

SUMMARY OF EVENTS IN LESOTHO
Volume 10, Number 1 (First Quarter 2003)

Basotho Showjumpers Prepare in Germany for Possible Olympic Bid

For Basotho, horses are normally a means of transportation where there are no roads, although horse racing has also been established as a local sport for over a hundred years. Showjumping is however a quite different skill. It is nevertheless a skill that two Basotho are currently mastering at the Schockemöhle Equestrian Centre and Sporting Centre in Bad Saarow in Germany, a town which also happens to be the unlikely headquarters of the Royal Lesotho Horse Riding Society.

As reported in *The Observer*, until last year, **Elia Ramolahloane**, aged 28, used horses as his everyday transport as a member of the Lesotho Mounted Police; while **David Mokala**, aged 26, was a pony-trekking guide. At a talent spotting contest in Maseru watched by King Letsie III, where horsemen were challenged to get their mounts to jump over piles of beer crates, the two came out top. They also met the requirements of a South African-born German film-maker and keen horseman, **Steffen Gentis**, who after a pony trekking holiday in Lesotho went back to Berlin with the idea of helping to form a Lesotho Olympic showjumping team. The Royal Lesotho Horse Riding Society was formed in Berlin to gain sponsorship for such a development. More than 80 firms have come up with support, and Ramolahloane and Mokala, who were initially amazed at the luxury of German stables, have adjusted to the training and are gradually jumping higher and higher.

Professor Moletsane Wins Leadership Award

As reported in *Likereke Ntlafatsong* of January/February 2003, **Professor Ramoshebi Maboe Moletsane** has been awarded the **LeARN Desmond Tutu Footprints of Legends Award** for 2002 for work amongst rural communities at Taung in Mohale's Hoek District.

LeARN stands for Leadership Regional Network and is a Kellogg Foundation sponsored partnership between the Christian Council of Lesotho, where its offices are situated, and the Institute of Extra-Mural Studies of the National University of Lesotho.

Professor Moletsane, who is also Chief of Liphiring in the Taung Ward, received an award of US\$30000, of which \$20 000 will be devoted to a number of projects in Taung while \$10 000 is awarded to him personally.

In an interview in *Likereke Ntlafatsong*, Moletsane referred to his work in education since 1958 at all levels from primary to university, where he was the Vice-Chancellor of the National University from 1997 to 2000. Thereafter, he was briefly Secretary for Schools of the Lesotho Evangelical Church, and is now Director of the National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS). He referred to his achievements at the NMDS which have included rehabilitation of the three-storey building near the British High Commission which once housed the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture, and which had been abandoned after being damaged by fire. Work at NMDS had included installation of more computers (although many more were still needed), and extensive training of personnel. Future plans for NMDS included reviewing the policies of student sponsorship; and development of programmes which address poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS and promotion of entrepreneurship at grassroots level.

Death of Bishop Donald Nestor

The death was announced on 10 January 2003 at the age of 64 of **Donald Nestor** who had been Suffragan Bishop of Lesotho from 1979 to 1992.

Born in India on 6 October 1938, Donald Nestor moved as a child to Britain. He was educated at the local grammar school in Halifax; Exeter College, Oxford, where he read theology; and The Queen's College, Birmingham, where he trained for Holy Orders.

After two curacies in England, Donald Nestor came to Lesotho in 1972 as Assistant Anglican Chaplain at the Roma Campus of the then University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. From 1974, he took over as Chaplain and also as Warden of Ordinands at the Anglican Seminary at Roma, being the immediate successor of its founder, Anthony Gann. In 1979 he was consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Lesotho in St George's Anglican Cathedral in Cape Town.

Like Bishop Francis Balfour a century earlier, Donald Nestor spent much of his episcopacy on horseback visiting many of the remoter missions and outstations of the Anglican Church in Lesotho, thus making it possible for Bishop Philip Mokuku to concentrate on the capital and urban areas and to play, with the heads of other churches, a conciliatory role in the crises which arose in national politics.

When Donald Nestor left Lesotho in 1992, there were already signs of the cancer against which he subsequently fought bravely for a decade. Despite illness, he nevertheless continued to live as nearly a normal life as possible serving as parish priest of Bretherton near Preston in the Diocese of Blackburn in England. For many years an associate of the Society of the Sacred Mission, in 2001 he moved to the SSM's St Antony's Priory in Durham. He had made a five year commitment with the SSM shortly before he died.

Meeting of AGOA Countries Held in Mauritius

The United States *Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)* has resulted in 36 countries in Africa which meet certain democracy and human rights conditions gaining tariff-free access to US markets for their exports. Some \$4.8 billion of US imports, mainly oil imports, are covered by AGOA annually. More important for countries such as Lesotho is tariff-free access to US markets for textiles, and this has resulted in an unprecedented expansion in textile factories in Maseru, Maputsoe and Mafeteng, with new factory sites also being planned for Butha-Buthe and Mohale's Hoek. In fact, according to a report in *Mopheme* of 14 January 2003, Lesotho accounted in 2001 for 36.4% of all apparel imported into the USA under AGOA, and its production had increased by 48% in the space of one year. The workforce had also doubled to 40000 since 2001. The largest single project has been the new Nien Hsing denim mill, producing the raw materials needed for the manufacture of jeans. It began taking on workers early in 2003, a process which led to near riots and some injuries as people competed for jobs, and local people whose fields had been occupied by the factory claimed that they had not acquired the preferential access to employment opportunities which had been promised. Altogether Nien Hsing has invested more than US\$100 million in factory projects in Lesotho.

The importance of AGOA to Lesotho was reflected at a meeting of the 36 AGOA countries and the USA at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture in Phoenix, Mauritius on 15 January 2003. Lesotho sent a high powered team consisting of the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Mpho Malie; the Minister of Finance, Mr Timothy Thahane; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Mohlabi Tsekoa. Over 1000 delegates attended the meeting, and if the United States team expected to be welcomed with open arms for providing employment opportunities in Africa, it nevertheless had to face the fact that its free trade and Iraq policies were increasingly unpopular to many. The Mauritian Supreme Court ruled that a planned Anti-AGOA, Anti-War demonstration for January 15 was legal and that the Mauritian police were outside the law in trying to ban it.

Speaking on his return from the AGOA Meeting, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mpho Malie, stated that the Lesotho Government will need M70 million in the next financial year to meet the requirements of AGOA II beginning in 2004. The money was needed to meet production standards and

meet market requirements as well as to ensure utilities infrastructure, particularly adequate water supply, was in place. At the meeting in Mauritius, a video address by President George W. Bush had announced his interest in having AGOA extended by the US Congress beyond its present guaranteed life which at present expired in 2008. The apparent promise of an extended AGOA had created an atmosphere of investment and market security. Malie predicted that within two years employment in the textile industry in Lesotho would be over 75 000 workers.

Mphanya New BCP Leader

The Basutoland Congress Party has been reduced after two successive splits to a minor party with just three Members of Parliament. It still occupies the old BCP building by the traffic circle. Demolished and rebuilt, it has yet to be painted in the party colours.

After its leader, Tšeliso Makhakhe announced his resignation in 2002, the Annual Party Conference, held at the Cooperative College on 17 January 2003, needed to elect a new party leader. The choice was the veteran politician, **Ntsukunyane Mphanya**, who thus returns to the political arena, after stating in 2000 that he was retiring from politics to return to being a farmer. As a result of this, he is not at present even an MP under the proportional representation system.

Government Publishes Code of Good Labour Practice

Under Section 240, the *Labour Code Order 1992*, the Minister of Employment and Labour can publish a 'Code of Good Labour Practice' after consultation with the Industrial Relations Council. Such a Code was finally published as Government Notice no. 4 of 2003, being a Supplement to the *Lesotho Government Gazette* of 22 January 2003.

A code of good practice is 'soft law' and while not mandatory sets out what is expected of employers and employees. The code deals with such matters as termination of employment, collective bargaining, strikes and lockouts, employment discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace. It also provides the text of a draft recognition agreement by which an employer may formally recognise a trade union.

As is almost invariably the case with the *Lesotho Government Gazette*, the published version of the Code is in English (and indeed may well have been drafted by an external consultant). There is no indication as to when Sesotho and Chinese editions of the code will become available.

Tribunal Set Up to Examine whether Mafole Sematlane should be Removed from IEC

For many months, there have been newspaper reports about the apparently inappropriate behaviour of a member of the three-man Independent Electoral Commission, **Mafole Sematlane**. The matter has now received attention at the highest level and a *Lesotho Government Gazette* of 5 February 2003 announced the setting up by the King of a Tribunal of three judges, headed by Mr Justice Francis Xavier Rooney, 'to recommend to the King what action is to be taken in relation to Commissioner Mafole Sematlane'. In a sequel to this notice, a *Lesotho Government Gazette Extraordinary* of 21 February announced the suspension of Mafole Sematlane from duties pending the advice of the Tribunal.

The original notice required the Tribunal to report by 15 March 2003, but this was extended to 10 April by a further legal notice in a *Lesotho Government Gazette Extraordinary* of 13 March 2003.

Four Mourners Killed in Shooting at Night Vigil

Mourners at the village of Tšakholo Ha Ramotoho in Mafeteng, who were attending the customary Friday night wake on 7 February 2002, prior to the burial of one of their villagers, were assailed by four unknown gunmen, who pumped bullets into the house where the corpse was surrounded by mourners. Four of the mourners died and twelve others were injured, five seriously. The motive for the shooting is not yet known, although it is known that the person who was to be buried had himself died of gunshot wounds.

Father Monyau Treason Case Postponed to 23 June

The much publicised case in which a Catholic priest, Father Anthony Monyau OMI, is to face charges of treason because of his role in the 1998 disturbances has been postponed to 23 June 2003. This was stated in a report from the Lesotho News Agency (LENA) dated 20 January 2003.

Report on Alleged Sex Scandal at NUL Published

Much media space was devoted early in 2002 to a so-called 'sex scandal' at the National University of Lesotho in which the Pro-Vice-Chancellor was allegedly involved. The University set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the allegation, the two commissioners being two members of the academic staff, Advocate Kananelo Mosito and Rev. John Khutlang. The Commission began investigations on 8 April 2002, and was expected to report within a month. However, it was not until the end of the year that the Commission Report became available. The University then placed the text of the report on its website, but subsequently withdrew it because some of the evidence given in camera had been inadvertently published in the report, identifying those who had given this same evidence.

Public Eye of 31 January 2003 reported the findings of the Commission at length, although it did not reproduce all 79 pages of the report. The Commissioners concluded that the alleged conduct by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor had not taken place, and there was consequently no question that any security guard had witnessed such conduct. They were unable to find out how the story had been communicated to the press. The *Public Eye* journalist, Moeti Thelejane, who had written the original story in its issue of 15 March 2002, was not amongst persons giving evidence to the Commission.

Boeringer Ingelheim Donates Nevirapine to the Lesotho Ministry of Health

At a ceremony at the Pitso Ground, marked by the lighting of a candle, the Prime Minister, **Mr Pakalitha Mosisili**, on 29 January 2003 received a gift of the drug Nevirapine from the pharmaceutical firm, Boeringer Ingelheim. The drug when administered to pregnant mothers and newborn children reduces the incidence of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Although the ceremony received considerable publicity, it is not the first time that Nevirapine has been available in Lesotho. Through assistance from its appeal fund, St Joseph's Hospital at Roma has acquired supplies of the drug. However, it has been found that there is a major obstacle in that mothers do not want to be tested to discover if they are HIV positive, and as a result a drug regime which could help to save their babies cannot be used.

Nevirapine is a relatively inexpensive drug. The triple therapy antiretroviral drugs which could give the mothers of the babies the chance of living a nearly normal life for many years to come are unfortunately prohibitively expensive, so that 99% of HIV/AIDS victims are at present doomed to very short life spans.

Radio and Television Licences Abolished

The radio listener's licence was set at £1.15.0 per annum by the colonial administration under the *Radio Proclamation 1927*, with the licence fee considerably higher for restaurants, clubs and hotels. The rules were modified in 1931, 1942 and 1950, and the licence fee was adjusted to a scale running down from £1.15.0 to £1.0.0 according to the distance of the listener from the 'nearest main broadcasting centre', which was by this time Bloemfontein, there being no public broadcasting service in Lesotho until the 1960s. The colonial administration was acquiring revenue for a service it was not even providing!

The radio licence fees, along with all other fees, were metricated in 1961 to run from M3.50 to M2.00, and in 1963, the Radio Regulations were replaced by new Post Office Regulations, which also included Radio Regulations. The Radio Listener's Licence was now standardized at R2.00, at which level it remained, uninfluenced by inflation, until 2001, by which time there was also a Television Licence Fee of M5 alongside the M2 Radio Licence Fee. Radio Licences could initially be purchased at post offices, but as time went on, the cost of collecting the M2 must have become more than the income generated, and by 1999, Radio Licence forms were apparently no longer being printed (at least they were not available at post offices) so it became impossible to comply with the law. The radio licence thus became like the 4s revenue stamp required at the time to be placed on receipts. It was illegal not to have it, but it was also impossible to get it, because it was not being printed.

Matters changed with the advent of the Lesotho Telecommunications Authority which was created by Act of Parliament in 2000. On 10 October 2001, the LTA through Legal Notice No. 167 of 2001 in a *Lesotho Government Gazette Extraordinary* published a long schedule of fees to be paid for various activities in the telecommunications field. Amongst these was the radio licence fee, which was raised from M2 to M10 and the television licence fee which was raised from M10 to M25. However, the LTA neglected to inform the public about this (very few people read the *Lesotho Government Gazette* which is in fact quite difficult to obtain because unlike most countries, Lesotho has no Government Bookshop stocking government publications). The notice also did not explain where the fee could be paid, a rather important detail, because the post office and the LTA are now separate entities. The owner of a radio set in, say, Mokhotlong was unlikely to know about the new fee nor where it might be paid. It is in fact unlikely that anyone even paid the new fee.

Realism finally set in with the LTA, which in a notice published in newspapers in February 2003, announced that the enforcement of the licence requirement for possession of radio and television sets 'has proved to be increasingly cumbersome'. The announcement noted that convergence of formerly separate industries had resulted in digitized voice, data and images sharing a single transmission medium, so that equipment such as computers and even cellphones could receive signals which were previously confined to radio and television. Radio and television licence fees were therefore abolished with immediate effect.

Along with the abolition of these licence fees, the LTA announced cancellation of the requirement that telebureaus and internet service providers pay 1.5% of gross income as an annual royalty fee. Telephone bureaus have in fact proliferated in recent years in many periurban areas and larger villages where 'phone shops', or as they often advertise themselves in English 'public phones', enable people without their own telephones to make calls. However, ensuring that telebureau operators and the small but increasing number of internet cafes keep accurate accounts of their operations, which are usually exclusively cash sales, was obviously also beyond the resources of the LTA, which is a regulator rather than a supplier of services.

Road Accidents Claim Many Lives

A lorry travelling towards Maseru apparently overtaking on a blind corner at Marabeng on the road from Teyateyaneng to Maseru collided with two cars and a van travelling in the opposite direction on the afternoon of Sunday 9 February. 5 people died instantly and three others were taken to hospital.

Amongst those who died was **Dr Nthethe Raditapole**, a veterinary surgeon. He was the son of Dr Norman Raditapole of Teyateyaneng, also a well known veterinary surgeon.

The accident took place on a stretch of road becoming notorious for its high accident rate. There had been a collision between a lorry and a minibus taxi close by at Ha Foso on Tuesday 5 February in which 4 people had eventually died and several others had been injured. Amongst those seriously injured was the lorry driver. Police stated that he would be charged with culpable homicide on his recovery.

Another serious accident occurred on Friday 28 February on a steep slope on the Mandela Highway, the road to Lejone in Leribe District. 11 people died after the brakes of a Hlotse to Bokong taxi failed.

LOIC Threatened with Closure

The **Lesotho Opportunities Industrialisation Centre**, commonly known as LOIC (or *Loiki* in Sesotho) is, according to a report in *The Mirror* of 12 February 2003, threatened with closure.

LOIC was a successful Lesotho implant of a scheme initiated by an Afro-American, Rev. Leon Sullivan (who also framed the 'Sullivan Rules' for dealing with apartheid South Africa). Sullivan, who hails from Philadelphia, in the 1960s was alarmed by the high black unemployment rate in the United States at a time when there were many available jobs for skilled workers. He set up Opportunities Industrialisation Centres in the USA to bridge the gap. In 1978, a similar Lesotho centre, LOIC, was set up near Lesotho High School, and in the subsequent quarter of a century has provided basic bricklaying, carpentry and electrical skills to a large number of Basotho who would otherwise have remained unemployed. The present fees, M400 for a course lasting a year, remains modest and does not cover the full cost. However, in the past, many indigent trainees were allowed to enrol without paying fees.

LOIC was initially funded with Lesotho Government and United Nations funds and later by the United States Agency for International Development and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. However, with USAID long gone, Government is also apparently likely to withdraw funding, expecting LOIC to raise funds from employers and other well-wishers. According to the current Director of LOIC, there is a likelihood that LOIC will be declared bankrupt and close.

School Certificate Results Show Welcome Improvement

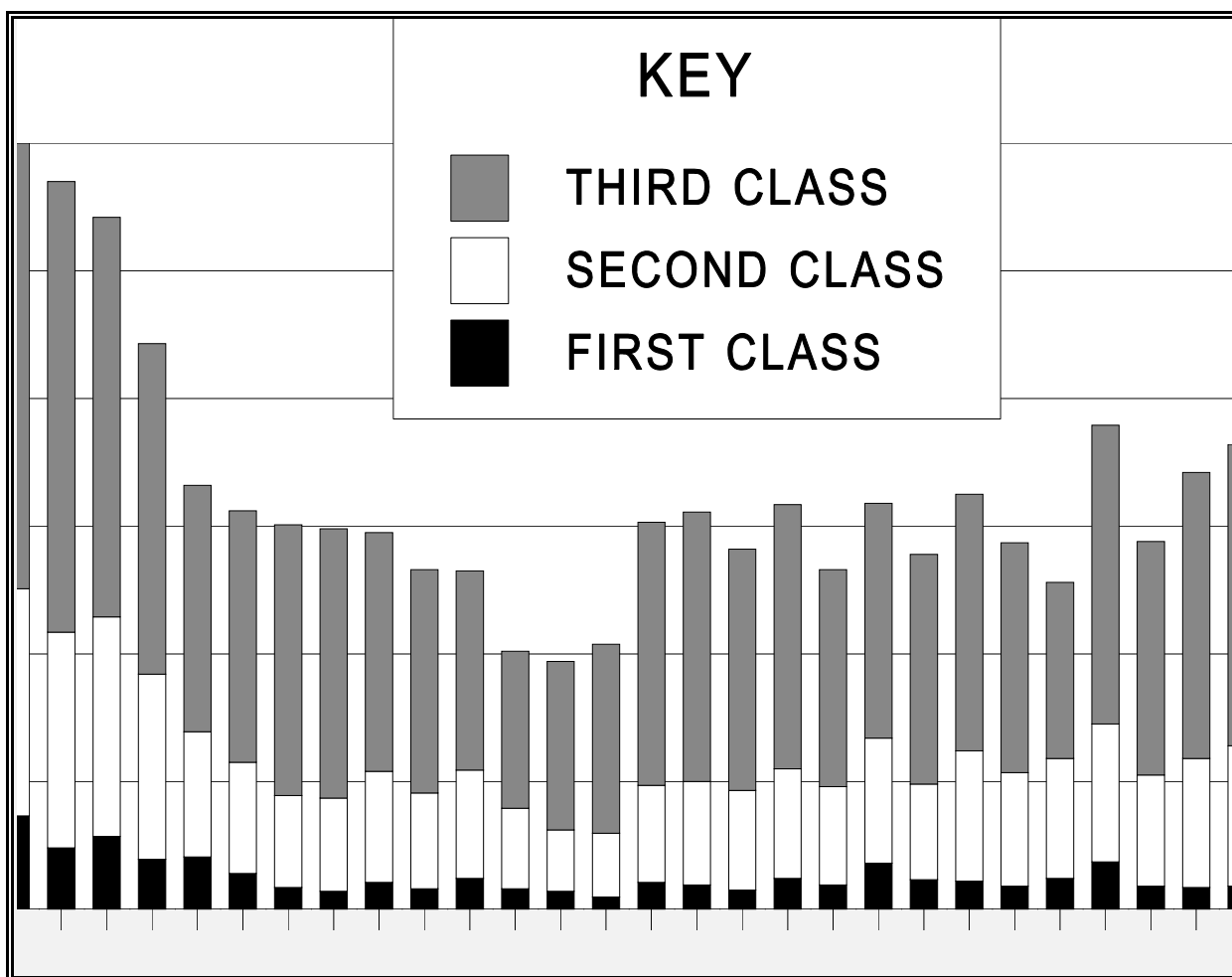
The results of the **Cambridge Overseas School Certificate Examination 2002** were published by the Examinations Council of Lesotho on 14 February 2003. There were 7131 candidates from 131 high schools, just one additional high school having made the list, St Peter's High School near Khukhune in the Hololo valley of Butha-Buthe District.

As is usually the case, there was an enormous gulf between the best and the worst schools writing the examination. On this occasion, in three schools every pupil obtained a school certificate which is awarded First Class, Second Class or Third Class depending on the level of achievement. Of the three schools, the most outstanding was **St Stephen's Diocesan High School** at Mohale's Hoek, which not only managed to secure school certificates for all its 82 pupils writing the examination, but amongst them had 30 with First Class passes. The other schools with 100% school certificates were another Anglican school, St Catherine's High School in Maseru and Khethisa High School of the Lesotho Evangelical Church at Pitseng in Leribe District.

At the other end of the list, there were two schools where not a single pupil obtained a school certificate. These were St Francis High School of the Catholic Church at Tsoelike in Qacha's Nek District, and Bethesda High School of the Lesotho Evangelical Church at Maphutseng in Mohale's Hoek District.

Of the 131 high schools, 11 schools including the two largest high schools, belong to the Lesotho Government and are run by the Ministry of Education. The two largest schools each had approximately 150 pupils writing the examination, but the results were very different. At **Lesotho High School**, 82% of those writing obtained a school certificate and 19 obtained First Class certificates, the third largest number in any school in the country. 51 pupils also obtained a Second Class certificate. On the other hand, at the equally large government school, **Mohale's Hoek High School**, only 20% of those writing obtained certificates, none obtained a First Class Pass and only 9 obtained a Second Class Pass.

In general a Second Class pass with a credit in English Language edit in Mathematics to study Science) is required to gain admission to the National University of Lesotho. Overall there were 207 First Class passes (2.9% of candidates) and 1122 Second Class passes (16.0% of candidates), but relatively few of those obtaining Second Class passes have the required credit in English Language, since the total with such a credit was only 755 candidates, down from 913 last year. In contrast to English, Mathematics showed a slight improvement with those obtaining a credit rising from 884 in the



2001 examination to 1122 in 2002. The University has in recent years been offering a Long Vacation bridging programme to enable those without the official minimum requirements for entry to qualify. Clearly there will be even more candidates for this programme this year.

The chart shows that, despite the poor performance in English, the overall performance in the COSC was the best since 1972. Overall performances improve in times of national stability, and it can be seen how in the past, the political instability and turmoil which led to many teachers going into exile led to an appalling decline in the early 1970s. There was relatively little recovery until the 1990s and the restoration of democracy. However, the relatively good performance in 1994 was followed by a sharp decline, probably as a result of the teachers' strike in 1995, which would have had an impact particularly on the 1995 results and to a lesser extent on the results the following year. Internationally,

throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Lesotho's performance was the lowest amongst countries taking the COSC examination, although in some years and in some subjects the performance by Jamaica was lower. The country with the best performance is Singapore.

Four Parties Contest Motete Constituency: LCD Wins By-Election

The Motete By-Election, necessitated by the death of the incumbent Member of Parliament, Mpe Koabola of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy, was held on 15 February 2003. Four parties, the BAC, LCD, MFP and PFD contested the election, and there were also two Independent candidates. The seat was won by **Monyane Albert Mohlomi** of the LCD with a comfortable majority, getting 3 032 votes or 78.7% of the total, an improvement on the 72.5% received by the late LCD MP, Mpe Koabola, at the 2002 election. The candidate coming second was Bolae Ramonotši, an Independent, with 455 votes, improving his 4.8% share of the poll to 11.8%, possibly gaining votes from the BNP who did not contest the election. The other candidates were Khatlaki Ananiase Kolisang (BAC), 136 votes (3.5%); Hlasoa Hlasoa (MFP), 107 votes (2.8%), Kata Joseph Temoho (IND), 70 votes (1.8%) and Kholumo David Kholumo (IND), 54 votes (1.4%). Total valid votes were 3854 compared with 7415 at the General Election in 2002.

Ketso Heads Public Accounts Committee

The Chairmanship of the **Public Accounts Committee** of Parliament goes traditionally, according to Westminster parliamentary practice (which Lesotho closely follows), to an opposition party financial expert, often the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer or Minister of Finance.

On Tuesday 25 February, according to *Public Eye* of 28 February 2003, **Dr Victor Leketekete Ketso** of the Lesotho People's Congress was elected to be Chairman of the Committee. This led to protests from Major-General Lekhanya, Leader of the Basotho National Party, which has more seats in Parliament, who felt that his party should have been allowed to appoint a member to the post.

Ketso is a former Minister of Finance, represents the LPC in Parliament on a proportional representation seat, and is currently treasurer of the LPC. He was formerly a Lecturer in Economics at the National University of Lesotho.

Stock Theft being Fought with Microchips

Stock theft is an apparently almost intractable problem, which in recent years has caused whole villages to relocate, and has seriously impacted agriculture because farmers have been deprived of animals to plough their fields. However, a new weapon has been launched in Lesotho to tackle the problem. On 26 February 2003, 120 rams of the Mahloenyeng Trading Company were implanted with microchip identification. According to a report in *Mopheme* of 4 March 2003, for Yehuda Danziger of Primate Identity Technology, this was the second such implantation in Lesotho, 64 horses at the Police Training College having been earlier implanted. [Neither rams nor horses are primates, but possibly Danziger's firm has run out of archbishops who are at risk of being stolen.]

The cost of an implant is M25, and the microchip has a life span of 15 years, which is probably longer than most animals likely to be implanted. However, the Lesotho government has yet to adopt the microchip to replace the *bewys*, the much used (and abused) system by which animals in effect acquire passports, so that the local chief's bewys-writer occupies a key, but often not incorruptible, position in the fight against stock theft. The next generation of bewys-writers may have to be retrained as microchip implantation officers.

Cyclone Hape Fizzles Out

The first Indian Ocean cyclone to bear a Sesotho name, **Hape**, was reported in *Lesotho Today* of 27 February 2003 to have died out harmlessly. The cyclone developed north of Mauritius, but did not develop into a strong system and died out without making a landfall.

Since last October, the naming sequence for Indian Ocean cyclones is using names suggested by the countries of southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. Still to come in the alphabetical sequence for this year may be Cyclones Katiba, Qacha and Sefate.

Although not a common name in Sesotho, Hape ('again') is a name bestowed on an unfortunate girl who arrives in a family where there is already a sequence of girls, so that a boy was hoped for. (It can also be given to yet another boy born after a sequence of boys.) Given that cyclones are sequential, it is probably an appropriate appellation.

More than 10 Police Die of AIDS in Two Months

Speaking at the closure of a two week course on HIV/AIDS for police officers at the Police Training College on 28 February 2003, the Commissioner of Police, **Mr Jonas Malewa**, revealed that more than 10 policemen had died of AIDS since the beginning of 2003.

Assuming that the figure was 10 policemen, and allowing for the imprecisions of extrapolation from a single figure, the figure given is equivalent to 120 policemen dying per year. This compares with a reported total of only 23 police deaths in 1996/7 and 40 police deaths in the 1997/8 reporting year (the most recent statistics available), most of these deaths being from vehicle accidents and firearms incidents, although the increase in 1997/8 might already have been indicative of more deaths from disease. The annual reports of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service, although they provide details of numbers of vehicles and horses, seem nowhere to indicate the total strength of the police force. However it is believed to be about 2000 men and women, which indicates that it may be now losing annually about 6% of its total strength to AIDS.

Death of Veteran Catholic Priest

Gérard Laliberté OMI, a Canadian Catholic priest who had served in Lesotho since 1965, died at the oblate convalescent home, Lebreton House, at Mazenod on 28 February 2003. He was 66.

Father Laliberté had been a priest who specialised in serving in remote missions. He was first an assistant priest at St James, Mokhotlong (1965), then Auray near Mantšonyane (1966-8) and Paray at Thaba-Tseka (1968-9), at a time when no road had yet reached Thaba-Tseka. His first parish in which he was in sole charge was the even more remote Lesobeng where he was placed in 1970, although he returned soon afterwards to be parish priest at Auray from 1971 to 1980. From 1981-4, Father Laliberté was back in Canada, spending three years of this time at the Centre Missionnaire Oblat in Montréal. When he returned, he was appointed parish priest at Most Holy Redeemer in Qacha's Nek from 1985-90. From 1991 to 1994, he was priest at the nearby mission of St Francis, Tsoelike.

When he was first taken ill with a stroke on 1 February 2003, Father Laliberté was at the Oblate House at Villa Maria in Quthing District. He was treated in Bloemfontein, but a second stroke led to his death while convalescing at Mazenod on 28 February.

Father Laliberté was buried at the oblate cemetery in Mazenod on 15 March 2003.

Death of MP for Khafung

Matšasa Seshea, Member of Parliament for Khafung in the Berea District, died on Saturday 1 March after his motor vehicle hit a tree and overturned at Masoeling possibly, according to a police report, because he had fallen asleep at the wheel.

Matšasa Ambrose Seshea was born at Ha Mokhehle, Berea District in 1940. He was educated at the local primary school and later at Morija Training College and the University at Roma. He gained

political experience in Ghana under BCP sponsorship, and subsequently worked for a long period in commerce and agriculture.

The death of Matšasa Seshea will necessitate a by-election in the Khafung Constituency, where Seshea of the LCD had had a majority of 920 over his LPC rival, the former MP, Thebe Motebang.

Lesotho Monitor Grows and Becomes More Colourful and Stimulating

The magazine, *Lesotho Monitor*, which began in 2001, published its seventh issue at the beginning of March 2003. Numbered 'vol. 2, no. 1' [vol. 3, no. 1 was intended] and dated January - February 2003, it has now abandoned the rather monotonous Basotho Hat which graced the cover of its first few issues. The new style *Lesotho Monitor* uses a variety of colour throughout its 78 pages, which (no, the Basotho hat motif has not been lost!) are each numbered rather inconspicuously in red inside a conical green straw hat.

Articles strike a balance between domestic and international events, and allow for correspondence, which in this issue has particularly focused on a very controversial topic, the provision in the *Sexual Offences Bill* for the death penalty for anyone who, knowing that he or she is HIV positive, has sexual relations with another person without informing them of their status.

The Editor-in-Chief of *Lesotho Monitor* is Dr Rakoro Phororo, who is a Senator, and not long after the issue came out became Minister of Agriculture. His fellow Ministers get considerable coverage, but their problems are not swept under the mat. For example, the article 'Lesotho qualifies for AGOA, but ...' by Thabo Motlamelle presents details of the abuse of workers in Chinese-owned factories, matters which need to be addressed by both the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Labour & Employment.

The University Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tefetso Mothibe, is provided with three pages to reply to criticisms in the previous issue, and the magazine also hosts a brave four-page article on Zimbabwe by a Zimbabwean journalist, Rashweat Mukundu.

Overall the magazine, uses a vast amount of colour, with many small colour photographs (perhaps some times *too* many) per page showing that it has available a large bank of locally relevant pictorial material. Despite a staff of five (also pictured in colour) under the Editor-in-Chief, the magazine still abounds with typographical errors and occasional infelicities of style. Nevertheless, it is the most impressive local magazine to appear to date.

Policeman Sentenced for Forging COSC

A policeman, **Paul Motse Malitse**, aged 28, of Ha Abia, Maseru, was on 6 March 2003 sentenced to four years in gaol or a fine of M4000 after the Maseru magistrate's court had found that he had used a forged Cambridge Overseas School Certificate to gain entry to the Lesotho Mounted Police Service. He had bought the forged certificate for M250.00.

According to the police newspaper, *Leseli ka Sepolesa* of 13 March 2003, this was the first time a person had been arrested for fraudulently entering the LMPS, but from now on, according to Miss Matšelisiso Kumi, Head of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), detectives would be investigating the credentials of applicants for employment in the LMPS.

Public Eye Editor Marries in Style

The newspaper, *Public Eye*, in its issue of 21 March, published a news story rather uncharacteristically delayed. It was that its Editor-in-Chief, **Bethuel Thai**, had married on 8 March. The bride was **Tinti Lebitsa** and the best man, fellow journalist **Thabiso Mlungwane**. The reception was held at the Thaba Nchu Sun, by which time the bride and bridegroom had changed from their wedding attire into what

was described as traditional attire designed by 'Mampula Mophethe. The report in the paper contained little detail, but published coloured pictures of the event.

Budget Speech Severely Criticizes National Manpower Development Secretariat

The new Minister of Finance, **Timothy T. Thahane**, gave his first budget speech in Parliament on 10 March 2003. The speech presented the budget for the Fiscal Year beginning on 1 April 2003. It was both televised and broadcast over Radio Lesotho, with a relay to the National Convention Centre, where the Minister also went later to answer questions from the public and the media.

The Minister stated that the Government's **Fiscal Strategy** was to achieve a 4.4% growth rate in 2003/4 budgeting for a 'sustainable' budget deficit of 4.2% 'that will avoid financial crisis in the future'.

He referred to the Government's decision to use '**Public Private Partnerships (PPP)** as a framework whereby the private sector can finance public infrastructure and services'. This policy was a direct result of Lesotho's Prime Minister participating in the 'Smart Partnerships' annual meetings in Malaysia. Candidates for PPPs were many, including housing, rural clinics, modernization of courts and police stations, telecommunications, a referral hospital and government buildings.

The Minister also referred to Lesotho's **Industrial Development** facilitated by the United States Growth and Opportunities Act which had resulted in an estimated 44 000 jobs being created by the end of 2002. However, further growth was hampered by the inadequate and intermittent supply of water to industries and by delays at the Maseru rail terminal and other points of export. Industry was being decentralized by the construction of factory shells in Butha-Buthe, Mafeteng and Qacha's Nek.

In reviewing past performance, the Minister noted that the **Public Accounts** had not been audited since 1995/6, and had last been declared true and fair as far back as 1978. This could not be allowed to continue, and the 2001/2 public accounts had in fact been prepared and submitted to the Auditor General. The economic performance had showed two years of recovery since 1999, and was estimated to show a growth of from 3.5% to 4% for 2002/3. For the coming year, 4.4% was predicted, largely as a result of growth in the textile sector. However, the primary sectors of agriculture and mining were expected to decline by about 1.5%. In particular from preliminary observations on the famine relief programme, it appeared that agriculture suffered from structural rather than seasonal constraints, with evidence that HIV/AIDS was adversely affecting the sector, with an increasing number of child farmers while many adult farmers were unable to muster sufficient energy to complete cropping successfully.

In relation to **Education** it was estimated with free primary education now reaching Standard 4, over 300 000 pupils were now benefiting from the programme which had been supported by the building of 153 new schools (some still under construction) and 873 new classrooms. Overall in 2002, there had been 420 000 pupils in primary schools, 80 000 in secondary schools, and 6 700 in universities and other tertiary institutions. In 2002/3, Government had set aside M777.2 million for education; and it would be M848.5 million in the current budget, up by 9.2% [although in real terms this is not an increase since inflation has been running at about 11%].

In an area closely related to education, the Minister was scathing about the **National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS)**. In 2002/3 it had been allocated M115 million, which had to be increased by M40 million due to under-budgeting. [However, although not mentioned, it seems likely that a significant proportion of this extra expenditure was accounted for by the National University of Lesotho admitting a much larger number of students than had been planned for, students who had not necessarily been admitted to areas of study linked to manpower needs.] NMDS's present M155 million would be increased to M195 million in 2003/4. However, the services of the NMDS were quite deplorable, its staff were of low calibre and inadequate in numbers, yet they had unlimited authority to decide the fate of students without appeal. The Minister announced that he was addressing NMDS administrative, staffing and systems issues; was appointing forensic auditors to look into how

funds have or are being used; and would discuss with the Minister of Education the possibility of appointing a High Level Team to review the whole National Manpower Policy and its implementation. [There is no doubt that shaking up NMDS would be extremely welcome to many people, although some would not perhaps welcome the repayment of loan bursaries being pursued vigorously. More important to the nation is that NMDS (although it now has a respected academic Professor Moletsane at its head, who has been attempting to make reforms) has apparently squandered money by awarding loan bursaries irrespective of national needs so that there has been vast overproduction of lawyers and physical planners, while production of mathematics and science teachers is at only some 20% of national requirements; production of nurses is far below meeting requirements because many have left Lesotho to work overseas; and in areas such as radiography, where there is a vacant post in almost every hospital in Lesotho, no-one at NMDS seems to have made the effort to bring this to the attention of school leavers who might have trained in this field.]

Under **Health**, the Minister referred to the continuing fight against HIV/AIDS, but he failed to refer to the structural problems of this sector, which is highly dependent on church-owned hospitals and clinics which comprise some half of the total. [Unlike the education sector in which the government pays staff on the same scale irrespective of whether they teach in government or church schools, the health sector is severely handicapped because the church-owned facilities are run by professional staff whose government provided salaries remain constantly at the bottom notch of each salary scale, while no provision at all is made for ancillary staff. A consequence is that it is extremely difficult for church hospitals to retain nurses and doctors, who either desert to government facilities or leave for overseas posts.]

Under **Infrastructure**, the Minister referred to the funding of the tarred road from Likalaneng (Mohale) to Thaba-Tseka, and to the construction of a tarred spur road in Leribe & Berea Districts from Mpharane to Bela-Bela.

Under **Pensions**, the Minister referred to the financial burden resulting from an increasing number of civil servants proceeding to retirement each year, although he failed to mention that this problem was seriously exacerbated by the retirement age which is still set at 55 (although judges retire at 75). [The age of 55 is a relic from the colonial period when it was expected that colonial officers would return home to Britain (or go to South Africa) and begin a second career before final retirement perhaps 10 or more years later. Its incorporation into the civil service structure for local citizens, at a time when the civil service was very much smaller, seems to have been by oversight rather than any deliberate planning.]

Also under Pensions, the Minister announced that the pitifully small M100 per month paid to World War II pensioners of the African Pioneer Corps would rise to M150. [Lesotho has no general pension provision for elderly people. In South Africa it was raised from M640 to M700 per month by the South African Finance Minister, Trevor Manuel, in his budget speech a few days before the Lesotho budget speech.]

Under **Revenue Policies**, the Minister noted that the Lesotho Revenue Authority was now operational and would cooperate with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) to investigate cross-border tax defaulters. In an obvious reference to the many Chinese factory owners who live in Ladybrand, he indicated that close cooperation with SARS was needed to ensure that business establishments in Lesotho whose principals reside across the border must pay tax in Lesotho and then secure offsets through the double tax agreement between Lesotho and South Africa. The Minister also noted that the long-announced Value Added Tax (VAT) would finally be introduced in Lesotho on 1 July 2002.

In relation to **Public Debt**, the Minister noted that it had fallen from M6.4 million at the time of the last Budget to M5.1 billion today. However, since such debt is mostly denominated in US dollars, this was mainly the result of fluctuations in the exchange rate. Lesotho had managed its external debt relatively prudently and it only amounted to 7% of the 2003/4 expenditure budget.

For many people, particularly civil servants, the main interest in the Budget Speech would have been what rise they might receive in their salaries to counter inflation, which in recent months has been running at some 11%. They were, however, to be disappointed. The Minister made for provision for only a **4% adjustment to civil service salaries**, which he hoped ‘the public service will distribute with a bias towards lowly paid workers’. [In fact the lowest paid workers had already received a 10% rise, when the statutory minimum wages for a wide range of occupations had been raised with effect from 1 October 2002.]

Moshoeshoe Day Celebrated

The annual (although in some years it has not been given) **Moshoeshoe Memorial Lecture** was in 2003 given by **Professor L. B. B. J. Machobane** of the History Department of the National University of Lesotho. The lecture was given on the evening of 10 March 2003, and the chosen subject was the African reaction to evangelism in Moshoeshoe’s times.

The following day, **Moshoeshoe Day** was celebrated in what has now become a traditional ceremony, the laying of wreaths at the Moshoeshoe I statue in Maseru by the King and Prime Minister, followed by the Principal Chiefs of the Makhoakhoa, Bataung and Batlokoa, strictly in that order, because that is the order in which their people became integral members of the Basotho nation.

The event gave the public a rare opportunity to approach the Moshoeshoe Statue. Since the building of Maseru’s inner relief road, Mpilo Boulevard, the former footpath access to the park around the statue has become a road, and the statue itself fenced off.

Lesotho and Ireland Upgrade Diplomatic Relations

At an advance St Patrick’s Day celebration, the Lesotho Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Kenneth Mohlabi Tsekoa, announced that Lesotho and Ireland have elevated their bilateral relationship to a fully fledged diplomatic relationship. The reception was held at the residence of the Irish Consul-General, Mr Bill Nolan, on Friday 14 March, three days ahead of the real St Patrick’s Day on 17 March.

Lesotho will as a result of the announcement have an Ambassador stationed in Dublin while Ireland will station a full Ambassador in Maseru. In recent years, Lesotho has had an Ambassador in Copenhagen, but with the withdrawal of the Danish International Aid Organization, MS, it seems that it will be more appropriately be represented in Dublin than Copenhagen.

Irish aid to Lesotho over the past 25 years has been considerable in areas such as education, health, rural development, and human resources development. Amongst projects, Ireland has provided funding and staff for the setting up of a Basotho pony stud at Thaba-Tseka and a pony trekking facility at Ha Chalalisa near Molimo-Nthuse. It has also funded and staffed the Centre for Accounting Studies in Maseru, and has supported a major project which has placed Irish teachers of mathematics and science in Lesotho’s high schools. Ireland has also contributed to the training of health professionals and the equipping of hospital laboratories, and provided support and personnel to enable the Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre to be established.

Major Changes to BNP Leadership Following Party Conference

Both the Leader of the National Assembly, Lesao Lehohla and the leader of the Basotho National Party, **Justin Metsing Lekhanya**, enjoyed a week long trip to the UK from 1 to 8 March 2002. They went at the invitation of the British High Commission, and had the opportunity of observing the Westminster-style of Government at the Mother of Parliaments and also visited the Scottish Parliament. On his return home it might have been thought that as Leader of the largest opposition party, Lekhanya might have applied some of his honed parliamentary skills to the debate on the Budget Speech. However, he was nowhere to be seen in Parliament for the whole week of the speech and the debate following.

Instead, he was apparently travelling the country preparing for the BNP Party Conference, lobbying members to ensure that votes went to his chosen candidates for membership of the party's Executive Committee.

As reported in *Public Eye* of 21 March 2003, the BNP Party Conference was duly held on Saturday and Sunday, 15-16 March 2003. One of Lekhanya's main public critics had been his party's General Secretary, **Leseteli Malefane** MP. He was replaced by **Ranthomeng Matete** MP, Chief of Morija, whose career in public life has included his being Personal Secretary to Chief Leabua Jonathan, and Secretary to the Interim Political Authority.

There had also been friction between Lekhanya and the Deputy Leader, **Bereng Sekhonyana** MP. Sekhonyana was voted out and replaced by **Joseph Mollo** MP, a former Lesotho High Commissioner in London.

Many other office bearers were replaced. The Party Chairman, **Moupo Mathaba** MP was replaced by **Phale Mokoena**, although the Deputy Chairman, **Thaabe Letsie** MP, a former military colleague of Lekhanya, retained his position. However, like the General Secretaryship, the Assistant General Secretaryship changed hands, moving from **Jeremiah Morena Letsie** MP to **Pelele Letsoela**.

The party Treasurer, **Joseph Thabisi** MP was one of the few to retain his position. However, the Vice-Treasurership changed hands from **Mooki Molapo** MP to **Cletus Sekhohola Molelle** MP, whose earlier career in the banking sector should be relevant to the post. Another position that changed hands was the post of National Organiser, and here **Thamsanqa Tyhali** MP was replaced by **Peter Letsota** MP.

No women were elected as party officials, but the four women who are ordinary members of the Executive Committee all retained their positions. They are **Mrs 'Matsiu Khathibe** MP, **Mrs Claudia Hlao**, **Ms 'Malefa Maphleleba** and **Mrs Mpho Ramabitsa**. Mrs Khathibe had been a late entry to Parliament, having replaced Masupha Sole, who was higher up the list of BNP proportional representation candidates, but was unable to take his seat because of his being sentenced to 18 years in gaol for corruption.

Many of those who fell from party positions will nevertheless remain BNP Members of Parliament until the next elections, which will presumably be held early in 2007. They are all BNP proportional representation MPs, and can remain MPs unless they resign from the BNP itself, die, or are found guilty of any of the various offences which disqualify an MP from sitting in Parliament.

Women's Football Trophy Fought Out in Qacha's Nek, Butha-Buthe and Maseru

Sponsored by Econet Ezi-Cel and People Services International, women's football in 2003 has taken on a more fiercely competitive role between district teams. Although Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka have yet to form district teams, the other eight districts signed up for a competition, which began in Qacha's Nek on 15-16 March where teams from the south of Lesotho gathered. On the first day Qacha's Nek beat Mohale's Hoek 2-1, while Mafeteng convincingly defeated Quthing 4-0. The next day, Mafeteng slaughtered Qacha's Nek 6-0 to prove that they were the best of the four teams. On the same day, Quthing devastated the Mohale's Hoek defence, so that the women from Kubake wound up bottom in the two day tournament.

Moafrika Cultural Festival a Success

There was indeed a varied choice of events on the weekend of 15-16 March 2003. For those whose tastes did not include the BNP Party Conference or women's football, there was the **3rd Moafrika Cultural Festival** at the Co-operative College in Maseru. The theme of the festival was the cultural diversity of the Basotho, and Radio Moafrika set the scene during the preceding week by including news bulletins read in isiXhosa, Sephuthi and Sindebele, the first two languages being still spoken in Quthing and Qacha's Nek Districts, while the third can still be heard in parts of Butha-Buthe District. On the Friday afternoon, there was a street carnival, as participants in a great variety of traditional attire

stopped traffic as they made their way through Maseru from the Maseru City Council Offices to the Co-operative College for the opening of the festival. In the rear of the procession was the inspiration behind the event, Candi Ratabane Ramainoane, who has long been known for his own varied eccentric dress, which is in itself a one-man expression of cultural diversity.

For those with enough stamina on each of the days of Saturday and Sunday there was a virtually non-stop programme from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., beginning and ending with Christian prayers, but including in between a variety of traditional song, dance, praise poetry, gospel singing and including performances by Matebele, Xhosa, Baphuthi and Batlokoa. Ramainoane is a former mayor of Maseru, and somehow he managed to induce the Council Workers themselves to perform traditional dances, not only the *mokhibo*, performed by women kneeling and shaking their upper bodies, but the much more provocative *litolobonya*, a relatively new and expressive women's dance, performed scantily clad (although tights usually take the place of otherwise bare regions), in which the rhythmic movements emphasize the unique features of the female figure. The dance was until recently supposed to be only performed when there were no men present, but it has now taken its place in public performances alongside other traditional dance forms.

Prime Minister Shuffles Cabinet and Portfolios

In a speech to Parliament on Thursday 20 March 2003, the Prime Minister **Pakalitha Mosisili** gave details of the first Cabinet reshuffle since his Government assumed office after the 2002 elections.

A new and nineteenth government Ministry has been created by splitting the Ministry of Agriculture, Co-operatives and Land Reclamation. The new Ministry is the **Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation**, and the new Minister is **Lincoln Ralechate 'Mokose**, who has been moved to this portfolio from his position as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. The Ministry of Agriculture has also lost Co-operatives, which now becomes a part of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Co-operatives and Marketing. On the other hand Agriculture has had Food Security added to its responsibilities and the new **Minister of Agriculture and Food Security** is **Dr Daniel Rakoro Phororo**, a veterinary surgeon by profession and no stranger to the Ministry of Agriculture, which he has served in a number of senior positions. Dr Phororo is able to assume the portfolio because of his appointment as a Senator.

Other changes are that the former Minister of Agriculture, **Vova Bulane**, is now Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, and the musical chairs are completed by the former occupant of this post, **Sephiri Motanyane** becoming the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. Members of the youth wing of the party have been rewarded for their loyalty by being promoted to become Assistant Ministers, **Mothetjoa Metsing** to become Assistant Minister for Trade, Industry, Co-operatives and Marketing; and **Hlonepho Ntšekhe** to become Assistant Minister for Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation.

Other changes are the shuffling of departments, with resulting new titles for ministries. These result in the Ministry of Communications now being the **Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology** (Science & Technology having moved from the Ministry of Natural Resources); the Ministry of Home Affairs becoming the **Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Safety** (this Ministry has long been home to the police); the Ministry of Defence now being known as the **Ministry of Defence and National Security**; the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports becoming the **Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation**; and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment having the departments in its title shuffled so that it becomes the **Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture**. This is bad news for those who have waited over 30 years for Lesotho to acquire a National Museum, a working National Archives and an effective National Library Service. All three of these fall under the Department of Culture which appears to have been relegated to the bottom in order of priority.

The two new Ministers and two new Assistant Ministers were sworn in by the Chief Justice, Mahapela Lehohla, at the Royal Palace on Monday 24 March 2003.

Cabinet Members Become Wabenzi

A front page headline appeared in *Mopheme* of 25 March 2003 ‘Government spends millions on luxury cars for ministers, despite ongoing famine and rampant HIV/AIDS?’, the question mark perhaps protecting the newspaper against any inaccuracies in the story. The paper reported that the government has bought luxurious Mercedes Benz E Class 240 sedans for use by cabinet members as official vehicles. At least five of the new fleet had already arrived in Lesotho and others were to be delivered soon. The paper comments that the cars cost about M350000, and if all Ministers and Assistant Ministers are to receive them (which seems doubtful), the total cost will be M8.4 million. Previous ministerial cars were Toyota Camrys.

American Embassy in Lesotho Responds to Iraq War

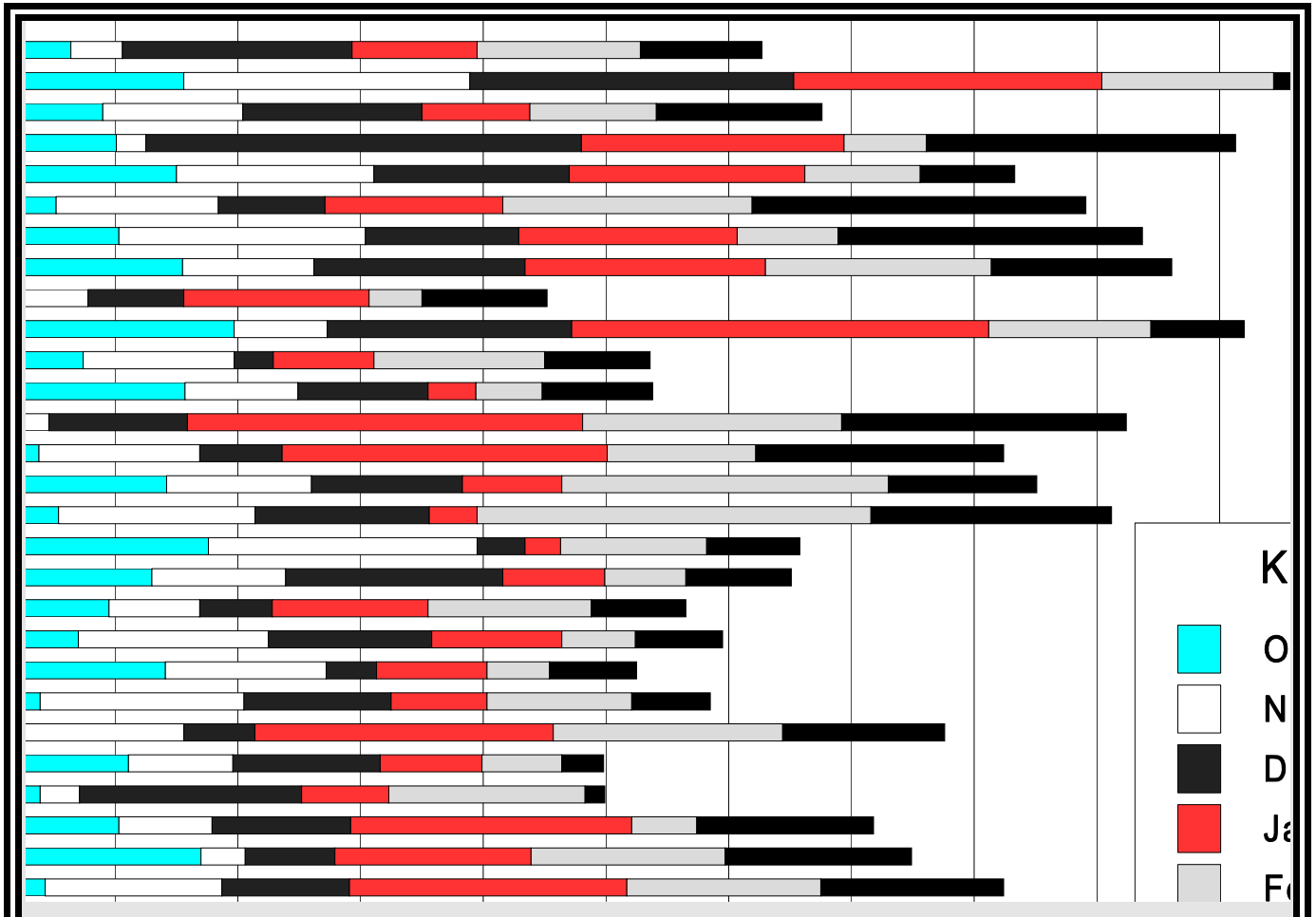
Although Lesotho’s links with Iraq are few, there have been a few repercussions from the Iraq War. One has been the US Embassy taking out advertisements to ensure that all US citizens are in touch with their Wardens to facilitate rapid passing on of information ‘and, if necessary, providing emergency services’.

Amongst other effects which seem to be related to the war and its build-up, have been the appreciation in value by over 30% over the past year of the rand and loti against the United States dollar. This has somewhat offset the recent increase in the gold price, which might otherwise have significantly improved employment opportunities in South Africa in the mining sector.

The rise in value of the rand and loti for the time being seems to have staved off a major petrol price rise in Lesotho, although there has been a rise on the South African side so that petrol is for the first time over R4.00 a litre. It seems likely that a similar rise in Lesotho will soon occur, and if so this will probably reverse the current downward trend inflation to below 10% per annum.

Summer Rainfall Close to Mean

The six summer months from October to March are also the wet season. In 2002-3, compared with the record-breaking wet season of 2001-2, the rainfall was much closer to the normal. Most parts of Lesotho seem to have had a total rainfall a little below the long-term mean with November being a conspicuously dry month, while December made up for it with rain well above average.



The chart above shows the summer rainfall for Roma, compared with the previous 30 years of summer rainfall records. As can be seen, in Roma rainfall was a little below the mean in 2002-3, in fact some 92% of the average summer rainfall. There has recently been a run of wetter than average summers, and 2002-3 was the driest summer since the drought year of 1994-5. As can be seen from the chart, in that summer the combined rainfall for the crucial growing season months of October, November and December was only half of what it was in 2002-3, and many crops failed. 2002-3 will probably enjoy a fairly average harvest, and since less rain fell in violent thunderstorms than in 2001-2, hail damage is likely to have been less widespread.

Summary of events in Lesotho is a quarterly publication compiled by David Ambrose of the Institute of Education at the National University of Lesotho, P. O. Roma 180, Lesotho.