



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Second Quarter 2019
Newsletter

A Word From Our President



Newsletter Features Clickable Links!!

Download the newsletter from the FOL website www.friendsoflesotho.org and you will be able to click on all the website addresses.

Lumelang Motsoelle,

First, I wanted 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.

This year we were lucky enough to be able to hold our Annual Meeting on March 10th, just one day before Moshoeshoe's Day. One of our speakers was Lesotho's new ambassador to the United States, Gabriel Maja. Ambassador Maja, who is familiar with Peace Corps from his time working for PCL, expressed his eagerness to work with FOL in the future. As much as we are looking forward to working with Ambassador Maja, I would like to take this last opportunity to thank former Ambassador Sebatane for all the encouragement and support he has given FOL over the years.

Our other guest speaker was David Gorman (RPCV Lesotho 1989-92). David told the members on the call about his project, "Bikes for Lesotho", which has shipped over 6,000 bikes to orphans in Lesotho. David also discussed his efforts to develop the bike industry in Lesotho by helping build and establish bike shops throughout the nation.

At the meeting we also elected one new member, Ali Kukovich who will be joining the FOL Board and working on our social media. Please join me in welcoming Ali to the Board. Ali spent the last year serving as a fellow at Touching Tiny Lives in Mokhotlong. I would also like to thank all of the members who chose to return to the Board, all of whom were re-elected: Zach Rosen, John Hollister, Andrew Steele, Benjamin Todd, Kevin Caughlin, and Marisa Earnst.

Lastly, I just returned from Lesotho on April 4th after a two-week visit to the Mountain Kingdom. During my visit, I was able to meet with several Peace Corps Volunteers, most of whom work in the health sector and have helped facilitate the introduction of "Lesotho Nutrition Initiative" meals to their areas. I also had a chance to catch up with a former student of mine, Meghan White, who is in her second year as a PCV stationed in Qacha's Nek as a Math Teacher. In addition to meeting with current volunteers, I had a chance to meet with RPCV Gary Purcell, who served in the first Peace Corps group in Lesotho in 1967, about working together on a project. Lastly, I had a chance to meet with current Peace Corps Lesotho Director Leon Kayego. We discussed Peace Corps projects in Lesotho and how to further develop the relationship between PCL and FOL. In September 2019, two more Wittenberg students will be joining Meghan as PCVs in Lesotho. I feel so blessed that so many of my former students have been selected to serve in the Mountain Kingdom after participating in my service-learning trip to Lesotho.

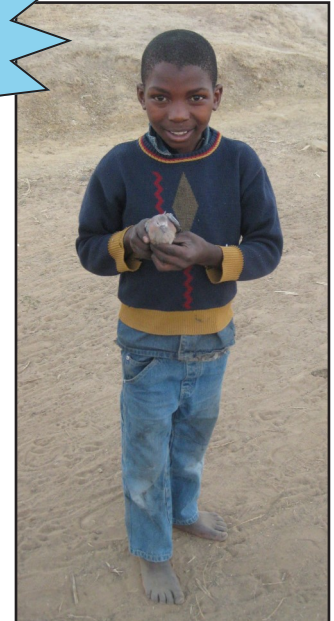


Photo courtesy Nicole Potsane, RPCV



Sincerely,
Dr. Scott Rosenberg
President, FOL
Honorary Consul, Kingdom of Lesotho



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The Leratong Community Center Update

Leratong Community Center is a project in the Roma area in Lesotho. It was started in late 2009 by Wittenberg University students at the request of local Basotho who were seeing an increasing need to help care for the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. Since its inception, it has grown to be a popular site in the community to provide after school and weekend programs for all children in the area. There is a full time center director, as well as two part-time employees, two volunteers from Germany (annually) and a host of other community and NUL student volunteers. The budget to operate the Center is approximately \$8,400/year. Approximately 145 children are positively affected on a weekly basis.

On September 16 of this year, Leratong received a surprise visit by the Minister of Social Development, Mrs. Madoti. During the visit, there was a braai, team building games and speeches. Several weeks after the visit Mrs. Madoti told visiting Springfield, Ohio Rotarians that Leratong Community Center is doing an excellent job and is a model for what other community centers in the country should be like.

Among the different programs, Leratong provides the following:

- **Empowerment.** A program done jointly with Leratong and the neighboring primary school. Staff of both facilities are working together to learn and teach IT skills to the children.
- **Dream Girls Program** works with 12-15 young girls from the community weekly to counsel and spend time discussing life choices. It also works with Catholic Relief Services, Redeemed Christian Church and Kick4Life.
- **Bible study** every Friday through deeper Life Church. The aim is to help develop the children spiritually.
- **NUL places Social Services majors** for six weeks to learn and counsel with the children. Case worker students learn skills by working one on one with the children each week.
- **NUL Department of Economics Club** visit every Saturday to spend time with the children.
- **NUL chess club** visits every Saturday to teach the game of chess to the children.
- **The Smile Foundation**, a group of former NUL students, visits frequently to provide counseling and friendship to the children.
- **Community businesses and groups** provide help and donations to the Center. On a recent Saturday, the owner of Domino's Pizza in Maseru, sent employees with 35 pizzas for the children.
- **The Center is used as a site** for children to spend time at while exams and classes are being given at local schools.
- **A project developing a new type of gardening, shade gardening**, is being implemented to teach new and more productive means of providing food to the Basotho. A new retaining wall has been built by a local contractor to stop erosion and Wittenberg University students filled in the space and built a shade garden over the space. New vegetables are planted and the children are learning gardening techniques.
- **A BMX bicycle track** is being built in the dongas around the Center. Folks from the Lesotho Sky will build the track, provide bicycles and teach the children how to ride them.
- **Computer skills, arts & craft, acting and mentoring** are all done on a daily basis. Drafting and embroidery are being taught by local ladies from the community, as well as knitting and sewing.




Photo credit: Leratong Community Center Facebook Page

Many other projects and ideas are in the works. The center has managed to keep going with the support provided by Bloom, through Dr. Scott Rosenberg, the Rotary Club of Springfield, OH and Friends of Lesotho.





Mankoe Foundation Update

Thanks to generous donations from Friends of Lesotho members and supporters, Friends of Lesotho was able to assist the Mankoe Foundation in purchasing uniforms, stationary, groceries, and cosmetic items. The Mankoe Foundation provides scholarships and serves the basic needs of children in Lesotho. 




New uniforms, shirts, and shoes.



Children in their uniforms, in line for supplies.

Grand Opening of God's Love Center II

God's Love Center I is an orphanage in Lesotho. It was originally built to house 12-15 children but was housing around 45. With support from Friends of Lesotho, the second God's Love Center opened on 22 February, enabling the centers to serve more children in need. 

You are invited to
GRAND OPENING
Date: 22nd February 2019
Time: 10 a.m.



Please join us in celebrating the Official Opening of God's Love Centre II



Once you pass Naleli Centre continue straight down the hill. Follow the road as it bends to the right at Ha Rasta. After 1km turn left immediately before Sentebele Funeral Services down a dirt track, G.L.C II is located on the left after 500 metres.



For more information please contact: Neo Molants'i - 63108716
OR Rellumetse Nthako - 59662422



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 Tara Browne, tara.m.browne@gmail.com.

The next deadline is June 1st, 2019



Litaba tsa Lesotho (News from Lesotho)

2019-20 Budget Proposal

Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro recently unveiled a M18.1 billion 2019-20 budget in parliament. When doing so, he indicated that Lesotho faces a 'fiscal and unemployment crisis' and the government thus proposes to reduce its expenditure on salaries and use the savings to stimulate economic growth.

Dr. Majoro did not give in to civil servants' demands for salary increments and cut the salaries of ministers by five percent. He also proposed several cost-cutting measures including reducing expenditures on travel and telecommunications by government.

The budget also includes 'sin taxes' on tobacco (30 percent levy) and alcohol (15 percent). T

The minister noted that, "Lesotho is not only facing a fiscal crisis; our people are also facing a jobs crisis...." Accordingly, the proposal is designed to create 20 000 new jobs by the end of 2021.

He said the Ministry of Trade and Industry with the Lesotho National Development Corporation were incubating new business ventures including eight new firms in the clothing and electrical components sectors with about 8000 jobs to be created in two years. They also hope to increase jobs in the areas of agricultural production.

In his speech, he also discussed incubator programs and the importance of peace. Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/lesotho-is-in-a-fiscal-and-jobs-crisis-majoro/> , <http://lestimes.com/govt-increases-taxes/> , <http://lestimes.com/govt-cuts-ministers-salaries/> , <http://lestimes.com/no-salary-joy-for-civil-servants/> , and <http://lestimes.com/budget-the-best-under-the-circumstances/>

All Basotho Convention Spat

The old national executive committee (NEC) of the All Basotho Convention (ABC), which was ousted at the party's elective conference last month, has refuse to hand over power to the new NEC. The old NEC alleges that the elections, which ushered in National University of Lesotho (NUL) Vice-Chancellor Professor Nqosa Mahao and former Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights minister Lebohang Hlaele were marred by vote rigging and other serious irregularities.

Acting Chief Justice 'Maseforo Mahase gave the two ABC factions until 19 March 2019 to resolve their differences, which threaten to split the party and even bring down the current coalition government. The court order indicated, in part, "If the negotiations have collapsed or failed by 19 March 2019, then the matter shall be heard on 20 March 2019 at 9:30 a.m. and this honorable court shall issue and deliver its judgement on 29 March 2019 at 9:30 a.m."

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/mahao-breathes-fire/> and <https://publiceyenews.com/sadc-sucked-into-abc-spat/>

Newly Elected Democratic Congress Leader Criticizes Thabane

The newly-elected Democratic Congress (DC) leader, Mathibeli Mokhothu, stated that recent judicial appointment by Prime Minister Thomas Thabane has backfired because they now have the dilemma of adjudicating between warring factions of Thabane's All Basotho Convention (ABC) party. He also accused Thabane's administration of using the Lesotho Defense Force (LDF) and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) to kill innocent citizens.

Recently, Thabane condemned police brutality stating it was unacceptable that some police officers continued to tarnish the image of the force through acts of brutality against civilians.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/mokhothu-mocks-thabane-govt/>

Teachers vow to fight education

Teachers' unions are challenging the Education (Amendment) Bill of 2019 which was recently presented in parliament. They assert that the Minister of Education and Training, Professor Ntoi Rapapa, has included amendments to the Education Act of 2010 that permit dismissal of teachers if they strike.

Further, part of the bill states that "if a teacher is absent from duty without permission, the principle of no work no pay shall apply notwithstanding any disciplinary procedure provided for under this act."

The bill was presented to parliament against the backdrop of a teachers' strike that began on 18 February to press the government for pay raises and improved working conditions.

Read more about this bill on the teachers' unions concerns online at <http://lestimes.com/teachers-vow-to-fight-education-bill/>



Litaba tsa Lesotho (continued from page 4)

Basotho in need of emergency food aid

Nearly 500,000 Basotho will need food aid due to a drought resulting from El-Niño, according to the Minister of Finance, Moeketsi Majoro. According to an International Research Institute (IRI) report, "Across most of Southern Africa, El Niño events typically result in anomalous reduction in precipitation between November and March coinciding with the main crop growing season."

Lesotho is already experiencing delayed rains which are signs of the El Niño conditions which are already affecting the summer cropping season.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/500-000-basotho-in-need-of-emergency-food-aid/>

Seakhi musician shot

In February famo musician Mokhakhi 'Roba' Malefane from the Seakhi faction was murdered. According to the police, four men from a rival famo gang allegedly broke into the couple's Thabana-Morena house through a window and shot the husband and wife but left their two young children unharmed.

Lesotho's past has been riddled with famo gang violence and killings since the early 2000s. In 2017 Mafeteng recorded 63 killings.

Last September, the police banned mourners from wearing the regalia associated with famo music at funerals. Some of the regalia which the mourners have been banned from donning at funerals include the blankets. The Matlama blankets of various colors are usually worn by the Seakhi faction while the Terene faction often wear the black and yellow Seana-marena blanket.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/seakhi-musician-shot-dead/>

Doctorate for First Lady

First Lady 'Maesaiah Thabane was conferred with an honorary doctorate by the Divinity College Consortium, an interdenominational university in the United States. The doctorate is in recognition of Ms. Thabane's philanthropic efforts and the role she plays in community development in the country.

Read more about some of the first lady's many charitable efforts online at <http://lestimes.com/doctorate-for-first-lady/>

M9 million exit package for Chief Justice

Suspended Chief Justice Nthomeng Majara was given a purported M9 million exit package.

Justice and Correctional Services minister Mokhele Moletsane and new Tourism, Environment and Culture minister Joang Molapo negotiated the deal on behalf of the government.

Negotiations for the exit package have previously stalled over Justice Majara's alleged demands for a M17 million package.

Read more about the negotiations and background information online at

<http://lestimes.com/m9-million-exit-package-for-chief-justice/>

Education ministry distributes books

The Ministry of Education and Training, through the School Supply Unit (SSU) is currently distributing educational materials for Grade 8 learners throughout the country.

Chief Information Officer in the Ministry of Education and Training Molikuo Mota indicated books for Social Sciences and Arts and Entrepreneurship subjects as well as those for English and Mathematics books for Grade 8 were received from suppliers. The ministry believes there are sufficient books for all of the secondary schools in the country.

Teaching supplies are one of the demands made by striking teachers, who also sought raises, regular training sessions on the curriculum. Providing

(Continued on page 6)

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

SHOPPING?? PLEASE USE FOL'S LINK TO AMAZON

Amazon donates a small percent of purchases made by Friends of Lesotho year round,
with no extra charge to the customer, if you access their site through
Friends of Lesotho's Web page, <http://FriendsOfLesotho.org>

One extra click by you enables FOL to send hundreds of dollars of donations to Lesotho each year.



Litaba tsa Lesotho (continued from page 5)

the books is part of the ministry's effort to get teachers back in the classrooms.

The book rental scheme was implemented by the government of in 2004, as one of the measures to improve quality education and access to education, the government implemented a book rental scheme where the Government through the ministry will provide books for seven subjects at secondary level and also provide books for core subjects at High school level (Mathematics, science both Physical and Biology and English language) while school principals are required to ensure that students pay M220 as book rental fee every year.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/education-ministry-distributes-books/>

FNB launches agency banking solution

First National Bank (FNB) Lesotho recently launched Cash Plus Lai Lai, a mobile banking feature that allows individuals to make cash withdrawals or deposits at agents within their proximity without needing a bank account.

The facility will allow people to transact without visiting the bank's branches or needing an FNB automated teller machine (ATM) to withdraw or deposit cash. Instead, one will just need to approach Cash Plus Lai Lai agents within their proximity.

FNB Head of Retail Teboho Mhlanga said the new development is meant to bring services close to the people. The product should prevent clients from having to travel with large sums of money.

Lai Lai is currently active in Maseru, Leribe and Mafeteng and there are applications waiting for approval from all the other districts.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/fnb-launches-agency-banking-solution/>

Job Creation Initiative

Prime Minister Thomas Thabane launched the Lesotho Economic Laboratories initiative, which is expected to lead to the creation of 22 000 jobs.

The Lesotho Investment and Economic Laboratory initiative is a response to the high rate of unemployment. According to the Bureau of Statistics, Lesotho's official unemployment rate was 32.8 percent in 2016, although the figure has likely risen since then.

Dr. Thabane said it is time to shift from the old approach of embracing demand-based developments and promote smart-private and public-private partnerships.

"The overriding goal of the NSDP II is to promote private sector led, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Employment creation and growth are anchored on four key productive sectors namely commercial agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and creative industry, and technology and innovation," he said.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/thabane-eyes-22-000-new-jobs/>

Pioneer cannabis grower set for first harvest

Lesotho became the first country in Africa to legalize the growing of medical marijuana in 2017. Several companies have been licensed to grow medical cannabis but Medigrow if the first to go to market with its product.

Minister of Health Nkaku Kabi said companies that have been granted licenses but are not doing anything will not get their licenses renewed.

It is expensive to start such a plant, however, there is the potential for substantial returns. Medigrow, for example, is expected to produce 12 thousand liters of the medical cannabis oil a year with the return estimates of M8 billion.

Read more about this industry online at <https://publiceyenews.com/pioneer-cannabis-grower-set-for-first-harvest/>

Kamoli applies for 2nd bail

Former army boss, Lieutenant General Tlali, who faces of battery of charges including murder and attempted wants to be released on a M3,000 bail after his initial attempt at bail failed. High Court judge Justice Teboho Moiloa denied the retired army commander bail when he first applied for it on November 21, 2017. Kamoli has been in custody at the Maseru Maximum Prison with fellow soldiers since October 2017. He is accused of the murder of former Lesotho Defense Force (LDF) commander Lt. Gen. Maaparankoe Mahao, the murder of police Sub Inspector Mokheseng Ramahloko and 14 counts of attempted murder and other charges.

In his bail application, Kamoli asserted his innocence. Read more online at <https://publiceyenews.com/kamoli-applies-for-2nd-bail/>

Wool farmers lament delayed payments

Wool and Mohair farmers who sold their produce through the Lesotho Wool Centre (LWC) in Thaba-Bosiu are concerned about delayed payments. The say they are now forced to either sell their livestock or slaughter them to subsist.

The farmers opposed the implementation of the new Wool and Mohair regulations, but they were left with no choice but to send their produce to the centre. Under the old system, they would have received money for their wool and mohair in December and January. However, since the centre in

(Continued on page 7)



Litaba tsa Lesotho (continued from page 6)

Thaba-Bosiu was opened, no payments have come through.

LWC is a joint venture between Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association (LNWMGA) and Maseru Dawning established as part of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – supported Wool and Mohair promotion project. The joint venture was established to increase farmer’s financial returns.

Under the new regulations, which came into effect from September, farmers are obliged to sell their produce at LWC only.

Local Wool and Mohair growers under the banner of Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association opposed the implementation of the regulations which they said were meant to favor Chinese private businessman Stone Shi who manages the Centre.

Famers said the centre amounts to a monopoly.

For more than 40 years prior to the government’s intervention last year, sales were previously conducted at Port-Elizabeth in South Africa through wool broker BKB.

Read more online at <https://publiceyenews.com/wool-farmers-lament-delayed-payments/> See also <http://lestimes.com/wool-and-mohair-farmers-lose-court-of-appeal-case/>

New Police Post at Letšeng Mine

A new police station has been constructed in Letšeng to safe guard the Letšeng Diamonds Mine and the neighboring communities.

According to Letšeng Mine CEO, Kelebone Leisanyane, which paid for the construction of the police station, it cost M7.2 million.

The building that has an under floor heating system includes a charge office, a CID unit, a gender based violence unit and child support office, a crime prevention office, and residences for the police.

Read more online at <https://publiceyenews.com/police-post-to-guard-letseng-mine/>

Strife-torn Mauteng village picks up the pieces

The village of Ha Ts’iu, Mauteng has a history of violence dating back to the early 1990s when disputes between residents left more than 50 people dead. This resulted in a number of households headed by minors and poverty. Because subsistence farming is the main source of income within the community, droughts exacerbate their problems.

SOS Children’s Village, an association that cares for and protects vulnerable children who have lost parental care and those at risk of losing it, began assisting some of the residents by donating school uniforms for students.

Tlhako Ntelekoa, director of ‘Nts’etso pele ea sechaba’ association, is sponsoring six secondary school learners from the Mauteng area. The association has also donated M10,000 to Masabielle Primary School for a chicken project which has already started and is designed to feed the students who are sometime sent home because they are so hungry they cannot concentrate on their studies.

They are in partnership with SOS and are supporting various initiatives.

To read more about the plights of this village and efforts to help the children, read more online at <https://publiceyenews.com/strife-torn-mauteng-village-picks-up-the-pieces/>

America warns of threats to second MCC compact

U.S. ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales, recently warned that Lesotho risks losing out on the multi-million-dollar second compact under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) due to concerns about corruption and police brutality against citizens.

The MCC is a multilateral American foreign aid agency established by the United States Congress in 2004, with beneficiary countries expected to meet certain conditions with regards to good governance and respect for the rule of law to qualify.

In 2007, MCC and Lesotho signed the first US\$362, 6 million (more than M3 billion) compact to reduce poverty and spur economic growth.

In 2015, the MCC stalled in renewing the compact program over human rights abuses that occurred under former Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili’s regime.

Lesotho’s eligibility for the second compact was first confirmed by the MCC Board in December 2017 after the ouster of the Mosisili regime in the June 2017 elections and the advent of the Thomas Thabane-led coalition. However, increased reports of police brutality against citizens and graft in government in have put the compact at risk.

Read more about the ambassador’s comments and the compact online at <http://lestimes.com/america-warns-of-threats-to-second-mcc-compact/>



Litaba tsa Lesotho (continued from page 7)

LDF foils cattle rustling operation

The Lesotho Defense Force (LDF) recently busted a cattle rustling operation in Qacha's Nek near the border with the South Africa.

Eight cattle had disappeared from the Tsatsa-Lemeno village, the cattle were recovered and returned to their owners.

LDF Director of Operations, Lieutenant Colonel Motenalapi Mohololi reported that through various operations last December, the LDF recovered more than 400 stolen cattle, 700 sheep, and 161 goats as well as a considerable number of firearms.

Sekokoaneng village is considered the "epicentre of rustling" hence the establishment of a permanent army post in 2018.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/ldf-foils-cattle-rustling-operation/>

Butcheries lose red import ban appeal

In March last year, the government banned the importation of red meat into the country. Four local butcheries William Mafoso Butchery, Fresh Farm Meat Market, Bensons Meat Market and Econo Foods, challenged the move and asked the court overturn the ban.

Principal Secretary for Small Business, Lerata Pekane, refuted the butcheries' allegations that the government had created monopoly on the import of red meat to benefit Meraka and said, "as butcheries the appellants are not prohibited from importing livestock for the supply of Grade A red meat." He asserted that the government had imposed restrictions on the import of other grades of meat to protect Basotho farmers from foreign competition.

Meraka's majority shareholder is the controversial business tycoon Yan Xie. Mr Xie, popularly known as "John," is a naturalized Mosotho who arrived in Lesotho from China in 1990 and built a business empire spanning supermarkets, construction, farming and quarrying.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/butcheries-lose-red-import-ban-appeal/>

US pumps in M1 billion for HIV, AIDS fight

US Ambassador Rebecca Gonzales said that Lesotho will receive more than M1 billion to strengthen its fight against HIV and AIDS.

The funds will be channeled through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as part of the broader efforts by the United States to help Lesotho reverse the HIV and AIDS burden and achieve an AIDS free generation.

In its strategy for accelerating HIV and AIDS Epidemic Control, PEPFAR selected Lesotho as one of the 13 high-burden countries with the potential to reach epidemic control. As recent results from Lesotho's Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (LePHIA) indicate, Lesotho continues to make progress towards reaching the 90-90-90 targets. Once Basotho living with HIV are identified, they are linked to treatment at a very high rate and once enrolled on treatment, the viral suppression rate among those patients is also impressive.

Read more about this program online at <http://lestimes.com/us-pumps-in-m1-billion-for-hiv-aids-fight/>

SA extends Lesotho Special Permit (LSP) program

South Africa has extended the Lesotho Special Permit (LSP) program for another four years beginning December 2019.

The LSP was initially introduced in 2015 to enable eligible Basotho to lawfully reside, work, study and conduct business in South Africa. It was due to expire in December this year. The initial application process for the LSP began in March 2016 and was due to end in June 2016. There were three extensions culminating in the final extension to 31 March 2017 for all applications.

A South African Home Affairs report issued in October 2017 said that 194,941 LSP applications were received out of an estimated 400 000 Basotho believed to be in South Africa.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/sa-extends-lesotho-special-permit-lsp-programme/>

Exercise Book Scam

THE Ministry of Education and Training is investigating a possible scam which has seen exercise books meant for primary school learners being illegally diverted to South Africa for resale, costing the Lesotho government millions of maloti in the process.

The investigation was launched after several exercise books earmarked for Lesotho learners were spotted on the counters of a supermarket in Cedarville, South Africa.

The books are marked 'Ministry of Education, Lesotho- Not for Sale'.

Multiple agencies are investigating the thefts.

Read more online at <http://lestimes.com/govt-sa-police-investigate-books-scam/>





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 than your annual dues, 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 October
- ◆ 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 [Nominating 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

- ◆ Meetings are held at 8pm Eastern on the third Sunday of odd numbered months. Minutes are posted about one week after each meeting.
- ◆ Meetings are open to all FOL members, please contact [John Hollister](#) for call-in information.

FOL Annual Meeting

- ◆ Scheduled close to Moshoeshoe Day in March, via teleconference, more information to follow on our website. Be on the lookout for your 2018 FOL Annual Report posted on our website following the Annual Meeting.





Be an FOL Member for FREE!

Aparna Jayaraman, RPCV Education, 2011-13, aparnaay@gmail.com

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

As mentioned in the last FOL newsletter, 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.

Amazon will donate money to Friends of Lesotho when you shop. Join Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) and add Friends of Lesotho as a beneficiary. Remember to use Amazon Smile when you shop on-line.

Get involved with one of the many committees in FOL.

Donate generously to our many projects, using the [form online](#).

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 Membership > Newsletters 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:

Tara Browne, FOL Newsletter Coordinator tara.m.browne@gmail.com



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Share your photos!

Send to editor at tara.m.browne@gmail.com



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Treasurer's Report

Friends of Lesotho - 2019 Treasurer's Summary for Board:			March 1, 2019
	<i>most recent activity:</i>		<i>recent update</i>
<i>(Jan-2019 = Start of CY Accounts)</i>	<u>1/4/19</u>	<u>3/1/19</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Current Bank Balance (checking (1)):	\$12,636.61	\$2,999.07	-\$9,637.54
Current Bank Balance (savings (2)):	\$33,611.40	\$33,633.14	\$21.74
Total (both accounts excluding Paypal pending)	\$46,248.01	\$36,632.21	-\$9,615.80
<i>Interest Earned CY to Date (incl. above)</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$21.74</i>	<i>\$21.74</i>
<i>Notes: 1) Min checking balance of \$2000 needed to avoid monthly fees, 2) Min Savings balance of \$5000 needed to earn interest.</i>			
2019 General / Project Fund Status:			
Total of all donations designated for projects listed below. See Membership/Donations Committee report for further breakout.			
Note - This amount reflects operating/project breakout assumed when deposits are made. These assumptions will occasionally be reconciled per project fund reports provided by the Membership Committee.			
	<u>Amount in Fund (1)</u>	<u>Amount sent to Lesotho</u>	<u>Amount Pending Future Disbursement</u>
Start Calendar Year (after EOY memb. db reconcile adjust) =	\$13,453.74		
Donations received year to date (1) =	\$2,360.00		
Totals	\$15,813.74	\$11,750.00	\$4,063.74
<i>Total difference from Prior report:</i>	<i>\$2,325.27</i>	<i>\$11,750.00</i>	<i>-\$9,424.73</i>
<i>Notes - 1) starting 2014, all online collection fees from Just Give/Razoo or wire transfer fees are covered by operating fund.</i>			
<i>Available project fund total reflects cash transfers through the end of the most recent month, and checks per the most recent deposit.</i>			
(2) Breakout project cash sent (all fees under operating):		\$11,750.00	= Total below
Leratong Comm Ctr via Springfield Rotary Foundation - ck 179	1/25/19	\$2,850.00	PCPP total breakout:
Snake Park General Dealer (Outdoor Center) - wire	2/25/19	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Mankoe Lebitsa (Lend a Hand) - wire	2/25/19	\$4,000.00	
Mahala Secondary School (water supply) - wire	2/25/19	\$1,900.00	
2019 Operating Expense Status:			
Current Cash in Accounts (as above, excluding Paypal pending):		\$36,632.21	
Subtract out:			
General / Project Fund (per above)		-\$4,063.74	
Life Membership Fund (reserve)		-\$23,293.17	
Available Operating Reserve =		\$9,275.30	
Unused Expenses in 2019 Budget -		\$5,249.40	
Current Cash Reserve (after budget) =		\$4,025.90	excludes unspent budget
(Total operating cash expenses):		\$225.60	
(Total operating inkind expenses to date):		\$0.00	operating expenses only



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

4110 Denfeld Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895



METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Second Quarter 2019
Newsletter



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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