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**MOLIBELI
FUTURE
HANGS ON
BALANCE**

2

- Police chiefs faces charges of contempt of court
- Dismissed recruits want Molibeli jailed for 60 days



National News

Molibeli future hangs on balance

- Police chiefs faces charges of contempt of court
- Dismissed recruits want Molibeli jailed for 60 days



MASERU – Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli has to cool his heels for the next two weeks before he knows his fate after he deliberately ignored an order by the High Court.

The police chief faces charges of contempt of court after ignoring a direct order from the court to reinstate the police recruits whom he had dismissed before the end of their training programme at the Police Training College (PTC).

Dismissing the recruits, Molibeli had accused them of being members of a notorious criminal gang called 'Manomoro'.

He further showed that owing to their crime-ridden past, they were not suitable to become members of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS).

After being kicked out of training, the recruits had in May challenged their dismissal, resulting in the current application.

They asked the High Court to direct the police boss to halt his decision until the finalisation of their application.

The recruits had also requested the court to declare

Molibeli's decision as an act of contempt of court. They had further asked that he be kept in jail for 60 days for the contempt.

High Court judge, Justice 'Maliepollo Makhetha, had on May 24, issued an interim order directing Molibeli to allow the applicants to continue with the recruitment training pending finalisation of the case.

She also directed him to hold in abeyance the letters in terms of which the applicants were invited to make the representation for discharge.

Subsequent to that, a second, Justice Tšelislo Mokoko issued another order directing Molibeli to reinstate the applicants without loss of status and benefits.

He further ordered that the recruits be paid all the arrears in their allowances which might not have been paid in their absence. The court reviewed and set aside as irregular, Molibeli's decision to dismiss the recruits from training.

He declared the decision as wrongful thus null and void, and of no legal force and effect.

Following the order, Molibeli filed an application for stay of execution of the order pending appeal, but the court refused to grant the application as its orders, especially the one made in May had not yet been complied with.

Instead of recalling them as per the court's directive, Molibeli on August 15 issued the recruits with letters to show cause why they might not be suspended pending the outcome of their appeal.

On Monday this week, the court postponed the matter to September 13 for set-down.

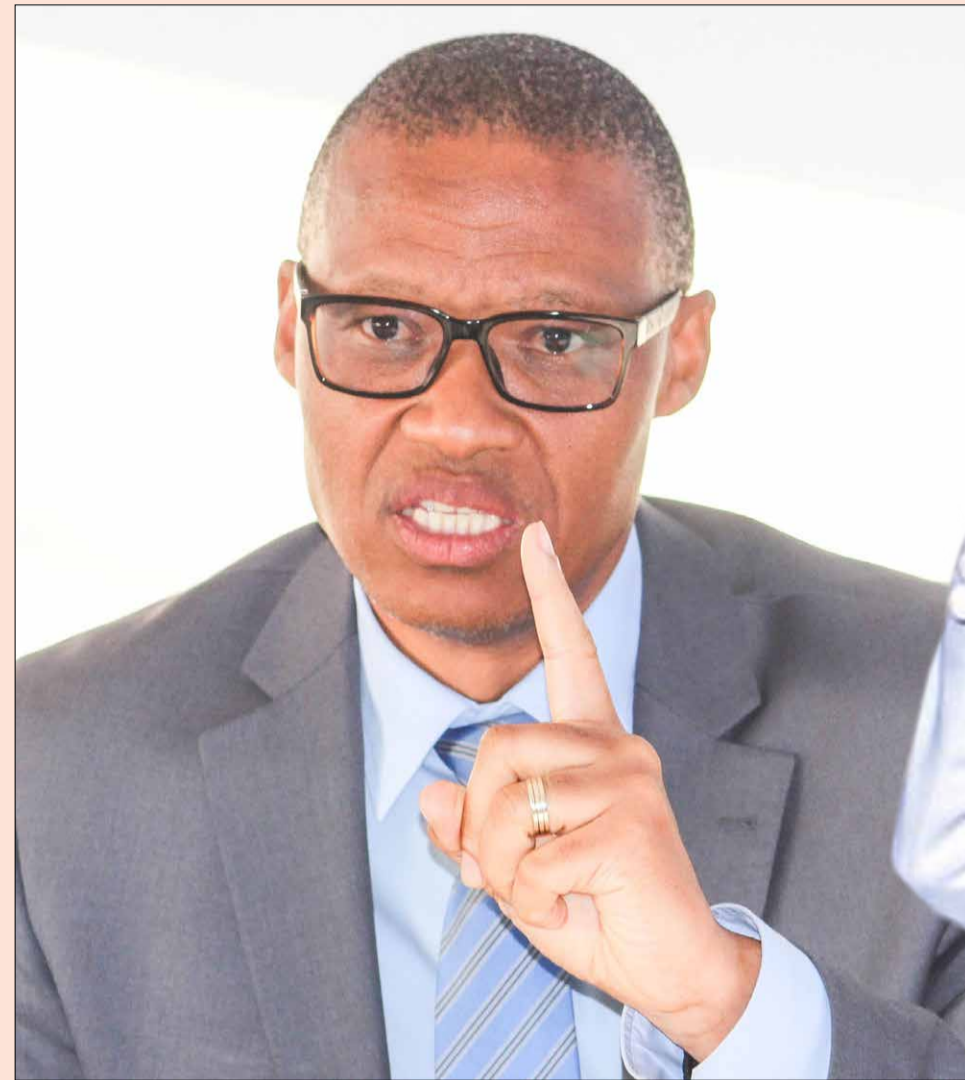
– Metro/LeNA

Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli and Justice 'Maliepollo Makhetha



Police Training College

AD readies for October polls



The party's deputy leader, Professor Ntoi Rapapa



Chinese national and businessman, Jason Shao



Former Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili

Leader of the AD, Monyane Moleleki

MASERU – Leader of the Alliance of Democrats (AD), Monyane Moleleki has promised that his party will focus its attention on creation of wealth and employment for Basotho through diversifying key sectors such as agriculture.

Moleleki who is also the former Deputy Prime Minister in one of the past coalition governments was speaking on Sunday at the party's rally, which was held in the Thaba-Bosiu constituency.

Among others, the former ruling partner (the AD) revealed its candidates from the 24 Maseru constituencies which it will contest in the upcoming general elections slated for October 7.

Moleleki told the rally that upon winning the forthcoming elections, AD would help develop the economy of Lesotho by improving agriculture and stamping out corruption. This, he said, would be

achieved through creating employment for everybody, irrespective of their political inclination.

“The issue of nepotism which has been used in securing jobs in this country will be attended to, every Mosotho has equal rights

country's citizenship.

He further urged the nation not to be over-stepped by such individuals, but to remain outstanding at all times.

This, he raised after a Chinese national and businessman, Jason Shao, who resides in Ha Thetsane,

Among other issues, he said the AD would focus address issues of equal trade to give the country room to produce more in order to avoid too much importation of goods especially in the agricultural sector.

Moleleki's sentiments were

objectives.

He further showed that the improvement of the country's security agencies was also on the cards as per the party's manifesto for the 2022 elections.

If elected into government, Prof Rapapa said, the AD would also focus on improving culture-related matters as well as the development of sports in general.

He said the party would also work on ensuring that shares were equally allocated in major projects and contracts which the country entered into, making an example of contracts signed in the mining industry.

The AD is a splinter party from the Democratic Congress (DC) which was then led by former Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili.

The party made it into the list of over 60 political parties which will contest the forthcoming general elections. LeNA

“
The issue of nepotism which has been used in securing jobs in this country will be attended to, every Mosotho has equal rights despite their political interests

despite their political interests,” he said, adding that the AD fully supported the issue of foreign nationals contesting the general elections as long as they held the

Maseru recently formed a political party and underscored his intentions to contest in the October elections as an independent candidate.

shared by the party's deputy leader, Professor Ntoi Rapapa who told the same rally that the development of the country's economy was on top on their list of

National News



Government office complex, Finance house

COLEPE firm on 25 % salary demands from govt



US ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer

NEO SENOKO

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MASERU - The Coalition of Lesotho Public Employees (COLEPE), wants the 2022/23 budget estimates to be revised in order to ensure that civil servants' salary increase is not less than 25 percent.

The association wants the modifications to be effected effective from April 1, 2022.

COLEPE is made up of seven associations including the Lesotho Police Staff Association (LEPOSA), Lesotho Public Service Association (LEPSSA), Lesotho Association of Teachers (LAT), Lesotho Teachers Trade Union (LTTU) as well as the Lesotho Schools Principals' Association (LESPA), the Qiloane Nursing Assistants Association (QINUASA) and the Lesotho Nurses Association (LNA).

COLEPE presented its demands to both the United States ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer and the South Africa Regional Labour Officer, Brandon Jackson last week.

Notwithstanding the skyrocketing inflation from 2019/20, civil servants' salaries in the past three years were adjusted with zero percent in the financial year 2020/21 and 2021/22 and five percent in 2022/23. Repercussions if these meagre adjustments to the employees and service delivery thereto cannot be overemphasized, according to COLEPE.

"Through its intelligence, COLEPE learned that the 2022/23 fiscal budget was about to make no inflation adjustments to civil servants' salaries. It should be noted that for a long period of time the government has denied civil servants the right to bargain as per the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 98," COLEPE stated.

Subsequent to deliberations on various consequences of the foregoing government

of Lesotho trend on remuneration of civil servants and service unsatisfactory delivery thereto, COLEPE resolved to among others demand from government that the threshold at which income earners become liable for income tax or Pay As You Earn (PAYE) should be increased or raised to M48 000 per annum with effect from April 1, 2022/23 tax year whose return will be M1 300. The current threshold has not been improved for the past five years

The association further demands that the tax credit be increased to off-set the inflation effects. It also seeks a reduction of income tax to 20 percent and 28 percent effective from April 1 in the current financial year.

The outstanding demands come after a series of correspondences from COLEPE to the government's various offices including Parliament to address the demands.

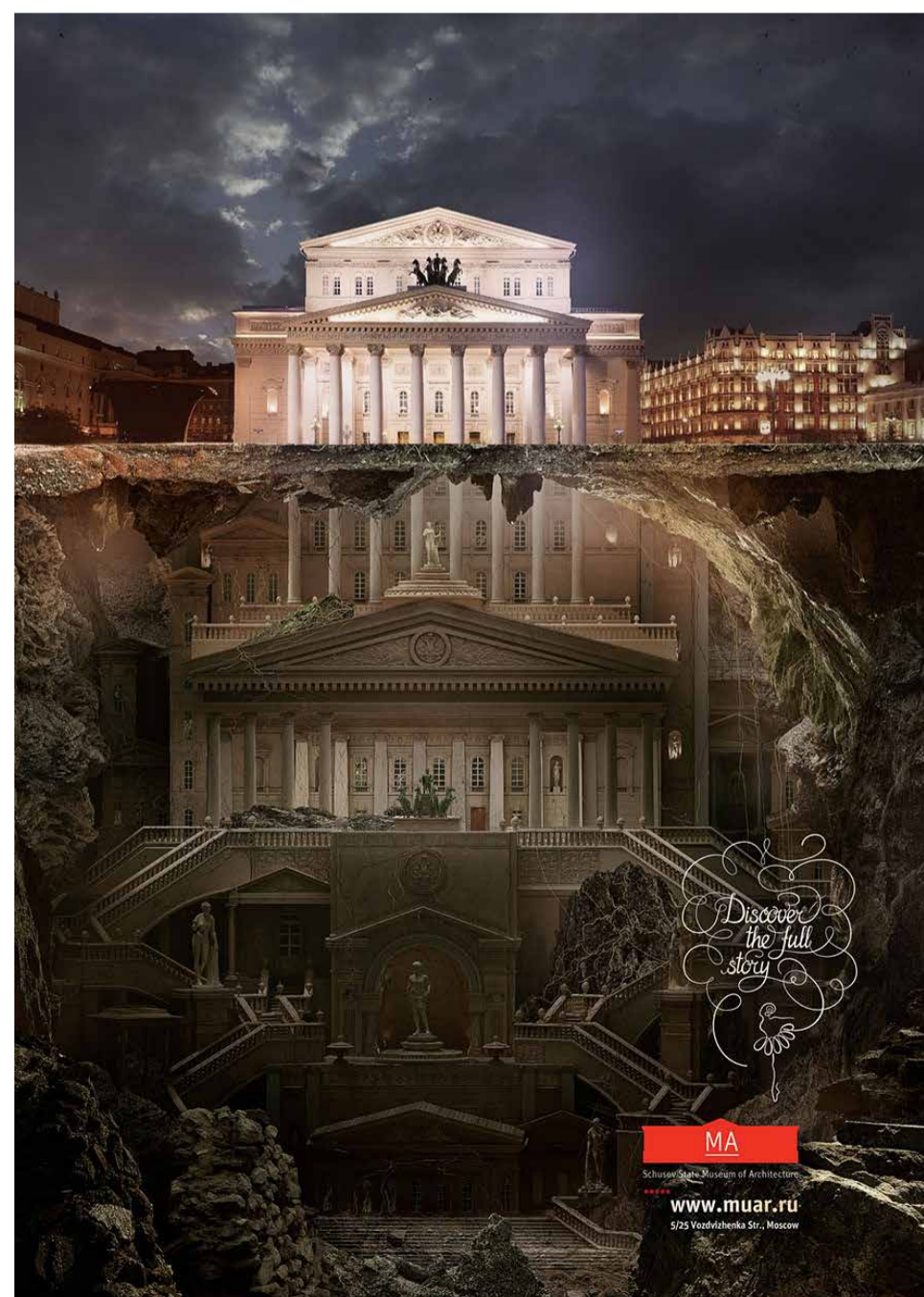
While government deferred the budget presentation from February 25 – March 2 to accommodate a five percent adjustment, it did not officially disclose that the deferral was made to cater for the adjustment.

In spite of meeting the Deputy Prime Minister to address this issue, to date COLEPE has still not received any response in respect of its concerns.

Two attempts to exercise worker's rights to petition the government through peaceful demonstrations were barred by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, COLEPE resorted to seeking intervention from the courts of law.

By an order of the High Court, the government was instructed to meet COLEPE on its demands, but the former has failed to honour that order.

"It is therefore noteworthy that the government of Lesotho keeps leading us up the proverbial path garden and in total disregard of the court orders," COLEPE added.



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Basotho men



SA Home Affairs Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi

Lesotho special permits to end soon - SA Home Affairs minister

JOHANNESBURG – The future of about 90 000 Lesotho citizens who live and work in South Africa hangs in an uncertain state as the neighbouring country plans to end most special permits for foreigners.

This, the South African government has announced is part of its plan to revamp its immigration policies in order to manage an influx of economic

migrants.

The SA Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi said a special dispensation allowing Basotho to live and work in South Africa will expire in 2023 and will not be extended

Similar concessions for Zimbabweans will expire by the end of the year.

Motsoaledi also said.

Permits for Angolan residents were terminated in August 2021.

“We are not targeting” any

particular nationality, Motsoaledi, said in an interview in Bloomberg’s Johannesburg office.

Many “economic migrants” abused the nation’s asylum provisions by falsifying reasons for leaving their countries, he said, adding that implementing sovereign laws wasn’t xenophobic.

South Africa has been a magnet for people seeking better economic opportunities from across the continent, particularly from the Southern African Development Community countries.

Arrivals ballooned in 2008 as the global financial crisis combined with an economic collapse in Zimbabwe triggered mass migration, the minister said.

That year as many as 227 000 people from Zimbabwe moved to its southern neighbour, according to Motsoaledi, a medical doctor by profession. Many were given permits, which were extended until 2021.

South Africa is grappling with a 33.9% unemployment rate - the highest on a list

of 82 nations monitored by Bloomberg – and its economy is stuck in its longest downward cycle since World War II. The country of about 60.6 million people is home to almost 4 million migrants, according to government data.

The presence of foreigners in South Africa has sparked resentment among some locals, who see them as competitors for scarce jobs, health care and housing, and the country has been wracked by intermittent xenophobic violence.

A video circulating on social media this week showed Phophi Ramathuba, the head of the health department in Limpopo province, which borders Zimbabwe, reprimanding a Zimbabwean patient for seeking treatment in South African.

Residents from the neighbouring country put a “huge strain” on Limpopo’s medical facilities, she said on the clip.

“Nobody will be denied medical service,” Ramathuba, a member of the ruling African National Congress, later told News24, while reiterating that

she stood by her comments. The South African Medical Association said it “deplores the manner” Ramathuba chose to address the challenges facing the health care system.

Public hospitals and clinics are struggling to meet the needs of citizens “and reduce backlogs due to unpredictably high number of undocumented migrants” seeking care in the country,” South Africa’s Department of Health said in a statement, responding to the Ramathuba’s comments.

As South Africa heads into the 2024 general elections, the presence of foreign nationals in the country has become a divisive point, with some parties positioning their electoral propositions around reducing their numbers.

At a recent ANC policy conference, it was proposed that South Africa withdraw from the 1951 United Nations convention on refugees. The convention constrained the government’s ability to deal with the migration crisis and “a new instrument,” needs be adopted, the party said.

- Bloomberg



The head of the health department in Limpopo province, Phophi Ramathuba

Africa News



Trafficked cigarette

R3bn in smuggled cigarette money

... as Sasfin's IT guru deletes first transaction from its banking system

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Revenue Service (SARS) seems convinced that buccaneer capitalist Simon Rudland is pulling the strings of a transnational plunder network he established around cigarette manufacturer Gold Leaf Tobacco Corporation (GLTC) in 2016.

Rudland "initiated and established protocols" for sneaking billions of rands in illicit cigarette money out of the country, SARS argued in a successful preservation application to the Pretoria High Court last week Wednesday.

SARS said Rudland was "directly involved in issuing instructions on behalf of GLTC", directing the amounts of money to be sneaked through commercial bank Sasfin's system to foreign jurisdictions like Dubai, Switzerland and Mauritius.

He "took steps to circumvent the detection of these deposits and payments" from the Reserve Bank (Sarb) and SARS.

Rudland also negotiated fees with the network's money launderer and worked in concert with his confidantes to dupe the authorities,



investigators argued.

And once the plunder scheme seemed to be running on oiled wheels, Rudland handed over the reins but was — significantly — kept up to speed.

Based on the high court order, SARS has since Friday taken control of the bank accounts and all other local assets owned by GLTC. Rudland and his co-director Ebrahim Adamjee, Adamjee, "knew or ought

to have known" about the Sasfin shenanigans, investigators said.

In a shocking letter dated 31 March 2022 and attached to SARS' papers, Sasfin's COO Rodger Dunn admitted to investigators that the bank's probe "evidences deletion of transactions" and, as at that date, Sasfin struggled to salvage all of the information requested by SARS.

When Scorpio phoned Dunn on Friday, he was all about "protocol" and referred questions to CEO Michael Sassoon.

Sassoon said, "...I think we have given everything to SARS that was needed... obviously we are very disappointed of employees acting in this way."

Sassoon was at pains to say that Sasfin is "100% cooperating" with SARS, gave investigators all subpoenaed documentation and asked their bank's officials to act as witnesses. [SARS will return to Sasfin, its employees and the deletion of banking transactions in the third story in this series.]

In turn, Rudland and Adamjee denied all wrongdoing during a tax inquiry registered in terms of s50(l) of the Tax Administration Act. They pointed the finger at the plunder network's money launderer Mohammed Khan, arguing he "hijacked" GLTC's accounts. Their tax affairs are in order and any other dodginess happening in their accounts had nothing to do with them, they told investigators.

SARS remained unmoved.

Investigators told the court the revenue service is in the process of clawing back R1-billion in undeclared income tax and VAT from GLTC for tax years 2017 and 2018 and VAT period of September 2016 to July 2017 respectively.

GLTC's assets are not enough to pay this tax debt, and therefore Rudland and Adamjee as the directors will have to foot the bill.

Understatement penalties and interest can rack up GLTC's tax bill to R3-billion.

In arguing their case, contradicting especially Rudland's assertions of innocence, investigators red-flagged the first transaction in which Rudland and Khan allegedly tested their Sasfin scheme.

When Lulama Kene deleted the first GLTC transactions from the Sasfin banking system, he was a 32-year-old Temenos Transact banking software guru. This, in tech-speak, is a T24 applications specialist.

Kene had access to the master key, if you will, to Sasfin's banking system. He now works for Access Bank, a Nigerian-based commercial bank.

Kene has an elaborate tattoo on his right forearm that involves a compass and a world map. This is a new addition though, seemingly after he left Sasfin.

Self-styling as an influencer of sorts, Kene is fond of posing in front of cars. Sometimes in clothing embroidered with his initials designed as a logo, which he is even more fond of using.

Kene did not respond to three telephonic attempts to contact him, nor to a series of WhatsApp messages requesting an interview.

- DM

Chinese-Canadian tycoon sentenced to 13 years in prison

HONG KONG - Chinese-Canadian tycoon Xiao Jianhua was sentenced Friday to 13 years in prison, more than five years after the billionaire was abducted from a hotel room in Hong Kong and taken to mainland China.

Xiao and his company Tomorrow Holdings were convicted of crimes involving tens of billions of dollars, including illegally absorbing public deposits, betraying the use of entrusted property, illegal use of funds and bribery, the Shanghai First Intermediate Court said in a statement.

The court also fined Xiao 6.5 million yuan (\$950,000) and Tomorrow Holdings 55 billion yuan (\$8.1 billion).

"The criminal acts of Tomorrow Holdings and Xiao Jianhua seriously damaged the financial management order, seriously endangered the country's financial security, seriously infringed on the integrity of the state staff, and should be severely punished according to law," the court said.

But it added that Xiao and Tomorrow Holdings have "turned themselves in, confessed their crimes and helped with the recovery of assets," and thus can receive a more lenient punishment.

Xiao was one of China's richest men and controlled the Tomorrow Group, a massive holding company with stakes in banks, insurers and property developers.

According to Hurun, which analyzes Chinese wealth, Xiao had a net worth of \$6 billion and ranked 32nd on its 2016 rich list, a league table equivalent to the Forbes list.

The court said Xiao and Tomorrow Holdings gave shares, real estate, cash and

other assets to government officials worth around \$100 million over 20 years to 2021.

Xiao, known for his close connections to some of China's most powerful political families, was seized in 2017 by Chinese security agents from his room at the Four Seasons hotel in Hong Kong and taken to mainland China.

A person familiar with the abduction told CNN there was a small scuffle at the hotel between two dozen Chinese security officials and Xiao's own security detail, which typically numbered about eight bodyguards per shift. The source asked to remain anonymous because of the politically sensitive nature of the case. Xiao has not been seen in public since the incident.

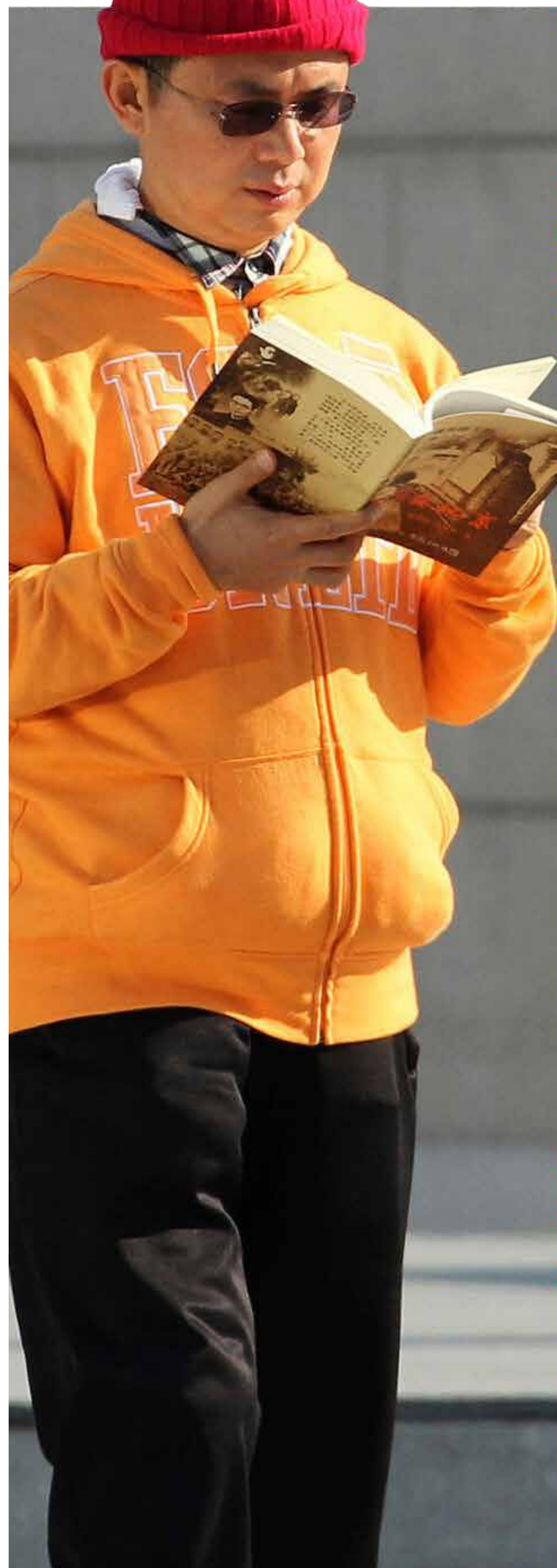
Chinese billionaire seized from Hong Kong hotel 03:36

Xiao was one of a number of Chinese tycoons who had moved to Hong Kong and taken up residence in private apartments at the 5-star Four Seasons hotel during Xi's crackdown on corporate excess.

Xiao's disappearance sent shockwaves through Hong Kong's elite business community, where it was widely interpreted as a signal the city was no longer beyond the reach of the mainland's security apparatus.

Last month, the Canadian Embassy in Beijing told CNN the trial of Xiao, a Canadian citizen, would take place without consular access. "Canada made several requests to attend the trial proceedings of Canadian citizen, Mr. Xiao Jianhua. Our attendance was denied by Chinese authorities," the embassy said.

A spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry said Friday that Xiao has Chinese citizenship, and as China does not recognize dual citizenship, Xiao doesn't have the right to another country's consular protection. - CNN



Xiao Jianhua



EDITOR'S NOTE

Civil servants hard hit by the economic crunch

The repercussions of the ever skyrocketing inflation are now being felt in all corners of the country.

The frustrating situation is now more than ever hitting hard on civil servants whose salaries were only adjusted by a measly five percent in the current financial year. This follows a zero percent adjustment in the previous two financial years.

The five percent hike has made no significant difference in the lives of thousands of civil servants who regrettably are projected to deliver better services to Basotho.

Their families on the other hand struggle to make ends meet, owing to high food and fuel prices among other things.

The situation therefore, is likely to affect how they perform in their respective fields of work due to this demoralising state of affairs.

Perhaps that is one of the major reasons why people always complain about poor

services delivery across the board because the ones entrusted to deliver such services are demotivated and depressed.

To demonstrate this behavior, last week the association representing all civil servants in their respective fields, the Coalition of Lesotho Public Employees (COLEPE) presented its case before the U.S ambassador to Lesotho and the South Africa Regional Labour Officer, Brandon Jackson demanding that the 2022/23 budget estimates be corrected to ensure that civil servants salary increase is not less than 25 percent and be effected effective from April 1, 2022.

Such a desperate move is a clear indication that things are not normal due to tough economic conditions that continue to worsen by the day.

COLEPE's argument is that the 2022/23 fiscal budget did not make any inflation adjustments to civil servants' salaries.

While these inflationary pressures

were notable even for the past three years, government has failed and denied any form of salary adjustment as requested by civil servants. That simply means government has no intentions of addressing this problem altogether.

Surprisingly though, the very same government expects things to run without a hitch when things are actually getting out of hand.

However, despite everything in respect of the country's debilitating economic affairs, our distinguished MPs were able to adjust their own packages with among others M60 000 per year tax free fuel allowances.

Before then, the legislators were required to submit mileage reports for reimbursement for fuel expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

But, because they also felt the heat of the economic tests, it was easy for them to upgrade their own earnings but failed to do the same for the poor civil servants.

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

Long-term repression emotional competence, social healing, management of stress, leadership, and governance I: *Essential foundations and opportunities you don't want to miss*

This column raises the reader's awareness about basic issues that affect performance and wellbeing at individual, organisation, institution, societal, and national levels. It is also intended to enable and encourage the reader to take action to improve own performances and performances of their entities, society, and nations and contribute to the improvement of their own, society's, and nation's conditions and quality of life.

The material in this column is often found disjointed, as if in silos, where it is available. The market place is replete with specialised programmes and training interventions. Yet, our social problems continue to escalate at alarming rates: our mental health illnesses, violent crime rates – murder, GBV, armed robbery, corruption – are headed for leading global statistics; we are failing in areas where we have no reason to be failing.

A lot of resources that ought to be channeled at creating employment and curbing the scourge of abject poverty and ensuring safety of citizens is going to waste. Because of our disjointed outlook, we are blind to meaningful solutions that lie in wait in between our silos of knowledge and our mental silos. Moreover, as we have been discussing in the past weeks, we continue to create more problems for ourselves because of our lost sense of awareness, rejection of new evidence and knowledge, and lack of agency. Things that we can recover when we want.

Effective social healing, effective management of stress, high emotional competence may be used interchangeability without loss of generality.

Emotional intelligence refers to our ability to understand and manage our emotions as well as to respond to other people appropriately. Building emotional competence is about developing four major skills: self-awareness, self-regulation, social awareness, and relationship management effectively. It includes listening. Being aware of our emotions and being able to manage them effectively enables us to cope better even in today's highly stressful life situations. Developing

emotional competence and the volition to apply it enables us to respond effectively to our life challenges, to manage conflict effectively, build healthy relations, and adapt to changes in our lives – it enhances our self-confidence and enables us to face even this highly stressful life with aplomb.

In the past weeks, we showed that long-term repression (slavery, colonialism, apartheid, abuse) causes lack of agency – a sense of victimhood and a sense of apathy that we are not able to influence our environment (except to analyse, get angry, blame, complain, curse, just become destructive, or give up); and causes lack of self-awareness or inaccurate self-perception that leads us to persisting with one way of thinking, way of behaving, set of rules, reject new evidence and knowledge, and get into destructive conflicts.



SUSTAINING QUALITY

PEACE & RESILIENCE

By Mafole Sematlane

Generally, stress or emotional intelligence are responsible for well over eighty-five percent (85%) of our performance in school, at work, socially, even in sports. Social healing, decolonising ourselves, our systems, and our practices will give us access to this eighty-five percent that long-term repression deprived us of; and will enable us to access the more than ninety percent (>90%) of our brains that has been lying dormant.

To actually access this more than ninety percent (>90%) of our brains we need to engage all of our metacognitive domains or faculties, so to speak – the linguistic, logical or mathematical, visual or spatial, kinaesthetic, tactile or movement, intrapersonal, or interpersonal (Leaf & Uys,

1997). Metacognition is about consciously thinking about our own thinking and learning how to learn.

It refers to both people's awareness and control, not only of their cognitive processes, but of their emotions and motivations as well (Louca, 2003). So, depriving people of instruction and training of metacognition can only enable people access to very inferior education, low performances and achievements – colonised education. Metacognition is acquired.

It is learned in interactions with others first with parents, caregivers, teachers, peers and society (Vygotsky, 1987). For our own and our children's growth and development – freeing ourselves and our children – from the hold of colonialism, we must choose to interact often with those who are more adept in metacognition.

Which is a major benefit that Lepoqo got from learning at the feet of a great philosopher, healer, and mosuo, Mohlomi, who du Preez (2012) dubs "the Socrates of Africa". In the past few weeks we discussed how excessive fear, abuse, violence, slavery, colonialism, or apartheid proper caused lack of self-awareness and impact of loss of self-awareness. Now we are able to see how colonial or colonised education itself entrenches and sustains the legacies of slavery, colonisation, and apartheid.

We may actually observe how regular colonial or colonised education deprives learners access to this more than ninety percent (>90%) of their brains by keeping them seated in class to learn through listening and reading only, and creates education inequalities. We can see how this legacy of long-term repression drives our nation into decay in increasing murder rates, other crimes (GBV, armed robbery, corruption, unemployment, and poverty). We can see how our National Reforms keep on having hiccups that push our nation into deeper recesses of darkness.

Next week we will link leadership and governance to these and discuss lack of agency, lack of self-awareness, decolonisation and social healing in our current context.

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William Ruto

Kenya's 'hustler', William Ruto, has beaten the dynastic political masters at their own game

One of the ironies of politics is how easily fiction becomes reality, and reality, precedent. Before our eyes, the president-elect of Kenya, William Ruto, who has played all sides of Kenya's politics for at least three decades, has just won an election by claiming to be an outsider.

Ruto's electoral epic of "hustler vs dynasty" appears to have wiped off all memory of his 30-year involvement in the good and bad of Kenya's politics. This legend won him a razor-thin victory over Raila Odinga in the 9 August 2022 presidential election.

Legends still work. Ruto is proof. It's a tribute to the epic of this latter-day, PhD-possessing hustler that in many parts of the continent where the support of the incumbent is vital to the electoral success of a successor, especially if both are in the same party, he won in spite of the sitting president whose deputy he has been for 10 years.

This would be an improbable story in Nigeria. For example, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, also current flag bearer of the opposition People's Democratic Party, is running for the fifth time. Twice his electoral misery was spectacularly complicated and eventually ruined by President Olusegun Obasanjo, who as president and later as ex, swore that his deputy Atiku would only become president over his dead body.

In the case of Obasanjo's eventual successor, Umaru Yar'Adua, even after he had been confirmed dead, his deputy Goodluck Jonathan was so afraid to step in that it required the combined effort of the National Assembly and civil society organisations to persuade him to take over.

And in the recent party primaries of the ruling All Progressives Congress, the failure of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo to emerge as the party's flagbearer has been widely attributed to President Muhammadu Buhari's embarrassing ambivalence.

Even if Osinbajo could have done a Ruto, and perhaps in his quiet moments asked himself why not, it is unthinkable that he would have jumped off the Buhari wagon without ending up worse off than Humpty Dumpty.

The boss is a small god. Even at state level where governors reign, not many deputies would dare challenge their governors to an open electoral contest and live to tell the story.

That is what makes the Ruto story a Nigerian, if not an African, dream. Ruto, who apart from being VP is also Minister of Agriculture, not only ran in defiance of Uhuru Kenyatta. He has also actively opposed Kenyatta's

policies, thumbing his nose to the president in March when the Supreme Court struck down the government's "bridge building" constitutional amendment that would have reintroduced the 2013 power-sharing arrangement between president and prime minister.

Ruto appears to have exceeded his own expectations by going into the race as an underdog and a first timer against a five-time veteran and serial loser, Raila Odinga, who ran in 1997, 2007, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022.

effective power transition system over the years.

Odinga, who entered the race as favourite, has had another near miss, which could well be his last. His 48.8% showing on the result sheets is as close as it could ever get and better than the 43.4% he polled against Kenyatta in 2017. At 77, that's how close Odinga came behind his major challenger, who is 21 years younger.

Kenya's democratic journey is getting better, and hopefully, more resilient. It's nearly out of the treacherous bend where incumbents in Africa cook up new constitutions anytime the end of their tenure is near.

The independence of the courts could be put to the test again. Four of the seven electoral commissioners have rejected the results of the presidential election, while Odinga is asking the court to nullify the results and declare him winner.

He is saying that it was not Ruto's hustler epic that was at play on 9 August. Instead, he said, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) got in bed with Ruto, with testosterone supplied by the digital wizardry of three Venezuelan mercenaries named in Odinga's suit. The result, the plaintiff said in his 15-point suit, is not a new Kenyan electoral prince, but a baby monster. - DM

MY

TAKE

By Azubuikwe Ishiekwene



Defeating the dynastic alliance of the son of the first president and son of the first vice-president of the country after independence was remarkable.

For Kenya, this year's polls are also a great improvement on previous ones that were marred by violence, which left 1,200 dead in 2007 and at least 37 dead in 2017, with thousands more fleeing their homes.

Along with Tanzania, Senegal, Zambia and a few others, Kenya is one of the African countries that has not experienced a military coup in its 59-year history since independence from Britain.

It has retained a reasonable level of stability despite the onslaught from extremist al Shabaab in next-door Somalia, and the internal upheavals in neighbours Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan.

But it had to wage a guerilla war and bloody uprising to force the British into conceding independence in 1963, two years after outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta was born.

His father, Jomo Kenyatta, the first Prime Minister of Kenya, named him Uhuru, which means "freedom", in anticipation of independence from Britain.

This story, however, is not about Uhuru. It is about how a man raised on the bread and water of mainstream politics managed to position himself as an "outsider" and still caught the voter's imagination. It is also, of course, about a leadership incubation process that has seen Kenya hold regular electoral contests and produce a more-or-less



CURRENCIES

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

Loti/SDR	Special Drawing Right (SDR)	21.34
Loti/Dollar	United States (US\$)	16.86
Loti/Rands	South African (ZAR)	1.00
Loti/Euro	European Union (€)	16.80
Loti/Yuan	Chinese (¥)	2.45
Loti/Yen	Japanese (¥)	0.12
Loti/Pound Sterling	British (£)	19.79

COMMODITIES

STOCKS

S&P500	4,036.66
NASDAQ100	12,502.06
Nikkei225	27,878.96
Dow Jones30	32,593.71
FTSE 100	7,427.31
JSE	69,207.04
Hang Seng	20,023.22

PRECIOUS METALS (Rates in US Dollars)

Gold p/ounce	1,736.45
Platinum p/ounce	867.00
Silver p/ounce	18.77
Copper p/ounce	0.22
Brent Oil p/barrel	104.90

EQUITIES

Bonds	18.44
Treasury Bills	3.67
Interest Rates	91

Good news for petrol and food prices in South Africa



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Metro BUSINESS

AGRICULTURE (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

ENERGY (Rates in Maloti/Rands)

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

Letšeng pays over M63 million in dividends



Six large high value Type IIa diamonds recovered from the Letšeng Mine in Lesotho

NEO SENOKO

business@maserumetro.com

MASERU - Gem Diamonds, the company that owns the Letšeng Diamond has announced that the 2021 dividend of US\$3.8 million (M63, 792, 690.00) proposed by the board in March 2022 has been paid.

The dividend was approved at the company's annual general meeting on June 8.

In its latest trading update released last week, the company showed that during the period, 57 075 carats were sold, generating revenue worth US\$ 99.6 million (and

achieving an average price of US\$ 1 745 per carat).

The highest price achieved in the period was US\$ 66 059 per carat for an 8.41 carat pink diamond. A total of 15 diamonds were sold for more than US\$ 25.8 million during the period.

"We continue to see a firm diamond market for the high quality Letšeng Diamonds in 2022. We are managing the economic impact of global events which are contributing significantly to the slowing down of global economic growth and which are materially impacting energy and commodity prices and disrupting supply chains worldwide.

"The sanctions imposed on the Russian diamond producer, Alrosa have exacerbated a shortage of rough diamonds in the market, supporting continued strong demand and robust prices for Letšeng's high quality rough diamonds," Gem Diamonds Chief Executive Officer, (CEO) Clifford Elphick said.

Three diamonds greater than 100 carats (244.34, 127.58 and 124.65 carats) were recovered during the period, and were sold in the first tender after period end for US\$13.9 million.

Furthermore, the Group ended the period with US\$ 24.2 million

cash on hand while drawn down facilities amounted to US\$ 12.1 million resulting in a net cash position of US\$12.1 million at period end.

During the period, the company purchased 1 520 170 of its shares at a weighted average purchase price of 60.05 GB pence (78.07 US cents) per share under its share buyback programme. The shares are currently held as treasury shares.

Strong demand and robust prices achieved for Letšeng's diamonds reflected the continued positive sentiment in the diamond market.

Letšeng's Plants treated a total of 2.58 million tonnes of ore during the period. 53 percent of which was sourced from the Satellite pipe and 47 percent from the main pipe.

In addition, 0.44 million tonnes of main pipe material were treated through the third party processing contractor, Alluvial Ventures. The contract ended on June 30, as planned.

Moreover, during the period, Letšeng experienced excessive rain, increased power

disruptions on the energy supply network and negative impacts on the supply of critical parts and spares of equipment which impacted production.

However, the 2022 production metrics remain on track to be achieved, albeit the lower end of original guidance published in March. The related cost impact of disruptions to the supply chain, combined with significant increases in fuel, explosives and other consumables prices were experienced in the period, exacerbated by the Russia invasion of Ukraine.



Gem Diamonds CEO, Clifford Elphick

Good news for petrol and food prices in SA

inflation eases to 5.5% for the year. The best-case scenario sees global production easing and grain stocks getting a boost, which would put food price inflation at 5.0%, and bring all food categories back into the Reserve Bank's target range of 3% to 6%. In a more practical example, the BFAP said a household basket of nutritional food for a family of four would show inflation of between 4.9% and 7.4% for the best- and worst-case scenarios, respectively. The key driver behind economists' more optimistic outlook for the next few months is the petrol price, which is expected to come down by over R2 in September.



On a more positive note, in August, the monthly CPI rate should decline on the back of the sharp fuel price decline at the start of the month. The rate of increase for food prices could also start to moderate in August, implying that the July figure may have signalled the peak in headline CPI

Month-end data published by the CEF shows a significant over-recovery for petrol (93 and 95) with a more moderate over-recovery for diesel.

Petrol 95 could be cut by as much as R2.30 per litre in September, while diesel could come down by as much as R1.26 per litre. These cuts would put the petrol price at R23.13 per litre and diesel at R23.26 per litre.

This would put petrol prices back to levels seen before the steep hikes in June, but still around R3 more expensive than in February 2022, before the global pressures from Russia's invasion of Ukraine took effect.

Local fuel prices are easing due to a lower oil price and stronger rand – though both of these metrics have come under continued pressure throughout the month.

Oil prices have accelerated slightly to above \$100 a barrel – from around \$96 a barrel at the start of the month – while the rand has been largely driven by global markets, specifically sentiment around the United States Federal Reserve and its appetite to hike interest rates.

As things stand at month end, oil is trading higher at around \$102 a barrel, as traders weigh risks to the supply outlook against pledges from leading central banks to raise interest rates further.

The rand, meanwhile, is trading slightly stronger at

R16.92 against the dollar on Monday, after trading around the R17.00/\$ mark for most of last week. – BusinessTech



JOHANNESBURG - Consumers are in for a reprieve in the coming months in South Africa as economic indicators point to food price inflation stabilising, while end-month data from the Central Energy Fund shows a likely petrol price cut for September.

Stats SA published the latest consumer price inflation figures for July, pegging headline inflation at a 13-year high of 7.8%.

While the figure will be a shock to the pockets of consumers, economists at the Bureau for Economic Research (BER), and Nedbank noted that it was not unexpected, with most analysts expecting 7.7%.

The biggest contributor to CPI came from the transport sector, led by fuel prices, up 53% year on year.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 9.7% year on year, while utilities increased 4% on the back of a 7.4% month-on-month jump in electricity and other fuel costs as Eskom's annual tariff increase was implemented and surveyed by Stats SA.

However, the BER said that the picture is better for August's data, which it said should decline along with the petrol price.

"On a more positive note, in August, the monthly CPI rate should decline on the back of the sharp fuel price decline at the start of the month. The rate of increase for food prices could also start

to moderate in August, implying that the July figure may have signalled the peak in headline CPI," the BER said.

This sentiment is echoed by Nedbank's analysis, with the bank saying that inflation has likely peaked, and will continue to drop over the next year.

"July's inflation outcome is likely the peak in the current cycle. Headline inflation is forecast to moderate gradually off a high base in the coming months, ending the year at 6.7%," it said.

"We forecast headline inflation to average 6.7% over the whole of 2022.

The downward trend should gain traction off this year's higher base in 2023, with inflation forecast to reach the 4.5% midpoint of the Reserve Bank's target range by around July next

year. Inflation is forecast to average around 5.2% in calendar 2023."

Analysis from the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity group shows that its food basket price is moderating. While prices are still increasing, the pace is slowing down. The group's food basket was up

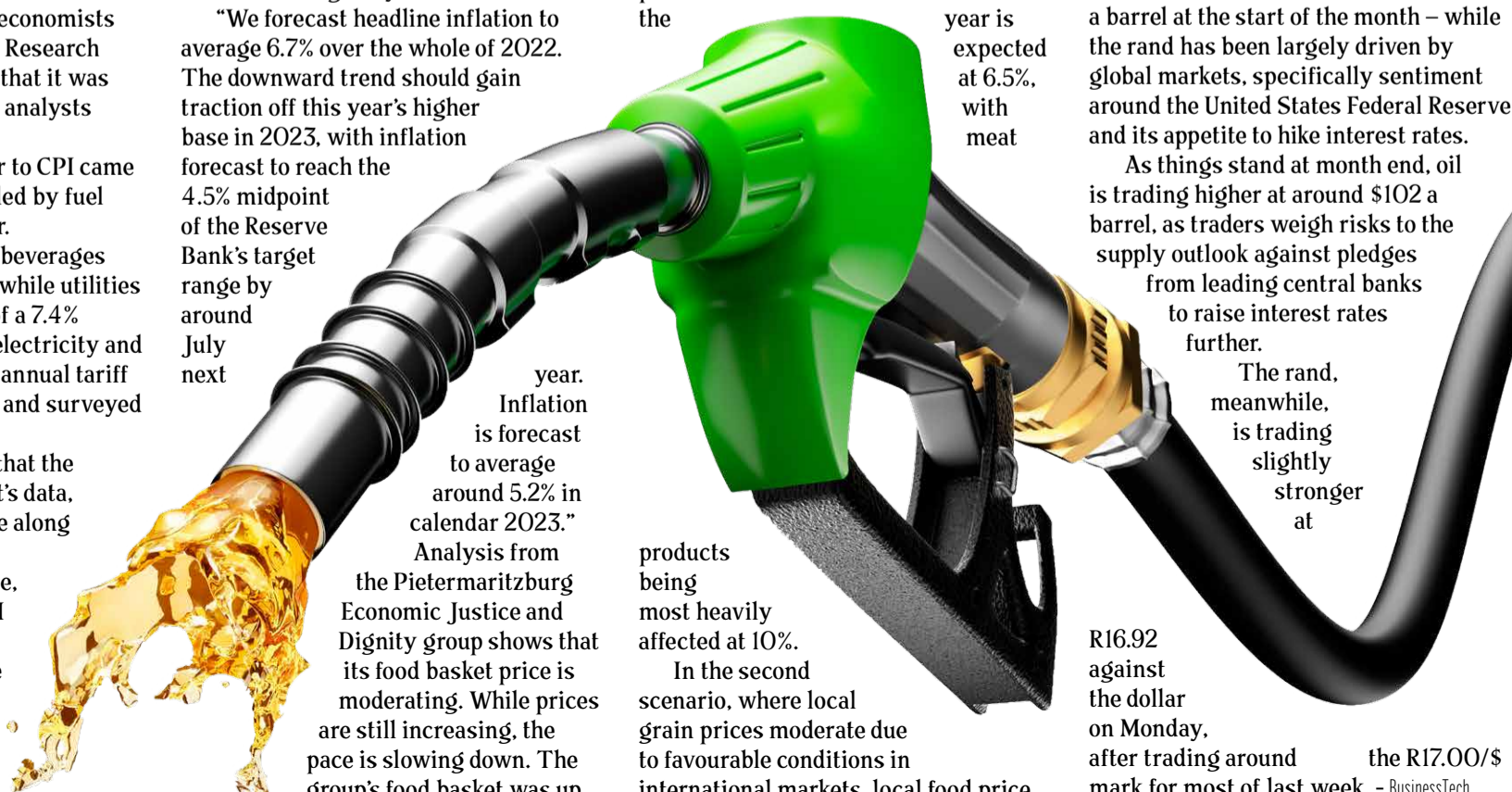
marginally, by 0.6% month-on-month in August.

According to the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), there are three different scenarios for food price inflation in South Africa. The positive news is that in all three scenarios, food price inflation eases from current levels (10.1% in July).

In the first scenario, where global grain supply shocks persist, overall food price inflation for the year is expected at 6.5%, with meat

products being most heavily affected at 10%.

In the second scenario, where local grain prices moderate due to favourable conditions in international markets, local food price

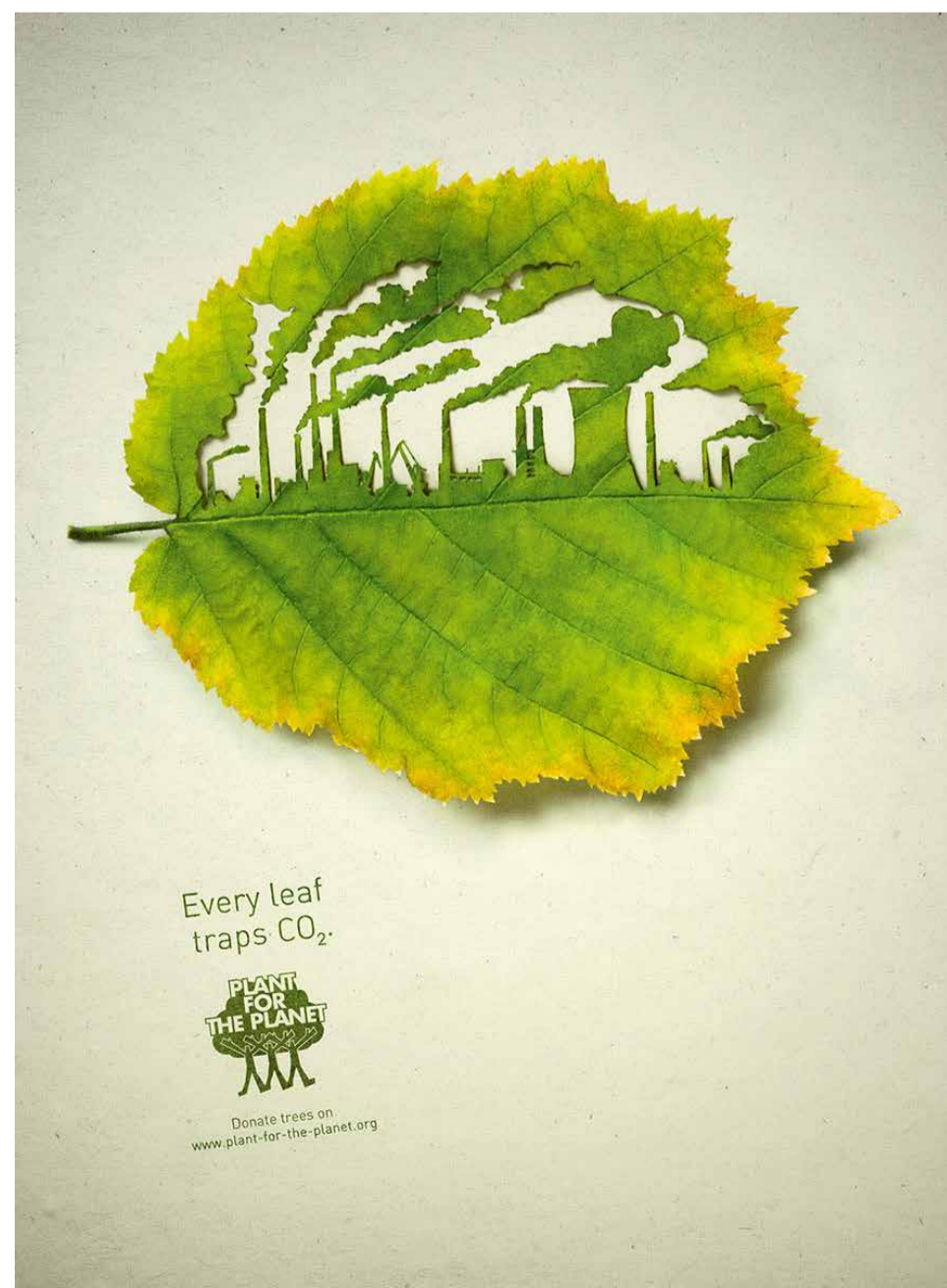


Agriculture

ABC pledges to develop agriculture



Smart agriculture



LERIBE - Leader of the All Basotho Convention (ABC) Nkaku Kabi has pledged to return Lesotho to its former glory as a strong farming country in a bid to improve the lives of Basotho and eradicate hunger and poverty.

This, he said on Sunday at a rally held in Qholaqhoe, Butha Buthe where his predecessor and former Prime Minister Motsoahae Thabane was in attendance.

Kabi said when ABC comes into power after the general election scheduled for October 7, the party will introduce among others, top quality farming techniques in order to help Basotho engage in agriculture at a higher level.

He pledged to ensure that Basotho living in the neighbouring South Africa return home during the ABC's reign to help enhance agriculture in order to eradicate hunger and poverty.

He further promised to ease access to better agricultural products like fertilisers, seeds and weed killers.

Commenting on the issue of elderly people's pension, Kabi promised to reduce the pensioners' age to 60.

Referring to famo musicians and their endless conflicts, he said the ABC was prepared to take good care of the artistes and assist them to improve their lives.

He highlighted some of the notable developments achieved by Thabane's government, among others citing the Monontša road construction and electricity project.

Speaking

at the same event, the chairperson of ABC women's league, 'Malelaka Lehohla advised the party supporters to go out in great numbers and invite others to vote for the party.

She pledged the league's support in Kabi's ability to retaining the image of the ABC and Lesotho's.

Lehohla appealed to party candidates to support the leader in all aspects.

For his part, the chairperson of ABC committee in Butha Buthe, Katileho Molelle also reiterated the need to fully engage in agriculture in a bid to develop the economy.

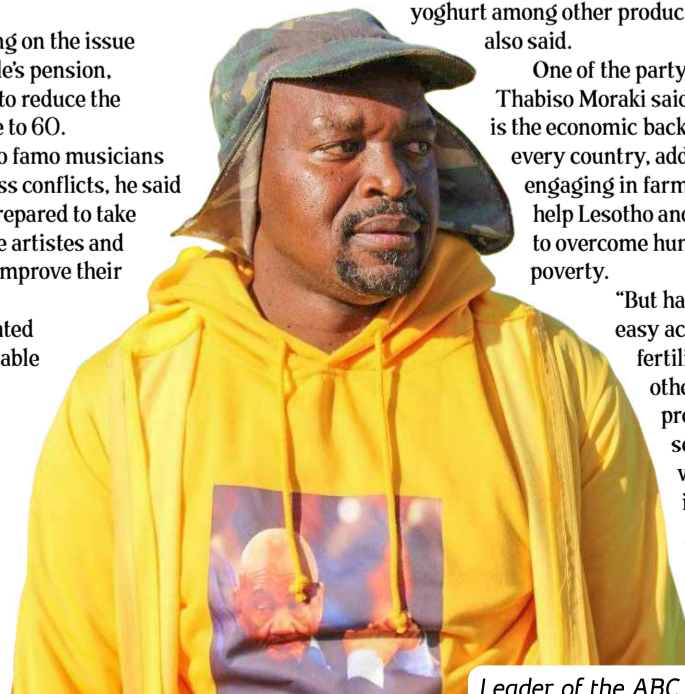
"But we need a lot of tractors to carry out this mission of ours," he said.

"The rate of stock theft is extremely high in the Mechechane constituency, hence, the ABC should focus its attention on fighting the cross border crime when it comes to power," he said.

"We need these cows to produce milk in bulk so that we could build a firm to produce yoghurt among other products," Molelle also said.

One of the party members, Thabiso Moraki said agriculture is the economic backbone of every country, adding that engaging in farming will help Lesotho and its people to overcome hunger and poverty.

"But having easy access to fertilisers and other farming products like seeds and weed killers is the key to growing the industry," he said. - LeNA



Leader of the ABC Nkaku Kabi

Metro HEALTH

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The Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto, Gauteng

Exodus of medical professionals in SA

...as they leave hospitals understaffed

JOHANNESBURG - The South African medical fraternity is suffering from an exodus of nurses and doctors, leaving public hospitals in particular understaffed.

Sibongiseni Delihlazo, the spokesperson for the Democratic Nursing Organisation of SA (Denosa), said at a recent meeting of the East, Central and Southern African College of Nursing (Ecsacon) in Johannesburg, that there has been an uptick of enquiries from nurses about how they can work abroad, reported the Sunday Times.

Delihlazo said that nurses are asking about the process of moving overseas, including the details of recruitment agencies, as a potential career abroad offers better pay and working conditions.

"Nurses are generally remunerated poorly despite the essence of their contribution. Horrible working conditions are the other push factors characterised by severe resource and equipment shortages and poor continuous professional development opportunities."

Unions such as Denosa have pleaded to the government as public servants for wage increases for

their members. The demands have, however, been met in a deadlock where the government proposes a 2% increase, but civil society organisations want a 6.5% wage hike.

"This problem is self-inflicted. The reduction of investment by the government in both infrastructure and the number of nurses the country produces is what has landed the country in the current crisis.

"Countries like Switzerland and Norway have at least 17 nurses per 1,000 population, and their economies are doing wonderfully. In contrast, South Africa has about four or five nurses per 1,000 population, and its economy is crumbling."

South African hospitals have been grossly understaffed due to a lack of skill retention in the country and the failure to train young graduates.

Present-day figures supplied by the South African Nursing Council (SANC) showed that at the end of 2020, there were over 21,000 nurses in training, but private hospital group Life Healthcare noted that this year, the country still requires an additional 26,000 nurses to be trained to meet the growing demands

of the industry.

Writing in an open letter, the Hospital Association of South Africa (HASA) said that a significant number of nursing graduates are eager to receive training to assist the shortage, but provincial health departments are not joining forces with the private medical sector to train young medical professionals.

Earlier this year, the chief executive officer of Profmed, a health insurance scheme for professionals, said that it had witnessed a substantial exit of medical professionals over the last three to five years.

"The sad reality is that South Africa's abilities to produce quality medical specialists have also deteriorated over time as a result of emigration, leaving fewer opportunities for specialised training," said Comrie.

"Instead of increasing the supply of doctors, we need to retain the skilled doctors we already have by creating and maintaining favourable and secure working conditions with market-related remuneration, cultivating interest and

opportunities for more medical graduates in the public and private healthcare space."

To combat the lack of nursing skills in the country, the government, after being asked by the opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, added new skills to the Department of Home Affairs Critical Skills List.

The new skills mainly relate to specialist medical and health practitioners, namely those who "diagnose, treat and prevent illness, disease, injury and other physical and mental impairments in humans, using specialised testing,

diagnostic, medical, surgical, physical and psychiatric techniques".

These job posts include: Registered Nurses – critical care nurses, midwives, and childcare nurses, among others.

Medical practitioners – specialising in anaesthesiology, cardiothoracic surgery, clinical pharmacology and public health, and paediatrics, among others:

Pharmacist – including industrial pharmaceuticals, among others; Dentists – specialising in community dentistry, maxillofacial and oral pathology and maxillofacial and oral surgery, among others. – BusinessTech



The spokesperson for the Denosa, Sibongiseni Delihlazo

Health

Migrants in SA have access to healthcare: why it's kicking up a storm

A political storm has erupted in South Africa after a video went viral showing the Health Minister for the Limpopo province – which borders Zimbabwe – berating a Zimbabwean woman who was seeking healthcare.

Responses have been divided. Some have called for Dr Phophi Ramathuba to step down on the grounds that verbally abusing a patient was out of order.

Others have supported her, saying she reflects the sentiments of South Africans living in the area. The Conversation Africa (CA) spoke to Kudakwashe Vanyoro (KV), who has done research on the treatment of migrants in South Africa's healthcare sector, to unpack the issue.

CA: What does the law say about treating non-South Africans?

KV: According to South Africa's National Health Act, primary healthcare facilities run by the state must provide free care to everyone, except for people covered by private medical aid schemes.

The country's Refugee Act of 1998 stipulates that refugees are entitled to the same access to treatment and "basic healthcare services" as citizens in public healthcare facilities. This also applies to undocumented migrants who are citizens of any country in the SADC region. For

higher levels of care, refugees and migrants must pass a means test. In some situations, irregular migrants must pay the whole cost of medical services.

These laws reflect the country's constitution. Section 27 states that healthcare is a right that should be afforded to everyone.

In this context, medical xenophobia is a term that scholars use to describe negative attitudes, perceptions and practices of healthcare providers towards non-national patients on the basis of their national origin. Providers include frontline staff like nurses, doctors, clerks and security personnel.

The main idea that informs this discrimination is that the patient is an outsider and therefore "undeserving" of care in a public facility. The thinking is that non-nationals are overburdening the public healthcare system by using resources that are already scarce.

In my view, medical xenophobia is sustained by unfounded myths such as the myth that non-nationals come to South Africa in buses to give birth or to get access to HIV treatment. These attitudes and perceptions translate into exclusionary practices such as denial of treatment or delay in accessing services.

In most instances, language, documentation and referral



Health Minister for Limpopo province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba

systems are used as vehicles of this discrimination. Healthcare providers scapegoat non-nationals for being unable to speak the local language, lacking referral letters or being undocumented.

CA: How serious is the problem in South Africa?

KV: It's a very serious problem. But the experiences of non-nationals aren't all the same.

They differ according to geographic context, identity and the kind of treatment a person is seeking.

Take geographic context. Discrimination may be more widespread in metropolitan spaces like Johannesburg where there's increased political scapegoating of migrants. In this context health simply becomes an extended site for these tensions.

But it's different where undocumented non-national patients seek to use primary healthcare services in towns on the border of neighbouring countries. Take Musina, the northernmost town in South Africa, just a few kilometres away from the border of Zimbabwe. Here non-nationals access healthcare services with relative ease, partly because of cross-border, intergenerational kinship. This lends a different political meaning to the issue of migration.

The kind of treatment people are seeking also affects the response. Non-nationals with different health conditions have different experiences and outcomes.

This points to the need to avoid generalisations. It's

important to break down where the pressure points are and how healthcare providers respond. My research shows that not all South African health providers are hostile to all African migrants.

CA: Is the current response from South Africans misplaced?

KV: South Africa's public healthcare system is overburdened. But this is not because of non-nationals. According to the most reliable statistics they constitute no more than 8% of the total population.

The challenges within the public healthcare system relate to the general shortages of medical personnel, state facilities lacking beds, staff facing high workloads and low morale among nurses in public facilities.

Providing primary healthcare has undoubtedly been complicated by the post-apartheid era's shortcomings in the governance of the health system, mismanagement of funds and state resources, corruption and underfunding. A report by civil society group Corruption Watch highlights how corruption prevents a vast section of the population from accessing their right to decent healthcare.

The blame on migrants is therefore misplaced as these are health system management and governance issues. This should not be a debate about individuals in a country which continues to feel the effects of health inequalities embedded by apartheid.

CA: How much pressure do foreign nationals put on the system?

KV: A higher concentration of non-nationals is likely in areas of high mobility and transit like border towns and metropolitan cities.

But this is not significant enough to mount pressure on the public healthcare system. For example, most people who move to South Africa from within the region are moving for work. This suggests there's no relation between high mobility and seeking health services. Even if there were reported cases of women crossing the border to give birth, the public healthcare system is guided by the Uniform Patient Fee Schedule, which sets out who must pay for certain services at any South African health facility.

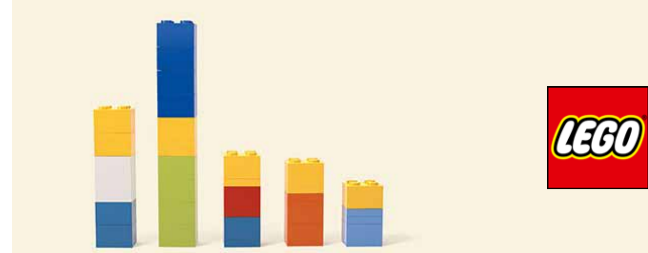
And, where there are pressures, these can be buffered if the proper systems are put in place to respond to challenges related to documentation, language and poor referral systems.

CA: What should be done?

KV: The World Health Organization has highlighted the importance of public healthcare systems needing to be responsive to the needs of migrant populations. In a 2019 report it notes countries should accommodate sudden spikes in demand brought on by the arrival of new populations.

The results of poor governance should not be blamed on poor migrants who are simply in need of services. Healthcare providers should desist from being political gatekeepers and instead use notions of morality, ethics and public service in their decision making. — The Conversation Africa





Bianca Jade Naidoo and late husband Riky Rick

Riky Rick's 'wife' fights for his assets

JOHANNESBURG - Riky Rick's live-in lover, Bianca Jade Naidoo, has dragged the Joburg Master of the High Court and Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi to court in a bid to force them to recognise her as the late artist's wife and executrix (female executor of an estate) of his lucrative estate.

Riky Rick, who committed suicide at his Waterfall studio in February, died intestate, meaning he did not have a will at the time of his untimely death.

Before his death, the hip-hop mega star had secured endorsements from Vaseline, Kiwi, African Bank and Russian Bear. He reportedly owned a Ferrari and a Mercedes-Benz AMG GTS coupé, among his fleet of vehicles.

He founded Cotton Club Records, a barber shop called Legends Barber and was the architect of the celebrity event called Cotton Fest, a celebration of South African youth culture that was attended by celebrities.

Several blockbuster albums also generated millions of rand in royalties.

If appointed the executrix, Naidoo will work with lawyers to wind up his estate and become its beneficiary.

In the court papers, which we have seen, Naidoo said she and the artist were, at the time of his death, "partners in a permanent opposite-sex life partnership, with the same or similar characteristics as a marriage after hitting it off on 26 May 2013".

"At the time of my acceptance of a relationship with the deceased I lived with my first daughter, who was born out of a previous failed marriage. I expressed to the deceased that unless he was committed to him and myself having a stable relationship with a future, I would not permit him to meet my daughter. The deceased expressed that he wanted a long-lasting future with me, and we began living together with my daughter as a family during the same year of 2013 at my residential property bought for me by my parents in Bryanston, Gauteng," read the papers.

She said they cohabited between 2013 and 2022 in a "conjugal relationship in which we supported and maintained each other assuming reciprocal commitments and creating a duty to support each other". This until she gave birth to their son on March 19.

She said when she met the artist he was unemployed, had no source of income and was pursuing his career in music. She said she was the breadwinner of their family and supported him financially, including with groceries and petrol money. "The deceased also used my vehicle and this included me paying for petrol as well as money he had to pay for studio time recording his music. My financial support for the deceased continued until his career endeavours eventually became a success during the year 2014."

She said in 2014, Riky Rick moved out

of her residential property to various other residential areas until they eventually settled in Waterfall Country Village Estate in Midrand last year.

She said when they moved to the estate, she had already quit her paying job, at the behest of the artist, and worked with him to grow his music career.

"The deceased and I thus established a financial interdependence because I performed all the administrative tasks related to the deceased's duties as entertainer/musician until his untimely death.

"The deceased and I enjoyed emotional and financial inter-dependence by also inter alia registering and running successful commercial businesses together, which include the Legends Barber as well as Cotton Fest. Both I and the deceased were directors of Makhado Agency (Pty) Ltd, which we operated together in all respects. The deceased and I also enjoyed the benefits as life partners as members of my medical aid scheme who regarded us as life partners," read the papers.

Naidoo said Riky Rick introduced her to his family in May 2013 and she introduced him to hers in June 2013. "Our families ... soon accepted our relationship as that of a 'married couple'. The deceased and my mother shared a close relationship of a 'mother and son-in-law'," read the papers.

She said Riky Rick had gifted her a "promise ring" in 2015 and bought another

on Valentine's Day in 2020 to reaffirm his lifetime commitment to her.

She said he also referred to her as his "wife" in the presence of their families and friends as well as in public and on social media platforms.

"Our common intention together with the deceased was to validate our marriage in accordance with civil law. As already stated above, although our families with the deceased are not traditional, they did meet during the course of our relationship to have marriage discussions and our families did approve of our relationship as that of husband and wife."

She said their families dispensed with the traditional lobola celebrations because of their modern way of life.

"Furthermore, as already stated above, the deceased and I did intend to eventually marry, however, the deceased unfortunately passed before the solemnisation of our marriage became a reality, albeit we lived our joint lives as a married couple. I have therefore been advised that I do qualify within the category of a partner 'in a permanent life partnership in which the partners have undertaken reciprocal duties of support'," read the papers.

Naidoo further said she deserved to be appointed as the executrix because she was the only legal guardian of their children.

She said Riky Rick's family were her in-laws and supported her appointment as the executrix and beneficiary. — Sunday World



School of excellence academy

Phafane welcomes FIFA talent development project



President of the LeFA, King's Counsel (KC) Salemane Phafane

MASERU – President of the Lesotho Football Association (LeFA), King's Counsel (KC) Salemane Phafane is over the moon after the world football governing body, FIFA, approved the

LeFA's application to sign up for the first ever Talent Development Scheme (TDS) programme.

The association's media officer, Mikia Kalati said Phafane gave the TDS thumps

up after meeting the FIFA Regional Technical Consultant, Serame Letsoaka, who was on a five-day working visit to Lesotho, where he had been unpacking the TDS.

"Mr Letsoaka has provided information on how the TDS will work and how Lesotho will benefit from the programme.

"He talked in greater detail about the four pillars or support that will make TDS. The development programme was launched in January 2020 by FIFA Chief of Global Football Development, Arsene Wenger," he added.

Kalati said the programme aims to promote Member Associations including LeFA with thorough analysis of their high performance ecosystem in both men's and women's football.



The association's media officer, Mikia Kalati

this nature, which I have no doubt that it will improve our football for the better," KC Phafane was quoted as saying.

Kalati further showed that the president also highlighted that they were going to benefit massively as LeFA, with all the expertise, training and education, knowledge sharing as well as the funding

“

He talked in greater detail about the four pillars or support that will make TDS. The development programme was launched in January 2020 by FIFA Chief of Global Football Development, Arsene Wenger

He said these include all the national teams, domestic leagues, scouting projects, academics in order to ensure that every talented player gets the chance to reach their full potential.

"We are very grateful and thankful to FIFA for coming up with a programme of

that FIFA will be putting towards the programme.

LeFA has already benefited from other FIFA projects such as the Bambatha Tšita Sports Arena as well as the Mohale's Hoek DIFA stadium constructions.

- LeNA