born in New York City
 - 1992 - Savannah Outen, American pop singer- songwriter, born in Hillsboro, Oregon

NewsBriefs

LUCT suspends classes

...as students go on strike over unpaid allowances

MASERU - Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT) on Tuesday suspended classes for a day due to students' strike. The university's Rector, Moroka Hoohlo confirmed that the students boycotted classes earlier on Tuesday after they failed to receive their allowances from the National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS).

He said the striking students however, did not damage the institution's property during their demonstration. "We nonetheless decided to suspend classes until tomorrow (Wednesday) morning, to ensure the safety of other students and staff," Mr Hoohlo also said, adding police were called to stop the disorder that ensued.

He appealed to the students to urgently return to classes, reminding them that there will always be delays in payments of stipends following the new intakes.

Attempts to contact LUCT students' representatives for a comment on the matter were unsuccessful.

The university was established in 2008 with



The university's Rector, Moroka Hoohlo

the objective of contributing towards Lesotho Vision 2020 and assisting to alleviate poverty and create job opportunities as it offers courses that strive for self-help and job creation. LeNA

Zama-Zamas killed in SA mines

MORE than 30 illegal miners, some believed to be from Lesotho have been arrested and six others fatally shot in a shoot-out with North West police at a ventilation shaft in Orkney on Wednesday.

The South African media has reported that Police spokesperson Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said a group of about 300 "zama zamas" as the illegal miners are commonly called attacked and shot at security officers and police when they attempted to stop them from delivering food parcels to illegal miners underground.

"The shooting incidents led to the deaths of illegal miners," Mokgwabone said.

He said four bodies were found in the vicinity of the shaft, one was discovered about 800 m from the crime scene, while the sixth was found in bushes near Kanana location.

Mokgwabone said several food parcels and two firearms were seized.

He said 35 suspects were arrested for attempted murder, causing an explosion, malicious damage to property and conspiracy to commit crime.

"The arrests and shooting incidents came after a

decision by the mine management to clamp down on illegal mining activities by closing the ventilation shaft which the zama zamas had been using to enter and exit various shafts.

"The action effectively stopped the supply of food and water to the zama zamas," he said.

Mokgwabone said some of the illegal miners had allegedly, due to shortages of food and water, used explosives to open a hole and started to exit the shaft on Saturday.

On Sunday, more than 500 had already exited the shaft.

"They were thoroughly processed, including being medically examined for dehydration before being released. Some were treated by paramedics while a few others were taken to hospital."

The arrested suspects are expected to appear in court soon.

There are many Basotho who are working in abandoned South African gold mines as illegal miners and scores have already being killed in deadly shoot-outs that frequently occur in those mines.

LeNA

FastFACTS

There are more than 24 time zones around the world

If the Earth's time zones were each one hour apart, then we would have 24 times zones, which sounds pretty straightforward. However, the situation is a little more complicated than that. Since many time zones only differ by 30 or 45 minutes, they don't fit into a neat and tidy 24-hour span, which means that there are more than 24, though it's hard to say exactly how many.

On This Day in History

1964

October 14

Martin Luther King, Jr. wins Nobel Peace Prize

African American civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent resistance to racial prejudice in America. At 35 years of age, the Georgia-born minister was the youngest person ever to receive the award.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in Atlanta in 1929, the son of a Baptist minister. He received a doctorate degree in theology and in 1955 organized the first major protest of the civil rights movement: the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott. Influenced by Mohandas Gandhi, he advocated nonviolent civil disobedience to racial segregation. The peaceful protests he led throughout the American South were often met with violence, but King and his followers persisted, and their nonviolent movement gained momentum.

A powerful orator, he appealed to Christian and American ideals and won growing support from the federal government and northern whites. In 1963, he led his massive March on Washington, in which he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" address. In 1964, the civil rights movement achieved two of its greatest successes: the ratification of the 24th Amendment, which abolished the poll tax, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited racial discrimination in employment and education and outlawed racial segregation in public facilities. In October of that year, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He donated the prize money, valued at \$54,600, to the civil rights movement.

In the late 1960s, King openly criticized U.S. involvement in Vietnam and turned his efforts to winning economic rights for poor Americans. By that time, the civil rights movement had begun to fracture, with activists such as Stokely Carmichael rejecting King's vision of nonviolent integration in favour of African American self-reliance and self-defense. In 1968, King intended to revive his movement through an interracial "Poor People's March" on Washington, but on April 4 he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, by escaped white convict James Earl Ray, just a few weeks before the demonstration was scheduled to begin.

ALL JOKES ASIDE

I don't open the damn store!

It was the day of the big sale. Rumours of the sale and some advertising in the local paper were the main reason for the long line that formed by 8:30 in the morning in front of the store.

A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back, amid loud and colourful curses.

On the man's second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw, and knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again.

As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line, "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I don't open the damn store!"

Quotes & Quips!

"This is a market where if you are outside the leading companies, then you really struggle to get attention – not only from the corporate sector but also from the retail sector,"

says Samuel Ogbu, CEO for Old Mutual West Africa on the company's plans to make at least two acquisitions within the next five years to boost its market share in the West Africa region, where insurance penetration still has significant headroom for growth.



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Basotho free to enter UK 5



Metro BUSINESS

CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.08
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	14.86
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	17.17
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.31
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.13
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	20.26
Loti/Dollar	Australian (A\$)	10.94
Loti/Dollar	Hong Kong (HK\$)	1.91
Loti/Dollar	Singapore (S\$)	10.98
Loti/Naira	Nigeria's (₦)	0.036
Loti/Kwanza	Angola's (Kz)	0.025
Loti/Birr	Ethiopia's (Br)	0.32
Loti/Pound	Egypt (E£)	0.95
Loti/Ruble	Russia (RUB)	0.21
Loti/Riyal	Saudi Arabia (SAR)	3.97
Loti/Shekel	Israel (₪)	4.60
Loti/Real	Brazilian (R\$)	2.69
Loti/Rupee	India (₹)	0.20
Loti/Dirham	UAE (د.إ.)	4.05
Loti/Rupee	Mauritius (Rs)	0.35

COMMODITIES (International Rates in US\$)

STOCKS	
S&P500	4,350.65
NASDAQ100	14,662.11
Nikkei225	28,140.28
Dow Jones30	34,378.34
FTSE 100	7,115.41
JSE	65,670.00
Hang Seng	24,140.28

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold p/ounce	1,768.65
Platinum p/ounce	1,017.43
Silver p/ounce	22.79
Copper p/ounce	4.39
Brent Oil p/barrel	82.97

EQUITIES	
Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

Petrol Unleaded 93 p/litre	M15.25
Unleaded 95 p/litre	M15.15
Diesel 50PPm p/litre	M14.85
Paraffin p/litre	M10.50
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

LHWP receives M1.29billion for Polihali project



The Polihali Dam in Mokhotlong

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank, an outfit that is aimed at spurring sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional member countries, thus contributing to poverty reduction has approved a loan to the tune of \$86.72 million (about M1.29billion) to co-finance the second phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

The multi-phase project will provide water to the Gauteng region of South Africa and generate hydroelectricity for Lesotho.

The project entails harnessing the waters of the Senqu/Orange River in the Lesotho highlands by constructing a series of dams for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

"The two governments' partnership on this project around shared water resources from the Orange-Senqu River Basin serves the interests of their mutual development agenda and also deepens

regional integration," said Dr Beth Dunford, the African Development Bank Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development.

The Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority, a state owned entity in South Africa charged with financing and implementing bulk raw water infrastructure projects, will use the funds to construct the Polihali Dam and reservoir, a 38-kilometre-long water transfer tunnel, roads and bridges, telecommunications infrastructure and to extend electricity and other development

infrastructure to Lesotho.

The new construction will complement facilities built during the project's first phase. The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) will implement the part of the project that falls within Lesotho's borders.

"The intervention will be the first major project to be financed by the Bank in the water sector in South Africa and will complement the Bank's current support in the energy and transport sector, diversify the Bank's portfolio and consolidate its strong partnership with the country," Dr Dunford added.

Once completed, the project is expected to boost transfer capacity between Lesotho and South Africa to 1 260 million cubic metres per year, up from the current 780 million cubic metres per year, as well as enable additional generation of hydroelectric power in Lesotho.

Expected project benefits include greater water security in South Africa's Gauteng region and a boost to Lesotho's socio economic development due to infrastructure improvement and increased hydropower capacity.

These developments are expected to positively impact 26 million people in South Africa and boost a region that accounts for 60 percent of the country's economic output. In Lesotho, the project will benefit more than 85 000 people in the project area, and generate more than 6 000 jobs over the next six years. Lesotho's economy will also receive a boost from the royalty payment it will receive for water transfers.

The project, with a total cost of \$2.171 billion, is also receiving financing \$213.68 million in loans from the Shanghai based New Development Bank. The South African government will contribute \$1.871 billion as well as a loan guarantee. The first phase of the project was completed in 2003 and inaugurated in 2004.

Business

Informal cross border trade threatens domestic industries



Basotho hats sold at the Maseru border gate

NEO SENOKO
business@maserumetro.com

MASERU – Informal cross border trade, a safety net for unemployed people in the country, threatens the existence of domestic industries, with counterfeit goods normally sold at lower prices, not subject to import taxes, and simply cheaper than locally manufactured equivalents.

Informal cross border traders involve all economic activities by workers or economic

units that are in law or practice not covered or sufficiently covered by formal arrangements operating in two or more countries.

The trade includes legitimately produced goods and services that do not necessarily follow formal processes such as standards, regulations and business registrations or operational licenses.

As a result, it represents a significant revenue loss for the Government.

"Beyond poverty and social issues, the

prevalence of informal cross border trade is closely related to business environment rigidities characterised by weaknesses in three institutional areas of taxation, regulation and private property rights.

"Tax rates, tax administration and complicated business registration, licensing and inspection requirements are barriers that tend to prevent informal traders from formalising their activities," said Lemohang Kobeli from the Khathang Tema Baitsoke Association, a local

business group that safe guards the interests and rights of informal traders.

Mr Kobeli made the remarks during the 15th session of the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held under the theme, "bridging the gap between formal and informal cross border traders".

Informal cross border trade constitutes a major form of informal economic activity in the country.

For example, according to Mr Kobeli, in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) area, it makes up an estimated 30 to 40 percent of total intra SADC trade, with an estimated value of \$17.6 billion.

Typically, women constitute about 70 percent of informal cross border traders in the region, trading a variety of commodities either in raw or semi processed items, including basic to luxury goods produced in other countries.

At regional level, informal cross border trade has proven to be responsive to shocks compared to formal trade as informal traders are able to import goods that are unavailable locally to meet domestic demand in times of crises.

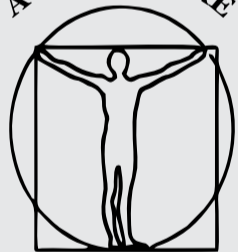
On the other hand, the informal trade provides sources of income to people without wage employment, more importantly, the informal cross border trade promotes intrapreneurship skills of people without formal education.

Mr Kobeli noted that the micro cross border trade has the potential of transforming informal cross border traders into formal businessmen and women.

"The relationship between Government customs workers at border posts and informal cross border traders is that of uncertainty or ambivalent, this relationship can be rectified by the Government's formal recognition of informal cross border traders as partners in national and regional economic integration," he added.

He further warned that there is a need for more flexible business licensing processes for small enterprises who are mostly informal cross border traders.

AUDE SAPERE



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Basotho travellers free to enter UK

... as UK removes 47 countries from its red list for travel

MASERU - Travellers from Lesotho can now freely enter the United Kingdom (UK) after the latter removed the former from its red list for travel.

In a statement on Thursday evening, the UK's Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps said the change will officially take effect from Monday, October 11.

"I'm also making changes so travellers visiting England have fewer entry requirements, by recognising those with fully-vax status from 37 new countries and territories including India, Turkey and Ghana, treating them the same as UK fully vaxxed passengers," he said.

The European country has also cut 46 other destinations from its red list for travel – including South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Eswatini, Malawi, Angola, Zimbabwe and Zambia in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

"The measures announced today mark the next step as we continue to open up travel and provide stability for passengers and industry while remaining on track to keep travel open for good," Mr Shapps said.

The removal of Lesotho from the red list means that travellers will no longer be forced to quarantine on arrival in England, which



United Kingdom's Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps

comes at a cost of around £2,295 (M46 658).

It is also expected to significantly boost the tourism industry in Lesotho and the rest of the region which has been devastated over the past 18 months by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virgin Atlantic told the Evening Standard it has already seen a surge in bookings, with particular interest in flights over Christmas period.

"In advance of the red list review today, we have seen our bookings to South Africa increase by 150% over the past four days, compared to the four days prior," a spokeswoman said.

"The majority of bookings are for passengers originating from the UK however we are also seeing an increase in passengers originating from South Africa as well. The new bookings are for travel in November and December this year in particular around the Christmas period."

As of October 11, arrivals from Lesotho and the 46 other countries will no longer have to enter hotel quarantine. They will just have to do a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, a method widely used to rapidly make millions to billions of copies of a specific DNA sample, allowing scientists to take a very small sample of DNA and amplify it to a large enough amount to study in detail, on or before day two.

In a major overhaul, only seven countries remain on the red quarantine list, including Peru and the Dominican Republic.

Travel restrictions are updated every three weeks by the UK government, meaning the next update is expected on or around October 28.

Euro News Travel/Evening Standard

Still baking & delivering your essential

BLUE RIBBON

during lockdown.






Comments & Letters

Let's empower our young girls

The Editor,

Adolescence is a critical stage that can determine the trajectory of girls' lives. It is a stage at which key investments and support can set girls on a path towards empowerment, or where discrimination, recurrent constraints, harmful practices and violence can send them down a negative spiral with lifelong consequences, not just for themselves, but for societies and future generations. When adolescent girls are empowered, it benefits all. Empowered girls grow into empowered women who can take good care of themselves and their families, increase their earning potential, serve as active and equal citizens and change agents, and spur economic growth for communities and nations. All too often, however, deeply entrenched gender discrimination and social norms put adolescent girls at risk of violence, compromising their safe and healthy transition from childhood to adulthood. Violence can begin early in girls' lives, but the gender dimensions of violence and abuse – physical, sexual and psychological – are more pronounced in adolescence. Life transitions, with the onset of puberty, heighten girls' exposure to violence, harassment and abuse. To take efforts to end all forms of violence against girls and women to the next level, it is important that we focus on adolescent girls and move beyond awareness-raising to investments and support for this critical group that will shape the present and the future.

Lizzy Thuhloane
Koeneng, Berea

Life is tough without water

The Editor,

The residents of Lisemeng are leading an extremely difficult life without clean drinking water. Having to buy water is truly painful, especially when we have water taps in our homes, which we paid for.

About 20 litres of water cost M3, which is a lot of money for most struggling families. To make matters even worse, some houses only have water system toilets which require even more water.

So people must save the little water they purchased from their neighbours to use in their bathrooms.

Sometimes they are forced to contend with the unbearable stench in their homes as they have to spare the little water available.

It is painful that the government we voted for fails to provide us with water.

I am personally not looking forward to the upcoming elections knowing that after electing whoever will lead the country, things will remain the same.

We have been trying to complain about this situation since 2019 but to no avail.

Mamohato Mofana
Lesemeng, Hlotse

We call on Majoro to abandon the road to dictatorship

The Editor,

As civil rights organisations and protest movements driven by a purpose to be a voice for the voiceless in our country, we condemn the continued ban on all protests and picketing by Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro.

Protests are a manifestation of the right to freedom of expression, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association. All these freedoms are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Even during a global pandemic, people still have rights and freedoms, the Constitution still applies and it is important that the Government must follow it. Democracy does not stop during a pandemic and experience in other countries has shown that protests can continue to take place safely. The #BlackLivesMatter movement and the #EndSARS movement in Nigeria come to mind. The blanket prohibition of all protests amounts to nothing less than suspension of the right to the freedom of association, expression and peaceful assembly.

The ban must be lifted immediately. As Dr Majoro continues to lift restrictions across the country – allowing political rallies and reopening nightclubs – he also has a democratic responsibility to allow safe and peaceful protests.

We do appreciate that in the context of serious public health threats and public emergencies threatening the life of the nation, restrictions on some rights can be justified.

Civil Rights Organisation
Maseru

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Domestic industries apprehensive about hazards posed by informal cross border trade

With domestic industries expressing concerns about informal cross border trade between Lesotho and South Africa, our Government should make efforts towards ensuring that the trade does not threaten local and well regulated industries. Informal cross border traders involve all economic activities by workers or economic units that are in law or practice not covered or sufficiently covered by formal arrangements operating in two or more countries.

It includes legitimately produced goods and services that do not necessarily follow formal processes such as standards, regulations and business registrations or operational licenses. Informal cross border trade has shown that it can be detrimental with fake goods usually sold at relatively cheaper costs, which have not gone through the normal processes of import taxes. And there is no doubt that such items will be sold a whole lot cheaper than similar goods produced locally.

Some local economic experts are now pushing for the Government to formalise the informal sector in order to allow for easier cross border trade but others are saying the sector should just as well be monitored to avoid any indiscretions. The best way to deal with this ongoing debate is for the Government to urgently formalise the trade for more enhanced economic output.

If well-articulated, formalising the trade will definitely contribute towards creating better employment opportunities as well as increased revenue collection.

The country has been struggling to collect more revenues in recent years, particularly now with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic likely to last for many more years to come. Revenues from the Southern African Customs Unions (SACU), the customs union among five countries of Southern Africa: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa on the other hand have also been declining drastically, posing an even major risk on already depleted Government coffers. Furthermore, the formalisation should however, be carried out in a manner that will accommodate and not threaten players in the informal sector.

The Government should gradually implement policies that would level the playing field for this to happen. Industry players should be involved when formulating such policies to avoid any unnecessary inconveniences.

Failure to do this would mean more struggles for the country for many more years to come. The Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) might find itself being forced to impose harsh regulations that might prove to be injurious on some local industries that are already been hard hit by the pandemic.

Gradual implementation of policies on the other hand would make players in the informal sector feel comfortable and well recognised by the Government and as a result feel free to participate towards ensuring that they all do away with informal cross border trading.

Mark Zuckerberg's chines come home to roost ...but we're all eggs in the Facebook basket

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is having a torrid time. One by one, his worst fears are coming true.

According to Sheera Frenkel and Cecilia Kang, authors of *An Ugly Truth*, a scathing tell-all on Zuckerberg and his second-in-command, Sheryl Sandberg, the Facebook founder has been troubled for years by three fears: the prospect of hackers breaching the site, his employees being harmed and the break-up of his empire.

He's had them coming for the past five years, at least. But in just one week, his worst fears have arrived in spades.

Just before the disruption of services on Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp for six hours on 4 October, an engineer and former product manager-turned-whistle-blower, Frances Haugen, dragged out Zuckerberg in a devastating Wall Street Journal interview and public testimony to the US Senate, accusing Facebook, the world's largest social technology platform, of putting profit above safety.

If Facebook was a country, Haugen's testimony might have been treated not just as a rebellion, but a coup attempt. And Zuckerberg is not just another tyrant in a banana republic. He is a potentate with a Facebook fan base of about three billion, revenue of \$85.9-billion and a market value of \$200-billion. Facebook is bigger than many countries, and Zuckerberg is more influential than presidents.

Zuckerberg has rejected the whistle-blower's charges, saying they are untrue. But the crux of the matter is whether Facebook is exercising a duty of care remotely matching the brand's monumental influence and impact. After the Cambridge Analytica scandal and concerns that right-wing groups, especially, were using social media to stoke hate crimes and spread dangerous and misleading information about public health issues in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the heat has been turned on Facebook to up its game.

The jacket of *An Ugly Truth* is lined with statements of remorse by Zuckerberg and Sandberg, promising distressed subscribers since 2006 a new day and pledging to turn over a new leaf.

But it would seem that the fulfillment of those promises is hardly matched by the brutishness with which the brand seeks to impede or destroy its competitors using the massive trove of data at its disposal.

I'm not on Facebook or Instagram. Yet, I recognise that I'm caught in the predatory web of one of the behemoth's most egregious platforms – WhatsApp. My addiction is not Zuckerberg's fault; it's entirely mine. Long before Haugen laid out her charges, I have had deep personal conversations with myself over the potential impact

that WhatsApp, which I signed up to only about four years ago, was having on me.

I sensed that I was getting addicted to WhatsApp, but like most addicts going through a rite of passage, it took a long time to convince myself that it was happening. I was in denial.

I would pick up my phone in the morning, determined to reply to just one or two messages or check the time. And then, I would find myself drifting from tray to tray, clearing message

after message and leaping from one tray to the other as notifications stream in with the seducing charm of a red-light district.

Some say it's an ecosystem, a network of family and friends connected by shared interests, experiences and banter. In a way it is.

It's a far more connected world today than it was in the 1980s when my aunt migrated to the UK and the whole brood that saw her off to the airport in two buses wept at the lounge as she departed. Speaking with her again from Nigeria which, at the time, had less than 800,000 telephone lines in a population of over 100 million was always going to be a misery. Her departure was like a funeral.

In a lot of ways things have changed for good, empowering millions of young people and forcing greater transparency in government. But in some ways, too, it feels like an eco-prison. Once you're online, everyone in your community knows you're there. Even when you disable your "Read Receipts", stalkers still find a way to figure you're in the yard and pounce.

To keep my space and sanity, I find myself leaping from one message tray to another, dodging unwanted incoming calls, and at the same time, taking care not to miss important information in the swamp of things. At first, it was an adventure. But as time went on, the cons overwhelmed the pros of my daily WhatsApp experience. I began to wonder if flitting from one message to another with hardly enough time to process and digest one before the next, was not dangerous, if not to my mental health, perhaps to my mindfulness.

It was also difficult to remember where I got a particular piece of information from – which chatroom, which message tray, or in fact, which platform. The whole thing would slowly blur into a fuzz, lacking in depth, context or meaning, yet bandied about by "contacts" as gospel. DM

MY
TAKE
AZUBUIKE ISHIEKWENE



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Govt slated for “neglecting” informal sector

...Analysts argue there are always snags towards formalising the sector



Local informal traders making the popular Basotho hats

NEO SENOKO

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MASERU – As the debate about formalising the informal sector rages on, the Government has been largely blamed for its negligence on the sector, despite its notable contributions to the country's economy.

The sector is heavily dominated by women.

Analysts argue that there are always snags towards formalising the informal sector, a move that they contend could generate more revenue for the Government.

The informal economy has significant job and income generation potential because of the relative ease of entry and low requirements for education, skills, technology and capital.

Some informal traders, however, may not want to graduate into the formal trade because it is more profitable where they are, mainly due to the fact that running costs are lower and less risky. Some see formalising the sector as a punitive measure that comes with little or no incentive for them.

While formalisation could scare them off, it might also come with more benefits that include bridging the gap towards access to finance among others.

“The country has failed this sector. The Government should create a conducive environment for informal traders to exist. We need to start valuing and respecting the sector and look into how much it brings into the economy,” said Stephen Monyamane, a representative from the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), a non-profit organisation that is among others aimed at supporting the transformation and growth of Lesotho's

economy.

Mr Monyamane was one of the

panelists during the panel discussion about bridging the divide between formal and informal cross border traders recently.

The event was in line with the 15th global ministerial conference of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that was held in Barbados.

The UNCTAD is an agency of the United Nations (UN) responsible for promoting trade and investment interests of the developing states in the world trade.

Lesotho has a long history working with UNCTAD on trade and development issues, including the formulation and review of various policy instruments including the trade policy, investment policy and the services policy, as well as implementation of programmes such as the ASYCUNDA for customs modernisation and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) capacity building.

The Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperative and Marketing, Advocate Bereng Makotoko said the mainstream MSMEs in the country contribute significantly to the economic agenda, accounting for 84

percent of all businesses in Lesotho, creating around 76 000 jobs.

Yet, he argued, efforts to promote the sector to a viable economy are limited.

“This is a way to go if we want to develop our economy, we need more than mere political will to overcome some challenges. At the same time, the sector also has to show effort. Dialogue is needed for formalisation. Some MSMEs do not even recognise when it is time for formalisation,” Adv Makotoko said.

With street vendors for instance, formalisation involves secure access to public space, licenses to sell and infrastructure support. Policy makers, on the other hand cannot do it alone. They need informal workers at the table, sharing their knowledge and working on solutions to ensure that the best policies are created.

Work in the informal economy is often characterised by small or undefined work places, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, low level of skills and productivity, low or irregular incomes, as well as lack of access to markets, information, finance, training and technology.

Workers in the informal economy are not recognised, registered, regulated or protected under labour legislation and social protection. Economic units in the informal economy are generally characterised by poverty leading to powerlessness, exclusion and vulnerability.

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Lesotho expects 30 000 doses of Covid vaccine

...As new positive cases drop from 891 to 81 in a week

organisation that was formed to augment the acquisition and roll-out of the national COVID-19 vaccine programme for all sector corporations that make up the fund's consortium.

Lesotho, he further showed expects another batch of 150 000 doses of vaccines from the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT), a continental body aimed at securing vaccines to complement initiatives such as COVAX and attain a target immunisation of 60% of Africa's population. The trust was launched by the African Union (AU) in a bid to ensure widespread access to COVID-19 vaccines across the continent.

Dr Majoro was addressing the nation on Sunday night on the current state of the pandemic in the country.

This, after Lesotho received over 528 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines which included 428 000

of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine (J&J) and 100 000 of the Sinopharm vaccine.

About 100 000 doses of the J&J vaccine was received from South Africa on Friday by the Minister of Health, Semano Sekatle on behalf of the Lesotho Government.

"As the country keeps on receiving more vaccines, the importance of vaccination is that; it can keep one from getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19, keep one from getting seriously ill and protecting people around them," Dr Majoro said, appealing to those who have not vaccinated to urgently get their jabs.

Since the inception of the COVID-19 vaccine programme in March, he said the country is now seeing a decrease in patients' admissions and positive cases.

As a result, he said Cabinet ministers met to discuss the current COVID-19 status and agreed to move from purple colour code to alert Blue

colour stage effective from Sunday midnight.

He said new positive cases in a week have dropped from 891 to 81, which made the country to move to a relaxed purple colour code in July.

Apart from that, he said positivity rate has also dropped to 1.3% from 10% which was the highest percentage since the country was in purple stage.

"Deaths are at three from 18 in a week, while the admitted patients have also decreased from 28% to 6%," he added. Although the country has currently vaccinated 428 000 people, about 21% of the population, the premier however, said the number is far from the target of 1.6 million by the end of November.

As of the beginning of November, there are services which Dr Majoro said will not be rendered to those who have not taken COVID-19 vaccines in Lesotho, in public recreational areas, spectators at sports grounds, night clubs and liquor stores among others.

Prime Minister Dr Măketsi Majoro

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Moeketsi Majoro says the country is expecting at least 30 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines from the Sesiu sa Letšoele le beta poho, a local

MASERU – Prime Minister Dr

Faith leaders engaged to combat Covid

...WHO, churches partner to bring vaccination services to people

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MASERU – Faith leaders are critical partners in addressing many known barriers to the uptake of health and other essential services, including vaccines.

Vaccine misinformation and misconceptions have also been a major barrier to the uptake across the globe, where false messaging and conspiracy theories discouraging the public from getting vaccinated are spreading rampantly on social and mobile media platforms.

In a bid to leverage support for the COVID-19 vaccine roll out and recovery, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL) held a two-day dialogue meeting over the past weekend, with religious leaders

from Mōhale's Hoek and Quthing.

According to Baroane Phenethi from the Ministry of Health, globally, several myths and rumours have arisen since the announcement of successful vaccine candidates to combat COVID-19.

He said with each myth comes an additional layer of challenges towards minimising the transmission and the further spread of COVID-19 and increasing the vaccine uptake.

The religious leaders also noted with concern that the spread of too much-unfiltered information and misinformation has undermined people's trust in the COVID-19 vaccines.

The faith leaders who attended the workshop endorsed the COVID-19 vaccination campaign and pledged to play an active role in boosting community trust in the science behind COVID-19 vaccines

and enlisting their communities to join the efforts to end COVID-19.

Reverend Moloantoa Noko of Assemblies of God Church in Mōeaneng, Mōhale's Hoek, said it is their duty to help spread the word about the importance of getting vaccinated and working together in communities to beat COVID-19.

The more people receive the vaccine, he said the safer their people will all be.

Rev Noko said since the vaccination programme began in March, it is also their duty to encourage their congregants to vaccinate and save lives that could otherwise be lost due to COVID-19.

In Mōhale's Hoek, they have also allowed the ministry to use their church facilities as a vaccination centre.

The district Environmental Officer, 'Mathabo Mafatlane said they are doing this because most Basotho are Christians and are

not always available during the week, so they take vaccination services to the churches to reach the congregants.

She said from the past week when they visited the Mōhale's Hoek LECSA in Matsatsaneng and Mesitsaneng as well as the New Jerusalem church, a total of 33 people were vaccinated.

In Quthing, the leaders agreed to model and promote positive attitudes and behaviours towards vaccinations, articulate trust, correct inaccurate information, engage followers to address faith-related barriers and help congregants to understand how vaccines work.

They pledged to have a group of people identified to monitor health issues in church, encourage church members to vaccinate and continue advising them to take safety precautions.

They have also promised

to extend teachings to non-church member communities and above all, to fight myths and misinformation while also including non CCL churches to be part of the activities.

Vaccine hesitancy, fuelled by myths and false information, is particularly concerning in the country, which has had its own share of viral outbreaks and resistance to prior vaccination efforts.

WHO has detailed the need to increase confidence in the COVID-19 vaccination.

It surveyed more than half of the country including Butha-Buthe, Leribe, Berea, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Qacha's Nek, Mōhale's Hoek and Quthing.

These workshops aim to impart knowledge to religious leaders as they play a crucial role in community mobilisation, raising awareness, dispelling myths and misconceptions, boosting vaccine acceptance and bringing compromises where public health measures are considered to be discordant with religious values.

The world in 10 minutes

KANSAS - USA

Wallet lost in early 1970s returned to Kansas owner

Police in Kansas said a wallet that was returned to its owner had been missing since the early 1970s.

The Great Bend Police Department said in a Facebook post that a wallet recently was turned in to the department by a member of the public, and officers found several items including a Social Security card and a driver's license inside – although the license had expired in 1974.

The department said officers were able to get into contact with the wallet's owner, who now lives in Lawrence, Kan. The owner told police he had lost the wallet in the early 1970s.

"He was tickled and shared with us that he made the wallet himself," the post said.



BOSINIA

Bosnian Man Builds Rotating House As Monument Of Love For His Wife

Vojin Kusic, 72, says the home's front door also rotates so if his wife "spots unwanted guests heading our way, she can spin the house and make them turn away."

It's not exactly on par with India's Taj Mahal, but a family house in a small town in northern Bosnia is in its own way a monument to love.

The house in Srbac was designed and built by 72-year-old Vojin Kusic. With a green facade and red metal roof, it can rotate a full circle to satisfy his wife Ljubica's shifting desires as to what she would like to see when she looks out of its windows.

Kusic, who did not have a chance to go to college, designed and built his rotating house by himself, using electric motors and the wheels of an old military transport vehicle.



NETHERLAND

The Dutch Giant smashes record for tallest professional bodybuilder

Breaking a world record wasn't on Olivier Richters' (Netherlands) bucket list. He never expected this "incredible opportunity", but now the Dutch Giant is the tallest professional body builder (male) in the world. The actor, bodybuilder and fitness model is a staggering 218.3 cm (7 ft 1.9 in) tall, as verified in Eemnes, Netherlands, on April 2021.

However, Olivier, who works as a bodybuilder for the cinema industry, was initially unsure about accepting the title.

Therefore, Guinness World Records created two distinguished categories: Tallest competitive bodybuilder and Tallest non-competitive/professional bodybuilder.

It's not difficult to imagine how Olivier earned the nickname "Dutch Giant": strolling down the streets, the bodybuilder towers over the crowd, turning heads thanks to his stately presence and natural charisma. No surprise, then, that he caught the eye of the world in 2017, on the red carpet of the universally renewed Cannes Film Festival.



NORTH KOREA

Kim Jong-un vows to build 'invincible military'

North Korea's leader has vowed to build an "invincible military" in the face of hostile policies from the United States, according to state media.

Kim Jong-un added that weapons development was for self-defence, and not to start a war.

Mr Kim made the comments at a rare defence exhibition while flanked by a variety of large missiles.

North Korea has recently tested what it claims to be new hypersonic and anti-aircraft missiles.

The South meanwhile has tested its own submarine-launched weapon.

In his speech at the Self-Defence 2021 exhibition held in Pyongyang, which featured an array of military hardware including tanks, Mr Kim addressed the military build-up in the South and said that North Korea did not want to fight its neighbour.

"We are not discussing war with anyone, but rather to prevent war itself and to literally increase war deference for the protection of national sovereignty," he said.

Mr Kim also accused the US of stoking tensions between North and South Korea.



TANZANIA

Tanzania urged to scrap ban on pregnant students

The campaign group Human Rights Watch has called on the Tanzanian government to reverse its ban on pregnant students and adolescent mothers attending school - describing it as discriminatory and inhumane.

The policy was imposed four years ago by former President John Magufuli and is still in place under the leadership of Tanzania's first female President, Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Human Rights Watch says the compulsory testing and expulsion of pregnant students has denied tens of thousands of girls their right to education.



ZAMBIA

Zambia confirms \$6bn owed to China

Zambia's new government has revealed that the country owes Chinese lenders more than \$6bn (R90bn).

Since the defeat of President Edgar Lungu in August there has been a lot of speculation around the country's debts.

The new President, Hakainde Hichilema, told the BBC last month that he had inherited an "empty" treasury and that the debt situation had not been "fully disclosed" by the former government.

For the first time since 1998, Zambia plunged into a recession last year. It also defaulted on a debt repayment.

A recent study by the US-based China Africa Research Initiative suggested that the amount owed to China was nearly double what had been revealed by the Lungu government.

That has now been confirmed by the Zambian authorities themselves. Overall, the country now owes a total of \$14.5bn to its creditors, as the AFP news agency quotes Finance Minister Situmbeko Musokotwane as saying.

The country has been talking to the International Monetary Fund about restructuring the debt, AFP reports.

Mthibo's new music video celebrates love

...The Video portrays elements of Basotho culture, landscapes and local youth lifestyles

KABELO MASOABI

LERIBE – Versatile Leribe-born musician Mthibo, real names Thabo Rakhomo, has recently released a burning music video embracing love, titled "Thinking of You".

The single track is making rounds on YouTube and other selected internet streaming platforms and has been highly praised for its high visual quality and enticing storyline.

After taking a study break, Mthibo says he is now back in the game.

"The song is about love, it tells your loved one how you really feel about them. It doesn't necessarily reflect on me as a singer but anyone who can relate to its romantic lyrics can find it as a useful tool in their relationship," he says.

The 38-year old artiste from Hlotse says the house music video was also created in relation to the month of September which has been marked for the awareness of albinism.

It also portrays elements of the Basotho

culture, landscapes and local youth lifestyle, featuring pantsula dancers and locally brewed DJ Dube on the turntables.

However, Mthibo who released his second album in 2009 called "Number One," picks an albino lady featured in the new video as another important part of appreciating love, regardless of the natural differences people have.

"I didn't choose her for the video just because she is an albino but because she is a lady representing many other beautiful women out there. Like I said, it's a ballad that celebrates love from a specific mindset. The video is entirely about love," he quickly shows.

He adds: "I directed the shooting of the video, shot some scenes and edited it as an experienced visual producer," explains the artiste who is employed at the Ministry of Communication as a Programmes Officer/presenter also assisting in the camera department of the Lesotho National Broadcasting Service (LNBS).



VERSATILE: Leribe-born musician, Thabo Rakhomo aka Mthibo

The video, he says has since been submitted for airplay to various television stations in Lesotho, South Africa, Nigeria, United States of America and Australia.

Having started long time ago, the determined musician says he will continue telling more stories through his music.

"I came into the music industry to stay not to try my luck. My music talks about life in general," he says, adding that people are supportive and enjoy his music.

Other hot songs by Mthibo include "Kea U Rata," "Don't Cry" featuring Dunamis, "Re Robala Mool" and "Jump and Reverse".

Dietary tips from top nutritionist during COVID-19 pandemic

...Eating at home lowers chances of contact with other people



KABELO MASOABI

LERIBE – Good nutrition is crucial for health, particularly in times of stressful illnesses like COVID-19, when the immune system might need to fight back.

People who eat a well-balanced diet tend to be healthier with stronger immune systems.

Balanced meals also lower risks of chronic illnesses and infectious diseases, according to professional Health Nutritionist, 'Mabakoena Tlaka.

Giving out advice on maintaining a good health during the pandemic, she says limited access to fresh foods may compromise opportunities to continue eating a healthy and varied diet.

Ms Tlaka says that can also potentially lead to an increased consumption of highly processed foods, which tend to be high in fat, sugar and salt content.

"You should eat a variety of fresh and unprocessed foods every day to get the vitamins, minerals, dietary fibre, protein and antioxidants your body needs. Drink enough water. Avoid sugar, fat and salt to significantly lower your risk of overweight, obesity, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and weakening immune system," she explains.

However, the nutrition expert who is a Nutrition and Food Science graduate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa), insists that people should always observe all other COVID-19 protocols because eating healthy alone won't prevent the spread of the virus.

"Most importantly, eat at home to reduce the rate of contact with other people to lower chances of being exposed to the pandemic. Droplets from infected people may land on surfaces and people's hands (e.g. customers and staff), and with lots of people coming and going, you cannot tell if hands are being

washed regularly enough, and surfaces are being cleaned and disinfected fast enough," she warns.

Continuing with her food tips, the nutrition consultant says water is essential for life because it transports nutrients and compounds in blood, regulates one's body temperature, gets rid of waste, and lubricates and cushions joints.

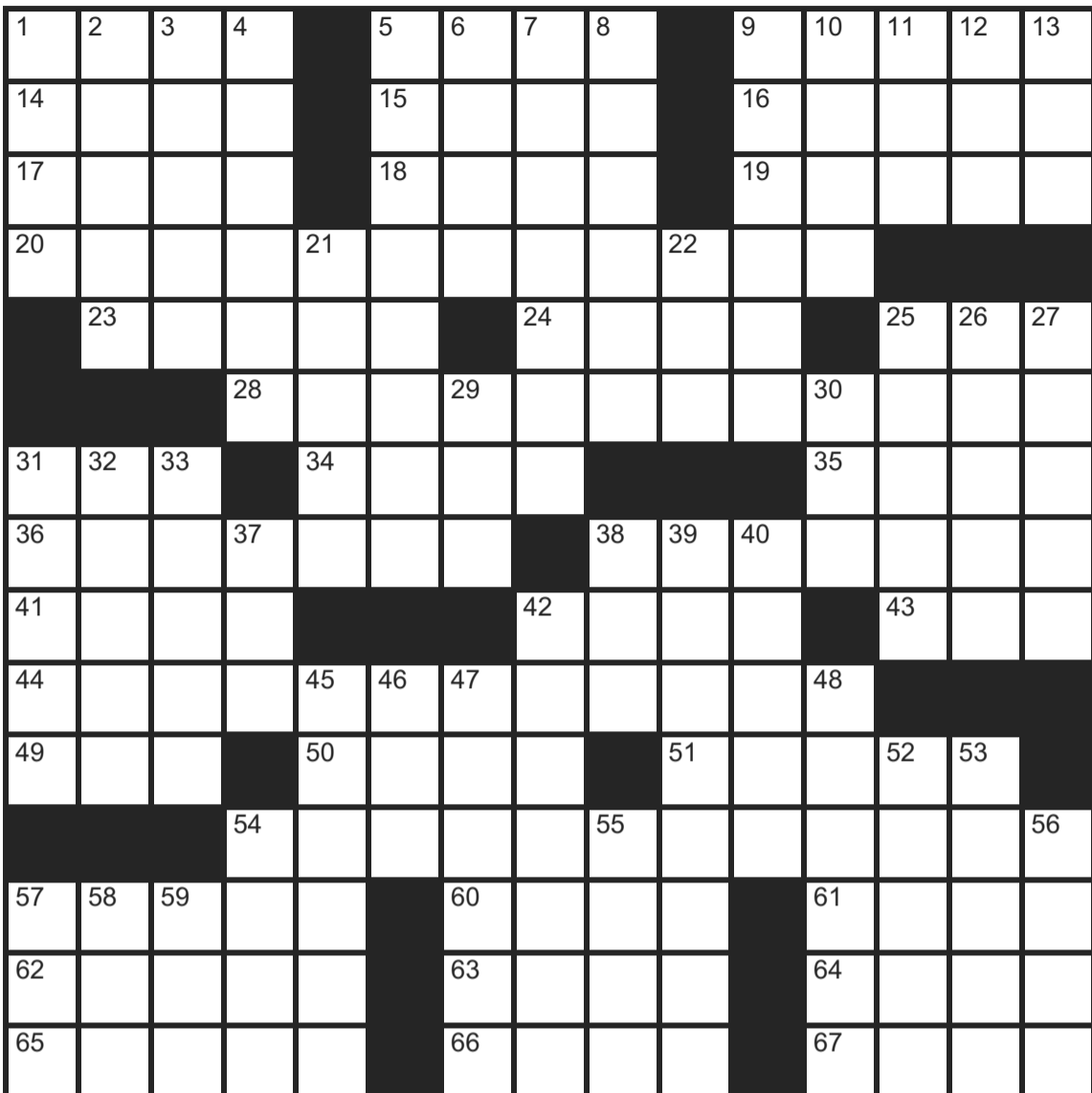
"Drink 8-10 cups of water every day. Water is the best choice, but you can also consume other drinks, fruits and vegetables that contain water, for example lemon juice (diluted in water and unsweetened), tea and coffee. But be careful not to consume too much caffeine, and avoid sweetened fruit juices, syrups, fruit juice concentrates, fizzy and still drinks as they all contain sugar," she indicates.

She further recommends the consumption of unsaturated fats found in fish, avocado, nuts, olive oil, sunflower and corn oils, rather than saturated fats found in fatty meat, butter, coconut oil, cream and cheese for example.

"Choose white meats like poultry and fish, which are generally low in fat, rather than red meat. Avoid processed meats because they are high in fat and salt. Where possible, opt for low-fat or reduced-fat versions of milk and dairy products."

She adds, "Avoid industrially produced trans fats. These are often found in processed foods, fast foods, snack foods, fried foods, frozen pizza, pies, cookies, margarines and spreads. Choose fresh fruits instead of sweet snacks such as cookies, cakes and chocolate."

General Crosswords



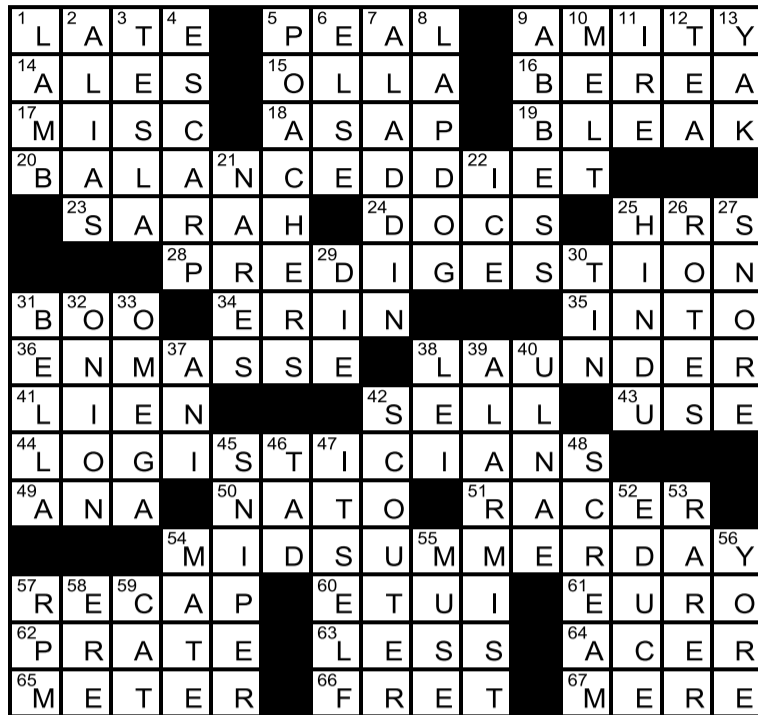
Across

- 1. Film crew member
- 5. Go belly up
- 9. Resting
- 14. City near Lake Tahoe
- 15. Cousin of a mandolin
- 16. Eagle's home
- 17. Reunion attendee
- 18. Acreage
- 19. Used a broom
- 20. Relieve
- 23. Star
- 24. Oppositionist
- 25. Grassland
- 28. Navigating sport
- 31. Wood sorrel
- 34. Small change
- 35. Shade of black

- 36. Breezes
- 38. Sideways
- 41. Give or take
- 42. Catch a glimpse of
- 43. Pigpen
- 44. Neck of the woods
- 49. Feminine suffix
- 50. Continental currency
- 51. Of service
- 54. Study of pesky organisms
- 57. Moth repellent
- 60. It ebbs and flows
- 61. Spur (on)
- 62. Oodles
- 63. "... happily _____ after"
- 64. Adolescent
- 65. Pool problem
- 66. Caribbean and others

- ### Down
- 1. Sheepskin holder
 - 2. Archaeological find
 - 3. Occupied, as a lavatory
 - 4. Big citrus fruit
 - 5. Softer in the middle
 - 6. Heavenly glow
 - 7. Repeating
 - 8. Absorbed, in a way
 - 9. Young girl
 - 10. Evergreens
 - 11. Intense anger
 - 12. Chill
 - 13. Pick up
 - 21. Compassion
 - 22. Took the cake?
 - 25. Kings of beasts

Last Week's Solution



- 26. Make into law
- 27. Askew
- 29. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
- 30. Color TV pioneer
- 31. Kind of layer
- 32. Goddess of agriculture
- 33. Orbital point
- 37. Monopolize
- 38. Baseball bat wood
- 39. Chatterboxes
- 40. Former capital of Japan
- 42. Wearing
- 45. Final transport
- 46. Sticker
- 47. Spiels
- 48. Weaken
- 52. Actress Sophia
- 53. Encouraged, with "on"
- 54. Family man
- 55. Brainstorm
- 56. Hankerings
- 57. When doubled, a dance
- 58. Electrifying swimmer
- 59. Nobelism Hammar skjold

So You Think You are Geneius

Question (Answer next week)

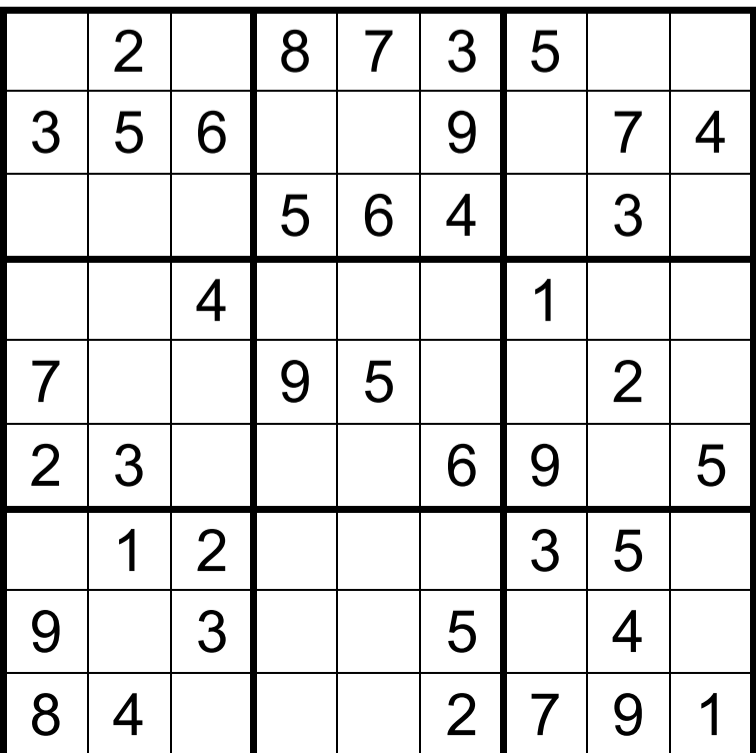
My shirt has 5 buttons, my cardigan has 2 buttons and my suit jacket has no buttons. How many buttons do my trousers have?



Last Week's Answer

5 socks: the first four may be one of each colour, the fifth one must then match one of the others.

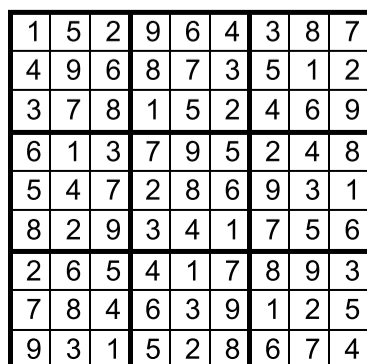
Sudoku Puzzle



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contain all the from 1-9

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurr: target time, ten minutes.

Last Week's Solution



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Be Car-Smart

WesBank's tips for used car buyers

With many consumers feeling a pinch in their wallets, largely because of the ongoing pandemic and the economic uncertainties that come with it, WesBank has seen a fundamental shift from new car buyers looking to the used car market for their transport needs.

In August 2021, finance applications for used cars were more than double those received for new cars. In light of this, WesBank offers the following advice to prospective buyers on how to approach second-hand vehicle purchases, as well as some common pitfalls to avoid.

A used car's history is the most important information a prospective buyer should investigate.

Buyers should actively seek out as much as possible about the car they have their eye on, and should be mindful of:

- total mileage
- the age of the vehicle
- any possible accident history
- overall vehicle condition
- the service history of the car, as documented in its service manual or digital service book in some more

premium models. It is not always possible to find out every detail about a used car's history, but building a profile that is as complete as possible helps minimise the risk of buying a lemon. This exercise can also help determine a car's market value. Any combination of age, mileage, service history, condition and ownership history can affect the price of a used vehicle. For example, a three-year-old car owned by one person and has 30 000km on the clock with a full service history, is worth more than a similar car with patchy or no service history at all. Similarly, a car with higher mileage but in perfect condition can be worth more than one with lower mileage but with worn seats, dented body panels and general neglect for condition.

In order to budget properly, it is also important to know the replacement costs for wear and tear items such as tyres, brakes, clutches and scheduled services, which can be expensive while adding to the overall maintenance costs and upkeep of a car. For example, higher-specification or sportier models often come with low-profile tyres which generally cost much more than the high-profile tyres on

more entry level models. A few simple internet searches for the prices of replacement items on any particular car can help prepare you for these expenses further down the road.

There are also factors that affect affordability, so buyers are advised to consider costs that would affect their total monthly budget.

These include costs for insurance, fuel and annual vehicle licensing fees. Contact your insurer for a quote on premiums ahead of purchases, and research what expected average fuel consumptions are for the car you're looking at. Tally these costs and add them to your monthly budget for a clear picture of any vehicle's total cost of ownership. Pay close attention to a car's current mileage and investigate when the next scheduled service is.

Think carefully before you make your purchase. Buying a vehicle from a recognised establishment can safeguard you from trouble if any issues arise shortly after you take delivery of a used car. The best form of recognition is to look for an establishment that is a member of the Retail Motor Industry Organisation, the National Automobile Dealers' Association or a major car brand's franchised dealership.

There are advantages to the consumer when purchasing a used vehicle in the franchised environment. These include formal manufacturer-approved used car programmes as well as manufacturer standards that have to be applied to a used car before it can be sold on the floor of a franchise. A consumer may not be provided with this when buying a vehicle from private sellers, other non-franchised environments. Another major advantage to consumers

when purchasing from a franchised dealer is the factory customer care infrastructure which applies when it comes to complaints and accountability. A car that is advertised at a price well below its market value is another possible warning sign. A car that costs significantly less than similar models could indicate anything from extremely high mileage, relative to the year model; previous accident damage; or a history of serious mechanical problems. Trust your gut. When it comes to second-hand vehicles, some deals can certainly be too good to be true.

Ask the dealer if the car is still under warranty, or if the car is still in its maintenance or service plan period, or if the maintenance plan has expired. If not, it is advisable to purchase an extended warranty, service or maintenance plan. It is almost always possible for the warranty, service or maintenance plan of a used car to be extended, and these costs can also be included in monthly finance arrangements.

The finance and insurance (F&I) liaison at reputable dealerships will be able to facilitate the purchase of this extension. An F&I is a qualified individual who can assess the needs of each buyer and tailor finance agreements to their respective needs. WesBank advises prospective buyers to engage with the dealership's F&I liaison when applying for finance, as they will help ensure that customers understand all the documentation prior to signing it.

Even if you're on a very tight budget, it's worth paying a little extra for a car that comes with a decent maintenance or warranty plan, as it could actually end up saving you money in the long run.

Volvo Cars reports record six-month performance in H1 2021



demonstrated in the first half by the demand for its Recharge models. Sales of both its fully electric and plug-in hybrid cars grew significantly, now making up 25 per cent of the global volume. This is the highest electrification share as a proportion of total sales among traditional car makers.

As part of the move towards full electrification, we launched our second fully electric model, the Volvo C40 Recharge. At the same time, we firmed up our strategy of online sales to meet changing consumer behaviour. From now on, all fully electric models will be available exclusively through volvocsrs.com, and customers can order at their place of preference; from their home, at a Volvo studio, or together with a retailer. We are now operational with online sales in several markets, with transparent and flexible consumer offerings including care packages of service, wear and tear as well as insurance. Volvo Cars' subscription offering, Care by Volvo, had a fivefold increase in the first six months to over 10,000 contracts.

Securing sustainable batteries is key for Volvo Cars' transformation. The company is therefore planning to join forces with Northvolt as a strategic partner for joint development and manufacturing of next generation battery cells.

To ensure focus on electrification, Volvo Cars is carving out its internal combustion engine operations into a new unit, Aurobay, in which Geely Holding will be a main shareholder. Through Aurobay, Volvo Cars will realise synergies as well as secure a supply of competitive combustion engines for its hybrid powertrains until the company is fully electric.

"Volvo Cars has a decade-long track record of successful transformation. The car industry is changing more than ever, and we have a strong determination to be the fastest transformer," said Håkan Samuelsson.

In May, the Board announced that it is evaluating a possible initial public offering (IPO) on Nasdaq Stockholm. The evaluation process continues.

Looking at the remaining half year, Volvo Cars reiterates its full-year outlook. Unless supply of semiconductors improves, the company expects flat sales and revenue for the second half year, compared with the same period last year, despite strong customer demand.

cent.

Sales volumes rebounded 41 per cent compared to the pandemic-affected period in 2020, but the company also saw strong growth of 12 per cent compared to the first six months of 2019, a more relevant comparison without the pandemic disruption. The 12-month rolling sales volume is approximately 775,000 cars, just shy of the 800,000 target set 10 years ago.

"The company continued to grow strongly despite the industry-wide semiconductor shortage, but more importantly, we demonstrated that we are a leader of the ongoing transformation in the automotive industry," said Håkan Samuelsson, chief executive of Volvo Cars. Volvo Cars aims to become the fastest transforming company in the sector and to be fully electric by 2030. The appeal of Volvo's electric cars was

Volvo Cars today reported the best half-year results in terms of sales and operating profit in its 94-year history amid increasing demand for its cars across all regions.

The half-year financial report showed the company achieved a revenue of 141 billion SEK, up 26 per cent, driven by strong demand and positive mix effects. Operating income was 13 billion SEK in the first six months of 2021, representing an operating margin of 9.4 per

Metro SPORTS



No vaccination card, ID, no entry at games

LeFA is more than ready to resume league matches



The Setsoto Stadium in Maseru



Deputy Secretary General of the Lesotho Football Association, Chris Bullock



Sport can give new life to children.



MASERU – In an unprecedented move that has however, allowed sports activities to resume, spectators have been instructed to provide their national Identification Documents (IDs) and COVID-19 vaccinations cards in order to attend matches.

The unique order was announced on Sunday night by Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro as he addressed the nation on the current state of the pandemic in Lesotho.

The country has since moved from the purple colour code to the blue one, and that means some restrictions which were previously in place have been eased.

Dr Majoro said spectators at the games are still expected to wear their facial masks while maintaining social distancing in a bid to curb the spread of the pandemic.

In the previous soccer season, the premier league was forced to end prematurely due to the threat posed by the rampant COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government among others also suspended all sports activities and imposed other hard lockdown protocols meant to combat the spread of the virus.

Deputy Secretary General of the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA), Chris Bullock said the resumption of the soccer season is a great relief to the football family as they have been more than ready to restart.

“This is a positive move on the part of the Government, what we ought to do as LeFA is to strategise carefully on how to handle the situation in order to avoid irregularities,” he said.

Bullock noted that most of the time things do not go as planned because of people who always want to cause chaos even when they know what they should do or not do.

He said the fact that the pandemic is here to stay, the nation must learn to live with it by adhering to all its governing laws to avoid sports being suspended again in future.

LeFA, he promised will ensure that all the set goals and targets are met, pleading with all soccer bodies and personalities to take responsibility and do what is expected out of them. LeNA



The Lesotho Cricket Men's National team before it left for Rwanda on Tuesday

Cricket squad mandated to triumph in Rwanda

... Team to face one of its old adversaries at tourney

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MASERU – The national men's cricket team manager, Bongane Mosiuoa has promised nothing but hard work and commitment at the 2021 International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20 World Cup Africa Sub-Regional Qualifier tournament set for October 14-23 in Rwanda where the squad will be competing.

He made the pledge on Tuesday afternoon during the team's send-off ceremony held in Maseru.

"We are going to Rwanda to work hard. We faced one of the teams in our group before and defeated it, so there is clearly going to be war where we are going.

"The Lesotho Cricket Association (LCA) has mandated us to reach the next stage of the competition, which is what we are planning to do," Mosiuoa said.

The team began its preparations in December last year with a provisional squad of 22 men which was later cut down to 16 men including 14 players and two officials, the coach and the team manager.

"We played six friendly matches locally, winning four and losing two. We also played three games in the Free State province, South Africa where we won two and lost one. Due to COVID-19, we could not play many games abroad. We were

supposed to compete in a tournament in Bloemfontein against VKB Nights club but the competition was postponed to February and later rescheduled to October," he said.

When selecting the team, Mosiuoa said they considered four aspects including performance, the ICC criteria, availability of the player and his discipline.

He noted that the team was mentored by six coaches from the preparations stage up to the final selection process.

Team head coach, Theko Mahloane said his charges are ready to battle it out in Rwanda, promising to bring the glory home.

Sharing similar sentiments was LCA President, Mohlouoa Sepolo who ordered the team to go and make the country proud in Rwanda.

"As you venture out, beware that you are not going for a honeymoon, but you are going to war. Remember you are representing both the LCA and Lesotho as a country. Therefore go and make us proud, you are our flag bearers. Be aggressive and I hope that you bring the trophy home. As you go out there, we are not expecting anything but victory. I am confident because for the first time in my experience, we have a team surrounded by many competent coaches during the preparations stage.

"You have been mentored by several coaches hence you possess quality skills to go and overcome your opponents. We will give you a heroes' welcome when you return home with the trophy," Sepolo said, wishing the squad the best of luck.

For his part, LCA Media Liaison Officer, Clifford Molefe said the trip is fully sponsored by the ICC with the LCA only responsible for dinner costs for the team during its stay in Rwanda.

The tournament consists of two groups and Lesotho are in Group A alongside hosts Rwanda together with Malawi, Seychelles, Uganda, Ghana and Eswatini while Botswana, Cameroon, Tanzania, Mozambique, Saint Helena and Sierra Leone are in Group B.

The Group B tournament commences on October 31 until November 8. Two top teams from each group will proceed to the Africa Regional Final to compete against Kenya and Nigeria on November 21 still in Rwanda.

The leading teams from these groups will compete globally where they will meet top cricketing nations like India and

Pakistan among others.

The national Squad:

Patel Samir Abdul Saeed, Patel Sarfaraj Abdul Hamid, Tlali Chachole Frank, Khan Mohammad Maaz, Omar Hussain, Thamae Thamae, Leporoporo Mthimkhulu, Monanthane Lefulere, Chaoana Tepiso David, Jakida Yakda Yahya Yakub Mahmad, Patele Ayaj Ashraf, Leola Mohleki Ellias, Letsitsa Tšelisio, Matsau Molai Joseph. Bongane Solomon Mosiuoa – Team Manager Theko Cletus Mahloane – Head Coach





Strong-willed volleyball star, adroit coach, Tlhoriso Makenete

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MASERU - He is not only a veteran in the volleyball court, but Tlhoriso Makenete is also one of the most successful local coaches in the sport.

This after he graduated from being a star player of the Red Skins volleyball club, one of the country's top volleyball teams.

Makenete is today one of the team's key coaches and administrators.

Under his guidance, the Red Skins women's team won gold medals and four consecutive league titles from 2008 until 2011.

He led Team Lesotho to the Federation of African University Sports (FASU) Games held in South Africa in 2006.

He was also the head coach for the women's volleyball team at the 2009 Confederation of University and College Sports Association (CUCSA) Games held in Botswana.

He also led Team Lesotho volleyball men to the 2016 CUCSA Games held in Zimbabwe where Lesotho won a bronze medal.

He served the volleyball family as the Vice President Administration from 2010 until 2013 before being elected as the association's Vice President Technical the same year.

He is currently the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 2020 Games Technical cluster member representing volleyball.

He is a qualified coach who holds the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) Level I and Level II Coaching certificates.

His extensive experience as both a player and coach has earned him great respect in the volleyball fraternity in the Southern African region.

From 1989 until 1991, he played for the Lerotholi Polytechnic senior volleyball team before he joined his all-time favourite side, Red Skins the following year as one of the first team recruiters. He later joined the outfit's first team the same year until he retired in 2012.

From 1992 to 1999, he played for the national volleyball squad and featured in the Federation of International Volleyball (FIVB) World Cup qualifiers held in Botswana in October 7- 13, 2013 when Lesotho made its debut appearance in the competition.

As a coach, Makenete mentored the Red Skins women's team as assistant coach from 1997 until 2007 when he became the team's head coach, a position he holds to date.



He also became the President of the Red Skins volleyball club from 1993 until 1995 when he was elected to serve as the Lesotho Volleyball Association (LVA) Vice President, a position he held for two years, until 2006.

The same year, he was appointed as the Team Manager of Lerotholi Polytechnic volleyball team and still holds the position now.

In 2007, Makenete became the Red Skins women coach appointee and the team under his tutelage won a silver medal in the local volleyball league.

Born on August 31, 1968 in Pitseng, Leribe, Tlhoriso Makenete is the son of 'Mantsoaki and the late Molupe Makenete. He is the third child in the family of five children, three girls and two boys. He was bred in Pitseng.

He first attended Pitseng LEC Primary School before moving to Pontmain RCM where he completed his Standard Seven in 1983. He obtained his Junior Certificate (JC) at Pitseng High School in 1986 and his Cambridge

Overseas School Certificate (COSC) from the same school in 1988.

He graduated with a certificate in Woodwork from Lerotholi Polytechnic (LP) in 1991 and later obtained an Advance Certificate in Education in Germany in 2002.

During his high school days, he was a proficient lawn tennis and volleyball player. Since 1997 to date, he has been serving as a Trade Instructor and Head of the Programme at LP.

Players who gave him nightmares during his playing days include Tšeliso Motšoeneng, Ntsane Ramonate and Tšepo Raletooane among others.

He looked up to his father who was a prominent footballer in the country. Makenete considers Ramonate who was his setter at Red Skins as one of the people who contributed towards grooming him into a top player and coach.

He regards losing against any team as his

worst moment even during his playing days and lately as a coach.

His best moment as a player was participating with Red Skins at the Zone VI Games and African Championships in Durban, South Africa in 2004.

As a coach, his best moment was winning the silver medal at the CUCSA Games in Botswana in 2009.

His former teammate and now fellow coach, Raletooane describes him as a player who loves and respects volleyball.

"Since I met him many years ago, he has been active in volleyball, serving in different platforms and committees ensuring the growth of the sport.

"He loves Red Skins tremendously may be because he is one of the founding members of the team. He is also technically good, he is capable of reading a match in an outstanding manner. Development is at the bottom of his heart more than anything else," he adds.

Region 5 Youth Games
MASERU 2020

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