



IN TRANSFORMATION  
INITIATIVE

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# MONTHLY UPDATE

## LESOTHO



### MAIN STORIES

National Stakeholders'  
Forum

Solar Saga Continues

Coronavirus

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Deputy Prime Minister and Democratic Congress (DC) leader, Mathibeli Mokhothu, told his coalition partners, including the All Basotho Convention (ABC) to either accept the National Peace and Unity Bill, which aims to establish a commission to pardon high-profile suspects, or “go hang.”
- German company Frazer Solar accused Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro of lying to the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) and the Gauteng High Court when he stated that former cabinet minister, Temeki Tšolo, concealed information about the company’s lawsuit, insisting that he was fully aware of the situation. Frazer was granted a court order endorsing its default M856 million claim against Lesotho.
- The Covid-19 induced slowdown in global and local economic activity left the government broke and struggling to meet its financial obligations, Finance Minister Thabo Sophonea said.
- Lesotho finalised a new tax treaty with Mauritius, alleviating fears that multinational corporations were dodging taxes through shell companies. The new agreement, which sets out the taxation rules for companies that run Lesotho businesses from Mauritius, came into effect in July 2021.
- Vodacom Lesotho established VCL Financial Services, an independent company to provide financial services to customers. Vodacom’s popular M-Pesa mobile money platform will operate under the new company.
- Small Business Development and Cooperatives Minister Thesele Maseribane tendered his resignation.
- Botswana Judge Onkemetse Tshosa, who was recruited to preside over high-profile criminal cases, resigned.



- The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) “clandestinely” sat on 22 July 2021 and shortlisted six candidates from an initial 36 who had applied for the seven vacant High Court judges’ posts. It snubbed experienced lawyers and all magistrates.
- As of 9 August July 2021, Lesotho had 13,603 coronavirus cases, 6,664 recoveries and 377 deaths. Prime Minister Majoro, in early August, imposed a stricter nationwide lockdown, including a ban on international travel and a daily 9pm to 5am curfew.
- The Transformation Resource Centre (TRC) has partnered with the European Union (EU) and security agencies to launch a project aimed at fostering the observance of human rights by the security agencies.
- Lesotho is yet to honour its pledge to send troops to Mozambique amid indications that the government does not have money and adequate resources for the undertaking.
- The United States (US) ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales, said that Lesotho had not done enough to address long-standing human trafficking concerns which must be fully dealt with before the country could secure the multi-million-dollar second compact agreement under the US government’s Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).
- Lesotho could be on the verge of losing its ranking as the second largest exporter to the US under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). This comes as a result of lack of product diversification and a decrease in production.
- Lesotho has joined the chorus for the rescission of Israel’s observer status granted by the African Union (AU).

