



L E S O T H O
C O M M U N I C A T I O N S
A U T H O R I T Y

26 August 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC STATEMENT ON LCA DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

The Lesotho Communications Authority is aware of various false information regarding the operations of the Authority that is being peddled on social media platforms in an attempt to tarnish the image of the Authority.

On 22 May 2019, the Board of Directors resolved to suspend staff personal/emergency loans, which were intended for cases of illness in the immediate family or other extreme emergency, due to concerns regarding the manner in which they were being administered by Ms. Masebolaoa Sebolaoa, the Chief Finance Officer, Ms. Maseoli Sekoati, the Finance Manager and Ms. Mathabo Sebilo, the Human Resources Manager of the Authority at the time.

Further investigations into the practice which was alleged to have commenced from as far back as 2000 when the Authority was established, revealed that the staff personal/emergency loans were no longer being administered in accordance with the prescribed policies, rules and procedures of the Authority and were being abused by some staff members.

Ms. Masebolaoa Sebolaoa and Ms. Maseoli Sekoati, both registered chartered accountants with the Lesotho Institute of Accountants and Ms. Mathabo Sebilo, began to neglect and deliberately bypass the procedures in order to access the funds of the Authority without authorisation.

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The Board of Directors resolved to bring the officers before a disciplinary process for dishonesty and misappropriation of funds. Ms. Maseoli Sekoati who has been overseeing the finances of the Authority for almost 9 years tendered her resignation with immediate effect on the morning of 13 August 2020 to avoid disciplinary proceedings that were scheduled to be held that morning. Ms. Masebolaoa Sebolaoa who has been overseeing the finances of the Authority for 19 years also resigned with immediate effect on the morning of 18 August 2020 to avoid disciplinary proceedings that were scheduled to be held on 19 August 2020.

Ms. Mathabo Sebilo, who took over the human resources function of the Authority from Ms. Sebolaoa and Ms. Sekoati in September 2017, was summarily dismissed on 12 August 2020 after being found guilty of several counts of misconduct relating to abuse of staff and demanding that staff pay her 10% of the value of the loans she assisted them to take. These were false accusations since the disciplinary inquiry related to specific counts of maladministration of loans by Ms. Sebilo, Ms. Sebolaoa and Ms. Sekoati where they acted in concert to circumvent the authorisation procedure and unduly accessed funds.

The two registered chartered accountants also resigned in anticipation of disciplinary proceedings arising from ongoing investigations into various misconducts of misappropriation of funds and falsification of financial records of the Authority relating to the undue payment of various officers in 2017/18 including payments to the former CEO, Mr. Tšeliso Mokela and former acting CEO, Adv. Moshoeshoe Ntaote who was the Chief Regulatory Officer. Adv. Moshoeshoe Ntaote has since tendered his resignation with immediate effect to avoid disciplinary proceedings that were scheduled to be held on 25 August 2020.

The Legal and Corporate Affairs Manager, Ms. Mapule Mokoena who was responsible for the keeping of the records of the Board of Directors has also since resigned with immediate effect on 25 August 2020 in anticipation of

disciplinary proceedings scheduled to be held on 01 September 2020 arising from misconducts relating to negligence in the conduct of her duties.

The Office of the Auditor General will conduct its usual annual audit of the finances of the Authority to identify and correct any procedures that may lead to high risk of losses being incurred by the Authority. It was through such tireless efforts and independent audits by the Auditor General that these irregularities were identified.

Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA) is a statutory body, established in June 2000, with the mandate of regulating the communications sector in Lesotho comprising telecommunications, broadcasting, postal services and related matters.

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