



MAIN STORIES

Famo Controversy

RFP Troubles

HIGHLIGHTS

- The government outlawed 12 famo music groups, with Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police Minister, Lebona Fabian Lephema, declaring them illegal entities in terms of the Internal Security Act. The opposition All-Basotho Convention (ABC) and Democratic Congress (DC), which have strong relations with some famo gangs, criticised the move.
- Former Acting Police Commissioner, Mahlape Morai, said it was a criminal offense for journalists to publish interviews with famo music groups. Her statement was criticised as a violation of media freedom by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Lesotho.
- Two Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the Revolution for Prosperity (RFP), Lephoi Makara and Kobeli Letlailane, crossed over to the DC. The DC now has 29 MPs and the RFP 54.
- RFP legislator, Mokhothu Makhalanyane, warned that his party risked failing to complete its full five-year mandate if it did not address infighting and focussed on improving the economy.
- Prime Minister Sam Matekane's cabinet made history by being the first to fully declare its members' assets to the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO).
- The government resumed its push to approve the controversial Computer Crimes and Cyber Security Bill to jail journalists found in possession of classified information, amongst others.
- Matekane appointed Borotho Matsoso as the new Commissioner of Police (Compol) on a three-year contract ending in May 2027. He replaced acting Compol, Mahlape Morai.
- Matekane kickstarted the process to establish a tribunal to impeach Director of Public Prosecutions, Hlalefang Motinyane. In a letter, Matekane amongst others wrote that Motinyane had been arrested in South Africa on fraud related charges that were to date never disclosed.



- Auditor General 'Mathabo Makenete said in her maiden audit report on the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Government of Lesotho for the year ended 31 March 2022 that she is concerned by the continued failure of government officials to comply with public financial management laws.
- The DCEO charged nine people associated with local textile factories CGM Group and Presitex Enterprises and three other companies, with four counts of corruption and money laundering involving M700 million.
- The African Development Bank (AfDB) states in its 2024 African Economic Outlook (AEO) that real growth in GDP is projected to rise to 1.7% in 2024 and 2.2% in 2025.
- According to the International Budget Partnership (IBP's) 2023 Open Budget Survey (OBS), Lesotho is ranked 86 out of 125 countries (1=best) in terms of transparency, up from 98 out of 120 countries in 2021.
- Deputy Prime Minister Nthomeng Majara told parliament the government is ready to negotiate an end to the strike by health workers in remote areas. They are demanding an increase in their hardship allowances from M250 to at least M1000. They have been on strike since 13 May 2024.
- The Clerk to the National Assembly, Fine Maema, on behalf of parliament, directed the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, to implement the controversial business indigenisation regulations banning foreigners from 47 economic sectors with immediate effect and without alteration.
- Lucapa Diamond announced its intention to sell its 70% stake in the Mothae diamond mine. The government is planning to take full control of the Mothae Diamond Mine, according to Minister of Natural Resources, Mohlomi Moleko.





- The United States (US) Acting Chargé d’Affaires Keisha Toms said her country remains committed to supporting Lesotho’s path to economic growth and stability.
- Matekane, at the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit, invited Korea to invest in Lesotho’s water and energy sectors.
- The Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) will collaborate with the Lesotho government to develop and manage dams and hydroelectric power plants.

