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Page 4

Molibeli slapped
with M1,5 million
lawsuits

Page 5



Matobakele
should apologise:
Majoro

Page 8



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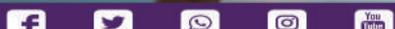
Story on page 2



Captain Sakeng Lekola

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Thabane, Majoro fight escalates

Pascalinah Kabi

... as SG Hlaele threatens action against Majoro faction.

THE bruising fight between the Thomas Thabane and Moeketsi Majoro-led factions for the control of the main ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC) ahead of next year's general elections is fast descending into the proverbial theatre of the absurd.

Such is the pettiness of the antagonists that last week, the factions had a go at each other over the decision to hold the party's 15th anniversary commemorations at Mr Thabane's Makhoakhoeng, Ha-Abia, home.

Little-known ABC national executive committee (NEC) member, Keketso Lepheane, is said to have angered ABC secretary general, Lebohlang Hlaele, after he questioned why the celebrations were held at Mr Thabane's private residence.

Mr Hlaele, a Thabane loyalist and son-in-law to the former prime minister, did not take kindly to Mr Lepheane's utterances. He subsequently sent an audio recording to fellow NEC members questioning why Mr Lepheane had issues with the staging of the event at Mr Thabane's residence when he was always running to Prime Minister Majoro's official State House residence to discuss party issues.

In the same audio, which was leaked to the *Lesotho Times* this week, Mr Hlaele also threatens disciplinary measures against Mr Lepheane and anyone else fomenting divisions in the party he claims to be working very hard to re-unite after the messy April 2021 split which saw former deputy leader Nqosa Mahao leave to form his own Baso-

tho Action Party (BAP). Mokhotlong legislator and former cabinet minister, Tefo Mapesela, also dumped the ABC to form his own Basotho Patriotic Party (BPP).

It had been hoped that the departures of Professor Mahao, Mr Mapesela and their allies would usher in a new era of unity and stability in the ABC.

Mr Hlaele and other former Mahao loyalists like chairperson Samuel Rapapa, spokesperson Montoeli Masoetsa and his deputy 'Matebatso Doti all appeared to have embraced Mr Thabane's leadership of the party. They also appeared to have embraced Dr Majoro who they coopted into the NEC in place of Prof Mahao.

However, the departure of Prof Mahao only appears to have eliminated one claimant to the ABC throne and given fresh impetus to the Thabane and Majoro factions to continue the fight for supremacy.

The infighting has been manifested through various issues. Among others, Dr Majoro stands accused of snubbing the NEC when it comes to making executive appointments in government. Although the premier has the prerogative to hire and fire as he sees fit, the NEC insists on being consulted because of its role in forging the coalition agreement with the Democratic Congress (DC) party which thrust Dr Majoro into power at the expense of Mr Thabane in May 2020.

A fortnight ago, the infighting escalated when Dr Majoro and others allegedly snubbed the party's



LEBOHLANG Hlaele.

15th anniversary celebrations at Mr Thabane's Ha-Abia residence.

The other three who did not turn up for the event are deputy secretary general Nkaku Kabi, Messrs Rapapa, Masoetsa and Ms Doti.

ABC secretary general Lebohlang Hlaele described the quintet's no-show as "unacceptable" and clear example of their ill-discipline.

Dr Majoro and others later said they had not snubbed the event.

They said they were committed elsewhere on the day.

In any event, Mr Hlaele had not properly communicated about the event through the official party channels, Dr Majoro said.

But it appears the fallout has continued despite Mr Hlaele's attempts to play it down last week.

Mr Lepheane is said to have questioned why the anniversary had been celebrated at Mr Thabane's residence.

As the leaked audio has subsequently shown, his comments did not go down well with Mr Hlaele who warned that he would demand a written explanation from Mr Lepheane.

In his audio message to NEC members, Mr Hlaele said such statements used to be popular with the *Likatana* faction - a derisive term for Prof Mahao's followers who used to include Mr Hlaele himself.

"Gentlemen, the statement by *Ntate* Lepheane deriding the fact that decisions or issues of the party are discussed at someone's house is the same as statements which some of us used to make when we were *Likatana* faction members.

"I am embarrassed that such statements are now being made once again. I am planning to write to him to explain what he means by his statement," Mr Hlaele said.

Although he claimed to have respect for Dr Majoro and said he would never speak of ill of him, Mr Hlaele is heard in the audio essentially accusing Dr Majoro of hosting

clandestine meetings at his State House residence.

"As the secretary general, I am no longer willing to tolerate delinquents in the party. Daily, he (Lepheane) runs to State House to attend meetings.

"He must therefore explain to us who resides there because the ABC offices are located at Moon Star Building.

"How and why does he make a distinction between Makhoakhoeng and State House? I will not allow such delinquents to destroy our party for their own selfish reasons.

"We are in the middle of unifying the party and we can't have people like Lepheane speaking about someone's (Thabane's residence) yet they are daily running to State House. I don't know if that (State House) is the party's residence.

"This is pathetic and disgusting. It is embarrassing to have an NEC member speaking ill of his own leader. I will not speak ill of my leader. I will not speak ill of *Ntate* Majoro, the deputy leader. He is my leader. I cannot speak ill of the NEC. The poison that *Ntate* Lepheane adopted from the *Likatana* faction must now come to an end. We need to unite," Mr Hlaele says in the audio.

He also asks NEC members to check his WhatsApp status to understand why he usually shies away from discussing what he calls immature politics.

Mr Hlaele's *WhatsApp* profile states, "I only debate with my equals, all others, I teach".

ABC war spills into the courts

Mohalenyane Phakela

SIX members of the ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC) have taken their battle for the control of the party's Qeme constituency committee to the High Court.

The six are Samuel Letho, Matokelo Ramatobo, Matala Mochochokoane, Matsokolo Mochochokoane, Lesoiti Kobile and Nkina Nthabi.

They want the court to declare them as the legitimate committee on the grounds that they were elected in February 2018.

The ABC's national executive committee (NEC), the ABC, Messrs Thabiso Tsasane, Sekonyela Lekau and Lisema Maselela are the first to fifth respondents respectively in the application.

Messrs Tsasane, Lekau and Maselela are currently in the Qeme Constituency Committee.

However, the applicants want the court to order them to "desist from holding themselves

as the legitimate members of the Qeme Constituency Committee".

They also want the ABC and the NEC to be "interdicted and restrained from working with the Qeme Constituency Committee constituting of the third to fifth respondents (Messrs Tsasane, Lekau and Maselela) in relation to the affairs of the ABC.

"That the ABC's NEC be interdicted and restrained from sidelining the party's legitimate Qeme Constituency Committee constituting of the applicants herein. "That the ABC NEC be interdicted and restrained from involving itself in the internal affairs of the Qeme Constituency Committee," the applicants state in their court papers.

One of the applicants, Mr Nthabi states in his founding affidavit that they are the legitimate committee as they were "elected" on 11 February 2018.

He says he obtained 152 out of the 169 votes cast to become the constituency's secretary. He

said his co-applicants also won the posts they competed for including the chairperson and treasurer's posts.

"The third to fifth respondents (Messrs Tsasane, Lekau and Maselela) were dissatisfied with our nomination and election and took turns to challenge the same by holding another meeting on 18 February 2018 at which they were purported to have been nominated and elected as members of the Qeme Constituency Committee.

"The NEC indicated to them that it did not recognise their committee as the legitimate one and that it only recognised the Qeme Constituency Committee which was elected on 11 February 2018. After being rejected by the NEC, they went further to challenge our nomination and election by instituting an application before this court. The matter was scheduled to proceed on 3 June 2021. The matter did not proceed as scheduled because they withdrew their application," Mr Nthabi states.

He says the withdrawal of the trio's June 2021 litigation gave them the impression that Messrs Tsasane, Lekau and Maselela had conceded that they were the legitimate committee of the Qeme constituency.

He said to their surprise, the NEC had started working with Messrs Tsasane, Lekau and Maselela despite that they were not the legitimate constituency committee.

This has not only prejudiced them but also caused confusion among party members in Qeme, Mr Nthabi argues.

"As a direct consequence of the foregoing, our members who wish to renew their party membership are very much sceptical about whether we are indeed the proper authority to receive and process their applications. If this problem is not addressed urgently, then the party stands to suffer prejudice in that some members will end up leaving our party due to instability and join other rival political parties in pursuit of stability," Mr Nthabi further argues.

The factionalism in Qeme mirrors the bigger infighting in the party pitting ABC leader Thomas Thabane against his deputy, Moeketsi Majoro. (See story above).

NOTICE OF LOST TITLE DEEDS

Notice is hereby given that we intend applying to the Registrar of Deeds, for a certified copies of the following title deeds

1. Land Act Lease No. 06472 – 247 Situated at Mafeteng, Urban Area registered on the 29th October 1996 in the names of Makuena Eunicia Mokomatsili.
2. Deed of Transfer No. 25465, registered on the 16th September 1996.

All persons having objections to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge them in writing with the Land Registrar within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

Notice made by:

webber ATTORNEYS
newdigate
2nd Floor, Metropolitan Life Building
Kingsway
P.O. Box 1176
MASERU

NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 34 OF THE INSOLVENCY PROCLAMATION NO 51 OF 1957

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 34 of the Insolvency Proclamation No 51 of 1957 that it is the intention of [ORANGE RIVER HOLDING LTD] ("Seller") to sell certain assets and identified liabilities comprising the business conducted by the Seller under the name and style of ["The Airport Cannabis Cultivation Site"] (and related names) ("Business"), as a going concern, to [AXIOM CBD LTD] ("Purchaser"), which transfer to the Purchaser by the Seller will (subject to the fulfilment or waiver of a number of conditions precedent) be implemented after the expiry of not less than 10 (ten) days and not more than 30 (thirty) days from the last date publication of this notice in terms of Section 34(1) of the Insolvency Proclamation.

Webber Newdigate Attorneys for the Purchaser, 2nd Floor Metropolitan Life Building, Maseru, Lesotho, 00266 22313916/2231, Fax 00266 2231 066, Email adw@webberslaw.com, kp@webberslaw.com

(Ref: Adw/kp/AXI1/0003)

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