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# MAARA

HA A SE NA LIHLOELA A OELA

**Trees - Camouflage, concealment  
and land reclamation**

**Zim. pilots undergo  
training in Lesotho**

**The African Standby Force**

**How prepared is the LDF?**

*Sgt. Limo  
VS  
The Roughnecks*

**Inside**

*The LDF Ace Pilot*





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**Cover Page picture: The Commander Lesotho Defence Force  
Lt Gen Makhula Mosakeng**



# Comment



2Lt  
*Selebalo Sebe*

## *Conflicts in the DRC*

The African continent has been continually plagued by war. The wars of liberation and independant that took momentum in the sixties are gone. Despite nearly all of Africa being free, the continent has continued to experience civil wars. These wars have been engineered by different interest groups from within the countries and are fuelled by foreign involvement in the conflicts that arise there from.

The post independence war in Angola and the wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have proved intractable in the Southern African region. Until the death of Jonas Savimbi, the end to the Angolan war appeared quite unlikely. Prospects for ending the war in the DRC remain very bleak despite intensive peace negotiations being held regionally.

Both Angola and the DRC are potentially rich countries. These countries have large deposits of natural resources such as oil and diamond in Angola, gold, coltan and diamond in the DRC. With the forestation of Angola and the DRC consisting more than half of African forests, over seven percent of the world rain forest, timber is seen as a very important commodity in the region. The natural resources in Angola and DRC have been exploited by belligerents to fund the wars.

Efforts to end war in Angola and the DRC have not been successful now and in the past. The influence of the financial incentives from the exploitation of the resources is seen as instrumental in scuttling of peace efforts in the region. The benefits however seem to be enjoyed

emphasis should be on the role of resources in sustaining the war in Angola and the DRC.

UNITA had been ostracised by the international community in the thirty years of fighting. This condition made it difficult for arms, pharmaceutical and other companies to deal openly with them, leading to clandestine syndicates taking the opportunity to dealing with UNITA behind closed doors. Another setback in the situation was that UNITA did not have ready cash for exchange purpose. Raw diamonds were used as the medium of exchange.

Control of mineral rich areas was fundamental in starting and pursuing war in the DRC. The benefits in the involvement in the DRC war were enormous given its riches.

When President Kabila came under attack from Uganda / Rwandan supported rebels, three countries were drawn into the conflict in support of Kabila, namely; Angola for military interests, Namibia and Zimbabwe for related commercial gain. Zimbabwe and Namibia later claimed to be owed huge amounts of money attributed to arms.

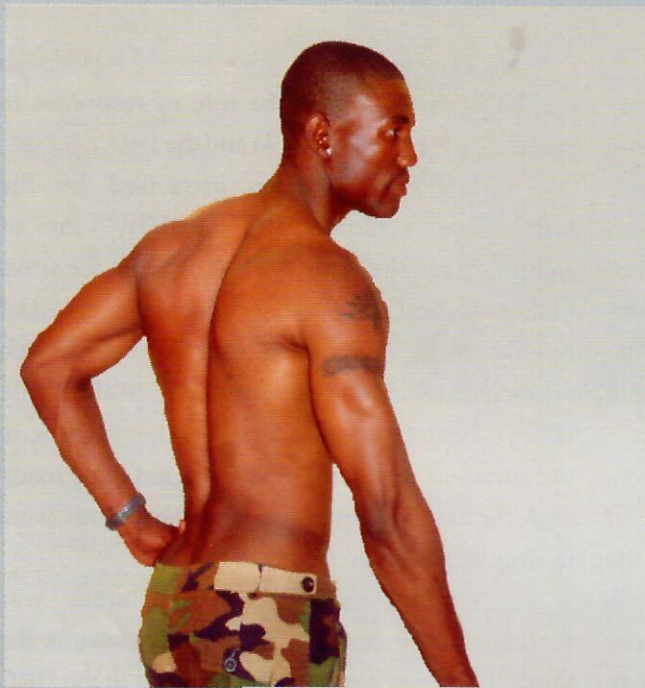
In both three-decade Angolan war and in the wars in the DRC, exploitation of natural resources had been fundamental in funding of the wars. All warring parties in the conflicts engaged into this practice. The involvement of Zimbabwe and Namibia which alleged to be due to trade links, occurred at the time when no signs of social

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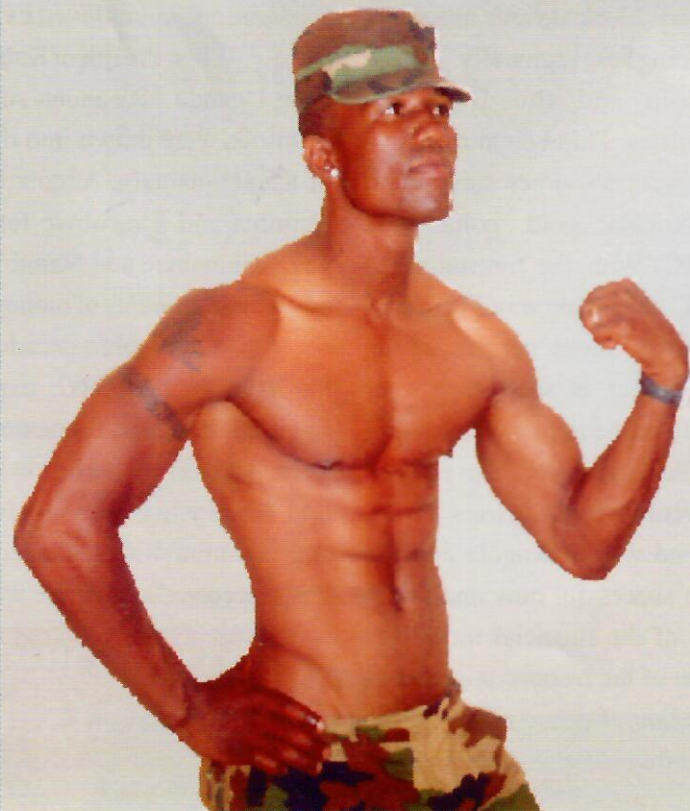
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# MARA's *formidable* Hunks



*PVT Snyman is  
content with  
displaying his  
six-pack - Can you  
put aside the other  
Six-pack and take up  
the challenge?*



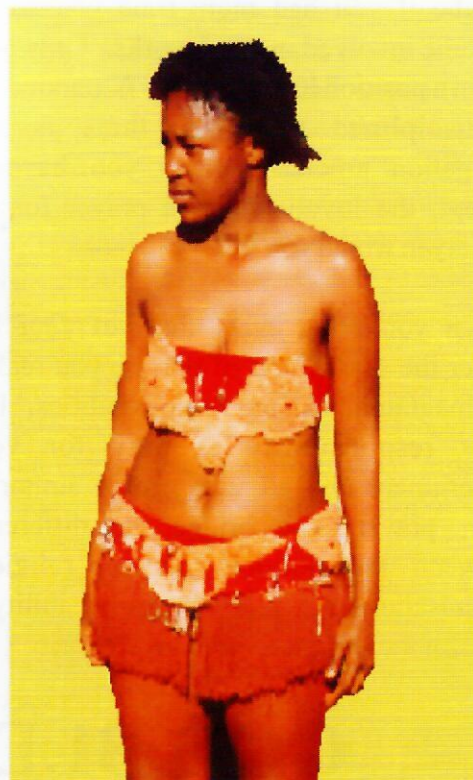


# MARA's *elegant* Beauties



*Smart and trendy*

*These ladies radiate beauty even in traditional outfits*





# Chaplaincy

Col Thabo Victor Mohapi



## LET GOD LEAD YOU

**THEME:** ACKNOWLEDGING THE SUPREMACY OF  
GOD AND THE POWER OF PRAYER.

In Psalms 127; 7 the word of God reads as thus:

..... *“If the Lord does not protect the city it is useless for the sentries to stand guard.”*

**P**erhaps your circumstances prevent you from doing all you would like to do for God’s Kingdom, your country and your family. Perhaps if you had an abundance of wealth you would give more to God’s work, your country and family. Maybe if you had more time you would become involved in good works. Only you; are in a position to know if this is genuine. As a disciplined Christian; there is one obligation amongst others you have to accept; the involvement in prayer for the society in which you live.

When you bring every facet of your life under the searchlight of prayer; you realize the magnitude of your responsibilities. It is your responsibility to pray for your government and all who are in authority. Your prayers can bridge the difference between the political parties, religious organisations etc. It is your responsibility to pray for the Defence Force, its authority

And all formations, to pray in the wisdom power of the Holy Spirit makes what seemed impossible gloriously possible. To pray in the spirit of the living Christ, abolishes all pettiness, bigotry and hatred. It broadens your spiritual concept so that what you once found difficult to pray about; now become your prayer pattern.

Remember to “put on all of God’s armour so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies the evil rulers of this world.....so use every piece of God’s armour to resist the enemy where ever he attacks and when it is all over you will still be standing victoriously. **AMEN.**



## GOD BLESS YOU ALL!



## LDF Airwing – Welcoming the Commander's visitors

*The Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Airwing has intensified activities in encouraging schools in the remote areas of the country to know about the LDF, its airplanes and their operations with the latest point of interest being the Military Hospital.*



**PVT Hlaoli  
Moeletsi**

**T**he LDF Airwing has recently welcomed the Commander's 'visitors' from Khopung Lesotho Evangelical Church Primary School in Matsoku-Leribe, who were on a study tour of the facility in both the Rotor and Fixed-wing sections.

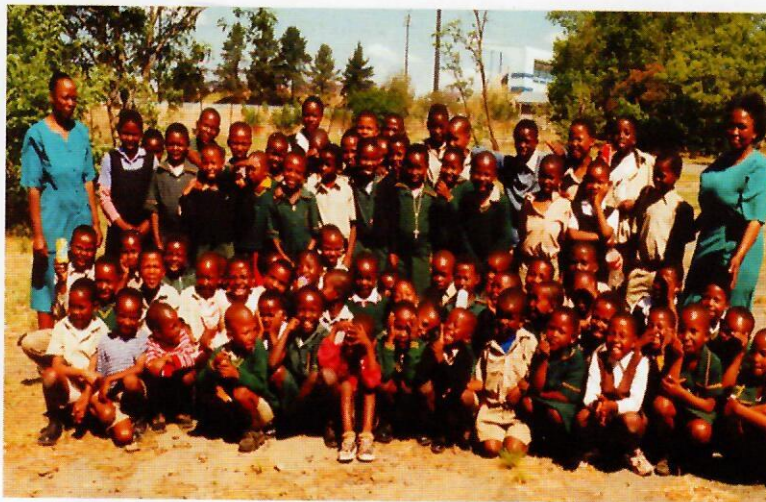
Captain Daemane Matamane, Officer Commanding (OC) Operations Airwing, indicated that it is their duty to impart knowledge to the entire nation about their activities, with special emphasis on the youth as a step to encourage them to join the LDF.

He pointed out, however, that so far they are doing a good job in this regard, "even though the job must be done through the LDF Public Affairs Office as they are given access to publish anything from within the LDF".

He said they are passing this message to all schools to come and learn about their Defence Force, "as it is the property of the nation".

Capt Matamane further said this is another way of motivating those who would like to pursue careers as professional pilots or technicians, as well as those who would still follow such careers even after joining the army in the future.

Our focus largely rests on students coming from schools in rural areas, students who very seldom have regular contact with modern technological trends," he



**Growing up may seem too slow for some of these 'Commander's visitors' who are already looking up for enlistment**

students living in towns are more familiar with modern technology and are open-minded and receptive of resultant challenges.

"Surely they have an advantage in career guidance and can make good choice on what to do after obtaining their COSC, but that does not mean the LDF would ignore them if they want to pay a visit," clarified Capt Matamane.

Warrant Officer Class II Rethabile Mothibeli, a Technical Officer in the Fixed-Wing section of the Airwing, said it is the duty of his office to inform visiting students about their scope of work, equipment and areas of operation.

"Headmasters of visiting schools are urged to send messages to other schools in their areas to exploit the chance

of a study tour to the LDF facilities," added WO II Mothibeli.

Mr. Emmanuel Mohobo, the Headmaster of Khopung LEC Primary School, thanked the LDF airmen for a marvellous reception they gave them, appreciating also the information shared with them on things that ordinarily they would never have known and seen.

He said of the numerous things they had chance to see, the Spanish-made CASA 202-30 and the German-built BO 105 seemed to have won the admiration of both teachers and students.

"We could not believe that the LDF personnel could fly on their own without any assistance from foreigners," disclosed the Headmaster.

*(cont. on pg. 8)*

**Remember!**

*We have kids on our streets  
Drive slowly and ensure their safety*



### ...the Commander's visitors

(cont. from pg. 7)

The Headmaster went on to elucidate that the main purpose of the study tour was to give students a feel of interaction with real soldiers, their scope of work and for them to experience their prevailing culture of discipline first hand. At the Makoanyane Military Hospital (MMH) the Principal Nursing Officer, Sister Anna Kampong showed the Commander's 'visitors' the importance of paramedics within the army, and elaborated on their importance in combat.

She also disclosed outlined eligible recipients of medical care at the MMH, these being the LDF personnel and their families, as well as members of the Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS), Lesotho Prisons Service (LPS) and the National and National Security Service (NSS).

Ntika Ntika (12) a standard four (4) pupil from Khopung Primary School, expressed unimaginable joy at having seen a real soldier in the flesh and realising for the first time that the LDF has its own flag, adding that he has always thought of a soldier as a fighting machine with no human face and emotions.

Ntika said he is willing to become a soldier after finishing school, but on condition that he will be made a pilot to particularly fly the BO 105s, he vowed: "I will never forget this great experience within the LDF for the rest of my living years."

Mr Paramente Phamotse, Chief Inspector Primary Education Inspectorate in the Ministry of Education said his office fully supports this initiative taken by schools from remote areas, as it

Becomes another form of career-guidance and largely benefits students.

He lamented that previously when local students had to go on study tours they preferred to go to South Africa to places such as the Bloemfontein Zoo, Durban and other like places.

He said: "Now it is extremely encouraging that our students want to tour local places and institutions such as

projects in which the LDF plays a pivotal role in the form of material delivery and construction work, a role that he said is important for them.

"This commendable partnership is a result of collaborative work between the LDF and US armed forces through the US European Command," he elaborated.

"My heartfelt gratitude is extended to the LDF authorities



Khopung LEC pupils on their tour of the MMH

the Royal Palace, the LDF and its various sections, the Highlands Water Project and local radio stations."

Mr Phamotse noted with gratitude the existing cooperation between the LDF (through its Engineering Unit) in current school building

for all these efforts as it is a sign of responsibility and a massive contribution towards building a prosperous future for these students," Mr Phamotse noted.

**AIDS KILLS!**

## Garlic – the king of herbs

**Living a healthy life pays. Take care of your health, exercise and drink plenty of water. If you take alcohol please take it in moderation and also don't forget to take your mineral and supplements daily to keep your health in top condition.**

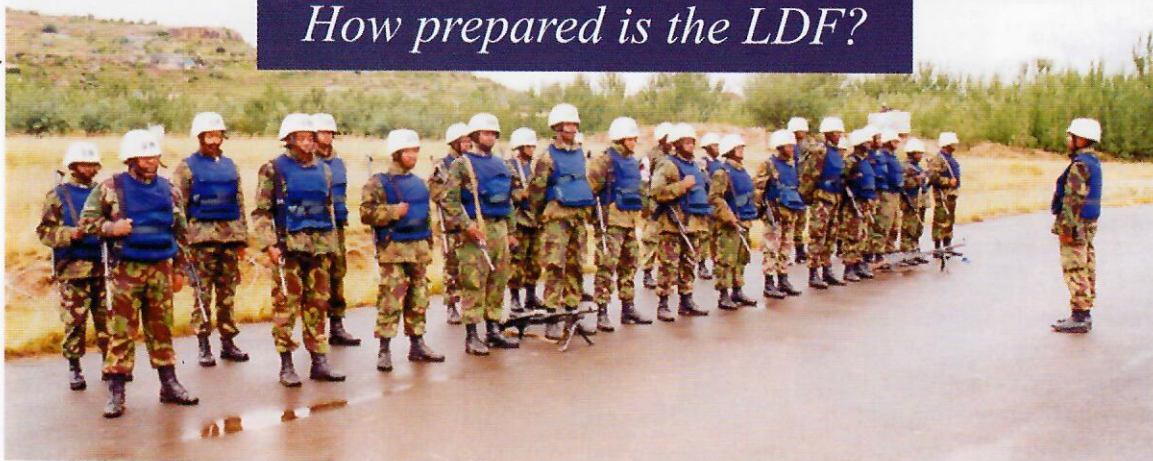
**Remember !**

Eat Garlic as often as you can afford as garlic is the king of herbs.



# The African Standby Force

*How prepared is the LDF?*



*Numerous emerging ideas and coined phrases within the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) stem from a process that has come to be known as restructuring, a process that has plunged the army into an arena of regional and global responsibility in matters military. And leadership in the formation of the African Standby Force (ASF) dangles the most inviting carrot. 2Lt Selebalo Sebe, PVT Mosuo Mofomobe and OA Khatebe Molefi report.*

The ASF is a concept that keeps cropping up these days here at home, regionally, in continental bulletins and when people in a tête-à-tête discuss matters of defence and security from an African perspective.

The Military Advisor and Director Legal Services LDF, Commando Colonel Maaparankoe Mahao says it is high time Lesotho showed her mettle and took to the forefront to unreservedly contribute her military services both regionally and continentally in Peace Support Operations (PSOs).

Join in as Cdo Col Mahao enlightens us and we together explore the founding vision that preceded the African Union's (AU) formation, its conception of the ASF and the role that Lesotho, through the LDF, ought to play....

## The Road Ahead

Currently there is a school of thought that holds

that Lesotho should take the initiative and play a leading role in the formation of the ASF, particularly now that she is in the driving seat of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) of the organ on Politics, Defence and Security of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

And with the recent formation of an LDF Company sized Peace Keeping Unit, under the auspices of the Indian Army Training Team (IATT), a great challenge has arisen to display a high standard of discipline, dedication, commitment and loyalty as a prerequisite to its inclusion in the ASF, so as to

proof its level of preparedness and capability.

The LDF Act No.4 of 1996, Part II Chapter 6, provides for the deployment of the defence force outside our borders, thus paving way for the army to comply with international obligations like PSOs and regional military cooperation.

Col Mahao indicates that this provision allows for the protection of the country's interests, be they internal or external. He states that as a nation, and being part of the global village, we also have concerns whose repercussions may have a damaging impact especially on

*(cont. on pg. 10)*

## Peace is a joint effort



## ...African Standby Force

(cont. from pg 9)

the economic front.

"We may cite an example of the current onslaught on global terrorism, this may not directly affect us, but the prevailing trend is a pointer of the direction of world events.

"And we cannot sit idly by as any resultant instability will have a bearing on our affairs, we are keenly interested and have an obligation to meet as a result," he continued.

### ASF feasibility

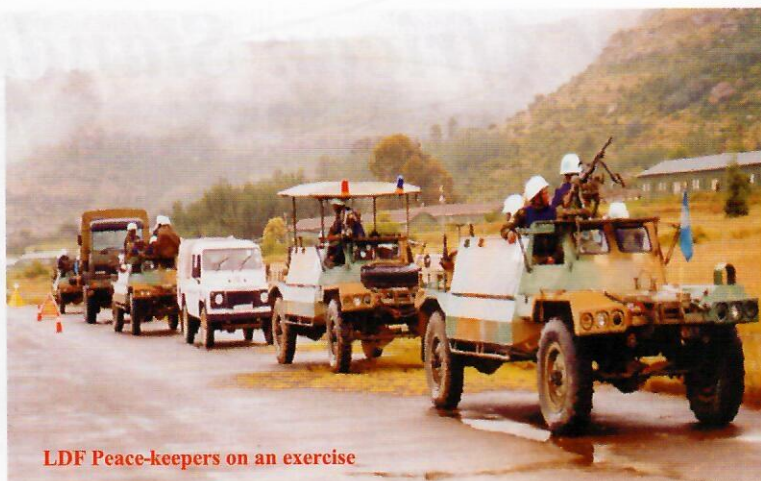
The ASF dream was borne by a Libyan proposal of an African Army, which when put into proper historical context appeared to have been solely for the political interests of Libya.

When African leaders sat to thrash it out a new ASF idea was hatched, replacing an African Army concept that Libya envisaged. And this new idea allowed for a standby force whose members would remain in their countries to be readily on call when needed.

This idea was taken further that the composition of the force would be by regional brigades that would be called upon and deployed to take part in PSOs, when need arises.

The recent proposal by the AU to form an ASF should be commended. It should also act as a challenge to the LDF, especially when Western led PSOs in Africa did not reach the level of success expected. The failed UNOSOM II in Somalia, protrudes as a typical example.

Col Mahao said the SADC region has greatly advanced in this regard as all recent regional PSO exercises were organised along a brigade sized force, and that the AU ASF programme merges with what was already being done.



LDF Peace-keepers on an exercise

He expounded: "And that has made us a building block in the formation of the ASF and perhaps the AU has learnt a lot from what we were doing."

He also mentioned the quantum leap that has been taken by the region with the signature of the Mutual Defence Pact, which he said has catapulted the region in the frontline in terms of preparedness in the formation of the ASF.

ought to play a leading role in the formation of the ASF.

Col Mahao said the British Army was here solely to find out how they can assist the LDF in preparing for this eventuality, finding areas of cooperation in which they (*British*) can play a supporting role.

"This is a very interesting development. The British and the West have abandoned us, and they gave us minimal technical training that confined

Security in depth ... Peacekeepers conducting a simulated mopup operation



### International Interest

He said the British Army was in the country recently through the British High Commission Military Advisor Brigadier General David Keenan and emphasis was put on the fact that Lesotho, heading the ISDSC organ of the SADC

us to the capabilities of only contributing to the process of nation building and projects such as constructing bridges.

"They never developed our military capability," he pointed out.

He continued that through regular monitoring mechanisms they (*the west*) have now realized that though

(cont. on pg. 11)





A mammoth task awaits regional instructors to mould these diverse African armies into a single African Standby Force. The Director Military Intelligence Lt Col Matela Matobakele (*then 2Lt*), third from right on the second row wearing a maroon beret - drills hard during an exercise at the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) in Nyanga, Zimbabwe.

should have realised that though Lesotho is a small country in so many ways; it has something to contribute militarily towards the stability of the region. Special attention is being put on PSOs.

"The French were also here, and they also want to come back to level the ground for military cooperation. I am sure observing from afar the West looks at us and wonder whether they made a mistake by leaving our shores a bit too soon," he continued.

Adding: "They may even be pondering if they may have overlooked something, and are scared to leave behind a vacuum that now appears might be filled by the present IAAT or the great interest shown by the Chinese."

He pointed out that it is incumbent upon the LDF to be proactive and move from global peripheries to the centre stage, as "the outside world has realized that we have a role to play, it is just that we are our worst enemy by not grabbing the opportunity."

### Challenges

The LDF has taken part in a number of regional training exercises like "Blue Hungwe" in Zimbabwe, "Blue Crane" in South Africa, "Tanzanite" in Tanzania and "Blue Angel" in Zambia.

**'...LDF should move from global peripheries.'**

And with a good number of its personnel having attended various trainings in PSOs, one is tempted to conclude that our army has everything at its disposal to meet this challenge.

But Col Mahao pointed out that this rosy ASF dream has its own thorns, because when an army has to be mobilized to address specific problems the issue of the mobilization of resources rears its ugly head and this borne by the fact that most if

not all - African countries are poor.

He said the underpinning issues here are political and economical, though they will eventually become military.

On the political front he underlined the issue of regional political consensus, highlighting the varying patterns of governance in the region.

"Other countries are monarchies, constitutional and executive, others are republics and even those differ in terms of their versions of democracy. Basically, there is political instability and lack of political consensus.

It is not the problem of a soldier whether a country is democratic or not, it is the concern of the politicians to address but this is a problem and can create more problems when looking at the provisions and legal framework of the Defence Pact.

Will there be political will when a problem arises?" he asked.

Furthermore, he pointed out the problem of economic

(cont. on pg 18)



# Uniformity boosts soldiers' morale – Maj Gen Makoro



**PVT Sakeng  
Lekola**

*As part of the ongoing restructuring programme of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and despite its limited capability of an Air-Force, the LDF Air-wing has introduced an additional new uniform in conformity with regional Air Forces in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as they have something in common.*

The LDF Chief of Staff and Commander Airwing, Major General Sam Makoro says it was proposed during regional Standing Aviation Committee (SAC) meetings that a single similar code of dress be adhered to by all airmen in the region, even in small countries like Lesotho which do not boast any muscle in airpower.

"Though ours is an Air-wing and not an Air-Force, it was agreed that we will have to use the same uniform as that worn by other Air-Forces' personnel in the SADC region," disclosed Maj Gen Makoro.

It has been discovered that tasks performed by these two structures are more or less the same, except for combat, explained Maj Gen Makoro citing an example of the joint "Blue Angel" exercise that

was held in Zambia.

"All participating armies, be they Air-Force or Air-wing crew, were tasked with airlifting supplies and jointly distributed food to Zambia's poverty stricken areas without any particular distinction," he elaborated.

Maj Gen Makoro said following the SAC agreements, the LDF Commander was informed and urged to allow the use of the new sky-blue outfit that the LDF Air-wing personnel presently don.

Maj Gen Makoro further explained that the new uniform would be used only from Monday to Wednesday every week, while on other days the Air-wing staff will be expected to put on the infantry uniform that was previously in use.

He added that the new outfit will also grace ceremonial

occasions.

He clarified, however, that as the infantry uniform that the Air-wing personnel have been using will be retained, it will still be used for other duties within the unit with special reference to rescue operations and others of similar nature

"This will be a great moral boost because different colours according to different units and formations have proved to precipitate change, morale and pride among troops," he said, adding that each unit should be distinct and become the pride of its men.

He said, however, that this change should not be seen as a factor that isolates the Airwing from other units within the LDF, as "we are still part of the organisational structure and directly under the command of the LDF Commander."



**LDF Air-wing personnel sporting their new uniform**



# Pipers for Peace, Medics in Battle

*Military tradition dictates that in times of peace Pipers soothe people's minds with serene sounds, joyous celebrations as victors in battle on one hand and celestial hymns of comfort in remembrance of fallen heroes on the other. The very Pipers swiftly change trades in times of war and become medics in assistance of maimed troops. The Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Pipe Band has been groomed for that role, as PVT Hlaoli Moeletsi reports.*

**W**ith the completion of their Basic First Aid Course-Serial NO.6, the LDF Pipe Band was elevated to be able to cater for and nurture the age-old military conventions of the dual role of a military band, in civil relations during times of peace and on the combat zone.

Addressing the Pipe Band during the closure of the course, Brigadier Thoriso Mareka - Director Finance LDF - commended the Indian Army Training Team (IATT) for establishing the band and propelling it to a position where they are able to react both in peace and wartime.

He hailed the successful end of the course as an accomplishment of a target set by the Commander LDF and the IATT as was agreed with Brigadier Jasbir Singh (former Indian Army Security Advisor to Lesotho) during his tenure of office. "I congratulate you all for having successfully completed this course, but the expanse in front awaits you, as you are now both Pipers and have now been equipped with medical aid skills," Brig Mareka congratulated the course participants.

"Play your melodious music when there is peace, and serve as medics to help the injured during wartime," he ordered them.

He hastened to caution them, however, that offering beautiful tunes during times of peace does not exempt the band from overall military and humanitarian duties should need



**Entertaining crowds - One of the Pipe Band's dual duties**

Kolonyama bus tragedy in which around 15 students, a teacher, the driver and his conductor died.

Warrant Officer Class II Mohato Bereng, a First Aid Instructor at the Makoanyane Military Hospital (MMH), said that the overall course duration was to be short because it did not allow them to facilitate adequate practicals.

*Play your melodious music when there is peace, and serve as medics to help the injured during wartime,*

He said: "We managed to do only one practical out of the seven that were scheduled, and this was a result of time spent in trying to keep pace with other participants who lacked the necessary background and struggled in terms of the terminology used in this field."

WO II Bereng was optimistic that the LDF command would give them more time for advanced courses. Outlining the course's content, Major Sanjay Mavrya of the IATT, disclosed that the course covered basic first aid, anatomy and physiology and the management of life threatening emergencies both trauma and non-trauma.

Adding that: "It was heartening to note that the participants were highly motivated and were inquisitive." He further urged participants to utilise the skills they acquired and impart them, as that will allow them to learn more, sharpen their skills and eventually become good paramedics.

"We have welcomed your suggestions which I believe will help us to improve the standard of the course further," Maj Mavrya said.

Private Sechache Nkunyane, participants'

(cont. on pg. 14)



## ...Pipers for Peace

*(cont. from pg. 13)*

representative said the course was held at an opportune time, especially with fresh minds after just finishing a Pipe Band course.

Pvt Nkunyane said they are confident that they can be a ray of hope and bring light into the dark traumatic moments for the LDF and the Basotho nation entirely, also disclosing that this course has been an eye opener for most of his fellow pipers.

He thanked the LDF command, through the MMH management for the opportunity accorded them to take part in this course, and for the Pipe Band platoon to be transformed into what it is today.



The feathered Pipers with their MMH and IATT instructors

**Lt Col**  
**Matela Matchakele**

**Director**  
**Military Intelligence**  
**(DMI)**





## HIV/Aids awareness takes root among soldiers

*There was a time when falling in love and coating it with intimate moments of romance, sensuous kisses and sexual escapades meant the cream of every man-woman relationship, a time when bending for a friend was simply looked at as disgusting. This was a time when coming to the rescue of a profusely bleeding friend was an act of honour. Then an extremely dangerous virus joined the party, OAKhatebe Molefi reports.*

Since the public report of the first HIV/Aids infection in the country in 1986, HIV/Aids related issues have come to the forefront and become the topic of every classroom, news column, shebeen, church pulpit and gossip mongers' gathering at a street corner.

Myths and lies shrouding its existence and modes of transmission have been shed, and all that remains is how one manages to survive. The affected worry about the infection, while the infected - in hushed voices - complain of how they will be affected by the killer virus now living with them.

A drunken teenage girl commuting to Ha-Tšosane, Maseru, recently left other commuters in stitches when she narrated her adventurous yet shameful love life, she dwelled for ages on her experience of a boyfriend who opted for the use of a discarded plastic bag when found in need of a condom.

The young girl, though vulgar for her age, said she had no need for a condom, as she did not believe in the existence of this dreaded virus.

Explaining to the amused passengers that the boyfriend, in this bar-toilet incident, had to make do with a plastic bag while finding no condoms in his wallet refused to go all the way.

The explicit narrative ended amid deafening laughter, and the picture painted may haunt many who have a heart to care.

But behind it all a few questions cropped up. Are there people in this age and time who still do not believe in the existence of HIV/Aids? How many of our own brothers and sisters plunge into sexual intercourse unaware of the implications and repercussions? How do we individually and collectively contribute and share information with the work-mate next to us?

The Makoanyane Military Hospital (MMH) Principal Nursing Officer (PNO) Sister Anna Kampong says information dissemination and peer group sharing on HIV/Aids related issues within the MMH area of service appears to be improving, especially among the soldiers. And awareness in general is taking root, though a few hiccups are still experienced.

She said: "Now the soldiers support each other and can go to as far as recommending testing for those who appear ill, regardless of what one is suffering from. A good number come voluntarily while others come to seek information

***"Our ante-natal clinic is open every Wednesday and we advise the mothers to be aware of the dangers of HIV/Aids, as well as counsel those infected as we continue giving them medication."***

*(cont. next page)*



**Sister Anna Kampong vouches for troops commitment in addressing HIV/Aids**

**The Minister of Defence has done it;  
He called on all of us to do it....**

**Go for Voluntary Counselling and  
Testing.**



**AIDS KILLS**





## ...HIV/AIDS

(cont. from previous page)

numerous facts about HIV/AIDS.

"Their Commanders also take it upon themselves to send any of their sickly men to the hospital and recommend that they be counselled and tested, be it on their accord or by advice from their colleagues," she added.

She was optimistic of this emerging trend among the troops, as she said it will help curb otherwise possible infections and also help those already infected to care for themselves properly when they know their status.

As its contribution to curb the spread of the pandemic, the MMH conducts HIV/AIDS awareness workshops and seminars, through its health education programmes as well as equipping peer educators with skills that would facilitate worthwhile discussions in both formal and informal meetings.

Condoms procurement and distribution, done chiefly from the MMH shoestring budget, is another component of its battle against this endemic though financial constraints limit a satisfactory and well spread distribution and the MMH has to do with additional supplies so as to meet our need.

This is not the only area with a handicap as Sister Kampong indicated that even with the supply of medication that stops HIV/AIDS mother-to-child transmission, the MMH still fends for itself with its limited resources. She said this is the third year that they have been administering the medication on their own and purchased by the hospital.

"Our ante-natal clinic is open every Wednesday and we advise the mothers to be aware of the dangers of HIV/AIDS, as well as counsel those infected as we continue giving them medication," she indicated, further adding that even on this matter the Ministry of Health has been approached for assistance with the provision of Nevirapine

## Green tea!

## Green tea!

*Did you know that Green tea:*

- ❖ Helps control high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes.
- ❖ Cleanses kidneys and the bladder.
- ❖ Stimulates body metabolism
- ❖ Detoxifies.
- ❖ Relieves fatigue and body pains.
- ❖ Stimulates blood circulation and helps prevent lung and throat cancer (watch out smokers)





## Zim pilots undergo training in Lesotho



*255 tons of books reach remote schools*



The two Zimbabwean pilots during the closure of their course that entailed intensive tutorials and instructions by the LDF Airwing

By PVT Sakeng Lekola

In its sitting in Lesotho last year, the Standing Aviation Committee (SAC) resolved that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states' common goal is to ensure that the committee continues to function as an action and result oriented organization leaning on humanitarian assistance standpoints.

Committed to that resolve the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Airwing has recently trained two pilots from the Zimbabwean Air Force on a Mountain Flying two-week course. The aim of such training was to equip regional pilots with skills, and to enable them to carry out any given operation at any terrain in the SADC region. Speaking at the official closure of the course, and on behalf of the Commander LDF, the Deputy Commander Major General Thuso

tioned that the LDF has had opportunities to participate in numerous cooperation trainings, but that this particular one was unique. "This training was unique in the sense that it was also part of a humanitarian in the region," he said.

The Commander Airwing disclosed that most SADC countries have chosen Lesotho as a favourite in pilot trainings due to her rugged mountain terrain and altitude.

He further elucidated that these training programmes are bound to improve cooperation among SADC member states. Maj Gen Makoro went on to mention that the LDF Airwing is also planning to send some of its pilots and aircraft technicians to undergo training in other countries, citing Botswana as the first priority.

"Our pilots and technicians should be exposed to flat-

desert terrains such as that of Botswana. We should not only get used to our terrain as there are instances whereby we will be required to perform our duties in foreign countries," pointed out Maj Gen Makoro recalling that humanitarian relief and rescue operations in any SADC state will require the LDF's commitment.

Colonel Thabo Mohapi, Deputy Commander LDF Airwing on his part noted that the training the pilots had undergone in Lesotho showed the professional cooperation that exists between SADC forces. Col Mohapi disclosed that the programme of delivering books was a success as about 255 tons of books were delivered to all inaccessible areas in the two weeks that covered both training and the delivery itself.

Col proudly said: "I am glad that a total of 90 flying hours were achieved in eight days without any accidents. We achieved our mission regardless of the bad weather we experienced in our second week of the training."

The Colonel went on to explain that the Zimbabwean pilots have professional tactics of flying. "We also gained a lot from them," he said.

(cont. on pg. 45)

**SADC supports  
regional  
cooperation**



## **...Standby Force**

*(cont. from pg 11)*

economic muscle because when troops are mobilized for deployment outside the country they have to be supported logistically, and that implies finance.

"Can Lesotho afford to support an army that is deployed in the DRC? It will be very difficult in my view, because we do not have the economic muscle and we do not have the required equipment. We have a trained PSO Company but not the logistical support," he continued.

"Even in local exercises it is a mammoth task to transport troops to their areas of operation," he added.

Article 6 of the Mutual Defence Pact had to be amended to accommodate this problem of lack of logistical support on the part of other armies.

Other countries held that the initial idea appears to have been too ambitious considering the eventuality of other countries merely contributing by issuing statements while others would shoulder the finances.

"I believe the direction is fine, however, the dream is there and it must be remembered that there is always a beginning but it will take time," he added.

### **Can we lead PSOs?**

Participation or leadership in PSOs is neither determined by muscle nor firepower, it is about managing conflict.

Col Mahao pointed out that "it is true that when attending such, an army needs to be an armed component of the operation. But nobody is at a point of vantage there and we can be classified with the best, because being heavily armed at times can lead to unnecessary errors."

*(cont. on pg 34)*

## **Fact file:**



**Exercise:** Blue Hungwe

**Location:** Zimbabwe

**Year:** 1997

**Strength:** Platoon

**Organiser:** Scandinavian Countries



**Exercise:** Blue Crane

**Location:** South Africa

**Year:** 1999

**Strength:** Platoon

**Organiser:** Nordic countries



**Exercise:** Tanzanite

**Location:** Tanzania

**Year:** 2002

**Strength:** Platoon

**Organiser:** France



**Exercise:** Blue Angel

**Location:** Zambia

**Year:** 2003

**Strength:** Section

**Organiser:** SADC-SAC





## **...Standby Force**

*(cont. from pg 11)*

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**Location:** Zambia

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**Strength:** Section

**Organiser:** SADC-SAC





# SANDC tours LHWP sites

By **PVT Sakeng Lekola**

**C**urrently in grapples with its restructuring process, the Lesotho Defence Force's (LDF) relations and interaction with other defence forces is gaining momentum. This is evidenced by among others, tours taken by regional defence colleges to Lesotho to obtain the first hand information about strategic relations that exist between Lesotho and their countries.

Recently, the South African National Defence College (SANDC) students visited Lesotho on a study tour of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) sites, the Katse Dam and 'Muela Hydropower Station.

Briefing the students about relations existing between the LDF, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Sub-Region, the LDF Chief of Staff Major General Sam Makoro, on behalf of the Commander LDF said: "The relationship range from assistance in training LDF personnel in the fields of Officer Formative Courses, Junior Staff Courses, Senior Command Staff Courses, technical and professional trades that includes aircraft mechanics and pilots."

The Chief of Staff disclosed that in operational sphere of cooperation, they have established joint and bilateral committees that meet monthly to deal with cross-boarder crime and stock theft.

He went on to explain that they have also established a quarterly meeting of the Joint



The great visiting army-men turned into minnows as they were dwarfed by the imposing Katse Dam wall and the expanse of the dam

Operation Liaison Committee (JOLC) and a technical committee dealing with combined operation coordination at tactical level to curb arms smuggling, drug trafficking, money laundering and other crimes.

On the sub-region Maj Gen Makoro explained that LDF exchanges training programmes with other Southern African Development Community (SADC) states too.

"We have similar arrangements with Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and the armed forces of Zimbabwe whereby we exchange training programmes in many fields," said Maj Gen Makoro further making reference to good working relations with Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi.

As it is noted that inherently Lesotho holds plenty of water compared with other countries in the region he said the LDF should be structured

to the capacity and capability to protect and secure this natural commodity should inter-states conflicts arise.

On terrorism, the global threat, Maj Gen stated that the LDF is on high alert and has joined the international community in the fight against the dreaded threat.

"We could not imagine that an aircraft could be converted into a powerful bomb with such a devastating effect as has happened during the September 11 attack on the United States.

The scale with which many people were killed in a single blow in a restaurant in Manila, Philippines, and the associated acts of terrorism all over the world is a big challenge for LDF," he emphasised.

On the question of Civil Military relations Maj Gen pointed out that the LDF has

(Cont on pg35)



# MARA's Mail



*The Editor - MARA  
P.O. Box 1346  
Maseru 100  
Lesotho*

The Editor,

I have just come across a copy of your newsmagazine, MARA, and was greatly impressed by its content. I was born and educated here in Lesotho, in short, I am a true patriot whose passion for Lesotho cannot be surpassed by anything.

My humble request is to freelance with your magazine with articles that cover a broad spectrum of social concerns. Articles that sensitise the young generation, be they poems, dramas or short stories.

I will appreciate clarifications on the matter.

Mathato J. Rateele (Semoko)  
P.O. Box 73  
Mt. Moorosi  
Quthing

*Mathato,*

*One of the core principles of our magazine is to educate, and it is befitting that you readers take part in that endeavour.*

*Contributions of any kind will be highly appreciated and we encourage them. Do write and send in whatever material you believe will be of use to the general public.*

*Editor.*

The Editor,

How do you do?

I would like to be featured in your Hunk's page. Please send me a copy of your magazine and I will pay for it by postal order.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance.

NAME: Moeketsi Michael Mohai

AGE: 20

PLACE: Ha-Lesala Semonkong

HOBBIES: Travelling, Tae-Kwon-Do

GYM: Semonkong Police Station



*Moeketsi,*

*It is good to hear that you are an exercise fanatic. We welcome you as our future Hunk, pump up the iron and build those muscles.*

*Editor.*

*The Editor*

Please help me. I would like to enlist with the LDF and want to know where to address my application.

Gabriel Manocha Maanela  
Word of Words Eng. Med. H. S.  
P.O. Box 1063  
Maputsoe 350

Manocha,

*The LDF normally announces vacancies through the local media, and prospective recruits are advised of dates and times for*

*interviews at different districts. It is interesting to hear that you wish to join the army, so listen to your radio for announcements.*

*Editor.*

The Editor,

I am a young Mosotho boy, and am writing this letter as a request to be send a free copy of your magazine. This request is borne by the fact that I don't have enough money to constantly get myself a copy.

MARA contains very educative material, and most of its contents could help us young people shape up our future.

Michael Mokorotloane  
Mafotholeng  
P.O. Box 116  
Maputsoe 350

*Michael,*

*We understand your problem and would greatly want to assist. However, it is not easy to make an arrangement for you to get a free copy because people at depots nearer to you are business people who sell and do not just give out copies.*

*Visit our offices and we will see what we can do. Keep up the good spirit.*

*Write and tell us what you think of the standard and content of MARA.*

*This is your Paper!*



## Introduction to Aids by Aids

### **BEHAVIOUR**

I have been hiding for some decades and am still hiding  
But I have decided to come out just for a while to tell the youth  
Without asking them for a penny from their Pa or Ma  
Ma who am I.

I willingly warn the youth about what I like and don't like  
I seriously do this because they are tomorrow's nation  
Therefore I am going to advice you as you have to know much about  
myself

But, before anything I would like to say to all nations  
I have made up my mind to advice you how easily I can be avoided  
Fought and defeated - **NOT WITH A KNOBKERRIE.**

- S - Sex is not for children
- A - Abstain from sex
- B - Be trustful to one partner
- C - Condomise every time you have sex.

By **PVT Linake**

The Editor,

Previously when one talked of a soldier, and police, an intelligence or prisons officer all that came to one's mind was a confluence of negative feelings yet these people are the custodians of peace and security.

These people were turned into elements of horror, and the general perception was that they were employed to terrorise other people with guns.

This broke down interaction and communication between them and the people they were supposed to serve.

One great improvement of late is the kind of information that being shared between the police (through LESELI KA SEPOLESA) and the army (through MARA). The introduction of these publications is a sign that we are developing as a nation.

Ntsane Joseph Ntsane  
Litsoetse Ha-Lekholoane  
P.O. Box Litsoetse 672  
Thaba-Tseka 550

*Ntsane,*

*Very interesting observations you have made, especially that on the changing levels of civil-military relations. Spread that good message.*

*Editor,*

The Editor,

Thank you for a great magazine. Could you please write more stories that tell us about our soldiers, we want to know about the different jobs they do both for the LDF and us as a nations.

It could even be interesting to know about a day in the life of a soldier, remember, our perception has always been that of negativity towards them. Help us understand them and their duties better.

I am looking forward to laying my hands on yet another copy of MARA.



**NAME: Ntsane Joseph Ntsane**

**AGE: 25**

**ADDRESS: Litsoetse Ha-Lekholoane  
P.O. Litsoetse 672  
Thaba-Tseka 550**



Lisebo Ramarothole  
Alwynskop  
Quthing

*Lisebo,*

*Such is the spirit! We would like to know what you want to see inside this magazine so that we source articles that are of great interest and educative.*

*We are doing the utmost to cover areas of public interest within the army, and much as you have put up ideas, we will deliver.*

*Editor.*

**Remember!**

*Precise straight to the point letters are recommended, and the Editor enjoys the liberty to edit and shorten them.*





**Cdo Col  
Maaparankoe Mahao**

## **As I See It**

### **Considerations - Single African Army?**

An army is a product of a Defence Policy which in turn is a function of foreign policy. An army is thus an arm with which the Defence Policy is executed. It thus has to be preceded in place by a policy.

The executive arm of government should necessarily have checks and balances in institutions which will monitor the use of its institutions like the army. Ordinarily, the legislature and the judiciary play the checks and balance.

In establishing an army other important considerations are politics, economy and the dynamics of running the army itself. A comprehensive consideration of all these factors will enable tailoring military requirement to the needs of society which must be served. Any other approach may result in a military misfit for society. It is in this context that the suggestion of an African Army is considered in this paper.

On the whole, African countries are characterised by diversity when it comes to economic viability. A few countries have growing economies. Even the same economies are not as impressive as many people are still living below poverty standards.

The continent's economy is generally poor and dependant on foreign assistance. This makes it difficult to appreciate the establishment of an African Army as a priority at this point in time. It is also doubtful whether an economy of this nature can viably maintain a standing army that must operate over a continent that is as expansive as Africa.

Military institutions are products of political environment as well. The nature of political dispensations determines the nature of military institutions and supporting elements.

One of the key political considerations that precede militaries is the existence of a Defence policy. It is thus premature to consider

It is important to consider whether Africa has common political values to be defended by the Army. This is another area of diversity. Issues of democracy are perceived differently on the continent.

Regionalism, ethnicity and religion still play divisive roles on the continent. Lack of common political values make the creation of an army a complicating factor rather than an institution of integration.

Military organisations appropriately exist in an environment with political institutions which control and monitor their use. Important continental institutions like parliament, executive structures that deploys and controls the Army and others must first be firmly in place. Indeed plans to have the Pan-African Parliament and the African Court of Justice are in progress but the potential of these institutions need to be first realised.

The Summit of Heads of State and Governments meets ordinarily once a year making it doubtful if it could properly handle the Standing Army's affairs properly.

The Peace and Security Council has its own arms which are being operationalised and some reorientation would be necessary if it were to run a Standing Army. These circumstances make the maintenance of a Standing Army inappropriate.

A common African Army would require among many things, common doctrine, common training, inter-operability of equipment and a clear chain of command and control. Putting all these in place will take many years as many hurdles must be overcome.

The difficulties would be in areas of finance, culture and language to name just a few. All these make thinking about forming an African Army a noble dream worth reserving for the future.

It can be concluded that presently this idea is inappropriate for many reasons.



## PRES. FESTUS MOGAE DONATES US\$10 000 TO HIV/AIDS LOBBY GROUPS IN LESOTHO

*At the height of his three-day official visit to Lesotho, and in a quest to give impetus to local HIV/AIDS lobby groups' campaign, President Festus Mogae of the Republic of Botswana shared his country's experience in the fight against the pandemic, reports Sgt Ntlele Ntoi.*

In his brief interaction with the local HIV/AIDS groups at the Royal Palace Banqueting Hall in Maseru, the president of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Festus Mogae gave US\$10,000 in aid to bolster the campaign against the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Lesotho.

When addressing the representatives of the HIV/AIDS groups, Pres Mogae said he was much impressed by the fact that in Lesotho other than in his home country where all HIV/AIDS programmes are run by the government, locally the community itself is spearheading the fight against the pandemic while the government is there to support the initiatives.

"In my home country the disease has, among others, claimed lives of local government councillors, media practitioners, HIV/AIDS counsellors and others groups constituting people providing essential services to the community, including the youths," said Pres Mogae.

His Excellency took the Basotho down the memory lane that since independence Botswana's priority has been to fight poverty only to be taken by surprise by the unwelcome emergence of HIV/AIDS pandemic which hampered all their efforts.



The Mogaes also paid a courtesy call on their Majesties

The president went further to mention that Botswana is the first country (in the region) to appeal to the UN that it needs urgent assistance to keep the pandemic at bay.

At the meeting were senior government officials including the First Ladies of Lesotho and Botswana, Mrs Mosisili and Mogae, various HIV/AIDS groups, representatives of the lobby group People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Hon Dr Motloheloa Phooko all of whom pledged their eagerness to carry on the fight under the motto, "There is no struggle beyond human capability".

Botswana has state of the art health centres aimed at eradicating the HIV/AIDS pandemic which include a laboratory in Gaborone, a health clinic for children living with the disease and a handful of voluntary pre/post counselling and testing centres

(Cont. on pg. 42)

*"In my home country, the disease has claimed the lives of government councillors, media practitioners and HIV/AIDS counsellors."*



# Trees - camouflage, concealment and land reclamation

*Trees and the vegetation in general play a critical role in combat. They are used in camouflage and concealment but above all they play an important role in afforestation and land reclamation, reports PVT Mosuoe Mofomobe.*

The Right Honourable, the Prime Minister of Lesotho, Pakalitha Mosisili in his capacity as Minister of Defence led a tree-planting occasion at the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Makoanyane Barracks recently.

When delivering a keynote address after planting some trees out of 1000 planted on that day, the Prime Minister Mosisili indicated his satisfaction to be part of that historic occasion. He thanked the Minister of Forestry and Land Reclamation Hon

Ralechate 'Mokose for putting ministers and their ministries in the forefront of the government's afforestation and land reclamation programme.

"Minister 'Mokose has shown us all that we mean business, and that charity begins at home. The government is serious with its commitment to plant trees, hence the creation of the new ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation," the Prime Minister pointed out.

The Prime Minister



Getting their hands soiled during tree planting – Minister Tom Thabane (with watering can) and the Deputy Chief of Military Intelligence Captain Gerard Mafoea (with a black beret on).

stated that the greatest enemy that Lesotho faces in recent years was land degradation and deforestation.

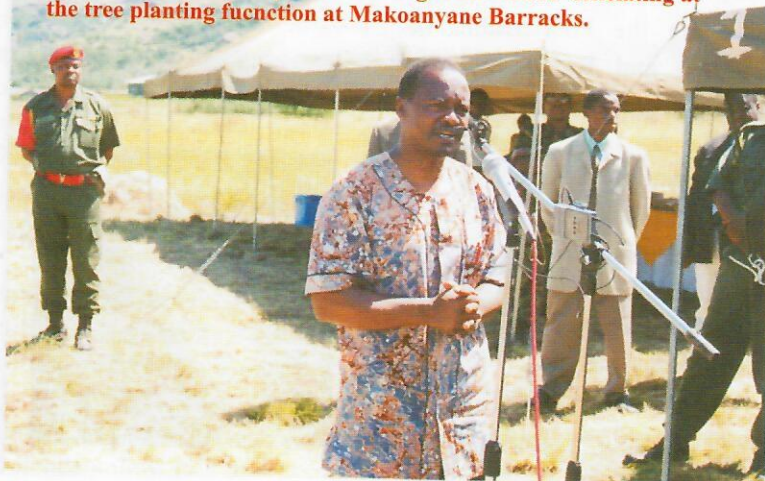
"We need to reclaim the beauty of our country and be prepared to do everything for ourselves. There is no need to seek foreign aid in this regard.

The ministry shall provide trees and let us use the hands that God has given us to turn dongas into dams in the reclamations of the land we lost," said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister further stated that like they were doing with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a certain percentage from different ministries should be set aside to assist the Forestry Ministry in all its endeavours. He also proposed to the Government Secretary that government ministries should embark on a tree planting campaign at least once a week.

Prime Minister Mosisili went on to state that AIDS was dissipating our country, urging his Ministry to formulate a war plan against HIV/AIDS.

Government Secretary Mr Tlohang Sekhamane officiating at the tree planting function at Makoanyane Barracks.



(Cont. on pg. 39)



# PEMCOS plays Moshoeshoe I

*The audience thronging the Palace Banqueting Hall buzzed with anticipation as Phethahatso English Medium Community School (PEMCOS) arts group clad in traditional attire took to the stage to take Basotho down memory lane, writes Sgt Ntlele Ntoi.*

Scores of drama devotees braved the rainy weather and joined the royal family to watch playwright Ramaphike's version of *Moshoeshoe I* by PEMCOS performing arts group at the Palace Banqueting Hall in the capital, Maseru on the eve of Moshoeshoe I commemoration day.

"Wow! It was so exciting!" exclaimed one of the drama enthusiasts and also the Radio Lesotho Programs Controller, Mr Ratokelo Nkoka.

"I enjoyed the performance very much because other than being part of the audience here tonight, I am very grateful to tell you that as a teacher of History and Tradition, tonight I am honoured to see that my campaign is gaining a foothold in the youth. Let's get back to our roots Basotho!" Mr Nkoka said.

Nkoka, the traditionalist who was, among other things, much impressed by the traditional attire sported by the performing artists, further expressed that it is good that the drama has been performed by the children at that tender age (9-12-years olds). He argues that they will ultimately grow up with the love of it, emulating the characters they played as well as influencing their peers to follow the suit.

One of the budding performers, an admirably cute looking actress 'Mathabo Duma, 12, from Maseru West who played 'Mamohato was something of a seasoned star before the audience and cameras. The young actress claims that she

has played in a series of plays including those of HIV/AIDS awareness.

"That was not the first time I featured as a queen. With the training that I got and thorough rehearsals we went through; I was not nervous on stage tonight not even before the royal family and other dignitaries because I knew my role very well," Mathabo said.

diplomatic chores were completely absorbed.

With the group like the PEMCOS arts group, the leader Mrs 'Maleeto Mpholo had a reason to smile. "They are young and promising too. And we all hope with time they will grow to perfect their skills," said Mrs Mpholo.

However, the group leader's colossal disappointment



**Bringing back memories of the founding of a Great Nation**

The central character, the founder of the Basotho nation Moshoeshoe I, was played by a well built and an equally promising artist, 12 years old Nkopane Lekhesa. On stage, and of course off stage, he commanded power like the real king.

Lekhesa noted: "I had rehearsed my lines very well, and what motivated me most was to see my fellow actors and actresses adoring me even when we were off stage."

In fact, everybody in the group was very much impressive on stage that the audiences, including members of the

is the fact that performing arts is still a minority sport in the country.

"Though we don't know as yet when will the Ministry of Education incorporate performing arts in the school curriculum, we could only hope that by the time these pupils get to secondary or high school level things will go their way," said Mrs Mpholo.

*Moshoeshoe I* is educative, entertaining and in fact a must-see. Should it be staged somewhere in the future, don't hesitate to book your seat in time



# Events in Pictures



President Festus Mogae of the Republic of Botswana during his State visit to the Kingdom of Lesotho



His Majesty King Letsie III, Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, Home Affairs Minister Tom Thabane and Lt Gen Makhula Mosakeng graced Moshoeshoe's day Celebrations



The Commander LDF hosted dignitaries at Ha-Ratjomose for refreshments on Army Day





# Events in Pictures

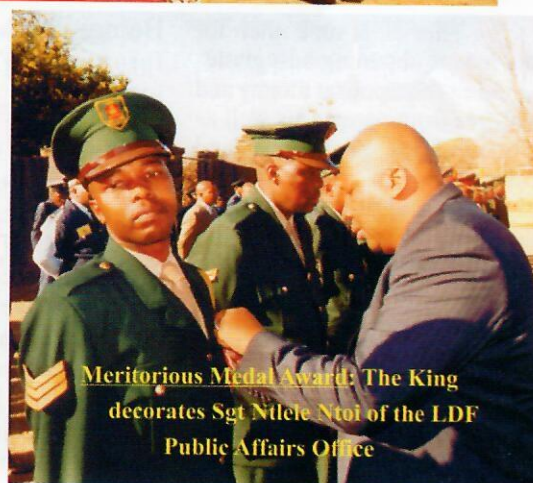
Glad in traditional attire is Radio Lesotho's Programmes Coordinator Mr Ratokelo Nkoka. How soon will our Armed Forces follow the trend?



Horaay , His Majesty the King this year celebrated his 41st Birthday in the Mokhotlong district



30 Years Service Medal Award: His Majesty the King decorates the LDF Provost Marshall Col Thabo Lefa



Meritorious Medal Award: The King decorates Sgt Ntlele Ntoi of the LDF Public Affairs Office



# Rainy weather fails to dampen jovial EcoL Awards

*Heartache, hopelessness and misery awaits many families whose children pass examinations annually and proceed to upper grades and ponder where to get bursaries and sponsorships. But despite the many uncertainties many braved rainy and chilly weather to join in the festivities of the Examinations Council of Lesotho's (ECoL) Top 10 Awards, OA Khatebe Molefi writes.*

On the surface schooling connotes a day-to-day children's routine in an institution that prepares them for life's hurdles ahead. It is also perceived as an arena for stimulating innate intelligence for life's academic and development purposes.

uncle or grandmother's home. They would opt for the life of a recluse leaving behind furious and devastated next of kin to return as prodigal sons after months of self-destruction sprees.

Some often resort to drinking joints and pubs which they frequent to an extent of

in the Primary School Leaving Certificate (PSLE), Junior Certificate (JC) and Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) examinations at a ceremony held at EcoL Centre in Khubetsoana Maseru.

Joang Khethisa, who hails from guardian Angel Primary School in the Leribe district scooped honours as best student in the PSLE category, Nadhim Varghere from Maseribane High School in Quthing topped the JC charts while Qekisi Fiee came out tops of all COSC pupils.

All students in the three categories were presented with certificates of excellence, medals sponsored by the Maseru Star Taxi Association (MSTA) and each pocketed M100.00 while the main man, Fiee walked away with a M500.00 prize money also courtesy of MSTA.

Major business community sponsors for the awards and gala were the MSTA (floating trophy for the best school, medals for all pupils as well as M500.00 for COSC best and M100.00 for each in all categories), Nedbank-Lesotho (pens), Global Conferences and Seminars (watches), Business Executives (calculators) and Macmillan Lesotho (Books).

Other sponsors were the Maseru Sun Cabanas, Maluti Mountain Brewery, Unique Computers, Kou Transport, Blue Ribbon Bakery and Astoria Bakery, and T&T Security

(cont. next page)



**Dedication and discipline are prerequisites for excellence at school as the recipients of the Top 10 Awards proved**

This is a time that for some means obtaining best grades for getting extra pocket money and privileges from parents, as well as attention from boyfriends and girlfriends.

At end of the year exam time when results are announced, a number of heartbreaking scenarios unfold in many homes around the country as dreams shatter these are always with devastating results.

A typical scenario is one where those who did not make it in the exams will retreat to areas where they are less known, an

Being mistaken for the house furniture. What a shameful scenario.

There are other students, who through sweat, hard work, sleepless nights and commitment defy odds and carve their way to the top. They shelve all distractions and eventually become the cream of their respective schools.

For this category of hard working pupils the Examinations Council of Lesotho (EcoL) conferred Achievement Awards to the Top 10 students for the year 2003 academic year





**The Minister of education Mr. Lesao Lehohla also officiated at the opening of EcoL's new residence**

Company.

St. Stephen's High School, Mohale's Hoek, walked away with a floating trophy winning a close contest with Leribe's Sacred Heart and the Lesotho High School.

The awards recipients took to the podium amid deafening ululations from the floor, the men whistled and clapped while the ladies - glad in the now fashionable 'Seshoeshoe' outfit braved the chilly weather and urged their sons and daughters on.

Awards were also conferred on Veterans of Assessment and Education (both for the living and posthumously) as well as for Meritorious Service.

Matete Khapetsi, a student at Mohale's Hoek St Patrick High School said he invested his entire energies towards a distinction in mathematics and science, "my best subjects." And this was due to a deep-rooted ambition of a measure in Bsc with a view to excel in scientific innovations.

Khapetsi, who managed an overall position seven (7) in the COSC category, said though

he believed in his abilities this feat of being among the best 10 students is exhilarating if not astounding.

"My hard work paid off in the end and I am over the moon with this achievement, as well as that of the other students with whom we share this honour.

This is an opportunity also to encourage other pupils in the lower grades to put their everything in their studies to one day be honoured like this," he said.

Khapetsi's schoolmate, Ramolamu Mokhitli, who is also a recipient of the Top 10 Awards, could not hide his overflowing joy as he brandished his colourful certificate of excellence. Mokhitli managed an overall position nine (9) in the COSC category.

In his remarks, the Minister of Education also Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Lesao Lehohla applauded the best achievers and the involvement of relevant stakeholders, emphasis put on the contribution of MSTA who in this second year of

involvement in the ceremony expanded their sponsored awards to cover not only the PSLE category but also JC and COSC and coupled these with monetary prizes.

The Minister hastened to also commend teachers from winning schools as he said they are the foundation upon which the pupils have built their success, calling further for the banishment of all elements that lead pupils astray from their given task education.

Mr Lehohla also called for continuous dialogue between pupils and their teachers as he said there is a thin line between pupils' success, as evidenced by the ceremony, and their failure, adding that pupils should prioritise and "you should stick to the path you are treading now and never leave it."

In the midst of all the ululations and the Minister's reassuring words there was a tinge that unlike past years, more boys appear to be doing well in exams than girls. In this regard Dr 'Matora Ntimo-Makara, EcoL's Chairperson,

(cont. on pg.29)





## Profiles & Personalities

# The LDF ace pilot

## Col Victor Thabo Mohapi

**In the past 26 years the Lesotho Defence Force's prodigy pilot has become famous for his cockpit manoeuvres and skill, and has also endeared himself with congregations for his 'fire and brim-stone' sermons on the pulpit. This strict disciplinarian, Col Thabo Victor Mohapi matures with age. He talked to *Sgt Ntlele Ntoi*.**

**T**he day I got first hand experience that Colonel Victor Thabo Mohapi is a pilot of acclaimed prestige was when, by chance, I happened to be aboard the helicopter he was flying The Rt Hon the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Mr Pakalitha Mosisili home in the mountain district of Qacha's Nek, 335km East of the capital, Maseru. Never before had I flown to those high altitudes where the weather changes from time to time.

Right from the beginning and for the duration of our journey, this ace pilot made sure everybody on board, regardless of our varying status, felt at home. From time to time, in his usual manner, he would eloquently highlight us of the route he was taking and other details that made us rest assured that he was indeed in control of the

helicopter. I never felt so relaxed and honoured on board. That's Col Mohapi's kind of treat.

If in any doubt, ask his colleagues, his trainees, the herd boys he had flown during mercy flights operations in the mountains, the list is endless. Everybody unanimously agree in principle that Col Mohapi takes flying like a duck to water. But where did it all start?

The Maestro Mohapi: "Unlike army profession which I take as a calling, to me flying was, indeed, not a calling. I never dreamt of becoming a pilot, because I found that, of course, an impossibility."

Born at Randfontein, South Africa on November 20, 1958, Col Mohapi came fifth in a family of six. His parents are Mrs 'Mantšebo and the late Mr Lucas Mpho Mohapi of Braakfontein, Mohale's Hoek, 85km

East of the capital Maseru. His father met his tragic death in a road accident when Victor was still young.

Col Mohapi grew up an intelligent boy. Though he passed his Std 7 with flying colours, to everyone's surprise, diligent and needy as he was, he wouldn't be awarded a scholarship.

"By then children who attended, among others, the Lesotho Evangelical Church schools were hardly granted scholarships, regardless of how needy one could had been," he lamented.

Young Victor ended up employed as a migrant labourer in the South African gold mines. While he was still there he enrolled at a mine school and acquired a Junior Certificate of Education. But in the turn of events, it was evident that was not

*(Cont. on pg 36)*



Up! Up! And away!!





# Sergeant Limo VS the roughnecks

**What was to become a hero's welcomes turns out to be a complete disaster for a non-commissioned officer who fought ferocious running battles against armed marauding cattle rustlers in the highlands border areas. *Sgt Ntshale Ntoi* is our storyteller. (Illustration by Maletse Mabusela).**

**W**hen monitoring the activities at the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) forwarding-base at Qacha's Nek from afar on that day, one could as well have concluded that the troops were gearing up for a massive operation.

In fact, it was a day on which the LDF was changing guard in the South. Of all the soldiers, Limo, 53, a short, pot-bellied, bald-headed sergeant whose men nicknamed 'Dick' yes, Dick for "a clever Dick", was the most excited.

Sergeant Limo was looking forward to a rousing welcome by his wife, Palesa and their seven children. Earlier on that month he had sent them a message that he would be coming home soon with all the delicacies they could think of the news that the whole family received with great enthusiasm.

It had taken Sgt Limo two solid months to fill up his 40kg bag with dry rations through lies and deceptive tactics. He had his bag filled to the brim with corned beef, canned fish, beans, raisin peanuts, 24-hour ration packs and other imperishable delicacies he had chanced to lay his hands upon.

It was reported, however, that in operations that they had mounted against the cattle rustlers, his section had always complained about less rations

they were expected to live on over a considerable length of time. Sgt Limo wouldn't care. It was rumoured that he always had more than enough for himself.

When his men protested, Limo would tell them, in no uncertain terms, that it was none of his business that they had fed the whores with their supplies of dry rations forgetting that someday they would need them desperately.

"Why should I take the blame for your carelessness, you roughnecks?" he would shout back, adding, "No wonder, you all resembles your fathers who gambled their bounty to whores in the mines all of you. *Sis!* You are disgusting!"

On the eve of their home coming, having his bag of delicacies tied up tightly with a piece of wire, Sgt Limo, in his

own peculiar manner, had a nerve to give each man what they described as "barely enough to stave off hunger" on the way back to Maseru 335km far west of the country.

After sunset, Limo sneaked himself out of the camp under the cover of darkness. On that evening he was not just going out to take a nightcap as he used to but also to bid his lover, 'Mantooa goodbye. Some of the privates also went out except a handful of soldiers on duty, amongst them, a notably wise military intelligence officer, Lance Corporal Thibakhaoali, aka 'The Big T'.

Lcpl Thibakhaoali had, for several times, warned Sgt Limo of promoting chronic job dissatisfaction among his subordinates with his maladministration but, as always, Limo wouldn't listen. Other superiors seemed too busy to attend to such matters as well. They would just dismiss them as issues of less concern, it was said.

On that evening, Lcpl Thibakhaoali vowed to teach Limo a lesson. He devised a plan, and this is how it unfolds: The two informants, Privates X and DJ were summoned to Lcpl Thibakhaoali's room. DJ, one of the most lethal platoon's crack shots, was given orders to sneak himself into Sgt Limo's room.

*(cont. next page)*

*"Why should I take the blame for your carelessness, you roughnecks?"*





In accordance with Plan A, DJ was to snatch the heavily laden bag of delicacies and bring it to Lcpl Thiba-khoali's room. *The Big T* had, however, reassured DJ that when he has got into position, he would tamper with the electricity and cause a temporary blackout to give him a chance to dash back under the cover of darkness.

In the meantime, X, the craftiest platoon's scout, would be on guard outside lest Limo came back earlier than usual. Little did they know the glutton had thrown a big farewell party for two at 'Mantoa's' place.

Everything went well according to Plan A, and therefore there was no need to make use of the alternative Plan B. *The Big T* and his squad acted so swiftly that everybody else couldn't suspect a thing, not even the temporary blackout that hit the camp. DJ was ordered to empty the bag into a big box Lcpl Thiba-khoali had taken from the storeroom.

Then they filled the bag with chunks of wood and coal. Having it tied up with the wire again, DJ took it back to Limo's room, once again taking chance of the deliberate power failure. The two informants would come back later to share the bounty amongst themselves.

When Sgt Limo, "a man who couldn't think of anything other than his stomach", came back in the small hours of the night, drunk like a fish, he couldn't suspect a thing.

The next morning both Ptes X and DJ purposefully made themselves readily available to Sgt Limo's command. He fell into the trap of ordering the two "roughnecks" to get his luggage into the troop carrier "a bag of delicacies" included. And he escorted them to the idling troop carrier parked on the tarmac.

Minutes later Lcpl Thiba-khoali's roving eyes spotted Limo carrying a

(Cont. on pg 48)



## **...Standby Force**

*(Cont from pg18)*

can lead to unnecessary errors.”

“What is of importance here is your peacekeeping doctrine, how you relate with the warring factions, how you relate with the common man and make him accept you,” he said.

He recalled the 1998 SADC intervention in Lesotho, with special reference to the reception of the Botswana Defence Force compared to that of the South African National Defence Force.

### **Benefits**

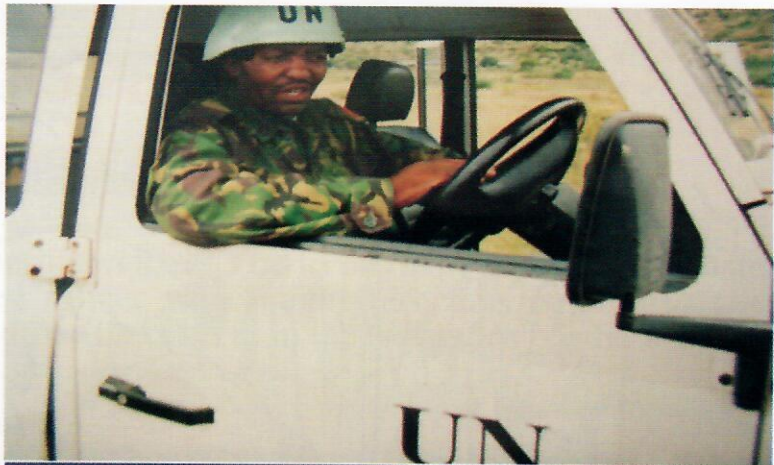
Lt Col Mahao says it is true that initially when armies go for PSOs they are expected to foot the bill for the maintenance of their men.

“But the sum that the UN pays the troops deployed is quite reasonable and they will be able to bring back foreign currencies on their return and will therefore enjoy monetary benefits,” he said.

“New equipment will also be there. Our soldiers will get a chance to interact with other nationals and will be able to adopt latest military trends and standards. And they will focus on beneficial things rather than sitting idly here at home,” he pointed out further.

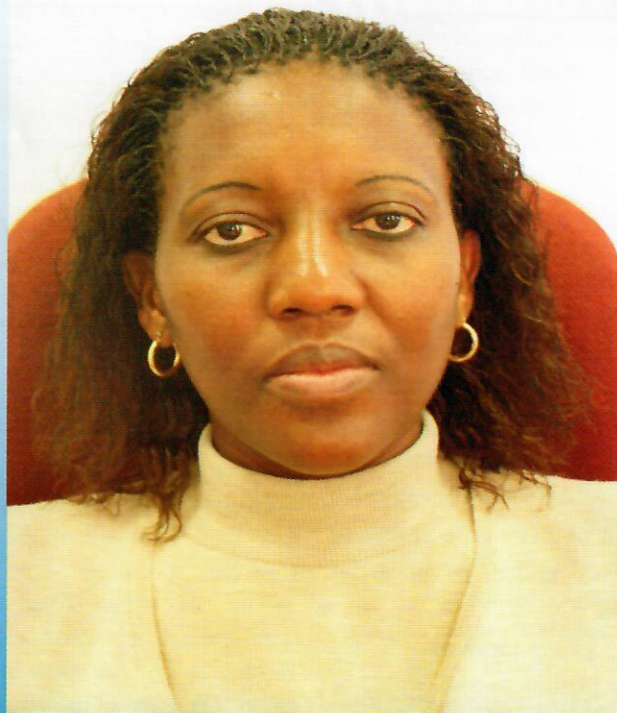
The other factor is exposing the LDF to the outside world where they will see its potential and commitment to PSOs, and may as a result be called for more operations.

The LDF Peacekeeping Company ought never to forget therefore, that a peacekeeper is an ambassador of both the UN and his own country. His behaviour outside the mission area and before any deployment outside the borders should reflect such a standard and integrity an international body deserves.



**The LDF - ready to help the UN extend the PEACE olive branch to warring nations.**

# **Welcome!**



***The new Principal Secretary for the Ministry of  
Defence and National Security***

**Mrs. M. S. Lebesa**



## SANDC tour

(cont. from pg19)

supporting programmes in place, citing an example of the ongoing LDF personnel's involvement in building clinics, schools, bridges and delivery of school books to the remote areas.

Briefing students on LHWP security, Mr Peter Makuta, responsible for security matters of the project said security is categorised into five different levels, those being: Military Invasion, Sabotage, Specific intrusion, curiosity intrusion and safety.

### Military Invasion:

It is the responsibility of the National Security Agencies (LDF, Lesotho Mounted Police, and the National Security Services) to protect the dam, but currently there is no threat as SADC countries are committed to peace and stability in the region.

### Sabotage:

It is also the responsibility of the National Security Agencies to see to it that physical damage to plant, building, equipment or other targets in order to assist subversive political aim or hostile foreign powers do not happen.

### Specific Intrusion:

It is the responsibility of the LHWP to combat theft, which can result in high replacement of cost of equipment and material.

### Curiosity Intrusion:

It is the responsibility of the LHWP to combat malicious damage like hotel on the perimeter fence and others.

### Safety:

LHWP and other rescue operational inter- agency cooperation and support education programmes to communities training and equipping specialised safety and rescue teams and other safety precautions.

Ongoing Security developments at LHWP according to Mr Makuta includes: Strategic location of Military bases, construction of new Police stations, patrols and high visibility of LDF members, reinforcement of Radio communications systems to mention but few.



The SANDC students had the opportunity to visit the Katse Alpine Botanical Gardens where they were enlightened on environmental care

The Commandant of the College Rear Admiral (RADM) Bryan Dankin, said the purpose of the tour was to understand a national strategic project and to uplift security challenges facing Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

"The executive National Security programme concentrates on national security which we define as the area of strategic issues that challenge the well being of our nations. It is not a pure military focus but focuses on all the elements of nation's power base," disclosed Rear Admiral Dankin.

The admiral explained that their visit to Lesotho has exposed their students to new issues, new and uplifting projects and to the beauty of the mountain kingdom of Lesotho.

On behalf of the students Brigadier General Solly Mollo (RSA) said: "We promise that we will make use of what we have acquired in Lesotho. This shows that we share many things in common thus we should work hand in hand for the benefit of the relationship between our countries."

He went to point that they had a good day in Lesotho during their tour as well as making friends with LDF and

LHWP. During the tour students visited other LHWP sites like Katse Dam Wall, the 'Muela Hydro-electric Power Station and the Alpine Botanical Garden. SANDC was established in 1977 to train Officers at the Military strategic level. After the year 2000, training was extended to officials at the National Strategic Level. The College is internationally recognised as a training unit of excellence.

(cont. on pg.42)



# ...LDF ace pilot

(cont. from pg. 30)

where his heart belonged. In due course, he tendered in a resignation and subsequently joined the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) on April 20, 1976. "Approximately three years thereafter, that one I still remember very vividly that it was in 1979 when I went for a piloting interview. And I remember very well I was kind of pushed I don't even want to say I was encouraged; I was pushed by Retired Col Thaabe Letsie who was then my coy commander.

He made me become one of the participants in the interview. With God's help I managed to pull through, and became one of the very first eight pilots flying helicopters in the LDF and Lesotho entirely," boasted the Col.

It was only after going through an intensive piloting training in Germany, a challenging task indeed that Col Mohapi told himself there's no turning back. And from that day he told himself he is going to "give everything for Lesotho; everything for the LDF", and from that day he has never looked back. He solemnly promises that he intends to give the rest of whatever he can still offer for his country.

But things have never always been rosy in the cockpit. Col Mohapi relives the nasty crash when he ran into in the stormy weather up in the mountains back in 1998. He himself and the rest of the crew miraculously survived the crash.

Col: "Up until 1998 I had a wonderful flying record 19 years of accident free flying, and my aim was to at least go beyond 20 years of flying



His trademark warm character is evident even when on duty.

without any accident.

"Very unfortunately that's when I met with that accident in 1998. That is the day I loathe so much; that is the day I even regretted that I ever took a step to get into a helicopter and fly it into the mountains."

On that fateful day Col Mohapi took off from Mejametalana Air Base, Maseru. The weather was not so good. It was a bit cloudy, but not too bad for ace pilots like him to venture out.

He went via Leribe on a chartered flight to take a corpse into the mountains. On board was also a constructor on his routine survey trip of his project in the highlands. Everything seemed to be all right until the moment he was forced down on a spur of a moment.

Col Mohapi rubbed off sweat spurting out of his forehead

with a palm of his hand and continued to relate his ordeal.

"When we were approaching the escarpment at Thaba-Putsoa range we could see the clouds were very low. We decided to take a landing somewhere. And after some time we saw an opening and we hastily took that opportunity to fly through it back to Maseru," the Col said.

He rubbed his forehead again. "Unfortunately, we reached the escarpment simultaneously with the heavy storm that was approaching from the lowlands into the mountains. And this heavy down draft, which actually took us all the way down, hit us. Actually we crashed. With God's help there was no bone broken, even though, very unfortunately, the aircraft was

(cont. on pg. 38)



## A toast for yester-year army men

*Monuments grace the capital city, Maseru, in memory of the victory relished by Basotho soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the two world wars fought in 1914-18 and in 1939-45. The Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Victories and the Lesotho Evangelical Church's (LEC) Sefika Parish remain remnants of those glorious days when our soldiers battled along the allied forces to crush Germany's envisaged global supremacy, **OA Khatebe Molefi** revisits this commemoration.*

**N**ovember 11, marks the anniversary of the allied forces' victory over the German Kaizer's four-year onslaught on his European neighbours (World War I), and the Basotho soldiers who fought under the banner of Native Labour Corps in this war also savour great memories at a wreath laying ceremony at Makoanyane Square, Maseru.

The 1 400 Basotho soldiers engaged in this conflict were commanded by Chief Lerotholi Mojela.

Veterans of World War II also form part of this remembrance of the cessation of hostilities by Germany with their second victory over Adolf Hitler's armies after they capitulated in 1945.



The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victories stands as a reminder

Basotho soldiers formed a section of the victorious allies with their contribution in 1905, 1906 and 1909 under Chief David Theko Makhaola. Other Battalions regiments 1902, 1903, 1904,

(cont. on pg. 45)

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## ...LDF ace pilot

(cont. from pg. 36)

though the aircraft was a complete write-off," he lamented.

Ironically, six months later, the incident would haunt Col Mohapi, however, with the generous help of the then Air Wing commander, Major General Thuso Motanyane and others he was able to cope with it.

To date Col Mohapi has been in the defence force for 27 years; 26 of which he has been flying different types of military aircrafts both at home and abroad.

"I started first with the Bell 47, the smallest machine we have here. Of this range, I first flew a piston engines helicopter in Germany. This type is somehow similar to ours, the only difference being that ours has turbine engine, which has actually made it very powerful. From there, I flew Jet Ranger 206 still of the Bell family; the type of the helicopter we're going to acquire in exchange of Bell 47 we have now. Then followed a French-made helicopter AS 350, series of BO 105s and Russian MI 2s," boasted the ace pilot.

Col Mohapi, a strict disciplinarian when it comes to military affairs is also an ardent man of cloth. Those who have seen him on the pulpit preaching the word of God at times find it hard to comprehend how the two professions co-exist.

in the defence force; is the more he humbles himself in the service he so dearly committed to in the house of the Lord."

Col holds a Diploma in Theology from The Hebron School of Theology, South Africa. Currently, he aspires to enrol for a higher degree in the same field.

Col Mohapi always strive to abide by the rules and regulations governing the

defence force and may be that is why many people regard him as a strict disciplinarian.

His military trainings include: One-year Helicopter Flying Training course, in Germany 1979; Advanced Bell 412 Piloting in the US, 1995; M12 Flying Training course in Lesotho held by the Libyan instructors and many more.



Col Mohapi (right) in the company of 2Lt Petje in the Maloti mountains during one of the LDF's humanitarian relief operations

*Ironically, six months later, the incident would haunt Col Mohapi, however, with the generous help of the then Air Wing Commander, Major General Thuso Motanyane and others he was able to cope with it.*

course held in Lesotho whereby the Zimbabwean Air Force Squadron pilots were trained.

His impeccable performance no doubt, in piloting has won him the favour of the king who awarded him a Meritorious Medal. He also wears precious 10 and 20-year Service Medals with pride.

Col Mohapi lives in a posh mansion at Ha Thetsane, in the capital, Maseru with his wife Mrs Mampho Mohapi. They are blessed with four children three girls and a boy.

Brimming with happiness, the ace pilot hastened: "I have a grandson too."

**Read MARA Newsmagazine and get information on LDF activities timeously and correctly**



## ...Trees

(cont. from pg.24)

in the fight against this pandemic, we won't have manpower to fight land degradation and deforestation," the Prime Minister pointed out.

Prime Minister Mosisili also took that opportunity to commend the LDF for the tremendous job they were doing to protect environment.

"I have been told by your commander that different species of birds, animals, reptiles and plants are found in your camps and that they live harmoniously without any interference. By mere looking at the grass within the camps and outside, one sees great difference. This shows that great care is taken," the Prime Minister told the participants.

***'If we don't put all efforts in the fight against this pandemic, we won't have manpower to fight land degradation and deforestation'***



Delegates from various Government ministries march towards the tree planting area at Makoanyane Barracks

He ended his remarks by instructing Minister 'Mokose and his staff to get out of their offices to address the afforestation and land reclamation issue.

When speaking at the same occasion Minister 'Mokose commended the joining of hands between his ministry and the MOD in the beautification of Maseru including other government ministries.

"I am highly impressed by the work done by the 25-men strong unit of the LDF in its effort to protect the environment, and therefore call upon all other ministries to follow in the footsteps of the LDF," the minister said.

The LDF Deputy Commander Major General Thuso Motanyane showed his satisfaction to the fact that Makoanyane Barracks was not a lost fortress

as many people thought, as it emerges in government and army plans particularly in land proclamation programme.

Maj Gen Motanyane also stated that the LDF has a 25-men strong unit which work on a daily basis in soil conservation activities, and that they have already planted 3000 trees in four LDF bases countrywide. "Two hundred of these are fruit trees and it is our expectation that one day we will reach self sufficiency in fruit production," Maj Gen Motanyane said.

Among the high-ranking officials who took part in this occasion were Home Affairs Minister Honourable Motsoahae Thabane, Government Secretary Mr Tlohang Sekhamane and other dignitaries

## ...EcoL Awards

(cont. from pg.29)

indicated that a study will be conducted to determine the status quo and avoid making biased conclusions.

The glittering gala was the 7<sup>th</sup> Top 10 Awards Ceremony hosted by ECoL, and at the same girth Minister Lehohla also inaugurated a new ECoL residence.

With such outstanding performance in the three categories, it surely was not amiss of government to propose a M 1 223 Million cut of national budget for the Ministry of Education in the coming fiscal year, as was proposed by the Minister of Finance Mr Tim Thahane. cover costs of primary, secondary and tertiary education as well as bursaries for the fiscal year 2004/2005.

He said the money will

further expand free primary education, meet the cost of books that will be lent to pupils, build extra classrooms and ensure the deliverance of quality education in all spheres.

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Moshoeshe I*



# Culture

## The pride of a nation



Being cultural does not necessarily mean ugly  
and old fashioned... Look at these beauties!



# Base Commander rebukes vandals

## Holds public gatherings around his area of interest

*Almost a decade down the line, memories of the six-man strong Royal Lesotho Defence Force (RLDF) Military Council resurface when one sees a uniformed Army Officer addressing throngs of attentive citizens at a public gathering over civil-military matters. This was a norm during the RLDF regime, and the return to democratic governance left "pitso" to politicians, but recently, as **Sgt Thabiso Rajane** reports, vandalism at Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) properties has forced the army-men back to the podium of a public gathering.*

**H**aving been moulded into a professional army, the present LDF has put in place the post of a Base Commander, and the Makoanyane Barracks Base Commander, Colonel Thabang Matebesi has strongly appealed to the neighbouring villagers of Ha-Leqele and Lithabaneng to stop vandalising LDF property.

At a public gathering in the area, Col Matebesi said: "It has come to the LDF Commander's notice that there are some individuals with ill intent from these villages who deliberately vandalise the LDF security fence."

He said it appears this criminal act is done for just collecting firewood and grazing livestock, a factor that compromise existing relations between the LDF and the villagers.

The Base Commander pointed out: "It is the good intent of the LDF to cement and see existing relations between itself and the community expanding and not being jeopardised by such malicious actions."

He warned those involved to refrain from such acts as protective measures would be instituted against such individuals or groups of persons.

"The LDF is not after anybody, that is why you see us here today exchanging views over this problem," explained the Base Commander, adding that if such evil acts continue

to occur, they might probably affect the neighbourhood badly. Col reiterated that two weeks prior to the visit to the village, an approximately 12 metres length of the LDF security fence was cut off, and the ripped off part could not be found.

"We are not happy at all about this horrific damage done to

to assist in any matter wherever possible.

The Base Police Officer further indicated that people should follow set procedures and use proper channels to acquire services at both the LDF bases of Ratjomose and Makoanyane and desist from vandalising property.



**Enough is Enough!...Col Matebesi**

to the military property. Let me remind you, what the LDF has, it is through your taxes, therefore if that is the case, you will be held responsible for the damage and the damage will be refurbished by your taxes," Col rebuked them.

Speaking at the "pitso", Lieutenant Tsotang Peshoane, the Base Police Officer campaigned that the Military Police office was open day and night

"I strongly discourage you from entering illegal into somebody's compound. If I go to a nearby house to pick up anything I fancy without the owner's consent, would I be fair or regarded as a normal human being? Definitely not!" reasoned Lt Peshoane.

The village Chief of Lithabaneng, Mr Lebipi Mothobi complemented the LDF

(cont. on pg. 42)



## ...vandals

(cont. from pg. 41)

for such a brilliant move to warn the villagers about the massive damages they do to the LDF property. He requested the LDF authority to submit the list of the wrongdoers so that drastic measures would be employed to take perpetrators to task.

One of the villagers, a retired officer of the National Security Services (NSS), Mr Mathate Matsimane urgently requested the LDF envoy to take into consideration the issue of sound pollution that is caused by explosives usage at the Base, an exercise that he said "produce horrible sounds that are detrimental to the mental health of the children residing in the vicinity of the Base".

He elaborated that when a babe is asleep, and an explosive bursts as loudly as they do, such a babe will automatically jump up like it has just had a horrible nightmare. And this, he said, impacts negatively on the child.

As the visits progressed to Ha-Leqe, a watchdog of the Area-Chief, Moholi Mphutlane, bitterly stood up and said "it is not the responsibility of the LDF Command to chase after your children, and you should

look after your children. Every parent is responsible and will be held accountable for his child".

"The Commander LDF was at my place to discuss the same issue, I told him to do whatever possible to protect the military property," irritatingly disclosed Chief Mphutlane. Similar efforts by the Base Commander to try and curb the rampant vandalism on LDF property were supposed to have been extended to the areas on Thuathe plateau, Berea villages that also border the LDF fence and other vital facilities.

He was supposed to have held public gatherings at Lipompong and Ha-Mafaesa to deliver a message stern warning,

*If you're not a member of the LDF but have its property i.e. uniform, in your possession, bring it back!*



**The Great Temptation:** The Makoanyane valley and forest that villagers say lures them to vandalism

## SANDC tour

(cont. from pg. 35)

Currently the college conducts two courses per year with 36 students per course. These accommodate senior colonels and junior brigadiers.

Subjects offered are categorised in four modules: National Security theory, Domestic Affairs, Strategic Neighbourhood and Global Affairs.

## PRES. FESTUS MOGAE ...

(cont. from pg. 23)

During his three days official visit to Lesotho Pres Mogae, among other things, addressed the Lesotho parliament, paid a courtesy call at the Royal Palace in Maseru and the traditional home of the royal family at Matsieng, 42km South of the capital, Maseru. He also toured the Lesotho Highlands Water Project sites Katse Dam and Muela Hydro-electrical Power Station.

Pres Mogae was in Lesotho at the invitation of His Majesty's government after King Letsie III visited Botswana in 2003.

## Aids Kills!

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# Lt Gen Yadava promises More training to the LDF

By Sgt Ntlele Ntoi

**T**he Indian Army delegate, Lieutenant General JBS Yadava says his army intends to help the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) further with more trainings a prerequisite to the looming challenge of regional and international commitments of the LDF.

In a news briefing held at Moshoeshoe I International Airport wrapping up his two-day official visit in Lesotho recently, Lt Gen Yadava said the armed forces of Lesotho and the armed forces of India have very close relationship and there's a very strong relationship between the two countries also.

"I came here to visit and to further give impetus to the friendship between the two armed forces. And also to find out if we can help the LDF in any other manners," said Lt Gen Yadava.

The Indian Army delegate further said he was highly impressed by the quality of training, which the Lesotho defence forces were undergoing. He was also very impressed by the intelligence, sincerity, hard work and commitment of the soldiers of the LDF.

"They have tremendous potential and they can become finest soldiers in this area. Our training team is helping them to become the best force in Southern African region," he argued.

Lt Gen Yadava solemnly promised that the Indian Army is also eager to address all sectors of security and the requirements of the defence forces of Lesotho.

"We want the LDF to get training in the UN peacekeeping



**Comrades in arms: Lt Gen Mosakeng presents a gift to his visiting Indian Army counterpart, Lt Gen Yadava**

operations so the armed forces will be able to operate in a multinational environment. We also want to give them training in such challenges, which the armed forces will be required to undertake.

"But most importantly," he pointed out, "we want to give them training so that they should be capable of participating in development of their own country," he promised.

Lt Gen said he had a very good discussion with the commanders of certain formations within the LDF. He had very extensive briefings, and very extensive discussions with other officers. Moreover, he also had the opportunity of visiting the training institutions including the Makoanyane Military Hospital (MMH).

"And I'm very grateful that I was given audience by the Honourable Chief Minister with whom also I had some discussions as to what

to what further steps we have to take in respect to training programmes in future," Lt Gen Yadava disclosed.

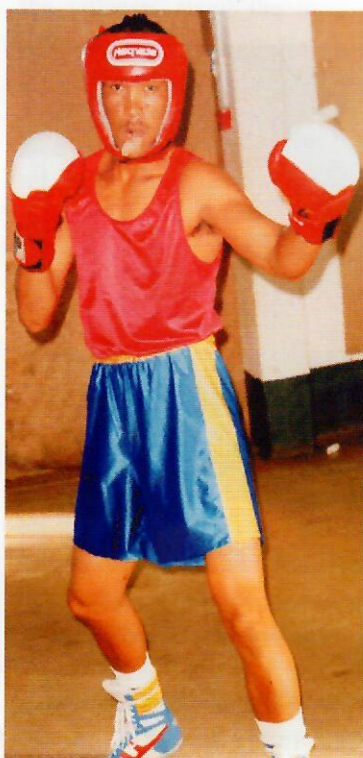
The IATT came to Lesotho in July 2001 to help facilitate professional training programmes in various sections within the LDF. The Indian experts have so far helped form new formations like Special Forces, Combat Engineering, Pipe Band to mention but a few.

Initially, the IATT training programme was scheduled for two years.

However, due to strengthening bilateral relations between Lesotho and India and with a need for further trainings to help the LDF realize its 2028 restructuring 'master plan', the Indian experts will carry on with their much-needed training programmes.

During his two-day official visit to Lesotho Lt General  
(cont. on pg. 49)





**A**fter failing to do it in taekwon-do at the age of 9, Cpl Moses Kopo (26) opted to boxing. Little did he know he would grow up to be one of the eminent rising stars in boxing locally.

Cpl Kopo immersed totally in boxing sport in early 1990s at the Butha-Buthe Boxing Club. He carried on as a junior fighter until in 1996 when he was promoted to seniors the year he joined the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF).

"Thereafter everything changed because here in the army boxing is done as a job under strict

*Left: Cpl Kopo - ready to beat anything in his way into submission*

in the civilian clubs where it is taken just as another form of entertainment.

Since then I have been experiencing that there is more of good things to this form of sport and I will always cherish the moment I spent training with the army club," said Cpl Kopo, the man whom since he became a soldier never lost any bout in the home grounds.

However, Kopo has lost only one fight in the military competitions abroad. That was in Croatia 1999 against a Russian in the International Military Sports Committee (CISM), he said.

Subsequent to that bout his coach WO Liphoto Moeketsi advised him to loose weight so that he may stand a chance of taking on lighter weights competitors, something he unselfishly did.

# KOPO

## *LDF Boxing Club rising Star*

To that WO Moeketsi said: "I have never thought that Kopo would be under anybody's pressure because of his aggressiveness in the ring."

WO Moeketsi disclosed that among the LDF Boxing Club members under his domain, Cpl Kopo is remarkably one of the outstanding players he had ever seen. "Cpl Kopo executes merely what he has been ordered to do, and this is why he is always at the top form," said WO Moeketsi.

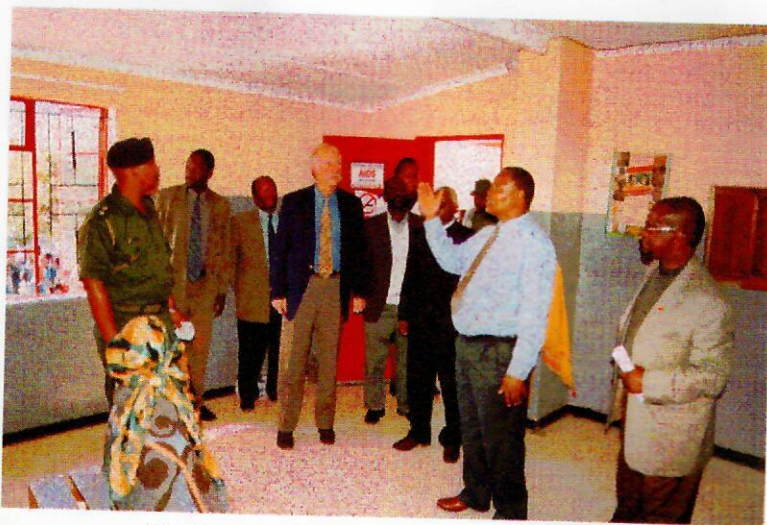
Cpl Kopo as a sports superstar vows that he will strive to maintain his good record and always look forward to take on to higher grounds no matter what in this form of sport he loves best.

Many of his fans are adamant that basing themselves on his good record of winning all the bouts on home grounds, Kopo will soon grow up to become a household name in the world of boxing in the region if not internationally, they say.





# LDF Engineering Coy renovates Mpharane and Litšoeneng health clinics



The donors and other dignitaries being taken on a tour of the refurbished clinic

By PVT Sakeng Lekola

**R**efurbishment complete, the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Engineering Company, known as 'Lithakali' in the circles of their trade, officially handed over the Mpharane (Mohale's Hoek) and Litšoeneng (Mafeteng) Health Centres to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. 'Lithakali' spent eight months refurbishing the two clinics.

During the two phased inauguration ceremony, the then US Ambassador to Lesotho, Mr Robert Loftis disclosed that the US and the Lesotho governments have signed an agreement that in order to close the gap between the army and the community, the LDF should participate in community building projects.

"We give credit to the LDF for their tireless effort to renovate these clinics and the government of Lesotho for giving construction of clinics the first priority.

The construction of the clinics is a sign of joint efforts by our governments, through the LDF and the US army. We promise that we will do more for the LDF as the reward to good is more reward," Mr Loftis said.

At the same occasion, the LDF Chief of Staff, Major General Sam Makoro said that the LDF has a relationship with the US Army and, among others, the latter has promised to assist in the accomplishment of its secondary roles through the maintenance of peace and stability in the country.

"Their donations have eased our challenges and are able to easily continue with our work. This has also improved civil military relations," Maj Gen Makoro disclosed.

The Chief of Staff also recalled the recent grant of apparatus for testing HIV/AIDS as well as audio/visual equipment to the Makoanyane Military Hospital (MMH).

The Minister of Health

and Social Welfare, Dr Motloheloa Phooko hailed the joint effort of the LDF, the US government through its army that saw the realization of this noble act.

"The US government has committed itself to assist us construct as many as possible clinics in our country.

We also express our gratitude to the US Army for making it possible for the LDF to make this programme a success," Dr Phooko said, adding that this has also helped the LDF penetrate the community and urged that this be translated into security as its presence in the areas meant safety.

The Minister recalled government's mission to extend health care services to remote communities, emphasis put on primary health care strategies that government has adopted. "It was through these strategies that the health services were expanded to the remote parts of the country.

Disease control and prevention expanded to most parts of the country, and we are beginning to reap the fruits of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) declaration of war against disease," disclosed the Minister.

He, however, remarked on the escalating health problem in our times, citing the declining immunization of children and other health practices as major causes of disease escalation.

The Minister urged residents of both areas, Mpharane and Litšoeneng, to protect the renovated clinics as their own, and further appealed for their good and beneficial use.

(cont. next page)



## ...LDF Engineering

(cont. from previous page)

Local Chiefs, Chief Mopeli Mohale and Ranko Letšosa echoed similar sentiments that they were grateful to the LDF Ministry of Health for heeding their proposal to renovate their clinics.

However, Chief Mohale complained of water supply shortages to their clinic and requested the Ministry to come to their rescue.

The nurses of the two clinics Sister Thato Masiloane and Adelinah Ramaipato said before the clinics were renovated attending to patients was a bit difficult due to lack of electricity, running water and standardized toilets.

"We used to use candles at night as there was no electricity which actually caused a major hindrance to our duty. We thank everybody who made these renovations a success," they gladly said.

They, however, complained about the shortage of staff and buildings as their clinics serve many villages respectively. To that, Minister Phooko promised them that his ministry will see to it that problem is addressed.

Speaking on behalf of the Litšoeneng community, Mrs 'Malitšoanelo Mohloki said: "Though our clinic has limited resources, I know it as one of the best in attending to expectant mothers. I was once treated here. With these new developments, we all hope it will do even much better."

Mrs Mohloki went on to urge the government to introduce ambulances to rush patients to hospitals as there is none at the moment. She also pointed the importance of having doctors as currently they only have nurses.

Despite the shortage of medicines at Mpharane clinic Mr Tsebang Phera of the same area expressed his satisfaction about the services he receives from the clinic.

The nurses also took an opportunity during public gathering to spread the word about HIV/AIDS awareness in delivering HIV/AIDS awareness placards and distributing condoms.

They said they also hold workshops to combat the pandemic even though this appears to have limited impact.

In the eight months that the Engineering Coy was working in the two areas, the overhauling of the clinics included:

the erection of security fences, building, tiling, carpeting and putting up ceilings; replacement of corrugated roofing, installation of solar panels, heaters and water tanks as well as electrifying the buildings.



Capt Moholoholo Moholoholo (then Lt) leads the then US Ambassador on a guided tour of the renovated Mpharane clinic

**LDF**  
Walking in  
the footsteps of  
the Great  
Mosotho  
Warrior who  
laid down his  
life for the  
betterment of  
the Basotho.

**Mohale oa  
Makoa  
(Makoanyane)**



# Sgt Limo VS the roughnecks

(ctd. from pg. 33)

medium sized jerry can. *The Big T* instantly knew that he was up to something. His instincts never failed him.

"Hey, guys look, there goes 'foodie'. I bet my life he is up to something. But no matter what it is, guys, we must nip it in the bud. Put him under surveillance!" Lcpl Thiba-khoali ordered them.

The two "roughnecks" tailed their suspect around the camp like a shadow. Eventually, Limo, unsuspecting, went into the mess and had his container filled up with cooking oil.

Once again, Lcpl Thiba-khoali's nimble tactical mind when it comes to taking punitive measures against the likes of Limo was put to ultimate challenge. Would he be able to make up snap decision to counter Limo this time around?

"Now I leave it up to you to decide his fate, guys, OK?" the intelligence officer urged his informants. They wouldn't let him down; he knew that for sure.

"You have no reason to doubt us, *The Big T*. Just leave him to us. We'll sort him out at the opportune time," they said in unison. "So long, *The Big T*!" they waved Lcpl Thiba-khoali goodbye and climbed into the troop carrier. The intelligence officer was not accompanying them. He had orders from his desk officer to stay put until further notice.

In no time, a convoy of six troop carriers escorted by two Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) rolled out of the camp. Sgt Limo was taking his seat in the cab. All the roughnecks were at the

new arrivals.

"Ha! Who cares?" Limo said to the driver, and laughed uproariously. "With these women, it's all systems go all year round, I tell you, my friend. 'A soldier is relieved from duty by another,' they say. This is Q-Nek!"

As the truck loads of troops, one after another, joined the traffic on the Main South 1, Sgt Limo waved 'Mantoa goodbye: "Bye-bye, babe! See you next year."



Their first stopover was at Mt Moorosi, 135km from their destination, Maseru.

"In no time we will be disembarking at Makoanyane Barracks. What do you think we should do with this fuckin' cooking oil of Dick? We can't break this container; the oil will stain our luggage. Think, DJ! Think! I don't know you to be such a slow thinker, you roughneck!" X urged him cautiously.

"Patience, please, we still have time. You have no reason to doubt me, you roughneck!" DJ replied curtly in his usual manner,

than vengeance, that one he was sure of. But as excitement mounted he was keen to know exactly what his fellow comrade was up to.

They had, however, learned from the wise man, Lcpl Thiba-khoali, whom they revered so much, that it was unethical to let down one's intelligence officer. What would they do? Let's find out.

Lady luck smiled at them when the leading APC got a front tyre puncture at Ha Toloane, a village near Morija, 30km from Maseru.

"Yes, this is the opportune time to show Dick that they do not call us roughnecks for nothing. Show time X!" DJ whispered, tucking the container of cooking oil under his rain cape and the two melted into the village.

In no time, they found a sheeben. DJ ordered a pint of home brewed beer, and gulped it down greedily. When a gaggle of drunkards that thronged the sheeben expected the military man to order the next round, DJ asked the old barmaid, Ma-Cindy, out.

"Come on babe, would you please exchange us this ten litre cooking oil for beer. We're your customers, you know. Next time we'll make ends meet, babe!" DJ pleaded with the old lady.

"Ha! What a bargain? You must be joking, young man!" exclaimed Ma-Cindy, pleasantly amused.

"Hurry up, babe. It's a deal. We're running out of time. Empty this fuckin' oil somewhere and fill up the container with beer, babe. Hey, don't even bother wash it, babe. We're the roughnecks, you know, we don't care. Hurry up! Hurry up,

(Cont. Next pg)



# Limo...

babe!" DJ said, urging on old Ma-Cindy with a gentle stroke on the buttocks.

In fifteen minutes or so the convoy hit the road again. They arrived at Makoanyane Barracks soon before dusk. Sgt Limo hastily got his "bag of delicacies". He struggled to put it on his shoulder, clutched a ten-litre 'cooking oil' container and hurried home a proud man.

When he neared his home, three of his kids saw him. The elder one outstripped the younger ones as they ran to help their father with the luggage but none of them could be of help. They were too little to bear that weight. Nonetheless, they couldn't wait to celebrate as they thought of what their father had in store for them. They jostled and danced merrily beside him all the way into their home.

Limo trudged in and threw his backbreaking load down. He was so excited, no wonder, why he couldn't mind why it fell with such a dull thud. After hugs and kisses, Limo asked Palesa to untie the bag and help themselves as they please while he went out to fetch part of the luggage he had left behind.

A few minutes thereafter, Oh! Oh! Palesa couldn't believe her eyes when she found out that the bag was full of wood and coal.

"Wood! Coal indeed! This is absurd! No! This can't be true!" she said in utter dismay. "What does Limo think this legion of children will have for supper? Or is this a joke? But he knows very well that I don't like silly jokes. Maybe he has forgotten who I am?" she fumed, with arms akimbo.

Poor Palesa sent one of her kids to the canteen to go and

buy half dozen eggs the staple she had hoped she wouldn't be preparing for supper that evening.

"At least today we'll have some fried eggs instead," she said trying her level best to console her children who by then were clinging onto her putting on long faces.

She took a frying pan and opened the "cooking oil" container Limo had brought with him. As soon as she lifted the cap, the beer went: "Pzzzz!" discharging a terrible smell of matured well-fermented home brew that filled the house.

For goodness' sake! It could have been far better for Limo should he had not been home at that awful moment.

"For Heavens sake! What a hell is this, you idiot?" Palesa snapped, dousing Limo with beer on the face. Limo, "a man whose eyes are bigger than his stomach", stood motionless

in panic, droplets of home brewed beer trickling down his gloomy face. "Why darling? Is this how you welcome me home?" he enquired, a lump in his throat.

"What do you think? What do you make of this?" Palesa snapped. "Is this what you expect me to feed this legion of children, you idiot?" she said, beating him up with a frying pan. And subsequently: "I've had enough of you. It's up to you what you'll feed them. I'm out of your life!" she swore.

A day of reckoning had dawned. The children were crying. Palesa came out of the bedroom with a bag of clothing flung over her shoulder. Shoving her way through the children, she left the house in fury. Sgt Limo had never been so disappointed. The news spread like wildfire in the barracks, and the roughnecks were glad that, at long last, Dick has had his day.

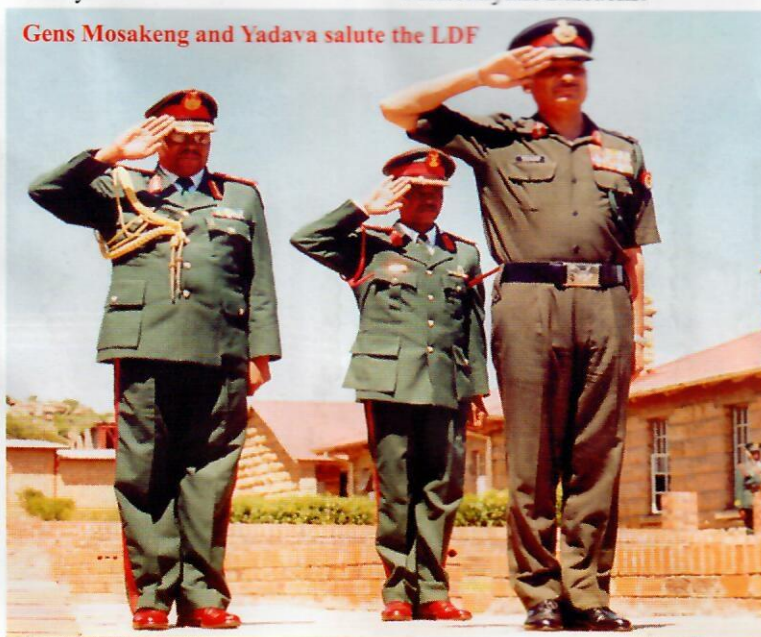
## Lt Gen Yadava...

(cont. from pg. 43)

Yadava held talks with the Prime Minister, Hon Pakalitha Mosisili at Qhobosheaneng, Maseru and paid a courtesy call

to the LDF Commander at Ratjomose Barracks. He also toured the multi-million maloti highlands water venture sites at Katse and Mohale Dam, and visited LDF sections based at the Makoanyane Barracks.

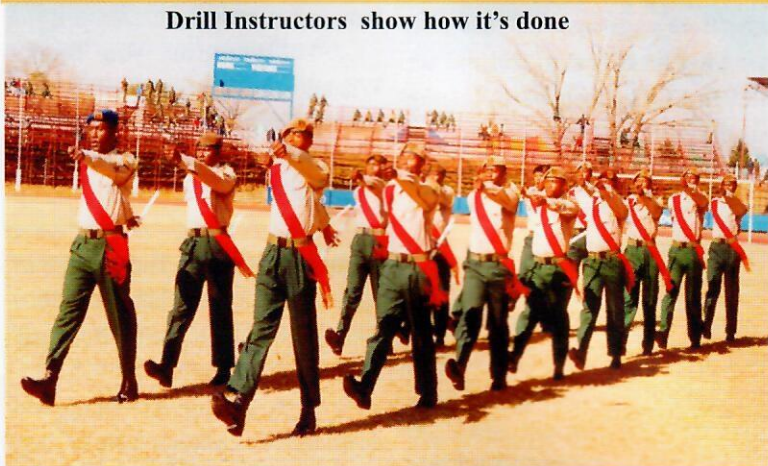
Gens Mosakeng and Yadava salute the LDF



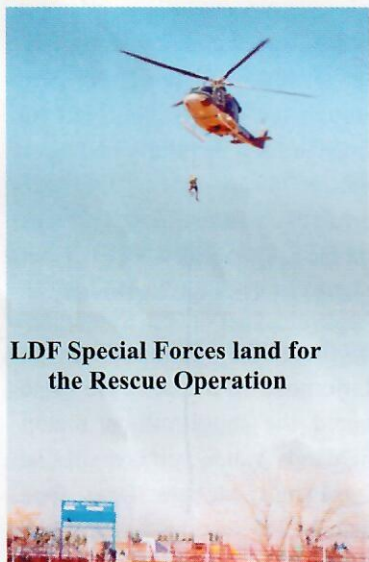


# Army Day Picture Special

Drill Instructors show how it's done



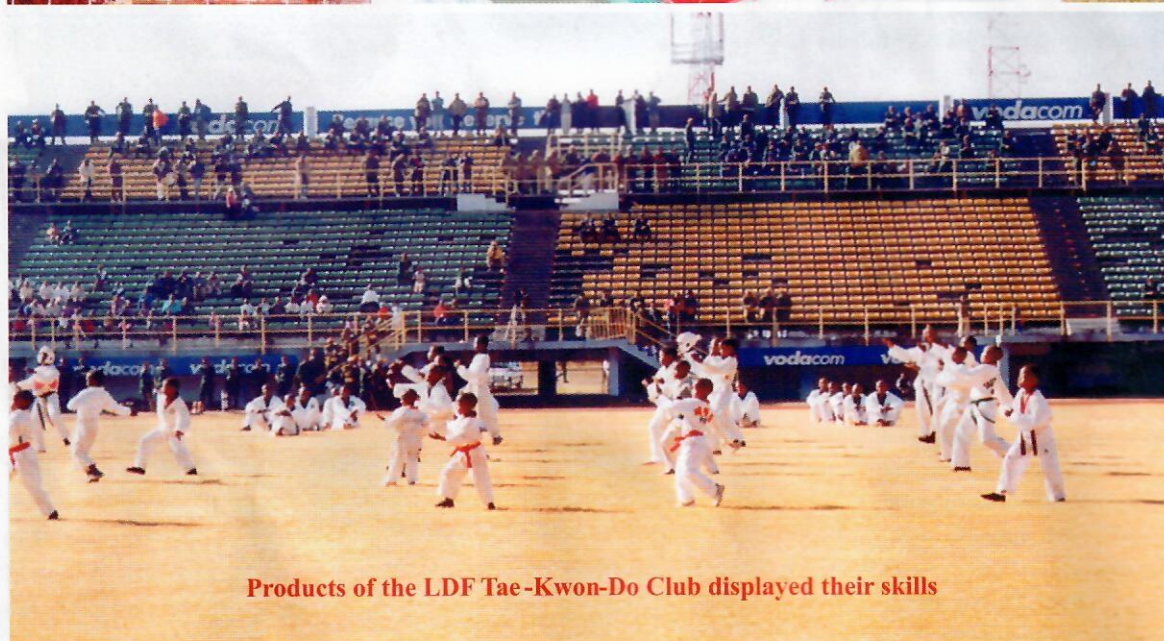
▲ The Minister of Defence appealed to the soldiers to make learning a priority



LDF Special Forces land for the Rescue Operation



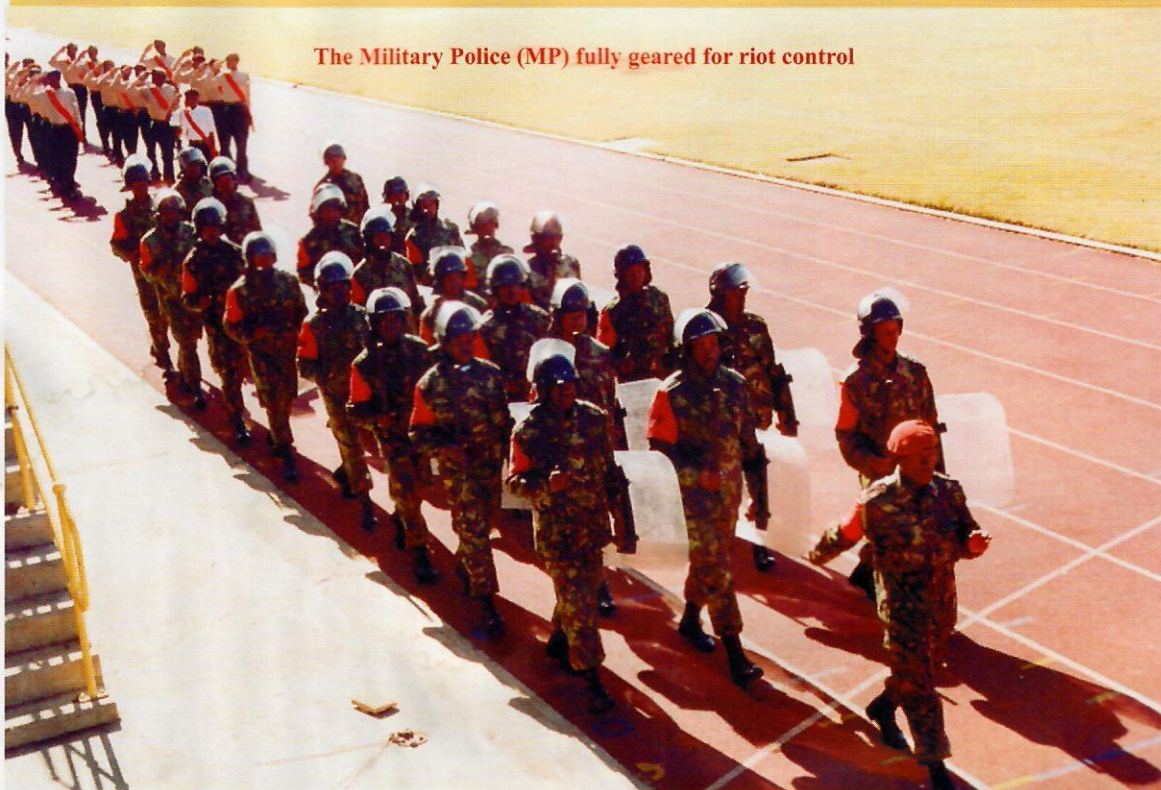
The Makhanyane Military Hospital provided FREE tests for diabetics



Products of the LDF Tae-Kwon-Do Club displayed their skills



# Army Day Picture Special



The Military Police (MP) fully geared for riot control



The Prime Minister inspects the Parade



▲ The LDF Special Forces going through their paces in a simulated Rescue Operation Exercise

Prime Minister Mosisili and the LDF Command watched proceedings attentively  
◀



WARRA

