



## MAIN STORIES

### ABC Infighting

### Inter-Party Fighting

### Fight Over Delimitation of Constituencies

### Coronavirus

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The All Basotho Convention (ABC) leader, former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, publicly admitted that he and Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro are leading two party factions which are locked in a leadership war.
- Thabane suspended National Executive Committee (NEC) member, Keketso Lepheane, an outspoken supporter of Majoro, after he criticised the decision to hold the ABC's 15th anniversary celebrations at Thabane's Makhoakhoeng, Ha-Abia, home. Thabane also dismissed national treasurer, Tlali Mohapi, after a conflict over party finances. Mohapi is a senior private secretary of Majoro.
- Democratic Congress (DC) leader and Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu predicted that his party would win next year's elections outright and form the next government without the ABC.
- Majoro moved Agriculture and Food Security Minister Likopo Mahase to a new portfolio as Minister in the Prime Minister's Office. Mahase was replaced by Nkaku Kabi, who was Water Affairs minister. Former Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Kemiso Mosenene, takes over as Water Affairs minister. Mahase's reassignment is viewed as a demotion in the wake of allegations that 4000 bags of fertiliser had disappeared from the agriculture ministry's warehouse.
- According to a proposal submitted to the National Reforms Authority (NRA) by leaders of various political parties, a sitting prime minister will in future only be ousted by a minimum two thirds majority vote of all the members of the National Assembly.
- The government has finalised consultations with the army, police and intelligence service as it prepares to re-table spying regulations giving it sweeping powers to monitor mobile phone communications of all citizens, diplomats and foreigners.
- Majoro told the Senate that he was concerned about the insurgency in Mozambique by rebels linked to the Islamic State, which he said could spill over to Lesotho.



- According to Majoro, there are Basotho who are being trained in “Arab countries” to cause political unrest and launch bomb attacks. He did not elaborate.
- Majoro said he was unhappy with deputy army commander, Matela Matobakele, for saying “Lesotho has no police force to speak about.”
- Four soldiers allegedly tortured a police officer, who died, and five civilians in Mochale’s Hoek in October 2021. Four Pakistanis and a Mosotho were allegedly tortured by the soldiers, who suspected them of smuggling wool into South Africa.
- On 19 October, the police violently thwarted a student protest over allowances at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology. Students who were caught demonstrating outside the university campus were beaten in full view of the public.
- The National University of Lesotho (NUL) management has been forced to indefinitely shut down the institution following student violence at the main campus in Roma. Rioting students in the first week of November 2021 vandalised buildings and torched property at the institution to vent their anger over delays in the disbursement of their allowances by the National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS).
- The government’s plans to implement a Covid passport system are being undermined by widespread fraud involving certificates being sold to unvaccinated people by unscrupulous health workers.
- Frazer Solar accused Majoro of fraudulently submitting an affidavit to the Lesotho High Court in his quest to overturn a South African arbitrator’s award of £50 million damages to the German company.
- Eight people, including a lawyer, appeared in the Maseru Magistrates’ Court after they were implicated in M50 million fraud at the Ministry of Finance.





- The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime published the Global Organised Crime Index – 2021, which evaluates countries according to their levels of criminality on a score from 1 to 10 (lowest to highest organised crime levels). Lesotho is ranked 148 out of 193 with a criminality score of 3.90.
- As of 8 November 2021, Lesotho had 21,685 coronavirus cases, 12,804 recoveries and 659 deaths. On 1 November Lesotho introduced Covid-19 passports under which sporting events, social activities and some services will only be accessed by people who have been fully vaccinated.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that Lesotho has been experiencing twin economic shocks resulting from the pandemic and a decline in revenues from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). The resulting fiscal and external imbalances, if left unaddressed, would continue to put pressure on international reserves and lead to government payment arrears.
- Majoro said the economic situation remained precarious as international investors were reluctant to set up shop in Lesotho due to chronic political instability.
- The Minister of Finance, Thabo Sophonea said the Ministry of Finance would map out a way to address the Covid-19 induced challenges to reconstruct the economy, focusing on increased investment in agriculture and enhanced production capacity.
- The Ministry of Transport petitioned the Finance ministry to reverse its decision to nullify the awarding of a tender for consultancy work at Moshoeshoe 1 International Airport to a South African company, LTE Construction. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has reportedly issued fresh threats to close the Moshoeshoe 1 Airport if it is not refurbished by year-end.





- The Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) switched off power at the Moshoeshoe I International Airport over a M3 million debt. AirlinK flights from South Africa were suspended because the runway lights were declared unserviceable on 29 October 2021.
- Forbes' Best African Entrepreneur of the year, Sam Matekane, officially launched Organica Global Brands which will produce pharmaceutical phytomedicines, cosmeceuticals and nutraceuticals from Lesotho's organic plants.
- Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu officially opened the second mine owned by Mosotho at Qaqa. The mine is called the Qaqa Diamond Mine. The CEO of the company is Mohapi Khofu. He is a known financier of the Alliance of Democrats (AD) and a close associate of its leader and former deputy prime minister, Monyane Moleleki. In 2017, Khofu and Moleleki were acquitted by the Lesotho High court on charges related to the fraudulent issuing of mining licences.
- The Ministries of Water in both South Africa and Lesotho agreed to fast track phase two of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) to ensure security of supply to the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS).
- South African prosecutor Shaun Abrahams has been paid nearly M8 million in just under three years, but he failed to conclude the high-profile cases he was contracted for, because his interpretation of Lesotho law was flawed, according to the Minister of Justice, Lekhetho Rakuoane.
- Majoro told the Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Scotland that the provision of upscaled, predictable financial resources by developed countries is key to Lesotho and the sustainability of her "adaptation actions."
- The Lesotho Millennium Development Agency (LMDA) is currently seized with developing the second compact of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), according to a statement released by the United States (US) Embassy.





- The Government of Germany contributed EUR 1.5 million for 2021-2023 to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Lesotho to support vulnerable people.

