



MAIN STORIES

**Formation of RFP
Continues to Cause
Controversy**

**Constitution
Amendment Bill**

Cononavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- The leader of the new Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) party, millionaire Sam Matekane, said he was not keen on joining any other party in a governing coalition after the elections scheduled for October 2022.
- The RFP has been rocked by squabbles after chaotic internal elections to select constituency committees around the country. Disgruntled members said the process to elect constituency committees was riddled with outright cheating with the party's interim national executive committee (NEC) imposing its preferred candidates.
- Former deputy prime minister and current opposition Alliance of Democrats (AD) leader, Monyane Moleleki, who in April welcomed the formation of the RFP and expressed his willingness to cooperate with the new outfit, now said his party was "not for sale" to Matekane and his associates. Moleleki also claims that he made "Matekane and 20 other people" millionaires by awarding them government tenders.
- Democratic Congress (DC) leader, Mathibeli Mokhothu, slammed Matekane, saying the latter was not being truthful to Basotho on why he made his unexpected foray into politics, implying that the businessman was being driven by an agenda to protect and promote his business interests.
- After months of infighting, Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro's faction of the ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC) began peace talks with its rival faction led by party leader Nkaku Kabi.
- Majoro was reportedly approached by the RFP to join its ranks but declined, at least for now.
- Prime Minister Majoro made a number of changes to his cabinet and moved Keketso Sello from the ministry of public service to the ministry of agriculture, food security and marketing.
- Mokhothu, speaking at the funeral of Terene famo gang leader, Ntei Tšehlana, said when he sees famo members he does not associate them with any crime. He said most Terene members were not criminals.
- Mokhothu said that Basotho should have shares in mines as "those diamonds are yours."



- According to the results of an Afrobarometer survey, published on 6 May 2022, almost nine out of 10 Basotho “agree” or “strongly agree” that the King should be able to make decisions even if they contradicted advice from the prime minister and also expressed support for abolishing elections and Parliament and allowing the King to govern the country.
- Lesotho is ranked 88 out of 180 countries (1=best; 180=worst) on the 2022 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders on 3 May 2022, the same as in 2021.
- According to the 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, published by the United States (US) Department of State on 12 April 2022, significant human rights issues included unlawful or arbitrary killings; torture and cases of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.
- Former Justice Minister Kelebone Maope slammed the police and prosecution for the “shoddy job” which resulted in the acquittal of murder-accused businessman, Tšeliso Nthane. Maope said given the high levels of corruption among police and prosecutors, graft could not be ruled out as the reason behind the weak state case which led to Nthane’s acquittal.
- The results from an Afrobarometer survey, published on 3 May shows that more than one-third (37%) say someone in their household lost a job, business, or primary source of income due to the pandemic. More than four in five Basotho (83%) say they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. About one in seven Basotho (15%) report that their household received pandemic-related assistance from the government. Only a minority (38%) say such assistance was distributed fairly, and fully three-quarters believe that “a lot” (64%) or “some” (12%) of the resources intended for the COVID-19 response have been lost to corruption.





- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its April 2022 World Economic Outlook (WEO) that the economy will grow by 3.1% in 2022. The IMF said that the COVID-19 pandemic once again exposed the fragility of the current economic model and underlined the urgent need to diversify the economy and consolidate public finances to preserve fiscal and debt sustainability.
- The World Bank April 2022 Macro Poverty Outlook states that through 2024, real GDP growth is expected to average 2.1% annually.
- Agriculture Minister, Letsitsi Mokoma, told parliament that the price of a 50kg bag of fertilizer could increase from the current M160 to M368. Mokoma said that the high is high due to the imported nitrate that is used to manufacture the fertilizers, which is imported from Russia only.
- Diamond mining company, Storm Mountain Diamonds, which operates the Kao Mine, sued the Lesotho National General Insurance Company (LNIG) for M65.9 million for allegedly refusing to compensate it for losses incurred when it was forced to halt production during the hard lockdown in 2020.
- The South African High Court has postponed all cases related to Fazer Solar's fight with Lesotho over the latter's alleged breach of a M1.7 billion deal for the supply of solar power.
- The government canceled the work permit of the managing director of Engen Lesotho, South African, Tebogo Mosehla, barely five months after he took up his position because he started working before the permit was granted. Labour unions put pressure on the government to revoke the permit.





- Basotho Action Party (BAP) secretary-general, Lebohang Thotanyana, said in South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC) government decided to form a state bank to fill the gap that exists in the market because they “define their old banks as arrogant and unwilling to lend to black people” in South Africa. He added that South African banks in Lesotho would also not lend to Basotho.

