



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MONTHLY UPDATE

LESOTHO



MAIN STORIES

**Majoro Fights for
Survival**

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro will face off with All Basotho Convention (ABC) chairperson and Communications, Science and Technology Minister, Samuel Rapapa, and ex-ministers Nkaku Kabi and Samonyane Ntsekele, in a battle for the ABC leadership. Former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane announced that he would be stepping down as party leader at the end of January 2022. The election of his successor will be conducted at the party's special conference slated for 28 and 29 January 2022.
- Thabane's faction of the ABC 'recalled' Majoro and tried to form a government of national unity (GNU) with other political parties to replace him but the effort failed. Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu's Democratic Congress (DC) and Nqosa Mahao's Basotho Action Party (BAP) both came out in opposition to the GNU, saying it was merely a selfish ploy by the Thabane faction to help it win its factional wars at the expense of national interest.
- Opposition Alliance of Democrats (AD) leader, Monyane Moleleki, attacked Majoro for allowing what he describes as an "alarming political situation" to develop in the country.
- Moleleki is lobbying other political parties to block the budget in parliament. The idea is to force the government to allow Members of Parliament (MPs) to discuss a no-confidence motion against Majoro.
- Privately-owned radio station 357 FM was taken off the air and only returned to broadcasting on 10 January 2022 after Mahao filed a complaint, accusing the radio station of waging a campaign of character assassination against him.
- The #Bachashutdown campaign has taken to the streets to campaign against youth unemployment with the motto: "We are not lazy. We are unemployed." Youths demonstrated on the streets of Maseru from 3 to 5 January 2022, wearing their academic regalia.
- AD deputy leader Ntoi Rapapa said his party was concerned by the Majoro administration's failure to stem the tide of indiscriminate killings.



- Majoro denied Development Planning Minister Selibe Mochoboroane’s claims that he was a “brazenly corrupt” politician who was guilty of several infractions including the irregular awarding of the government fleet tender to a local taxi organisation in 2019.
- The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) has charged a former minister in the Prime Minister’s Office, Temeki Tšolo, with corruption in connection with the botched M1.7 billion solar power deal between the government and Frazer Solar.
- Frazer Solar lost its bid to stop the South African government from paying water royalties to Lesotho.
- As of 11 January 2022, Lesotho had 31,106 coronavirus cases, 18,714 recoveries and 683 deaths. The government made it compulsory for all private and public sector employees to be vaccinated against Covid-19 from 1 January 2022. Majoro said unvaccinated persons would not obtain health services.
- The Ministries of Health and Agriculture are at odds over the source of a flu that is sweeping across the country and has caused a public health scare.
- Hospitality businesses that provided accommodation for the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Games in early December 2021 are still unpaid for the services they provided and they are demanding that government pays their M17 million in full.
- The favorable rainfall forecast for the remainder of 2021/22 production season is expected to drive normal farming activities.
- The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) appointed Lehlomela Mohapi as its acting governor after Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane’s term expired at the end of 2021.
- The EU-funded Electrification Financing Initiative and the UK-funded Renewable Energy Performance Platform (REPP) have each invested €4.4 million into a project-finance vehicle led by OnePower (1PWR) to build 11 minigrids.



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- Health Minister Semano Sekatle vowed not to “pay a cent” of the M3 billion demanded by the Tšepong Consortium, led by South Africa’s Netcare, for the premature termination of its contract to operate Queen ‘Mamohato Memorial Hospital (QMMH) on behalf of the government.
- The government has succumbed to pressure from Engen Lesotho to grant a work permit to its expatriate managing director, Tebogo Mosehla, a South African. Mosehla’s work permit has been mired in a bureaucratic logjam for several weeks as the government insisted that the position be given to a Mosotho as part of its policy to empower locals.
- The police are hunting for hundreds of Basotho who forced their way through the Maputsoe border post without stamping their passports and being screened for Covid 19.
- Lesotho has been reselected to continue developing a multi-million dollar compact under the United States government’s Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

