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Metro

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**BUSINESS NEWS** RSL exceeds target by M260 million - 10

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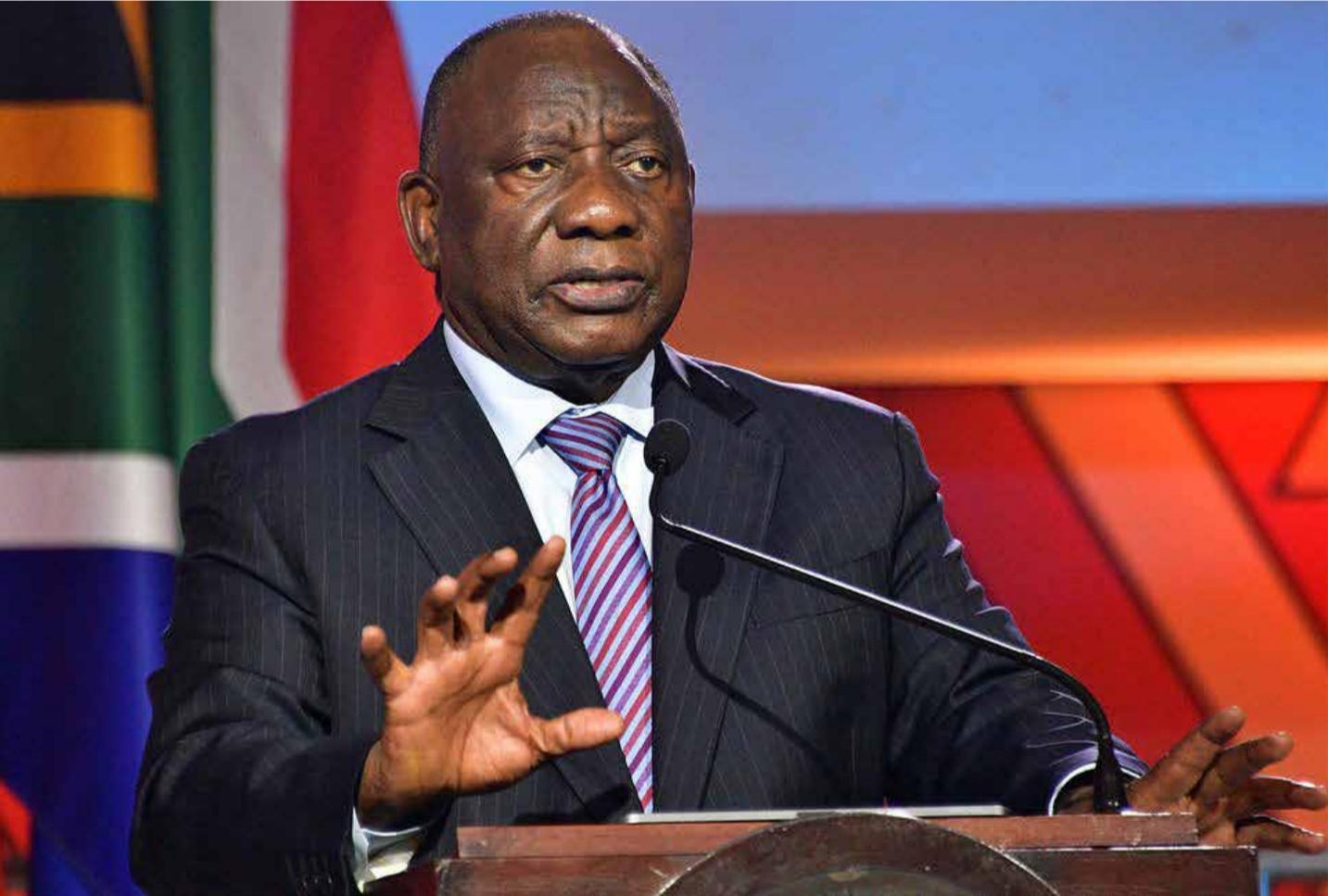
# US AGOA DECISIONS: A PANDORA'S BOX



National News

# US AGOA decisions: A Pandora's box

What lies ahead as US threatens to cut ties with SA?



prominent accountant and economic commentator, Sam Mphaka, argues to the contrary about Lesotho's economic future in a case SA's eligibility to access the US market under AGOA is terminated.

Mphaka says that under the AGOA, eligible countries are able to access the US market free of excise duties and taxes, and that if SA's eligibility to access the US market under the AGOA is terminated, it does not mean that RSA cannot continue to export its products to the US.

"It merely means that the SA products will be subject to the excise duties and taxes in the US. It therefore means that the SA products will no more be competitive in terms of prices in the US. Such might negatively affect the demand for the SA products in the US, and thus the SA's exports, unless a replacement market is secured," he said.

"On the other hand, if Lesotho's eligibility to access the US market under AGOA is not terminated while the eligibility of SA is terminated, it might bring some economic advantages to Lesotho."

Mphaka cited the example of some of the manufacturers and/or producers of the AGOA eligible products in SA, instead of closing down their operations, opting to relocate to Lesotho and continue producing, manufacturing and exporting to the US from Lesotho.

"If such happens, employment opportunities in Lesotho will increase. By the same token, Lesotho's exports will rise, and its economy grow."

Mphaka told the Metro that it is not advisable for Lesotho and SA to let go of AGOA and explore market opportunities elsewhere. He said it is not advisable for Lesotho and her neighbour to terminate or abandon the AGOA relationship and economic opportunity.

"Actually, the two countries have not, as we speak, been able to exploit the full potential of the US market. There is still a great opportunity to export more to the US than it is presently happening, meaning there is still ample room for each country to grow its economy at a higher rate than now through the AGOA relationship."

He said it is to the benefit both countries to seek to expand the market for their respective products. They could seek to diversify their export markets to, say, the rest of Africa itself, Europe, Asia and Australia.

Other than expanding their respective markets, the great benefit of that would be to manage the risk of dependency on one or few markets.

that economic independence and therefore likely to suffer," Likhang said in an interview with Metro on Tuesday. He added that the suffering would be highly noticeable in that South African businesses have employed a lot of Basotho people and that means a lot of jobs can also be on the line.

"We are vulnerable in that South African businesses have employed a lot of our people and they could suffer a lot and government may have to intervene," Likhang added.

He said the country does have water as one of the biggest export where it can negotiate pricing, however, the situation is not the same in other export such as the wool and mohair industry.

The diamond sector on the other hand, he said, is currently not performing well, making the situation even more vulnerable for the country. Among other things, the US president has threatened to cut all funding to South

Africa over allegations that it was confiscating land and treating certain classes of people very badly.

Land ownership has long been contentious issue in South Africa with most private farmland owned by white people, just over 30 years after the end of the racist system of apartheid.

There have been continuous calls for the South African government to address land reform and deal with the past injustices of racial segregation.

In January this year, South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa, signed into law a bill that allows land seizures without compensation in certain circumstances.

However,



NEO SENOKO

**M**ASERU - With the United States of America (US) president, Donald Trump, threatening to cut all future funding including African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to South Africa, Lesotho's economy can be directly impacted, leaving the country in crunches.

The cut would not just negatively affect South Africa, but would also harm Lesotho and be more damaging to regional trade and further deprive other African countries from benefiting from South Africa's more advanced economy, such as its manufacturing sector.

AGOA is a preferential trade programme that was enacted in the year 2000 to boost and diversify African trade with the US the act allows duty-free entry for a wide range of African products in to the US. Close to 40 sub-Saharan African countries, including Lesotho and South Africa are beneficiaries of AGOA.

Beneficiary status of sub-Saharan African countries might be granted, or withdrawn, at the discretion of the US president and beneficiary countries have no recourse to dispute settlement in this regard.

The agreement is a unilateral provision which means the US determines annually whether countries have met the eligibility requirement set out in legislation.

A local Chartered Accountant, Robert Likhang, has said in an interview with Metro that while Lesotho has trade relations with other countries other than South Africa, the latter's expulsion from AGOA could negatively impact the country.

"We do have trade relations with other countries besides South Africa but we can be directly affected because they are our biggest trade partners. Unlike other countries that have manufacturing capabilities, we do not have

# Lesotho in danger of economic crises

*...as US threatens to cut ties with SA*



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"We do have trade relations with other countries besides South Africa but we can be directly affected because they are our biggest trade partners. Unlike other countries that have manufacturing capabilities, we do not have that economic independence and therefore likely to suffer," Likhanga said in an interview with Metro on Tuesday.

He added that the suffering would be highly noticeable in that South African businesses have employed a lot of Basotho people and that means a lot of jobs can also be on the line.

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businesses have employed a lot of our people and they could suffer a lot and government may have to intervene," Likhanga added.

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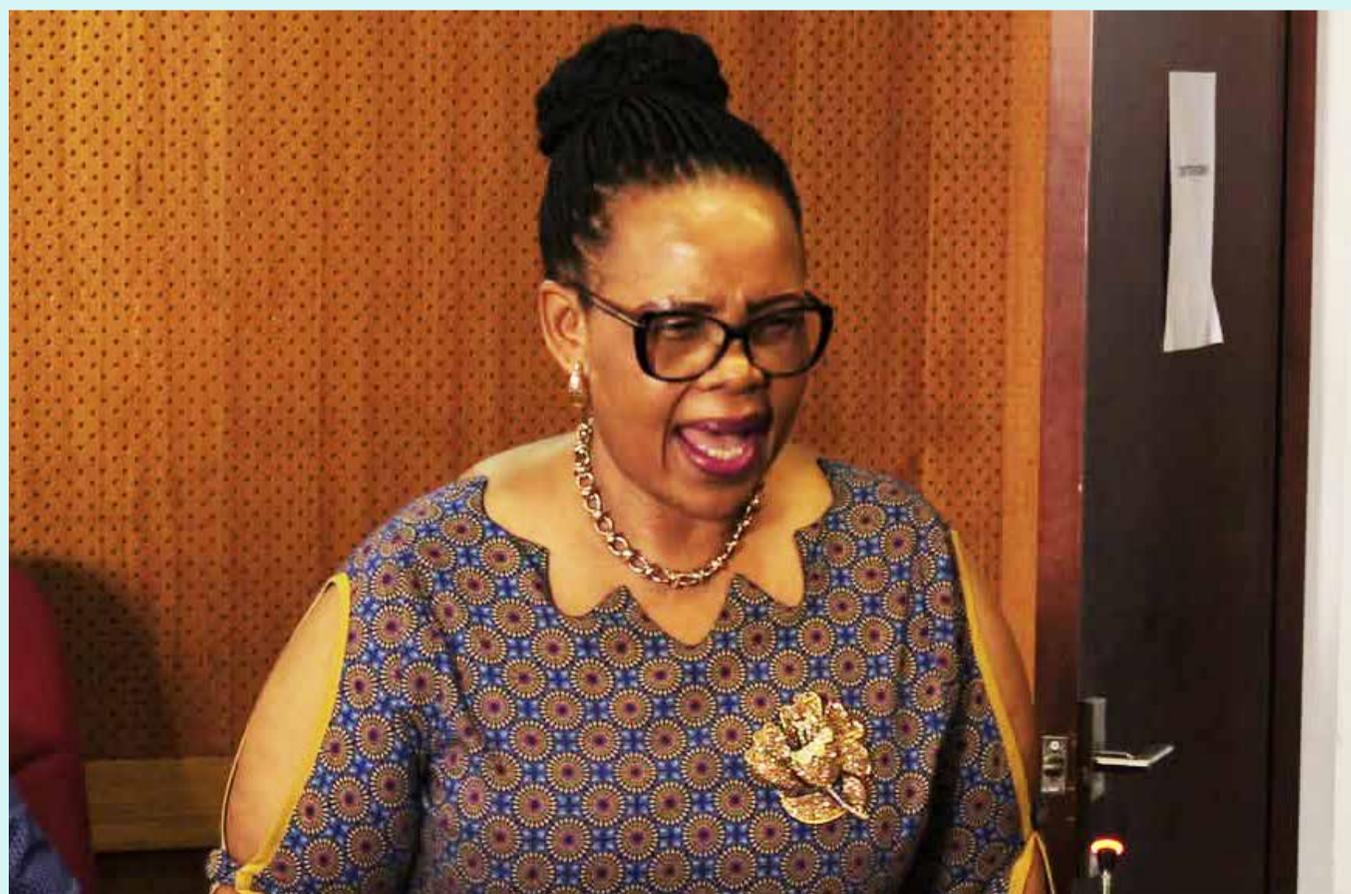
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# National News

## Parly women call for 'state of emergency' against GBV



### LINEO MALATALIANA

**M**ASERU - The Parliament Women's Caucus has called on Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane to declare the surge in violence against women and girls a 'state of emergency.'

The Chairperson of the caucus, 'Makatlheho Motsoasele, said they abhor fully the heinous acts that see women and girls murdered and traumatised.

Motsoasele did acknowledge that there are cases where these acts also

affect men and boys.

"The most shocking part is that the violence is usually perpetuated by those closely linked to the victims, people they see as protectors and supporters," Motsoasele said.

The chairperson indicated that the outcry to end Gender Based Violence (GBV) was clearly demonstrated when women in a village in Teyatyaneng, performed traditional funeral rites for a female victim of GBV.

The women took it upon themselves to demonstrate their pain by digging

the deceased's grave and carried her coffin, breaking with the traditional norm that men mainly dig graves and carry coffins.

Motsoasele pointed out two factors as some of the factors that instigate violence namely stress and drug abuse.

Indicating that something is amiss in Basotho households.

"As the Women's Caucus we call upon the prime minister to declare violence against women and girls a state of emergency. It is time for the law to be put into effect," the chairperson

said.

Motsoasele pointed out that the public has shown concern pertaining to issues around bail where predators are let go through the loophole in the bail structure of the country.

A members of the Women's Caucus, 'Mamokete Ntšekhe, said they are working tirelessly to ensure that the Bail Bill is put into effect promptly.

According to Nšekhe they believe that bail and bail conditions should have a law that specifically governs them.

"A social survey was performed in villages in the 10 districts to highlight the public point of view on bail issues," she said.

Police minister, Lebona Lephema, berated the fact that women are often seen as role players perpetuating violence against women and girl.

"Speaking as a policeman, more often than less a woman is usually at the epicentre of a lot of criminal acts against other women, girls and their counterparts," Lephema said.

The minister said women are often involved in perpetuating child marriage and human trafficking which he said they should desist from.

"Women have to learn to respect themselves first so that they may receive the same in return," Lephema said.

Deputy Prime Minister, Justice Nthomeng Majara, said that she has had the outcry from the caucus and will surely pass it on to the prime minister.

"The law and enforcement come last in the circle of violence, if we want to see change we have to start at the root; charity begins at home. It starts with the manner one conducts themselves that shows how they will treat others," Majara said.

The deputy prime minister recognised that the issue of violence against women and girls is a broad and deep issue that requires a lengthy sit down discussion to find working solution to.

# Villagers warned on possible flooding

levels. These typically emphasize the dangers of crossing rivers during and after periods of heavy rainfall and suggest utilizing established bridge crossings.

Specific communities historically impacted by increased river flows downstream from the Katse Dam include those residing along the Malibamatšo River and those situated along the banks of the Senqu River near the confluence.

The exact villages impacted may vary based on the intensity and duration of rainfall and the dam's water release management strategies.

"The management of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), Katse Dam informs the public of the possible spill of Katse Dam due to current heavy rains," stated an LHDA press release.

The release went on to specify the predicted timeframe for the potential spill.

"It is anticipated that the dam might spill towards the end of the week starting March 24, 2025, or the 31 of March 2025."

The LHDA's warning is a critical reminder of the potential risks associated with such events. The increased water flow downstream from Katse Dam significantly increases the risk of flash floods, making river crossings extremely dangerous.

The authority is urging residents in affected areas to heed the warning and take necessary precautions.

The LHDA's communication underscores the necessity for residents to prioritize their safety reminding them that "we therefore, encourage people to use bridge at all times when crossing these rivers within this period."

As the rainy season progresses, it is crucial that surrounding villages stay informed and vigilant about the risks posed by the dam's overflow.

The LHDA's timely warnings serve as a reminder of the potential dangers and the importance of community cooperation in ensuring safety.



**MPHO RAMOLULA**

**M**ASERU - The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has issued a public warning about the potential for a spillover of the Katse Dam due to current heavy rainfalls.

The spillover, anticipated between March 24 and 31, will affect downstream areas along the Malibamatšo and Senqu Rivers.

Katse Dam, located in Malibamatšo River, is one of Lesotho's most iconic and spectacular water features and the second largest dam in Africa.

However, as beautiful as it is, the dam's water can become treacherous, especially during rainy season when they overflow into surrounding areas.

The last festive season was marred by a significant increase in drowning incidents in Lesotho, prompting urgent

safety warnings from the LHDA.

In response to the escalating risk, LHDA released a report highlighting severe flooding at the Katse Dam, urging nearby villages, including Malibamatšo and Senqu to exercise extreme caution during the rainy season.

Previous LHDA communications, often distributed through official channels and local media, have outlined safety precautions during periods of high water

# Water department assesses lowlands water project

**BOKANG MOSHOESHOE**

**M**ASERU - The Ministry of Natural Resources through the department of Water Affairs, convened its annual water sector coordination meeting to assess progress, address challenges and strategies for the coming year.

The two-day event held in Maseru from March 26 to 27 outlined several key achievements in 2024.

The meeting brought together government representatives, development partners, water service providers and civil society organizations to discuss the state of Lesotho's water sector.

Key achievements in 2024 include expansion of water supply systems projects such as the Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project (LLWDP) Phase I and II in the rural and urban areas, as it has made significant strides in improving access to clean water with Metolong Dam project continuing to play a critical role in supplying water to Maseru and surrounding districts.

This event follows World Water Day which is observed annually on March 22 as to raise awareness about the importance of freshwater and advocate for sustainable management of water resources.

In previous years Lesotho's celebration included educational campaigns in water conservation and sanitation, visits to hydrometric stations to highlight water monitoring efforts and policy discussions on water resources management while this year initiatives like LLWDP and Sanitation Project set to end in March this year after more than a decade of implementation have significantly improved access to clean water and sanitation in rural communities.

The project has delivered remarkable results including the construction of 190 kilometres of pipeline, water storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 3.48 million litres and 166 public water points serving approximately 28 266 people across eight zones in Maseru and Berea



districts. On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rethabile Lebeta, stated that the goal is to achieve success with sustainable development goals as she believed that all stakeholders in the water sector should work together to achieve their mandate and take Lesotho forward.

"This event helps us to come together and plan our goals so as to achieve great success on water. Water is an essential need in daily life," Lebeta explained.

Phase I project manager in Maseru and Berea districts, Thabiso Tšosane, explained that the project has four components and it is scheduled for completion end of March.

"Our target was to supply about 65 000 households but we only managed to supply about 28 thousand as well as built toilets and reservoirs," declared Tšosane.

LLWDP II project manager, Leshoboro Nnena, explained that areas of Hlotse,



Maputsoe, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek will be supplied with water starting next year after the completion of the project in November.

Upon launch LLWDP II pledged to provide adequate portable water to communities that will be affected by the multi-million maloti project. The water is planned, among others, to be used for irrigation purposes and other household reasons, the LLWDP has showed.

The system includes a river intake structure, source protection measures to protect the local environment, and reduce the effects of flooding, a water treatment plant, transmission lines, reservoirs, and auxiliary facilities.

Apart from that, the project focuses on supporting water supply infrastructure investments to address the water security challenges in water demand in Zone 2 and 3 of the lowlands, comprising Maputsoe,

Hlotse, and surrounding settlements.

This is planned to be achieved by increasing availability, reliability, and access to water for domestic and industrial purposes, thus supporting economic development, public health, and improving the area's resilience to climate change impacts such as prolonged drought.

The development objective of the second phase of the LLWDP II is to increase the availability of water and access to improved water supply services.

The project includes the construction and rehabilitation of distribution water mains and networks to operate in the lowland towns of Maputsoe and Hlotse, Mohale's Hoek, and Mafeteng along with the surrounding settlements.

It will also include the installation of water meters, household service connections, leakage reduction measures, and standpipes.

# National News

# SADC urges swift ratification of Regional Parliament Treaty



MOSES MAGADZA

**G**ABORONE, Botswana - The Executive Secretary of SADC, Elias Magosi, has hailed the recent signing of the Agreement to amend the SADC Treaty to transform the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) into a regional parliament by Botswana's president, Advocate Duma Boko.

He, however, called for the active involvement of the region's parliaments to ensure swift ratification of regional instruments.

President Boko signed the Agreement in Gaborone on Wednesday.

Magosi, in delivering a vote of thanks after the signing, called it a "momentous occasion" and a critical step towards regional integration, accountability, and enhanced governance.

He commended the leadership of President Boko, the government of Botswana, and all those who worked over the years to reach this milestone.

"We did not despair," Magosi said, adding, "There have been layers of leaders that have come before you to lay the foundation and here we are now with you signing this important instrument. We must commend the country and the previous leaders, but we must commend you that you came in a short space of time,

and you found it very, very important to append the signature."

Magosi stressed that the establishment of a regional parliament is not just symbolic, but a necessary evolution in SADC's institutional development, especially for enhancing democratic governance, oversight, and the harmonisation of laws across member states.

"It is there to make sure that it enhances governance of our region such that we also perform effectively," he said.

He added: "The laws that are there need an independent voice, an independent eye that makes sure that the region and the respective member states follow laws in the manner that serves our region, our member states and our citizens."

However, the executive secretary expressed deep concern over the longstanding disconnect between presidential signatures at the SADC Summit and the slow pace of ratification by member states' parliaments - delays that have plagued several regional instruments for up to 20 years.

"One of the goals that I have in this role (of SADC ES) is to make sure that member states sign these instruments that have been with us for quite some time," Magosi said.

He explained: "When we approve the

Agreement, there is a gap between the signature of their Excellencies at the SADC Summit and the ratification signatures. It often takes between five and 20 years, and we wonder what the cause of this delay is."

He noted that this delay is particularly alarming given that all necessary internal reviews by legal departments and ministries are assumed to be completed before presidential sign-off, and therefore, ratification should proceed without unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

"SADC is only as strong as its instruments. SADC is as effective as the effectiveness of such instruments. And for those instruments to come into effect, they must be signed, they must be ratified," he stressed.

Magosi issued a plea to Members of Parliament across the region, and urged them to actively champion the ratification and domestication of signed instruments. He stressed that MPs have a duty not only to approve but to interrogate these frameworks for the sake of their citizens and the regional bloc's future.

"It is a plea to all of us who are Members of Parliament from the region that indeed we interrogate these instruments and assist us to move them quickly. We can be as fast as member states can be. We know we are very fast as Secretariat, but oftentimes we are delayed by member states," he said.

Magosi expressed optimism that if remaining technical inputs are received on time, the instrument establishing the SADC Regional Parliament could be finalised and presented at the upcoming 45th SADC Summit in Madagascar.

"Our job, my sister (SADC PF secretary general, Boemo Sekgoma) and I, is to provide advice. We want this to be signed at the 45th SADC Summit. It can be done," he stated.

He called for the envisaged regional parliament to be seen and nurtured as a credible, effective, and value-adding institution that differs from other continental bodies.

"We are developing a regional parliament. It must be seen to be effective, and we are the Members of Parliament who can make it effective... We must preserve and protect it so that it adds value to the region; it adds value to the member states."

With Botswana's signing, only Mauritius remains. The Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Advocate Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda, who is also the chairperson of the SADC PF Transformation Lobbying Team, expressed optimism that it will soon follow.

**Moses Magadza is the Media and Communications Manager at the SADC Parliamentary Forum**



# Southern Africa commemorates DPCW proclamation with call for institutionalizing peace



**P**RETORIA, South Africa – The 9th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) took place at Brooklyn Lodge, Pretoria, bringing together high-level officials, ambassadors, representatives from NGOs and IGOs, and members of civil society.

The event, hosted by Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL), followed the March 14 commemoration held in South Korea and focused on this year's theme, "Institutionalizing Peace: Legal Frameworks for Sustainable Conflict Resolution."

The event underscored the urgent need to transform peace from a conceptual ideal into a legally binding and institutionalized norm. As South Africa reflects on its own history of human rights struggles, the commemoration highlighted the necessity of codifying peace - much like human rights - within national and international legal frameworks to ensure sustainable conflict resolution.

The event was conducted in a hybrid format, accommodating both in-person and live online participation. It commenced with praise and performances, fostering a sense of unity among attendees.

The programme featured the introduction of speakers, presentations, discussion sessions, a screening of the HWPL video, the National Solidarity Statement (NSS) presentation, a Q&A session, a support signature campaign, and a closing ceremony.

Approximately 48 individuals from various sectors - including government officials, youth organizations, and peace advocacy groups - attended the event to engage in discussions on peace. Participants represented South Africa and nine other countries.

Speaking at the South Korean event on March 14, HWPL Chairman, Man Hee Lee, emphasized the importance of strengthening legal mechanisms for peace, stating, "True peace can only be realized when it is upheld by law, not just by words."

The DPCW serves as a blueprint for ensuring that peace is not left to voluntary political will but is instead a legally

protected right for all."

The Pretoria event echoed this sentiment, with discussions focusing on the role of the Legislate Peace Project, which has mobilized citizen-led advocacy to integrate peace into governance structures.

The discussions focused on integrating peace into governance structures through civic-led advocacy efforts.

To achieve this goal, four speakers including Siphosiso Seakamela, Reon van der Merwe, Mpule Kgotsi, and Mu-Aalima Amyana Fakude shared their perspectives and engaged in meaningful discussions on practical peace initiatives.

Experts and stakeholders explored how international organizations, including

the United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), and the European Union (EU), have underscored the necessity of normative frameworks for peacebuilding.

Key sessions addressed the DPCW's 10 articles and 38 clauses, which advocate for global conflict prevention, disarmament, and institutional cooperation.

The declaration calls for legal obligations on states to adhere to international court rulings, repurpose military infrastructure for civilian use, and engage civil society in peacebuilding efforts.

Building on these discussions, participants engaged in strategic dialogues on how to institutionalize peace within Southern African legal systems and

expand the National Solidarity Statement (NSS) Campaign.

The campaign seeks to ensure that regional governments recognize and support the implementation of the DPCW, fostering genuine peace by encouraging collaboration between officials and civil society.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering an even stronger global coalition for peace through legal reform and grassroots advocacy.

Recognizing that peace remains an aspiration in many regions, HWPL's mission continues to drive forward the necessary legal transformations to practically ensure that peace is protected, upheld, and enforced at all levels of society.



## Ethical dilemma in politics and administration

**RANTAU TLALI MAKHETHA**

“Actual or apparent conflict (of interest) between, or convergence of, public duty and private or personal interest has been the cause of numerous scandals involving those in public office, or unethical conduct by such persons, occasionally with serious repercussions,” Dr MJ Mafunisa wrote in Conflict of Interest: Ethical Dilemma in Politics and Administration.

It is against such that one has been puzzled by the conduct of Minister of Public Works and Transport, Neo Matjato Moteana, for allegedly awarding his ex-company Tomane Khatleli Moteane Architects a tender for refurbishment of Moshoeshe I International Airport, which initially rose from M50 million to a staggering M184 million - raising suspicion of corruption.

Minister Moteane, despite recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), has remained defiant, telling the local weekly Public Eye that he is unfazed by his possible sacking from cabinet.

“I don't know what they want. Do they want me to be fired from cabinet, or to be reshuffled, or to be kicked out of the country?” Moteane is quoted.

The PAC report noted: “Immediate cancellation of the LSP contract (RFP Reference Number: GOL/001/2023/24) and re-tendering under an open international competitive process.

“The Public Procurement Act Section 147 (a)(ii), (v), and b(f) provide for the

legal provisions for termination. The new tendering process should align with ICAO audit reports (2007 and 2022) recommendations on safety and aviation standards. Disciplinary action should be taken against the Principal Secretary, the Deputy Principal Secretary, and the Director of BDS, and they should be dismissed.”

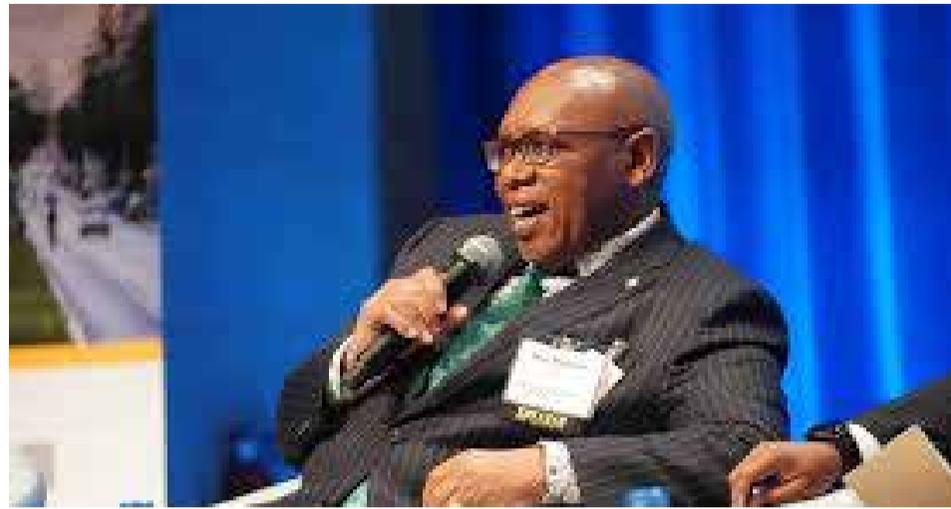
It is such deals that have led to some Members of Parliament (MPs) asking for an enactment of legislation that deals with conflict of interest, yet there seems to be no appetite for such from cabinet and benches of the National Assembly.

Voters who made the numbers for the ruling Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) to have the majority in parliament have been reeling from this position taken by both government and some MPs, yet they knew that they were electing business barons.

It's a bitter pill to swallow. Moteane is not alone in the drama, as his boss, Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane, Minister of Home Affairs, Lebona Lephema, and others don't have a molecule of shame since their companies are involved in various projects either by the government or where it has shareholding.

Just imagine ministers squabbling over tenders during cabinet meetings; it's only in banana kingdoms where there are no checks and balances to avoid conflict of interest.

The electorate has placed the elites in positions of power; however, they did not see that it was a consolidation of their key interest and protecting wealth.



I cringe every time a government project starts and just heard from the One-Stop Business Facility Centre (OBFC) to see who owns the company from ministers to MPs. “Conflict of interest, including corruption, bribery, fraud, and suing inside information and influence for personal gain, is a crime of economic calculation.

“If the probability of being caught is small and the penalty is light and the pay-off is large relative to the positive incentives facing the public official, then the public sector will tend to find a conflict of interest,” Dr Mafunisa wrote.

Stealing the loot while the public is obsessed with the wealth rules they amassed before they got into government

has been the most painful part.

While there's unemployment, particularly of young people, our executives see no shame and lack urgency to address this ticking time bomb.

I advise the government to read up on the African Union Agenda 2063, which characterizes the continent's youth as a ‘security threat.’

The Arab Spring necessitated countries keeping an eye on destitute young people since they pose a threat of dethroning governments.

This country deserves better, and thankfully this publication, via this opinion piece, will play a part in holding the characters mentioned above accountable.

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

## Fact-checking is fundamental to national development and good governance

April 2, 2025

TODAY, Lesotho and Zambia are among a host of countries across the globe observing the International Fact-Checking Day (IFCD), which falls on April 2, and is a testament to the ethical ways of accuracy of public statements, which may lead to harming news consumers and the general citizenry.

In 2016, the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) marked the day; the primary goal was to promote information integrity and build global fact-checkers to combat misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation in the fast-moving modern information landscape.

For Checkmate Zambia 24/7, the International Fact-Checking Day serves as a reminder to all Zambians to uphold veracity as the nation goes through the constitution amendment process. The reliability of consensus building during this period ought to be based on verified facts!

And Check-Mate Lesotho says, “The fight against misinformation extends beyond simply debunking false claims; it also involves empowering individuals



with the skills and knowledge they need to navigate the digital landscape safely.

The debunking of statements needs to be countered with accurate information at the disposal of the public; thus, Checkmate Lesotho and Checkmate Zambia 24/7 present a united front in marking IFCD in 2025.

It is our view that commitment to media literacy and teaching the public about ways of combatting misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation shouldn't just be about journalists and media practitioners, but include members of the general public.

In Zambia, the social media users



and radio callers, including presenters of various hot political topics, must never abuse their freedom of expression but observe the golden rule: “Never share if it is not verified!”

As believers in information integrity, we shall endeavour to use various platforms to educate news consumers about the need for factual and accurate information, especially during the era of social media and artificial intelligence (AI), where manipulation of facts is easily conducted.

In our context, the importance of fact-checking cannot be overstated because it is one way of demanding accountable leadership from both those holding and seeking political public office. The principle of fact-checking is fundamental to national development and good governance.

**#FactsMatter #FactCheckingDay For media-related issues**

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# Metro

# DRC Conflict: Another regional intervention falls short, opportunity for SADC to review peacekeeping operations

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On March 13, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) terminated the mandate of its mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SAMIDRC).

SADC had deployed the mission just over a year prior, on December 15, 2023, to assist the Congolese government in restoring peace and security in eastern DRC. This deployment followed an invitation from Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi under SADC's Mutual Defence Pact, which allows for collective action when a member state is attacked.

Comprising troops from Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania, SAMIDRC had an offensive counterinsurgency mandate to neutralize illegal armed groups and support the protection of civilians (POC), either unilaterally or jointly with the Congolese armed forces (FARDC). SADC leaders intended for the mission to foster an environment favourable to diplomatic peace efforts.

Instead, the mission faced a litany of challenges that came to a head in December 2024 when the resurgent March 23 Movement (M23) launched a blitzkrieg-style offensive, capturing Goma and Bukavu, the two largest cities in eastern DRC.

Since January 26, over 843 people have been killed and more than 5000 000 displaced, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation. The Congolese armed forces (FARDC) seem zombie-like, showing little resistance. SAMIDRC's attempts to contend with the M23's advance have also fallen short, with at least 19 troops paying the ultimate price and the rest confined to their bases under the watch of M23 fighters.

The deadly toll of the M23's military escalation has presented an urgent call for international attention and support, including consideration of punitive measures against armed groups that attack civilians and peacekeepers.

It also forced SADC member states to make a choice: showcase their commitment to regional conflict management under the SADC Mutual Defence Pact by reinforcing SAMIDRC or withdraw the mission. Their choice for withdrawal reflected waning political support for the mission, particularly among the three troop-contributing countries (TCCs), as the operating environment turned more hostile and the mission failed to show results.

A complex and hostile operating environment SAMIDRC's operational challenges stemmed in part from the complex and hostile environment. Geographical barriers limit access to eastern DRC, and more than 100 armed groups reportedly operate in the region in a network of often shifting alliances.

The M23, now backed by advanced military technology, mainly from its patron, Rwanda, has transformed from a disorganized militia, previously defeated by the FARDC and the United Nations



(UN) peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO) in 2013, into a formidable force executing well-coordinated attacks that have resulted in casualties among SAMIDRC peacekeepers.

This operating environment had caused some TCCs to question their involvement in the mission even before SADC's recent decision. Malawi withdrew its troops from SAMIDRC in February in response to the M23's ongoing military advance.

While South Africa, the largest TCC, had recently deployed additional troops, it also faced growing domestic pressure to withdraw, especially after 14 South African peacekeepers were killed in the fighting.

## Slow, Inadequate Mission Deployment and Insufficient Logistics

Even before the M23's most recent advance, SAMIDRC had struggled to deliver on its mandate. SADC faced challenges in quickly deploying and sustaining the operation due to inadequate logistical support. A planned regional logistics depot is not expected to become fully operational until 2030.

This adversely affected SAMIDRC, resulting in difficulties in placing sufficient troops on the ground fast enough and fulfilling their operational needs. According to the Department of Defence of South Africa, a key TCC, the planned deployment of forces that was supposed to start on December 15, 2023, was delayed due to a lack of available aircraft.

While SAMIDRC aimed to reach its full operational capability with a target strength of 5 000 troops by July 2024, only 1 300 had been deployed to eastern DRC by October 2024, far short of the estimated 6 000 M23 troops, supported by about 4 000 Rwandan forces.

In addition to being outmaneuvered, SAMIDRC lacked critical air assets like transport and attack helicopters, as well as modern equipment like unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), restricting its ability to conduct surveillance and provide close air support. Delays in receiving equipment from the African Union (AU) Continental Logistics Base in Cameroon due to AU and SADC strategic airlift constraints further complicated the operation. SADC requested UN support for SAMIDRC, but MONUSCO was only able

to provide limited logistical and operational support under Resolution 2746 (2024).

## Funding challenges

SAMIDRC also faced funding challenges. The July 2023 SADC summit, which approved SAMIDRC's mandate, highlighted the urgent need for sustainable financing for the regional bloc's peace missions.

SAMIDRC's annual costs were estimated at \$500 million, with the DRC committing \$200 million. The three TCCs significantly self-financed their deployments. For instance, South Africa budgeted \$145.2 million for the deployment of its troops from December 2023 to December 2023. However, SAMIDRC faced a substantial funding gap that threatened its success.

SADC leaders noted that the regional body could not stabilize eastern DRC alone. Although the AU's Peace and Security Council (PSC), the principal body responsible for continental peace and security, facilitated a publicly unspecified allocation for SAMIDRC from the \$7 million disbursement provided by the AU Peace Fund Crisis Reserve Facility in 2024, it still fell short of the mission's required budget. SADC requests for additional UN support, including financial assistance for drones and strategic airlift, were largely unsuccessful.

## SADC-AU-UN collaboration

These funding challenges speak to broader issues related to collaboration between SADC, the AU, and the UN that were underscored by the experience of SAMIDRC. One issue was the nature of UN support for SAMIDRC.

In 2023, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2719, driven by its three African members (the A3—Ghana, Gabon, and Mozambique). This created a framework for the UN to partially fund AU-led missions on a case-by-case basis. However, this resolution only covers missions under the direct command and control of the AU. Therefore, while SAMIDRC was able to receive some support from MONUSCO outside of the framework of Resolution 2719, the level of support was fairly limited.

SAMIDRC also underscored broader challenges in the peacekeeping collaboration between the AU and its regional

economic communities and regional mechanisms (RECs/RMs) under the African Standby Force (ASF) policy framework, including the conceptualization and implementation of the AU's subsidiarity principle.

Although the PSC is designated as the main body for mandating peace operations on the continent, many peace operations have been initiated by RECs/RMs or voluntary coalitions of member states. The establishment of SAMIDRC aligned with the SADC Mutual Defence Pact but bypassed the PSC prior to deployment. While the PSC did ultimately endorse the mission, providing it vital political credibility and access to AU support, it only did so after the mission had already commenced, limiting essential consultations and coordinated planning.

## Security cooperation between SAMIDRC and FARDC

SAMIDRC also confronted challenges related to the deficiencies of the FARDC as an operating partner. SAMIDRC was authorized to operate jointly with the FARDC in the execution of its mandate, which turned out to be a double-edged sword. Major General Monwabisi Dyakopu, the mission's force commander, emphasized that "SAMIDRC conducts joint operations and training with FARDC to ensure high efficiency and interoperability."

Additionally, in 2023, the Congolese government significantly increased FARDC's military budget to \$794 million, a 105 percent rise from 2022, and procured Chinese UAVs to enhance intelligence-gathering capabilities.

However, the FARDC's operational weaknesses have persisted, highlighted by its recent loss of significant territory to the M23 group. Moreover, SAMIDRC faced challenges implementing its POC mandate while collaborating with a Congolese army whose undisciplined members have perpetrated violence against civilians and that is aligned with the Wazalendo militia, also known for abuses against civilians.

The UN Security Council has also condemned FARDC's support for armed groups like the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), an ethnic Hutu group implicated

in the 1994 Rwandan genocide against the Tutsis. The FDLR seeks to overthrow the Rwandan government, which in turn supports M23 in its efforts to defeat the FDLR, complicating the security landscape.

Furthermore, with many armed groups active in eastern DRC, FARDC-SAMIDRC operations focused on neutralizing the M23 risked exacerbating the existing security vacuum, potentially empowering other armed groups to target civilians.

## Looking ahead

Based on the SAMIDRC experience, several steps are necessary to ensure that future SADC missions are successful and enhance the regional bloc's capability to fulfill its mutual defence mandate.

SADC's technical experts should conduct thorough reconnaissance before deploying a mission to develop a concept of operations that is suitable for complex and hostile conflict zones. This concept of operations should allow the mission to be flexible and versatile while ensuring the regional bloc does not overextend itself.

In addition, SADC should strategically link its missions to a political process that addresses the underlying causes of conflict and maintain strong operational and practical cooperation with the host government.

SADC should also deploy missions with sufficient resources to implement their mandates effectively. This includes sending troops equipped with essential military capabilities and the ability to execute priority tasks rather than remaining passive targets. Relatedly, SADC member states must be prepared to contribute to the costs of future missions through a proportionate assessment system for internal contributions. It is vital for SADC to prioritize consultations and effective coordination with the AU on mandating, strategic planning, and resourcing. This coordination is also important for securing comprehensive UN support under Resolution 2719, which may include essential logistical and administrative support from the UN Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda. This enhanced continental and international support for SADC missions would strengthen the strategic peacekeeping partnership among SADC, the AU, and the UN.

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Development bank offer on the cards



Advancing Africa's trade and investment agenda



## RSL exceeds target by M260 million

...as inflation, pending bills curtails RSL collection efforts

NEO SENOKO

MASERU - Bottlenecks that includes high inflation rates, pending tax bills as well as some isolated cases of tax evasion remains a big concern to the Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL)'s efforts towards maximizing its revenue collections. The RSL Commissioner General, 'Mathabo Mokoko, lamented on Tuesday when announcing the revenue performance report for the financial year ending March 31 that inflation and other factors impacts collection results.

"Inflation has impacted purchasing power, shifting consumer spending to lower-taxed goods and services. Additionally, taxable imports declined by 3 percent, while non-taxable imports increased by a similar percentage, affecting negatively the VAT collections," Mokoko revealed.

According the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), domestic inflation rose to 4.1 percent in February this year from 3.6 percent in January. This was due to price increases in Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Housing, Electricity, Gas, and other fuels and transportation.

"The rise in food prices was mainly driven by supply-side constraints amid sharp increase in demand for white maize. In the near term, inflation is expected to remain moderate at 5.2 percent in 2025, reflecting modest pressures from non-food inflation, although upside risks persist," the CBL first Deputy Governor, Lehlomela Mohapi, said recently when announcing the Statement of the Monetary Policy Committee.

Mohapi further noted that domestic economic activity has contracted by 4.5 percent in January this year, reversing the expansion recorded in the previous month. The contraction was broad based, primarily driven by weak domestic demand and reduced activity in the manufacturing, construction, and transport services industries.

Despite these challenges, the RSL remains optimistic, and among other things, calling on government to enact pending tax bills in parliament.

"These bills once legislated will enhance revenue collection and further enable our capability to modernize our tax administration. We, therefore, remain hopeful that they will be law to enable growth and enhance domestic revenue mobilization efforts," the RSL Commissioner General said. Other concerns emanate from some isolated cases of tax evasion, under-declaration of income and non-adherence to payment arrangements. Some taxpayers make debt payment arrangements only to dishonor those arrangements. Some lodge endless appeals, hoping that this would help them delay the payment of taxes due.

"Non-compliance robs our country of its ability to provide for its citizens. It defeats the very purpose of taxation, which is to ensure proper redistribution of income to avoid a country where few go with a lot, while the rest go without. The taxes evaded and taxes not paid deny government to build the much-needed infrastructure, provision of medicine at hospitals, provision of better pensions for the elderly, sending students to universities and to create the much-needed jobs for the youth, among other things.

The days are gone when we relied on other nations to support our developmental agenda through their taxes. If we do not see this as a wakeup call, then we are in serious denial," she added.

The road ahead looks bumpy and edgy given the declining SACU receipts and the posture taken by the United States of America (USA) government on foreign aid, considering its contribution on foreign aid.

And Mokoko highlighted, as a result, that domestic resource mobilization is no longer optional, but instead, a critical necessity. The country, according to her, must significantly reduce dependence on foreign aid, loans, and donations, which are often tied to external conditions.



NEO SENOKO

MASERU - The Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) has remitted M9.74 billion to the government of Lesotho for the financial year 2024/25, recording a positive variance of M261.19 million.

The RSL Commissioner General, 'Mathabo Mokoko, revealed on Tuesday during a media briefing on revenue performance report for the financial year ending March 31.

"For the 2024/25 financial year, the government had set the RSL a combined annual revenue target of M9.48 billion. I am pleased to announce that the RSL successfully remitted M9.74 billion to the government, recording a positive variance of M261.19 million (3 percent).

This performance represents an increase of 11 percent compared to last year, demonstrating a proportional improvement in tax collection," Mokoko told the media on Tuesday.

The overall tax collection comprises Income Tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), Tobacco and Alcohol Products Levy, and Gaming Levy. Customs duties are excluded as these form part of the SACU pool.

For the 2024/25 financial year, the Income Tax annual target set for the RSL was M4.93 billion, however the organization managed to exceed that target by M325.89 million, remitting M5.25 billion.

Income tax comprises collections from Personal Income Tax, Corporate Income Tax, Withholding Tax as well as Fringe Benefits Tax.

VAT performance on the other hand has declined, missing the set target by M49.64 million.

This, after failing to meet the set M4.35 billion, collecting only M4.3 billion. Similarly, Tobacco and Alcohol Products Levy has also missed the set target of M168.45 million, with the RSL remitting just M160.80 million to the government, thus, missing the target by M7.65 million.

While Gaming Levy annual target was set at M7.13 million, a whopping M16.40 million was remitted, exceeding its target by M9.27 million.

"In summary, Income Tax contributed 54 percent, VAT 44 percent while the Tobacco and Alcohol Products Levy and the Gaming Levy contributed 2 percent to the overall revenue. We extend our gratitude to all taxpayers who contributed during the 2024/25 financial year.

Your commitment ensures a stronger Lesotho. More individuals and businesses are registering for tax, filing returns and making timely payments," Mokoko added.

In the financial year ending March 31, 2024, RSL remitted M8.86 billion to the government of Lesotho, reflecting a 12.5 percent increase from the previous year (2022/23).

However, this amount fell short of the combined revenue target by 9.3 percent.

As a public institution, the RSL is accountable to the public and it is, therefore, its duty to report its performance against set targets at the end of every financial year.

The collection of tax revenue is a critical indicator of a country's success in fostering economic growth, development and investment. It also reflects citizens' compliance with tax laws and the government's ability to balance fiscal expenditure with available income streams.

# Development bank offer on the cards

As AfDB plans to invest \$331m in key strategic sectors in the country

RANTAU MAKHETHA

**M**ASERU - The African Development Bank (AfDB) remains worried about the lack of interest from the government to establish a development bank despite the offer from the bank.

This is indicated by the National Assembly Chairman of Portfolio Chairpersons, Mokhothu Makhwanyane, in an interview with Metro this week.

National Development Banks (NDBs) are part of the institutional building and development planning tools of African countries, according to the AfDB.

The World Bank defines an NDB as any type of financial institution that a national government fully or partially owns or controls and has given an explicit legal mandate to address socioeconomic goals.

Typically, their mandate is formulated through funding in specific sectors, which are selected based on either the country's natural endowment and comparative advantage or strategic goals such as, infrastructure development, the promotion of local agricultural production and export or Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) development, among others.

Makhwanyane, who conversed with AfDB Deputy Director for Southern Africa, Moono Muputola, said he was perplexed at the news during this meeting in which he was flanked by chairperson of the Economic and Development Cluster, Sello Hakane.

"Nigeria and Zambia are already pushing ahead, yet we have shown no interest in such a huge development, which should help the country. I was shocked at what I heard from the AfDB that there hasn't been any movement from our side," Makhwanyane said, while adding that the bank has offered loans and grants for development.

He also highlighted the country has also failed to seek funding for youth-related programmes, yet it faces a high unemployment rate, which has been flagged by Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane, during the 2025/2026 budget speech.

"Unfortunately it (unemployment) hasn't been raised during different previous engagements," Makhwanyane said.

The AfDB funds key projects in the country, including in climate change adaptation for sustainable rural water supply, the lowlands water and sanitation and the value chain strengthening for sustainable growth projects.

Meanwhile, the AfDB has indicated in its Aide-Memoir dated February 10 - 14 seen by this paper great concern related to water and infrastructure challenges in the country.

"Approximately 79 percent of Lesotho's population has access to basic water, while 52 percent has access to sanitation. Though higher than many Sub-Saharan African countries, the reliability and quality of services remain a challenge in both rural and urban areas.

Some of the challenges include aging and dilapidated water and sanitation infrastructure, exacerbated by lack of asset management capacity and low investment in water and sanitation infrastructure development," the AfDB notes.

Further highlighting lack of integrated planning, urban sprawl, poor land use planning, delays in the implementation of plans and policies, and poor data quality; non-cost reflective water tariffs, compounded by high non-revenue water, low revenue collection efficiency and weak governance at the water utility level as well as weak compliance with regulatory requirements due to low enforcement capacity.

"In addition to ongoing water and sanitation projects supported by the Bank, GoL (Government of Lesotho) has developed new Acts and is in the process of amending some existing Acts to strengthen the legislative and regulatory framework to improve water and sanitation infrastructure and service delivery in the country.

These include the Water Resources Management, Water and Sanitation, Bulk Water Authority, and Water Services Acts, which are currently at the bill stage awaiting enactment."

It thus proposed the ongoing at Ha



Maja in Berea, which falls under the Lesotho Lowlands Water and Sanitation Project. AfDB president, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, has just been in the country on a working visit in the country upon invitation by King Letsie III where he had the opportunity to inspect some projects funded by the bank and also meet with Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane.

The bank plans to invest \$331 million in key strategic sectors in Lesotho as part of its proposed Country Strategy Paper for 2025-2030 to boost economic growth and industrial competitiveness.

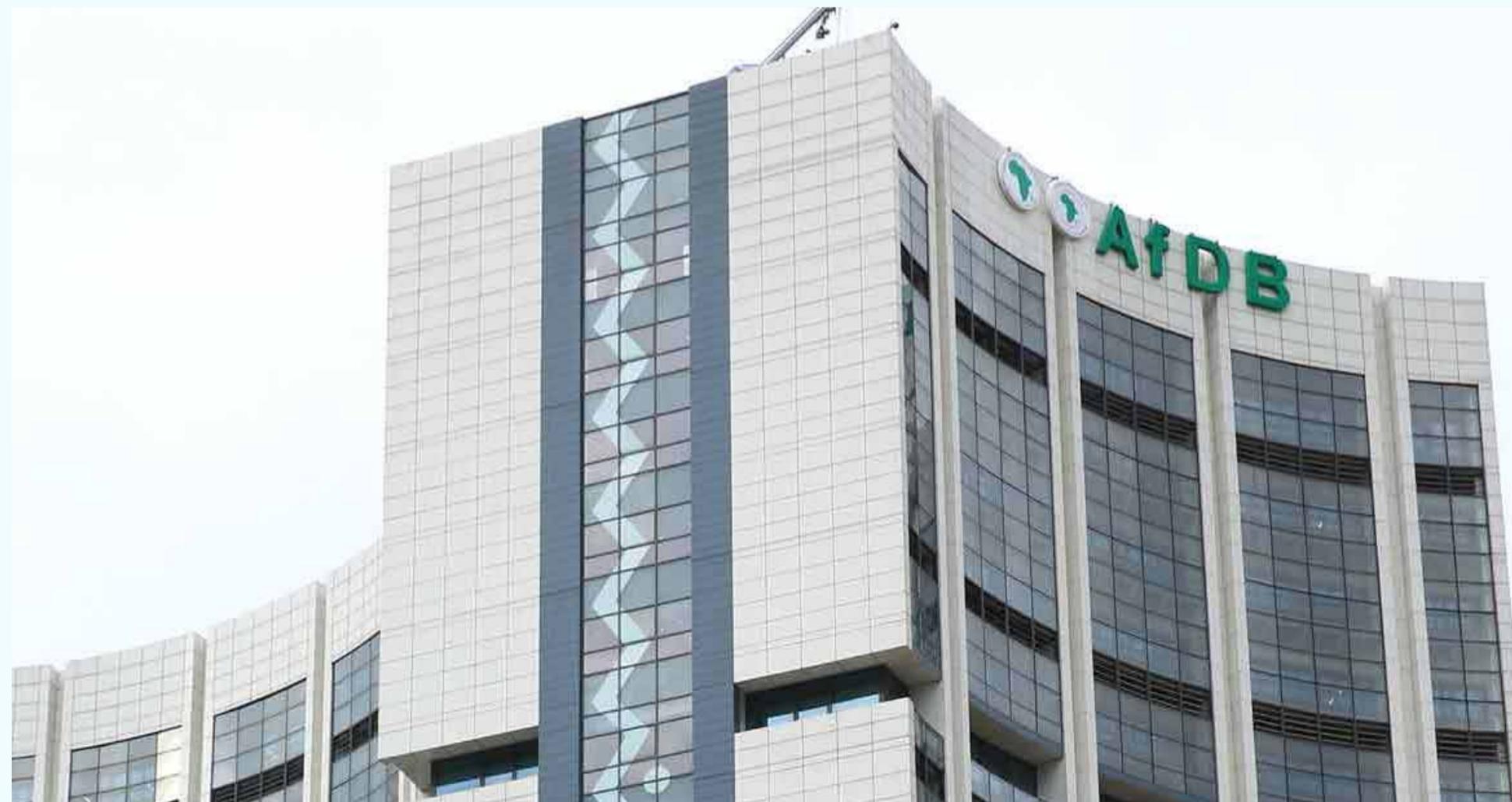
The AfDB has implemented 87 projects totalling \$429 million since Lesotho joined the bank in 1973, with eight ongoing projects worth \$60 million.

The bank's investment strategy for Lesotho will focus on several priority areas: Energy infrastructure, including

electricity transmission lines connecting Lesotho to South Africa.

Climate resilience initiatives to address environmental challenges; Digital transformation, including broadband expansion for digital financial inclusion and government service digitalization; Water resource management, building on the success of the Lesotho Lowland Rural Water Supply Project; Public financial management and debt management support as well as Trade competitiveness enhancements through improved grades and standards for exports.

The AfDB delegation to Lesotho included its Executive Director for Lesotho, Dr Nomfundo X Ngwenya, Mupotola, and Senior Advisor to the President for Communication and Stakeholder Engagement, Dr Victor Oladokun.



# Advancing Africa's trade and investment agenda

*Celebrating one year of impact and progress*



## RANTAU TLALI MAKHETHA

**M**ASERU - Championing a united, integrated, and economically empowered Africa through the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has been a mission for the Civil Society Coalition for African Continental Free Trade Area (CSCAfCFTA).

This was said by CSCAfCFTA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Emmanuel V Brown, during the commemoration of the one-year anniversary under the theme Celebrating One Year of Impact and Progress: Advancing Africa's Trade and Investment Agenda.

"From the very beginning, our vision has been clear: to champion a united, integrated, and economically empowered Africa through the successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Over the past year, we have worked tirelessly to promote, facilitate, and advance intra-African trade, ensuring that businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities reap the benefits of Africa's largest and most ambitious economic integration initiative," Dr Brown said in a message sent to members in which Lesotho is a member of eight-member organization.

He further highlighted the need to further engage policymakers at the African Union (AU) level in the implementation of the AfCFTA.

"Over the past year, we have worked tirelessly to promote, facilitate, and advance intra-African trade, ensuring that businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities reap the benefits of Africa's largest and most ambitious economic integration initiative," he said while adding, "(We have) empowered African SMEs, women, and youth entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive in the AfCFTA era."

He continued by indicating that collaborations across the continent would

help in accelerating the implementation of free trade across the continent.

Among the achievements was amplifying "Africa's trade potential on the global stage, advocating for sustainable development, fair trade, and economic resilience."

"As we celebrate this milestone, we renew our commitment to fostering stronger collaboration, deeper partnerships, and transformative policies that will unlock Africa's USD \$3.4 trillion trade market and create millions of jobs.

"We call on governments to enhance trade infrastructure, reduce trade barriers,

and implement pro-business policies; private sector leaders to invest in Africa's industries, supply chains, and digital trade platforms; civil society and development partners to continue advocating for equitable and sustainable trade practices; and the African diaspora to engage, invest, and contribute to Africa's economic renaissance.

Together, we can build an Africa that is not just trading within itself but competing globally as an economic powerhouse. We can empower communities, create wealth, and drive prosperity for generations to come."

CSCAfCFTA, which is made up of Lesotho, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Botswana, and Ethiopia, among others, has its head offices in Accra.

AfCFTA - which came into force on May 30, 2019 - is a trade agreement that aims to create a single market for goods and services, thereby facilitating the free movement of people, capital, and investment across the continent.

It was also ratified to reduce tariffs and quotas and simplify trade processes within Africa, which Lesotho has also ratified.





# SO Metro CIETY

## Sonia called off secret engagement

NGWAKO MALATJI

**J**OHANESBURG - Sonia Mbele has claimed to have called off her secret engagement to her former significant other because of his bad habits.

Acclaimed television actress and executive producer Sonia Mbele has claimed to have called off her secret engagement to her former significant other because of his bad habits.

This after she dumped her other boyfriend, a businessman after he got married because she did not want to be his sultana. Both the businessman and her ex-boyfriend cannot be named for legal reasons.

Sunday World can exclusively reveal that Mbele, who produced the Real Housewives of Joburg and a podcast titled Woza Nazo, claimed she was affianced to get married to her ex-boyfriend in 2023.

News that Mbele was betrothed to her ex-boyfriend was revealed by the former Generations actress's close friend, who did not want to be named for fear of compromising their friendship.

Speaking to Sunday World, the deep throat said Mbele, who divorced top lawyer Leslie Sedibe a few years after their fairy-tale wedding in Sun City in 2014, told them that she had been blissfully engaged to her fiancé.

The award-winning actress, said the source, told them that the boyfriend surprised her when he bought her an expensive silver ring costing a fortune and proposed to her. Mbele, further said our mole, told them that after several months of a romantic relationship with the boyfriend, she dumped him.

The source also said the actress, who played Lisbeth Molapo in the series Blood & Water, alleged that she was also in love with a businessman but dumped him.

She alleged that the only reason she had entertained the businessman was because he was not married when she met him.

"We don't blame her because Sonia is a successful, pretty businesswoman who does not want to be anyone's second best."

According to our source, Mbele, who also played Cleopatra Mokwena in the SABC1 soap opera Family Secrets, believed that she is worth more than being the businessman's doxy.

The source also said Mbele was a woman of rectitude and probity who did not want to ruin her reputation by having an adulterous affair. By virtue of being a public figure, said the source, Mbele's relationship would, one way or the other, have become cannon fodder for tabloids.

Mbele, further said the source, is not one of those clay-foot celebrities who work

very hard to be famous and then wear brim straw hats and shades to hide their identity when they go out in public.

"She wants to be free; when she finds love, she does not want to torture herself by meeting her lover at secret places to avoid being seen because she would be messing around with stolen goods; no, that's not her," said the source.

Mbele, hogged media headlines last week when she flaunted a red Ferrari, which is reportedly worth M5-million.

Although Sunday World was able to independently verify Mbele's claims, the actress said although her boyfriend bought her the ring, she was never engaged to him. "He did not put the ring on my finger," she claims.

Asked if she lied to her associates about her engagement, Mbele said she did not lie.

Mbele also confirmed that she dumped the businessman because she did not want to be entangled in a marital drama.



# Metro SPORTS

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# Fothoane's transfer fee hits a snag

*Botswana Township Rollers FC delay payment*

## SPORTS REPORTER

**M**ASERU – Mafeteng-based premier league giants, Bantu FC, are reported to be irked by the delay in receiving a transfer fee for their star player Lehlohonolo Fothoane who moved to Botswana's Township Rollers FC earlier this year.

Rollers are reportedly yet to fulfil their financial commitment regarding the transfer of Fothoane, who is also a key component in national team coach, Leslie Notši.

Recent media reports in Maseru reveal that Bantu General Manager, Poosela Pule, has confirmed that the M150 000 transfer fee agreed upon has not been paid since Fothoane's departure, whilst the two teams' initial agreement had been that the amount would be settled between February and March.

Fothoane has earned acclaim in his new Botswana team, and recently salvaged the Lesotho national team, Likuena, pride scoring a late equaliser that saw Lesotho draw 1-1 with Rwanda in a World Cup Qualifiers Group Stage match at the Amahoro Stadium in Rwanda on March 25.

