



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

MONTHLY UPDATE

LESOTHO



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MAIN STORIES

Moves to Oust Majoro

Famo Gang Wars

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- Basotho Patriotic Party (BPP) leader, Tefo Mapesela, filed a motion of no-confidence against Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro. Mapesela proposed that Monyane Moleleki the leader of the opposition in parliament be installed as the new prime minister.
- Hawks within the ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC) led by secretary general Lebohang Hlaele, who is former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's son-in-law, want to oust Majoro as deputy party leader.
- The Basotho National Party (BNP) leader Machesetsa Mofomobe was sworn in as the new Minister of Small Business Development. He replaces Thesele 'Maseribane who has been reassigned as Lesotho's ambassador to Italy.
- A group of concerned citizens calling themselves the Patriotic Basotho Movement wrote a letter to Italian Foreign Affairs Minister, Luigi Di Maio, bemoaning the move to allow Maseribane to take up his new post. The movement accuses Maseribane of corruption in cahoots with controversial British tycoon Arron Banks.
- Former Law and Justice Minister Nqosa Mahao claimed that he was fired from his ministerial post in April 2021 in a bid to shield former Prime Minister Thabane from arrest and prosecution for the June 2017 murder of his estranged wife, Lipolelo.
- Majoro reshuffled six Principal Secretaries (PSs). It is alleged that the reshuffle was a show of political muscle by Majoro who is seeking to ensure that key government posts are occupied by his allies.
- Principal Chiefs are struggling to accommodate hundreds of families fleeing their homes because of famo gang wars. Five people were killed in famo music gang wars in Mokhotlong in the last week of August 2021, bringing the total to 15 in six months. Police Minister Lepota Sekola has banned the wearing of certain blankets associated with famo gangs in Mokhotlong district.
- Lesotho has the sixth highest murder rate in the world, according to a recent World Population Review report. The global average murder rate is seven per 100,000 people and Lesotho had a rate almost six times higher at 41.25.



- The army has threatened to crack down on rogue elements within its midst who are stealing equipment, including weapons, to sell to criminals.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs suspended the issuing of residence permits following allegations of human trafficking.
- The Lesotho consulate in Gauteng has been caught up in a new scandal over the rental of its property in South Africa.
- The Lesotho Nurses Association (LNA) has not paid its staff for the last six months due to alleged embezzlement of funds from an unnamed international donor.
- As of 13 September 2021, Lesotho had 14,395 coronavirus cases, 6,830 recoveries and 403 deaths. The National Covid-19 Secretariat (NACOSEC) Deputy CEO, Thabo Ntoi said on 11 September that the Covid-19 situation had reached crisis levels.
- Lesotho received a 66.9 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocation, equivalent to M1.4 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Nien Hsing Textile that makes jeans for Levi Strauss, The Children's Place and Wrangler-owner Kontoor Brands has laid off 4,000 workers over the past year, the result of a dearth of orders from American brands, the rising cost of salaries, unrest in South Africa and an ongoing pandemic.
- In December 2020, Majoro launched a grain purchasing project after the government set aside M15 million to buy beans and maize from local farmers. Cabinet's economic affairs principal secretary said some farmers were still unpaid because the government mistakenly procured more than what was budgeted for.
- The government is struggling to pay M350 million in tuition fees for tertiary students on state bursaries at local colleges and universities.
- Lesotho-based Highlands Investments, Africa's largest outdoor cannabis-growing facility, secured the world's largest legal single sale delivery of medical grade cannabis — 8,500kg — to the European market.





- ThabaTelle Mining Company became the first locally-owned company to be awarded diamond mining rights in Lesotho. Thaba Telle was awarded a 10-year mining lease to mine the Khubelu kimberlite pipe in Mokhotlong.
- The government is looking for an independent diamond valuer to reduce reliance on selling prices decided by the mining companies.
- Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu is considering reserving a 51% share of the capital in mining ventures to Basotho shareholders. Currently, a 25% stake is reserved for the state.
- The Southern African Development Community (SADC) heads of state in its communiqué after its 41st ordinary summit commended Lesotho for progress made in implementing SADC decisions and the ongoing reforms. The Summit recommended an extension of the mandate of the National Reforms Authority (NRA) for a period of six months, from 30 October 2021 to 30 April 2022. The heads of state also decided to extend President Cyril Ramaphosa's mandate as the SADC Facilitator until the 42nd Summit.
- According to Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Public Affairs Officer, the Contingent Advanced Team mission, comprising 12 soldiers, left for Cabo Delgado, Mozambique.
- Lesotho's High Commissioner to London, Rethabile Mokaeane, has been cleared of all nine charges of misconduct brought against her by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mokaeane said now that she had been exonerated "some people" were writing malicious letters to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to get her fired.

