



MAIN STORIES

Floor-Crossing
Controversy

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Launched

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HIGHLIGHTS

- An attempt by the opposition to block the passing of a Bill that will stop floor-crossing in Parliament failed with Members of Parliament (MPs) from the ruling Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) coalition voting for the new law. Opposition parties said that they would now challenge the constitutionality of the Bill in the Constitutional Court because it was wrong to pass the Bill without first amending the constitution.
- The RFP leadership is furious at Mahali Phamotse for inviting opposition leaders and MPs to her 2022 victory celebration in Matlakeng constituency. Her conduct “confirms suspicions” that she is the main mobiliser against Prime Minister Sam Matekane within the RFP. Isaac Malebaleba, the Thaba-Bosiu MP, said they are aware that some RFP MPs want to form a coalition with other parties.
- Four new MPs were sworn in following the court’s ruling that favours the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) application to recalculate and reallocate the proportional representation (PR) seats. The move reduces the Democratic Congress (DC’s) seats from 29 to 26 and the Alliance of Democrats (AD’s) from five to four.
- Lesotho is ranked 67 out of 180 countries (1=best; 180=worst) on the 2023 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders, up from 88 in 2022.
- The Lesotho Tribune alleged that Lesotho produced more rough diamonds than it officially exported, suggesting that diamonds may have been “lost or stolen” before they could be exported. The Commissioner of Mines, Pheello Tjatja, refuted the allegations, saying the newspaper got its calculations wrong.



- The wives of the Basotho Economic Enrichment (BEE) leader, Litaba Mohale and the Basutoland Democratic Congress (BDC) leaders Molibeli Soro were arrested for allegedly defrauding the IEC of tens of thousands of maloti which was meant to pay party agents.
- The Minister of Trade, Industry, Business Development and Tourism, Mokhethi Shelile, said the Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project (CAFI) was successfully launched in April. The focus of the CAFI Project is on building the local private sector.
- On 13 April, Lesotho health officials announced a measles outbreak in Maseru. A vaccination campaign has been launched.
- A women's rights organisation, She-Hive, is reportedly on the verge of collapse after it failed to access part of its funding from the European Union (EU) after they fell out with Sesotho Media and Development, their partner in a M17 million project. Its founder, 'Mamakhetho Phomane, accused the EU of a passive stance in the face of flagrant abuse of power and violation of human rights. The head of the EU Delegation to Lesotho Paola Amadei said several attempts at reconciliation failed and as a review was unable to find evidence of She-Hive's participation, it was decided that Sesotho Media would continue with the project.
- The United States (US) Ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer visited Mokhotlong district for the first time and discussed ways to improve US support to the security sector.

