



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MONTHLY UPDATE

LESOTHO



MAIN STORIES

**Another Delay for
National Reforms**

**Another Motion of
No-Confidence?**

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Court of Appeal on 17 November nullified the planned Standing Order No. 105, aimed at commencing the 11th Amendment to the Constitution (Omnibus Bill), where it ended when the 10th parliament was dissolved. The President of the Court of Appeal, Kananelo Mosito, ruled that Section No.5 of 2023 and Standing Order No. 10 (58) of 2022 are declared constitutionally invalid, adding that parliament is restrained to promulgate into law any bill that lapsed at the dissolution of the 10th parliament.
- The opposition said it is still pushing the no-confidence vote against Prime Minister Sam Matekane despite losing the support of the Basotho Action Party (BAP) after the latter joined the coalition government. The opposition filed another motion that seeks to get Matekane and his MPs disqualified from parliament because they were elected when they had business interests with the government.
- The government is allegedly on an aggressive campaign to 'buy' opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) as it battles the opposition's attempts to topple it.
- Newly appointed Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) interim CEO, Ts'eliso Lesenya, emphasised the importance of conflict management and peaceful resolution of disputes in the party.
- Expelled former RFP member and Matlakeng legislator, Mahali Phamotse, officially launched a new political party called the United African Transformation (UAT) party. The organisation is the Lesotho branch of the original UAT which was registered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) by South African political novice Sekhunkoane Mathabatha in 2022.
- Deputy Commissioner of Police Mahlape Morai told the Senate that 622 Basotho had been murdered between January and November 2023.
- The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) arrested one of its principal investigators after he was caught red handed receiving a bribe.



- The Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) was defrauded of M35 million by four debt collectors.
- Mokhosi Oa 'Mangoana (MoM), an NGO formed by concerned parents grappling with the repercussions of drug abuse by their children, alleged some police officers are doubling as drug dealers.
- On 28 November 2023, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) decided to leave the CBL rate unchanged at 7.75% per annum.
- Inflation increased to 6.5% in October 2023, from 5.8% in September 2023.
- The government committed to address teachers' grievances dating back to 2019, thereby averting a strike that could have crippled the country's education system.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition refuted allegations that the government has encouraged poultry farmers to import poultry products from Brazil.
- According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), high staple market prices and low income are expected to drive Stressed (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC - Phase 2) outcomes in Lesotho through May 2024. Markets are well-supplied with maize meal, but market prices remain higher than last year and the five-year average.
- GEM Diamonds chose to end a long-standing contract with a load and haul company, Matekane Mining Investment Company (MMIC), serving its Letšeng mine. The contract termination – based on the view that Matekane is a Politically Exposed Person – is effective December 1.
- SA's Minister of Home Affairs Aaron Motsoaledi announced that holders of the Lesotho Exemption Permit (LEP) and the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP) would be allowed to remain legally in South Africa until 29 November 2025.





- The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Lejone Mpotjoane, told the National Assembly that while Lesotho did not condone the attack launched by Hamas on Israel, it condemns the manner in which Israel retaliated by killing women, children and “everyone unarmed.”
- Lesotho and China entered into an agreement in terms of which the Maseru District Hospital and Eye Clinic will be capacitated to provide specialised medical services that Basotho are currently only accessing in South Africa.
- Former Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro attended the 2023 World Conference on China Studies in Shanghai, saying that China's experience of rapid economic growth over the past few decades is helpful and can enlighten other countries.

