
Lesotho National Day Special

Expectations high as tourists come back

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AMBASSADOR OF LESOTHO



This commemoration takes place within a context when Lesotho will be going to hold general elections on Oct. 7. With this coincidence of events, we recognize the sense of responsibility that

comes along with independence, governance, accountability, and political and economic stability.

We believe that with the constitutional reforms that have just taken place, we will achieve “The Lesotho We Want” because it was informed by dialogue and participation from the political spectrum and the nation at large. We are also noticing positive youth participation in electioneering unlike other years. We can seemingly hope

that the participation will translate into voting to adhere to the goal of “The Lesotho We Want.” We are also noticing the formation of many new political parties, which implies that democracy is at work.

We also would like to share that phase two of the construction of Polihali Dam and water reservoir has begun. These will impact significantly and positively on the socioeconomic status of the local population and the country at large through construction of the necessary infrastructure, including roads, power lines and residential accommodations, thereby leaving no one behind — a very important trait of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the U.N. sustainable development goals.

Some of these developments in Lesotho were made possible through the assistance of grant aid from the Japanese government. This included the erection of a solar energy plant in the mountainous and most rural part of Lesotho. We see this as the positive connectivity solution adhering to SDG No. 9.

At this juncture let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Japanese and Tunisian governments for successfully hosting the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development under challenging circumstances. Its success has indeed renewed the sense of multilateral cooperation and partnership among Lesotho and Japan and Africa at large. We believe that such platforms are likely to yield positive results for Africa’s development.

Another positive development is the influx of tourism post-COVID-19, which has informed introspection and assisted us in building on our hosting courtesies and facilities. We are hopeful that with the lifting of travel restrictions, more people will visit Lesotho and experience the gem that our country is.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.