



MAIN STORIES

**LDF Instructed to Deal
with Escalating Violence**

**National Food Insecurity
Disaster Declared**

Focus on Agriculture

AfDB Country Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime Minister Sam Matekane directed the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) to take decisive action to curb escalating violence. He stated that the government could not allow killers to disturb the peace and stability of the country.
- Major General Matela Matobakele, the Deputy Commander of the LDF, stated that the army's efforts to eradicate the rampant killings that have crippled the country were being hindered by security agencies' members colluding with Famo gangs.
- Commissioner of Police, Borotho Matsoso, said that at least 880 serious crimes were recorded by the police from January to May 2024, a 26% increase compared to the same period in 2023.
- Matekane declared a national food insecurity disaster on 12 July until March 2025. According to Matekane, it is estimated that no less than 700 000 Basotho face extreme hunger.
- Before he declared a national food insecurity disaster, Matekane told the High Court in an answering affidavit that there is no right to food and the government has no duty to provide food for its people. He was responding to a constitutional challenge initiated by the Christian Advocates and Ambassadors Association, which aims to compel the government to implement food subsidies following the price increases of maize meal.
- According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analysis May 2024 - March 2025, prolonged dry spells left approximately 293,000 people in rural Lesotho (19% of the population) facing severe food insecurity. The situation is expected to worsen, with around 403,000 people (27% of the rural population) projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from October 2024 to March 2025.
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and Lesotho signed a new Country Programming Framework (CPF) aimed at transforming Lesotho's agrifood system.



- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Lesotho announced a US\$25 million investment in the Regeneration Opportunities Fund (ROF), a sustainable financing mechanism for land regeneration.
- According to the Country Focus Report (CFR), published by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the total financing needs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 is US\$0.812 billion with a financing gap of US\$0.718 billion.
- The government and leaders of opposition parties clashed in a meeting behind closed doors regarding the passage of constitutional reforms. Opposition leaders called for the current constitution to be completely overhauled and replaced with a new one.
- Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) Teyateyaneng (TY) constituency committees defended their Member of Parliament (MP), Lebona Lephema, who also serves as the Minister of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs, and Police, against accusations that he was creating divisions within the ruling party as he allegedly pushes an agenda to succeed Matekane.
- According to Afrobarometer Basothos satisfaction with democracy dropped from 50% to 26% over the past decade, while 81% of people said corruption increased over the past year.
- Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) governor, Maluke Letete, rejected allegations of theft of nearly M50 million at the bank. Auditor General 'Mathabo Makenete said in her audit report for the year ended 31 March 2022 that unauthorised transactions amounting to M48.7 million were made at the CBL.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) in July 2024 decided to maintain the CBL rate at 7.75% per annum.





- Inflation rose to 6.5% in June 2024 from 6.3% in May 2024.
- The Bureau of Statistics (BOS) said Lesotho imported M32 billion worth of goods and services, while it managed to export M15 billion in goods and services in 2023. This reflects a trade deficit of about M17 billion, the largest since 2019.
- Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Rets'elisitsoe Matlanyane, introduced the Public Debt Management Bill (2024), seeking to empower only the Minister of Finance and Development Planning to procure debts on government's behalf.
- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) ordered the termination of the proposed purchase deal for Mothae Diamond Mine between Lucapa Diamonds and Lephema Executive Transport. This came after Deputy Accountant General 'Mabakubung Pitso told the PAC that no payment of M175 million owed by Lucapa Diamonds for its 2017 acquisition of Mothae Diamond Mine was reflected in the government's accounts. Subsequently it transpired that the government had indeed received the money.
- The weapons used in some of the murders in the ongoing war for territory between zama zama gangs in SA's Northwest Province are alleged to have been 'rented' from members of Lesotho's security forces.
- In order to accelerate Lesotho's national reforms, Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement aimed at reinforcing parliamentary functions and driving "positive change."

