

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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LESOTHO



MAIN STORIES

Immigration
Controversy

Government
Infighting

Situation in
Police Force

Reforms

HIGHLIGHTS

- An affidavit in a High Court case alleged that the Democratic Congress (DC) received six campaign vehicles from a Pakistani national, Rana Qamar, notorious for human trafficking. Qamar then tried to use two cabinet ministers to force an immigration officer to let two Pakistanis enter Lesotho illegally. Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu and Mines Minister Serialong Qoo have been named by the official as being 'close to Qamar'.
- The Secretary General of the All Basotho Convention (ABC), Lebohlang Hlaele, said Mokhothu should step down from his post if he was charged with human trafficking. However, the DC's Secretary General Tšitso Cheba accused unnamed members of the ABC of spearheading a smear campaign against Mokhothu.
- The tension between the Lesotho Police Staff Association (LEPOSA) and Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli prompted Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro to set up a committee led by Justice Minister Nqosa Mahao to investigate the causes of the conflict. The committee blamed the instability within the police on LEPOSA. It also said that the politicisation of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) 'is at the heart of some of its debilitating challenges'.
- Parliament adopted the Businesses Licensing and Registration Regulations of 2020 which reserve 47 business activities for indigenous Basotho only. Under the Act, foreigners who have invested in other businesses falling outside the 47 sectors reserved for locals are required to prove that they have invested at least M2 million in their businesses to renew their traders' licences through a local bank.
- The head of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) facilitation team, retired former South African Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke, reiterated the SADC's position that the leader of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), Mothetjoa

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Metsing and the leader of the Movement for Economic Change (MEC), Selibe Mochoboroane, charged with treason, should not be prosecuted for any crimes until after the implementation of the multi-sector reforms. Moseneke added that Lesotho had until June 2021 to fully implemented the constitutional, security sector, media, governance and judicial reforms.

- Chinese businessman Yan Xie, former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's special advisor, stands accused of defrauding the government of M27 million through a shady business deal packaged as a private-public-partnership (PPP).
- The government fears it could be losing millions in potential revenue annually through suspected elaborate mis-invoicing schemes by second-hand car dealers.
- As of 4 January 2021, Lesotho had 3 206 coronavirus cases, 1 496 recoveries and 65 deaths.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in its Humanitarian Action for Children appeal that in 2021, projections indicate that GDP growth will decelerate to negative 5.1 percent, crop production will drop by 30 percent and water insecurity will persist.
- Moshoeshoe I International Airport, the country's only international airport, faces forced closure by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) due to several years of neglect which have left its facilities in a state of disrepair. The Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) has reportedly now been awarded a tender to refurbish the airport at an estimated cost of M500 million.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report (HDR) shows that Lesotho's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2019 is 0.527 – which put the country in the low human development category – positioning it at 165 out of 189 countries and territories.
- Prime Minister Majoro affirmed in his remarks before the African Union (AU) 14th Extraordinary Summit on Silencing the Guns that Lesotho unequivocally supports the right of the people of Western Sahara to determine their future.

