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'They want power on a silver platter'

'Maesiah says Thabane worked hard for Basotho so he should enjoy

BONGIWE ZIHLANGU

Maseru - Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's belated birthday celebration was at Makhakhoeng in his native Abia Constituency just over 10 km outside the city yesterday.

Delivering her speech, Thabane's wife, First Lady 'MaEsaiah Thabane, said in May when she realised her husband had turned 80, she went into

deep thought and concluded that having worked tirelessly and selflessly for Basotho, it was her husband's turn to relax, enjoy himself and be taken care of.

She further told Thabane she wished he could live for another 80 years, but only if she'd also still be around because she wouldn't want him to live in a world without her. Possibly referring to the pro-ABC Deputy-Leader Professor Nqosa Mahao's faction, Maesaea also

said Thabane should not bow to pressure from his ABC detractors who want him to serve them "the party you worked so hard for on a silver platter".

"I was there with you, watching when you slaved and sweated for the growth and success of ABC.

"I have seen how people in politics are. When you are in power they get out of you all they can," she said. "But when you are in misery, your family is all you have."

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'Justice Ramodibedi never got his benefits'

... Judge's son calls for justice as father is laid to rest

RELEBOHILE TSOAMOTSE

MASERU - Justice Michael Ramodibedi, the former president of the Court of Appeal who died without having received his benefits despite having retired as a judge in 2013.

His son, Thato Ramolibedi told mourners at a memorial service on Friday that since Judge Ramolibeli's retirement, he had not received any of his benefits and fought for six years for the benefits in vain.

"This is the man who had spent his entire life devoted to the judiciary who in the end was isolated for fighting for the independence of the judiciary and remaining true to his oath, to apply the law without fear or favour," he said.

He said the biggest battle his father fought when alive, was the independence of the judiciary yet the biggest betrayal was the lack of support he received in his fight for benefits as a retired judge.

"Whenever issues of the doctrine of separation of powers arises, as I am sure my father's matter which saw his career in Lesotho come to end, will no doubt be cited in many court battles. Let his name not be used in vain while he himself was denied justice.

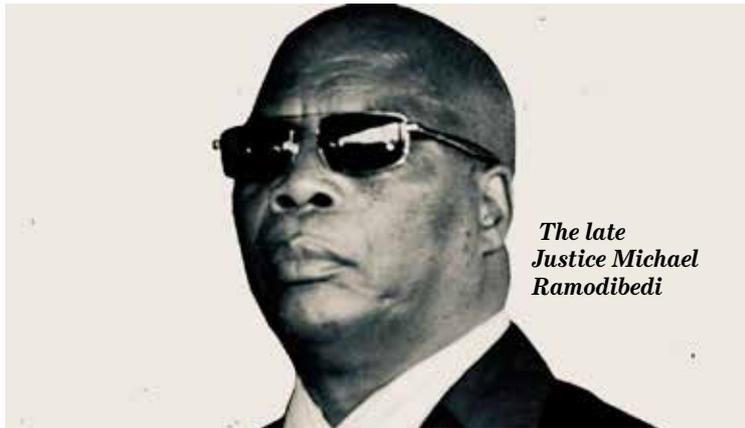
"When one thinks of the battles my father fought for his life, one also thinks about the battle for the independence of the judiciary, the biggest betrayal he received was the lack of support he received in his fight illustrated by the denial of his benefits as a retired judge," he added.

Ramolibedi called on those empowered to deal with Justice Ramolibeli's benefits to do so expeditiously.

"May we get justice for Justice Ramolibeli," he remarked.

Asked why Ramolibeli has not been paid, Public Relations Officer at the Judiciary, Mabohlokoa Mapikitla referred the paper to High Court Registrar, Advocate Ponts'o Phafoli whose mobile phone ran unanswered.

At the state funeral on Friday,



The late Justice Michael Ramodibedi

Justice Semapo Peete described the late judge as a man of humble origins and said it his humbleness that helped him attain his judicial achievements.

Justice Peete said his colleague died having reached the top position in the judiciary and administered justice without fear or favour.

"After 22 years I can safely say Ntate Ramolibedi achieved his ambition," Justice Peete said.

For her part, Acting Chief justice, 'Maseforo Mahase said judge Ramolibedi reached the pinnacle of the profession in four countries simultaneously which she said indicates his dedication to the profession.

"That Judge Ramolibedi who served in his distinguished long career that spanned nearly five decades was also an international civil servant is undeniable."

"He served in the following capacities in these countries: Chief Justice of Swaziland - from 2009 to 2015, President of the Court of Appeal of Seychelles between 2004 and 2006 and Justice of the Court of Appeal of Botswana from 2006 to 2012."

Justice Mahase also said Judge Ramolibedi contributed to the land reforms after he was appointed to Chair the Land Policy Review Commission that gave birth to the new Land Act, 2010.

His Majesty King Letsie III also passed his condolences to the family and the nation at large saying Lesotho was blessed to have been given Justice Ramolibedi.

He thanked former Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili for having nominated Justice Ramolibeli as the President of the Appeal Court and said his administration of justice was diligent. The King called on the leaders, judicial officers and lawyers to learn from judge Ramolibedi and rededicate themselves to serving justice.

"Let us rededicate ourselves to serve justice, to respect the law, to respect the constitution, to respect constitutionalism in all its forms and let us rededicate ourselves to work towards reconciliation and peace."

"That is how we can all remember Justice Ramolibedi," he added. While serving as Chief Justice of Eswatini he was relieved of his duties as the country by His Majesty King Mswati III on June 17, 2015 for gross misconduct and defeating the ends of justice.

He suspended Justice Thomas Masuku of the High Court of Swaziland, stating that Masuku had insulted him and King Mswati III.

Ramolibedi was born on May 24, 1945 and served in several Commonwealth countries in Africa. He was a graduate of the University of Botswana, Lesotho, and Eswatini.

While at the helm of the Judiciary of Eswatini, Justice Ramodibedi had numerous clashes with the Law Society of Swaziland (LSS) and the local media over the way he oversaw the country's Judiciary. However, on April 17,

2015, the High Court of Eswatini issued a warrant for his arrest, on charges related to abuse of office. But instead of surrendering to the relevant authorities, Justice Ramodibedi locked himself in his allocated house at the judges' complex for 37 days arguing he was immune to prosecution because of the position he held.

On June 17, 2015, King Mswati III sacked Justice Ramodibedi, but dropped all the charges he was facing. The judge was then allowed to leave the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Back home in Lesotho, Ramodibedi will be remembered for the controversial statements he made as President of the Court of Appeal in 2011 while presiding over a case of the former ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) under the premiership of former Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili.

Mosisili had fallen out with his LCD NEC and the dispute spilled into the courts where Ramodibedi said he could not make a judgment that would lead to the demise of the ruling party saying something to the effect that "I will not allow the ruling party to collapse in my hands".

That statement attracted the ire of the then main opposition All Basotho Convention (ABC) and other smaller opposition parties, who felt that the judge had shown unprofessionally shown his political colours.

Ramodibedi also had a well-documented and protracted battle over seniority with former Chief Justice Mahapela Lehohla, who insisted that as Chief Justice he was senior to Ramodibedi, who on the other hand felt that being President of the Apex Court made him senior.

So intense was the fight between Lesotho's senior-most judges that in February 2013, Prime Minister Thabane who had now unseated Mosisili, pleaded with the two judges to resign in order to preserve the integrity of the judiciary.

While Lehohla resigned and was subsequently appointed Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Lesotho, Ramodibedi defied Thabane leading to the premier instigating the judge's impeachment.

It was believed that in 2015 when Mosisili retained power, he would reappoint Ramodibedi to the apex court, but the legal fraternity was intent on frustrating the move.

Ramolibedi was laid to rest yesterday at Manyatseng in Ladybrand, South Africa.

KANANELO BOLOETSE

MASERU - The European Union (EU)'s ambassador, Dr Christian Manahl, on Friday trod carefully while discussing the composition of the awaited National Reforms Authority (NRA) which has lately become a major bone of contention with polarising views.

According to the NRA Bill which was passed by parliament on August 15, the authority will comprise one representative from each of the 35 political parties registered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

In addition to the 35 politicians, the authority will be composed of 19 representatives for each of the rest of other sectors which include youth, chiefs, business, labour, people with disabilities, women, farmers and media, among others.

Different youth organisations have criticised this structure saying a large proportion of seats has been allocated to political parties with minimal involvement of youth representatives.

Initially they were fighting for a 40 percent representation of youth in the authority but on Thursday they told the Senate's legislative committee that the Bill should be amended to increase the number of NRA seats "with voting rights to reflect 25 percent representation."

According to the youth, the composition of the authority flies in the face of the key principles of the National Reforms Framework and Roadmap which is a guiding document for the reforms process.

Specifically, the principle of inclusiveness and participation which states that the reforms will involve the full diversity of Basotho without discrimination of political, social or other status.

Asked if he thinks the composition of the authority truly reflects the structure of the Lesotho community, Manahl said: "It is not up to me to respond to this question. This was a decision taken by the National Leaders Forum."

He added: "Are there enough young people, are there enough women represented in it? That now depends on the entities which can appoint members to this authority. They are all political parties and of course it is up to each and every political party to appoint a youth or

EU envoy treads carefully on National Reforms authority



The European Union (EU)'s ambassador Dr Christian Manahl

woman, it is their decision. We will see what they come up with."

The EU has contributed 324 000 euros (over M5 million) to facilitate the smooth completion of the reforms dialogue. This contribution is part of a co-ordinated support programme funded jointly by the United Nations (UN) and the EU.

"But let me say that at first sight I also had the impression that perhaps there is a bit of overhang on the political side because all 35 of the 55 are representatives of political parties. But I am not sure whether that is such a bad thing because, after all, it will be the political leadership that has to implement," Manahl said.

"What do we mean by implementation? It means defining administrative

regulations, passing legislation or at least, in some cases, passing constitutional amendments which will require two thirds majority in parliament.

"And these are done by politicians, by members of parliament and they are representing political parties so I believe it is perhaps not a bad thing that they are all represented in that authority," he added.

He further indicated that the NRA mandate must be to receive a clear blue print and oversee its implementation.

"They should not discuss what has to be done. That is what is being done now and it is going to be concluded with the second plenary. The NRA should implement or oversee the implementation and I believe

there was enough opportunity for all sectors of society to express their views on these reforms," he said.

When defending the composition of the structure, politicians always argue that blame is always put squarely on their shoulders for plunging the country into an abyss and say they must be part of the reforms process so that they can fix what they broke.

Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) leader Mothetjoa Metsing on Friday indicated that it was important that political parties should deploy young people or women to the authority.

Metsing, a former deputy prime minister, said youth's calls for more representation in the authority made sense.

News

Cagey govt stalls listing of SOEs on local bourse

NEO SENOKO

Maseru - The Central Bank of Lesotho is in talks with cagey government authorities to convince them to consider listing Lesotho's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) on the stock exchange similar to what countries such as China, Malaysia and Singapore have done.

This was revealed by the CBL's Bohlale Matsoso on Thursday this week during the first Lesotho Investors and Financiers Forum that was aimed at sharing ideas on how the private sector can easily access finance to kick-start projects that are set to revive the country's ailing economy.

Access to finance has been categorised as the main stumbling block hampering the country's private sector from realising its full potential.

CBL wants the SOEs to be listed on the Maseru Securities Market (MSM) - an initiative of the government which is executed by the CBL and created to facilitate the centralised trading of financial securities in the country.

MSM is part of wider financial sector reforms aimed at improving the financial sector in the country and to encourage wider share ownership companies in Lesotho while also facilitating raising medium to long-term capital.

It was established by law in 2014 through the publication of Capital Markets Regulations of 2014 and launched in 2016 but there is no listed company on the bourse yet despite CBL's efforts which include road shows and meetings with prospective clients. "We have been trying for the longest time to talk with government and the LNDC (Lesotho National Development Corporation) to offload some of the shares they have in the SOEs and we are still talking though it is taking us a long time to reach consensus," Matsoso said.

He pointed out though that a listing should not be confused with privatisation.

In some countries, listing of SOEs on the stock exchange resulted in the realignment of their ownership models allowing the private sector to invest in those enterprises. In South Africa Telkom, a semi-privatised, 39-percent state-owned enterprise, is a case in point.

China's SOEs reportedly account for nearly 40 percent of that country's stock market.

Total operating profits for the top 60 listed Chinese SOEs (excluding banks) have risen by 17 percent since 2016, according to the Economist, which cites Bloomberg data.

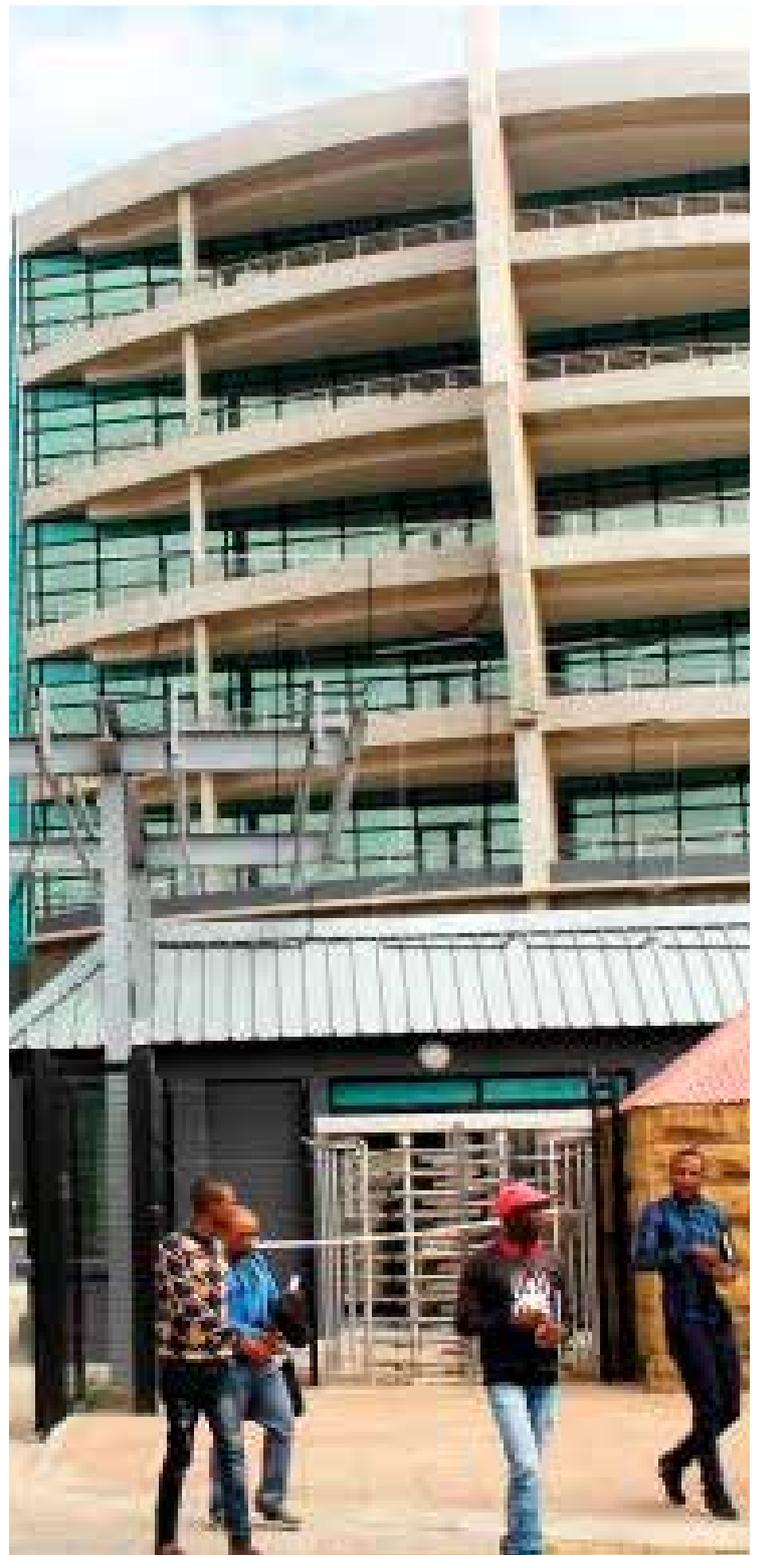
"We want to have few of them (SOEs) listed on the stock exchange because it comes with a lot of benefits. For instance, it can help introduce good governance, management discipline, issues of disclosure, as well as profitability," he added.

In 2010, the CBL started to revamp and reorganise itself into developing the money market and the capital markets.

The initiative was part of National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) to start and incubate the stock exchange until such time that it can mature to become an independent institute so that the private sector can buy into it. It started by developing the short-end treasury bill market before fast-tracking towards the development of the government debt market which is now alive and well.

As it stands, CBL issues treasury bonds on behalf of government from the maturities of three to 10 years. This also serves as a yardstick for the private sector when they wish to issue bonds.

"The platform is ready and we are waiting for application to that effect so that the private sector, companies and everybody can raise funds through the debt



market. We have the capacity now to help companies and government to issue debt and equity. We have licensed three brokers, the Motsoeli Securities, Standard Lesotho Bank and Katleho Securities," Matsoso said. Many state-owned enterprises in Lesotho have been struggling to make profits for a long time, a condition that has been attributed to poor management skills and lack of clear guidelines towards running such institutions.

The country has witnessed abuse of power by people who were entrusted to run state-owned enterprises and in some cases such businesses ended up being privatised or folding up due to poor corporate governance.

However, if government can offload some of the shares it holds in these companies, the situation that has been going on for a long time is likely to improve as companies are likely to start realising profits.



Eddie Poone will be laid to rest in Lesotho on 31 August 2019

Eulogy in honour of colourful Eddie Poone

SILAS MONYATSI

Eddie and I have come a long way from the days of the notorious punks in Maseru in the mid-eighties. We were both punks and he was a biker on a small scrambler. We also featured in the American Ninja IV together as Sulphur Springs punks' extras back in 1989.

Eddie was always ahead of us in many things talentwise.

He used to be a great biker and he would scoop all beautiful dames whilst we shrunk in fear.

Eddie joined the most feared diamond smuggling business from a very tender age and he endured the swindling, chicanery and cunning nuances that come with this business.

We all know it is a dangerous business where death lingers by the thread of a cliff. Eddie managed to manoeuvre and navigate up until he became a legal practitioner in diamond dealing business and he soared

to higher skies to become a diamond mogul. He was one of a kind. He turned an elusive yearning of acquiring money into reality. He had cash in colt solidity. He manipulated all the imaginative usage of money that a man can dream of. Like King Solomon, Eddie mingled with women and girls for amusement and ecstasy, marred with saturated fantasy. He became a genie for many girls and he would save a day for them.

Eddie was so loyal to his Johnny Walker branded whiskey, with Gold Label being his most preferred. We have shared many great moments with this guy.

Only that I left that life to convert into being a God serving man and Eddie used to encourage me on that and he used to love when I sing for the Lord at funerals of friends, especially Khotso Mokebe's funeral to be particular.

Eddie never went to church and I used to wonder whether he would burn in hell according to

my made-up Christian doctrines and beliefs.

I would even forget there's God to judge us, but honestly I never really judged Eddie, but just used to wonder because in fair reality I used to admire his life to some degree.

Eddie loved sport cars and he had every expensive car a man would dream of.

Eddie was something like a lie yet he was for real. He used to pester me to cover his lifestyle on camera and I would go around in circles fearing that he won't pay me and he would embarrass me in front of his girls by pushing me around and shouting at me and ultimately refusing to pay me well.

The other time he offered me M1,500 whilst I had asked for M10,000 for a video coverage of his charity event when he was bestowing a philanthropic gesture of giving food and grocery hampers to orphaned children in Thaba-Bosiu.

I managed to make him settle

on M2,000 and I took it since I was very broke that Christmas. I still have the video even up to date... I will still do a film on him even post his departure. I still owe it to him.

Go well Lekoko mei autie. You were a miracle. You were a dream.

***Eulogy of a well-known diamond dealer and socialite, Edward "Eddie" Poone. Republished from famous camera person Silas Monyatsi's Facebook page.**

Poone, 45, reportedly died in Johannesburg on Thursday night following what was believed to have been a severe allergic reaction while eating seafood at a restaurant in Sandton on the fateful night.

A memorial service will be held for Poone on Wednesday, August 28, at the St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Dutoitspan Road, Kimberley, at 5:30 pm.

He will be buried in Lesotho on August 31, 2019.

News

New HIV/Aids blueprint developed

MATHATISI SEBUSI

MASERU - Lesotho has developed a new National HIV and AIDS strategic plan to accelerate and recalibrate HIV response, in a long term bid to end the Aids pandemic by 2030.

The plan comes after the Ministry of Health and stakeholders working together to eradicating HIV and AIDS revealed that Lesotho is experiencing 13 000 new HIV infections annually despite efforts taken to reduce transmission.

This was revealed by Maseabata Mathebane who is a board member at the National AIDS Commission (NAC).

She said Lesotho, together with other member states, seeks to end AIDS by 2030 and reduce new infections by 75%, and commitments are still critical to Lesotho as it is heavily affected by the epidemic with a high prevalence at 25.6 % (30.4% in females and 20.8% in males).

She said estimates show there are 306 000 adults aged 15 years and older living with HIV and 13 000 children aged between 0 to 14 years of age.

“Evidence also indicates that annual HIV incidence declined marginally, placing Lesotho at the top of countries with high incidence globally.

“The HIV epidemic in Lesotho is generalised and hyper endemic, with HIV prevalence highest in female sex workers, men having sex with other men, factory workers and the prison population,” Mathebane said.

She noted even though the main mode of transmission is heterosexual contact, the underlying causes are entrenched in socio-cultural and economic dimensions.

Mathebane said HIV is the main driver of Lesotho’s twin epidemic with tuberculosis; where TB is a leading cause of mortality among people living with HIV.

The National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2018/19- 2022/23 has been designed to accelerate

and calibrate the HIV response.

The plan was developed through a multi-stakeholder consultative process; with a multisectoral steering committee, task teams and technical working groups consisting of the government, development partners, civil society - including networks of people living with HIV, representatives of key populations, the private sector groups, national and international peer reviews, and national validation.

The vision of the National HIV and AIDS Plan 2018/19 - 2022/23 is ending AIDS by 2030 with three strategic goals: reducing new HIV infections from 13 300 in 2017 by at least by 50% by 2023, reducing AIDS-related deaths by 50% by 2023 from 4 900 in 2017 and eliminate mother-to-child transmission from 11.3 % to less than 5% by 2023.

Dr Karabo Mokobocho said the most vulnerable people to get infected are those that are marginalized, normally known

as key populations. She said key populations due to specific reasons are considered to be at very high risk due to social and legal issues related to their behaviour.

“Key populations are very important to the dynamics of HIV prevention. They are also essential partners in an effective response to the epidemic,” she said. She noted in order for the country to make progress in HIV response, it is imperative to provide quality programmes that address social and legal barriers to access HIV services.

She added service providers and general population need to change their mindset when it comes to key populations.

“Issues of stigma, discrimination, poverty and lack of friendly services are among restrictions that key populations endure,” she said.

UNFPA representative to Lesotho Dr Marc Derveeuw expressed concern that HIV prevention seems to have fallen off the cracks while more focus is on treatment.

MAPALO NKHELOANE

MASERU - The Water and Sewage Company (WASCO)’s women employees on Friday joined South Africa in paying tribute to more than 20,000 women who marched to Union Building in Pretoria in 1956 in protest against the extension of pass laws to women.

The gesture was part of Women’s Month celebrations.

“Women are important and have strength to either build or destroy. I however believe WASCO female workers will use their strengths to build the company,” said the company’s Chief Executive Officer Futho Hoohlo while addressing the employees.

Hoohlo said of the seven officers who make up the company’s executive team, only one is a woman.

“That needs to be fixed. There are 25 heads of departments but only seven of them are women. That also must be fixed,” he said.

Hoohlo, who was appointed the company’s CEO earlier this month, revealed that WASCO’s

Wasco workers pay tribute to SA women’s historic 1956 Union Building march

management was embarking on a five-year-strategic plan and some of the issues to be reviewed include Female Leadership Empowerment.

Hoohlo thanked the celebration’s two sponsors, Metropolitan Lesotho and Mammoth for their support.

International Women’s Day is on March 8, and for those who often wonder why South Africa celebrates women’s month in August, a little walk down memory lane may provide a reminder.

On the August 9, 1956, more than 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings in protest against the Pass Laws which were the apartheid government’s single most powerful weapon against the freedom of movement of black South Africans.

With their courageous act of marching to Apartheid’s citadel of power, these women put apartheid on notice.

The first democratically elected government of South



Africa declared August women’s month and the first National Women’s Day was celebrated on 9 August 1995.

The day now draws attention to significant issues African women still face, such as parenting, domestic violence, sexual harassment in the workplace and unequal pay.

And August is no longer just a celebration of a single act of female solidarity, but is rather a month devoted to a more general recognition of the spirit and accomplishment of African women.

Speaking at the celebration,

Rebecca Makhalemele, one of the founders of a women organisation “Ifo Lapeng” that deals with gender-based violence indicated that African Women’s month is there to celebrate achievements of women who contribute to global development in three aspects being: culture, politics, and the economy. “Perhaps next year around this time again women working here will be celebrating some of their achievements as far as developing WASCO is concerned. Perhaps next year women here will be celebrating promotions,” Makhalemele said.



Justice Fosa

Hunger stalks water-scarce Mohale's Hoek

...local chief pleads for food aid

due to the late onset of rains. Government did not supply us with fertiliser and seeds on time so we delayed planting," said the chief.

Mosiuoia pleaded with government to ease food shortages this year through its various feeding schemes.

UNFPA specialist Nadia Al Harithi told reporters while on a tour of Mohale's Hoek there was urgent need to provide women and children with basic services, including safe water and sanitation.

This way their health, educational advancement and overall well-being will be greatly improved.

International human rights law obligates the government of Lesotho to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas so that they can enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to sanitation and water supply.

According to a number of United Nations conventions the government of Lesotho should combat disease and malnutrition through provision of adequate food and clean water.

When access to water and sanitation are guaranteed, women and children are less vulnerable to harassment, threats and sexual violence which they face when fetching water at some distance or using sanitation facilities outside the home. "The lack of water availability during drought periods also forces Basotho living in rural areas to opt to use unprotected sources such as natural wells also used by animals," said Nadia.

In some cases, both humans and animals compete for the same water sources.

A village in the highlands, composed of approximately 200 households, for example, relies on several water sources - from rain water if there is any rain, dug wells that have almost dried up, and public taps which have no water at all.

Minister in the Prime Minister's office Temeki Ts'olo revealed recently the Thabane administration needs M203 million to buy food for 640 000 Basotho who are staring at possible food shortages.

Ts'olo noted that in total 487 857 people countrywide are facing hunger, the bulk of them from rural areas. "Last year May, only 257 283 people needed food assistance, in November the number increased to 273 635 and this year it has increased to 487 857," he said.

He added that the most vulnerable districts are Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek and Maseru.

"Under this situation, the country has a shortage of 25 255MT of food which costs M203 million," Ts'olo said.

Ts'olo noted that the government was already working with local and international partners to address the needs of affected Basotho.

He said the government was exploring options to allocate resources and was counting on the support of its partners.

The government plans are, meanwhile, cold comfort to Mosiuoa who has to deal with hungry villagers daily. "My homestead is always full of people asking for food but I can only do so much. I hope government steps in quickly."

LEROOTHO LETSATSI

MOHALE'S HOEK - Justice Fosa breeds livestock for sale.

The 60-year-old Mohale's Hoek villager is not a very happy man though.

Not only is his village dry, but his livestock is now suffering the after-effects of persistent drought. "There is no grass and water here, so we take our animals to South Africa where we pay Afrikaners to graze our livestock," says Fosa.

The villagers pay M50 per head per month to graze their animals on South Africa farms.

Because of recurrent droughts Mesitsaneng villagers told Public Eye on Sunday recently they need food aid to survive until the next harvest.

The villagers complained that water for domestic use was also scarce owing to a receding water table and this had caused taps to run dry as well.

As such, the women and children walk long distances to fetch potable water. "Water is as much a problem as food in this village," says Fosa. To compound the situation

stock theft has become a huge problem as well.

"Life has become hard in this village. We have a number of challenges ranging from food shortages to stock theft.

"This has spawned conflict between the villagers as people snatch each other's animals from the communal pastures," he said.

The atmosphere has become so toxic that even relatives are afraid to visit each other across village lines. Environmental experts attribute the drought to climate change which they blame for the sharp drop in people's living standards.

The World Bank says the majority of Basotho survive on less than M30 (\$1.90) a day, the global absolute minimum.

Chief Malemanye Mosiuoa said a combination of late rains and a lack of fertilisers and other inputs had adversely affected their yield.

"Generally, the crop condition was poor due to moisture deficit as such vegetable production is very poor this year compared to last years.

"On the whole, the current summer cropping was delayed

Sport

THE BEST SUNDAY READ



Hero's return to Bantu for Mafoso

NTHAKO MAJORO

MASERU - Former Kick4Life coach Bob Mafoso left the new Europa side to re-join former Lesotho champions, Bantu, in a two-year renewable contract.

According to Bantu spokesperson, Bokang Phasumane, Mafoso started work on Tuesday this week following the resignation of James Madidilane three weeks ago.

The former Bloemfontein Celtic defender (Madidilane) went back to South Africa where he is reportedly joined a team campaigning in the lower division, ABC Motsepe League.

Before he resigned to join Kick4Life at the beginning of last season, Mafoso was working

with Madidilane as assistant coach and together they guided Bantu to winning the league title back-to-back in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons.

"Bantu's new coach is Atang Bob Mafoso. He started work yesterday," Phasumane told Public Eye in an interview on Wednesday this week.

"And he has signed a two-year renewable contract with us." Phasumane further said: "You will remember that he first joined Bantu as the assistant coach in 2016/17 until the 2017/18 season and in those two seasons Bantu won the league title.

"But you will realise last season Bantu finished on second position in the premier league and it was after Mafoso left."

Before joining Bantu for the first time three seasons ago,

Mafoso was the head coach for the former Lesotho premier league side, Sandawana FC, who he guided to the fourth position in his first season.

Phasumane said Mafoso knows Bantu's culture very well and that's one of the reasons why the Mafeteng outfit decided to re-engage him after Madidilane left.

"After Madidilane resigned we recalled that the only coach who knows Bantu's culture is Mafoso, and that's why it was important for the club's management to bring him back," Phasumane said, adding that what had also made them choose Mafoso over other coaches in the country was his good behaviour."

Phasumane said apart from that, Mafoso is undoubtedly one of the best coaches in Lesotho.

He said that was why he was

recently also appointed head coach of the Lesotho Under-20 national side, Makoanyane XI.

Mafoso is being assisted by Teboho Tsiu and Dlomo Monaphathi as first and second assistant coaches respectively.

The two recently guided Bantu to winning the Alliance Winter Challenge last weekend where they beat Matlama 2-1 in the semi-final and Lioli 1-0 in the final.

Phasumane said Mafoso's main mandate is to win the league title, including all the cup games.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday Kick4Life announced Katiso Mojakhomo as their new head coach. Mojakhomo has coached numerous top teams including the Lesotho Correctional Service (LCS) FC, Lioli and Bantu before.