

R100m lost to tobacco smuggling



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Lesotho passport one of the best in Africa

KINGDOM OF LESOTHO



LESOTHO PASSPORT



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News

Taxi operators prepare to strike

BY MAPALO NKHELOANE

MASERU – Commuters should brace themselves for a long walk on April 17 as taxi operators plan to picket outside government offices for increased fares, while suspending ferrying commuters.

Public Eye on Sunday can reveal the transporters agreed on Friday to ratchet up pressure on government through mass protests after their seven-day ultimatum to government was ignored.

Mokete Jonas, Chairman of the Central Region Transport Committee, said all public transport associations have agreed to march to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to demand a meeting with minister Prince Maliehe, whose ministry is responsible for the commuter industry.

Jonas on Friday insisted Maliehe had failed dismally to address their issues, adding only a demonstration at his office and downing tools would end the impasse.

“People should be aware that on the 17th of April public transport will not be operating. The aim is to expose Maliehe to both the public and government that he does not help us. We strongly believe we should not be fighting this battle alone when we have a ministry that governs us,” Jonas said.

Mathe Khalane, Chairman of the Central Region Transport Committee, said their complaints were directed at four government ministries – Public Works and Transport, Finance, Education and Police – but only one had responded.

Khalane said the operators had encouraged the ministry of education to end the teachers’ strike as students contributed significantly towards their earnings when schools are running normally since most of them commute by taxis.

“Minister of Education Ntoi Rapapa has, however, put our hearts at ease because he assured us that students are going back to school starting on Monday,

... say government ignored their plea for fare increases

so we will take his word for it,” Khalane said.

The operators have also asked government to intervene on illegal or pirate taxis which they say could push them out of business.

Both the Commissioner and Minister of Police have failed to deal decisively with pirate taxis, they allege.

Public Eye on Sunday was unable to contact the police by yesterday evening, however, this reporter witnesses lots of unregistered private cars touting for passengers every day during rush hour, especially near Pitso Ground.

The chaotic scenes happen under the watch of traffic police who seem to have either given up

on clamping down on illegal taxis or are tacitly in approval.

“This has created the impression that perhaps those cars are owned by the police themselves,” said one 4+1 driver who refused to be identified for fear of reprisals from police officers.

The Committee took a swipe at Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro, accusing his ministry of failing to award government transport tenders to the industry.

“Minister Majoro ignores the fact that we also want government jobs so we offer our cars for services should such tenders be released. It seems Majoro does not want us to be involved in this business,” a member of the committee said.



**The minister of finance
Dr Moeketsi Majoro**

Any increase in transport fares will deal a huge blow to an already struggling population, especially in this current year when government not only froze salary increases for public servants but also even cut salaries for cabinet ministers.

Lesotho’s economy has in recent years been steadily sliding down a precipice owing to a combination of factors including, in the main, stunted economic growth, declining Sacu revenues, declining tax revenue for the revenue authority and an unstable political environment which dissuades potential foreign investors.



Commuters should brace for long walks this coming month as taxi operators plan to ground their fleet over a fare dispute with authorities

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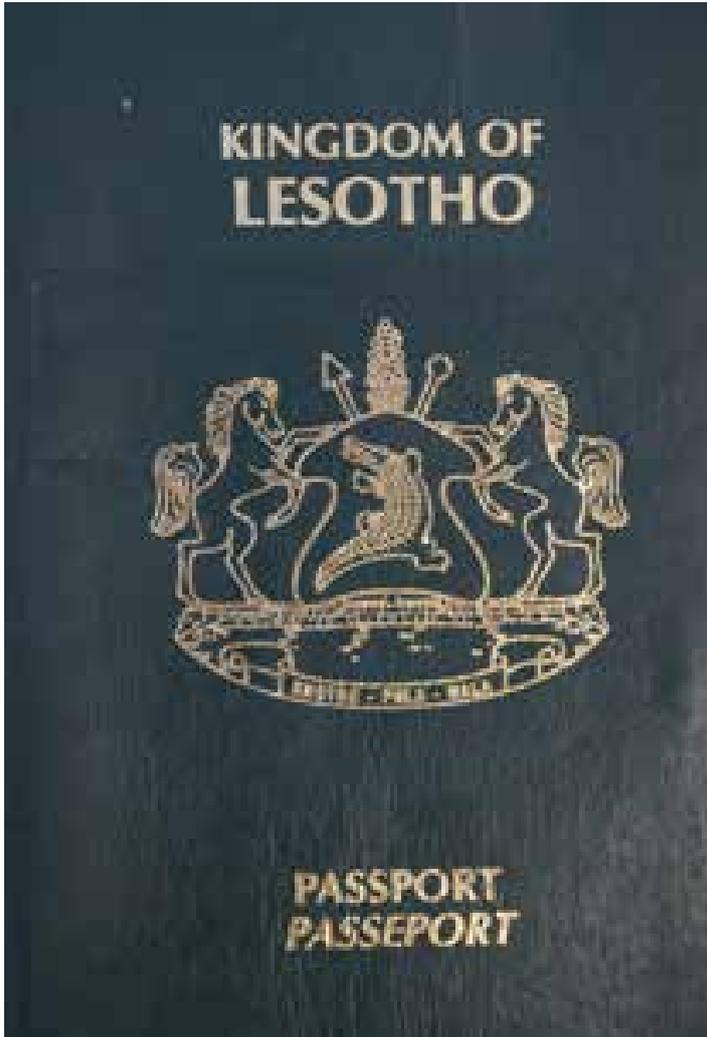
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News

Lesotho passport among Africa's top



KANANELO BOLOETSE

MASERU – The Lesotho passport is the sixth most powerful passport in Africa with its citizens able to visit 74 out of 104 without needing a visa.

Lesotho only falls behind Seychelles, Mauritius, South Africa, Botswana and Namibia in that order in the report released by the Henley Passport Index published on Tuesday this week.

The South African passport has dropped 16 spots over the past decade in a ranking based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Globally, Lesotho is ranked at 67, Seychelles 28 in the world, Mauritius 31 worldwide, South Africa 51, Botswana 60 and Namibia 66.

Japan, Singapore and South Korea hold joint top spot on the Henley Passport Index while Germany has risen to second place, up from the third place it held with France where France still remains in a position it now shares with Denmark, Finland, Italy and Sweden.

The UK is in fifth place, while the US is in sixth position.

The Ministry of Home Affairs this month extended the deadline for the expiry of the old analogue passports which were due to expire at the end of this month.

The ministry announced in 2018 that it was phasing out the old passports and called on holders of such passports to surrender them to the Ministry of Home Affairs where they would be issued with electronic passports for free.

Passport holders were given until December 31 to replace old passports but the deadline was later extended to March 31, after which all the old passports would be invalid.

The electronic passports bear the biometric details of the bearer, including their finger prints or the iris, which are all features unique to the individual.

These features, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs, prevent unauthorised use or forgery.

The ministry also said the use of the electronic passport would eliminate cases of corruption where the ministry's officials have been accused of accepting bribes from underserving or foreign applicants.

The information contained on the electronic passports is also contained in the National Identity Registry, as such, a passport holder cannot manipulate the system and make multiple applications as has been the case in Lesotho over the years.

An applicant can also not claim that their passport has expired when it is still valid because the new system is able to instantly retrieve information from the database.

NEO SENOKO

LRA set to simplify tax filing

MASERU – The Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) has unveiled plans to simplify tax filing methods as it speeds up efforts to increase client satisfaction rating of excellence from the current shocking 10 percent low to 60 percent by March 2020.

This, the revenue authority says, is part of its modernisation strategy, which places improved quality service at the top of its agenda.

Achieving this, the taxman says, will have a beneficial ripple effect on all other outcomes and making it easier for clients to file returns has been identified as one of the key areas that would hike the authority's ratings and improve efficiency.

To this effect, the LRA has committed to making it easier for clients to file returns by March next year and after this current filing season, tax payers will no longer file returns manually, as

the LRA will go electronic next year.

“In order to make it easier for clients to file their tax returns, all income tax return forms have been shortened, simplified and have been designed to make them easy to complete,” said the LRA Commissioner General Thabo Khasipe during the media briefing earlier this week.

In this connection, the LRA has simplified company income tax return filing methods, individual income tax return, income tax for trusts and estates as well as partnership return of income.

To speed up progress towards achieving set targets, the LRA is introducing performance standards for tax agents.

“We are introducing a performance standard framework for clearing agents. We want to

speaking much better to our clearing agents because sometimes they take a long time to do their job even when it is not necessary,”

“So our relationship with them is important hence the need to train and equip them with adequate skills to execute their duties to the best of their abilities. Those who fail to perform will be disqualified,” Khasipe added.

In a quest to timeously credit clients' bank payments to their respective ledgers, LRA will introduce a referencing service in the form of a web portal and USSD service.

The commissioner indicated that clients will be required to use either of the referencing services in order to get a reference number before making any payments into the LRA bank account. This, the commissioner said, will reduce

the number of un-receipted deposits from the current 3000 to nil by December next year.

“We are doing some of these things because our clients said they want them. Even the tax clearing certificate is now accessible online. Clients can now register, apply for tax clearance certificate and verify its authenticity online,” he added.

Currently, only clients with valid tax clearances can access the service.

The LRA modernisation programme is expected, among other things, to improve cross-border trade between Lesotho and other countries.

If well executed, the programme is likely to improve the country's rankings on the ease of doing business indicators which will in turn attract foreign direct investment in Lesotho.

KANANELO BOLOETSE

Budget cuts hit new varsity students

MASERU – Several hundred prospective university students might this year fail to access crucial government funding after a sharp budget cutback - which has left the public funding agency short of M200 million - and corresponding study fee increases.

Public Eye on Sunday can report government is worried a “unilateral fee increase” for the 2019 academic year effected by the National University of Lesotho (NUL), coupled with bursary funding shortfalls, could trigger strife at the country’s premier higher education institution.

Minister of Development Planning Tlohelang Aumane has warned the National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS) is already running short of “over M200 million” and might not be able to pay for hundreds of students who will enroll at the country’s universities this year even when they qualify for state bursary loans.

Although government has been allocating more funds to higher education, he said, these have not kept pace with universities’ tuition fees and the number of first year students entering institutions of higher learning every year.

Most students at NUL and Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT) draw at least M40 000 per year from the NMDS, while their counterparts at Institute of Extra-Mural Studies (IEMS) get M12 000.

Last week, NUL announced its council had approved the recommendation of the finance and general purposes board that “tuition fees be escalated by 10 percent across all programmes”.

“Residence fees and other related charges shall be escalated by five percent,” read a circular to NUL staff and students published on March on 14.

It continued: “Council considered a report from the management on the declining state of government financing of the university despite efforts by the university management and council to reverse the situation over the years. Council then decided that talks between the university and the government should be intensified to ensure that they bear positive results.”

Aumane professed ignorance of both the fee increase and the announcement but acknowledged that the ministry of planning has representation in the NUL council.

“I do not about this issue. We have representation in the

... NUL fees hike opens can of worms



council and my expectation was that we should know about such changes. On top of that, NUL is a government-owned institution.

“We are already going to pay tuition fees at the current rates. I do not know where they think we will get extra money from. The money we have been allocated is than what we requested. We have a shortage of over M200 million.

“Such increases only mean that fewer students will be given assistance this year because we do not have a good budget. If they insist on this 10 percent increase, we will as soon as possible say students who can afford to pay for themselves should do so. In fact, expect a raft of changes,” he said.

NUL has in recent years, been in dire financial distress mainly due to the reduction in government subsidies which have caused the institution to increase its tuition fees to a point where government felt it could not afford to pay for its sponsored students.

“Council considered a report from management on the declining state of government financing of the university despite efforts by the university management and council to reverse the situation over the years,” NUL announced last week.

It said council then decided that talks between the university and the government should be intensified to ensure that they bear positive results.

When contacted for comment, NUL SRC interim president Realeboha Makateng indicated he was yet to sit down with his team to decide a way forward.

“At the moment I am not in a position to say whether we are going to fight the fees increase or whether we are going to persuade the government to accept the increase. We are yet to have a meeting,” Makateng said.

He indicated that there was a sense of déjà vu. “One is reminded of the 2016/2017 academic year when NMDS refused to accept the fee increase and used the previous year rates to pay for its sponsored students. This resulted in the university management demanding that each student pays the shortfall by the end of May 2017,” he said.

Government’s refusal to accept a fees increase at NUL in 2016 created a stalemate that led to continuous strikes by the students culminating in a petition to the then Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili.

They said they would boycott year-end examinations if Mosisili did not ensure that their tuition

fees were fully paid.

In 2016, when presenting budget speech to parliament, the then minister of finance Dr ‘Mamphono Khaketla announced that the ministry of development planning would undertake a comprehensive reform of the NMDS at a cost of M1,2 million.

Khaketla indicated the reform was intended to “review and enhance” the mandate of NMDS.

She told parliament the reform would address, among others, improvement of governance and management practices that will establish a financially viable and sustainable organisation, targeting of students, particularly those experiencing socio-economic disadvantages and deserving assistance and establishing of cost sharing mechanisms between parents and the government, “due to the ever increasing costs of higher education”.

The following year, in 2017, Finance Minister told parliament that ministry of planning was allocated M135,4 million towards reforming the NMDS loan bursary fund and the development of jobs strategy, among others.

These reforms have not seen the light of the day.

This year Majoro told parliament that the escalating number of sponsored students and sponsorship costs, tight fiscal constraints and poor loan recoveries “call for an urgent implementation of Loan Bursary Fund (LBF) Reforms”.

He said in the coming financial year, NMDS will review and amend the legal framework governing the LBF, including the National Manpower Development Council (NMDC) act of 1978 and LBF regulations of 1978.

“It will further review and improve the Resource Mobilisation and Financing Model of the fund by changing endorsement and repayment of loan bursaries from partial to actual incurred costs of sponsorships,” he said.

“In an endeavour of ensuring equitable access to bursaries in light of the constrained funds,” he added, “the NMDS will develop the ‘Means Testing Mechanism’ which will seek to ensure that bursaries are granted in favour of students from financially disadvantaged families.”

News

Scott's mum wants to be discharged

RELEBOHILE TSOAMOTSE

MASERU – Double murder co-accused 'Malehlohonolo Scott has asked the high court to discharge her from the sensational long-drawn-out case.

She is accused with her son, Lehlohonolo Scott, with the murder of two Koalabata residents in 2012.

The murder trial is continuing before High Court Justice Teboho Moiloa after Lehlohonolo escaped from prison in 2014 and was rearrested in Durban, South Africa in October 2015.

The court then investigated his escape from prison and only completed the probe on Tuesday this week with the court expected to make a ruling on May 7.

Justice Moiloa said he would be able to make a ruling on May 7 during Scott's next appearance in court.

An application was also moved before Justice Moiloa on Tuesday last week by Scott's lawyer, Advocate Thulo Hoeane for discharge of 'Malehlohonolo, from the case in that the crown has

so far failed to make a case against her.

This Hoeane said was in line with the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act of 1981, section 175 (3) which provides that "If at the close of the evidence for the prosecution, the court considers that there is no evidence that the accused committed the offence in the charge, or any other offence of which he might be convicted thereon, the court may return a verdict of not guilty."

Advocate Hoeane told the court that the crown has failed to establish the guilt of 'Malehlohonolo even after calling 12 witnesses to testify and thereby said there is no a prima facie case against her.

He said the evidence before court had failed to establish a strong case for 'Malehlohonolo to answer as required by the law and added it would be in the interests of justice to release her forthwith.

"It is humbly submitted on her behalf that the evidence has clearly failed to establish a prima facie case as required by the law for her to answer and that it would

be in the interests of justice to release her forthwith in the light of the forgoing submissions," Hoeane said.

According to Hoeane, the three places where the Crown allegedly retrieved incriminating evidence: at the Scott's home, the dongas and at the school, none of the Crown witnesses suggested that 'Malehlohonolo was in any manner involved in the case that has kept the nation transfixed for four years.

Hoeane further states that 'Malehlohonolo was arrested at work and that subsequent to her arrest, no evidence was ever led that implicated her.

Hoeane said the evidence before court, looked at from all angles, does not in way come close to building a prima facie case for 'Malehlohonolo to answer.

In response, Advocate Leppan for the crown said the fact that there was no evidence implicating 'Malehlohonolo in the pointing out does not mean that there is no case at all against her.

He said rather that 'Malehlohonolo was a resident in the house where police recovered

incriminating exhibits; including boys clothing that did not belong to her son.

The clothes, according to the crown, were found with a large bloodstained piece of cardboard together with a blood-stained knife and a saw.

It is also the crown case that a car was parked directly outside the house containing various human body parts which even children in the neighbourhood were already aware of, as well as blood found in the toilet.

'Malehlohonolo, according to the crown, should explain the incriminating factors, in and around where she lived.

Leppan said 'Malehlohonolo might escape the murder conviction but that if she could explain the evidence around her residence, may point the blame elsewhere.

He contended that 'Malehlohonolo is at significant risk of being found guilty on one of the competent verdicts and thereby argued that a discharge should be denied.

The case was postponed to May 7 for further considerations.

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The image shows a promotional poster for Alliance Golf Day 2019. On the left, there is a red and green graphic with the event name and date. On the right, a photograph shows a white golf glove on a green lawn next to a white golf ball with the Alliance logo.

R100m lost to tobacco smuggling

MAPALO NKHELOANE

MASERU – The local tobacco industry last year lost M100 million in revenue owing to increased smuggling of cheap cigarettes that are sold at ridiculously low prices to cash-strapped consumers.

The besieged industry anticipates a haemorrhage even more profits this year, adding the national fiscus would also lose income as the underground traders obviously duck taxes.

British American Tobacco (BAT) this week noted with concern government plans to slap a 30 percent levy on tobacco products which the conglomerate said will ultimately put a final nail to the coffin of the tobacco sector in Lesotho.

The cigarette and tobacco manufacturing company argues that the levy will increase the price gap between legal and bootleg to 82 percent, fuelling the growth of illegal traders' share of the market to almost half by year-end.

Kyle Fourie, BAT General Manager said cigarette smugglers are already cashing in on the huge price gap between legal products that pay taxes and their "ultra-cheap" cigarettes that are traded underground and are therefore not taxed.

According to Fourie, this huge price gap is making struggling consumers think twice about buying legal products, and they are switching to illicit cigarettes in growing numbers.

Illicit cigarettes are sold without payment of the relevant taxes thereby depriving the government of significant revenue streams.

BAT estimates that it cost the legal industry M103 million in 2018 and that will grow to a further loss of M134 million in 2019 even without the 30 percent tobacco levy.

"As legal traders we first pay the minimum tax of M19.16 per pack of 20, before we pay for production, transport and other costs, while they do not pay the taxes they are supposed to. It means they can sell a pack for as little as M10 while our cheapest product goes for M30 per pack," said Fourie.

BAT showed that with the limited capacity of the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) and the country's porous borders, there is no reason to believe smugglers will pay the levy, when they are already avoiding to pay their taxes.

The company therefore shows that that puts all the jobs in the legal industry at risk and will cut government tax revenue, which is already short by at least M91 million a year in taxes not paid by illicit traders.

BAT's Legal and External Affairs Manager, Stephen Nyabadza told the press this week that the levy would bear bitter fruits even for the government of Lesotho. He emphasised that it would result in increased informal cross border trade which does not flow through the Lesotho revenue collection system.

Nyabadza also highlighted that the 30 percent levy would also mean further reduction in government collection due to an increase in illicit trade.

Every 1 percent reduction in cigarettes volume results in a M1.4 million loss in excise and VAT revenue for Lesotho.



From left: Stephen Nyabadza legal and external affairs manager and Mandkakazi Sicgawa corporate affairs manager both from BAT

Nyabadza indicated that the levy would make cigarettes in Lesotho more expensive than in Eswatini and South Africa and that sustainability of the legitimate cigarette industry would be in danger due to acceleration of illicit trade.

Last November, Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) said it had confiscated 380,000 illicit cigarettes worth just over a million Loti at the Maseru Bridge border post.

"This is the biggest single bust on illicit cigarettes in Lesotho in the past five years," the statement said.

The statement said the cigarettes were the RG brand, which they say was classed as an illicit cigarette brand as it was sold below the legal M20 (or R20,02) threshold.

RG is manufactured by Gold Leaf Tobacco, a company often accused of failing to pay taxes on their products.

"RG is smuggled from here to Lesotho," Van der Merwe Francois van der Merwe, a tobacco farmer and Tisa's chairperson, told the media in November last year.

The 12000 jobs in the traditional tobacco sector were threatened, Van der Merwe added.

Members of South Africa's Food and Allied Workers Union marched to Sars' offices last year to ask it to act against the illicit tobacco industry. Dumisani Sibeko, a shop steward at a Heidelberg factory, at that time said workers were hard hit.

"There were retrenchments two months ago. Due to the decline of business, 50 workers lost their jobs. We used to produce 20 million sticks per annum, but we're now sitting at 17 million sticks," he said.

However, Gold Leaf Tobacco, manufacturer of RG, said Sars had never had to act against their brand because it was above board. "Our RG brand is registered with Sars and there is nothing illicit about it," said attorney Raees Saint.

"We have been constant contributors to the fiscus. We have, in the last 12 years, paid

an amount of nearly R8.2bn in excise duties alone."

A report released in September by the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa (Tisa) found that illicit tobacco companies are responsible for R7 billion per year in tax evasion and that Gold Leaf Tobacco is responsible for producing 75% of these tax-dodging cigarette brands.

The report found that RG, selling locally for an average of just more than R10 per packet, is now the second largest brand in SA after Peter Stuyvesant.

The LRA said their policy is to destroy cigarettes which are found to be counterfeit.

Yusuf Abramjee, who became vice president of Crime Stoppers International (CSI) at the beginning of November 2018, took to Twitter to congratulate LRA, saying: "It's great to see [them] clamping down on South African illicit cigarettes."

"Much appreciated, we are working hard to control the illicit substances from entering the country," was the response of the authority's official Twitter account.

Lesotho has seen an explosion in smoking in the past decade – from 15 percent in 2004 to 54 percent in 2015 – thanks to aggressive marketing by tobacco companies and weak laws, according to health-e.org.za.

A few years ago, Lesotho's lone cigarette manufacturer trading under the Sun brand was forced to close shop, throwing dozens of workers into the unemployment pool.

The company blamed smuggled tobacco sold at ridiculously low prices as having pushed them asunder.

Leakages in the customs and excise system due to smuggling will stifle an already heavily depleted Lesotho Treasury whose boss Finance Minister Majoro was forced to announce serious belt-tightening including not only a salary increase freeze for all civil servants but also an unprecedented 5 percent salary cut for all cabinet ministers.

Sport

THE BEST SUNDAY READ



NTHE THE MAPHAONG

MASERU - Econet Premier League side Liphakoe FC based at Quthing unveiled new kit at Bambatha T'sita Sports Arena on Wednesday this week.

The new Kappa Kit had been bought outside at the cost of M72 0000, which included replica and logistics costs.

Liphakoe FC had been using Basotholand Ink as their main technical sponsor for the kit.

The club will use the new kit for home games, while awaiting an away kit come next season but said in the meantime they will make do with the Basotholand Ink kit which they had been using for away games all along.

Business owners around Quthing district and outside Quthing have been sponsoring Liphakoe FC.

These include KR Holdings Company, B&G Electrical and Constructions Company, Karabo Clinic Family Transport, Makhulo Transport, Makae Transport, Masienyane Transport and Kubung Guest House.

Speaking at the launch ceremony that was held at the Bambatha T'sita Sports Arena this week, Refiloe Thulo Manager of KR Holdings Company, speaking on behalf of other Liphakoe FC official sponsors, appealed to other stakeholders and business owners to come on board and helping upgrade Liphakoe FC.

He also linked business with

Liphakoe FC unveils new kit



football where he showed that because of the country's high unemployment rate afflicting mostly youths in the country, football should be taken as a serious full-time job like in other countries where it has afforded livelihoods for many people.

"When we are talking about the development of football in this country, we mean that our football should be like European Football and South African football where football means business for the young generation. Football should be seen as a business through which our youths could earn a living.

"Football should add money into the pockets of our young generation and change their lives because there are no jobs in the country," Thulo said.

He revealed that for branding, they were going to leave the kit not printed so that new sponsors who will come on board from now onwards, would have the opportunity to imprint their brand on the kit.

He further appealed to all Liphakoe FC fans to buy the new kit to boost their favourite club's revenue, especially now when the team is struggling to get more sponsorship.

The team's vice president Ret'silisitsoe Ramokone, echoed the same sentiments further emphasising that to manage a team playing in the Econet Premier League in this country was the big challenge which needs many sponsors to come on board.

"To manage a team in this country is a big challenge which needs financial stability. If a team does not have sufficient sponsorship it becomes a huge challenge therefore we are appealing to other business owners and stakeholders to support our team Liphakoe for it to grow," Ramokone noted.

He lamented the fact that although they had ordered the Kappa Kit a long time ago, because of logistical problems, the kit only arrived in the country on Tuesday this week.

He therefore appealed to fans of Liphakoe FC to buy their new kit, which retail at M600 in order to boost the team's revenue, further urging the Minister of Communication, Science and Technology, Chief Thesele Masiribane, who hails from Quthing where the team is based to assist them by finding more sponsors.

Liphakoe FC was promoted from A-Division in the 2014/2015 season but since then Liphakoe has been struggling to find main technical sponsors.

The team is in position 9 with 24 points after playing 20 matches and it is fighting for a position among the EPL log's top eight.

Majantja pummel Bantu

NTHE THE MAPHAONG

Mohale's Hoek - Mohale's Hoek based Econet Premier League (EPL) outfit Majantja FC last Sunday celebrated victory in the Sentebale Funeral Gap Service Cup after walloping their neighbours Bantu FC 1-0 at Mohale's Hoek Difa Stadium.

This came after EPL outfit Bantu FC based in Mafeteng district renewed vows with their long time partners Sentebale Funeral Gap Services for another three years on Wednesday last week.

To celebrate the revival of the partnership

of Bantu FC and Sentebale Funeral Gap Service as Bantu FC's new sponsor, the two teams agreed to lock horns and compete in the Sentebale Funeral Gap Cup at Mohale's Hoek Difa Stadium last Sunday.

Last week Wednesday Sentebale Funeral Gap came on board with M200 000 00 to strengthen ties in a renewed three-year relationship with Bantu FC.

Sentebale Funeral Gap had been the technical sponsor of Bantu FC assisting the team with footballing equipment such as a soccer kit and, goalkeeper's gloves, soccer balls as well as other training equipment.

An elated Majantja FC Communication and Marketing Manager T'sepang Nyakanyaka Makakole said they had won Sentebale Funeral Gap Cup after his team Majantja FC walloped Bantu FC 1-0.

However, they had only been given a Cup by Sentebale Funeral Gap as there was no prize money to go with their victory.

He further emphasised that participating in this Cup had been vital to them because they are going to share the gate takings equally with Bantu FC, adding, it in matches like this one that his team takes advantage to prepare themselves for EPL games.