



MAIN STORIES

**Minister Buys Stake in
Mothae Diamond Mine**

**Fight Between DPP
and Government
Continues**

Economic Outlook

IMF Assessment

HIGHLIGHTS

- Australia's Lucapa Diamond Company sold Mothae Diamond Mine to a company owned by the Minister of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police, Lebona Lephema.
- Former Chief Justice and now Deputy Prime Minister, Nthomeng Majara, unlawfully instructed the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Hlalefang Motinyane, to withdraw charges against two politicians who were being charged with treason. The allegations are contained in an urgent application that Motinyane filed at the High Court.
- The Court of Appeal nullified the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution declaring it unconstitutional. The opposition wanted the court to declare the amendment constitutional. The ninth amendment states that if the National Assembly passes a vote of no confidence in the government, the prime minister must resign.
- Lesotho has been ranked as the 125th most peaceful country in the world (1=most peaceful; 163=least peaceful) by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in its 2024 Global Peace Index (GPI), rating its state of peace as low.
- According to the results of an Afrobarometer survey, about six in 10 Basotho (61%) say corruption in the country increased "somewhat" or "a lot" during 2023, but perceptions of widespread corruption declined dramatically for the Office of the Prime Minister and for judges and magistrates.
- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in July ordered the Auditor General 'Mathabo Makenete to immediately re-audit the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL).
- The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) said in its Economic Outlook 2024 – 2026 that the economy is projected to grow by 3.0% in 2024 and slow down to 2.0% and 1.2% in 2025 and 2026, respectively.



- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in a statement on 26 June, said that its estimates suggest that real GDP growth picked up modestly in FY23/24 to 2.2%, up from 1.6% in the previous year; Lesotho's fiscal balance registered a sizable surplus in FY23/24; and the outlook for external government revenues improved significantly. Mitigating corruption and strengthening the rule of law is essential to restoring confidence, investment, and growth, it added.
- According to the results of an Afrobarometer survey, about six in 10 Basotho (59%) experienced moderate or high lived poverty during the previous year.
- Majorities of Basotho say the government is doing a poor job of creating employment opportunities (87%), improving the living standards of the poor (68%), providing water and sanitation services (65%), providing reliable electricity (58%), and maintaining roads and bridges (58%)
- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD's) 2024 World Investment Report (WIR), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2023 was -US\$26 million, down from -US\$8 million in 2022.
- The 91km Mpiti-Sehlabathebe Road, one of the key projects of China-Lesotho cooperation under the Belt & Road Initiative, was handed over to the Lesotho government on 21 June.
- According to the CEO of the Disaster Management Authority (DMA), Reatile Elias, Lesotho is grappling with an alarming food insecurity crisis, requiring an urgent M1.2 billion to address the growing needs of its population.
- The Lesotho Electricity Company (LEC) is in financial difficulties due to the high costs of importing electricity from South Africa and because of huge debts it owes to service providers.





- Two people believed to be members of rival Famo music gangs were shot dead on the South Africa side of the Maseru border post on 11 June.
- The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Panel of Elders' Oversight Committee on Lesotho Reforms visited Lesotho from 26 to 27 June 2024. They met with the president of the Senate 'Mamonaheng Mokitimi. He stated that at this stage, there are on-going consultations with stakeholders and the public.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the Minister of Information, Communication, Science, Technology and Innovation (MICSTI) launched the E-Services Outlet Model aimed at empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to offer digital services within their communities.
- South African banks will discontinue processing electronic funds transfer (EFT) to Lesotho, eSwatini, and Namibia in September 2024.

