



MAIN STORIES

Crucial Bills Adopted

IEC Delimits Erroneous Constituencies

Divisive Primaries

The Latest Promises by Some Parties

Controversy Over Airport Tender Continues

Dagga War

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro declared a state of emergency from 16 to 29 August after legislators failed to pass the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution Bill 2022 and the National Assembly Electoral Amendment. King Letsie III recalled parliament on 23 August to convene for a week to pass the Bills into law, which was done.
- The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) said it has managed to put its house in order and elections will proceed as planned on 7 October 2022 after it complied with a Constitutional Court ruling to redo the delimitation of 20 constituencies.
- Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro did not contest in the All Basotho Convention (ABC's) primaries where Senator Mphonyane Lebesa won the right to stand in the outgoing premier's Thetsane constituency.
- Police and Public Safety Minister Lepota Sekola left the ABC to join the Democratic Congress (DC).
- DC leader, Mathibeli Mokhothu, told supporters that should the party win elections, his government would establish at least 30 diamond mines within five years as well as a development bank.
- Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) leader, Sam Matekane, said his government would assist Basotho to set up factories or partner with foreign investors and launch a project called the Trans-Maloti highway "to join South Africa and Lesotho up to Durban."
- Basotho Action Party (BAP) leader, Nqosa Mahao, promised to restore law and order if his party was voted into power and overhaul Lesotho's education sector. The Movement for Economic Change (MEC) would work hard to uproot corruption and to create jobs.
- The Lesotho Economic Freedom Fighters (LEFF), an affiliate of South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), "wants to introduce socialism."
- The self-exiled leader of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), Mothejoa Metsing, finally returned home to face treason charges. He was released on a M50 000 bail and M100 000 surety.



- Transport Minister Tšoeu Mokeretla is risking jail after defying a court order to produce details of how his ministry awarded a lucrative M33 million airport refurbishment project to a South African company, LTE Consulting. It is alleged the company has already been paid large amounts of money by the Transport ministry without actually having done any work at the airport.
- A global corporate battle is being waged between Nasdaq-listed Akanda Corporation and renowned South African businesswoman Louisa Mojela over her dagga firm, a plantation in Lesotho, and claims that Akanda allegedly defrauded investors of R270 million during its initial public offering (IPO)
- Lesotho recorded six more murders across the country from 24 to 28 August 2022. The latest murders follow the killings of about 144 people in May and June 2022 alone.
- Deputy army commander, Major General Matela Matobakele, told soldiers to fight fire with fire when they come under attack from criminals. He also warned human rights activists not to complain when the army “responds in kind.”
- Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli formed a new cyber security unit, following the passing of the Cyber Security Act.
- Taxi operators are demanding that the government subsidise operators who were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic or they will order a massive strike beginning 2 October 2022.
- On 22 August, Majoro announced that the Cabinet had decided to lift all COVID-19 restrictions.
- Perturbed by the state of the government’s financial affairs, Government Secretary Lerotholi Pheko convened a closed meeting to propose measures to curb irregular public expenditure as well as adopt austerity measures.





- The National Housing Profile shows that the need for affordable urban housing in the country is 98,711 and these houses will have to be built by 2025.
- A Lesotho company, Mohahlaula Airlines, plans to launch scheduled commercial flights between Maseru and Johannesburg by September 2023.
- According to the latest results of an Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity analysis, published on 19 August, an estimated 320,000 people representing 22% of the population in rural areas are projected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).
- Majoro attended the 42nd Ordinary Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit on 17 August where progress with the implementation of SADC decisions was noted and the government urged to expedite completion of the ongoing reforms.
- The SADC Summit approved the establishment of an oversight committee made up of the SADC Panel of Elders (PoE) and the Mediation Reference Group (MRG) to ensure continuity and oversight on the implementation of reforms in Lesotho.
- Gauteng detectives have traced the alleged killers of 16 revellers massacred in a Soweto tavern to Lesotho, where they narrowly missed arresting them in a failed clandestine operation at the Maseru border post.
- The leader of the ABC, Nkaku Kabi, once again threw his weight behind the Terene ea Mokata faction of the Famo music gang and criticised South Africans who accuse Basotho citizens residing in South Africa of being behind crimes.
- A special dispensation for about 90 000 people from Lesotho will expire in 2023 and won't be extended, Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said.
- The European Union (EU) will send an election observer team to Lesotho.
- The government has lost more than M500 million in cost escalations created by lengthy delays in completing two major projects, the national museum and a new palace for King Letsie III. Development Planning Minister, Selibe Mochoboroane, blamed the delays on rampant corruption among government officials and general lack of political will.

