



MARA

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RELATIONS BOLSTERED ON ARMY DAY

**Lesotho sends military
observers to Sudan**

**Winds of change
breeze over the LDF**

Man's inhumanity to Man
the need for peacekeeping

MARA

Beauties Inside

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MARA

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Cover-page picture: PVT Moeketsi Jomane was part of the Lesotho Contingent that took part in the Botswana-hosted "Exercise Thokgamo" at which the armymen garnered immeasurable experience in peacekeeping.

COMMENT



2Lt
Matheanzima
Taneso

LDF responds to global challenges

The Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) journey of taking part and responding to global challenges has been long, the initial steps date back to 1964 when its predecessor - the Police Mobile Unit - was formed. The institution went through various stages of development and experiences. Now that we find ourselves in the forefront of global military obligations it is worthwhile that we look back and ask ourselves...what have we achieved?

The LDF is presently on the verge on finalising the building of its First Light Infantry Brigade, especially in terms of personnel. This development and an increase in strength puts us at a point where the LDF will be able to further intensify its role of security provision inside the country and meeting military obligations abroad.

With the current strength allowing, numerous challenges lie ahead and the LDF is making strides to fulfil them.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), in conforming with international standards and setting a common working ethic for its member-states, has called on its members to make the enlistment of women soldiers in individual armies a priority. The LDF has followed suite, and a women operational Company - C13 - has been established, and women have been placed in command ranks.

This move has also been necessitated by the fact that in the LDF's involvement in regional exercises and operations, starting with the Zimbabwean "Blue Hungwe" in 1997 to the Botswana-hosted "Thokgamo" in 2005 it became evident that we need the involvement of women in combined operations.

Women are further being given priority in ongoing enlistments in the LDF to advance this call by the SADC, as well as to allow the LDF to function properly in international operations.

On its commitment towards continental and regional peacekeeping efforts the LDF has deployed a second five-man batch of military observers - on a

year long duration - in the strife-torn Sudanese region of Darfur on the invitation of the AU. The first deployment was in July 2005 and with the dispatch of the second team the LDF has actually embraced and is hands-on in peacekeeping missions.

Lesotho, as co-founding member of the Peace and Security Council of the AU was represented by a Colonel at the Military Staff Committee in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from October 2004 to March 2006. Likewise, as a member of the SADC Brigade Lesotho was also represented by another Colonel at the SADC Interim Planning Element in Gaborone, Botswana, in 2005. There is currently another Colonel who is representing the country in the Brigade's Permanent Planning Element and his tenure in that position will end in December 2007.

It is evident, therefore, that the LDF's role as an army is not confined to responsibilities within the country, but beyond our borders. The contribution of all Basotho, the parents who allowed their children to enlist with the LDF and be moulded and nurtured into manhood through military life, should be acknowledged.

Apology!

The Editorial wishes to sincerely apologise to our readers, advertisers, subscribers, the business community and members of the defence force for the disappearance of our magazine from circulation.

MARA went through a phase of intense technical difficulties which stretched beyond our expectation.

We are back again and appeal for your usual support, which has helped us grow from strength to strength through the years.

MARA *beauties*



The bespectacled **Liemiso Mpota** (left) is a newscaster at Ultimate FM and enjoys swimming while the African beauty next to her, **Makena Setho**, is a continuity presenter at Lesotho Television and also a newscaster at Ultimate FM.



Serialong Possa hails from Litaung Ha-Lesiamo, Leribe, and enjoys swimming and reading to relax.



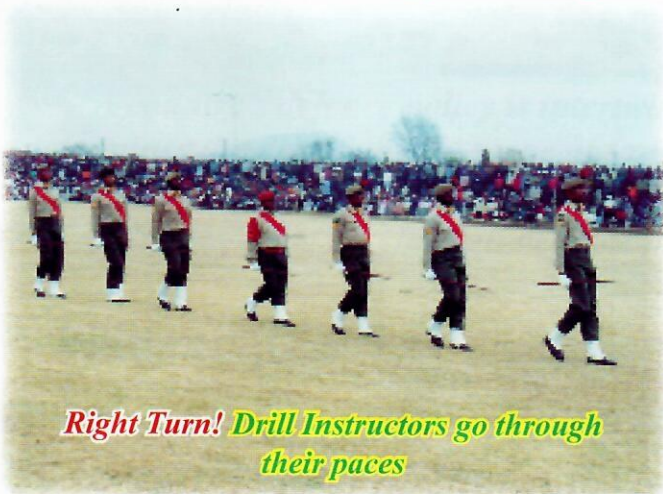
MATSELIISO LEROTHOLI

This 21 year old Coops-College graduate loves reading, movies and swimming. She stays at Khubetsoana, Maseru.

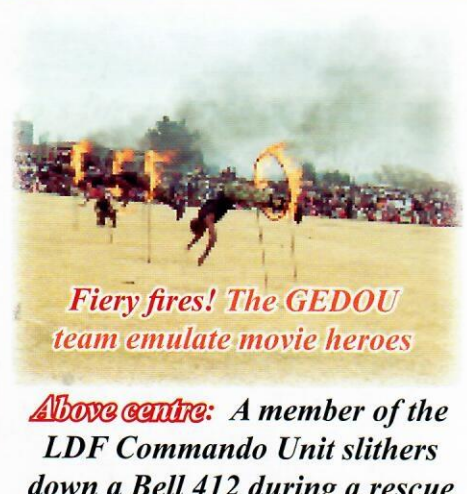
...for the feature of your picture in the next issue, send your photographs to:

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Army Day Picture Special



Right Turn! Drill Instructors go through their paces

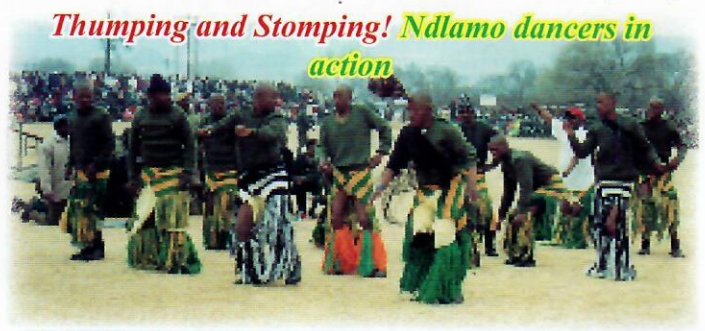


Fiery fires! The GEDOU team emulate movie heroes

Above centre: A member of the LDF Commando Unit slithers down a Bell 412 during a rescue operation demo. on Army Day



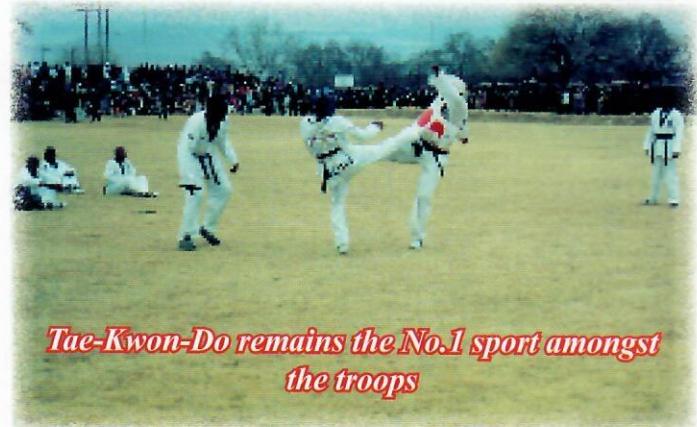
In full force! The tamed version of Litolobonya was also displayed by the LDF female soldiers



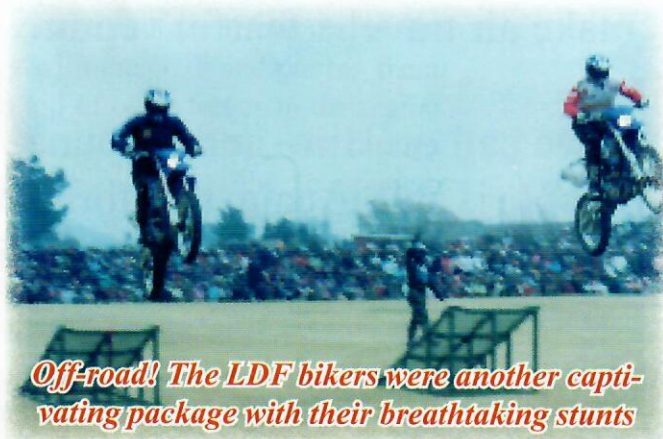
Thumping and Stomping! Ndlamo dancers in action



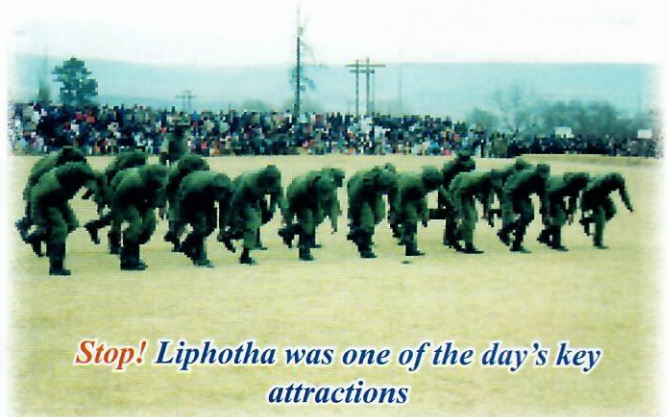
Back on track! The new-look LDF Mokhibo Group was a marvel to watch



Tae-Kwon-Do remains the No.1 sport amongst the troops



Off-road! The LDF bikers were another captivating package with their breathtaking stunts



Stop! Liphotha was one of the day's key attractions

Chaplaincy



2Lt
Taoana Gilbert
Ratšele

Jesus The Prince of Peace

“Master, carest thou not that we perish.....Peace, be still.”

The disciples of Jesus Christ were once crossing the lake of Gennesaret in a boat, they were in the company of our Lord Jesus Christ. Suddenly a fierce tempest burst upon the lake and dashed fiercely on the boat and threatened to sink it.

troubles sweep over us, we battle alone forgetting the Prince of Peace. We trust our strength and wisdom. In order to enjoy peace in our lives, our families, in the nation and the world, we must first make peace with Jesus Christ.

These were fishermen who had spent their lives in this lake and had guided their boats in time past through storm, however, this time their strength and skill could not avail. They felt helpless and hopeless as the boat appeared to be sinking and death was staring them in the face. The Prince of Peace calmed the storm.

Lastly, sin has destroyed peace. Our world is characterised by lingering crisis of fires of greed passion and hate. Today rebellion and lawlessness are present in a large scale. In big cities there is rape, robbery, killing and international terrorism that has assumed outrageous proportions and make air travel a fearful venture.

But very often our experience in life is akin to that of the disciples. When the tempest of total temptations and

If we call on Him and renounce our sins He is able to calm the storm in the world. Peace can be enjoyed again.

AMEN!

External Relations – Paving Way Towards Professionalism

A country's defence policy is intertwined with such country's foreign policy as it determines the direction and scope of forged foreign relationships. The Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), following a similar trend, reaps fruitful results from its relationship with other foreign defence forces around the world.

In a bid to transform itself into a professionally recognised army that can hold its footing among international counterparts, the LDF has forged working relationships with many international partners. **Cpl Sakeng Lekola** spoke to the Commander LDF Lieutenant General Thuso motanyane.

Africa

The Commander explained that in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) LDF has established working relationships and training exchange with the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), the Zimbabwe National Defence Force (ZNDF), the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) as well as the Zambian Defence Force (ZDF) among others.

“Sharing a similar anthropological root, culture and a similar language with the Batswana, working with the BDF and putting them on top of other forces in the region in terms of working relationships became natural,” he continued.

Said the Commander: “We have held several joint exercises with the BDF recently, the BDF and our drivers took part in an LDF-hosted Mountain Driving Course that saw the drivers battle the gru-



Sharing Ideas: The Deputy Provost Marshal Major Motheolane Mafoea (Right) interacts with Indian Army officers - such interaction bolsters relations between the LDF and other armies, and draws it towards full professionalism

“To have a strong command, officers should get good training.”

elling and rugged Maluti mountains. We also had the opportunity to take our drivers on a course in the Botswana swamps and deserts.”

The BDF has also offered a helping hand in training the LDF paratroopers, a move that greatly helped the LDF which due to lack of resources is often times faced with problems in training.

Lt Gen Motanyane pointed out that the BDF offers Cadet Courses, of which several

(Ctd. on pg. 11)

Lt Gen Motanyane – Two years on at the helm of power

His accession to the office of the Commander Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) heralded a new era of great many changes in the defence force, however; approximately two years on challenges still linger, writes 2Lt Ntlele Ntoi.

In October 2004, a decade long reign, punctuated by turbulent social upheavals, of the then Commander Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), Lieutenant General Makhula Mosakeng drew to a close. Gen Mosakeng formally handed over the army flag to the then LDF Deputy Commander, Major General Thuso Motanyane – a symbolic gesture many hailed as the first ever smooth command change in the history of the defence force.

The euphoria, though, was short-lived as the auspicious ceremony coincided with a spate of coordinated criminal activities. The armoury at Makoanyane Barracks was broken into, and a handful of arms stolen. At the same time there were reports of rampant theft at the LDF stores where field communication radio sets and substantial stocks of dry rations went missing.

Days went by before the long awaited announcement of Gen Mosakeng's successor could be made. Meantime ominous silence set in triggering subversive speculations. For many in the defence force, the waiting was unbearable; however, at long last the Defence Council met and unanimously appointed Maj Gen Motanyane a new Commander LDF, and subsequently elevating him to the rank of Lt Gen.

Despite the catalogue of



Towards a better future: Lt Gen Motanyane has made it his priority to work for and ensure the well being of his troops as well as to elevate and nurture the improving level of the army's professionalism, discipline and self-reliance

criminal activities that marred the command change era, by and large, it soon became clear that Lt Gen Motanyane came in at the height of sweeping reforms in the defence force.

To start with, Gen Motanyane was forthrightly

confronted by a mammoth task of implementing the amended version of the LDF Act of 1996; Section 36 which warrants that soldiers (in reference to those in the ranks of Privates to Warrant Officers) would attain their retirement at

(Ctd. on pg. 16)

LDF Conservation Platoon greens the country

By PVT Mahanyane Phusumane

Following government's appeal to preserve what remains of the natural beauty, animal and plant life of our country, the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) established a Conservation Platoon and committed it to greening the country through tree planting, soil and water conservation.

The supervisor of the platoon, Warrant Officer II (WOII) Mojela Hlajoane explained that his platoon has been tasked with planting trees and grass as well as innovative environmentally friendly projects within the LDF bases, as well as other erosion prone places outside the LDF boundaries. A task that he said they are doing the utmost to meet due to shortage and lack of skills in their personnel.

"To date we have planted about 3 000 trees at Ratjomose Barracks, 9 000 at Makoanyane



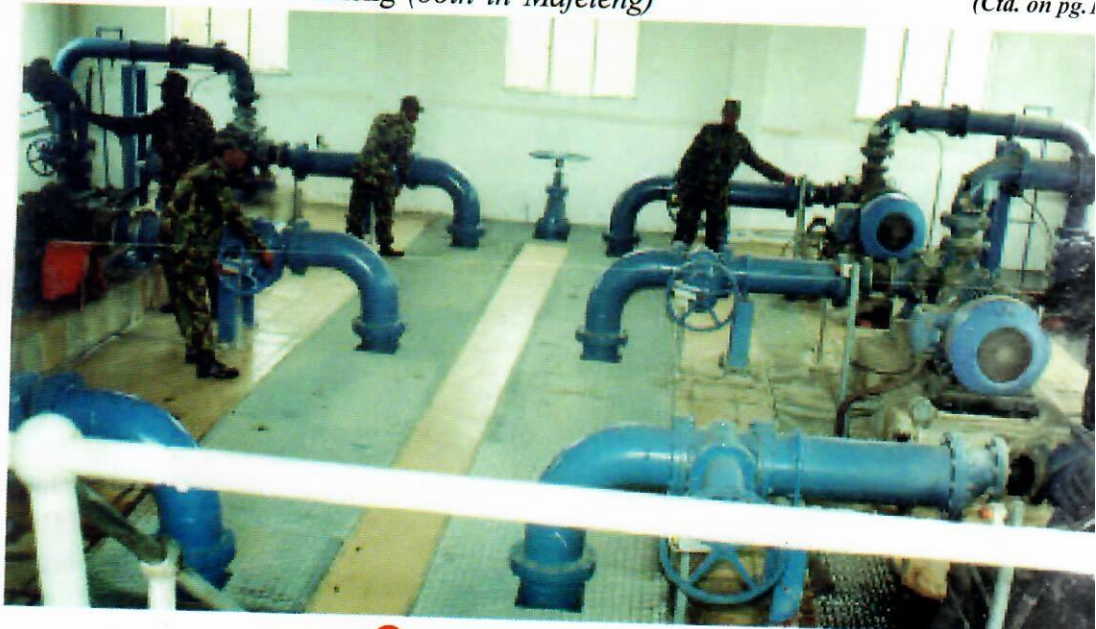
Ready for action: The LDF Engineering Company members roll up their sleeves in the resolve to green the country - and are further engaged in developmental projects

Barracks and an other 2 000 at the newly opened Mohale Base. We have also planted many trees outside our bases in the areas of Likhoele and Malumeng (both in Mafeteng)

and Liphiring (Mohale's ho among others," explained WO Hlajoane adding that those plan outside LDF bases were done

(Ctd. on pg. 1)

Multi Skilled:
Apart their physical tree-planting activities, the Engineering Coy members have trained in water treatment and putification



...Conservation.

(Ctd. from pg. 9)

conjunction with the communities of those places.

To augment the message of the importance trees and vegetation have in human life to the LDF personnel, WO II Hlajoane said seminars are being held and a number are in the pipeline, "we also facilitate intra-company information exchange."

"In these seminars we encourage the soldiers to plant trees wherever they are," he added.

As a follow-up, after tree plantations they pay frequent visits to check if they are still in good condition. Those that have not survived are replaced, and during dry spells frequent watering becomes a necessity.

WO II Hlajoane said soldiers should be leaders in developmental issues such as this one, the community would simply follow trend subsequently.

"We have begun a programme of sharing the trees we acquire with the community," disclosed the WO giving an example that if they are given 2 000 trees to plant they give half to the community in a bid to increase their involvement in our projects.

Even though the platoon has been established, WO Hlajoane said there is a great need for skilled personnel in this field, recalling that presently they have a little number of qualified soil and water conservationists.

He said more training from qualified people can impact positively on the little knowledge and skills they have, both for the development of the country and the enhancement of the LDF's image.



Getting the basics: *The Engineering Coy get down to serious academic training and experimental work in a laboratory - a prerequisite to modern farming.*

Private (PVT) Montšeng Mahao – an agricultural enthusiast and a former member of the LDF conservationists' platoon echoed similar sentiments expressed by WO Hlajoane on the need for the issue of skilled personnel.

PVT Mahao said: "A little number of us possess skills pertaining to this field, and appeal that we be given a chance to go to academic schools to improve our skills in the related fields."

As conservation covers various aspects, PVT Mahao said that the platoon should not only base itself in planting trees as it may perform other duties such as planting grass and building walls and land reclamation.

"When talking of this platoon soldiers always think of only tree planting while our work extends to as far as conserving shrubs, range management and the general vegetation," she explained.

Mr Neo Mothokho, an officer at the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation disclosed that the LDF conservation platoon was trained by his ministry free of charge, further explaining the training modules also included skills in building dams, water catchments tanks and terraces along ploughing fields.

"All these skills were imparted to them so that they identify with society and are expected to use those skills upon retirement. We are also expecting them to impart the knowledge to others," explained Mr Mothokho adding that the LDF greening project is a success as trees planted by soldiers have grown successfully and the tanks and dams they made have helped communities a lot.

He went on to explain that to soldiers in particular trees and shrubbery may even be more useful during combat, as a mode of concealment. "Need may arise

(Ctd. on pg. 20)

**PLANT A TREE
AND ENSURE
A HEALTHIER
FUTURE FOR
OUR CHILDREN**

External Relations...

(Ctd. from pg. 7)

LDF personnel have attended. "To have a strong Command, officers should get good training," the Commander explained.

The SANDF also plays a pivotal role in helping LDF meet professional standards. It offers LDF slots for technical training, the LDF pilots and aircraft technicians have also benefitted from training in South Africa.

The Zambian and Zimbabwean armies also offer Senior and Junior Staff courses for LDF respectively.

Other countries which assist the LDF in its move to professionalism are Nigeria and Lybia. Nigeria has offered LDF slots for Senior Staff and others since 2000 according to the Commander. The Commander said that it is through these courses that the LDF is able to leave an indelitable mark among its counterparts and to show that it is capable of performing military duties professionally.

Lt Gen Motanyane explained that Lybia has promised to offer training and courses to the LDF personnel, adding, "this will not be the first time as some LDF personnel once underwent training in Aircraft Traffic Control in Lybia".

Europe

Lt Gen Motanyane says since the times of Police Mobile Unit (PMU), the United Kingdom (UK)

(Ctd. on pg. 45)



The LDF Command pose for a photo with the visiting South African Air Force Chief, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano (seated centre), and his entourage - SAAF offers training slots to the LDF pilots



The Botswana Defence Force Commander Lt Gen Fisher (left) on his visit to Lesotho - the BDF exchanges military training with the LDF



A US Army delegation called on the LDF Commander - discussions included areas of cooperation between the two armies

Man's inhumanity to Man

the need for peacekeeping

*Grace Mulemba has come a long way since she left her beloved Zaire, miraculously finding her way in the landmine infested forests of her mineral-rich land. Foraging for anything that could keep hunger and her scorching thirst at bay, Grace braved the numerous rampaging militias and the unpleasant memories of her butchered family and friends. Walking for almost half of Africa to the southern tip, her journey to peace and freedom and her quest for peace of mind ended up in Lesotho. Many years later she still has not healed and as **Khatebe Molefi** found out, bemoans those left behind.*

Having crossed paths with her on numerous occasions, greeted her like any other local woman swathed in a depleted checkered shawl around the waist as has become a fashion statement for the local woman-folk, I had never even been slightly suspicious that she originated from deep in Africa.

Her accent, though not one of the best, has never betrayed her. And she could pass for a resident of Quthing or its surroundings in the manner that she pronounces some words of the local vernacular.

Donning the now fashionable "Seshoeshoe" outfit, full and voluptuous as she elegantly parades to the nearby village taxi-stop to go to town, her ever bleeding scars of what was her home before she fled what she calls her "beloved Zaire" are unbelievably concealed, and she just lives and goes through the motions - daily praying for her Africa to heal.

We have this discussion at a time when the lives of multitudes of Zimbabwean nationals are in havoc over government sanctioned forced removals - refugees in their own land; when people in Sudan struggle with the devastation caused by

unrest and perpetual ethnic splits - refugees in their own land too.

I try to worm my way into her confidence, and careful too not to arouse any suspicion on her part as I had indicated to my contact with her that all I wanted was a friendly chat. A platform from which I would discern how an exile survives in a foreign land, with sour memories of hardships endured and the pain suffered.

Grace must have been wondering too why she was at this particular drinking joint, talking to a man she could hardly say she knew, and sharing with him some of her issues that she would rather forget. "Some things are better left unsaid," she would interject sporadically as we continued.

"I have been living here for a period that it feels like home, though far away from home. I could not say even a single word in Sesotho when I got here, but now I can converse for hours without even a single person noticing my unusual accent," she said as we eventually struck a cord and our chat became friendlier.

She giggles coyly when I address her with her adopted Sesotho name and asks how much I know about her and her background. I



The LDF has excelled in peacekeeping exercises and is raring to stretch its wings to help the distressed African continent.

(Ctd. on pg. 47)

Military Police

custodians of discipline

Naturally man pines for perpetual freedom, boundless movement and incessant joy. Within a military establishment, however, these extremes are curtailed to enable an oiled movement of any army's Military Police.

By PVT Hlaoli Moeletsi

The Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) Military Police Office (MP) was established in 1967 during the Police Mobile Unit (PMU) command. The Unit's initial strength was four (4) Sergeants and a warrant Officer, the office was then known as Provost Sergeants.

In 1970 the Provost Sergeants' office was changed to Military Police Service (MPS), and

(Ctd. on pg. 18)

"...We still have a lot of ground to cover to eventually operate as a well oiled machine..."



RELATIONS BOLSTERED ON ARMY DAY

Like in the remaking of a memorable movie, emotions were roused during the action-packed 4th commemoration of Army Day at the Mejametalana Airwing; in slow progression, the interaction of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) army-men and the scores of Basotho who shared in the day's joy resonated of the envisaged prosperous relations between the army and the civilian populace.

By 2Lt Mashili Mashili

Speaking at the 4th Commemoration of Army Day and noting the prominence of bolstered civil/military relations within the larger LDF programme, the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Lesao Archibald Lehohla, says the prosperity of the nation is reliant on the success of the LDF, and that the army's failure to succeed means an end to the very nation.

"We are definite that our army is under control. We are proud that the army is the role model of the nation as evidenced by the public's positive attendance in the LDF activities such as today's."

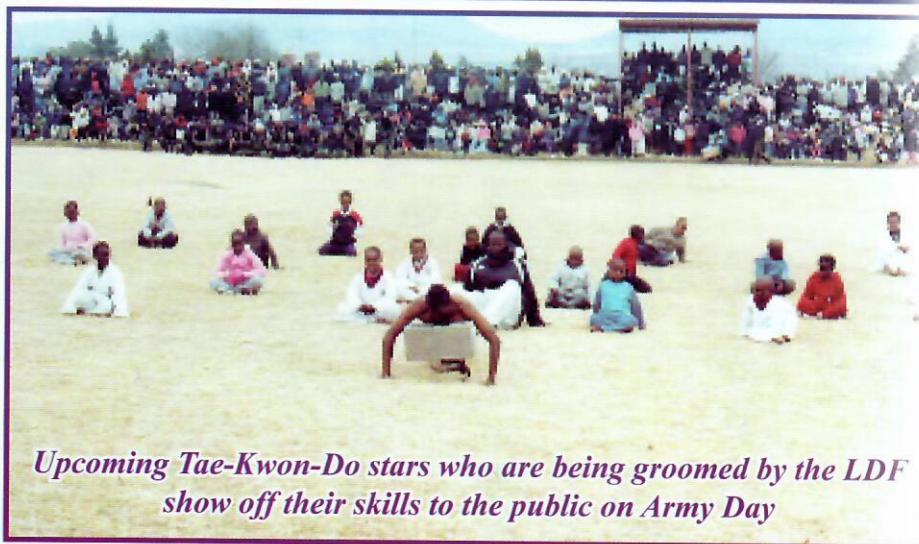
Deputy Prime Minister Lehohla further expressed government's appreciation of the current state of the defence force which he said is capable of maintaining peace standards and implementing the general vision of government.

These sentiment received confirmation from the gathered public as ululations, cheers and whistles of jubilation echoed throughout the Mejametalana Airwing. The people who braved the chilly weather bore testimony that indeed this was their army, the men and women who were parading their talent in front of them were their own.

The day's attractions included breathtaking paratroopers' mili-



The elite Commando Unit demonstrates a rescue operation - here they are being evacuated to reorganise



Upcoming Tae-Kwon-Do stars who are being groomed by the LDF show off their skills to the public on Army Day

tary jumps, bike stunts and traditional dances. Throughout all these performances the crowd seemed to be thrilled more by gedou - the newly introduced form of martial arts imported from the People's Re-

public of China.

Many held their breath as the athletic soldiers somersaulted through raging flames.

In his welcome remarks

(Ctd. next pg.)

RELATIONS BOLSTERED

(Ctd. from previous pg.)

Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Motanyane highlighted the LDF's participation in the international peacekeeping operations, adding that the LDF has also successfully helped bring about a lull in acts endangering security on the home front.

The Commander pointed out that significant progress to curb cross-border crimes along the common border with the neighbouring South Africa has been made.

He further denoted with pride how the LDF women C-Company, of 13 Battalion (C13Bn), managed to repossess 190 herds of cattle from



cattle rustlers. He said that this notable achievement was accomplished during the Company's tour of duty along the Lesotho-South Africa border at Oxbow and Mokhotlong.

Says Lt Gen Motanyane: "The C-Company also managed to stage choral music concerts, the proceeds of which were used to buy clothing that was donated to the local orphanage, Touching Tiny Life Charity. Furthermore, the Company also extended a helping hand to the Mokhotlong Committee for People Living with HIV/AIDS. Together they erected a monument at the Mangaung village in Mokhotlong."

This noble initiative was also applauded by the Deputy Prime Minister who appreciated the goodwill gesture demonstrated by the C13Bn, but also by the entire defence community in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The gathered crowd put their hands together for the C13Bn when they learned that besides their mandated military duties, out of compassion, the company also went out of their way to help the needy.

The Commander observed with admiration the role of the defence force in political socialization through sports and cultural spirit. "During last year's celebration the LDF expressed showed zeal in reviving national cultural spirit and instilling the love for sports amongst the youth. This is a measure to be taken to help keep away our youngsters from the bad influence of drugs and alcohol," the Commander added.

Lt Gen Motanyane also noted the assistance of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) which helped re-establish the LDF Paratroopers Company and much needed equipment in that instance.



Lt Gen Motanyane: "All the training team equipment seen here today, together with the professional standard displayed has been made possible by the noble grace of our BDF colleagues. It is in this regard, therefore, that I wish to give a special vote of thanks to the Commander BDF in particular whose generous assistance makes us proud today for this special parachute unit. It is indeed a positive development, without which it would have not been easy to have the paratroopers demonstrating for us today."

...at the helm.

(Ctd. from pg. 8)

the age of 45 – no longer at 55 as stipulated in their contracts when they were initially enlisted.

Says Lt Gen Motanyane: “We became very much aware of the psychological effect this new arrangement might have on men and women in uniform. So, we took the initiative of rehabilitating the entire LDF personnel with a greater emphasis on those who were to be affected forthwith.”

The Commander LDF further says the next step had been to liaise and exchange ideas with those affected by the new arrangement – individually and collectively.

He elaborates: “They expressed their views and forwarded their proposals on how best the new version of the LDF Act of 1996 Sec 36 could be implemented,” adding that their proposals were duly examined by the appropriate authorities.

He added that the LDF sought the advice of other regional defence forces which had quite similar arrangements underway.

However, in the turn of events, it became clear that, no matter what, the after shocks of that mass early retirement (*of approximately 300 soldiers axed at one fell swoop*), as some critics would put it, would impact negatively not only on them and their dependants but also on the sheer morale of the entire defence community.

When all interventions had been explored to see how best the new arrangement could be implemented, the newly appointed general rose to the occasion and proved to be equal to the challenge. He successfully helped convince the government to revisit its decision – the move that earned

him the respect of many at large.

“This cannot be attributed solely to me. The success came about as a result of a joint effort between the LDF, Ministry of Defence – the Principal Secretary of Defence to be precise, together with the office of the Minister of

“the Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister made an appeal to the LDF to reinforce the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in the fight against hunger.”

Public Service, Defence, National Security and Parliamentary Affairs. We tabled two options. The first and most favourable was to provide the soldiers who were due for early retirement with packages. Alternatively, we made an appeal that the soldiers be given a chance to stay until they are at the age of 55,” points out the commander.

In the end, all parties agreed to the second option as the most viable of the two. Subsequently, the Right Honourable The Prime Minister also the Minister of Defence Pakalitha Mosisili made an announcement on the national radio station that taking into consideration “the legitimate expectancy”, the soldiers had when enlisted, His Majesty’s Government has officially resolved to let them serve their full term – the good news which was not only received as a breather but also helped boost the morale of all defence community once again.

“Immediately after that,” Lt Gen points out, “the Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister made an appeal to the LDF to reinforce the Ministry of Agriculture and

Food Security in the fight against hunger. The idea interested me.

“However, initially, most people in the defence force would not show interest but, in the end, when the announcement was made in parliament ironically the same soldiers received it with great enthusiasm. As we speak now, we have a company of fully determined men and women working with that ministry. They are now busy assisting the Basotho farmers plough their fields for summer crops.”

He also revealed that the army has also heeded the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation’s clarion call to help conserve the beautiful nature of Lesotho. “Apart from a number of orchards the army boasts of, it has also participated in several tree planting projects the ministry has embarked on countrywide,” he explains, adding that some places in the districts of Berea, Mafeteng and Maseru have also been earmarked for the purposes of keeping soil erosion problem at bay.

Among his early and urgent tasks the commander reviewed the recruitment policy into the army.

Though the new look recruitment policy was greeted with boos and jeers by some of the local non-governmental organizations citing what they called ‘discrimination on prospective applicants living with HIV/AIDS’, by and large it is a scrupulously good document, says the Commander.

“Besides that, the LDF is currently working on its new promotion policy. Though we still have to make further internal consultations, all in all, the policy appears to be such a good document

(Ctd. on pg 17)

...at the helm.

(Ctd. from previous pg.)

that it'll be welcome news to all in the LDF more especially to the soldiers than the officers," he says.

He goes on: "If people uphold good discipline and are prepared to work hard, I bet there will be hardly anyone who will retire a private," promises the Commander.

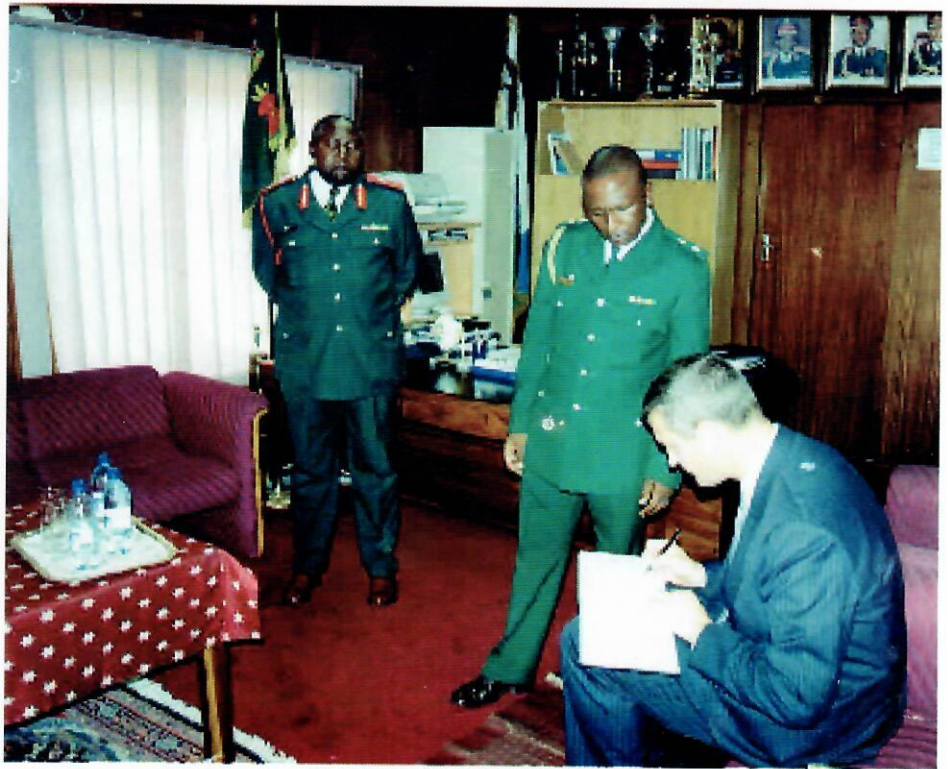
This much talked about policy will in force in three years to come - given an allowance of enough time for people to adjust to the new procedures and criteria, he adds.

Since Lt Gen Motanyane assumed the command of the defence force, the LDF has moved an extra mile in meeting some of its regional and international commitments.

In his end-of-the-year, 2005 speech, the Commander LDF noted that for the first time in the history of the SADC, twelve member-states took part in a joint military exercise on peace support operations code-named "Thokgamo" in Botswana where all the troops contributing nations were self-contained.

Another development in the same direction is the LDF's deployment in the war-torn region of Darfur, Sudan.

"I have realised that once trouble erupts in any of the African countries; it often trudges on and on - a decade or so, before getting the situation back to normalcy. So, its worth noting that once one deploys in such a country, he must be prepared to hold out there for as long as it takes," argues Lt Gen Motanyane, adding "initially the LDF was allotted ten (10) slots, however, due to some constraints we were able to send five (5) officers on



Cordial relations: Lt Gen Motanyane looks on, while his Military Assistant Lt Col Tlali Kamoli facilitates the signature of the Office's Visitors Diary - this was during the US Army Military Attache's visit

an AU Observers Mission to Darfur, Sudan."

However commendable the LDF's commitment is, the army has since experienced an impediment to fully engaging in peace support operations. To the discomfort of many in the LDF, the SADC delegation which visited the country late last year to assess capacity to deploy in the region's and continent's hotspots painted a bleak picture of the LDF's participation citing lack of appropriate equipment - in the main, Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) to be precise.

Despite the LDF's level of training as far as peace support operations are concerned, the APCs

still remain a prerequisite to ensure maximum personnel protection in volatile situations, says the Commander.

However distressing the constraints are, the Commander observes that: "The growing interest among the world superpowers, the US, UK, Germany and China to help Lesotho wind her way to the centre-stage of peacekeeping assignments would also help her to be readily accepted by other key players in future peacekeeping missions. But in the meantime the only existing military cooperations in terms of training is with the Republic of India - the country I have been cordially

(Ctd. on pg. 41)

"...another development in the same direction is the LDF's deployment in the war-torn region of Darfur, Sudan."

Military Police

(Ctd. from pg. 13)



Slowly! Access control and physical security at LDF bases are among the main duties of the Military Police.

later, in 1980, when the Lesotho parliament enacted a legislation authorising the formation of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force (LPF), the MPS also parted from the command of the PMU. The aim of the MPS was to maintain law, order and discipline within the members of the LPF.

To publicize and announce their presence and authority, they were identified by a yellow 'P' symbol on their upper right shoulder.

In 1996 ten (10) members of the MPS were sent to Botswana for a two months Military Police Basic Course, subsequently another ten members were sent with the same purpose, and the following year - with the completion of the two courses - the MPS was renamed the Military Police.

Per the founding aim of the MPS, the MP took from there and doubled efforts, and newly established sections since the MP was introduced excelled too. These are, among others, the general duty section that operates with the national

Police Service (*particularly on matters of vehicle registration*), the sepecial investigation section which works in concert with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) as well as detentions camps for soldiers.

The MP is characterised by high standards of discipline, and in this Unit self-respect is a pre-requisite to the attainment of that discipline - dogma in this Unit.

The LDF Provost Marshal Colonel (Col) Masakoane Pasane,

in his natural tone of command says the MP generally operates within a framework set following advice from the LDF Legal Office adding that this has helped maximise the execution of their duties with minimal flaws.

The Colonel hastily points out, however, that vast challenges on the ground which could help them acheive their major objective of bringing stability and unity amongst the LDF personnel still exists.

Said Col Pasane: "We are on the verge of upgrading the women's detention camp and there is a vision to construct a new prison for soldiers that would be seperate from the the offices the MP personnel."

Currently the MP holding cells are situated within their offices, and this is at times seen as hampering the smooth running of MP administrative matters.

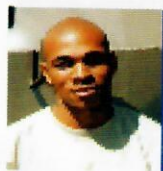
The Provost Marshal further aired concern over the strength of his Unit, "we are working hard to have a Company's strength by the end of the year 2007. And this will enable us to deploy a reasonable number of MPs with our troops even at patrols," he elaborated.

Col Pasane voiced further
(Ctd. on pg.41)



"Are you clear?" 2Lt Raletsela (then Warrant Officer) during an MP course

The "Bee" aims for top army echelons



**PVT
Pakalitha Borotheo**

Affectionately called "*Mthakathi*", derived from his surname Moloi, (which loosely translated means "*The Witch*" in English) one may take this man for a brother from up in Africa because of his very dark complexion. A descendant of the inhabitants of the deep, hot, massive Central African forests - "*Makoerekoere*" as some would unkindly refer to them.

Proud and dazzling in his military uniform Private (PVT) Tlala Francis Moloi resembles a real patriot and is known to perform his duties to the best of his ability. A quality that has endeared him not only to his Squad-mates but the spectrum of the entire Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), calls for "*Mthakathi*" will at every corner around and outside the LDF bases not surprise you. He is the man that no party would liven up without, ask anyone.

Having joined the LDF in November 1996, PVT Moloi has worked for various Companies within the army, he has proved to be the man of all seasons and advanced to completion each of his assigned tasks in the Companies that have had the honour of working with him.

"After I graduated from the Recruit Course in 1997, I was allocated to the army's B-Company of the first Battalion in the first Brigade of the first Division of the Light Infantry (B111Bn). Following the 1998 incidents and the subsequent Company Retraining Course in 1999 we formed a new Company, the A11Bn," boastfully narrated "*Mthakathi*" with his smile, adding that he is currently with the C11Bn - "*The Bees*" as they are known within the army.

"*Mthakathi*" has attended various courses in the army, courses on which he performed very well, comments and praises from his mates and colleagues remain a testament to this. This man is said to be a real hard worker.

He said: "I passed all the courses I have ever attended. In 1999, post the 1998

political crisis which led to the intervention of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

I attended the Company Retraining Course under Operation Maloti. This was my first instruction under the supervision of foreigners."

PVT Moloi says other courses that he attended include Rescue Operation in 1998; Peace Keeping in 2002 as well as Combined Tae-kwon-do, Boxing and SANDA in 2004. All the courses were

achievements of my office, to which I am an integral part, my achievements too. The achievements that I talk of include the successful operations that I was part of, Access Control at our Military bases as well as the manning of gates and other areas of our responsibility," he said.

"*Mthakathi*" believes his greatest challenge in his work is the need to work and remain disciplined under any given condition as soldier. "A soldier needs to maintain composure during provocation



Duty First: PVT Moloi manning the Ratjomose Barracks main gate - He says adherence to the law and commitment to duty are above all else

done locally. He even took part in HIV/Aids training programmes hosted by the Makoanyane Military Hospital (MMH).

"AIDS is a global threat like terrorism, so it is important for soldiers to have thorough knowledge on the pandemic so as to stay safe and help those living with it," advised Moloi, adding that all soldiers should be equipped with the knowledge on how to deal with the pandemic.

"Things are different now, there are now new programmes and training in our bases outside Maseru, these are constructive and helpful to ordinary soldiers like me. It is very unlike in the past when it comes to offered courses and training," he explained.

On a personal level "*Mthakathi*" disclosed that since he joined the army he has achieved a lot. "Even though I have not achieved personally, I consider the

times. We have to show patriotism at all costs, always bearing in mind that by being soldiers nice-time is not a guarantee," he warned his colleagues.

He came out strongly against the use and abuse of alcohol by fellow soldiers, putting forth a reminder that alcohol can ruin one's life and adherence to duty, thus lead to arrests and prosecution.

Gates' guard duties suit "*Mthakathi*" very well as he says they increase his vigilance for any untoward actions which can occur, he pointed out that could anything happen - be it in the barracks or any other place of his

(Ctd. on pg.20)

**READ MARA
REGULARLY**

The "Bee"

(Ctd. from pg. 19)

responsibility, he will have to answer for it.

"If anything can slip through my fingers I will suffer the consequences as I am the one responsible for every movement to and fro the place of my responsibility," he clarified.

He however hastily pointed out that a soldier's level of expertise in the various units of the LDF is crucial. He said he still needs to be allocated to other units in order to experience everything in the army, this will help him not to have a negative perception about others' duties.

His other area of interest that he speaks of with unadulterated attention is that, even though some people do not want to say it explicitly, it is an undisputable truth that everyone needs and looks forward to a promotion at his work some day, PVT Moloi is not an exception.

"I am longing that one day I may be in high Command structures of the army. But to be promoted one needs to be well disciplined and his work should be transparent and visible, so one needs to pull up his socks," he said.

The military profession has been Moloi's dream since his school days when he studied history. In history he grasped what role the military played in the two (2) world wars. He was also a Scout, and there he recalled the oath they took, an oath he considers similar to the military oath.

"This also contributed in my love for the army. We interacted with members of the disciplined forces such as police and soldiers during Scouts' camps and expeditions. This



also inspired me to join the force," he revealed adding that he attained a first class rank by the time he was still with the Scouts.

Born on November 10, 1973, at Ntlholoetsane Mokhotlong, "Mthakathi" is the eighth (8th) son of

Mr. Metsing and Mrs. 'Mamothobi Moloi. His father is a farmer while his mother is a housewife. He grew up and was raised in a very poor family, which led him to begin his studies later than expected.

(Ctd. on pg. 23)

...Conservation.

(Ctd. from pg. 10)

of concealment. "Need may arise whereby a soldier would also need to make fire, trees in this case also become reliable fuel," he continued.

Mr Mothokho concluded by appealing to all Basotho in their diversity to join hands and green our beloved "mother" Lesotho.

An estimated 19 000 trees have been planted at Likhoele and Malumeng (both in Mafeteng) and Liphiring in Mohale's hoek and plans are at an advanced stage to plant more in other places. Apart from planting trees the platoon has, among other projects, installed water tanks at Ha-Matela Farmers Training Centre (Maseru) and Ha-Lebentlele (Mafeteng). They have also made terraces in the fields of Koro-Koro and Ha-Ntsi in Maseru.

Soil and water conservation

helps in preventing loss, waste, damage and destruction of forests, water and soil. It also helps us save enough for the coming generations to be proud of their country.

The first LDF contingent to receive Soil and Water Conservation Course was trained in 1994 after conflicts which saw LDF personnel fighting each other. The course was meant to rehabilitate them in order to feel part of the community and shed the perception that soldiers do nothing in community development.

This helped the LDF interact more with the civilians community, thus promoting civil military relations. Currently the platoon is not independent, it functions under the Engineering Company and does mostly the duties of this Company.

Plant Trees!

Lesotho dispatches second batch of military observers to Sudan

Lesotho has made a commitment that its role in continental and regional peacekeeping efforts cannot stop at participation in training exercises only, but to actually embrace and be hands-on in peacekeeping missions. This confident commitment saw Lesotho sent five (5) Military Observers for deployment in the war-torn Sudanese Darfur region as part of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). A second batch of Military Observers has been dispatched to the same area.



PVT
Tsenolo Theko



Regular training and military exercises keep the LDF troops at peak at all times and put them at a point of vantage should they need to go to Sudan

Responding to the call by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General Kofi Annan, that Africa should take the lead in solving her own problems, the African Union (AU) has called upon member states' forces to take part in the efforts to intervene in the conflict in the troubled Sudanese Darfur region.

On that vein, Lesotho – as represented by the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) – has been participating in regional peacekeeping exercises within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) umbrella since 1997. These include the Zimbabwean “Blue Hungwe”, the South African “Blue Crane”,

“Tanzanite” in Tanzania, the Zambian “Blue Angel” as well as the recent “Thokgamo” in Botswana.

The exercises exposed participating Lesotho army-men to diverse military skills that improved on what they already had, and numerous opportunities for a broader participation in continental peacekeeping efforts presented themselves to the LDF as it gradually gained respect and held its footing among its counterparts.

The Commander LDF, Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Thuso Motanyane, talking of this mammoth responsibility to his troops said

that they ought to be prepared for a call-up anytime because they are a component of the larger SADC Brigade that comprises of members of national defence forces of the regional body's member states.

He made it clear that in this regard the LDF will be committed following a decision from relevant authorities as enshrined in Section 6 of the LDF Act of 1996.

Conflicts heightening and peace still illusive in the war-torn region of Darfur, Sudan, the AU launched the AMIS

(Ctd. on pg. 22)

...military observers in Sudan

(Ctd. from pg. 21)

and Lesotho was allowed the contribution of five (5) Military Observers who would be deployed in Sudan.

To ensure that the first steps facilitating the LDF's continental military obligations are set in motion, a pilot LDF Military Observers' course, also forming part of an ongoing restructuring process with-

in the army was conducted under the instruction of the Indian Army Training Team (IATT) and was hailed as a success in its envisaged goal of moulding and elevating officers to internationally recognized standards in observer missions.

Officers from the rank of Lieutenant (Lt) to Major (Maj) were

thoroughly tutored in this field and readied for deployment, later a three weeks Military Observers Refresher Course was conducted for officers from the rank of Captain (Capt) to Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col). A five-man team of military observers, led by Lt Col Naha Kolisang, was then dispatched for deployment in Sudan.

The volatile situation failing to go at bay and military observer mission and the general presence of the military in Darfur proving a necessity, a second batch of Military Observers has been trained and has already been dispatched to the same area on a similar mission.

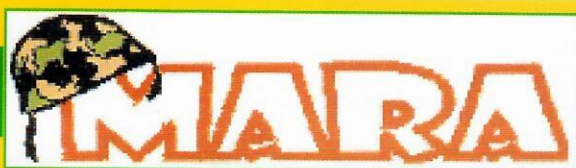
The Commander assured these officers that the security situation in Darfur, where they were bound, would be closely monitored on daily basis although the prospects of danger can not be ruled out, but that theirs was a noble and worthwhile undertaking.

Moreover, he urged the pioneer officers to be exemplary and that in order to facilitate a smooth job on their part they must be impartial in the treatment of the belligerent parties. He advised them to be mindful and respectful of the culture and ways of living of the host country, and to be conscious of new infectious and opportunistic diseases.

The IATT, under whose instruction the LDF is being restructured, ensured that all men were ready and would do their country and army proud as all subjects offered during their preparation had been custom made to give participants general knowledge and enlighten them on what is expected of them as envoys in a war-torn country.

They were advised to expand their scope in this field and warned to be careful of what they do

(Ctd. on pg. 48)



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The "Bee"

(Ctd. from pg. 21)

He started his primary education in 1982 at Maholing Primary School, did his Standard 4 to 6 at Mofolaneng Primary School while his Primary School Leaving Certificate was obtained at Tšepong Primary School, where he obtained 1st class pass in the final examination.

In 1990 he proceeded to St James High School Mokhotlong to begin his secondary education, but luck was not on his side, he failed his Form A.

"I was not able to to concentrate fully on my studies as I had to think of what I should do in order to get food and school fees due to financial problems in my family," recalled the PVT sadly.

He however did not give up his studies as the following year he repeated the class he had failed and he passed. He managed to get a Second Class pass on his Junior Certificate examinations and

*...After putting
her on a two-
year probation
"Mthakathi" has
walked down the aisle
and married his new
found love...*

proceeded to high school where he again passed his Cambridge Overseas Syndicate Certificate with Second Class.

"My aggregate was not good enough to enable me to enrol at the university. As a result I opted to assist my brother in his small business and afterwards decided to find a job. I concluded that I would further my education while at work," said PVT Moloi adding that to date he has not given up his hope of furthering his studies.

As everyone has ambitions and a dream on the future, "Mthakathi" is planning to have his own beautiful house. His investments reaching maturity next year, plans are at an advanced stage to start construction. He says this will reduce the costs of paying rent for his brothers whose fees payment also rests on his shoulders.

Despite his seemingly smooth slide in life, PVT Moloi is not immune to life's bitter experiences and failures, Moloi has experienced some hardships too. He is detached and speaks with withdrawn emotions when he remembers a girl that he believed was a girlfriend of his dreams, but slipped out of his grasp.

"I think girls have to be given time in order that they appreciate and feel that they are loved, for us soldiers it is not that easy to have that time at our disposal. My ex-lover, whom I was about to marry, thought I did not give myself time to spent with her, but truly speaking the little chance I got I used to see her," sadly disclosed this man who earlier appeared out of pain's bounds. Adding that preparations and all arrangements for his failed marriage to this girl had been agreed upon by the time she dropped him.

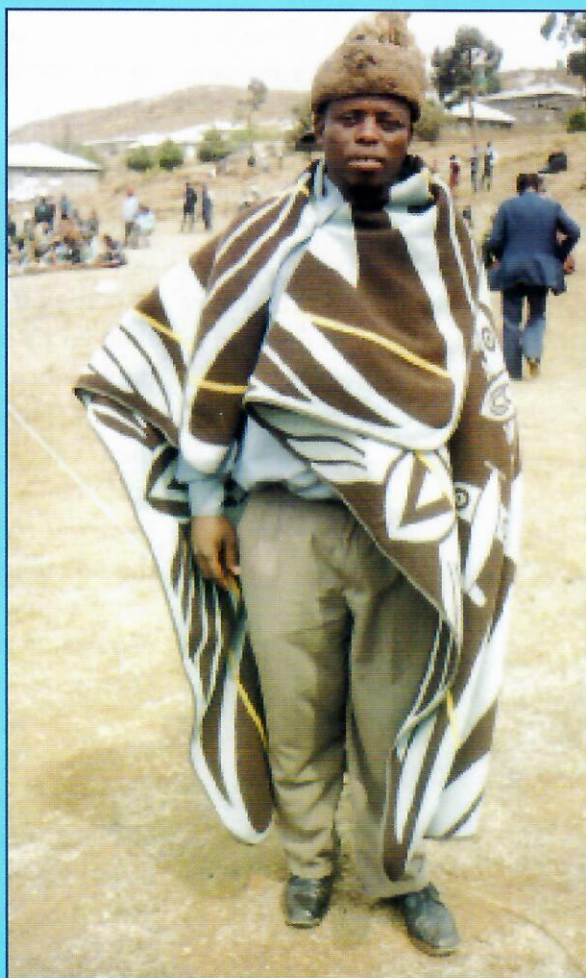
Moloi says military duties usually sent him to patrols in the remote LDF bases, where he had to spend some time without seeing his then "Queen of the heart". It is because of this distant relationship that he is convinced the girl opted for a civilian who had more chances and time for being with her.

All that is lost is not lost forever, some people believe, and this proved true to "Mthakathi" because though he lost that love and was thereafter disillusioned about the whole love thing, today his love has been rekindled and has found a new gem of his heart to replace the ache and pain caused by that Botha-Buthe born girl who dropped him.

After putting her on a two-year probation "Mthakathi" has walked down the aisle and married his new found love as his wife.

Cpl Molefe Thabakholo

*He would go
to extremes to
ensure the proper
marketing and
widespread
distribution
of the LDF
magazine MARA
- both inside and
outside the
country.
- this is his
passion.*



LDF Paramedics, geared up for any emergency



By PVT Atang Kotelo

The LDF paramedics, who boast speciality in trauma and emergency, are in unison that they are the cream of the crop nationally on rapid response emergency attendance, and Lieutenant (Lt) Lebohang Shelile (*now retired*), Second Lieutenants (2Lts) Mohato

Bereng, Lehlohonolo Khoachele and Warrant Officer (WO) Tumisang Tlali bore testimony to that.

They disclosed that of all emergency vehicles and ambulances that attend to the maimed in the country, the LDF fleet stands a shoulder above the rest, and that they are always on standby to respond to any emergency call anytime.

Outlining their readiness



Your Life In Their Hands: The MMH nursing staff with their new ambulance that's bound to take them to lengths in saving people's lives

the LDF paramedics disclosed that professionally they ought to operate under instructions of doctors specialising in trauma. They however explained that currently the medical fraternity does not have such doctors, hence they – being the only trained paramedics in the country – have to be hands on in dealing with trauma during emergency treatments and evacuations.

The LDF paramedics explained that upon arrival at the scene of an emergency, their trained staff attends victims according to their condition at the time, and that these normally involve resuscitations and the evacuation of those critical to nearby hospitals and health centres to be attended by trained doctors.

“Peoples lives are very important to us, hence we even respond to emergencies before reporting to the relevant authority within the army, as the army’s Chain of Command dictates that every operation or exercise be authorised prior to commencement.

We do not wait for instructions by the superiors to respond to an emergency. But that does not mean we do not report at all as by the time we are attending the incident the report is being relayed to our superiors,” explained the paramedics.

They said to add a cherry to their cake, and despite not having an ambulance helicopter of their own (*bearing the red cross*), they have the advantage of the availability of the army’s helicopters which are at their disposal to reach remote distant areas for emergency evacuations.

“They are not designed to be ambulances, but for emergencies they are fitted with emergency equipment and are ready for any call,” they said, clarifying that ambulance helicopters should be designed specifically for that purpose.

(Ctd. on pg. 48)

Winds of change breezes over the LDF

There has always been a culture of intolerance towards the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and this culture, some argue, emanated from the conduct of the army itself. The LDF command worked round-the-clock to professionalise and restructure the army and it would be amiss not to note the current widespread perception that the LDF is making strides to uphold the principles and conventions of a military in a democratic setup.

By 2Lt Mashili Mashili

Critics once raised the argument for the disbandment of the LDF following what was regarded as unprofessional practices within the majority of its personnel, though in those old days when democratic principles in Lesotho were still in their infancy; in those days the army was seen to be aloof, far away from the ideology of comparison.

The argument was based on the perception that the 'then' LDF, given the position that the organization holds today, was too conservative.

However, in learned discussions today there are undertones that the army is re-inventing itself as a national pride. And that the citizenry can take pride to publicly say the LDF has changed focus and is now part and parcel of global developmental and peacekeeping efforts.

The LDF is today a member of international organizations striving for the nurturing and sustenance of world peace, a period when armies and other global bodies are united in condemning acts of terror against the minority.

The LDF is therefore part and parcel of what the world needs; peace and the development of strategies to forge a vocabulary of understanding, compromise and tolerance, not war.

The organization is seen participating and being subjected to a range of international obligations and agreements that regulate aspects of international affairs. That is, as the arm of its state, it has become a member and signatory to many binding protocols of international and regional bodies, with the inclusion of United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).



Cementing links: The Commander LDF Lt Gen Thuso Motanyane welcomed the US Army Military Attache on his visit to the Ratjomose Barracks.

This has forced its personnel to face global challenges and in a bid to accomplish what might be referred to as a dream to fulfill global expectations the LDF has undergone a range of peacekeeping exercises such as the "Blue Crane" held in South Africa in 1999, "Tanzinite" in Tanzania in 2002, "Blue Engel" in Zambia in 2003 and "Thokgamo" in Botswana in 2005. These could be seen as the first step in a million-mile journey.

More commitment is applied in this regard,

(Ctd. on pg. 46)

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(Ctd. on pg. 46)

Events in Pictures

Social Responsibility: To fulfill its social responsibility obligations the LDF has donated a large quantity of food-stuffs and clothing to three orphanages around Maseru - those being Insured Salvation Orphanage, Mazenod Orphanage and the Ha-Thamae Orphanage.



Social Responsibility



Sgt Teboho Serobanyane helping a patient. This is one of the roles MMH play among the community to assist in health services.

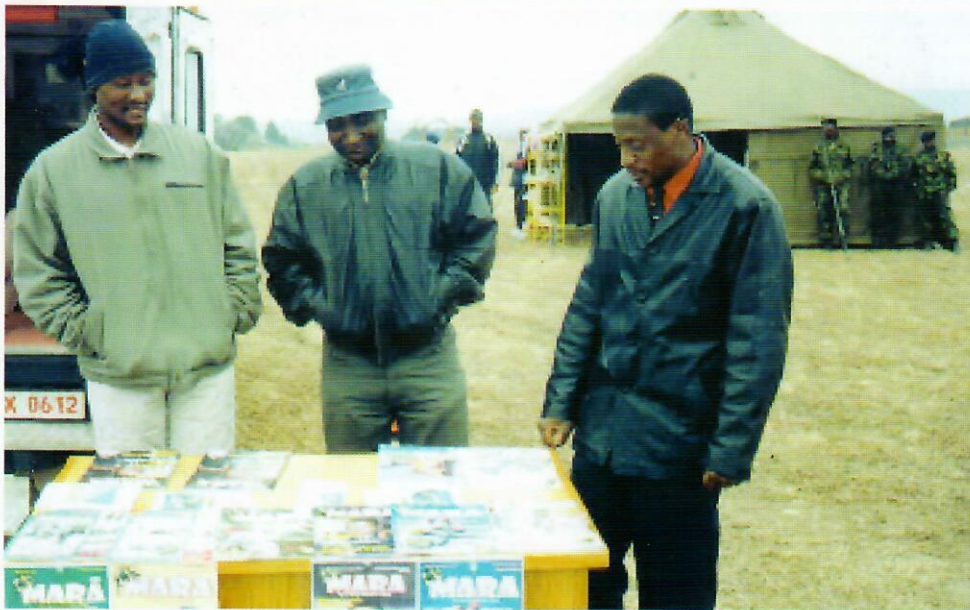


In times of disaster, the LDF Engineering Company lends a hand to help the community. Here the Engineering Coy receives full details concerning the houses that were swept away by a hurricane in Maseru.

Events in Pictures



Inspecting the Guard of Honour: The Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Hon. Pakalitha Mosisili inspects the guard of honour during the 2006 passing-out parade of the LDF recruits at the Ratjomose Barracks.



Strive for excellence: The LDF Public Affairs Office displays its products during the 4th Army Day commemoration held at mejametalana Air Squadron.



The LDF Gunners sharpen their skill, discipline and accuracy; a vital move in the current military relations in the region where they might find themselves on call to duty anywhere in the continent.

My Dream, My Pride, My Future

Lazing around and trying to enjoy the little comfort that my single bed at the barracks has to offer, nursing a terrible hangover and trying to win back my lost love, I usually ponder if dreams are meant to be lived or just dreamt. This has become the one and only direction that my rosy future – from my dreams – seems to be following, dream, dream and dream some more.

By **PVT Tšenolo Theko** (illustrations by Khatebe Molefi)

At the age of 35 I had always thought I would be married to a beautiful, curvaceous woman who exudes confidence, an angel who would mother my two lovely kids, a boy and a girl. In the sixth year of our marriage, we would build a nine roomed house with a double garage for our violet *BMW Z3* and blue *RAV4*, or at least the latest luxurious creations that technology would offer then.

I harboured this dream since the completion of my LLB ten years ago and started working as an advocate in one of the prominent law firms in Maseru. I resigned from my job as an advocate and joined the Lesotho Defence Force (*LDF*) two years later, and this dream subsisted in me.

“My son, I will die a proud woman if I can see your children romping this threshold, carrying them on my back, guiding and
(Ctd. next pg.)



Alone and Dreaming of what could have been: Every moment I had to myself was a painful experience as I looked back and dreamt of what life would be like with Boithatelo. I would stand at every vacant corner and gaze into space, dreaming.....dreaming.

My Dream, My Pride....

(Ctd. from previous pg.)

teaching them our customs and surrendering them to the Lord's care each day." This is what my mother always say when on my visits home when I have the chance to. Definitely this will be my pride too, but how do I fulfil this dream?

In my first year as a practising advocate I had met this passionate, magnetic mesmeric, perceptive, resolute and powerful woman, indeed words do not suffice to put her qualities into perspective. I really do not possess enough appropriate words to convey her intrinsic worth.

She had a special smile that flaunted her white well aligned set of teeth, with a fleeting look and in her own way she turned most men's knees into jelly. Fixing her gaze on you would bring a hot flush on your face, but amazingly a single glimpse was worse, it was more torture.

Steadily I found my dream unfolding, I saw it enacted and kept a close watch as my dream

developed to a higher level. I vouched for its realization. "This is a dream come true. I have found the woman of my dreams, what is left is for me to make arrangements to walk her down the aisle and then focus on my pride, our family," I would say on my own as I laid on my trusted single bed in the dormitory while other soldiers carried on with their daily routine.

My thoughts would wonder as these room-mates bickered on the events of the day, the next date and area for patrol and the coming Castle Premium League match, this at times made it difficult for a man to concentrate and focus on the future. I sometimes wish I had a crystal ball..... steal a look into what lie in store for me.

"Finding a million different ways 2 love u is what I do, when this makes u smile, it's my inspiration. Good day!" This is one of the short message services (sms) sent by her. I would wake up to read it every morning, live with it during the

day and sleep with it during the night. That idea was a reason for living, my living. I would respond by convincing her of the genuine love I had for her and she knew I meant what I said.

"Boithatelo my sweetheart, nothing can go wrong between us, I will be with you in good and in bad times, through laughter and tears, you are my future," I would say sometimes when she seemed to doubt my love.

I had a habit of drinking occasionally and coupled that with smoking everyday before going to bed. With this my future wife had no problem, I was the one with a problem.

I lacked the confidence to ask her to marry me. A military man like me who performed his duties with courage and professionalism shying away from a simple task of proposing to a lady? It was surprising, utter nonsense! My gorgeous woman, Boithatelo, never knew about my dream until we were in the fifth year of our relationship, I too never knew what awaited me till that fateful day.

"My love, I am very sorry to have led you on, to have made you hope that I would be your wife one day. The thought of marriage has never crossed my mind, I am not intending to get married for the rest of my life," Boithatelo said as I revealed my secret to her.

I could not believe what I heard, I thought she was joking, but her voice sounded so distant and yet so convincing enough to purge any doubt about what she had just told me. "Boithatelo!

(Ctd. on pg. 49)

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LDF BREAKS BARRIERS

promotes civil/ military relations

By *Cpl Sakeng Lekola*

The uninformed opinion often concludes that a professional army is solely set up for battles against an enemy, and that should there be no wars such a military entity sits idly waiting for a new battle to brew up.

But to the contrary, an army – during times of peace – becomes the backbone of the developmental efforts of its nation, it gets engaged in social projects and programmes to uplift people's lives.

As required from a professional military, the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) is also seen during times of peace stretching its hand in assisting the public in various ways. This initiative is supported by the national Constitution and is in line with the secondary role of the defence force.

Thus far, and fulfilling the objects of its secondary role, the LDF has rendered support to the public in the fields of health, community works, the promotion of sports, recreational and cultural activities.

PVT Rapitso Motlatla from the LDF-Public Affairs Office (in the middle facing right) interacts with school children at the Me-jametalana Air-wing, an image enhancement initiative that his office has put at the forefront of all its tasks.



The LDF Engineering Coy in one of their school-building projects around the country.



Outlining spheres of engagement and areas of achievement by the LDF in its support to the public to the army personnel, the Commander LDF Lieutenant General (*Lt Gen*) Thuso Motanyane highlighted the following.

Health

Lt Gen Motanyane said the Ma-koanyane Military Hospital (MMH) is a health service center for the treatment of soldiers and their families.

However, its services have been extended to incorporate the broader security fraternity, inclusive of the National Security Services, the Lesotho Mounted Police Services and the Lesotho Correctional Services and assist a fraction of the general population, mainly those in its environs.

"The significant achievement of the MMH has been the successful management and provision of Voluntary Counselling and HIV/AIDS Testing Services, an initiative and support in the provision of health education and anti-retroviral drugs," disclosed the Commander.

Services go beyond the HIV/AIDS pandemic alone, other ailments such as sugar diabetes and high blood pressure, which currently pose a serious health risk in Lesotho are among major diseases treated at the hospital.

With its personnel, the LDF has also assisted the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare on Polio campaigns in the re-

(Ctd. next pg.)

LDF BREAKS...

(Ctd. from previous pg.)

mote areas and has its some of its medical personnel attached to the Queen Elizabeth II and Motebang hospitals to lend expertise in the fields of paramedics and nursing.

"During the 2004 Army Day celebration at the Setsoto Stadium, testing services were offered freely to the general public and continue to be offered at every opportune moment and during shortages, the MMH is in a position to assist with equipment and services," explained the Commander adding that in recent years x-ray facilities at the MMH played a pivotal role in easing up pressure at government hospitals to serve the general public.

Community Works

The LDF has got a conservation Platoon which is involved in planting trees, prevention of soil erosion and water storages. Residents of Ha-Ntsi and Koro-Koro (Maseru), Likhoele and Malumeng (Mafeteng) and Liphiring in Mo-hale's Hoek to mention, among others, can bear testimony to this as they have already reaped fruitful results from these programmes.

"A newly setup Afforestation Unit has been introduced to assist in the ploughing and cultivation of fields. This was achieved through training sessions that were facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security thus, fields at Ha-Foso, Berea as well as in other districts too have been ploughed by this unit with tractors," disclosed Lt Gen Motanyane.

With the assistance of the LDF Air-Wing, school books,

building material for school construction were airlifted to various remote areas of Lesotho that are inaccessible by vehicular transport, ballot boxes have been transported to the remote areas. Transmission towers for the Ministry of Communications as well as independent communications companies have been installed and air transport used to also

(Thaba-Tseka) and a water reservoir at Ha-Peete Quthing, this will enable the villages around Ha Peete to have access to the water," pointed the commander.

Sports, culture and recreation

The LDF has also played a big role in extending its hand to impart sports, culture and recre-



The Commander Lt Gen Motanyane presents a donation from the LDF to Rev. Mavis Mochochoko of the Insured Salvation Orphanage

rescue people during disasters.

The LDF Engineering Company has also advanced and built and renovated schools, the Maliele Primary School, Roma, is among those schools that the company helped with the funds from the United States (US) government. Clinics in Matukeng (Maseru), Litšoeneng, Thabana-Morena (Mafeteng) and Mpharane (Mohlale's Hoek) were also revamped by the Engineering men.

"The company has also built bridges in Sehong-hong

ational activities to the public.

Successes in boxing, taekwon-do, netball and soccer have been taken to the heights over the years and brought pride not only to the army but the country at large. The LDF conducts sports training programmes in schools and the larger community.

Cultural activities also form the crux of interaction between the army and civilian population, this is done through holding training clin-

(Ctd. on pg. 39)

MARA Mail Box



The Editor,

I enjoy reading MARA newsmagazine very much, and I am talking from the bottom of my heart that I will be a disciplined soldier because that is what I want to be. My advice to all those who want to join the force is that they should develop a habit of reading MARA.

They should not join to fulfill their personal interests or benefits, they should be confident people who can stand for themselves under different situations.

They should protect the nation, like caves against windstorm. I am working hard in the gym because I want to be a well known MARA Hunk, and be a role model to the youth. Looking forward for the next MARA issue.

MY MESSAGE TO THIEVES

Greetings to you thieves! Today things have changed, your time is over. I am saying this because the government is working hard to abolish robbery in the country. Stop stealing and you will gain fruitful results.

This time the government is leaving no stone unturned in search of you. I was worried about one man who stole and slaughtered people's animals, but because MARA offered a shoulder to lean on, I held on to it to see the end of stock-theft. I will not stop passing my sincere gratitude to MARA's Editor and the government of Lesotho.

I would like to write more on this issue, especially about thieves. The youth, I will not blink when it comes to watching you. Beware!

Thabiso Morena (23)
Kolberg Ha-Rasebate
Thaba-Tseka 550

Thabiso,

We are very grateful to have received your letter. This shows that our magazine receives wide readership and discourages crime. It is interesting to realise that you are a real patriot and are eager to warn your fellow country-men who want to join the army that it is a public asset and not an individual thing whereby one needs to fulfill his/her personal interests.

For one to feature as a MARA Hunk he has to satisfactorily build his body, it is encouraging to hear that you are working hard in the gym.

Keep on fighting crime!



LAND ROVER

*Like a smart cowboy,
full in uniform,
Like running horse,
Oh! You are smart.*

*Tyres like of aeroplane
Small ones of war,
Together with commerholders,
Inside.*

*Windows so dark that,
You cannot see people inside,
With bullet proof.*

*Like small boats,
Like a head of a young pig.*

*Oh! Defender be there,
Be there forever more,
Cover our big soldiers,
For the rest of good wishes.*

*For them to cover down,
Stress to protect poor Lesotho,
And good soldiers.*

By: Mokhele Kabi

*For your views and
opinion
Write to the Editor -
MARA.*

The Editor,

I am grateful to be a MARA reader due to the good information it provides me with.

I've learned a lot from MARA, more especially HIV/AIDS awareness articles as it is a well known fact that the HIV scourge is our nation's enemy no. 1.

I am an ardent volley-ball player though this is greatly hampered by the fact that there are no volley-ball grounds at my home village.

I am a Mosotho girl aged 16, a student at Mekaling Secondary School doing Form C. After completing my studies, I would like to be a journalist and subsequently freelance for MARA magazine.

I encourage you and your staff to keep up the good work.

Tšokoliso Motami
Mokhopha Ha-Tsebe
Mekaling
Mohale's Hoek

Tšokoliso,

We thank you for your support and wish you good luck wherever you are.

For one to be a journalist, he/she has to undergo journalism training, which idealizing should be after completing C.O.S.C.

There are several media consultation agencies in the country that you could approach as well as the National University of Lesotho's IEMS where Mass Communications courses are offered.

The Editor.

The Editor,

I am a 19 years old Mosotho boy doing my Form B at Lesotho High School. May you please give me advise, I have financial problems at home and I will not be able to finish up my high school.

I would like to work at the Lesotho Defence Force, it has always been my dream to become a soldier. Please help me, I want to be a soldier! I would be happy to be a member of the LDF in future.

I greatly thank MARA magazine for giving me some information about the numerous things happening within the LDF. I am a skilled Tae-Kwon-Do player.

Letsema Motsie
Letlapeng Primary School
Moriija 190
Lesotho.

Letsema,

Try to contact organisations such as government's Social Welfare Department, the Save the Children Fund, SOS-Lesotho and other similar organisations, they may be of help to assist you continue with your studies.

Announcements are made through the local radio stations when the army needs to recruit more soldiers. To try your luck in being enlisted you have to at least have passed C.O.S.C, be physically and mentally fit, have no criminal records and be a patriot as joining the army is like joining a new home away from home.

The Editor.

Our valued readers!

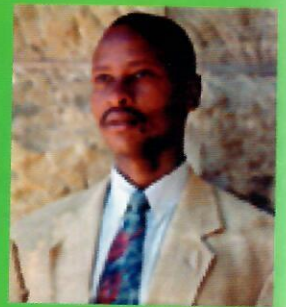
The Editor would like to thank all of you for your support towards our publication and the response that you have shown regarding our articles.

The Editor calls for more commitment in nurturing the culture of reading and taking an active role in issues raised in the magazine, thus providing a platform for national, academic and civil/military information exchange.

REMEMBER!

Precise and straight to the point letters are recommended!

Employees' corner.



By 2Lt Litsietsi Monyeke

POLICY-MAKING AND FORMULATION

Each organisation whether it be profit making or non for profit, exists to achieve its goals and objectives. In order to attain these effectively, sound and strong policies are needed and strong adherence to these is of primary importance.

In a broader environment policy-making process requires participation and public choice, which involve direct representation, empowerment and active decision-making by public policy implementers. Policies, whether national or departmental serves as specific guidelines, methods, procedures, rules, forms and administrative practices that direct the thinking, decisions and actions of managers and employees within an institution. For example, national policies could be such as Lesotho public service training and development policy, policy on defence and secu-

rity of Lesotho. On the other hand departmental policies could be Lesotho Defence Force standing orders on matters such as dress, security of material, personnel and others.

Function of policies

Policies inform employees on what is expected of them and clarify what can and cannot be done in pursuit of an organisation's goals and objectives. They standardise routine decisions, thus reducing the time it takes to make decisions. Additionally, policies provide a basis for control and promote coordination and consistency across organisational units or departments.

In the army policies can be defined as standing orders, which provide guidelines or regulations that standardise routine decisions; provide control and coordination within LDF. Organisational policies may be in writ-

ing and formal or unwritten and informal.

On this light, it is important therefore, to note that written policies or standing orders are vital to an organisation as a means of providing standardisation and controlled means of communicating that, which can and cannot be done resulting in the smooth running of an organisation towards realisation of goals and objectives.

Policy-formulation process

The initiation or formulation of a policy comprise a lot of activities, which are required to provide for a sound and balanced policy bearing in mind those to be affected by the policy. The activities may include research, forums, officials, cabinet sub-committees, opinions of interest groups and many other means. Policies are initiated when a policy issue or problem within an institution is identified by one or more stakeholders within or outside the particular organisation who feel that the actions of the institution detrimentally affect them or another segment of the stakeholders. They can also be initiated to provide guidance and procedures on a particular new direction an institution wishes to follow.

In formulating the policy, particular observation regarding state laws should be noted. First, there is the constitution from which all the

laws of the country emanate. Secondly, there are Acts which have specific jurisdiction for a particular organisation such as LDF Act No 4 of 1996.

Thirdly, there are national policies, which by their very nature are not enforceable by any court but guide the authorities and agencies of Lesotho. In light of the above it is apparent that policy formulators have to draw from those documents lest they come up with guidelines that are too demanding on those they are supposed to guide. More especially because policies could at times be adopted as the laws of the particular institution they are intended for.


Parties involved

It must be understood that on national level policy formulation is the function of individual members of a legislature, legislative committees, officials, interest groups and to some extent members of the public. On this view therefore, policy formulators for the defence force could be the responsible minister, defence and security committee and or sub committees, PS defence, chief of defence and his staff, the latter two in their capacity as officials, and to a lesser extend interest groups and members of the public can influence defence policy making. The issue here is not on the political level of policy formulation/making process but on the departmental formulation.

As I See It

By *Captain Thabang Mathatjane* - LDF Legal Office

A SOLDIER AS A CITIZEN: DISPELLING PUBLIC MISCONCEPTIONS



The military is a creation of law, and in the civilised world its existence is almost invariably constitutionally sanctioned. The parent legislation creating and regulating the military in any given country derives its authority and legitimacy from the constitution creating it.

In the case of Lesotho one sometimes comes across remarks of (*mostly ill-informed*) members of the public indicative of their perceptions of the army. There would be mumblings about the cost of maintaining the army; that the country at present faces no external or internal security threat, and that the resources could best be utilised elsewhere.

Without necessarily over expounding the rationale behind the establishment and existence of the Army, it is paramount for purposes of dispelling the foregoing misconceptions that the public be sensitised as to the effect and impact the army has on its day-to-day life.

The role played by the LDF in assisting in social programmes of development as well as humanitarian missions it undertakes whenever emergencies arise certainly goes a

long way towards demonstrating civic virtues and responsibilities of the organisation. It serves as a milestone towards endearing the army to the public, as well as an eye-opener to sceptics in respect of the responsibilities entrusted to servicemen.

One may point out with absolute certainty that most members of the Army appreciate more fully their duties and responsibilities as servicemen in particular and as citizens in general. These duties are of course ingrained into their minds during training, and are reiterated time and again during military courses that are frequently being conducted.

There is also need for the LDF to take part in international peacekeeping missions by contributing to the envisaged SADC Brigade and African Standby Force and preparations for that are well underway. The country is part of the international community and it has to take part in resolving some of the problems besieging some parts of the continent and beyond. The reason for that being simple: 'Assist others in their time of need and that will be reciprocated when it is your time'.



In the name of Love

By *PVT Rapitso Motlatla*

LET US STAND TOGETHER TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS - NOT PEOPLE LIVING WITH IT.

It has now come to the light of Basotho nation how HIV/AIDS is transmitted from one person to another in various ways, that is modes of transmission, and the difference between HIV/AIDS, myth surrounding HIV infection, and AIDS, traditional beliefs and practices.

Therefore apart from that, we shall see what results do the impact of HIV/AIDS brings to the community and the effects to the economy as a whole. First let us look at the group at risk of the infection. All people are at risk but some groups are more at risk than others. It has been found that the following are some of the most at risk groups.

Firstly women: In 2002, out of an estimated of 330,000 adults living with HIV/AIDS, 180,000 (55%) were women. Young women aged 15-29 years constituted 75% of the reported AIDS cases.

Secondly young adults: By 1999, 80% of AIDS cases were young adults between age 15-49 years of age.

Thirdly infants: In 2002, 27,000 children between 0-14 years were living with HIV/AIDS. Nearly 10% of all new cases in 2001 were children less than 4 years of age and these were said to have contracted the virus through mother-to-child transmission, for the 5-14 the infection was very low.

Fourthly migrants: While there is no

reliable data on migrants in Lesotho, it is generally accepted that migrants are at high risk of infection. Hospital based data indicated that 48% of ex-miners and 58% of miners are HIV positive.

And fifthly STIs patients: STIs pre-disposed many people to HIV/AIDS infection. In 1989, 1% of STI patients were HIV positive, in 1993 the rate was 39% while in 2000 it was 65%.

If we don't take immediate action and apply appropriate measures to reduce, prevent and control the rate at which the infection is transmitted, there will be a serious impact on Agricultural sector: Decreased food production resulting into – food crisis in the country, poor nutrition status for most families, and dependency on donation.

Again there will be impact on Health sector: HIV/AIDS is a burden to the Health sector. Its prevalence results in the increase of TB, Upper respiratory tract infection, malnutrition, skin diseases, STIs, diarrhea etc which consume large sums of money for treatments given to patients; The hospitals are full of patients against the non-increasing staff quotas, hence a burden and frustration to the existing staff; Life expectancy has decreased from an average of 55 years to 49 years, that is, 45 years for women and 51 years for men.

Moreover, there is an impact on children: Many children born HIV posi-

tive die before they are two years old; Children are increasingly becoming care-givers to sick family members and siblings; Drop out of school rates are increasing and this impacts on their future employment prospects; Orphanage is becoming common.

UNAIDS 1999 estimated 73,000 children under the age of 15 having lost one or both parents due to HIV/AIDS. In 2001, the estimate by UNICEF was 117,000 and in 2002 UNAIDS estimated 175,000 orphans; Traditional support to the ill is unable to cope with the situation; Children are affected not only educationally, but socially and health wise as well, and need help with school fees, reported by Red Cross in 2001.

As a matter of fact, an injury to a certain group within a community or any department will affect others in the same segment, therefore, what are the impacts on other sectors: Generally sectors or institutions are affected-the education sector already has a report that 28% of the teachers were dead due to HIV/AIDS in 1999; the national economies are being depleted due to HIV/AIDS and its demand. For instance, the World Bank estimates that the impact on GDP will be reduced by almost 1/3 by 2015.

In the next issue, we shall focus narrowly on the Prevention and Control measures as far as HIV/AIDS is concerned and later Care and Support of the infected.



I care - Do You?

SPIRULINA WITH SELENIUM HELPS TO BOOST THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

By Ingo Seifert

AIDS is to a great extent, a nutritional disease caused by the HIV virus. For this reason, it is essential that individuals with HIV-AIDS maintain a high dietary intake of the four nutrients (*Selenium, Cysteine, Glutamine and Typtophan*) that HIV-1 is removing from bodies.

Sperulina Pure with Selenium is a natural food substance known to contain elevated levels of all four of these nutrients in a natural way easy to be absorbed by the body.

Extreme deficiencies of these four nutrients occur in HIV-AIDS patients , reports Professor Harold D foster Ph D. HIV-1 has a gene that is virtually identical to that which allows humans to produce one of the four nutrients that form the basic key components of this enzyme.

In short, this means if we do not supplement our diet with the trace mineral Selenium and the three Amino Acids Cysteine, Glutamine and Tryptophan, we will not support the immune system enough to fight diseases like heart attack, cancer, muscle wasting, depression, diarrhoea etc. among others.

Physicians involved in open trials of HIV-AIDS patients using these nutrients in South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Botswana and Uganda report significant health improvements.

Spirulina is an algae product produced naturally on farms where air is unpolluted and contains high levels of oxygen. Clean water rich in natural minerals as well as plenty of sunshine are important to produce a high quality pure spirulina.

The harvested spirulina is packed with natural vitamins and minerals necessary to support the immune system to function more effectively to fight diseases. Professor Harold D Foster Ph D recommends taking about three grams (3g) of spirulina daily (6 x 500mg tablets) to achieve impressive and longer lasting results.

Until we have found a cure for HIV-AIDS we have to try to live a productive and healthy life. Spirulina Pure with Selinium can help us to live longer, healthier and happier for many more active years to come.

Remember! the fight is for health, do not waste time.

*Mr Seirfet is the Chairman of the Positive Action
Society of Lesotho*



With **OA Nthathi Kekana**

Chiller!

Dance has never been one of my strongpoints, but alone in my room or under the shower while getting ready to confront a new day you would mistake my moves to Lebo Mathosa or Beyonce's sensual gyrations. And today, dancing to the rhythm of my imaginary song that I humm each and every morning when I make my bed, the electric jug kettle roars and the water starts boiling.

The noisy chatter of this girl next door who has a habit of singing out loud when she wakes up confirms that my cellphone's alarm woke me up on time. I am up and raring to go!

The uproar of a mini hi-fi owned by another mate next to the main entrance uplifts the mood of the day, only to be distracted by the deafening boom of the others' brand new home theatre systems banging gospel, kwaito, R & B, Sanko le Chakela blasting it out from another tradition loving corner.

Music surely fills up the whole dormitory. No one is asleep by this hour; each and every one is up and preparing for the day.

After taking a shower everyone is ready for the short trip towards Makoanyane Headquarters where "Bolele" will ferry all to their various units..

As the scramble for seats in the bus hots with passengers popping up from all sides, those who opted for a longer time between the sheets instead of getting ready for work timeously come out late running like rabbits.

Hey! Already comfortably seated inside the bus you

can see that among the throng rushing for the bus, others are hopelessly tired. Lazyness, "hlolloane" or a scary night full of nightmares, you be the judge! But all are going to work anyway.

Normally at 0600hrs "Bolele" departs to transport us to work, the commencement of a journey so utterly hilarious and outrageous that "Majorobela" or "The Old Guard" who do not stay at the dormitories sometimes even wish they were a decade younger. They are always irritated by the talk and the singing, Ag! Shame.

On the way to work everybody is talking on top of their voices expressing their eagerness to go to work, if it's true. People discuss anything, from what they came across the day before to the modus operandi to charm a certain so-and-so.

Significantly though, there are these two funny comedians, talkative guys who hijack and put out of proportion every topic discussed onboard. Sometimes they blatantly exaggerate things that they do not even know about, but being comic their absence in the bus is easily indetified. They make everyone laugh their lungs out.

By the time the bus drops us at our various work places, we would have enjoyed their teasing stories. They would have argued and gotten their facts wrong, retold their stories and argued again. But wow! These comics would have made the trip for us. Starting the day refreshed and ending it with a giant doze of laughter and fun to take to bed. I always thank the LDF Command for having hired these two guys, life would be a bit dull without them in the bus. And maybe a Meritorius Medal would keep them doing the good job.

If you are a regular on "Bolele" on its daily drill, you will know these two guys and maybe also recommend a medal for each.

LDF BREAKS...

(Ctd. from pg. 31)

ditional dance as conducted with the LDF expertise has brought remarkable appreciation of the Basotho culture by the general population.

The army further fosters relations with the public through military recreational activities, performed at state and public functions such as King's Birthday and wedding feasts with the Military Band taking center stage.

The LDF Act of 1996, Section 5 (c) stipulates that the Defence Force shall be employed for, among others, the maintenance of essential services that includes the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime, and such other duties as may, from time to time, be determined by the Minister of Defence.



Members of the Engineering Coy are always in the thick of things when duty calls

Majestically hovering above the clouds, the LDF eagles fly

LDF Airwing in humanitarian relief missions



During the days of the Police Mobile Unit (PMU), an airwing was established to bolster service provision by the unit and to lend support to the institution at large. The airwing has, today, grown to have both the rotary and fixed wing aircrafts. The development of the airwing has enabled the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) to reach the remote interior of the country as well as neighbouring countries for humanitarian purposes.

By Cpl Sakeng Lekola

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has proved to be prone to and usually negatively affected by both natural and man-made disasters such as floods, droughts, diseases, poverty-borne calamities as well as conflicts and wars.

Following the devastation of a number of regions in Mozambique by floods in the year 2000, SADC member-states agreed upon conducting joint regional air-force exercises in order to have a common and standardised working ethic, and to always be on "red alert" should disaster strike and humanitarian relief be required in affected areas.

Nationally, the LDF in conjunction with the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) have followed suite and ensured that here at home they are ready to respond to any call for assistance where disaster has struck. This preparedness includes regional humanitarian relief calls.

"We played a big role in Mozambique during the 2000 floods. We employed the use of our aircrafts in the transportation of clothing, food supplies, water and medicine throughout that country," explained the LDF Airwing Director Operations and Training Colonel (Col) Moeketsi Mohlahatsa, adding that they were working hand in hand with the DMA and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

As a follow up on the agreement made after the Mozambique floods, SADC Air-Forces initiated



Brigadier Rakoalane Posholi

The LDF Airwing Commander

an exercise code-named "Blue Angel", the exercise was hosted by Zambia in 2003. The LDF Airwing took part in this exercise, and a CASA 212 aircraft together with the LDF and DMA personnel was dispatched for Zambia.

This humanitarian relief exercise was conducted
(Ctd. on pg. 45)

(Ctd. from pg. 18)

concern over the declining level of discipline among soldiers, a factor he attributes to free unmonitored movement by soldiers, especially in patrols.

On this issue of declining discipline the Deputy Provost Marshall Major (Maj) Motheolane Gerard Mafoea emphasised that it is the responsibility of the MP to enforce discipline among members of the defence force as enshrined in the LDF Act of 1996 Section 16 No.2 (a)

“To satisfy this legal provision we employ the MP powers to arrest and detain, and put on trial any individual subject to the LDF Act who commits or is charged with an offence,” he continued.

Major Mafoea pointed out that the MP still encounter problems posed by soldiers who resist arrest, especially those found in contravention of the LDF Standing Order that all soldiers must be at their respective residence at 2200hrs.

Having undergone extensive tutorials on MP Private (PVT)

...Military Police



The Protectors: *Their cardinal duty is to ensure the maintenance of discipline, law and order among the troops and their bases.*

Tšepang Ramafole says this job calls for a long moment of introspection and a new resolve in one's life.

He said to function effectively within the MP setup, one has to have, at least, undergone training in Basic Military Law, Manning Military Detention Centres as well

as Vehicle Registration. “These are the basics that allows one to be ready to execute one's duties unperturbed, and put into practice whatever has been acquired in training with full force,” PVT Ramafole made an assurance.

Second Lieutenant (2Lt)

(Ctd. on pg. 44)

...at the helm.

(Ctd. from pg. 17)

invited to visit this year.”

The Commander heaves a sigh of relief now that he has accomplished a mammoth task of building a full Light Infantry Brigade in 2005 along with the formation of a Paratrooping Company.

“We are now working meticulously planned schedule of manning the brigade headquarters battalion,” discloses the Commander.

Lt Gen Motanyane still has many things to keep him thinking hard day in, day out until the Military Academy has been duly established in Lesotho - his main priority.

“In order to have an efficient and professional, we need to have proficient officers too. There is a need that the LDF officers should undergo intensive training to help them fit into the defence administration much better,” argues the commander.

Prior to his accession to the office of Commander LDF, Lt Gen Motanyane held a several position of influence in the defence force. Amongst others, he had been

“We are working meticulously to man a brigade headquarters...”

the Commander LDF Air Wing – the department through which he clawed his way to the top of his profession, and served as the Deputy Commander LDF for almost two years.

To all Basotho, the Commander says: “It takes a level-headed person to lead a defence force in these trying times – someone courageous, patient, truthful and loyal. I believe that with the support of the army general staff associated ministries and the entire Basotho nation; under my command the LDF will always successfully accomplish all its mandated duties.”

The LDF finally tuned for self sufficiency

*With the purpose of eradicating poverty and striving for self sufficiency, the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) has embarked on food production programmes within its units. The programmes kick-started with a vast cultivation of crops, inclusive of cabbage and potatoes. To strengthen these programmes, the Makoanyane dam was rebuilt for irrigation purposes and fish cultivation, report by **PVT Pakalitha Borotheo**.*

The LDF has acknowledged and heeded the call by the Prime Minister Mr Pakalitha Mosisili's office, through relevant government ministries, to invest energy and resources on economy's mainstay, agriculture.

This being the realization of the notion that agriculture is the fulcrum of self-sufficiency and that a larger investment guarantees more long-term benefits, moreover, agriculture does not only improve economy but also sustains good health.

The LDF has launched an offensive against hunger by introducing self-reliance programmes aimed at decreasing dependance on external supply of grains for its messes. This effort has yielded a satisfying harvest.

These have been produced in the military fields at Makoanyane Barracks in the past summer cultivation season and the already harvested produces are maize and potatoes with an estimated 24 bags of maize and 320 bags of potatoes. A portion of the produce had, however, been used by the LDF mess for the soldiers as autumn harvest.

The LDF Provost Marshal Colonel (Col) Masekoane Pasane, who oversees the self-reliance projects, suggested that LDF personnel should be acquiescent to the

programme because its acme depends on their input and support.

He further disclosed that agriculture consists of high mechanisation and low mechanism with their different methods of farming, and he stipulated that the LDF will go under low mechanism by practicing subsistence farming.

He however said: "We had not expected a harvest of this magnitude as this was our first time to embark on such a programme, but we can guarantee that through the

experience we gathered in this pilot project and the dedication we

shall put into future projects our storage rooms shall overflow."



With the diversity of agricultural skills the LDF has at present, the self-reliance projects are bound to yield annual bumper harvests

anism and low mechanism with their different methods of farming, and he stipulated that the LDF will go under low mechanism by practicing subsistence farming.

The Col revealed that had it rained in time, they could have harvested more maize, adding that lack of equipment and skilled personnel also contributed in low production.

He however said: "We had not expected a harvest of this magnitude as this was our first time to embark on such a programme, but we can guarantee that through the

"For the coming summer harvest season we shall improve our system of operation for good yields as well as introducing poultry farming, followed by the rearing of pigs. This will force our personnel to be fully equipped with skills so that the projects can run smoothly," emphasised Col Pasane.

In addition, Second Lieutenant (2Lt) Ntsokoane Ntšohi explained that to overcome the problem of unskilled personnel in the programme, they

(Ctd. next pg.)

.....self sufficiency.

(Ctd. from previous pg.)

are going to make request for the experts so that at least they could have a special platoon for the mentioned programme.

He further mentioned that their work was not easy because they were depending on soldiers from various units of the LDF, who usually dedicated to their specified duties. They were asked to assist when necessary.

"I think this experts' platoon will assist in equipping ordinary soldiers with necessary skills because this will be the duty of every soldier to take part in the development of the programme for the betterment of LDF sufficient plan," the 2Lt continued.

"Although the programme kick-started with those three, we are hoping to introduce more crops in future as we are planning to practice crop rotational farming. This



"We will make it sevenfold next season!" The LDF Provost Marshal Col Masekoane Pasane - who also oversees the army's self-reliance projects - took the LDF Public Affairs Office's PVT Pakalitha Borotho on a tour of storages of last year's harvest.

means next time the presentation will be having varieties in large scales," disclosed 2Lt Ntšohi.

Meanwhile, the LDF contingent that went through extensive agricultural training and a Tractors Operators' Course in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security are still in grips

with their task to assist the ministry in the endeavor to cultivate as many Basotho fields as possible.

The beginning of February saw the said attached army personnel being withdrawn from their farming activities, move that sparked uninformed conclusions that what appeared to be the best initiative towards economic development by the army has come to an end.

The Commander LDF, Lieutenant General Thuso Motanyane allayed everyone's fears by pointing out that the agricultural season over, the men - as soldiers - had to be withdrawn to take part in other military routine exercises and training.

The LDF contingent had been re-engaged with the Ministry of Agriculture and preparations for work in the coming season are advanced and the army-men are expected to once again be in the forefront when cultivation starts nationwide.

"Hunger! here comes the LDF....."



External Relations...

(Ctd. from pg. 11)

and the United States of America (USA) have played a major role in assisting the LDF, further highlighting the ongoing military assistance from the UK in equipping LDF personnel with peacekeeping skills. "Germany also offers LDF slots in the training of pilots, aircraft technicians as well as cadet courses. France is involved in peacekeeping," he added.

America

The US Department of Defence plays a noticeable role in assisting the LDF fulfill one of its secondary roles - *helping the nation in developmental projects and programmes* - as well as equipping the Makoanyane Military Hospital (MMH) with modern equipment and food supplements for its patients. Recently laboratory equipment for HIV/AIDS and immune boosters for people living with the virus were donated by the department.

This was followed by the visit by Dr Anne Thomas - from

the US Department of Defence - who also pledged more assistance to the MMH in the form of mobile clinics and porter camps.

The department is also helping in the construction and renovation of clinics and schools in the country, the most recent being in Maliele, Roma, and Litšoeneng, Mafeteng, and Mpharane in Mohale's Hoek.

Asia

China is another country which has contributed immensely towards the professionalism of the LDF. The LDF personnel undergo Senior Staff, Technical, Diving, Medics and Sports courses in China.

"Recently China donated M2 000 000.00 to the LDF for the purchase of "Pajero" Jeep vehicles. This was followed by another M4 000 000.00 for the purchase of diving equipment and parachutes," the Commander disclosed.

Since the arrival of the Indian Army Training Team (IATT) in Lesotho in 2001, the elite Commando Force and a computer laboratory were established. The expertise of the IATT has assisted the LDF to improve its Engineering Company, Signals Company,

as well as equipping the LDF with documentation on military law.

"India also offers Cadet Courses for LDF personnel. We are expecting them to offer us a slot for the training of our doctor soon," Lt Gen Motanyane disclosed adding that India recently donated uniform to the LDF.

The Commander mentioned that for one to undergo a course in the mentioned countries, he/she has to be physically and mentally fit.

"They need medically fit people therefore they (*applicants*) need to undergo medical tests that are inclusive of HIV/AIDS tests," Lt Gen disclosed explaining that those who fail medical tests are not allowed to go for such courses as per demands of donors.

But, in all these fruitful results what does the LDF contribute?

"It is not easy to give back as a poor country. However, we offer them permission for study tours in Lesotho upon their request. When it comes to Botswana we hold joint exercises with them as I mentioned earlier, this being either in Lesotho or Botswana. Recently both our forces' paratroopers held a joint parachute exercise at Mejametalana and Moshoeshoe I airport.

We have invited the Chinese People's Liberation Army Commander to Lesotho and the Indian Army's Commander," Lt Gen said explaining that these visits may take place this year or next year.

The Commander made an assurance that these friendships are a major challenge to the LDF as they provide exposure for the army.

"Members of the LDF are able to meet with members of other defence forces and this helps us to scale and measure where the LDF

(Ctd. on pg. 48)

...Military Police

(Ctd. from pg. 41)

Kutame Raletšela - Senior Instructor and also responsible for physical security and detention facilities - was on the other hand in haste to point out that "we still have a lot of ground to cover to eventually operate as well oiled machine, we need to establish a Dogs' Section to strengthen our search operations, a detention camp for women is yet to be built, in fact quite a number of areas need to be covered."

He said their strength also has to be doubled due to forthcoming international and regional obligations. "This has hampered our involvement in previous regional exercises, and have only been able to participate in Blue Crane (South Africa) and Blue Hungwe (Zimbabwe)," 2Lt Raletšela said.

Majestically hovering ...

(Ctd. from pg. 18)

in the most vulnerable rural areas of Zambia where tons of cranes were delivered to the population living there.

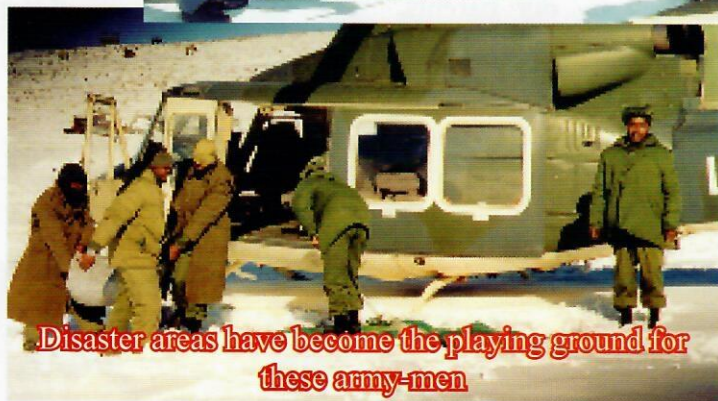
"We are going to embark on a similar exercise to be held in Tanzania in October 2006. Here the target area is River Ravuma Basin in the Mtwara area, this area is less developed because it was a war zone during the Tanzanian independence struggle," Col Mohlahatsa continued.

"Most people in the Mtwara area lack essential services, and when



Left: The delivery of books and study material in very remote areas of the country is amongst the responsibilities of the Airwing

Right: State visitors and donors are safely ferried around the country in project areas by the able LDF pilots



Disaster areas have become the playing ground for these army-men

such arrive they are late. so the SADC has decided that the population of the area be helped," Col Mohlahatsa disclosed adding that all disaster departments in SADC member-states have been included in the exercise starting from as early as the plenary stages.

Col assured the LDF Airwing participation in this exercise which has been code-named "Ruvuma".

The Airwing does not assist in disasters outside the country only as during floods and snows in Lesotho it is the one responding first with

humanitarian relief.

Mrs Pulane Makitle - Senior Economic Planner in the DMA - showed that during heavy snowfall, they employ the use of LDF helicopters for monitoring the situation in affected areas. She pointed out, however, that difficulties are encountered in these operations.

Col Mohlahatsa elaborated: "The shortage of resources such as helicopters and planes is one of the problems we face. In cases where we work with the civilian population at times there are great problems in carrying out specific duties due to differences in work ethics."

"We have to acclimatize ourselves with the changes so as to efficiently accomplish our tasks. Recent studies show that major disasters happen after every two years, being natural and man-made in different images," Col Mohlahatsa mentioned giving an example that they never expected that planes can be used as bombs like September 11 attack in US.

The Col went on: "We never expected disasters such as the Tsunami, that is why we have to be ready for these kinds of challenges. We have to make conferences to address such issues as to be aware of any disasters which may occur and be in the position to respond to them."

The LDF is in the process of developing its Airwing based on compatibility and interoperability of resources with other SADC countries as well as standardising its operating procedures.

LDF Airwing was established in 1979 to render air transport for the then PMU for troops deployment. It also offers support to other security agencies, ministries, parastatals, private organizations as well as individuals.

Winds of change ...

(Ctd. from pg. 25)

marked by various activities attended to by the LDF personnel. Five (5) LDF members are currently participating in peacekeeping mission in the war-torn State of Sudan in the region of Darfur.

Furthermore, an LDF officer, Colonel (Col) Maaparankoe Mahao, has played a pivotal role in the AU's Peace and Security Council that cut the founding principles of the AU's peacekeeping and intervention role. He was based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This was recently applauded by the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Mr Pakalitha Mosisili during the passing-out parade of the LDF recruits at the Ratjomose Barracks.

Lesotho, through the LDF, being a member of the SADC Brigade was represented by Col Malefetsane Maboloka at a SADC Interim Planning Element in Gaborone, Botswana from April to December 2005. Currently Col Graphael Lephoto is an LDF representative at the SADC Brigade Permanent Planning Element since the beginning of this year till the end of his tenure at the end of December 2007.

This body is where the formation and mobilisation of the SADC Brigade - meant for deployment in the region and continentally when need arise - is being thrashed out.

On issues pertaining to the formation of the SADC Brigade, Col Maboloka explained: "the establishment of the SADC Brigade taps into the SADC experiences in conflict resolution. Experiences, as a region, range from dealing with intermittent reports of attempted coups, recurrent natural disasters, civil wars and



Assistant Chief of Staff (Finance and Admin.) Brigadier Thoriso Mareka accompanies the US Army Military Attache on his visit to the Commander LDF

even the invasion of SADC states."

A member of the LDF Private Mojalefa Leohla - who has undergone peacekeeping training in Lesotho - holds the view that the efforts as the one currently undertaken by the LDF officers are commendable and that involvement in them should not be preceded by thoughts of dying and what would happen next.

"Besides, there must be an understanding by our parents,

brothers and sisters that peacekeepers are there to monitor peace initiatives and not engage in war as some people might think, hence the abolition of the word 'enemy' which is replaced by 'faction', in peacekeeping operations. We cannot exclude ourselves from the global village, we need to be a professional army and be able to speak the same language with other fellow

(Ctd. on pg. 50)



The Indian High Commissioner during his visit to Lesotho to cement bilateral relations between the two countries - the Indian Army is currently assisting the LDF with its restructuring programme

Man's inhumanity...



(Ctd. from pg. 12)

calmly assured her of the good intents and purposes of my chat with her and she opened up more and took me into her confidence.

"I always remember home, the good times of my upbringing that though poor, were filled with laughter, love and happiness. We would hear about rebel fighting in surrounding regions but nothing ever really happened and I never even dreamt that one day my own people would force me to flee my country," she recalled.

She recounted how it had never dawned on her that her own region, her own village, her own family, her own household would be a gory scenery of man's cruelty. A testament of man's inhumanity to man, a chapter on beheaded and dismembered human bodies, a massive trail of bloodshed in search of political power. The reason Grace left home a wanderer with a blurred future and no

trust for fellow human beings.

"That is the past, I bemoan the loved ones I saw butchered, the souls I will never see again. That was an era that I don't want to dwell too much on. I look into the future, I pray, therefore, for the men and women who sacrifice their own lives to bring peace to my troubled land," she recounted. I silently devoured every emotion she shared, all to understand what it meant to be an outcast in your own land and a refugee among foreign people.

We continued our talk and I remembered that this is a time when scores of workers in South Africa take to the streets to protest the self-enrichment of their employers and those in government; when poor men and women the world over start to really feel the negative impact of the global economic crises that started in Asia; and when again people the world over ice up

at the mention of the words "*a foreign national*" following repeated threats of international terrorism.

All of this reminded us that we live in the context and operate in a world of extreme opposites, a context where local, national, regional and global political and economic forces are beyond our control. Where man's inhumanity to man pushes us to limits where we no longer see fellow human beings as human.

Our contact was non-committal and never even butted in during our conversation, she seemed over the moon while enjoying the two bottles of ice-cold Hansa Pilsener beer that I had bought for her troubles in luring Grace to the spot so that we could talk.

I quizzed Grace about the importance of peacekeeping efforts such as that embarked upon by the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) - under the auspices of the African Union - to send Military Observers to her troubled land to facilitate a peaceful solution to its problems.

"I had always underestimated our soldier boys (*referring to the LDF*), you know what people can make you believe. But to hear that they are actually getting their hands soiled to secure a better life for their fellow brothers and sisters across the continent as noble task. And I out of words, my appreciation just won't suffice," she said beaming happiness, the second time she smiled during our conversation.

She stressed the need for Africa to solve her problems as has been suggested by the United Nations, adding that "we are the architects of our own troubles, and it is befitting that we raise a hand to thwart further evil actions, hence I

(Ctd. on pg. 51)



External Relations...

(Ctd. from pg. 44)

is. This also helps us reach military professionalism, loyalty and required military standards. We also learn from them about peacekeeping procedures and how to operate in regional and international missions," the Commander elaborated.

He went on to say, "We also learn through our interactions that there is a need for female personnel to be included in the hierarchy of our defence forces as African Union (AU) requires. Even in SADC we have experienced shortage of females in our joint training which needed them, so we have planned to send female soldiers to cadet courses as they seem to be doing well in their daily duties.

"As we have got trainings from various countries we

...military observers

(Ctd. from pg. 22)

because any careless action or mistakes will lower their dignity. And now that they had been equipped with relevant information and training even the media would be highly critical and observing them carefully.

Overall training covered roles, duties and functions of military observers, challenges facing them, universal principles of military observers and potential problematic issues. Of the 15 countries that would take part in the AU mission in Sudan, 10 are members of the peace and Security Council, 2 are SADC Troika members while the other is an out going member.

Lesotho being a member in

LDF paramedics...

(Ctd. from pg. 24)

On the point of working together with private emergency service companies such as **Emergency Respond 24 hrs** (from the Republic of South Africa - RSA) which is currently campaigning in Lesotho, the LDF paramedics said they cannot hesitate to work with them if such a move has been agreed upon and approved by government.

2Lt Lehlohonolo Khoachele went on to explain that in 1999 the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) trained their personnel from levels 1 to 3 even though they were unable to continue to the advanced levels due to lack of funds.

He explained that the SANDF has promised to offer them training in near future adding that "we requested that instead of us going for training in South Africa, our authorities should facilitate that SANDF sends its instructors here so as to save money. This will increase our strength and make it easy to expand our work to the community at all angles."

2Lt Khoachele pointed out that currently the LDF is the only organisation in Lesotho with trained paramedics, and that this brings pride and confidence to its ordinary personnel. They added that most hospitals in Lesotho have first aid and emergency equipment as well trained staff, during emergencies they use ordinary nurses on duty and ambulances that have no equipment required in emergencies.

"They have been trained in military institutions thus their training is largely combat based," disclosed WO Tlali adding, "we attend all kinds of emergencies. Even our ambulances' drivers are not just drivers, they have been trained to perform all duties pertaining to emergency attendance and that professionally an ambulance goes together with a paramedic."

"Our ambulances are fully fitted with equipment that includes: scoop stretchers, trauma boards, splints, conditional stretchers, medical anti-shock trousers and many others," he said.

2Lt Bereng added: "Plans are being made to consult relevant recognised paramedic institutions outside the LDF to further and award certificates to our in-house trained paramedics as some are in the same level with those trained from academic institutions."

To expand services to the public in an even more effective way some paramedics have been attached to the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital's main theatre.

The LDF paramedics were trained in renowned institutions in the RSA, the US and other foreign countries.

the two structures has an obligation to honour her commitment to the peace endeavor. Deployed officers are on this mission on a yearly rotational basis and will be relieved of their duty by another team when their period on engagement expires.

MARA
is strictly
sold for
M5.00

My Dream, My Pride....

(Ctd. from pg. 29)

I will take care of you, I will always be there for you whenever you need me baby," I managed to eventually mumble between mouthfuls of deep inhalations.

The writing was on the wall, she did not love me. I sunk deep in sorrow and grieved for this one woman who was failed to realize that she was a cardinal piece of my future. "Am I dreaming?" I asked myself as I realised that my long term vision was being jinxed.

"My friend Francis, " this time not calling me "My Love" or "Sweetie" as usual. I will repeat this, I am not intending to get married. I do not want to be taken care of, I can stand on my own. What I wanted from you was love and not marriage and you have successfully given me that.

Francis! That is why we have lived peacefully and kept our love alive and our romantic fires burning since we met. Now that you want to marry, you can go your way in search of a future wife," said impatiently, Boithatelo's words pierced my heart like a barbed wire cutting across a baby's tender flesh. I wished, I was not hearing this, or am I? Not from her, not from this woman I have dubbed my reason for living.

It is true Boithatelo was well off at her age, 26. She cruised around town in a brand new maroon *Toyota Tazz*, owned five four-roomed rental flats

and lived in one of them. I never developed any sense of inferiority complex until this day when she unreservedly told that all she has ever wanted for to share was love, love alone and not marriage which in turn connotes my blissful future.

Memories flooded my confused mind, I remembered those days when we were the toast of every who-is-who party, our tours to trendy shopping malls as walks in the park, splashing truck-loads of cash on à la mode expensive for her. We dined at top of the range restaurants and sometimes slept over at those five star hotels.

I had tried so hard to make her feel I was man enough for her and that I had more power but in vain. "All these could not make her want to get married to me?" I asked myself as I sat in one of the local bars and drowned my sorrows in the tiny bubbles of Amstel Lager, slowly brewed to perfection as they say, but unlike my dream which though developed slowly appeared far from perfect.

"Women are wayward stupid animals," I thought. But I am more stupid because it is now five years since we parted, but still I cannot let go. Maybe I was pushing things a bit too fast and hard for her to have concurred with my proposition," it became my daily consolation when haunted by my failures.

So I had decided to give her more space and chance to think of



this. I would call her on her cell phone and she responded as friendly as I used to know her. One thing that she never gave me a chance to do was to meet her in person. Although I tried to convince her that they would only be friendly meetings she rejected all my advances.

"Francis, this is the time to move on with your life, stop thinking that one day things will change. If there is one way or the other in which I can help you out of this infatuation, please tell me and I will be glad to do so," she once said when in my calls I would narrate the old story of just how much I missed her.

The ease with which she said all these made me believe that

(Ctd. on pg. 50)

Winds of change..

(Ctd. from pg. 46)

soldiers. Soldierly is internationally recognized," he added with pride.

With these winds of change sweeping over the LDF and propelling it to new heights, international counterparts have shown great interest in partnering the LDF in its efforts to move towards international standards.

A number of international counterparts have been hosted by the Commander LDF and the crux of deliberation has been areas of co-operations and how the LDF could

*Peace is a
joint effort -
everyone has
a role to play*

My Dream, My Pride....

(Ctd. from pg. 49)

she too had moved on with her life, but no, she had not.

I even took twenty days leave from work to keep her on a round-the-clock surveillance, but my gorgeous ever smiling Boithatelo was still the woman I knew. She had her own way of talking to people. At one moment you would think she is tired of talking to you but the flip side of the same woman would tell the contrary. My friends used to warn me that she is overflowing with pride but I knew that my Boithatelo was never what one thought, she was as enigmatic as enigma itself.

Time passed by and I was still holding onto my vague imagination that if Boithatelo was not involved in any love affair she would sooner or later realise that she had made a mistake by deciding to remain a spinster for the rest of her life. "Mark my words, I mean what I say," she would say at the end of our conversations and indeed she meant what she said.

After our separation I had developed a bad drinking habit. I would arrive at the dormitory in the wee hours of the morning, that was

the earliest time, otherwise I would search for sleep at 0500hrs, take a shower, go to the mess and leave for work.

My friends tried to advice me but I thought "Oh! If only they were in my position, they would know that it is not easy but I knew that I was being selfish. To my family that I now seldom visited and my friends that I never had time for, although they always supported me. They tried to convince me that life must go on without Boithatelo but I told them, "Guys you never know what you have until you lose it."

Sometimes I would think "If only we could go back to the old golden times when women had not a word in families, when all a father needed in his kraal were cows no matter who married his daughter I would pay the whole brides' price to Boithatelos' father and abduct her.

But now things have changed, women have rights," Really those days are gone, when a woman would surrender to anything that a man said with a notion that he is the head of the family.

Last month when I went home and my mother raised up her wish to see her house full of her giggling grandchildren, my children. She revived that wound, a dream to have a family that I would be proud of as my future, a dream that was extinguished the minute Boithatelo decided to walk out of my life. That is, the minute I raised the topic of marriage to her.

Boithatelo my confidant woman, my dream, my pride, my future, my everything.

I lay on that single bed and continue with the job that has nowadays become synonymous with me, dream. And dream!

The LDF Supports

"Know Your Status Campaign"

Between
February and April
2006
around 1 000
soldiers volunteered
to be tested for
HIV/AIDS - through
ongoing training and
counselling,
voluntary tests are
continuing.



Training and counselling
of HIV/AIDS patients for
soldiers -

Training and counselling
on HIV/AIDS to the
public at Quthing,

Mokhotlong and Maseru
- Pre and Antenatal
training on HIV/AIDS

have
commenced at the
MMH.

Man's inhumanity...

(Ctd. from pg. 47)

salute the regional effort to bring peace to this part of Africa." Since time immemorial Africa has been the hub of ethnical fighting and scores of people displaced, while others had to flee their homelands to seek refuge in other states. A phenomenon that translated into almost half of the African populace technically refugees.

Fingers pointed across the political spectrum as all wanted to avoid the blame for the eventuality that was confronting this continent, homeless and landless people in their own land – driven to misery by their own people.

Innocent men and women denuded, shorn of human honour and left to die in their ruined villages or face a life elsewhere as refugees. This has been the plight of millions of the sons and daughters of the African continent.

Noting with great concern that the numbers of refugees in Africa are on a constant increase and desirous of finding ways and means of alleviating their misery and suffering as well as providing them with a better life and future, the then Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) – now African Union (AU), deliberated and agreed to the signature of a convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.

Articles of this Convention would understand a refugee to be a person who, owing to fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, ethnical dislikes, nationality etc. is outside the country of his nationality and is unable to avail himself of the protection of that country or to return to it.

This is inclusive of any person who owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign interference or other events disturbing public order to an extent that he is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality.

The convention compels member states to use the best endeavors compatible with their respective legislations to receive and secure the settlement of refugees, and that no person shall be subjected to measures such as rejection at the frontier, return or expulsion, which would compel him to return to or to remain in a territory where his life, physical integrity or liberty would be threatened.

The Convention was signed by all member-states on 10th September 1969 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and pursuant to its Article XI - which facilitated the deposit of instruments of ratification by one-third of the member states - came into force on 20th June 1974. Lesotho is a signatory to the Convention, and on 19th August 1983 the Lesotho parliament enacted The Refugees Act of 1983, a legislation to effect the provisions of the OAU Convention.

"Man's inhumanity to man compels plain man to avoid propelling self-interests at the expense of man's blood, and to shun all evil that man does to mankind."



Ensuring a safe home for every person: The LDF has joined sister armies in the continent to intervene between warring nations in an effort to bring peace and make Africa safe.



