



IN TRANSFORMATION  
INITIATIVE

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# MONTHLY UPDATE

# LESOTHO



## MAIN STORIES

### A New Party

### Majoro Survives No-Confidence Motion

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Lesotho millionaire, Sam Matekane, launched a political party called Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) that he said would save the country from becoming a failed state. Nqosa Mahao, the Basotho Action Party (BAP) leader, said Matekane's entry into politics "poses the most serious threat to the political system as we have come to know it." Montoeli Masoetsa, the spokesperson of the All Basotho Convention (ABC) said that "we will have to play it dirty by digging out their hidden filth so that voters see who they really are." Former deputy prime minister and current opposition Alliance of Democrats (AD) leader, Monyane Moleleki, welcomed the formation of the RFP and expressed his willingness to cooperate with the new outfit.
- Only 38 Members of Parliament (MPs) backed a no-confidence motion to oust Moeketsi Majoro as prime minister with 66 MPs supporting the latter.
- Twelve MPs of the ABC on 17 March crossed the floor in Parliament, with the party's new leader Nkaku Kabi noting that the ABC is no longer a partner in the coalition government. Majoro and deputy prime minister and leader of the Democratic Congress (DC) Mathibeli Mokhothu addressed a joint press conference to affirm that their coalition remained intact.
- Basotho Action Party (BAP) leader, Nqosa Mahao, was re-elected unopposed at the party's inaugural elective conference.
- The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) appointed Advocate Mpaiphele Maqutu as the new director of elections. Maqutu said the 2022 general elections are most likely to be held around mid-October.
- The IEC has certified seven new parties, bring the total number to 53.
- A planned march by civil servants in Maseru to press for a 25% salary hike was thwarted by the police on 4 April 2022
- Taxi operators have threatened a countrywide strike starting on 20 April if the government refuses to bow to their demands for a 30% fare hike.



- The South African National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) said that the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) had been granted a forfeiture order of R18 million, money that was fraudulently paid into South African banks by Lesotho government officials. The officials allegedly siphoned approximately R50 million from state coffers. Seven officials from the Lesotho Ministry of Finance are currently facing charges of fraud and money laundering.
- As of 11 April 2022, Lesotho had 32,910 coronavirus cases, 24,155 recoveries and 697 deaths.
- The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on 29 March 2022 decided to increase the CBL rate from 4.00% per annum to 4.25% per annum. The Committee noted that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is expected to worsen the global macroeconomic environment.
- Government cars have been grounded after the government failed to settle its mounting fuel bill to Engen Lesotho. Communications Minister Samuel Rapapa said that the cash flow crisis has not only affected the ministries' fleet services but most of the government suppliers have not yet been paid.
- Factory workers and their employers are deadlocked on the wage hike for 2022/23. Through their trade unions, the workers asked for a 20% wage increase across the board. However, the employers are only offering a 3% increase for the textiles sector and a 4% increase for the construction, leather, wholesale, food and retail sectors.
- The Thetsane-based J&S Fashions Company is planning to shut down and retrench its entire 1000-strong workforce. Another Thetsane factory, TZICC Clothing Manufacturers, is also planning to “temporarily” lay off 600 of its 800 staff complement.



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- The United Nations suspended Russia from its human rights council over human rights abuses committed when it invaded the Ukraine. Lesotho was one of the countries which abstained during voting.
- Basotho National Party (BNP) leader Machesetsa Mofomobe said that Ukraine and the West provoked Russia by threatening its interests.
- The European Union (EU) is planning to deploy the EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Lesotho ahead of the elections.
- The Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) Board of Directors approved a \$300 million Lesotho Compact.

