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News

Glimmer of hope for seven convicts

RELEBOHILE TSOAMOTSE

...apex court threatens to quash sentences

MASERU – At least seven convicts could have verdicts they are appealing quashed if the chief public prosecutor fails to produce lower court records outlining their cases, Public Eye on Sunday can report.

Appeal Court President, Justice Kananelo Mosito has directed the Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane to appear in the apex on October 14 to explain why the prisoners' appeals should not be granted.

This is because her office has since 2011 failed to produce records from lower courts for the cases to proceed in the apex court.

In a circular to the DPP but copied to the Attorney General, Crown Counsel, Law Society and the Legal aid, Justice Mosito said the criminal appeals have been enrolled from 2011 but have not been decided yet because records of their proceedings have not been filed.

He said the DPP should explain why the appeals in question may not be quashed because of miscarriage of justice and unfair trial process.

The Assistant Registrar of the Appeal Court, Advocate Mosito Rabotsoa wrote the circular.

“Kindly take notice... Criminal Appeals had been enrolled as filed with the Court of Appeal between the years of 2011 and 2019 respectively. In all of these appeals the appellants are in prison helplessly awaiting finalization of their criminal appeals now pending before the Court of Appeal. Some of the appellants had been sentenced to death penalty.

“Section 12 of the Constitution of Lesotho, 1993, provides for the right to a fair trial in respect of all persons. The appellants in these appeals are entitled to be heard within reasonable time as they are not exempted from the said right by virtue of having been found guilty by the High Court.

“In light of the above, the President of the Court of Appeal has directed me to inform you to appear before the Court on the 14th / 10/2019 to explain why these criminal appeals should



not be disposed of in light of Rule 7(1) of the Court of Appeal Rules 2006, read with s 12 of the Constitution of Lesotho 1993 as well as s 3(1) of the Court of Appeal (Amendment) Act No 8 of 1985 on the grounds of miscarriage of justice unfair trial processes,” the circular further reads.

Rule 7 (1) of the Court of Appeals rules states: “The appellant or his attorney in civil matters and the Director of Public Prosecution’s office in criminal matters shall be responsible for the preparation of the court’s record and shall be liable to an adverse order of costs including an order de bonis propriis in the event of dereliction of his duty.”

On the other hand, section 12 of the Constitution stipulates that a person who has been charged with a criminal offence,

unless the charge is withdrawn shall be afforded a fair hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial court established by law. The Appeal Court can grant the appeals in the cases.

The next court session is on October 15 following its special sitting in July. The sitting comes amid attempts by Prime Minister Thomas Thabane to get rid of Justice Mosito.

Thabane on July 5 accused Justice Mosito of incompetence and threatened him with suspension to make way for an inquiry into his conduct and fitness to hold office.

Thabane was however interdicted by the Appeal Court from suspending Mosito, at least until the Constitutional Court and Appeal Court had finalized the cases in which the Law Society of Lesotho has challenged his intentions to

suspend Mosito.

Thabane however served Justice Mosito with a fresh “show cause” letter on August 14, this time he took issue with Mosito’s continued employment at the National University of Lesotho whilst he remained the President of the Court of Appeal.

He said Mosito’s employment relationship with the NUL might compromise his independence, impartiality, integrity and competency as a judicial officer.

The law society again intervened and instituted a court application to prevent Thabane from suspending Mosito. The case is yet to be heard in the Constitutional Court but Thabane now wants all local judges to recuse themselves from the case.

The recusal application will be argued on September 24.



MALUTI ADVENTIST COLLEGE

Private Bag 2019
Ficksburg, 9730
South Africa
Tel: +266 2254 0203/11
Fax: +266 2254 0230
Email: malutison@gmail.com
P.O. Box 11
Mapoteng, 250
Lesotho

POST: ADMINISTRATOR /HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a position of Human Resource Officer at Maluti Adventist College. The incumbent will be responsible for providing support in the various human resources functions, which include, but not limited to, recruitment, training and development, performance monitoring and employees counselling, also serving the administrative activities and meeting the strategic needs of the college and Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) service standards. He/she will coordinate the delivery of Human resource management services in compliance with local/national laws and SDA regulations and policies.

Key Responsibilities will include:

- Provides support to supervisors and staff to develop the skills and capabilities of staff
- Overseeing the college operations and managing groups
- Coordinate with management and engaging planning according to the needs of the college
- Coordinating clerical and administrative activities
- Developing, interpreting and enforcing college work policies and procedures.
- Monitor staff performance and attendance activities.
- Recruiting and orientating college staff.
- Provide information and assistance to staff, supervisors and management on human resource and work related issues.
- Coordinate and provide support to college administrative activities
- Coordinate labour relations issues

PERSONAL QUALITIES TO INCLUDE:

Professional and business-like in demeanour; honest and of high integrity; strong interpersonal skills; assertive; diplomatic interpersonal skills; ability to build strong professional relationships with a range of stakeholders in a multicultural environment; able to conceptualize and solve problems; results oriented "hands-on" manager; energetic and enthusiastic; a good listener, open to new ideas and a "team player"

QUALIFICATIONS/ REQUIREMENTS:

- Degree in Human Resource Management (or equivalent)
- At least 3-5 years relevant experience working in human resource management or similar environment
- High level of proficiency in relevant computer applications including Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

ADVANTAGES

- Business administration diploma/degree
- Experience living and/working in developed countries
- Acquaintance with SDA working policies

SALARY

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Interested candidates may send their applications to The Rector's office Maluti Adventist College, P.O Box 11, Mapoteng 250 or Email to: patanemzamo@maluti.adventist.org

Please Note: All applications must be accompanied by a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae and reference letters from three (3) Referees. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

The closing date: 20th September 2019. Maluti Adventist College reserves the right to appoint a suitable candidate for the position.

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE:

1. Clear certified copies of identity documents, educational certificates, professional bodies stated must be attached. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
2. Documents submitted with applications, including curriculum vitae, will not be returned.
3. Applicants must meet the minimum requirement/s indicated in the advertisement before lodging an application. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
4. The MAC reserves the right to verify the authenticity of all documents submitted,
5. "The MAC reserves the right not to appoint" or to re-advertise to widen the pool of applicants
6. Verification will be conducted on preferred candidates only. MAC reserves the right to do a complete verification of the information you have provided. By completing and submitting this form you authorize MAC to submit your personal details to our external service providers to verify your identity, qualifications, previous criminal convictions and any other data related to minimum requirements.
7. MAC reserves the right to contact your referees or request additional referees.
 - Provides support to supervisors and staff to develop the skills and capabilities of staff
 - Overseeing the college operations and managing groups
 - Coordinate with management and engaging planning according to the needs of the college
 - Coordinating clerical and administrative activities
 - Developing, interpreting and enforcing college work policies and procedures.
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Lesotho

POST: NURSE EDUCATOR (3)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a position of a Nurse Educator at Maluti Adventist College (MAC) under the direct supervision of Head of Programme, and Deputy Rector Academics.

The Nurse Educator is responsible for both classroom and clinical teaching, student evaluation, guiding and counselling; and maintenance of academic records. He/She is responsible for meeting all the strategic goals of MAC and Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) service standards. He/she will manage and coordinate the delivery of quality nurse education services in compliance with local/national laws and SDA regulations and policies.

Key Responsibilities will include:

- Helps students with skills that will enable them practice intelligently and reflectively in a changing health care systems
- Participate in the development and implementation of the curriculum
- Monitors functionality of the clinical laboratory and support of the students in clinical practice
- Promotes academic and professional growth of students

PERSONAL QUALITIES TO INCLUDE:

Professional and business-like in demeanour; honest and of high integrity; strong interpersonal skills; assertive; diplomatic interpersonal skills; ability to build strong professional relationships with a range of stakeholders in a multicultural environment; able to conceptualize and solve problems; results oriented "hands-on" manager; energetic and enthusiastic; a good listener, open to new ideas and a "team player"

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS/ REQUIREMENTS:

- BA degree in Nursing Education or BSc in Nursing Sciences (with Nursing Education) plus
- At least 3-5 years of work experience in a fast-paced output-oriented environment.
- At least 2 years working experience in the clinical environment
- A minimum of 3 years teaching experience
- High level of proficiency in relevant computer applications including Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Have strong verbal and written communication

LICENSE AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Must obtain and maintain registration with Lesotho Nursing Council and be a member of a professional association

ADDED ADVANTAGES

- Master's Degree in Nursing Education, Public Health or other related field
- Experience living and/working in developed countries
- Prior experience in Nursing Management and Education

SALARY

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Interested candidates may send their applications to The Rector's office at Maluti Adventist College Mapoteng 250 or Email to: patanemzamo@maluti.adventist.org Please Note: All applications must be accompanied by a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae and reference letters from three (3) Referees. Only short listed applicants will be contacted. The closing date: 20th September 2019. Maluti Adventist College reserves the right to appoint a suitable candidate for the position.

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8. AC reserves the right to contact your referees or request additional referees.

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Power couple in land fight

KANANELO BOLOETSE

MASERU – Local business woman ‘Maposholi Mosothoane and her husband Mosothoane are embroiled in a court battle with a saloon owner over a prime piece of fallow land opposite Pioneer Mall, the country’s swankiest mall in Maseru.

The land held under lease no. 12284-387, which stands at the crossroads of two main roads Mpilo Boulevard and Pioneer Road near the Centre for Accounting Studies (CAS), is prime real estate worth M6 137 000.

Mosothoane is no stranger to brutal court battles.

She is known for suing the Ministry of Police in 2016 arguing that it had corruptly awarded a tender for supply police uniforms to two allegedly unqualified companies, Cubana Shells, and Naleli Outdoor Advertising.

Her company, Smally Trading, had tendered and felt it had good prospects of winning.

In 2018, she successfully challenged the Ministry of Defence and National Security’s decision to award contracts for the supply of Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) uniform to two local companies, Malebo Tailoring Company and Petra Group of Companies (Pty) Ltd.

According to papers filed in the district land court for Maseru by Mosothoane and her husband in the latest court battle, the couple entered into a sale agreement of that land with a local company N&N Basotho Hairdressing Saloon is June 2006.

Subsequently, a deed of transfer was drawn and documentation pertaining to the site were given to the Mosothoane couple who in turn kept them in the custody of their lawyer ‘Naki Nku.

The couple said in their court papers they paid M250 000 – an agreed amount for the sale of the land – in full.

After the payment, the prospective buyers and N&N Basotho Hairdressing Saloon director Lebohang Ntloale then proceeded to the LSPP (Land Administration Authority predecessor) to prepare a new lease and filed transfer forms.

...M6 million land at stake



Local business woman ‘Maposholi Mosothoane

However, a transfer was not successful as one of the directors at LSPP refused to sign the papers due to “internal disputes” in that organization.

“It has to be highlighted that when the applicants bought the site in question, it was very rocky and bushy and as a result, they excavated it in 2008 to put it in the current shape and value,” the couple said in its papers.

The couple reportedly spent M120 000 excavating and improving the site.

“It also has to be noted that after the improvements done by the applicants, the site in question is now valued to the tune of M6 137 000,” it added.

But in 2016, the Mosothoanes told the court, another director of N&N Basotho Hairdressing Saloon Mpho Neko went to the offices of advocate Nku to ask for the original lease indicating that they wanted to sell the site to some investors and would refund and compensate the initial buyers.

The family said weeks later, a director of another local company Sea Point Investment – cited in court papers as second respondent – also went to the offices of advocate Nku offering to purchase the site but in vain.

The couple also told the court that when they realized that they could not resell the site, one of the directors of Hairdressing Saloon arranged a meeting with her at Maseru Central Charge office asking the police to intervene and compel her to give back the lease.

“She was dismissed,” the couple said.

To their dismay, Mosothoane

saw the directors of Sea Point Investment around January and February 2018, demarcating and excavating the site.

When she enquired, they told her that they had bought the site from the saloon.

The saloon owners had advertised the site in a local newspaper in October 2017 indicating that its lease was lost.

When she went to the LAA to confirm if the site’s lease was reported lost, she was shown a notice of lost lease which was gazette in December 2017.

The notice read: “All persons having objections to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge them in writing to the Land registrar within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.”

Mosothoane said she reported the matter to the police’s department of fraud at police headquarters.

She argued that the directors of the saloon knew very well that the lease was in the custody of advocate Nku when they publicized that it was lost.

The couple wants the notice of lost lease as well as the deed of sale between the saloon and new buyers nullified and the new lease “premised on this fraudulent information be cancelled”.

On Tuesday last week, the couple’s lawyers wrote to Phoofole and Associates – a law firm representing the Sea Point Investment – asking them to “kindly advise your client to stop interfering with the site forming subject matter hereof with immediate effect”.

They added: “It is prudent that all parties await the decision

of the District Labour Court.”

The directors of the saloon, on the other hand, argue that the matter does not fall under the jurisdiction of the district land court.

They argue further that the same matter is pending in the High Court and therefore the district land court cannot “endeavor to make determination on it”.

They also hotly denied Mosothoane’s charges.

“The retention of a lease by a legal practitioner is illegal. If the lease remains in her custody to date, she is amenable to criminal prosecution as it is in her possession without the consent and/or endorsement of the title deed holders,” they said in their answering affidavit.

“Neko said this was why she went to the police to seek their intervention and she was well within her rights.

She also argued the transaction Mosothoane couple entered into with the purported saloon director Ntloale in 2006 is a nullity on the basis that it was not endorsed or authorized by the legitimate directors of the company.

“Therefore the contention that the applicants and Miss Lebohang Ntloale proceeded to prepare the lease does not in any manner establish the applicants right in so far as the lease is concerned,” Neko said.

She also argued that the money that Mosothoane claimed she paid for the land was never paid to her business. “There was no valid sale agreement concluded between the applicants and the respondents.”

She challenged the validity of the consent form the Mosothoane couple contend to have obtained. “It is challenged premised on the fact that its issuance ought to have been done in accordance with the Land regulations.”

She also took issue with the evaluation report submitted to the court.

Neko also told the court that the publication of the notice of the lost lease was on the advice of the LAA because advocate Nku had refused to release the lease.

Sea Point Investments has already hired HS Construction company to level the site and remove all rocks, soil and trees. The contract is worth M390 060.

The company has also solicited quotations for the architectural design for a commercial complex.

Lesotho marks ozone layer day

NEO SENOKO

...factory workers involved

MASERU - Lesotho has joined the rest of the world in commemorating the international ozone layer day which is celebrated annually on September 16.

The day is celebrated to spread awareness and bring attention to the dangers of depleting the ozone layer throughout the world.

The ozone layer is the fragile shield of gas which protects the earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

International Ozone day therefore stresses the need for the international community to limit the production and release of harmful gases into the atmosphere.

Lesotho was celebrating the day after ratifying an international treaty adopted in Montreal Canada on September 16 1987. The treaty aimed to regulate the production and use of chemicals that contribute to the depletion of earth's ozone layer.

Initially signed by 46 countries, the treaty now has nearly 200 signatories.

The phase out of controlled uses of ozone depleting substances and related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for the current and future generations but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change as well as protecting human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth.

The commemoration plays a crucial role and acts as a perfect platform to discuss several measures that can be undertaken towards ensuring the wellbeing of the planet earth.

Globally, the international ozone layer day is celebrated through different initiatives that include seminars, speeches and exhibitions through different platforms.

Held under the theme, "32 years of healing" this year in Lesotho, the occasion was celebrated in style with the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology spending the



Minister of Energy and Meteorology Tsukutlane Au

day with hundreds of factory workers from Maseru and Maputsoe.

The idea was to share ideas and create awareness about the importance of preserving the ozone layer.

Celebrations with workers is important because studies have shown that human caused pollution from factories and other activities contribute to an enhanced greenhouse effect and global warming.

The Minister of Energy and Meteorology Tsukutlane Au stressed the importance of protecting the ozone layer, saying that it does not protect only humans but many other inhabitants of the earth. He

said in Lesotho certain types of gasses are not allowed in order to protect the ozone layer.

"This day is important and celebrated throughout the world by more than 190 countries and we are celebrating today because Lesotho is also part of the global village. Preserving the ozone layer helps us in different ways from health, economic and social issues."

"And I am proud to announce today that since 1987 the world has been succeeding in several efforts towards protecting the ozone layer however the fight is still on," Au said yesterday when opening the international ozone layer day commemorations at 'Manthabiseng Convention

Center. The latest scientific assessment of ozone depletion completed in 2018 shows that parts of the ozone layer have recovered at a rate of one to three per cent per decade since the year 2000.

At projected rates, the Northern Hemisphere and mid-latitude ozone will heal completely by the 2030s.

The Southern Hemisphere will follow in the 2050s and Polar Regions by 2060. Reports further show that ozone layer protection efforts have also contributed to the fight against climate change by averting an estimated 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from 1990 to 2010.

News

Govt to clampdown on food aid graft

‘MAPALO NKHELOANE

...hawks to supervise distribution

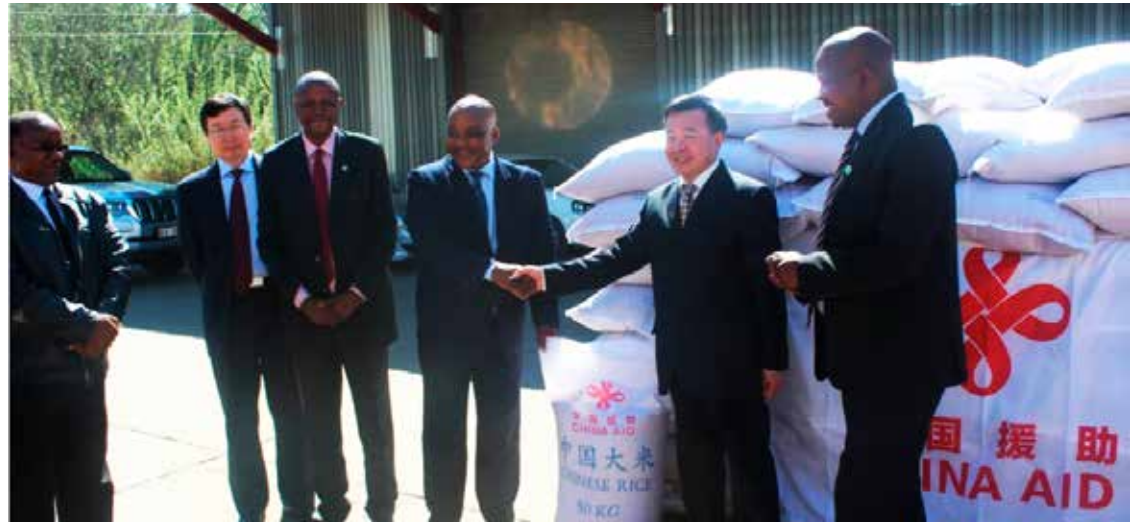
MASERU – Government will clampdown on corruption in the distribution of food parcels to drought wracked communities, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Halebonoe Sets’abi has said.

Sets’abi said this when he received food from the government of China, adding dishonesty in the distribution of food intended for the poor and the most vulnerable in society will not be tolerated.

He said government will deploy relevant state agents to crush such tendencies and will enforce the law. About 3200 metric tonnes of rice worth Yuan25, 000, 000 (roughly M50 million) were donated.

Sets’abi said the donation further cements cooperation between the two countries. This follows another Chinese donation of approximately M50 million worth of food to the National School Feeding Programme.

“Relations between Lesotho and China are at the highest level. Our bilateral cooperation, which spans across a myriad of sectors, has grown, deepened and matured over the years. This day



provides an opportunity for our two countries to reflect on these relations and further intensify our cooperation for the mutual benefit of our people,” Sets’abi said. The deputy minister revealed that under the Forum of China Africa Cooperation, (FOCAC) framework, the two countries have agreed to implement a number of major projects of strategic importance to Lesotho.

Among them Sets’abi said is the Maseru District Hospital and Eye Clinic, the Ha Mpititi

Sehlaba-Thebe Road and the Mafeteng Solar Power Station.

Sets’abi again, welcomed Chinese ambassador Lei Kezhong to Lesotho.

He assured him of support and cooperation during his stay.

Ambassador Kezhong recently assumed office and succeeds Dr Sun Xianghua who completed his tour of duty in September 2018.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Ambassador Kezhong said in recent years Lesotho has experienced severe drought

due to global climate changes. He said this has caused food insecurity, especially among subsistence farmers.

“In response to the requests of assistance from the government of Lesotho, the Chinese government has been providing emergency food aid to Lesotho since 2016, and increased the amount of the total aid year by year.

More than 1.6 million Basotho have benefitted from the Chinese emergency food aid programme,” Ambassador Kezhong said.

KANANELO BOLOETSE

JSE company eyes cannabis

...Labat to buy huge stake in Zarenka

MASERU – JSE-listed company, Labat, on Friday announced plans to buy a 70 percent stake in Lesotho cannabis grower and manufacturer Zarenka for almost M58 million.

The current shareholders of Zarenka, Luxolo Vava and Mohammed Osman, will retain a 30 percent interest.

In a statement on Friday, Zarenka said it intended to partner with a reputable company listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in order to raise its profile and improve corporate governance and transparency.

It said it was aware that the right partnership will propel the company to the forefront of the cannabis industry which is expanding globally.

“Shareholders are

accordingly advised that Labat, as part of the business expansion, has entered into a subscription agreement with Zarenka in terms of which it will subscribe for 2 325 173 shares in Zarenka which will provide it with an effective 70 percent interest in Zarenka,” read the statement.

According to the statement, Zarenka has an interest in six cannabis licenses in Lesotho.

The licences allow it to cultivate, harvest, manufacture, distribute, import and export into and out of Lesotho for medical and recreational use and for any

other use which is legal in the country acquiring the product.

Construction of the Zarenka facility in Lesotho is underway, with production to start on November 1, 2019

“This will include but is not limited to inter alia the setting up of containers, nurseries, offices, greenhouses, recruitment of staff appointment of master growers, appointment of airfreight agents and exporting of the first consignment of Product,” the statement read.

Labat, which was listed on the JSE 20 years ago, also holds various investments in

logistics, energy and tech.

“The parties have agreed that Labat will subscribe for 70 percent of the total issued share capital in Zarenka for a consideration of R57.5 million to be settled through the issue of 57.5 million shares in Labat in two tranches,” the company said on Friday.

It said the first tranche of 25 million shares would be issued on fulfilment of the suspensive conditions.

“The second tranche of 32.5 million shares will be issued against the delivery by Zarenka of the first production of both THC dried flower and CBD by November 1 2019 in line with Off-take Agreement,” it said.

Basotho ignorant of climate change

...this is despite bating one of the best educated populations



Crescentia Foulo and Mathatela Ntsatsi

KANANELO BOLOETSE

MASERU – Despite boasting one of the highest literacy rates in Africa with about 85 percent of the adult population being functionally literate, Lesotho is one of just five African countries where over half of the citizens have never heard about climate change.

A new survey released by Afrobarometer discovered that at least 44 percent of Basotho professed ignorance about climate change.

In the survey, “climate change literacy” was described as the perception that the respondent knows about climate change.

The respondent links it to negative changing weather patterns and recognizes that human activity plays a huge role in climate change due to greenhouse emission.

“In Lesotho, awareness of

climate change is at one of the lowest levels observed,” reads the Afrobarometer report titled: Change Ahead: Experience and Awareness of Climate Change in Africa.

According to the report, in 29 out of 34 surveyed countries, at least half of citizens were familiar with climate change, including more than three-fourths of Mauritians (83 percent), Malawians (78 percent), and Ugandans (78 percent).

“South Africa, despite being one of the most educated countries on the continent, is one of just five where fewer than half of citizens (41 percent) have heard of climate change,” reads the report.

This group also includes Tanzania (31 percent), Tunisia (33 percent), Sierra Leone (41 percent), and Lesotho (44 percent). The survey recommended that African governments, policymakers and

activists, create more awareness especially among those with little knowledge about climate change.

It concluded that this will help build an informed population that understands climate change threats and will support coordinated government and international action.

On Saturday (yesterday), Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) commemorated International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer with factory workers.

“This year we are celebrating the day with factory workers. We are working with them to make them aware of ozone depletion’s impact on human health and adapt themselves to consequences. We hope they will in turn share the message with their families and friends,” said Ntsatsi Mathatela, National Ozone Officer at Lesotho Meteorological Services.

Mathatela indicated that

aware, informed and educated stakeholders are motivated to take the specific actions that are needed to protect the earth’s ozone layer. He said ozone depletion and climate change are linked in a number of ways, but emphasised that ozone depletion is not a major cause of climate change.

September 16 was designated by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

Lesotho is signatory to several international agreements such Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol.

Mathatela said Lesotho ratified both the convention and protocol in 1994.

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer is often called a framework convention, because it served as a framework for efforts to protect the globe’s ozone layer.

Lesotho is one of the most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.

The survey found out that key issues such as water scarcity, food security and agriculture are directly connected to climate change. According to the Lesotho: Vulnerability Assessment Committee Results 2019 published on July 31, the food security situation in Lesotho is deteriorating.

The deterioration in the food security is driven by a severe drought and a general increase in food prices.

“Between October 2019 to March 2020, about 30 percent of the rural population – over 433,000 people – will require humanitarian assistance, compared to 18 percent in 2018,” reads the Vulnerability Assessment Committee Results.

In addition, 13.3 percent of the urban population – about 75,000 people – will also require humanitarian assistance, compared to 9.2 percent in 2018.

Public Eye reported in August that water levels in Katse Dam were dwindling and had hit its lowest mark since the reservoir was first filled in 1997.

It also reported that Katse dam was only 18.21 percent full.

The dam dropped slightly to 17.72 this week while Mohale dam is at 32.60 percent, down from 33.1 percent.

Sport

THE BEST SUNDAY READ



EPL opens with a bang

...big two score thumping victories

NEO SENOKO

Maseru - It was goals galore on the first day of the Econet Premier League (EPL) which began with a double-header at Setsoto Stadium on Saturday with wins for the big two - last season's runners-up Bantu FC and defending champions Matlama FC.

There was grit if not much glamour from Bantu in the opening game as they started the season with a spirited 2-0 win over Sefothafotha FC.

Bantu goals came from Hlompho Kalake in the 40th minute and Lazola Tjokojokoane who extended the lead three minutes into the second half.

His goal sealed A Matšo Matebele's victory.

In the following match, Matlama coach, Malawian Charles Manda, started his first season in Lesotho with a thumping 6-0 win over Mazenod-based Swallows FC.

The birds were three down at the break and could do nothing to avoid a similar battering in the second half.

Jane Thabantšo and second half substitute Khoanyane Mokoena were Tse Putsoa's heroes as they each scored a brace. Mabuti Potloane and Lisema Lebokollane also got on the score sheet.

For Manda, the result is a vindication of winter pre-season activity. "We worked and trained hard for this game. We stamped our authority and today showed that we are a top team. This was a time to give opportunity to

youngsters," he said in a post-match interview.

"We have to keep working hard going forward. Take it one game at a time and it is too early to predict the future," he added.

Manda joined Matlama after it lost some of key players, such as Lebajoa Mosehlenyane to Linare, Michael Mireku to Bantu, Motebang vSera to the ABSA premier league seide Bloemfontein Celtic and Bushy Moletsane to Lioli, among others. "We could not defend crosses. we have to go back to the drawing board. We have to pick ourselves up. Mentally and physically we were not good enough," said Swallows coach Motebang Makhetha, doing his best to put a positive if unrealistic spin on the 90 minutes.

"I am very sorry and I apologise for this loss, especially because our supporters had come in big numbers. Lack of communication killed us. There was no leadership and we were not in good shape," added Makhetha. There is going to be another double-header today at the Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS) Ground when Kick4Life play Liphakoe before LCS face take on Lioli.

In other Sunday fixtures, Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) will welcome Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) at the Ratjomose ground.

The two premier league rookies, Lifofane and Lijabatho, also open their campaign in the top-flight today.

Lifofane will test their mettle against Linare, while Lijabatho will lock horns with FC Likhopo.

