

# Lesotho National Day Special

## Celebrating 200 years with new hope

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF LESOTHO



It is a profound honor and privilege to write this supplement, particularly at the time when Lesotho is marking significant strides and milestones.

The year 2024 bears great significance to the Basotho nation as we celebrate two momentous occasions, namely the 58th anniversary of the Kingdom of Lesotho's independence as well as the 200th anniversary of the formation of Basotho by our founding father Morena Moshoeshoe I. The past nearly six decades of our independence have been marked

by nation-building, democracy and socio-economic progress. This is a true testament to the enduring spirit of tenacity and resilience of the Basotho people.

The past 200 years, however, have shaped our history and continue to influence our future. As we mark this bicentennial, it is imperative to reflect on the enduring legacy of the past and envision the future with a renewed sense of hope, zeal and commitment.

Two centuries ago, our forebears embarked on a journey characterized by hope, foresight, determination and courage. In times of tribal wars, Moshoeshoe I shunned armed conflict and resorted to diplomacy and thereby reconciled with his belligerents. He placed a very high premium on peace and often likened it to a sister with the saying, "*Khotso, khaitsele ea Moshoeshoe* (Peace is like a sister to Moshoeshoe)."

The efforts of our ancestors have laid the foundation for the nation we proudly call the Kingdom of Lesotho today. This occasion is not only a tribute to their achievements, but also a reminder of the values that have been bestowed upon us: unity, perseverance, and the pursuit of long-lasting peace and prosperity for all.

The Basotho people have evolved, embracing change while remaining true to their rich cultural heritage. This anniversary is an opportunity to honor the progress we have made and to reaffirm our dedication to building a brighter future for generations to come.

Throughout these 200 years, Lesotho has confronted multiple challenges, and yet still is faced with a plethora of difficulties to overcome. Nevertheless, the spirit of Basotho remains undeterred and the resolve of His Majesty King Letsie III's government to



build a better place for our beloved nation is beyond reproach. The future that Basotho deserves is a reality fast dawning upon us. We implore the people of Japan and other nations to visit our booth at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, where we will showcase our nation with pride.

As we commemorate this remarkable occasion under the theme of "Birth. Reflection. Revival," we equally remember the partnerships and friendships that have helped us forge our path. The bonds we have established with the international community and our development partners, especially Japan, remain pivotal in our journey, hence we are grateful for the



Maletsunyane Falls, near the town of Semonkong, is known for its 192-meter drop.  
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continued collaboration and support.

We further have the honor of reiterating our unwavering support for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process as TICAD 9 is scheduled to be held in Yokohama in 2025.

Finally, I extend my earnest appreciation to all who have contributed to this significant chapter in our history. Together, let us celebrate the past, embrace the present and

envision a future filled with endless promises and possibilities.

Happy 200th anniversary!  
*Khotso! Pula! Nala!* (Peace! Rain! Prosperity!)

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