

SUMMARY OF EVENTS IN LESOTHO
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Death of Moeketsi Khali

A prominent businessman and accountant, **Moeketsi Khali**, died on Christmas Day at the age of 63, and was buried in Maseru on 3 January 2004.

Moeketsi Khali was born at Qanya Ha Motšelo in Qacha's Nek, and educated at schools in Qacha's Nek District and at the then Basutoland High School, Maseru. He trained in accounting in Antigonish, Nova Scotia and in Barking, London, where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He lectured for a while at the Civil Service Training Centre and also at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland while on secondment from the Treasury in Maseru. From 1975 to 1979 he was Accountant-General.

In 1980 he formed his own firm of Khali & Partners (Chartered Accountants), and established a restaurant in New Europa, Maseru, which in 1986 was extended to become **Khali Hotel**. The hotel eventually had 70 rooms, 3 conference halls and 3 committee rooms.

Amongst offices that he held were the President of the Lesotho Hotels and Hospitality Association and Chairman of the Regional Tourist Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA).

Khali was a keen ballroom dancer and tennis player. As reported in *Lentsoe la Basotho* of 8 January 2004, by his first wife, Nandi Phatela, he had three daughters and a son. On her death he remarried and also had three daughters and a son by his second wife, Betty Ntsane.

Commissioner of Police Gives Crime Statistics for 2003

In an end of year message, as reported in *Lesotho Today* of 2 January 2004, the Commissioner of Police, **Mr Jonas Malewa**, reported that in 2003 at least 1091 people in Lesotho died in shooting incidents. Of these, 313 were carried out by unidentified people. Stock theft had increased with 18 479 animals being reported stolen of which only 8 514 had been recovered. Armed robbery had increased during the year with 507 incidents compared with 397 in 2002. 1115 cases of rape had been reported compared with 897 the previous year. Car theft had also increased with 267 cars stolen compared with 197 in 2002. The figures have to be regarded as tentative because the message by the Commissioner of Police was issued before the year had ended.

In a separate report it was announced that deaths in road accidents in 2003 showed a slight decrease from 329 in 2002 to 321.

33% of Pregnant Mothers Tested Found to be HIV Positive; Antiretrovirals now Available

As reported in *Lesotho Today* of 22 January 2004, 396 out of 1201 mothers tested for HIV status in Lesotho hospitals were found to be HIV positive. The paper quoted the Reproductive Health Manager, 'Mamosa Tlopo, who said that of these 396 women, 149 had so far delivered, but despite the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme, only 71 babies had received nevirapine treatment. Nevirapine is a drug administered to mothers and babies which reduces the chances of an HIV positive mother infecting her child.

Public Eye of 30 January 2004 reported on a three-day workshop on HIV/AIDS recently held in Maseru, at which one of the principal speakers was Dr 'Molotsi Monyamane. He stated that the cost of antiretroviral drugs in Lesotho has come down from some M6 000 per month to M300 per month. The administration of such drugs depended on the patient's HIV status, and the state of their immune system which required a CD 4 count. At present the only machine able to undertake CD 4 counts is in Maluti

Hospital at Mapoteng, but it was hoped to install a similar machine at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Maseru. Persons with a CD 4 count below 200 should be allowed to take antiretrovirals, which would restore their count to normal if they took the drugs each day at the same time.

Lesotho Telephone Directory Published and Criticized

Fixed line telephones in Lesotho are controlled by the privatized company, Telecom Lesotho, although they in turn commission a Pietermaritzburg based company, Brabys, to produce the Lesotho Telephone Directory.

The *Lesotho Telephone Directory 2004* became available in January 2004, commendably prompt, but unfortunately with many defects which were soon spotted by users and ventilated in the Radio Lesotho phone-in programme, Seboping.

The 2003 directory had already become less user-friendly because the font size had been reduced by two points since 2002 and numbers crammed into four columns instead of three. This was at a time when cellphones had become more numerous than fixed line phones, and in the absence of a cellphone directory, it was convenient to have space to write in numbers which one needed to refer to. Moreover, the directory had used unfamiliar abbreviations for Lesotho towns, such as MOK for Mochale's Hoek, an abbreviation which most might expect to stand for Mokhotlong. Mokhotlong in fact is abbreviated MQQ in the new directory, while Qacha's Nek, which could reasonably and unambiguously be abbreviated QN is in fact QSK.

In 2004, the directory compilers went one further in saving space. They reduced all first names to initials. As is well known, approximately 50% of Sesotho names begin with M. There are 126 subscribers with the surname Letsie, and of these no less than 46 appear as M Letsie, while there are also another 19 with names ranging from MA Letsie to MR Letsie (7 of them MM Letsie). If you want to phone up Makhobalo Letsie (who does not have a postal address recorded in the directory), you have 46 different numbers to try. However, if you have kept your 2003 directory, you can find the number immediately.

The directory has many other defects. For example, it retains the names of subscribers long since deceased or otherwise departed from Lesotho. Moreover its system of alphabeticizing names is erratic. For example some names are listed under titles such as DR, REV, PROF. There are also several entries under THE, including THE REVEREND MICHAEL EDWIN WORSHIP AND JANE CATHRINE. The reverend gentleman (whose name was *Worsnip*, and his wife's name Catherine) in fact left Lesotho some 15 years ago. It is also not very helpful for anyone wanting to contact the Principal of Lesotho High School to have to find him under THE PRINCIPAL Box 46 Msu. Not many people know that Lesotho High School's post box number is 46, but even if you did, would you think of looking under THE? Visitors to Lesotho trying to use the directory will often become very frustrated. They might (although it is not standard practice) successfully look up Palace Hotel under THE PALACE HOTEL, which is where its number is to be found. But what about Katse Lodge, the hotel overlooking the Katse Reservoir? Probably not one in a hundred directory users would expect to find its number under FEDICS FOOD SERVICES with a Butha-Buthe address! If business and tourism are to succeed in Lesotho, the country deserves a better service.

But where to complain? There is in fact a statutory LESOTHO TELECOMS REGULATORY AUTHORITY, a name which, *mirabile dictu*, actually appears correctly in the alphabetical sequence. However, if you ring the number you are bombarded by a cacophony of electronic noise and appear to be speaking to a computer or fax machine. The LTRA has a box number, so one can of course write a letter of complaint. However experience, indeed a written complaint about the shortcomings of the 2003 directory, has shown that such letters go unanswered.

Letsies Score over Other Names in Telephone Directory

One interesting feature of the *Lesotho Telephone Directory 2004* is its provision of raw material to calculate the relative frequency of surnames. Lesotho has no surname Dlamini, which in the Swaziland telephone directory constitutes some 10% of all entries. In the case of Lesotho, there is no surname constituting even 1% of all names. Formal surnames in Lesotho are a recent introduction, so that most people bear as surnames the names of their grandfather, great-grandfather or a more distant male ascendant.

The commonest surnames are Letsie with 126 entries and Molapo with 106 entries, names which reflect descent from the two most senior sons of King Moshoeshe. Both Letsie and Molapo had numerous wives, producing many descendants, although in some cases their sons themselves, such as Lerotholi, first son of Letsie (60 entries), have become the progenitors of common surnames.

In the list of names, Mohapi ('the capturer'), no doubt recording valour in the days when cattle raiding was condoned, is a non clan-specific name and is the third most common surname with 102 entries. It is followed by the further Bakoena names Makhetha (87) and Mohale (also 87 entries).

Bakoena surnames in fact dominate, and the first unambiguously non-Bakoena surname is Makara (84) in 7th place, representing descendants of the Mofokeng councillor of King Moshoeshe. Other typically Bafokeng names are Shale (53), 15th on the list, followed by Matete (50). Bataung come further down the list with Mokhele (39), Hlalele (37) and Moletsane (34), although no doubt some Bataung are also included under the non clan-specific surname Moeketsi (61), a name which simply means 'an addition' (to the family). Of course some clans are concentrated in remote areas where telephones are few or non-existent. Thus it is not surprising to find that there are only 29 people with the typical Baphuthi surname, Moorosi; and only 16 with the typically Batlokoa surname, Sekonyela.

A child may be born at a time of grief into a family in any clan and given the name Sello which has 86 entries, making it 6th on the list. Similarly, a child may be born into a family in any clan at the time of an important meeting, and this accounts for the common surname Pitso (70 entries), 8th on the list. The 9th place on the list is occupied by Moshoeshe (65), these being mainly descendants of the King's less well-known sons; while the 10th place is occupied by Matsoso (63), the son of King Moshoeshe placed at Qoaling in the suburbs of Maseru. One of Matsoso's sons was Thamae (61).

16 years ago, a similar count of surname frequency was undertaken in the *Lesotho Telephone Directory 1988* and published in the magazine *Molepe*. This showed the name Molapo with 46 entries then to be the commonest. Other common surnames in the directory in descending frequency were Makhetha (26 entries), Sello (26), Letsie (25), Mohale (23), Mohapi (23), Mohapelo (21), and Anwary (20). The first five of these are still all in the top six. However Mohapelo now has just 23 entries, while Anwary (including business premises) has 22.

How is it that the Letsies have overtaken the Molapos? It is a fairly simple procedure to change one's surname in Lesotho involving the payment of a nominal fee and having the old and new names published in the *Lesotho Government Gazette*. In the early years after Independence the Molapos were in the ascendant, with the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan being himself a grandson of Molapo. However, King Moshoeshe II had relatives on the Letsie side, some of whom such as Sekhobe Nako and Thaabe Thaabe had become high ranking army officers. He personally encouraged them to adopt the surname Letsie, rather than use the surnames which they were using which were derived from sons of Letsie. When the military coup took place in 1986 and King Moshoeshe II had for a while some executive power, Colonel Sekhobe Letsie and Colonel Thaabe Letsie became members of the Military Council. However, those who changed to Letsie might well now be wishing that they had not done so, because there are now in the telephone directory five names S Letsie, and 7 names T Letsie. Under their original names they could each have had a unique entry.

Ministry of Education Book Loan Scheme for Form A Pupils Suffers Delays

The Ministry of Education has progressively sponsored free education for primary school children since 2000, and with effect from January 2004, the first five classes, Standards 1 to 5, of primary school will be without school fees, leaving just Standards 6 and 7 where pupils pay fees.

For over 15 years, with World Bank Assistance, the Ministry has also sponsored free textbooks for primary school children delivered through the School Supply Unit. As of January 2004, the system was supposed to be extended to children in Form A of secondary schools. Books were to be provided to schools, to be issued to pupils, who would only have to meet the cost if the books were lost or damaged. While the new system was welcomed, because it reduced the heavy cost of secondary schooling to parents, it got off to a slow start. Several weeks after the new school year had begun, most schools had still not received their books, creating a crisis for the Form A pupils and teachers.

Stock Theft Suspect Shot Dead by Police

A stock theft suspect, **Tekesele Shai**, generally known as **Makhoathi**, died on the morning of 7 January 2004 at his home at Ha Setenane near Ha Mofoka after a gun battle with police which lasted some 40 minutes. His wife, 'Mathabo, was injured in the gun battle, and an arm later had to be amputated.

The whole incident gained considerable media attention, particularly because it appeared to show defects in the judicial system. Makhoathi had been out on bail since July 2003, while awaiting trial on two murder charges. He had failed to meet the bail conditions and indeed for a while lived in South Africa, but on his return had been arrested in November 2003 for contempt of court. After several postponements, the contempt of court case had been set down for the High Court on 20 February 2004. Meanwhile Makhoathi's lawyer had appeared on 31 December 2003 before the Chief Magistrate, Molefi Makara, attempting to obtain bail for Makhoathi again. Following this hearing, Makhoathi had apparently been released as a result of a misunderstanding.

Basotho Robbed in Zimbabwe Compensated

21 Basotho who had been on a study tour in Zimbabwe in September 2003, were collectively robbed there of most of the M12 000 allowance which each had been given by the Conserving Biodiversity Project. As reported in *Public Eye* of 9 January, the Minister of Tourism, Environment and Culture, arranged for them to each get M6 700 in compensation, the estimated amount which each had not yet spent. A handing over ceremony was held early in January. The members of the party had been government officials, chiefs and community members from villages in the southern districts of Lesotho.

Secondary and High School Examination Results Published

The publishing of secondary and high school examination results are now annual events which bring large numbers of people to Maseru to queue for the pass lists. The **Junior Certificate** results were published on Monday 19 January, and the queue to purchase a copy had already begun to form well before daybreak. When the office of the Examinations Council of Lesotho opened at 7.30 a.m. to sell the pass list, the queue had snaked round the corner of Constitution Road, where the office is situated, and down past the post office and Standard Bank as far as the Pioneer Road junction, more than half way round the whole block.

The numbers writing Junior Certificate in 2003 were 13 146, up from 12 545 the previous year, but still less than the 14 975 of the peak year of 2001. 9 635 of the candidates received a certificate, 73.3% of those writing the examination. Of the larger subjects, the performance in Sesotho was best with 51% of candidates getting a credit. In Mathematics and Science only 9% of candidates received a credit in each case.

There were similar scenes in Maseru on 9 February 2004 when the **Cambridge Overseas School Certificate** results were published. As is well known, the Junior Certificate is a much easier examination to pass, and compared with the 73.3% in Junior Certificate, only 51.1% of candidates (3666 out of 7189) received a first, second or third class COSC certificate. This was, however, the best performance since 1972, being a slight improvement on the 2002 performance when 50.8% received a certificate. 235 (3.3%) of candidates received a first class certificate; 1126 (15.7%) a second class; and 2305 (32.1%) a third class certificate, numbers which closely paralleled those of the previous year.

Performance was very different in the various school subjects. Whereas 48% received a credit in Sesotho, only 8% of all writing (including those rewriting, 778 candidates in all) received a credit in Mathematics. Similarly only 8% (909 candidates in all) received a credit in English Language. This represented a slight improvement in English performance (up from 7%) and a decline in performance in Mathematics (down from 10%) compared with the previous year. The performance in the various science options ranged from 20% credits in Biology and Chemistry to 54% in Combined Science. The best performance of all was in Food and Nutrition where 84% of those writing the examination obtained a credit, although it was a subject only taken by some 5% of all candidates, apparently candidates mainly from better performing schools.

School performance in COSC as usual was extremely variable. Five schools achieved 100% of candidates receiving a school certificate in one of the three classes: Leribe English Medium High School in Hlotse; Mount Tabor High School in Mafeteng District; St Catherine's High School in Maseru; St James High School in Mokhotlong District; and St Stephen's High School in Mohale's Hoek. At the other end of the scale, there were four schools where less than 10% of candidates managed to get a school certificate; Maseru High School; Peka High School; Qacha's Nek High School; and St Theresa's Seminary in Roma. Two schools which were formerly high performers, namely Machabeng College and the National University of Lesotho International School, no longer take the COSC. Their pupils write the International General Certificate in Secondary Education (IGCSE) instead.

British High Commission Terminates Passport and Visa Services

The British presence in Lesotho has progressively diminished since Independence, with staff reductions at the **British High Commission** so that by January 2004, there were just two UK-based staff. The other symbol of British presence, the British Council, had at first been serviced by local rather than UK-based staff and then finally closed in June 2001. Its French equivalent, Alliance Française, however, flourishes in Maseru, French influence being boosted by the provision since early in 2002 of Radio France Internationale broadcasts in English and French relayed on VHF from a local transmitter. Other countries with a significant diplomatic presence in Maseru are the Peoples Republic of China, Ireland (recently upgraded to Embassy status), Libya, South Africa and the United States, which has recently increased the staff complement at its embassy. Canada, Denmark, Germany, Guinea and Sweden are represented by Honorary Consuls.

In January 2004, the British High Commission suffered a further reduction in its UK-based staff by the axing of the post of its consular officer, Andrew Osborne. As a result, the High Commission announced that with effect from 26 January 2004, it was no longer able to provide the service of renewing UK-passports for British subjects, nor the issuing of visas for visiting the United Kingdom. Basotho do not in fact need visas to visit the UK, although they do need work permits if they take up work there, as a number of nurses have done. Most of the visas, some 150 a year, have been issued to Indian, Nigerian and Ghanaian citizens working in Lesotho, and the service included the issuing of visas for some other countries which do not have diplomatic missions in Lesotho and were represented by Britain. Apparently also some 100 UK passports, mainly renewals, were issued per year.

Botswana, Swaziland, Namibia and other countries in southern Africa have been similarly affected by British expenditure cuts, which are popularly believed to be a consequence of money being diverted to pay for the war in Iraq. Persons resident in southern Africa must now use the British High Commission in Pretoria for passport and visa services.

The sudden change after the Iraq War from an expanding to a contracting British presence overseas is illustrated by the British presence in Bamako, Mali. A new embassy was established there, but the first British Ambassador also became the last, because expenditure cuts forced it to close soon afterwards.

It seems that the demands of new technology and new anti-terrorist measures are making life considerably more difficult for travellers. Passports could be issued at one time at any High Commission or Embassy with the necessary stationery, embossing machine and typewriter. Now a £100 000 computer dedicated to passport production is required, and when in 2005, new passports with biometric data (finger prints and a digitally enhanced picture) are introduced to meet United States requirements, the additional further cost of the equipment will probably result in an increase in passport and visa fees. The passports will have to be issued in the presence of the applicants, and travellers from Lesotho and other countries neighbouring South Africa will first have to surmount the hurdle of obtaining a South African visa to travel to Pretoria.

The only UK-based staff at the British High Commission in Maseru are now the High Commissioner, **Frank Martin** and his deputy, **Mark Watchorn**. Rumours that the High Commission might be closed down altogether have been denied. There is no precedent for this happening in a Commonwealth country. However the progressive reduction of the British presence in Lesotho is seen by many as ominous.

Numbers of Basotho Sponsored to Study in South Africa to be Reduced

The high cost to the National Manpower Development Secretariat of Basotho studying in South Africa is to be reduced to a future quota of just 500 students a year. This was announced in a statement from the Minister of Finance & Development Planning, **Dr Timothy Thahane**, on 21 January 2004. The 500 new students would be sponsored in priority areas of study not already available at the National University of Lesotho. The new 500 students will obtain loan bursaries worth M20 million per year, and will join the 3345 students already at South African universities costing M130 million per year.

Overall, NMDS sponsors students both in Lesotho and abroad at all levels from primary to postgraduate. The 2003/4 financial year allocated budget is M249.8 million. Actual expenditure has risen very rapidly in recent years, having been just M80 million in 2000/1, M122 million in 2001/2 and M177 million in 2002/3.

LCD Wins Thaba-Putsoa By-Election

The by-election in the mountain constituency of Thaba-Putsoa in Maseru District on 24 January 2004 was won by **'Mamolili Marupelo** of the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy. She polled 2605 of the votes, being 79.1% of the total. Other parties contesting the election were the Marematlou Freedom Party (313 votes), Popular Front for Democracy (303 votes), Lesotho Workers Party (41 votes) and the United Party (33 votes). None of the largest opposition parties in Lesotho, the BNP, NIP, LPC, BCP and BAC (those with more than one member in the National Assembly) contested the by-election.

Mrs Marupelo replaces the late Molefe Mokuena as MP for Thaba-Putsoa.

Lesotho to Establish Diplomatic Mission in New Delhi

India's **Republic Day** falls on 26 January annually, but it was convenient in Lesotho to mark it by an all day festival at the Maseru Sun Cabanas Hotel on Sunday 25 January 2004.

At the well-attended occasion, there was song, dance, poetry and a fancy dress parade in which children played the parts of Indian patriots. Those attending included Lesotho cabinet ministers and the Indian Deputy High Commissioner who is stationed in Pretoria. A large number of Indians working in Lesotho also attended, including members of the Indian Army Training Team and their families, and also Basotho of Indian descent, some of whom had trained in India.

It was announced during the proceedings that Lesotho will shortly establish a High Commission in New Delhi. Meanwhile a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of small trade industries was signed in Maseru on 22 January by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr Shiv Shankar Mukherjee and the Chief Executive of Basotho Enterprises Development Corporation (BEDCO), Mr Phallang Mokhesi. The agreement is intended to facilitate exchange of skills and transfer of technology between the countries.

Free Border Movement Agreement to be Ratified

In a press conference on Monday 26 January, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Tom Thabane, indicated that an agreement on the free movement of persons between Lesotho and South Africa was soon to be ratified. This would enable citizens from both countries to pass through border posts without restrictions, although investors, students and migrant workers would still need appropriate documentation. The free movement would only apply to tourists from each country.

Rental Flats to be Demolished

A row of nearly completed brick houses at Lower Thetsane, apparently intended to be rented to Chinese residents at the Thetsane Industrial Estate, was erected without permission from the Maseru City Council and has to be demolished. This was the outcome of a court case between the property developer, Sally Moosa, and the Maseru City Council which showed that the flats had been constructed illegally and contrary to the provisions of the Maseru Development Plan.

Nigerian Academic Killed in Maseru

A Nigerian academic, **Dr Joseph Jegede**, was killed by robbers at his house in Hillsvue, Maseru, on the evening of 27 January 2004.

According to the report in *Leseli ka Sepolesa* of 6 February 2004, three youths who apparently knew the name of one of the Jegedes' employees tricked their domestic assistant, 'Mamasheane Thejana, into letting them into the house at about 7 p.m. They then tied her up, and demanded money or to know where they could find keys for money locked away. They then searched the bedroom. When Jegede and his younger brother arrived about an hour later, they found the house in a disorderly state and the thieves still searching. Jegede was shot dead by the intruders and his brother had a narrow escape.

Dr Jegede, an educationalist with a PhD from the University of Ilorin in Nigeria, arrived in Lesotho some ten years ago and was Senior Lecturer in the Department of Educational Foundations at the National University of Lesotho. Jegede was also the pastor in Lesotho of Deeper Life Ministries, an evangelical Christian church. On leaving the University, he established a bakery at Thabong in Maseru and also worked for the World Food Programme. At the time of his death, he was said to be employing 15 people at his bakery, and according to the report in *Leseli ka Sepolesa* it was suggested by his brother that those responsible for his death might have been former employees sacked because of theft. The police were pursuing this lead.

Mrs Jegede arrived from Nigeria shortly after her husband's death and only learned what had happened after her arrival. The couple have four children.

Lesotho Academy of Arts in Disarray

The **Lesotho Academy of Arts** in Maseru has buildings which are precariously situated on a steep slope just above Maseru's inner relief road, Mpilo Boulevard. Its establishment in 1991 (at a time when the Relief Road route was apparently not generally known) was at the initiative of **Tšokolo 'Musu**, a flamboyant and talented musician and writer (although afflicted with logorrhoea), who persuaded donors to fund a modest institution to develop talents of the kind not catered for by formal education.

However, as is well known, the fees deriving from provision of secondary and high school education can make it a lucrative operation, and it appears that Tšokolo 'Musu was approached by a Zambian entrepreneur, Francis Ngoma, in 2002, who deceived him into believing that he already had a recognized high school, Maseru Technical Institute. He was prepared to undertake a joint enterprise with 'Musu to be known as the Lesotho Academy of Arts High School (LAAHS).

In fact neither high school was recognized and in May 2003, the LAAHS, as reported in *Lesotho Today* of 29 January 2004, had been ordered to close by the Ministry of Education. Despite this, as of January 2004, LAAHS apparently still had students, but was the subject of an open dispute between 'Musu and Ngoma about control over the students, the finances, the buildings and the furniture. 'Musu locked all the buildings, preventing Ngoma from operating in the buildings, but Ngoma then obtained a court order on 29 January 2004 on behalf of the Maseru Technical Institute, the court ruling that the contract between MTI and LAA had been terminated due to breach of contract by the Lesotho Academy of Arts. The court required 'Musu to allow the MTI to operate, but he refused to open any of the buildings unless a police officer was present. However, on 12 February 2004, the buildings were opened and emptied of all property deemed to belong to the school. This resulted in an diatribe by Tšokolo 'Musu denouncing foreign teachers in *Lesotho Today* of 26 February 2004. Such teachers, he alleged, had discovered Lesotho was a 'financial paradise' where through opening schools in shacks, calling them high schools, and charging exorbitant fees, they could in effect mine gold.

MP for Mokhotlong Expelled by LCD

The Member of Parliament for Mokhotlong, **Lehlohonolo Tšehlana**, has been expelled from the ruling party, the Lesotho Congress for Democracy. According to *Lesotho Today* of 5 February 2004, he was expelled by the party's National Executive Committee for 'alleged misconduct against the Constitution of the party'.

Mr Tšehlana, who has challenged the expulsion in court, was subsequently ordered by the Speaker in Parliament to move from his seat amongst the LCD members. He remains a constituency MP, but is now *de facto* an Independent Member of Parliament.

Demerging of Lesotho Agricultural College and NUL Faculty of Agriculture Completed

In a notice dated 2 February 2004 issued by the Information & Public Relations Office of the National University of Lesotho, the Vice Chancellor, Dr T. H. Mothibe, gave details of the demerging of the Lesotho Agricultural College (LAC) and the University's School of Agriculture.

The original fusion of the two parallel tertiary agricultural education institutions had taken place following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and National University of Lesotho on 18 May 2000. However a letter of 15 July 2003 from government required the demerging of the institutions. No reasons were given, although there was considerable speculation on the matter (see *Summary of Events* (3rd Quarter 2003)). Soon after the demerger was announced, the Vice-Chancellor had addressed the School of Agriculture staff to the effect that he had been reliably informed that four factors had probably influenced the Cabinet decision. These were that the standard and quality of training in agriculture was not meeting Government expectations in terms of academic and practical aptitude; the cost of training was too high; the farm facilities of the former LAC had fallen into a state of neglect since the merger and the farmland had remained fallow; and NUL was

said to have allowed the Faculty of Agriculture to be run by expatriates to the detriment of the college programmes.

After being briefed on the matter, and being told that the university management had attempted but had failed to discuss the matter with government, the University Council accepted the government decision and formed a joint task force to work out the modalities of the demerger. Meanwhile a government decision was relayed to the University that the control of the Maseru and Hlotse campuses of the Faculty of Agriculture should be transferred back to the LAC by 31 March 2004.

The demerger has considerable financial implications, because LAC staff members were taken on by NUL on an enhanced salary scale. The task force has recommended that the Lesotho Government either pay separation packages to the NUL staff reverting to LAC or else takes over the contractual obligations of NUL staff reverting to LAC without prejudice to their benefits under NUL employment.

There are also implications for students registered for NUL qualifications. Final year students, even though they will complete their courses after the formal demerger, will have their qualifications conferred by the Senate of the University. These include diploma and certificate students in Home Economics, General Agriculture, Forestry and Agricultural Mechanization. Other students are deregistered from the University.

As a result of the demerger, assets and equipment held by both parties at the time of the merger return to the original owners. The University has now lost the ownership of many vehicles including commuter buses and a coaster. Some new agricultural equipment bought during the period of the merger has been transferred to the Roma Campus, although there is little use for it there.

The notice indicates that government is not providing for the relocation costs of the School of Agriculture. At the time of the merger, the School of Agriculture was known as the Faculty of Agriculture, but under NUL transformation proposals (*de facto* implemented but not yet legally gazetted), the Faculty of Agriculture has become a School of Agriculture within an enlarged Faculty of Sciences, Applied Sciences and Engineering.

Of the two institutions, the Faculty of Agriculture was founded at NUL in 1990, while the Lesotho Agricultural College was established much earlier in 1955. With the return of the Faculty (School) of Agriculture to the crowded Roma campus, there has to be doubt about its future. The Roma Campus has minimal facilities for teaching practical agriculture within its 90 hectares, because less than 10 ha are available for agricultural purposes. Some 100 ha land to the north of the campus had been allocated for university expansion (but never enclosed) when Roma was declared an urban area in 1980. However, these have been lost because, when Roma lost its urban status in 1986, the university did not take the trouble to get this land set aside under the *Land Act 1979* as land needed in the public interest for special purposes. The land has now been largely built on by local residents including university staff, the buildings including many *malaene* rented out to university students who are without hostel places.

In comparison with the University, the Lesotho Agricultural College and associated Ministry of Agricultural Research Division (formerly the Agricultural Experimental Station) has some 200 ha of land available for research and teaching purposes. However, it may lose some of this land bordering the Mohokare because of a proposed (although seriously environmentally damaging) urban relief road along the banks of the river. The LAC and Research Division have for a long time used the river as a source for irrigating crops.

Public Accounts Committee Submits Report to National Assembly

In February 2004, the Public Accounts Committee submitted a report to the National Assembly, the *Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Sixth Parliament of Lesotho for the three financial years 1993/94-95/96*. The report is dated 3 February 2004, and although nearly a decade late, is a report on the public accounts in the years immediately following the restoration of democracy in 1993.

Lesotho's public accounts have been in disarray for a long period, although the present government has attempted to restore some order. However it has been an uphill task. The accounts for the first of the three years reported on were submitted to the Auditor-General only in February 1999, and the accounts for the following year only in January 2000. This is despite a statutory requirement for the Accountant-General to submit the annual accounts to the Principal Secretary of Finance not later than six months after the end of each financial year. In short, the accounts were 3 to 4 years late. No doubt the preparation of the accounts was not helped by the fact that the Accountant-General and his Deputy were themselves implicated in serious fraud during the reporting period and subsequently sentenced to long terms in prison.

After the accounts had reached the Auditor-General, he published his audit report, dated July 2001. This report documented numerous irregularities and examples of fraud and carries the audit statement that 'due to the seriousness of the observations raised in this Report, I am not able to express an opinion on the fairness or reasonableness of the state of the Public Accounts for the [three] years ended 31 March 1996'.

After the Auditor-General's *Report* had been tabled in the National Assembly it was referred to the Public Accounts Committee, which resulted in the Report of the PAC published in February. The members of the Public Accounts Committee included Dr Leketeket Victor Ketso of the Lesotho Peoples Congress as Chairman and 14 other Members of Parliament. The Committee's method of procedure was largely to interview Chief Accounting Officers of the Ministries where financial irregularities were noted in the Auditor-General's *Report*. A long list of financial losses and failures to take appropriate action is listed for each Ministry with a total disregard of Financial Regulations often noted.

Wide ranging recommendations include the need for Ministries to reconcile accounts on a monthly basis; the development by the Treasury of a strategy to collect non-tax revenues efficiently; the development by the Treasury of a system to warn Ministries which are about to overspend; that controls should exist to protect public funds from those who 'loan themselves' public monies against the law; that the National Assembly should establish Portfolio Committees as soon as possible to oversee and monitor Government Ministries/Departments; that the Constitution should be amended to make the Auditor-General responsible to Parliament; that all public servants must upon accession to public office, and thereafter every year, make a declaration of their wealth and sources thereof, and that the Government should establish a unit similar to the South African Scorpions to deal with cases of theft and fraud at national level; and that there should be a general review or performance appraisal of the Public Service Commission, courts, police investigations, the Director of Public Prosecutions Office and the public service itself. An appendix lists 22 pages of losses and cases pending with courts, the police and the Public Service Commission. The performance appraisal called for no doubt reflects the Public Accounts Committee's discovery that even some 10 years later, money embezzled had not been recovered even though the perpetrators were known, and legal cases or disciplinary actions were still pending in large numbers of cases while those accused were still suspended or in some cases still at work pending the outcome.

Mosotho Coach Takes on RSA National Team

After a dispute with the national coach, Ephraim 'Shakes' Mashaba, the South African Football Association first suspended and then dismissed him. It was a crucial time, because the South African National Team, Bafana Bafana, were due shortly to go to Tunisia to play in the Africa Cup of Nations.

In place of Mashaba, the SAFA appointed **April 'Styles' Phumo**, the Lesotho national coach, now aged 63, who in the past had coached South African teams such as Bloemfontein Celtic and Ria Stars. He travelled with Bafana Bafana to Tunisia, but hopes that he could inspire Bafana Bafana to glory were unfortunately dashed in the First Round of the cup, when the team was knocked out of the tournament, suffering in particular a devastating 4-0 defeat by the Nigerian national team, Super Eagles.

Villagers Burn Alleged Thief

Incidents in which villagers take the law into their own hands and lynch alleged thieves have become increasingly common in recent years. In the latest incident, villagers of Mokhokhong Ha Matete accused a 25-year old man, **Polao Taole**, from the same village of stealing their property. He was found with a cellphone, allegedly stolen, and after rough handling in the early hours of Wednesday 4 February revealed a place in a rock shelter where he had hidden blankets and utensils from three houses in the village. The villagers then bound him up, collected firewood and set him alight. He was not the first member of his family to be killed for alleged theft. An older brother had been similarly extrajudicially executed not far from the same village when accused of stock theft a few years earlier.

After the incident, Inspector Teboho Masaile of Roma Police Station instituted action to arrest the perpetrators. However, the whole village then walked to Roma Police Station and surrounded it saying that they should all be arrested because they had all participated in the incident. They were no doubt aware that villagers at several nearby villages had participated in similar incidents and similar mass marches to the police station without arrests being made. Inspector Masaile was quoted in *Lesotho Today* of 12 February 2004 as saying ‘that criminal offences of this nature are increasing because people claim that they are tired of living in fear, because the courts of law are slow to administer justice’.

MP for Mohobollo Dies

At the official opening of the Sixth Meeting of the Sixth Parliament on Friday 6 February, the Speaker Ms Ntlhoi Motsamai announced the sudden passing away on 29 January 2004 of the Member of Parliament for the Mohobollo Constituency in the Leribe District, **Mr Motsoantoeng Morallana**.

Drought is Broken, but Too Late for Most Crops

The severe drought conditions of October to December, when rainfall was far below average for three consecutive months, were broken early in January, which in most parts of Lesotho recorded rains well above average. The good rains continued into February.

Unfortunately, the rains were too late for planting crops in most parts of the Lowlands of Lesotho. However, farmers who had already sown in November and December, in many cases found that where the meagre rains of those months had kept their crops alive, they revived with the abundant January rains. The situation was very varied across Lesotho, being better in the northern Lowlands and Foothills. In the central and southern Lowlands, very few crops other than beans, which can be planted as late as January, could be expected to succeed.

The National University of Lesotho Roma Campus delayed its opening in January by one week because of a water crisis. The missing days were made up by teaching on Saturdays.

Although by early February the Lesotho countryside was looking lush and green, the many fallow fields portended a humanitarian crisis. Anticipating the serious situation which would develop, the Prime Minister declared a State of Emergency on 10 February 2004 specifically in relation to the food crisis.

Commissioner of Police Jonas Malewa Retires

After four years as Commissioner of Police, **Jonas Malewa**, retired with effect from 10 February 2004. He had reached the age of 55, which has remained, since colonial times, the standard retirement age for civil servants. His deputy, **Tšokolo Shadrack Koro**, is now Acting Commissioner of Police.

67-year old Man Sentenced to 10 Years for Bestiality

As reported in several newspapers in February, 67-year old Nketjoane Makhemeng of Ha Sefuli near 'Mantšebo was sentenced by the Maseru magistrate, Lesimola Moletsane, to 10 years, of which 5 years were suspended, after being found guilty of indulging in sexual intercourse with a bitch. According to evidence given in court, his wife, 'Manthabiseng aged 64, caught him in the act at midnight, and threw stones at him, several hitting him on the head. He fought back, but neighbours were called who overpowered him. Police arrested him the following day.

Lesotho newspapers have covered a number of stories of bestiality at length in recent months. One story, to which much newspaper coverage was devoted, concerned a man at Ha Matala in the suburbs of Maseru who had intercourse with a pig after which the sow was said to have farrowed a piglet with partially human features. The story gained wide circulation in January 2004, even though scientists and doctors, when asked for opinions, said that it was genetically impossible for two completely different species to produce offspring.

The lead story in the newspaper *Mosotho* of 23 January 2004 was prefaced by the headlines *Monna o'a photholeha: o fetola nku mosali oa boraro* (Man acts shamelessly; he turns a sheep into his third wife). The man in question, Mosala Kabi, aged 55, of Lihasang, Thaba-Bosiu, who had been resettled from the Mohale Dam area. He was found guilty by magistrate, 'Masekano Mahamo, of bestiality with a neighbour's sheep and was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment or a fine of M300. According to the article, Inspector Moferefere Lelingoana of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service said that 69 cases of bestiality had been reported in the year 2002-3. The commonest perpetrators were herdboys in rural areas, who most frequently abused sheep, goats and donkeys. In urban areas, the crime was most commonly committed by drunkards and the preferred animals were pigs.

The two reported cases in which men were sentenced seem to suggest that the courts lack uniformity in punishment for bestiality.

Budget Speech Makes Provision for Monthly Pensions of M150 for Senior Citizens over 70

The Minister of Finance, **Dr Timothy Thahane**, presented the annual Budget Speech to Parliament on 16 February 2004 for the Fiscal Year which runs from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

In reviewing the current situation, the Minister noted that Lesotho was now the largest textile exporter to the USA under that country's *African Growth and Opportunity Act* and that the textile sector was now the largest formal employer in the country. However, a major threat to the industry was the expiry in January 2005 of the Multi-Fibre Agreement, which removes AGOA preferential access to markets and would mean that Lesotho would be in direct competition for the United States market with China, India and Bangladesh. It was therefore urgent that the Lesotho Government used its Least Developed Country status to negotiate new markets in Australia, Canada, the European Union and Japan.

In relation to HIV/AIDS the UN Global Fund had given Lesotho a grant of \$34 million, to be spent over 5 years, for HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. A drug company, Bristol Meyer-Squibb, was working with the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare to establish a testing and counselling clinic and was also providing a donation of antiretrovirals.

The economy was estimated to have grown by 3.7% in 2002, but was projected to grow by only 3.4% in 2003, because of the strong loti/rand which reduced the profitability of the textile sector. However, projections for 2004, 2005 and 2006 were respectively 3.6%, 3.9% and 4.0%.

The 2003/4 budget had anticipated a fiscal deficit of 5.2% of Gross Domestic Product, although this was fortunately likely to be reduced to 3% as a result of additional revenue raising measures and expenditure containment strategies. For 2004/5 a budget surplus of M251 million or 2.7% of GDP was

anticipated and would be used to repay maturing loans and treasury bills. It was made possible by a windfall in Southern African Customs Union revenue as a result of adjustments from previous years.

For the first time, it was proposed that old people aged 70 or more would receive a pension of M150 per month. This would be implemented before the end of the 2004/5 fiscal year after setting up administrative arrangements and registering those qualified to receive the pension. M45 million was being set aside for this purpose.

In relation to roads, M280 million was set aside for Public Works and Transport, much of it for a project to upgrade the road from Likalaneng to Thaba-Tseka to bitumen standard. A second bitumen road, already under construction from Mpharane to Bela-Bela in Berea District, would also be completed.

In regard to domestic water sources, the project to raise Maseru's storage reservoir, the Maqalika Dam, by 1.5 metres was mentioned. This was an old project, in preparation for which those living in the proposed additional inundation area had already been compensated and required to move some years back. When the raising of the wall had not actually been accomplished on schedule, others had moved back into the inundation area and were now also wishing to be compensated with consequential long court cases.

Overall, the total budget allocation was M4 337 million for 2004/5 of which M483 million would be financed by loans and grants and the remaining M3 854 million by the Lesotho Government. The largest share would go to the Ministry of Education and Training, 21.7% compared with 19.5% in 2003/4, the additional allocation meeting particularly the escalating costs of free primary education. This is being incrementally implemented a year at a time so that this calendar year all classes up to and including Standard 5 receive free education.

Justice Ramodibedi becomes President of the Court of Appeal of the Seychelles

The first Mosotho judge appointed to the Lesotho Court of Appeal, **Mr Justice Michael Mathealira Ramodibedi**, has been appointed President of the Court of Appeal of the Seychelles. It was announced in February that as a result of his additional commitments, he was retiring as a judge of the Lesotho High Court, a parallel position which he had still held despite his Lesotho Court of Appeal responsibilities.

White Report on Prisons Tabled in Parliament

Amongst action taken following the escape on 7 August 2003 of one of Lesotho's most notorious prisoners, the former policeman **Phakiso Molise**, was the appointment on 1 October 2003 of a three person Commission of Inquiry headed by a South African, Mr Justice Colin Stewart White. The terms of reference for the inquiry included, apart from the circumstances surrounding Molise's escape, a review of the management and administration of the Lesotho Prisons Service and the treatment of prisoners.

The White Commission Report was tabled before Parliament on Tuesday 24 February 2004 by the Deputy Prime Minister Lesao Lehohla, who together with the Prime Minister could hardly be indifferent to its extremely critical account of prison conditions. They had both, after all, spent several months in the Maseru Central Prison in 1970 as political prisoners, following the coup of January 1970, when, following a General Election, Lesotho's democratically elected government had been overthrown, by what should have been the outgoing government.

As quoted in *Mopheme* of 2 March 2004, the Report states that 'prisoners are housed in abysmally dilapidated prisons, which are mostly antiquated, overcrowded and devoid of basic maintenance'. 90 prisoners had died in the Maseru Central prison in the period 2001 to 2003, and overcrowding was undoubtedly one of the major causes of the increase in mortality rates. In November 2003, Maseru Central Prison had a capacity of 600 prisoners, but the prison population was 1 066. A

medical doctor visiting prisoners twice a week had reported that on each visit at least 20 of those who reported sick were suffering from malnutrition. Most of the money allocated to the Lesotho Prison Service was spent on salaries and the amount remaining was manifestly not enough to meet the requirements for food and facilities. 'We have been advised that the Lesotho Prison Service has presently run out of funds for food. We fail to understand how the staff is supposed to manage and administer the Lesotho Prison Service if there are no, or insufficient, funds for food, repairs, projects or recreation.... We recommend that the allocation of further funds to the LPS be made a priority of the Government of Lesotho.'

The squalor of life in Lesotho's prisons is documented in detail in the Report. '... the sanitation facilities [are] conspicuous by their absence; no water-borne sanitation - whilst in their cells prisoners must defecate and urinate into buckets, in which they must wash themselves and their clothes during the day. Despite the severe winters of Lesotho, there are no hot water showers, or hot water in which they can wash themselves.... No workshops, projects or recreational facilities are provided for prisoners due to lack of funds.... Prisoners are idle, bored and dissatisfied, and due to the conditions, resigned to a feeling of hopeless despair.'

The Report found that the Mafeteng, Quthing, Qacha's Nek and Mohale's Hoek prisons were so old and dilapidated that they must be demolished and rebuilt. 'The Central, Berea and Leribe prisons are presently uninhabitable and need major repairs to render them fit for human habitation. All the remaining prisons are in urgent need of formal maintenance. A new maximum security prison must be built in Maseru to relieve the pressure and overcrowding in the Central Prison.'

The Commission recommends that as an interim measure to alleviate overcrowding, a judicial board be established to review the sentences of all prisoners and to recommend who can be granted amnesty without serious implications to themselves or members of the public. 'A parliamentary committee must be constituted to visit and see for themselves the inhuman conditions prevailing in the Central Prison, Maseru, and after having contrasted them with the conditions in the Ladybrand Prison, to move for an immediate increase of the funds allocated to the Lesotho Prison Service.'

Overall, the LPS controls 12 prisons with a total capacity of 2 660, but in fact currently housing 3 333 prisoners. The overcrowding is in part the result of recent legislation which has prescribed long mandatory sentences for stock theft and sexual offences. Parliament has apparently passed this legislation without making provision for the additional prison accommodation needed. Moreover the Lesotho Prison Service seems to have lost its once innovative and successful methods of improving life for prisoners. The present Maseru Central Prison with its neat sandstone blocks, was built entirely by prison labour, prisoners in the process acquiring valuable building skills of value to them after release. The first wing of the Maseru Central Prison was completed by 1949, and throughout the 1950s, successive wings were added, built by prisoners living in the wings of the prison already completed. By 1960, they had constructed what was at the time Maseru's and Lesotho's largest single building.

In a response to the White Commission Report, as reported in *Lesotho Today* of 4 March 2004, the Deputy Prime Minister indicated that the government was responding to criticism of the prison system. The Ministry of Works had already been commissioned to provide quotations for new prisons in Maseru, Quthing and Qacha's Nek as well as for a new women's prison in Mohale's Hoek. A task force had been established to look into the construction of a new Maseru Central Prison. Measures were being taken to address the problem of overcrowding by using different forms of punishment. United Kingdom support was being negotiated to improve skills training for prisoners to address the issue of idle, bored and unhappy prisoners. Inadequate bedding, clothing and food were being addressed in the current budget.

Fourth Highlands Water Project Bribery Case Settled with M10 million Fine

In October 2002, the Canadian engineering firm, **Acres International**, has been fined \$2.2 million (M22 million) for its part in bribing the Chief Executive of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, Masupha Sole, a fine which was eventually reduced to M15 million on appeal. Shortly after the Acres appeal, a second company, **Lahmeyer International**, was found guilty on seven counts of having bribed Masupha Sole and was fined R10 650 000. In a third related case, Jacobus Michiel du Plooy of the Italian firm **Impregilo** was found guilty of bribery on 17 September 2003, and sentenced to five years imprisonment with the option of a fine of M500 000.

A fourth case was settled late in February 2004. **Schneider Electric SA**, which has inherited the assets and liabilities of the French company **Spie Batignolles**, pleaded guilty to 16 counts of bribery and offered to pay a M10 million fine. The offer was accepted. According to the report in *Public Eye* of 5 March 2004, Schneider Electric employs 100 000 people in 140 countries. The legal representative, Antoine Tchekoff, based in France, was quoted as saying 'When Spie Batignolles was sold, it was just a shell company. We didn't know there were crimes attached to it. Because Schneider today is the leading company fighting crime, we could not settle this matter but to plead guilty.'

Although the fines may seem very large, so far totalling over M35 million, they do little to remedy the extremely damaging financial impact to Lesotho that resulted from bribery. The long path to uncovering corruption began after the meeting when sealed tenders were to be opened for the 'Muela Hydropower Complex. Some of those tendering protested because the Chief Executive was seen to have more envelopes than were actually opened. This led to a management audit and eventual suspension and gaoling of the Chief Executive, Masupha Sole. It also led to delays in the construction of the 'Muela power station, resulting in a M40 million bypass having to be constructed so that South Africa could receive its water from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project on time. Worse still, when rumours of corruption became generally known, the international bodies granting concessionary loans distanced themselves from the hydropower component, the only one which Lesotho was funding. In order for it to go ahead, commercial loans had to be taken out at much higher interest rates. The total cost to Lesotho of the Chief Executive's accepting bribes was at least of the order of M300 million. The 'Muela Hydropower Project had originally been planned to provide Lesotho with cheap electricity, but ultimately the electricity became more costly than electricity bought from ESKOM. The Lesotho Government had to inject several hundred million Maloti into the project so that the Lesotho Electricity Corporation would in fact buy 'Muela rather than ESKOM power supplies, and this led to large extraordinary budget items in the 1999/2000 and 2000/1 budgets for debt servicing and special financial allocations.

BAC Conference backs Dr Khauhelo Raditapole as Leader

A bitterly fought struggle between the former **Basutoland African Congress** leader, **Molapo Qhobela**, and his former deputy leader, **Dr Khauhelo Deborah Raditapole**, was settled at the party's annual conference attended by some 300 delegates on Saturday 28 February 2004. The party confirmed Dr Raditapole as party leader. She had been interim leader since Qhobela had been suspended on 15 November 2003. Qhobela made an urgent application to the High Court to have his expulsion as leader overturned on the grounds that the annual conference had not been properly constituted. This was however rejected by Justice Ntšabeng Mofolo on Tuesday 2 March 2004 after a hearing of less than 5 minutes.

The new Executive Committee of the BAC includes Dr Raditapole as Leader; Deputy Leader, Paanya Phoofolo; Chairperson, Hape Tsakatsi; Deputy Chairperson, Khachane Sekutu; Secretary-General, Hilda Chakela; Deputy Secretary-General, Moeketsi Phalatsi; and Treasurer-General, Dr Molefi Thelejane.

Despite his defeat by the party and the High Court, Molapo Qhobela went ahead with his own planned annual conference the following weekend. Predictably, the Qhobela group suspended

Dr Raditapole, and elected its own Executive which includes Molapo Qhobela as Leader; Deputy Leader, G. M. Kolisang; Chairman, Khotsang Moshoeshe; Deputy Chairman, Tonane Letaka; Secretary-General, Tsie Pekeche; Deputy Secretary-General, Tokonye Kotelo; and Treasurer, Peo Moejane; and Publicity Secretary, Nkhetse Monyalotsa.

This is the third time that Molapo Qhobela has led a party split. He was the leader of the Basutoland Congress Party when the Lesotho Congress for Democracy split and managed to retain a parliamentary majority. Later the BCP split, with the courts ruling in favour of Tšeliso Makhakhe's faction as the legal BCP. This led to the formation of the Basutoland African Congress, the name which the BCP had had long ago before it reconstituted itself as a party to fight the 1960 Elections. It is not clear what name the Qhobela faction will now choose. The historical BAC did in fact have a predecessor, the Lekhotla la Bafo or Commoners' League, which few people now alive will remember. Perhaps it may be revived?

From the point of view of Parliament, three members of the Basutoland African Congress are members under the proportional representation rules. They are Molapo Qhobela, Khauhelo Deborah Raditapole and Hape Tsakatsi. Two are members of the legally recognized BAC, and Molapo Qhobela also remains a Member of Parliament representing the BAC unless or until he resigns from or is expelled from the party.

Lesotho Workers Party Split by Divisions

The **Lesotho Workers Party**, like the BAC, also has a major split in its leadership. It is represented by a single Member of Parliament, Billy Macaefa, but at a press conference early in February, as reported in *The Mirror* of 18 February 2004, his fellow party members called him a thief and stated that they had notified the Speaker of the National Assembly that they had suspended him from party affairs including representing the party in Parliament. Amongst those at the press conference were the General Secretary, Mateketoa Mako; the Deputy Leader, 'Matšepo Lehlokoane; and the party's publicist, Thabo Nyamane Thelingoane. Those present at the press conference said that 'Matšepo Lehlokoane should be representing the party in Parliament. (In the General Election she had polled better than any other LWP candidate, coming third in the poll in the Maputsoe Constituency with 1023 votes, 13.4% of votes cast.)

The divisions in fact go back some time, and are closely related to a bitter dispute over control of workers' unions between Macaefa and Daniel Maraisane. In May 2003, Billy Macaefa formed his own Factory Workers Union (FAWU), with himself as Secretary-General, following a power struggle in the Lesotho Clothing and Allied Workers Union (LECAWU) between Macaefa and the Secretary-General, Daniel Maraisane.

As reported in *The Mirror* of 25 February 2004, Billy Macaefa was supposed to have appeared before a LWP disciplinary hearing on Sunday 22 February. However, Macaefa turned up at the hearing with a throng of FAWU members in yellow t-shirts, and LWP members supposed to be holding the hearing disappeared from the scene, fearing violence against them. Some violence did in fact occur four days later, according to *The Mirror* of 3 March 2004. Party publicist, Thabo Nyamane Thelingoane, was then forcefully ejected from the LWP office in the Manonyane Centre on Thursday 26 February by supporters of Macaefa. Thelingoane was not seriously hurt, but he reported the assault on him to the police.

As with the BAC, and as reported in *Mohahlaula* of 3 March 2004, Macaefa held his own conference and a parallel set of officers was appointed including Deputy Leader, Bernard Tseko Kapa; General-Secretary, Paul Qhasho; Party Chairman, Litaba Ntaote; and Publicity Secretary, Seabata Malibeng.

Prince Harry in Lesotho

The 19-year old **Prince Harry**, second son of Britain's Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, arrived in Lesotho in February for an eight-week stay in Lesotho. Although the purpose of his visit was billed to do charity work with HIV/AIDS sufferers and other vulnerable people, he had plenty of time also to go sightseeing. Throughout his time in Lesotho he was accompanied by a British friend, George Hill, and two Scotland Yard security officers.

During his time in Lesotho, accompanied by the King's brother, Chief Seeiso Seeiso, Prince Harry visited rock paintings at the Liphofung Nature Reserve; stayed at Oxbow Lodge; was the guest of Principal Chief Mathealira Seeiso at Mokhotlong; and also stayed at the Mountaineers' Chalet at Sani Top, although the weather was too wet for a planned trip to the summit of Thabana-Ntlenyana. Other trips were to the 'Maletsunyane Falls at Semonkong and to Katse and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Between such sightseeing, he had visits to the Kananelo Centre for mentally handicapped, deaf and mute children at Qalaheng, and Mazenod Counselling Centre.

Journalists were asked to avoid harassing Prince Harry, whose previous experience as a 'jackaroo' on an Australian sheep station had been subject to unwelcome press intrusion. However, as a concession, one day of Prince Harry's time in Lesotho was made a public occasion at which the press was welcomed. On the day in question, he was working at 'Mantšase Orphanage, a remote and struggling institution of the Anglican Church in the Taung Ward of Mohale's Hoek District. The press was able to see and photograph Harry helping to fence the site and also planting a peach tree.

Prince Harry, who completed formal schooling at Eton College last year, is undertaking a gap year, after which he is reported to be considering entering the British Military Academy at Sandhurst.

Lesotho Knocked Out of COSAFA Castle Cup

In the keenly contested COSAFA Castle Cup, an annual competition for national soccer teams of southern Africa, Lesotho's national team, Likuena, met the Botswana Zebras at Setsoto Stadium in Maseru on Sunday 29 February 2004. Even after extra time the score was 0 - 0. In the ensuing penalty shootout, Botswana won by the narrowest of margins, 11-10. The Zebras proceeded to the quarter finals, and Lesotho was left hoping to have better luck next year.

Chieftainess Succeeds Mother-in-Law in Leribe Ward

Chieftainess 'Mamosa Molapo Bolokoe was sworn in as a new Senator on Thursday 4 March 2004. She succeeds her mother-in-law, Chieftainess 'Mamolapo Bolokoe, who had been Acting Principal Chief and Senator since 1986, because her husband, Chief Bolokoe Motšoene had been ill for many years. He died in July 2002.

Succession of one Chieftainess by another is a rare event, but in this case was inevitable because Chief Bolokoe's eldest son, Molapo, died in April 2003, leaving his widow 'Mamosa to succeed him.

The new Senator is the youngest member of the upper house. She was born in 1984 and is the daughter of the late Mr Seabata and Mrs 'Mamoshoeshoe Lekhanya of Mathokoane in Leribe District.

The Leribe Ward is one of two wards in Leribe District (the other is Tsikoane) and extends into the Maloti to include part of the area of the Katse Reservoir.

TEBA Appoints First Mosotho Regional Manager

TEBA is an acronym for 'The Employment Bureau of Africa', although the name resonates with the Sesotho meaning of *teba* which means 'go deep', just as those recruited by TEBA as miners do indeed work deep in the mines.

As reported in *Public Eye* of 5 March 2004, TEBA has appointed its first Mosotho Regional Manager. He is **Mokete Mahula**, and his appointment is in line with the policy which resulted in

Lesotho-born James Motlatsi becoming the first black African Chief Executive Officer of TEBA in 2000.

Mokete Mahula was born at Matelile in 1934, and first joined TEBA in 1976 as a junior clerk. He subsequently worked in a number of TEBA offices in increasingly senior roles. As Regional Manager, he is responsible for 90 TEBA staff throughout Lesotho and the Free State whose responsibilities include not just mine recruitment but safeguarding the social and financial welfare of mineworkers and their families. Mokete Mahula succeeds Mr Chris Hechter who becomes Regional Manager for Northwest South Africa and Botswana.

National University of Lesotho Required to Pay Gratuities in Lieu of Pensions

The financial woes of the National University of Lesotho are without precedent in its history. The University Bursar and Deputy Bursar have now been suspended for nearly three years while disciplinary charges are being heard against them. The residual bursary staff, several of whom in the meantime have retired, have apparently been unable to cope with routine procedures, and an advertisement in *Information Flash*, the University's weekly newsletter, of 5 March 2004 asks for qualified accountants to tender for the work of preparing annual financial statements for the past three financial years as well as the present financial year, assistance with implementation of internal controls, and assistance with establishing an internal audit function. It is understood that the university is currently in debt to the extent of some M26 million, and has some intractable problems such as its venture into financing the Sefika Shopping Centre in Maseru, originally conceived by the suspended bursar as a profitable investment for the pension fund, but at present a drain on finances because rents received fall short of outgoings by a substantial sum each month. There are other losses because adjustments required to take account of inflation have been applied to salaries but not to salary deductions for services provided.

Meanwhile *Public Eye* of 19 March 2004, reported on a dispute between the Lesotho University Teachers and Researchers Union (LUTARU) and the University. This related to an agreement made in 1996, which enabled local university staff to opt to receive gratuities instead of a pension, putting them on the same footing as expatriate staff. The agreement had been made at the time when a Nigerian Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adamu Baikie was heading the institution. His local successor, Dr Maboe Moletsane reversed the agreement, which put him in conflict with LUTARU, which did all it could to hasten his departure. The present Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tefetso Mothibe, whose appointment had originally been supported by LUTARU, did not take any action on the gratuities issue. This resulted in one staff member, the Director of Transformation, Dr M. V. Marake going to the Labour Court, which ruled that the 1996 agreement was valid and that the gratuities owed from 1998 onwards should be paid with 18.5% interest. Other staff, encouraged by this victory, went to the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution, which ruled in their favour, requiring that gratuities to the 122 remaining affected staff, if they opted out of the pension scheme, should be paid out in four instalments in June, September and December 2004 and March 2005.

Lowlands Water Supply Scheme Feasibility Study Holds Public Consultation

Increasing urbanization and industrialization in Maseru, Maputsoe and a number of other centres in Lesotho's Lowlands have resulted in major problems of water supply. The firm of Parkman, in association with the local firm, Sechaba Consultants, began work early in 2003 to plan for Lesotho's urban water needs, providing detailed proposals for water supply provision up to the year 2020, but including also in less detail needs up to the year 2035. The study was to cover the needs of all settlements with 2 500 or more people in the year 2003.

Approximately 15 months after the inception of the study, and after many internal workshops and discussions with the staff of the Commissioner of Water Affairs, a public consultation on the **Lesotho Lowlands Water Supply Scheme** was held at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre in

Maseru on Wednesday 10 March 2004. Those present included District Secretaries, representatives of NGOs and the press, and the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Monyane Moleleki.

It was explained that the requirement to identify communities with a population of 2 500 or more had resulted in a list of 106 Lowlands and Foothills communities from Makhunoane in Butha-Butha District to Mount Moorosi in Quthing District. However, cost considerations made it desirable to seek local sources of water for many of these, rather than water piped from a distance. This particularly applied to settlements distant from planned water pipelines, which might still be serviced by the Department of Rural Water Supply.

Discussion proceeded with water needs from south to north, and for the main urbanized areas of Quthing District from Tele Bridge to Moyeni, the Senqu was the obvious source of supply.

For the town of Mohale's Hoek, the Makhaleng river could supply an adequate supply for some 98% of the time, and studies were still under way to try to provide greater water security, particularly given the town's identification as an industrial growth point, with the first factories already in operation.

Mafeteng, also with recent industrial growth, presented a problem, because the main sources of supply were distant at the Makhaleng and Mohokare rivers, requiring expensive pipelines. A possible alternative under investigation was to divert waters in a run-of-river transfer from the headwaters of the Qhoqhoane river.

Morija and Matsieng were also considered to be distant from major supplies, but the outcome of the present Six Towns Water Supply Project was awaited, Morija being one of these six towns. It was possible that failing adequate local supplies water could be diverted from supplies planned for Maseru.

By far the largest anticipated demand was for Maseru and neighbouring settlements such as Mazonod and Roma. Together they required nearly 40% of the total demand for Lowlands towns, a demand estimated at 1.05 cumecs (cubic metres of water per second) by 2020, and 1.61 cumecs by 2035. After investigating a large number of possible solutions, it had been concluded that all reasonably affordable solutions involved the building of the Metolong Dam on the southern Phuthiatsana river, upstream from Thaba-Bosiu. This had been the subject of a separate feasibility study, with the report recently becoming available. The problem, however, was that this dam could not possibly supply water to Maseru before 2007 at the very earliest (and probably later), and there was a need to investigate 'fast track' solutions which could provide water needed immediately for the rapidly expanding Maseru industrial estates. Apart from the raising of the Maqalika Dam by 1.5 m, which was in any case overdue, and would increase offstream storage, other offstream storage was needed to capture summer runoff for use when winter and spring flow in the Mohokare dwindled to negligible amounts or even zero. Further offstream storage on the Mohokare on the Lesotho side was difficult because of the difficulty of finding suitable sites, all of which involved expensive and time-consuming compensation problems. However, a project which raised the height of the Cathcart's Drift Dam was a theoretical solution which could possibly provide water within 18 months. The Cathcart's Drift Dam on the right bank of the Mohokare is offstream storage supplying Ladybrand, and its site allows for considerable expansion of the capacity. Such a scheme would of course require South African approval, and also a pipeline to a new water treatment works on the Lesotho side of the river.

It was demonstrated that although the Metolong Dam would meet the needs of Maseru and adjacent settlements as far away as Teyateyaneng and Roma to the year 2017, long term further supplies would be needed. A solution was offered by which the Metolong Dam would be used conjunctively with the Mohokare, the Mohokare supplying the main needs in summer, while the Metolong Dam was used at a much higher rate in winter when Mohokare flow was low. This would meet most of Maseru's demands to 2035, but in a crisis situation which could arise, emergency release of Highlands water would be needed, as had occurred in October 2003, which set a useful precedent for what was possible.

Recycling of water was discussed, and it was noted that two factories in Maseru, Presitex and Nien Hsing, concerned about the reliability of the Maseru supply, had already made provision to recycle 80% of their water. The recycling plant at Presitex, already in use, was to produce water of a purity such that fish could live in it, and a fishpond (not yet stocked) was included in the recycling plant to

demonstrate this. The industrial demand scenarios for Maseru and other industrial estates up to 2035 assumed an increasing use of industrial water up, with typically figures up to 40% recycled water being used in the calculations.

Going further north, the problem arose of supplying areas of large water demand such as Maputsoe and the anticipated industrial area at Butha-Buthe. In this regard dams had been considered on the Hlotse river near Ha Seetsa and on the Ngoajane river, a short distance downstream from Ha Seboche. The cheaper solution however would be the abstraction of run-of-river water from the Hlotse and Hololo rivers (in the latter case just downstream of the Ngoajane confluence), backed up by small releases of water from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project at 'Muela, when required at periods of low flow. The LHWP was committed to release water at 'Muela of 0.15 cumecs equal to the average flow of the Nqoe river on which the 'Muela Dam was built. The consultant believed that 0.19 cumecs was a more realistic figure. If this water could be 'saved up' (obviously this involved the Katse Reservoir being used like a water bank, because it would not be the very same water) and released when needed from the LHWP, this would go a long way to meeting the requirements at Butha-Buthe. A problem, however, with these solutions without dams was that they required LHWP agreement, and the price of the LHWP water was also not certain, and needed to be agreed.

All schemes involved new or massively upgraded water treatments and pipelines of considerable lengths. Schemes in which there was a water carrier all the way from northern Lesotho to Maseru had been considered but rejected as too costly.

Financially, the Lesotho Lowlands Water Supply Scheme, in its cheapest options and as far as the year 2035, would cost some M3.2 billion at present prices, about the same as the present annual budget. Assuming loans at about 6% interest rates, Lesotho would have to budget M80 million per annum in interest charges for some 15 years until there was sufficient cash flow for the scheme to pay for itself.

The public consultation was to try to identify the best scheme so that detailed design could proceed. However, in view of political uncertainties arising from the possible use of Ladybrand (Cathcart's Drift Dam) and Lesotho Highlands water, it seemed that probably different schemes should be designed: for Maseru with and without the Ladybrand option; and for northern Lesotho with and without the dams which would be needed if Lesotho Highlands water was not available.

The consultants are required to complete their work by the end of June, but it became apparent at the meeting that a variation order was being negotiated requiring irrigation water to be considered in the study. This would mean a later completion date.

National University Holds Successful Open Day & Cultural Festival

The **National University of Lesotho** held on its Roma campus on Friday 12 March 2004 its second annual open day, intended for parents and prospective students to become familiar with its life and activities. Different sections of the university mounted appropriate displays, including the Faculty of Agriculture which had cows, pigs, sheep and goats, while the Research Institute displayed the many available publications of its predecessor, the Institute of Southern African Studies. Visitors had the opportunity to talk with university staff about university courses and admission procedures. The normal minimum entry requirement is a Second Class in the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate, with a credit in English and an aggregate score in six qualifying subjects not exceeding 34. Several school parties as well as members of the public took advantage of the occasion to visit the university.

On the following day there was a cultural festival, which drew in 72 different performing groups from as far away as the Baphuthi heartland at Daliwe in Quthing District, as well as from a number of educational establishments. NUL students dressed up as fairly convincing *makoloane*, male initiation school graduates, reciting appropriate praise poetry. Women's events were represented by the more staid *mokhibo* performances and the rather more sensual *litolobonya*, a dance until recently confined to all-female gatherings, but now acceptable as part of the general public repertoire. The festival was popular with the local community who attended the open air performances in large numbers.

Lesotho Sends Members to Pan African Parliament

The Pan African Parliament, set up by the African Union, had its inaugural meeting in Addis Ababa on 18 March 2004. The ultimate aim of the African Parliament is to have an institution with full legislative powers and members elected by universal adult suffrage. However in the present interim period the Parliament has only consultative and advisory powers, and member states are each represented by five parliamentarians, who must represent the diversity of political opinions in the national parliament, and at least one of whom must be a woman.

Lesotho complied with this requirement by sending as members of the Pan African Parliament, Mrs F. M. Bulane and Mr Hlalele Motaung of the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy; Mr Thabang Nyeoe of the Basotho National Party; Dr Khauhelo Deborah Raditapole of the Basutoland African Congress; and Mr Letuka Nkole of the National Independent Party.

Letšeng Mine Fully Operational

The recommissioning of the **Letšeng Mine** was completed in the first quarter of 2004. The mine which is in Mokhotlong District, adjoining the road from Oxbow and at a height of 3000 metres, has cost M210 million to rehabilitate, and is expected to process kimberlite at a rate of 2.5 million tons per annum, from which some 70 000 carats of diamonds will be recovered. Open-pit mining is initially concentrating on the Satellite Pipe, which closely adjoins the Main Pipe mined during the period 1977-82 by De Beers. The two pits together are estimated to give the mine a pit life in excess of 25 years, after which the more expensive underground mining option could be pursued if markets at the time made it profitable.

Letšeng Mine is co-owned by the Lesotho Government (24%) and Letšeng Diamonds (Pty) Ltd (76%). The latter is co-owned by the South African mining and investment groups Matodzi Resources and JCI Limited through Letšeng Holdings (Pty) Ltd. Its re-opening has created 250 jobs on site, with many other work opportunities also created for the provision of goods and services.

Official Opening of Phase 1B of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and **King Letsie III** of Lesotho on Tuesday 16 March 2004 jointly inaugurated **Phase 1B** of the **Lesotho Highlands Water Project**.

The Phase 1B works have included the **Mohale Dam**, at 144 metres high, the highest rockfill dam on the African continent. Work began on it in 1998 and it was completed in 2003. The Mohale Reservoir, which impounds the waters of the Senqunyane river and its tributaries the Bokong, Jorotane and Likalaneng, is linked to the Phase 1A Katse Reservoir by a 31.5 km tunnel. A smaller component of Phase 1B was the construction of a weir on the Matsoku river, and a diversion tunnel 6.5 km long, also into the Katse Reservoir. At its construction peak, Phase 1B created some 8 000 jobs for local and regional workers. There is, at this point, no indication that the next phase of the project, Phase II, with the Mashai Dam on the Senqu, will go ahead in the near future.

A climax of the inauguration ceremony was the presentation to President Mbeki of a black stallion by King Letsie III, expressing the wish that he might add riding to his hobbies.

German Tourist Shot Dead

A German tourist was shot dead at Malealea in Mafeteng District on Wednesday 17 March, while a companion was injured. Their car had been attacked in an armed robbery. Local villagers later apprehended two suspects, but one died when assaulted by members of the public before he could be delivered to the police at Matelile Police Station. The other suspect was taken into police custody. It appears that both suspects were not known locally and are believed to be from the Mazenod area.

In a concerned response, the Minister of Tourism, Lebohang Ntšinyi, visited Malealea soon after the incident. She appealed to the Malealea community to work with peacekeeping forces in the area to ensure the security of tourists who generate income for the community.

Inflation in Lesotho Continues to Fall

Inflation in Lesotho has maintained a generally downward trend since a peak of 13.7% in March 2002. The downward trend, reflects a similar downward trend in South Africa, but in Lesotho, it was interrupted by the impact of the introduction of VAT in July 2004. However, after two months, the downward trend continued, reaching 5.9% in both December and January 2004 and dropping further to 5.5% in February 2004, the lowest inflation rate since 1970.

The comparable inflation rate in South Africa has recently been even lower than that in Lesotho, but has now developed a rising trend. The rate was 4.0% in December 2003, 4.2% in January 2004 and 4.8% in February 2004.

Consumer price indices in each country are calculated for each month by comparing a weighted set of commodity and service prices with fixed baseline figures on a particular earlier date. The ratio of the weighted set in one month to the weighted set in the same month a year earlier determines the percentage inflation rate for that month. In each country, the Consumer Price Index for each month of the year, in order to allow for processing time, is published only at the end of the following month.

Although the March CPI for Lesotho is expected to remain similar to that of February, a change upwards may occur in April, when water, electricity and telephone charges are all set to rise.

Death of Albert Brutsch, Missionary and Missionary Archivist

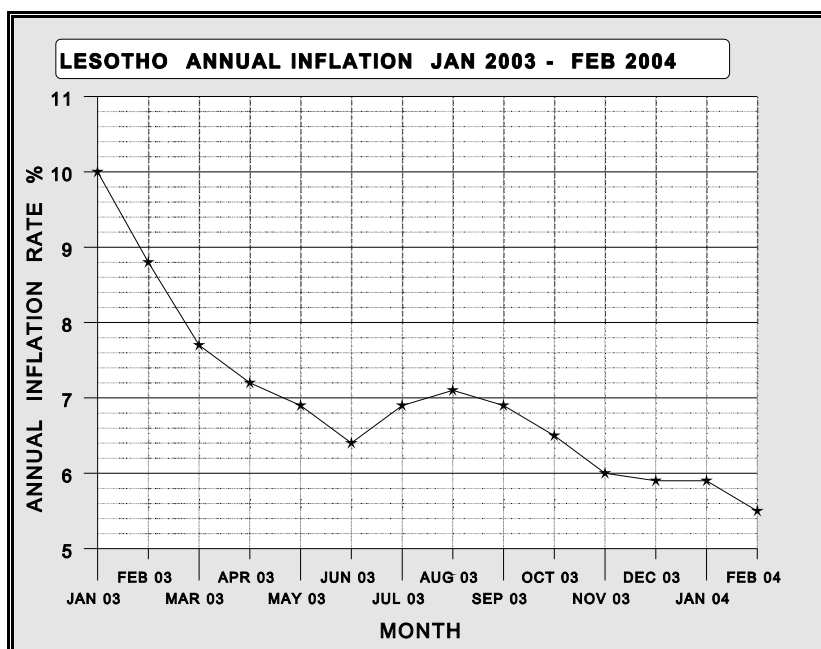
Albert Brutsch, who devoted 60 years of his life to Lesotho as a missionary and missionary archivist, died after a long illness at Thatcher House nursing home in Fort Beaufort, Eastern Cape, on Saturday 20 March 2004. He was 87.

Albert Brutsch (his family was French-speaking and he later dropped the umlaut) was born on 30 October 1916 in Geneva, Switzerland. His father was a postal

official, possibly contributing to his life-long interest in philately. He grew up in Geneva and obtained a Bachelor of Divinity in the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Geneva. His first pastoral activities were amongst workers in small coal mining towns in northern France at the outbreak of the Second World War.

On 17 September 1941, Albert Brutsch married Aline du Pasquier, the daughter of Marc du Pasquier, of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Aline's father was a clergyman who had at one time been Vice-President of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society, and it was apparently through his wife's influence that Brutsch himself accepted the call to work in Lesotho. He was ordained a protestant minister in Geneva on 28 November 1941, at a ceremony presided over by the Director of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society, Emile Schloesing. The Brutsches left Europe in wartime, and travelled via Lisbon by a boat belonging to the neutral power, Portugal. They arrived in Lesotho on 22 July 1942.

Albert & Aline Brutsch undertook their orientation at Thaba-Bosiu for 9 months learning Sesotho under the tutelage of the missionary, Robert Paroz, who was an accomplished Sesotho linguist and was later to become the foremost Sesotho lexicographer. Albert soon became fluent in the



language, and indeed soon became more at ease preaching in Sesotho than in any other language. The Brutsches' first daughter Anne-Marie was born at Thaba-Bosiu.

In 1943, Albert Brutsch became the minister of Cana Mission in Berea District. Amongst their guests at Cana was Phyllis Altman, whose novel, *The law of the vultures*, was published in 1952. It tells the story of a Mosotho, Thabo Thaele, who leaves Lesotho for Johannesburg, is gaoled after a false accusation of theft, and then helps to found an anti-white protest movement. He is killed when the movement is brutally crushed by police in a manner remarkably prophetic of Sharpeville. It appears that the Lesotho missionary portrayed in the book was based on Albert Brutsch. The book itself was banned for a while in South Africa, but became widely known elsewhere, including in the Soviet Union where a Russian translation was made.

The Brutsches served at Leribe Mission (Maoana-Masooana) from 1950 to 1953. Then from 1953 to 1964, they were stationed at the mission headquarters in Morija, although at times spending periods at a number of other missions when there were gaps in the pastorate. This took them to the Rand Mission in Johannesburg for a while in 1957. The Brutsches were at Likhoele from 1964 to 1966, Maseru from 1966 to 1970, and Masitise and Leloaleng from 1970 to 1971, where Albert also served as the Acting Principal of the Leloaleng Trades School. Albert Brutsch had in his younger days made several journeys on horseback into the Maloti, but from 1971 to 1973, the Brutsches were for the first time actually stationed in the mountains at Tebellong in the Senqu valley. In 1973, they returned to the Lowlands at Morija, from where Albert's duties for a considerable time included responsibility for the Maseru parishes of Qoaling and Thamae, as well as the chaplaincy to the Lesotho Defence Force, for which he held services at the Makoanyane Barracks on Sunday mornings. His yellow Volkswagen beetle became a familiar sight in those days as he and Aline travelled between Morija and Maseru.

While the future King Moshoeshoe II was a pupil at the Catholic Ampleforth College in England in the 1950s, Albert Brutsch undertook to take him on an educational tour of France and Switzerland. The arrival of a protestant minister at Ampleforth was greeted with some suspicion by the monks, but Albert both collected and safely delivered back the then Constantine Bereng Seeiso, heir to the throne.

Amongst his many church responsibilities, Albert Brutsch was Chairman of the Missionary Conference from 1953 to 1956, a body which then consisted of expatriate missionaries. He was also Chairman of the Seboka from 1958 to 1964, the body consisting of all clergy, evangelists and elected lay personnel of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society in Lesotho. In 1964, following what was then called *Thuthuho*, the coming of age of the Lesotho Evangelical Church as a body independent of its missionary origins, he became Executive Secretary of the Church. This was a position he held until 1970, working in the later years with the Mosotho who was to be his successor, Rev. S. S. Thakholi. For many years at Morija, Albert Brutsch taught at both the Theological School (for trainee ministers) and the Bible School (for evangelists) where one of his specialities was Lesotho church history. He was also twice editor of the church newspaper, *Leselinyana la Lesotho*, in 1953-4 and 1970-1. On the latter occasion he took over the newspaper and managed to get it unbanned, after his predecessor, Seeiso Serutla, had been imprisoned and held without charge. *Leselinyana* at the time had been almost the only surviving organ of dissent against an illegal and brutal regime, and Albert Brutsch's successor as editor, Edgar Mahlomola Motuba, was later assassinated.

Albert Brutsch had a life-long interest in the history of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society and its later successor, the Lesotho Evangelical Church. In the long period of nearly 50 years when he was mainly based at Morija, he became curator of the mission archives, the nucleus of which was a collection originally made by D. F. Ellenberger and transferred to Morija in 1907. Brutsch not only ensured that this collection survived, but added extensively to it, making a point, whenever a missionary was leaving, to visit him and see what books and documents from his mission should be preserved. As a result, over 150 years of mission baptismal and marriage registers have survived, as well as many manuscript letters and unpublished historical materials. Housing this valuable collection, together with a parallel collection of museum exhibits, was for many years a major problem, and while the most valuable items were kept in the Brutsches' house, others found temporary accommodation in old school classrooms at Morija. Fortunately the situation changed in 1986, when after a change of government, the Lesotho Evangelical Church was able to seek funds freely, and as a result of the efforts of Albert

Brutsch and his supporters, the present Morija Museum & Archives building was constructed. Over many years, Albert Brutsch also used his stamp collecting activities and sales of stamps to collectors to fund archival work, and much of the shelving on which the books and documents in the present archives are preserved was bought from funds raised in this way.

Albert Brutsch wrote many articles in missionary and philatelic periodicals and was a keen supporter of the Basutoland (later Lesotho) Scientific Association, of which he was also president for two years. He contributed several major historical articles to the association's journal *Lesotho Notes & Records* in the period before its unfortunate demise in 1974.

As a person, Albert was rather shy and initially difficult to know, even intimidating, because he had no small talk. However, this apparently cold exterior melted if one made a request for information about Lesotho. Almost every historical scholar in post-Independence Lesotho owes a great debt to Albert and Aline Brutsch, who kept open house for those seeking information. Albert had compiled personal indexes to numerous items including more than a century of the *Leselinyana* newspaper, and could by consulting mission registers often provide information about the families of individuals going back several generations. A visit to the Brutsches always meant tea in the front room, while in response to any query, Albert would respond with a shy smile and disappear to delve amongst the many rooms filled with books and documents at the back of the house, emerging with detail that one could hardly have expected to have been preserved and to be still available.

Albert Brutsch collaborated with David Ambrose on the translating and editing of Thomas Arbousset's, *Missionary excursion*, published in 1991. The original manuscript had been compiled in 1840 from a diary kept by the French protestant missionary, Arbousset, when he accompanied King Moshoeshoe on a February 1840 journey through northern Lesotho. Arbousset had intended that his manuscript should be published as a book, but the missionary society lacked funds at the time. The manuscript was preserved through the descendants of one of Arbousset's daughters, and was rediscovered by Albert Brutsch in Paris, making it possible for the book to finally see the light of day 150 years later. The book provides many direct quotations from King Moshoeshoe, and is an illuminating portrait of Lesotho as it was before missionary influence had taken hold. The publication of *Missionary excursion* in turn led to one of the most important places associated with King Moshoeshoe, the Liphofung Cave, being developed by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority as a cultural and historical site. Liphofung today has exhibits open to visitors as well as overnight accommodation at a visitor centre situated above the cave. King Moshoeshoe and Thomas Arbousset and their party themselves slept inside the cave for two nights, and Arbousset named the cave, Lehaha-la-Sontaha ('Sunday Cave'), it being a place where he ensured on the Sunday between these two nights that he preached the word of God. He noted, however, that King Moshoeshoe had to rise to his feet to prevent himself from falling asleep during the long sermon!

One of Albert's last challenges was the story of the death of Édouard Jacottet. Jacottet was an extremely gifted linguist and missionary who had been murdered in Morija in December 1920, apparently by one or more of his daughters perhaps acting in concert with a fellow missionary who was having an affair with the youngest daughter. The murder was a terrible blow to the church, and despite newspaper coverage at the time, the event was subsequently cloaked in a veil of silence and conveniently omitted from missionary histories. When an experienced academic writer, Tim Couzens, came to Albert, wanting to document the events, Albert's dedication to historical truth overcame any reservations he might have had about the need to sweep a sad story under the carpet. As a result, the massive book *Murder at Morija*, published in 2003, contains a meticulously documented account of the event, linked with a discerning and sympathetic history of the Jacottet family and of the protestant mission itself. The book has sold 7 000 copies, mainly in South Africa, where it received rave reviews, and it has put Morija very much on the map. Albert was able to receive a copy of the book, personally delivered to Fort Beaufort by the author, Tim Couzens, a few months before he died.

When Albert was over 80 and had grown increasingly frail, his children took the decision that he should be moved to Thatcher House in Fort Beaufort, where Aline had been moved earlier because she was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Albert was very upset at leaving Lesotho, and his friends in

Lesotho were upset to have lost him, even to the extent of at times plotting to kidnap him and bring him back to the land that he loved.

Amongst honours, Albert Brutsch was made an Officer of the Order of Mohlomi by King Moshoeshoe II; while Rotary bestowed on him its highest award, the Paul Harris Award, in 1993.

Albert was predeceased by his wife, Aline, whose own contributions to the work of the mission were considerable. She died at Thatcher House in 2000, and her ashes are buried at Morija. Their four children are Anne-Marie 'Mamotlalepula, born at Thaba-Bosiu and long resident in Switzerland; Marc-Olivier Tšepo, born at Cana and commonly known as 'Marco', who lives in Grahamstown and is a Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Studies at the University of Fort Hare; Loïs Geneviève Teboho, also born at Cana, and married to Étienne Paroz, son of Robert Paroz, the missionary lexicographer, and living at Hogsback; and Françoise Hélène Matšeliso, now Mrs Robert Gibson, who lives in Cape Town. There are seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A fitting memorial to Albert Brutsch is the Morija Museum & Archives. Without his long commitment to preserving the mission past, the building and its contents would not be there today.

Industrialist Peter Mokheseng Gunned Down in his Car

A well-known Maseru factory owner, **Peter Mokheseng**, aged 51, was gunned down in his car while approaching his house about 7 p.m. on Sunday 21 March 2003. Mokheseng was the manager of Precious Garments in Maseru. According to the report in *Public Eye* of 26 March 2004, eye-witnesses were able to identify at least one of the assailants, who was a former security officer at his factory. When his death was announced the following morning at the factory, mass hysteria spread amongst many of his women workers, and between 50 and 200 (newspaper estimates varied) were taken to Queen Elizabeth II Hospital. There were insufficient nurses to deal with the crisis and the women were mainly cared for by fellow workers.

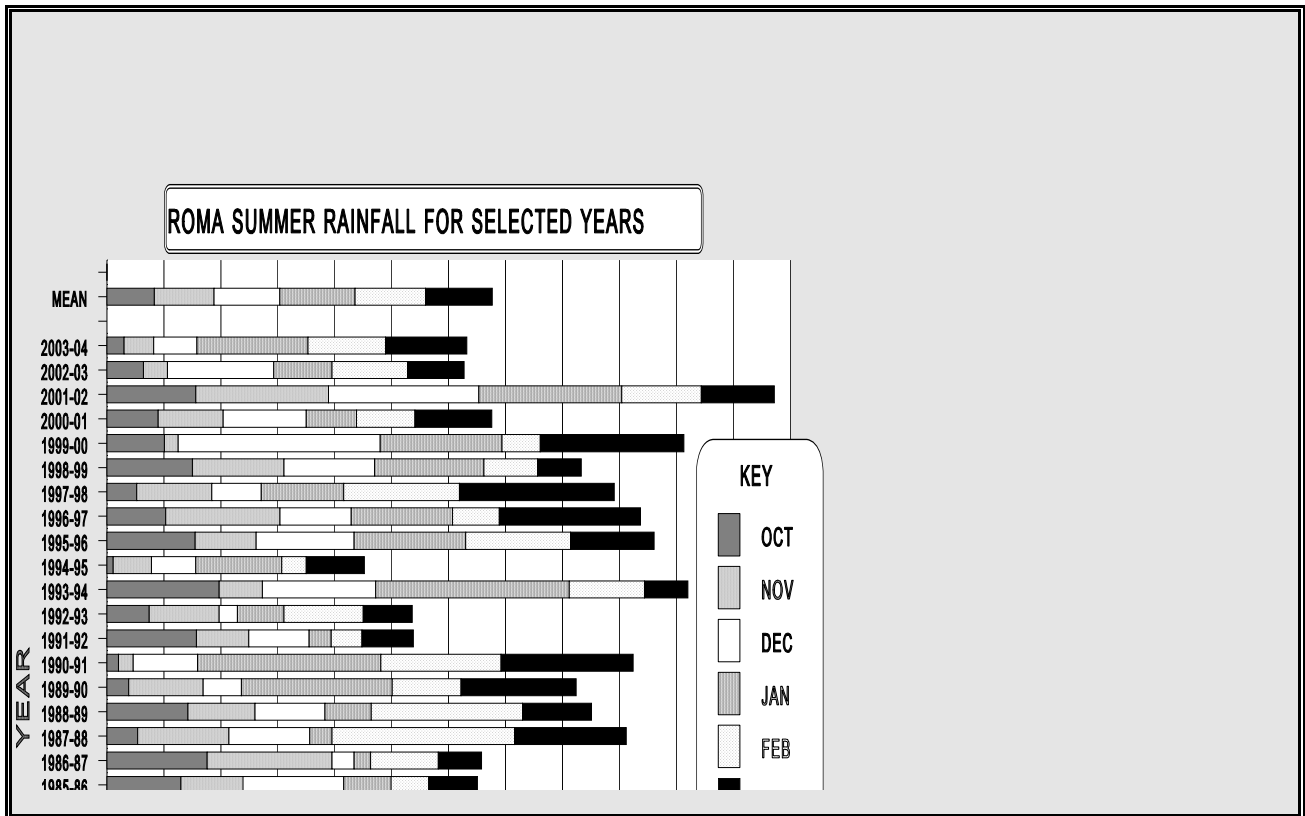
New Edition of *Historical Dictionary of Lesotho* Published

The United States publishing house, Scarecrow Press, first published its *Historical dictionary of Lesotho* in 1977. The first edition was compiled by the Canadian, Gordon Haliburton, then Professor of History at the National University of Lesotho. A second edition has been long awaited, and has now appeared compiled by three American scholars, Scott Rosenberg, Richard F. Weisfelder and Michelle Frisbie-Fulton. The book has grown from some 260 to nearly 500 pages, with rather longer entries than its predecessor, particularly in relation to political history, politicians, and political parties. These entries are amongst the most reliable and most detailed entries in the book.

The book helps to fill a gap, because there are few good reference books on Lesotho. However, it must be used with caution, because it includes errors which a good copy editor with a knowledge of Sesotho would have eliminated. Its scope is also limited. Archaeology is today regarded by many as a part of history, and to begin the chronology with 'Circa 6000 B.C.E. Hunters-gatherers [sic] inhabit region' leaves out 100 000 years of earlier history. The artistic achievements of the later hunter-gatherers also get scant recognition. While there is an entry on Joseph Orpen, it omits mention of his important transcriptions of conversations about rock art and religion with Qing in the Maloti in 1873. In recent years, the significance of what Qing told Orpen has been central to many articles and several major books, making possible a reinterpretation of Bushman art and religion of significance far beyond Lesotho.

Summer Rainfall: Three Dry Months Followed by Three Wet Months

The summer of 2003-4 throughout most of Lesotho consisted of three months with rainfall well below the mean followed by three months when rainfall was close to or above the mean. In many parts of Lesotho, particularly the central and southern Lowlands, rainfall was too low to plant summer crops successfully, and a generally much lower than average harvest is forecast.



There were reports, particularly in October to December, when the Maseru was almost without water, that it was the worst drought ever recorded. However, human memory is notoriously fickle, and the chart (which uses Roma figures, not untypical of rainfall for the central Lowlands and Foothills) shows that in recent years, there were similarly disastrous starts to the summer in the first three months of the 1990-1 and 1994-5 summers. Overall 1994-5 was a far drier summer than the 2003-4 summer, which in Roma was only some 7% below the mean. In 1994-5 summer rainfall was 33% below the mean, while in 1932-3, the driest summer in the past 100 years, it was 48% below the mean, being little more than half of the average summer rainfall.

The wettest summer in the past 100 years was 2001-2 with no less than 1172 mm in Roma. It was agriculturally as disastrous as the 2003-4 season, but for the opposite reason, because farmers found it too wet to plant. In the past summer it was too dry to plant in many places until January, which was too late for maize and sorghum, although not too late for beans which have a shorter growing season, and were successfully grown by some farmers.

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