



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Second Quarter 2023  
Newsletter

## A Word From Our President

Lumelang Metsoalle,

First, I would like to thank our members who continue to support our work and the board members for all the hours they have put in. I am pleased to report that FOL continues to fulfill its mission to promote positive change and to assist the people of Lesotho.

Secondly, I would like to say how EXCITED I am to be writing this letter as the new president of FOL. Scott Rosenberg certainly did a tremendous job as president over these past 9 years especially as he guided FOL through the pandemic, ensuring TAP scholarships be distributed even after volunteers were evacuated and making funds more accessible to Basotho led projects. I first met Scott when I applied to join him on a Wittenberg sponsored service trip in 2012. Who knew that trip would lead to serving in Lesotho PC from 2017-2019 and then to being a board member with FOL since 2020. I am thankful not only for his guidance but that he is able to continue bringing students to Lesotho. Scott will continue to serve on the board as FOL navigates funding future projects and TAP in Lesotho.

Additionally, I am happy to share that FOL has added four new members to its board, including filling the vacant treasurer position. Welcome David Stevenson, Teresa Straffin, Cassie Sheridan and Justice Kalebe. We appreciate all that you will give to the organization. Kenneth Tucceri has quickly taken on the role of Vice President, already contributing his talents.

Finally I would like to thank our three guest speakers from this year's Annual Meeting: The Honorable Tumisang Mosotho, Lesotho's Ambassador to the United States, Professor Setsabi Setsabi, Professor of Geography and Development Studies at National University of Lesotho, and Mr. Justice Kalebe of Justice Kalebe Photography and Ha Sekantsi Community Project.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and thank you for your ongoing support of FOL. We're proud to report that over the past year, FOL has continued to make significant progress toward our mission of promoting positive change and assisting the people of Lesotho. If you're interested in supporting Friends of Lesotho's mission, there are many ways to get involved. You can donate, volunteer your time, or help us spread the word about our work. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of the people of Lesotho. We look forward to sharing more updates with you in our next newsletter.



Sincerely,  
Meghan White  
President, FOL



Newsletter Features Clickable Links!!  
Download the newsletter from the FOL website [www.friendsoflesotho.org](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org) and you will be able to click on all the website addresses.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/621989398552478405/>

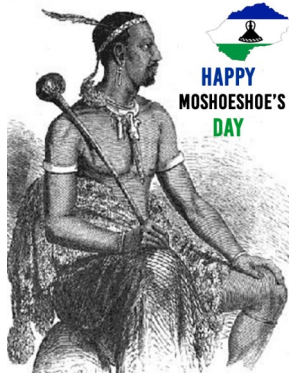
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## FOL Organizational News



### Annual Meeting

FOL held its Annual Meeting via Zoom on March 12, 2023, as was our custom to hold this meeting close to Moshoeshoe's Day each year. FOL President Scott Rosenberg welcomed board members, speakers, and members and friends who were on the call. The 2022 Financial Report and Annual Report were presented followed by elections of Directors and results of voting on by-laws revisions.

Guest speakers included:

The Honorable Tumisang Mosotho, Lesotho's Ambassador to the United States  
Setsabi Setsabi, Professor of Geography and Development Studies at NUL  
Justice Kalebe, Justice Kalebe Photography and Ha Sekantsi Community Project.

If you are not able to be present, the meeting will be recorded for playback. Contact [caughlan@earthlink.net](mailto:caughlan@earthlink.net) for the link to this recording.

### Annual Report

Thanks to Marisa Ernst for publishing our 2022 Annual Report available on our website under **Reports** at <https://www.friendsoflesotho.org/reports>

### Board Transitions

**Elections** – Directors who continued a new term of office include: Kevin Caughlan, Scott Rosenberg, Ali Kukupich, Bill Moore, and Marisa Ernst. We also welcomed four new board members: Justice Kalebe, Cassie Sheridan, Teresa Straffin, and David Stevenson. Biographies for new board members were shared on the FOL Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLesotho>

**President** – Meghan White will serve as President, replacing Scott Rosenberg. Scott served as President for the last nine years.

**Vice President** – Kenneth Tucceri accepted the role of Vice President taking over this role from Bill Moore. Bill has served on the board since 2012 and as Vice President since 2013.

**Treasurer** – Teresa Straffin and David Stevenson will serve as our new Co-Treasurers filling a critical open-position.

**Newsletter Coordinator** – Cassie Sheridan will take on the Newsletter Coordinator position this year replacing Kevin Freer. Kevin has served in this role since 2020 and as a copy editor from 2013-2019.



## Fundraising: Will & Estate Planning

Once you have taken care of your family's needs, please consider a thoughtful bequest to our organization. Bequests are critically important to the mission of Friends of Lesotho Inc. They provide a source of support that will continue our work in Lesotho for years to come. Bequests come from individuals who would like to leave a legacy and lasting gift to the people of Lesotho.

There are several ways to include Friends of Lesotho Inc. in your estate planning and therefore a lasting legacy to the people of Lesotho. You may:

- Designate a percentage of the residue of your estate
- Leave a specific dollar amount
- List Friends of Lesotho Inc. as beneficiary of your IRA, Retirement Plan, or Life Insurance Policy. (These do not even have to be addressed in a Will.)



For more information, visit our website at <https://www.friendsoflesotho.org/donate> or if you have any questions and would like to discuss planned giving with Friends of Lesotho Inc., contact Meghan White, President, at [white.meghan0@gmail.com](mailto:white.meghan0@gmail.com)





## Presidential Tribute

Scott Rosenberg has maintained a long-standing personal commitment to the Friends of Lesotho over the years. Scott has served as a Board member for 16 years and as President for 9 years, now assuming the role as Past President to support the Board President transition.

Scott agreed to serve as FOL's President in 2013. He had already been serving as FOL's newly created Embassy Liaison when he joined the Board in 2008 and had close relationships with both the American Embassy in Lesotho and the Lesotho Embassy in Washington DC. He developed strong ties with the PC office in Maseru and the Lesotho Country Desk in Washington which strengthened FOL's ability to engage with PCVs and host country partners throughout his tenure on the Board.

For over 10 years Scott has led Wittenberg Student Learning Projects in Lesotho. During these trips Scott was also able to make contacts with partners in Lesotho and strengthen the organization's relationship with numerous individuals and organizations. Scott used his intimate knowledge of the needs of the Basotho while chairing the Friends of Lesotho (FOL) Donations Committee throughout his tenure on the Board. FOL, represented by Scott, was one of 16 organizations recognized by the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) on October 1, 2014, in Washington D.C - a testament to Scott's leadership and FOL's accomplishments.

The combination of the COVID pandemic and the evacuation of PCVs from Lesotho presented difficult challenges. Scott maintained a strong commitment to continuing the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). In the absence of PCVs in Lesotho, Scott was able to help FOL continue to provide tuition assistance by working with the Rotary Clubs in Lesotho as well as with the Queen's Trust to administer the TAP program.

John Hollister retired after 15 years of service as Treasurer in 2021. The Board treasurer position changed in 2021 and then again in 2022. After the short duration of a treasurer in 2022, Scott filled in as a temporary Treasurer through March 2023 as an added responsibility to his committee work and duties as President.

Scott added to the collective knowledge of the Board by recruiting a diverse group of new board members, many of whom were recently returned from Lesotho. Several of these members have now assumed leadership positions as officers and committee chairs.

Thank you for all you have done as President, Scott. Over the years your commitment to Lesotho has truly helped FOL to be more connected to the people of Lesotho and Peace Corps Washington. Your leadership has kept FOL moving forward through difficult times during the COVID pandemic. We are very thankful you were willing to fill the role of president for as long as you did. We look forward to your continued advice and involvement with FOL.



Scott Rosenberg,  
PhD, Wittenberg University.  
Past President, FOL. Honorary  
Consul, Kingdom of Lesotho.

Kevin Freer and Richard Rowan, Past FOL Presidents



### Expanding Our Circle of Friends

Sign up family and friends to receive our newsletter to expand our outreach to new audiences. Use the icon on the home page of our website.



### Submissions wanted!!

Help us create our awesome newsletter! We are looking for photographs, articles, news from the front, creative writing, reflections from your volunteer experience, travel essays, and anything else Lesotho-related.

Please send your submissions for the next FOL Newsletter to Cassie Sheridan, [ccsheridan2@gmail.com](mailto:ccsheridan2@gmail.com).

The next deadline is August 15, 2023



## Donations

### Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)



Special thanks to the Taipei American School for their donation of \$12,561.80 last year and member contributions over \$1,000. Their generous support enabled FOL to fund over 60 students this school year.

FOL was very fortunate to be able to partner with the Rotary Clubs of Maloti, Matsopa, and Maseru to reach out to principals across Lesotho and help identify students for the scholarships. TAP funds were also sent to Monica Letsoha at the Molete Foundation for additional scholarships.



One of our TAP scholarship students, Thato Neko, (Lesotho High School) has been selected to participate in the United States Government's Pan African Youth Leadership Program in Atlanta, Georgia. The program offers secondary school youth (ages 15-18) and adult educators the opportunity to explore priority policy themes such as civic education, climate resiliency, conflict resolution, economic development, entrepreneurship, respect for diversity, women's empowerment, and youth development. Through a three-week, intensive exchange in the US, program participants will engage in workshops on leadership and service, community site visits related to the program themes, interactive training in conflict resolution, presentations, visits to high schools, local cultural activities, and homestays with American families.



### Hope English Medium School in Mafeteng

FOL wired a \$4,000 donation made by William Stafford Noble (PCV 1991-1993 at Mt. Tabor in Mafeteng) for the building of new dormitories at the school. Their school currently educates 900 students. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/people/Hope-English-Medium-High-School/100064116010919/> and <https://www.hopeemhs.org/>



### Help Save Lives: Mankoe Foundation

FOL sent funds of \$1,571 to the Mankoe Foundation to purchase chickens and pigs to feed orphans and other youth. The chickens and pigs will be taken care of until they are ready to be sold in the market. The animals will be replaced after every sale to sustain the programs to pay for student fees, books, uniforms and other essentials.



## Amazon Smile Suspended

We were recently informed that Amazon suspended the AmazonSmile program on February 20, 2023. The AmazonSmile program will provide FOL with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what we earned in 2022 through the program. Members and friends will be able to support FOL through several new fundraising initiatives begun this year. These include Wills & Estate Planning, Employer Matching Gifts, Memorial Gifts, for departed RPCVs who served in Lesotho as well as Alternate Gift Giving through our Donate portal on our website. Thank you to all who have taken advantage of AmazonSmile in support of FOL in the past.





## Stories from RPCVs

### Thinking in Sesotho in Senegal, By Kenneth Tucceri, Vice President

DAKAR, Senegal – New places are nothing new to me. Since my fateful decision to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail in 2008, I have not exactly stayed put, bouncing around, mostly enjoyably, sometimes wearily. And, perhaps, consequently, as I write from my hotel balcony on the bustling road of Rte des Almadies in Dakar, I cannot help but think I have been here before. In my search for that rationality, Lesotho is the first place that would logically make me feel this new residence in a West African metropolis is not as novel a feeling as it, maybe, should feel.

Is it the ubiquitous taxis, the friendly Senegalese, the little shops that look like they were built in hasty spontaneity? Or the joy of speaking their language (Wolof) and learning new words and cultural elements each and every day at a seemingly slow pace? Before you know it there is a decent foundational knowledge of their customs and courtesies (This competence can sneak up on someone when they are not careful).

Interestingly, since being here, I find myself being hung up on the similarities of my time as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho and my current experiences in Senegal, opposed to the many significant differences. And there are many differences. Firstly, I am here as a soldier working in the Office of Security Cooperation in the U.S. Embassy Dakar. Peace Corps and War Corps, can things be anymore different? Books versus bullets. Chaco sandals versus army boots. Camouflage versus *kobo*. Yet, I think it is within this seemingly drastic juxtaposition that beholds my truth.

Yes, I am here as a soldier — but my desires remain similar to that of a Peace Corps Volunteer. Even though I left my Chaco sandals at home, I still try to integrate with the curiosity of a PCV. I attempt to act within the parameters of a change agent, much like I did in Makoko Primary School in Thaba Tseka, calculating my decisions and efforts for the sake of sustainability and friendship.

Same goals, different uniform.

I remember in Peace Corps – when I felt down – I would always tell myself: I am here first and foremost to foster relationships and create lasting friendships. With that primary goal, I always seemed to steer myself in the right direction. So, I have adopted the same mentality here. Though my mission’s day-to-day activities are different; when I approach my cross-cultural interactions with our partner militaries, I do it as part PCV and part sergeant first class, and I have received no complaints so far regarding this approach. So, I am going to maintain the course. At its core, the desired end state of every military objective is peace, right? Or am I somehow still naïve?

Nevertheless, because of my Peace Corps experiences — maybe once or twice I mistakenly shout out a greeting to a Senegalese friend with a *lumela* instead of the Wolof greeting *nanga def*. Maybe *kea leboha* may slip out instead of *jërejëf*, but, to me, that is a beautiful moment, one in which I can enjoy my time as a soldier in Senegal and simultaneously still feel like a PCV in Lesotho. I can remain both, right?

### Storytelling in the FOL Newsletter, By Cassie Sheridan, Newsletter Coordinator

I want to thank Kevin Freer for his amazing work as the newsletter coordinator and his commitment to communicating the work of Friends of Lesotho as well as amazing stories from Lesotho over the years. I am very grateful to be stepping into a role with a great history of high-quality storytelling and will continue this tradition on behalf of an organization that is doing great work.

I was a Peace Corps volunteer for two years in Ha Mahlekefane, Butha Buthe. Prior to that, I was a journalist and editor and I’ve long loved the art of telling stories and empowering others to tell their own.



Newsletter Coordinator Cassie Sheridan and her host mother M'e Mashasha in Ha Mahlekefane, Lesotho.

On my last full day in Ha Mahlekefane, I went for a run. Not unusual especially as time began to narrow. I was jogging up the last big hill on my way back to my house, and my neighbor, a woman I had washed laundry in a stream beside for two years, had laughed daily with, and had cooked bread with, for the last time, shouted to me “o kae Kani!!” And before I could shout back the obligatory “ke teng!!” I burst into tears.

The rough translation of this oft shouted greeting has a truly beautiful English meaning. It’s one I’ve grinned over for many years, a pure simplicity.

O kae—where are you.

Ke teng—I am here.

It does not require you to explain your current mood, feelings, or status. It is simply a vocalization of your present state.

Where are you? I am here.

I am thrilled to be stepping into the role of newsletter coordinator and sharing the work of Friends of Lesotho with all of you, as well as stories and images from Lesotho. I invite all individuals who have stories they’d like to share that are relevant to Friends of Lesotho’s mission to please email them to me any time. Stories or articles of interest or feedback can be sent to [ccsheridan2@gmail.com](mailto:ccsheridan2@gmail.com)



FOL Vice President Kenneth Tucceri in Senegal



# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

A message to all RPCVs from Randa Wilkinson, Country Director, Lesotho:



Any RPCVs who are returning for a visit to Lesotho are encouraged to reach out to her or stop by the Peace Corps Lesotho main office. Randa would love to have a meal with any visiting RPCVs. You can email her at [rwilkinson@peacecorps.gov](mailto:rwilkinson@peacecorps.gov)

Country Director Randa Wilkinson administering the Peace Corps Pledge during the swearing in of PCV Fatumata on February 7, 2023.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to 14 Peace Corps Lesotho Volunteers who were sworn into service in December, 2022. This group will support Health and Education projects across the country. Their swearing in ceremony additionally celebrated 55 years of Peace Corps Lesotho.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=519184040244381&set=pb.100064583686440.-2207520000.&type=3>



Snow cones late autumn pre-winter snow storms in Lesotho  
<https://twitter.com/hallaboutafrica/status/1388474266383958024>



**GOT PHOTOS?**

Do you have photos from Lesotho? We would love to feature them in the newsletter!

Send your photos to the editor [ccsheridan2@gmail.com](mailto:ccsheridan2@gmail.com)



## In Memoriam



### *Dr. M.I. Thelejane, DDS*

Peace Corps Dentist

1939-2023

Dr. M. I. Thelejane passed away from a stroke in January. He was chosen by the first Peace Corps group as our dentist in 1968. He was honored during the Peace Corps 40th anniversary celebration as a long standing colleague and friend of Peace Corps Lesotho. You may send condolences to Dr. Thelejane's son, Molupe, at [molupe4thelejane@gmail.com](mailto:molupe4thelejane@gmail.com).



### *Drew Sloan Hardgrove*

June 30, 1947 ~ June 28, 2022 (age 74)

<https://www.simsfuneralservices.com/obituary/Drew-Hardgrove>

FOL received a \$5,000 donation via PayPal from the estate of Drew Hardgrove. Drew was a PCV and APCD in Lesotho in the early '80s serving from 1979-1984.

In memory and appreciation of their service, Friends of Lesotho has established memorial scholarships for those deceased Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff who served in Lesotho. The scholarships will be awarded through our Tuition Assistance Program to Basotho students.



### *Douglas Mayo*

February 29, 1944 ~ May 6, 2023

<https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000458131/>

Doug Mayo passed away May 6, 2023. Doug served in Lesotho as a member of the first Peace Corps group in 1967. A gathering of friends and family will be planned for July in order to share memories and stories.



## Litaba tsa Lesotho (News from Lesotho) Compiled by Ella Kwisnek

### **Wool Farmers Seek to Have Seized Wool Released**

A group of Thaba Tseka wool and mohair farmers have asked the High Court to order Police Commissioner, Holomo Molibeli, to release their wool valued at M2.9 million which was seized by police on February 23, 2023. Police seized a truck carrying the wool belonging to Mpesi Wool Centre near Ha Matala, Maseru while it was in transit to Port Elizabeth, South Africa, for sale by the reputed wool and mohair auctioneers, BKB Limited. The farmers argued that the wool may be damaged because it is being kept inside a plastic at the Police Training College. Mpesi Wool Centre's director, Hopolang Jeremiah Maphokoane is also the owner of the truck which was seized while transporting the wool.

Mr Maphokoane said that he was ordered to produce the transport form, permits from the Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Ministry, export permits from South Africa, a veterinary certificate and tax invoice. He provided the originals to the police on February 24, but the wool was still not released.

Read more at <http://lestimes.com/farmers-sue-molibeli-over-seized-m2-9-million-wool/>

### **Principal Secretaries Challenge Dismissal**

Prime Minister Sam Matekane's government fired most of the principal secretaries it inherited after winning the October 2022 general elections, saying it wanted to recruit new professionals outside of political considerations to replace them. Principal secretaries, who are the administrative heads of ministries, have generally been political appointees from the various parties that have formed coalition governments in Lesotho over the years. Mr Matekane argued this has hobbled competency and professionalism in the public service and he indicated that he wants to run a professional civil service by ensuring that all administrative heads of ministries are professionals, appointed purely on merit and on the basis of their professional and intellectual wherewithal not politics. Sixteen of the dismissed principal secretaries accuse Mr Matekane's government of seeking to oust them despite a clear agreement they had reached with Public Service, Labour and Employment Minister Richard Ramoetsi that their contracts would be paid out in full if the government dismissed them. When they were dismissed they were just given three-month notice pay.

Read the full story online at <http://lestimes.com/16-principal-secretaries-intensify-fight-for-their-jobs/>

### **Report on Prime Minister's First 100 Days**

Prime Minister Sam Matekane and his ministers had a public dialogue in Maseru to report on their initial 100-days in an effort to foster good governance and transparency. The report addressed the progress in implementing his 21-point plan. He has reduced the number in the cabinet from 37 to 15 and he is also cleaning the public service and eliminating jobs that were created illegally by the previous parties.

Some indicated that more needs to be done to combat crime, grow the economy, create jobs, and rehabilitate roads and other infrastructure.

Read more at <http://lestimes.com/matekanes-first-100-days-in-office-a-mixed-bag-analysts/>

### **Work stoppage by health care professionals**

The Coalition of Health Professionals stopped going to work over delayed salary payments. The coalition of nurses and doctors employed by the government said they were last paid on March 16. The coalition indicated that the Ministry of Health is not clearly communicating why they have not received their salaries. Without pay, some members lost accommodations and others indicated that they could not cover the cost of travelling to and from work.

Apparently, the delay has been caused by problems on the EFMIS (spell this out) system used by the government to pay civil servants. Technical problems arose due to implementation of new cost codes for merged ministries. Officers responsible for processing salaries are reportedly working overtime to meet the deadline for payment of the salaries. In addition, the 2.5 percent cost of living adjustment increase will be implemented in May, 2023 including April arrears.

Read the full story at <https://publiceyenews.com/unpaid-doctors-nurses-down-tools/>

### **Electricity coming to remote villages**

A UNDP(United Nations Development Program) project named 'Development of Cornerstone Public Policies and Institutional Ca-

*(Continued on page 9)*





## News from Lesotho (continued from

pacities to accelerate Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Progress which is funded by GEF and implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources, will connect thousands of Basotho to off-grid solar energy.

Hasetefane and surrounding communities in Mokhotlong will have electricity by the end of 2023.

Villagers believe that having power will curb property and animal theft. It will also assist with communicating during emergencies. SE4All project manager Thabang Phuroe said the costs of a grid connecting remote rural communities are not economically viable and when the government approved the project it had very little experience in pursuing off-grid alternatives. With the project, they will have 10 green mini-grids and 10 energy centers.

According to him, the mini grids will provide power to households, businesses and public sector and community institutions such as schools, clinics, administrative facilities and churches, further noting that once the 10 mini-grids are developed, electricity services will benefit over 25,000 people across five remote rural districts. He said to date the 10 energy centers are operational in five districts; Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, Thaba-Tseka and Mokhotlong. "The energy centers offer a range of energy goods and services to remote off-grid communities including small scale solar PV systems, solar lanterns, energy saving cookstoves, phone charging services and the like.

Read more about these efforts and future funding sources at <https://publiceyenews.com/off-grid-power-brings-forgotten-villages-to-light/>

### Laws of Lerotholi Challenged

Section 11 (1) of the Customary Law (Laws of Lerotholi) states that the heir in Basutoland shall be the first male child of the first married wife, and that if there is no male in the first house, then the first born male child of the next wife married in succession shall be the heir while Section 19 of the Children Welfare and Protection Act of 2011 explicitly states that a child born outside marriage cannot inherit the property of his or her father.

Tholoana Molapo, a 22-year-old female from Katlehong, claims she is unable to inherit her late father's property because of the two laws. She has asked for the High Court's interference and is suing her grandmother 'Mankuebe Molapo who she claims is in illegal possession and use of her father's property. She says her grandmother has taken over her father's property and is as a result unable to benefit from it. Tholoana is asking the court to invalidate these two legal provisions blocking her inheritance; she also wants the court to declare her as the sole heir and owner to the properties.

She contends that Section 11 (1) of the Customary Law discriminates against her and girls or women from inheriting and administering property on the basis of their sex or gender. "It renders female children or women minors for the rest of their lives. And that their biological fathers, their husbands and/or male heirs to the estates of their parents are their fathers and guardians liable to take care of them."

Read more about her challenge and her grandmother's response at <https://publiceyenews.com/contentious-customary-law-on-heirs-rears-its-head-again/>



Lesotho's King Lestie III and Queen Masenate attending King Charles III coronation in May.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cwlw3xz0z14t/lesotho>



## News from Lesotho (continued from page 9)

### Urban Sprawl

Lesotho continues to struggle with the spread of slums, substandard housing and informal settlements in urban areas. The Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police is developing a National Housing Bill to ensure the delivery of low-income adequate housing and sustainable development in the country. Principal Secretary in the ministry, Pokello Mahlomola, said the objective of the bill is to improve access to adequate housing by strengthening the capacity of the government to develop an effective legal framework on housing related matters in consultation with relevant stakeholders. He noted that Lesotho is experiencing rapid population growth, urbanization and rural-urban migration which put pressure on limited infrastructure. The department of housing needs to address the problems that arise from the influx of people from rural to urban areas.

To read more about this issue, visit <https://publiceyenews.com/bid-to-tame-uncontrolled-urban-housing/>

### Financial Literacy Initiative

For a decade, the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) has been working in cooperation with various institutions to empower the public with the necessary skills to manage their finances effectively. This is done through an annual Money Month Campaign which runs from April 19 to May 7.

This year the theme was: “Plan your money, plant your future.” The program educates people about basic issues such as budgeting investments, savings and insurance. FESC also teaches about pension or retirement funds.

Read more about the program at <https://publiceyenews.com/money-month-campaign-educates-youth-on-managing-finances/>

### Cyber-crime plagues Basotho

Cyber-crime has grown throughout Lesotho, and many Basotho are falling victim to it because their servers and computers are not properly protected. The Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS)’s Cybercrime Unit was established in August 2022 by Commissioner Holomo Molibeli with the goal of focusing on crimes such as hacking, unauthorized data access, revenge porn, cyber-bullying, pornography, internet fraud, and phishing. Awareness campaigns are being used to educate the public on this issue, but many are still falling victim to fraudsters.

According to a 2021 Interpol report, the most prevalent dangers in Africa are internet scams in which consumers get fraudulent emails or text messages purporting to be from a genuine source, and this is exploited to deceive victims into disclosing personal or financial information.

Read more about this problem at <https://publiceyenews.com/spotlight-on-digital-hygiene-to-curb-crime/>

### Overcrowding and mental health hospital

Mohlomi Hospital was constructed as a national mental health institution around 1960, with its first patients admitted in 1965 from Mohale’s Hoek Prison. It was then used to house mental health patients – the official opening was in August 1966 and the facility named after Mohlomi, King Moshoeshoe I’s advisor and doctor. The facility has a 120-bed capacity, but is usually reportedly overcrowded. The patients at Mohlomi are attended to by four doctors and a single PIH psychiatrist that visits the facility once a week. Recently, parliament had a question and answer session where legislators asked about the outdated equipment and lack of hygiene at the facility. The minister answering questions noted that blankets were budgeted for, but the minister also noted that there is overcrowding and that the food delivered by the current caterer was unsatisfactory.

Read more at <https://publiceyenews.com/mps-want-decrepit-mohlomi-facility-overhauled/>

### Curfew imposed after journalist murdered

The Kingdom of Lesotho has declared a night curfew after a prominent investigative journalist was shot dead in the capital, Maseru, by unknown gunmen. Ralikonelo Joki was killed shortly after he left work at the privately-owned Tsénolo FM radio on Sunday night. Minister of Police Lebona Lephema, in a televised address on Monday, May 15, said there would be no movement from 22:00 to 04:00 local time starting Tuesday. The killing of the journalist has sparked uproar, with the Committee to Protect Journalists calling for credible investigations and prosecution of those responsible.

Read the full story at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cwlw3xz0z14t/lesotho>





## Ways to Support FOL

### HELP FOL WITH YOUR EXPERTISE AND TIME

#### Board Service

- ◆ If you've always wondered how you could give a little more to FOL, now is the chance to volunteer your time, special skills, and enthusiasm. The members of the Board of Directors of Friends of Lesotho are elected based on their ability and willingness to contribute to the achievement of the organization's goals and objectives.
- ◆ Directors are members in good standing who are elected on their ability and willingness to support the purpose of FOL
- ◆ Nominations are welcome year round
- ◆ Elections are held at the Annual Meeting in March
- ◆ Directors serve for two-year terms

#### Committees and Task Forces

FOL members who do not wish to make a long-term commitment to the board are encouraged to:

- ◆ Join standing committees, or
- ◆ Work on special projects which match their skills and interests to the needs of the organization

There are also committees and task forces that help carry out the Board work. These committees include Donation Distribution, Membership, Fundraising and Board Nominations & Development.

Check out the [Board Information](#) page. Also, for a summary of the expected level of commitment see the Board and Committee description of work. If you're interested in application or nomination, please complete the [Board and Committee Application Form](#) and email it to the address shown within the form. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the committee members.

### ATTEND FOL MEETINGS

#### Board Meetings

- ◆ Zoom meetings are held at 12:30pm Eastern time on the third Sunday of odd numbered months.
- ◆ Meetings are open to all FOL members, please contact Kevin Caughlan ([caughlan@earthlink.net](mailto:caughlan@earthlink.net)) for call-in information.

#### FOL Annual Meeting

- ◆ Scheduled close to Moshoeshoe Day in March, via Zoom more information to follow on our website. Be on the lookout for your FOL Annual Report posted on our website following the Annual Meeting.





## Be an FOL Member for FREE!

Richard Rowan, RPCV Lesotho, [qhomaki@gmail.com](mailto:qhomaki@gmail.com)

Hello, Bakhotsi! Your friendly FOL Membership Committee Chair Richard here.

Membership in Friends of Lesotho is free. Friends of Lesotho stopped collecting the mandatory \$15 yearly membership dues starting in January 2017.

[What do FOL's free dues mean for you?](#)

**If you're currently a member of Friends of Lesotho:**

You don't have to do anything. Your membership automatically renewed.

**If you used to be a member but are no longer a member:**

Take two minutes to fill out the updated [Membership Form](#) online.

**If you've never been a member:**

What are you waiting for? There's never been a better time to start getting involved!

With membership fees in the rear view mirror, we need your help more than ever to continue doing the amazing work Friends of Lesotho does in Lesotho.

Get involved with one of the many committees in FOL.

**Donate generously to our many projects** using the [online form](#) or mail a check to Friends of Lesotho. <https://www.friendsoflesotho.org/donate/>



Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLesotho>



Share your photos!

Send to the editor at:

[ccsheridan2@gmail.com](mailto:ccsheridan2@gmail.com)



Visit our website:

<http://www.friendsoflesotho.org>



## And Remember :

We couldn't do and support the work, have the impact, and save the lives we do without your financial support. Your contributions support our work in:

- ◆ HIV/AIDS
- ◆ Orphanages
- ◆ Tuition Assistance including Memorial Scholarships
- ◆ The Morija Museum
- ◆ Peace Corps Volunteer Projects
- ◆ Community Development Projects
- ◆ Other types of projects as new opportunities arise

## We work because you give.

Whether it's \$5 or \$5,000, all donations help us reach further and save more lives and because we're a registered 501(c)3, your donation is tax deductible!

If you'd like to give, please go to: <http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/donate/>

**Newsletters Past and Present**—The FOL Newsletter, *Metsoalle ea Lesotho* is posted on our website homepage (<http://friendsoflesotho.org>) each quarter of the year. The complete set of newsletters is available on our website from Issue Number One, Summer, 1987 to the present. Go to Newsletters at the bottom of the home page for the archives.

**Submit Newsletter Articles**—Pass on RPCV updates. Recommend a Mt. Kingdom movie, music, book or Website. Share new or old photos. Been to Lesotho lately? Share it!

Submit articles, photos, or information of interest to our members to: Cassie Sheridan, FOL Newsletter Coordinator [ccsheridan2@gmail.com](mailto:ccsheridan2@gmail.com)



## Winter in Lesotho

In the past two weeks, there has been a great deal of snowfall as Lesotho welcomes winter. Areas of the Lesotho highlands reported 4-6 inches of heavy snowfall in some areas. Normal winter temperatures in the Lesotho highlands will on average drop to below freezing in the night time and stay around 20 degrees Fahrenheit, with extremes of negative Fahrenheit temperatures, which makes it possible for the snow blanket to last for more than an entire week after a single heavy snowfall.



Pictures on left from top to bottom:

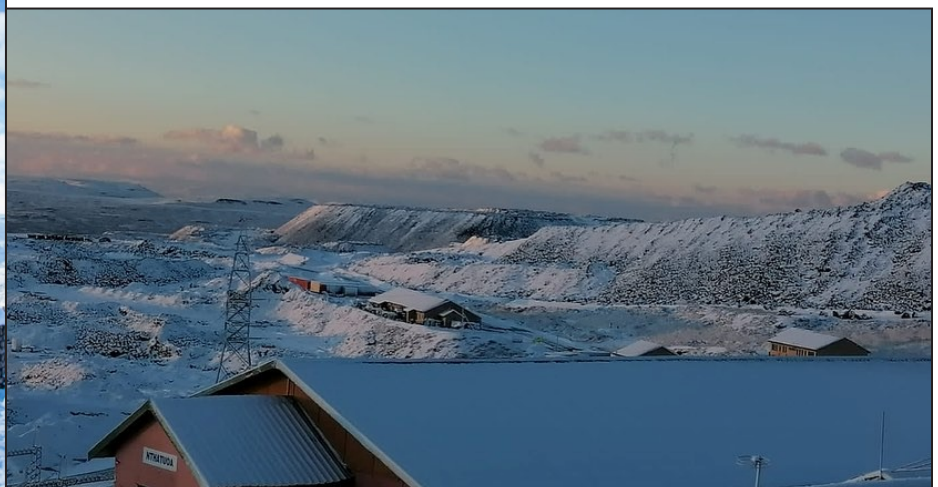
- Road to Mokhotlong
- Mafika Lisiu Pass Road
- Snow capped rondavel in Matsonyane.

Pictures on right from top to bottom:

- Road from Roma to Semonkong
- Snowfall at Letseng diamond mine

All photos retrieved from "Snow Report, South Africa"

<https://www.facebook.com/snowreportsa>





FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

115 Monteray Avenue  
Oakwood, OH 45419



METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Second Quarter 2023  
Newsletter



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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