

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MAIN STORIES

A Cabinet Re-Shuffles
and A Call to
Remove Majoro

Budget 2021/22

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- A cabinet re-shuffle on 4 February 2021 by Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro saw a faction of his ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC) pushing for his recall from office because the party was not consulted. Majoro replaced the Defence and National Security minister, Prince Maliehe, with little-known Lekhetho Mosito, but he dismissed Mosito 10 days later. This followed reports that a faction in the ABC, which is still led by former Prime Minister Tom Thabane, threatened to remove Majoro if he failed to reverse the appointment.
- Army Commander Lieutenant General Mojalefa Letsoela warned that there are some soldiers who are plotting to topple the government.
- Prime Minister Majoro has denied ever speaking to controversial businessman, Yan Xie, over the latter's complaints about ministers seeking M3 million in bribes each to protect the Chinese businessman from losing his lucrative government tenders.
- Majoro declared a 6-month state of emergency after heavy rains killed a number of people and destroyed infrastructure, homes and crops. Majoro said that the country needed between R70 million and R100 million to rebuild and he has called on development partners to assist.
- Vodacom is still awaiting the judgement over a hefty fine imposed on it, as well as the revoking of its licence in Lesotho. Mamarama Matela head of the Lesotho Communications Agency (LCA), said her biggest concern was that 'Vodacom is almost holding the country to ransom'. The entire government depended on Vodacom for communication services, she said.
- Parliament has taken a break to allow its portfolio committees time to consult stakeholders on the 2021/22 budget estimates



presented by Finance Minister Thabo Sophonea. The break is from 19 February to 9 March 2021.

- Directorate of Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) Director General Mahlomola Manyokole was arrested and charged with money laundering, corruption and abuse of power.
- As of 1 March 2021, Lesotho had 10 491 coronavirus cases, 3 745 recoveries and 292 deaths. Majoro relaxed the lockdown restrictions to allow a host of economic activities to resume amid indications that the rate of Covid-19 infections had decreased.

