



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

JULY • No 7/2021

MONTHLY UPDATE

LESOTHO



MAIN STORIES

**National Peace and
Unity Bill Continues to
Cause Controversy**

**Coalitions Cause
Instability**

Solar Saga Continues

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Peace and Unity Bill, which aims to establish the commission which will pardon high-profile suspects, continues to cause controversy. Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro's ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC) party unanimously agreed that they would not back the commission. The Democratic Congress (DC), the second biggest partner in the coalition government, is supporting the commission.
- In a 15 June 2021 letter to King Letsie III, political parties and foreign missions in Lesotho, the families of the victims of various human rights atrocities warned that enacting the National Peace and Unity Bill could lead to victims and their families taking the law into their own hands to avenge the atrocities they had suffered.
- On 18 June, the Lesotho government said it had finally filed papers to stop court orders that give Germany's Frazer Solar the power to demand R850 million from the Kingdom. Majoro told the Johannesburg High Court in early July 2021 that an order in favour of Frazer Solar GmbH would bring the country to its knees as it constituted 2.2% of the country's GDP.
- Machesetsa Mofomobe, the new leader of the Basotho National Party (BNP) said he had to hide under a table as bullets whizzed past him during an attack by a gunman at the party's elective conference. A woman died during the shooting.
- Movement for Economic Change (MEC) legislator, Thabo Ramatla, escaped death after unknown gunmen peppered his vehicle with bullets in Mafeteng. Ramatla was seriously injured in the attack that claimed the life of a passenger.
- Five politicians, including ministers 'Matšepo Ramakoe (Foreign Affairs and International Relations) and Lehlohonolo Moramotse (Local Government and



- Chieftaincy Affairs) and former first lady 'Maesaiah Thabane, have been implicated in the illegal trade in alcohol which resulted in the expulsion of seven Lesotho diplomats from South Africa.
- As of 12 July 2021, Lesotho had 11,903 coronavirus cases, 6,593 recoveries and 335 deaths. On 5 July, Cabinet banned all political rallies in response to advice from the National Covid-19 Secretariat (Nacosec).
- The World Bank said in its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) that the economy is projected to grow by 2.9% in 2021, a downward revision from projected growth of 3.1% in its January 2021 GEP report.
- The United States (US) embassy in Lesotho expressed concern over the passing of the “intrusive” Communications (Subscriber Identity Module and Mobile Device Registration) Regulations of 2021 by the government. The embassy notes that while the new regulations will potentially intrude into the daily life of every person in Lesotho who uses a telephone, the justification for this intrusion is unclear.
- Lesotho has been upgraded to the Tier 2 watch list in the US State Department’s 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report. The report states that Lesotho does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.

