

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
& International Relations

LESOTHO –DUBLIN



**Lesotho Embassy Dublin
Activity Report 2015 – 2016**

The Embassy of the kingdom of Lesotho

Dublin Ireland



Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho
52 Upper Mount Street
Dublin D02 FW58
Ireland

Tel: +353 1 676 2233
Fax: +353 1 676 2258
Email: info@lesothoembassy.ie

www.lesothoembassy.ie

[Facebook](#)

Countries of Accreditation:

Ireland
Denmark
Iceland
Finland
Norway
Sweden

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Lesotho-Dublin Staff 2015 – 2016



H.E. Mr. Paramente Phamotse
Head of Mission



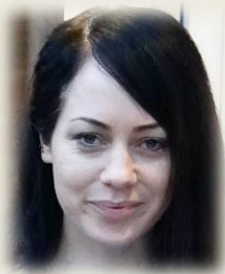
Mr. Kutloano Pheko
Counsellor



Mrs. 'Mancholu Esther
Molemohi First Secretary



Mrs. Lineo 'Mathabo
Motsopa, Third Secretary



Ms. Deirdre O'Sullivan,
Executive Secretary



Mr. Gerard Boyle, Chauffeur



Mr. Garrett Davis, Driver

Enhancing Political and Diplomatic Relations with Ireland



Top: The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho and his spouse paid a visit to *the Áras an Uachtaráin* with other Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Dublin for 2016 New Year's Greetings to the President of the Republic of Ireland His Excellency Dr Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina Higgins in January 2016. Also present was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland Mr. Charlie Flanagan TD.

Right: In his capacity as Dean, on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps, the *Papal Nuncio* H.E. Archbishop Dr Charles Brown delivered a message of good will to the President and the people of Ireland, especially in 2016 as the year of Centenary of the Irish Rising.



Above Right:

The Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) of Ireland, Minister Ms. Joan Barton TD visited the Lesotho stand and the Africa Day Flagship Event at Farmleigh in Dublin in May 2015. The Tánaiste who has visited Lesotho before as a Member of Parliament, was presented with a Lesotho Picture Book by the Ambassador in appreciation of her support for Africa and Lesotho.



The 2015 Annual Famine Commemoration ceremony was held in Newry in County Down, hosted by the local District Council, and officiated by **Mrs. Heather Humphreys T.D.**, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This solemn occasion, in memory of all those people who suffered or perished during the Great Irish Famine of the nineteenth century, was also attended by the Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland **Mr. Martin McGuinness**. The Ambassador of Lesotho and other Heads of Mission accredited to Dublin were invited to lay wreaths on behalf of their various peoples and governments.

The Irish Forum for Global Health hosted the 2015 Irish Aid Professor Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland in Dublin in December 2015.

The guest lecturers were: **Sr. Dr Miriam Duggan** an Irish Missionary based in Kenya & **Professor Sheila D. Tlou** from Botswana. (Right)



The Director General of Irish Aid **Mr. Michael Gaffey** (right) facilitated the presentations and discussions.



2015 Africa Day Lecture at Trinity College Dublin



The 2015 Africa Day Lecture, organised by the Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI) at Trinity College Dublin, in collaboration with African Embassies in Dublin, took place on May 25. The theme for the 2015 Seminar was *Inspiring Change: Empowering Women's Future in Africa*. The opening address was delivered by Ms Heydi Foster-Breslin, CEO of *Misean Cara & Irish Human Rights and Equality Commissioner*, and the panellist in the photograph below are:

- Ms. Minna Salami, Member of Duke University's Corporate Educator Network & The Guardian Africa Network & founder of award-winning blog *Ms Afropolitan*.
- Ms Lilian O. Ajayi, Executive Director/Founder of *Global Connections for Women Foundation (GCAW)* and Ambassador of *Goodwill to the State of Arkansas, USA*;
- Dr Faiza Mohamed, Director of *Equality Now* and the *Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition*;
- The Panel Facilitator was Dr Michelle D'Arcy of the TCD Department of Political Science.



African Embassies partnering with Irish Aid to Celebrate Africa Day 2015

The 2015 Africa Day annual celebrations funded by Irish Aid were held at the Farmleigh grounds on Phoenix Park in Dublin. Marked by family fanfare of African music, games, food and cultural activities, the events were attended by an estimated crowd of more than 30,000 people. Among the special guests was the *Tánaiste* Ms. Joan Burton who visited several stands including that of the Lesotho Embassy (right).



Left: Portmarnock Community School pupils and their Principal Ms. Eithne Deeney, the Ambassador and Mr Niall Fitzgerald, Chairperson of Action Ireland Trust represented Lesotho at the Africa Day extravaganza in Farmleigh.

Right: The Portmarnock Community School had their #MapLesotho stand and Messrs Niall Fitzgerald and Fran Whelan with the Lesotho Ambassador were there in support.



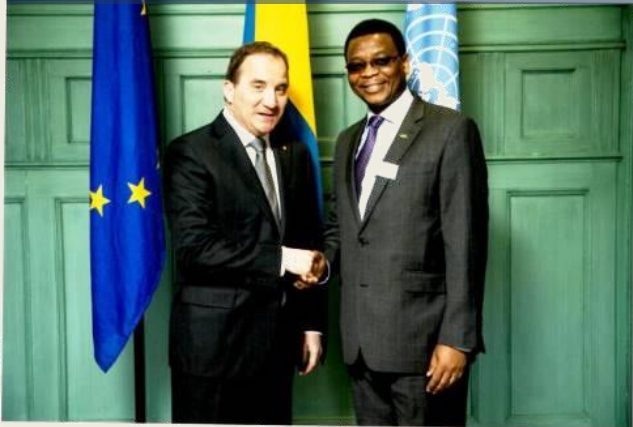
Below: The Basotho diaspora and the Lesotho Embassy were also representing the country with pride at the Africa Day Flagship event.



Maintaining Political and Diplomatic Relations with Sweden



Below: H.E. Ambassador P. Phamotse met and greeted the Prime Minister of Sweden H.E. Mr. Stefan Löfven in May 2016. The Ambassador was in Stockholm on the invitation of the government with other non-resident Heads of Mission



The visiting Ambassadors to Stockholm and Uppsala engaged with Swedish public officials, academics and the business communities on matters of mutual interest in over two days.



Maintaining Diplomatic Relations links with Finland



Finland continues to become one of the significant diplomatic partners for Lesotho with potential for political, trade and development links. To foster good diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Ambassador for Lesotho to Finland and his spouse attended the diplomatic dinner hosted by H.E. President Sauli Niinistö in Helsinki in June 2015.

The Honorary Consul of Lesotho to Finland Mr. Harri Mannila and his wife Mrs. Sirpa Mannila visited Lesotho in February 2016 and continued their familiarisation with the country that he represents. They presented a donation of M40,000 to The Queen's National Trust Fund, and also exchanged presents with Her Majesty.



While in Maseru the Lesotho Honorary Consul in Finland also visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations where he met the Acting Principal Secretary Mrs. 'Mathoriso Monaheng, the Director for Europe and the Americas Ms Itumeleng Rafutho, and the Counsellor Mr. Teboho Rakoloi (below left).



Mr. Manilla further explored opportunities for development support and tourism in several places in the foothills and the mountains areas of Lesotho, including women tapestry manufacturing cooperatives in Berea (above right), and tourist attractions such as *Afri-ski* and *Sani Pass* in Botha-Bothe and Mokhotlong districts respectively.

Promoting Business links in Finland



The *Finnish Africa Society* organised their annual business forum in September 2015, and the H.E. Mr. Paramente Phamotse, the Ambassador of Lesotho to Finland was invited to make a presentation on “*Exploiting the Potential for the European Union Economic Partnership Agreement with Southern African Development Community to increase trade between the Two Regions from 2016*” The Chairperson of the Finnish Africa Society Mr. Matti Kinnunen (*above right*) facilitated the seminar where there was also a presentation from the Embassy of Ghana.

Below: Below are the Lesotho delegation Mr. Harri Mannila Honorary Consul and H.E. Paramente Phamotse Ambassador; Mr. Matti Kinnunen; and the delegation from the Embassy of Ghana in Copenhagen and their Honorary Consul in Finland Mrs. Ulla Alanko.



Maintaining Political and Diplomatic Relations with other African Embassies

The Embassy of Lesotho values the partnership and collaboration with other African Missions in Dublin in the pursuit of promoting African issues in Ireland and Europe in the areas of trade, development, foreign direct investment, emigration and the African diaspora. The resident African missions in Dublin are Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa.



In the picture on the left shows the African Heads of Mission; back to front: *Mr. Willie van der Westhuizen*, Counsellor South African Embassy; *H.E. Richard Opembe* Ambassador of Kenya; *H.E. Parumente Phamotse*, Ambassador of Lesotho; *Mr. Olusola Iginla* CDA a.i. Embassy of Nigeria; *H.E. Soba Gendi*, Ambassador of Egypt; *H.E. Anas Khales*, Ambassador of Morocco; and *H.E. Lela-alem Gebreyohannes Tedla*, Ambassador of Ethiopia.

Right: The Ambassador of Kenya H.E. Richard Opembe paid a courtesy call at the Lesotho Embassy as part of his orientation and furthering diplomatic relations between the Missions of Lesotho and Kenya in Ireland.



Left: The Ambassadors of Ethiopia, Lesotho and Nigeria participated in the Africa Day Lecture at Trinity College Dublin in 2015. *H.E. Mrs. Elizabeth Bolere Ketebu* ended her term as Ambassador of Nigeria in Ireland in August 2015.

Promoting Lesotho Trade and Business links in Ireland

As part of promoting economic co-operation between Ireland and African countries, African Missions based in Dublin regularly visit Irish companies around the country to learn about their business models and encourage them to establish business links with the African countries such as Lesotho.



In June 2015 African Embassies in Ireland visited *Mainstream Renewable Power* at their Irish premises in Sandyford Dublin, to explore the investment interest of the company in wind and solar power in Africa. The Lesotho Embassy was represented by the Third Secretary Mrs. Lineo Motsopa.



Left: African Embassies visited *Affordable Building Concept International Ltd* in Monaghan in April 2015. With the company representative Mr. Desmond Cullinane, is H.E. Mr. Anas Khales, Ambassador of Morocco; Mr. Nkhotla Machachamise, First Secretary with the Lesotho Embassy; and H.E. Mrs. Elizabeth Ketebu, Nigerian Ambassador.

Right: The Ambassador of Lesotho met with the Managing Director of *Sigma Wireless* Mr. Tony Boyle during the visit of African Heads of Mission to the company premises in Finglas, Dublin in May 2015. Sigma Wireless is a renowned designer and supplier of wireless communication solutions for security and civilian purposes around the world, including Africa. Mr. Boyle is also a generous philanthropist who has in the past has extended a hand of assistance to disadvantaged communities such as that of the Semonkong area of Lesotho.





Another Irish power and engineering Company met by African Embassies was *Fingleton, White & Co. Pty Ltd* in August 2015 in County Laois. The discussions were on the investment opportunities in renewable energy on the African continent. The African diplomats met with, among others, the founder Managing Director of the company Mr. John Fingleton

Below: In September 2015, the African Heads of Mission headed to Stamullen County Meath to visit a pharmaceutical packaging and processing company called *Millmount HealthCare* with extensive links with African markets. The company MD Mr. Pascal Keogh (back left), Mr. David Geraghty (back right) and Ms. Lorraine O'Connor (front left) met with the African HOM before a guided tour of their facility.



Action Ireland Trust Returned to Lesotho in 2016

The Irish NGO working out of Dublin Fingal County, *Action Ireland Trust* (AIT), continued to support development work in Lesotho in 2015 and prepared to return to Lesotho in 2016. With the Irish 1916 Rising Centenary Commemoration and the Lesotho 50 Years Independence anniversary in mind, AIT with their support institutions of Fingal County Council (FCC), Dublin Fire Department, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin Airport Authority, and Portmarnock Community School prepared for a large entourage to travel to Lesotho in February 2016.



In December 2015, the parents and students at PCS assembled to load a container of goods to be shipped to Lesotho (right). In January 2016 the Fingal Community converged at the Grand Hotel in Malahide for a fundraising Gala Dinner for AIT trip to Lesotho (below).



Over and above the regular philanthropic work at St Joseph's Hospital in Roma, and partnership work with Hlalele High School in Maseru, the AIT team carried out a grand celebration for their five years of work in Lesotho, 50 years of Lesotho's independence and 100 Years of the Irish Rising.

The Dublin Airport Authority sponsored an Essay Competition for the diaries of students of Portmarnock Community School who travelled to Lesotho. Among the winners was *Orla Curtis-Davis* whose essay is on the next page.

Among the guests at the Photographic Exhibition at Thaba-Bosiu, showcasing the partnership between Lesotho and Ireland, were The Most-Reverend Archbishop Tlali Lerotholi, Deputy Minister of Education and Training Hon. Thabang Kholumo, *Their Majesties the King and the Queen*, and the CEO of Action Ireland Trust Mr. Fran Whelan (below).



“Our Trip to Lesotho” Essay by *Orla Curtis-Davis* of Portmarnock School

We left for Lesotho on the fifth of February 2016. As all forty students gathered at the airport it still hadn't sunk in that I'd be leaving home for two weeks and travelling hundreds of miles away to Lesotho in Southern Africa.



As families hugged and said their goodbyes I managed not to tear up as I walked through the gates into security.

Through London, we finally arrived safely in Johannesburg where we had to wait around for a few hours to get our car hire sorted. And so began the gruelling eight-hour car journey which really felt like eight days. After two food stops and getting through the headache-inducing border control we eventually made it into Maseru city. The welcome we received was unbelievable as we were greeted by flags and songs and smiles all around.



We had an early six a.m. start to begin the Sunday, but I didn't mind getting up to the warm sunshine and the knowledge of the amazing activities that were involved in the next few hours.

It started off with morning mass, a completely different experience to mass in Ireland. The church was filled with constant, joyous singing and dancing, and us students couldn't help but smile throughout the whole thing.



The mass ended and we got to interact and chat to some of the children who attended the mass. They were all fascinated by us and wanted to take lots of pictures. It was such a

lovely experience.

Next we walked up to St. Angela Cheshire Home for disabled children, where we held a small concert. We all sat in a circle and sang songs to each other, everyone eager to join in.

Of course, our level of singing is no competition to the talent of those in the Cheshire Home, but they didn't mind and everyone was happy to get involved. It was very heart-warming seeing the children overcome their disabilities and live such happy lives. The day ended on a high note, with everyone looking forward to busy week ahead.



Normally on a Monday morning it would take me ages to drag myself out of bed, but it was no problem for me this morning as I was so excited for the upcoming day. Today I'd be visiting Ha Hlalele High School for the first time. I had heard from previous years about how amazing the welcome is, but nothing prepared me for what I was about to experience.



All the students were lined up on either side of our cars, waving Irish and Lesotho flags and cheering as we drove through. We gathered in their hall and the school choir blew us away with their incredible singing as we did our best attempt at *Ambran na bhFian*.

There were wonderful speeches given by the principal of Ha Hlalele and our own principal Ms Deeney. We finished the ceremony singing 'Singing in the Rain' (Aruchacha) led by our own Brian O'Shaughnessy. Again there was time to chat and get to know some of the students we'd be working with over the next week and a half.

Before the trip we were split into different groups doing different projects and I was put in the music group. We got to stand in a classroom to listen to what a typical class in Lesotho sounded like. It was so interesting to see the differences between students in Ireland and Lesotho. In Lesotho they really value their education, understand its importance and love coming to school. Ask any student in Ireland and they'll tell you how much they hate going to school. After the class it was time to go home and so ended an amazing first day.

The next three days went by without any trouble. What the music group did was in the morning we'd



go to a different primary school every day and sing songs, dance with them and show them our instruments. We'd have a chance to play with them so we'd bring in balloons or bubbles; it was so

touching to see how happy they are after receiving something so simple.

In the afternoon we'd go to the high school to teach how to play various instruments.

Between all of us we taught guitar, piano, violin, tin whistle and the box drum. I



helped to teach guitar and I was amazed at how fast they could pick it up. They were great students and very eager to learn everything.

On Thursday we played a concert to one of the primary schools, and although we knew we weren't the best, the cheers and applause we received was indescribable. As we made our way to leave we felt like celebrities as all the children ran up to us to give us hugs or simply hold our hand. They would come up to us and ask 'can I be your friend?' and it made me quite emotional that all they wanted was a friend. It was so hard to say goodbye as that was the only time we'd be visiting that school, but eventually it was time to go.



After the concert we got a sneak peek of the Thaba-Bosiu stage where the Cultural Day would be held that weekend.

As well as work throughout the day, in the evenings there is plenty of time for fun. On Wednesday we had the Archbishop visit us for dinner where we also performed some singing and dancing for him.

So, Saturday saw the day of the highly anticipated Cultural Day and Photography exhibition, which the King and Queen of Lesotho were attending.



That morning we travelled to Thaba-Bosiu where we would be staying the night in these beautiful huts.

We only had a short amount of time to have a

quick singing rehearsal before we had to get ready in our formal wear and into our seats.



The Ha Hlalele High School choir opened the event with their magnificent singing as the King and Queen arrived and took their seats. Throughout the event there were many inspiring speeches given from our teachers, a few students and the King himself.

I was lucky enough to be chosen to present flowers to the Queen, while another student presented the poem *'We are no Stranger to your People'* to the King. I got to shake hands with them both and it is a moment I'll never forget.

We sang our songs for the crowd but we were also entertained by local dancers, who performed incredibly.

The celebrations continued on into the night where we had dinner with the King and Queen. There was a stage in the room we were in, so naturally that's where we all ended up, singing and dancing our hearts out. It was a night that I felt we really bonded and came together as a group.

The night ended with everyone, students and teachers, sitting together outside and singing for hours until it was finally time for a late bedtime.



Monday, the start of a new week and the projects were back in full swing. The music group were in the usual routine of visiting primary schools and teaching instruments to the secondary school.

Wednesday was the last day for the projects and everyone visited Ha Hlalele.

There was a concert and I got to see my own guitar students perform which was absolutely fantastic to see how far they had come in just a few days. Our school and their school each took turns singing and dancing for each other, but in the end I couldn't join in as a little girl had fallen asleep on my lap!



Then it was time for the annual soccer match which we lost 2.1, but we didn't mind in the spirit of the day. Finally, it was time to go and I don't think there was a dry eye in our car. It was so hard to say goodbye to everyone, especially to some of the students I had gotten really close too.



Our last day consisted of travelling to Malealea Lodge to stay there for our last night. It was a day of fun, we did pony trekking and even got to participate in a local reality show where some of our dancers were 'guest stars' and some of our adults were 'guest judges'.



We finished the evening with a sing song around the campfire. It was the perfect last day.

Travelling back went by much faster than the way forward. After nearly missing both our flights it seemed like no time at all before we'd landed back in Dublin. It was only walking through the arrivals gate when I realised how much I had missed my family.

When I saw them for the first time in two weeks I started to bawl my eyes out, but it was happy tears and great to see them again.

Looking back now I can easily say it was the best experience of my life. I've learned so much about myself, about life and about a whole other country and culture. The students and people of Lesotho taught me so much about being grateful for the life I've been given. To value the education, I receive and opportunities that are available to me. You never see a frown on anyone's face in Lesotho. They are the happiest people you'll ever meet and love life to the fullest and I have learned so much from them.

The memories and new friendships I have made on the trip are some that'll last a lifetime. I have gotten so much more out of this experience than I ever could have hoped for and I would go back and do it all again in a heartbeat♥




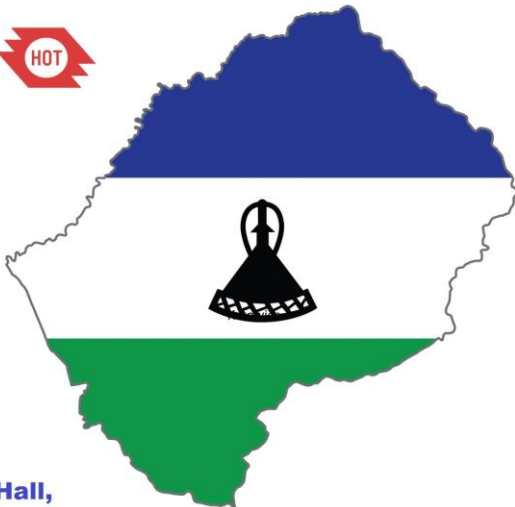
Partnering with Action Ireland Trust and Fingal County Council for Spatial Development in Lesotho

The Partnership between the Lesotho Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship Affairs and the Fingal County Council in spatial planning continued to grow in 2015 and 2016. The partnership extended to the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) and the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT). In 2015 the Chief Physical Planner Mrs. Masetori Makhetha with one District Planner Ms. Lineo Mothae visited Ireland to participate in the international conference on planning hosted by The IPI. The online mapping of Lesotho under #MapLesotho continued through 2015 and 2016 with Portmarnock Community School through their *'Mapping the Future'* project taking the lead to win the all-Ireland *Young Social Innovators* competition.



#MapLesotho

Lesotho OSM Mapathon 16th January, 2015
Help us map Lesotho

**County Hall,
Swords,
Fingal,
Co. Dublin**

**If you answer YES,
then #MapLesotho
with us!**

<p>WHERE? Dublin, Ireland Maseru, Lesotho</p>	<p>SOCIAL MEDIA #MapLesotho #OSM #OpenStreetMap #HOTosm</p>	<p>FULL DETAILS http://www.maplesotho.com See the blog - maplesotho.wordpress.com</p>
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Lesotho Partnership with Regina Mundi College – Cork City

Regina Mundi College in Cork City has been a steadfast partner of Lesotho through their exchange programme with Holy Names High School in Lesotho. H.E. Ambassador Paramente Phamotse and his spouse were invited to Cork in January 2016 for the inauguration of the school building extension, garden and courtyard officiated by Minister Simon Coveney TD. Among other VIPs attending the occasion were local TDs including the leader of *Fiana Fail*/Mr. Michael Martin TD.



Above: The school congregation and guests were addressed by the school principal Dr Margaret O'Donovan.

Right Top: Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Mr. Simon Coveney; Regina Mundi Principal Dr Margaret O'Donovan; and Lesotho Ambassador Mr. Paramente Phamotse and Mrs. Moipone Phamotse.



Right Bottom: Dr O'Donovan and her spouse; H.E. Mr. Gerry Gervin, former ambassador of Ireland to Lesotho; and Mr. and Mrs. Phamotse



Introducing Lesotho to The Habitat for Humanity Group at The High School in Dublin in 2016

The Embassy of Lesotho established contact with the High School in Rathgar Dublin, through their *Habitat for Humanity* Club in 2016. In their preparation for a trip to Lesotho, the High School invited the Ambassador and



the First Secretary at the Lesotho Embassy to make a presentation about Lesotho to the year-five students and their teachers. The Principal of the School Mr. Andrew Forrest and his staff warmly received Ambassador Paramente Phamotse (left) and the Lesotho and Irish flags were flying side-by-side above the school building (right).



After the presentation at the High School, the Ambassador and the First Secretary Mrs. Esther Molemohi met and had group photograph with the teachers and students of the Habitat for Humanity team (above) who were scheduled to travel to Lesotho in March 2016. A brief report by Mr. Killian Barry on their trip and their experiences in Lesotho is on the next page.

Report on the Trip to Lesotho from The High School by Habitat for Humanity by Team-Leader Mr. Killian Barry

" On Friday 18th March, a group of 20 nervous but highly excited High School students gathered in Terminal 1 ready for the trip they had spent the previous year fundraising and preparing for.



Accompanied by five teachers, we flew via Ethiopia to Johannesburg, where we stayed for one night before travelling to Lesotho. The kingdom of Lesotho is a beautiful, mountainous country. Landlocked by South Africa, it has the fifth lowest life expectancy and second highest AIDS rate in the world (one in five adults living with AIDS). 60% of Basotho people are living in extreme poverty. Once there, we worked hard for five days to finish two houses for two families in the village of Mathebe.

Though the work was hard, it was extremely rewarding, and we learned so much from talking to the villagers and playing with the children. Our visit to the headquarters of the national partners of Team Hope to hand out gift-filled shoeboxes was also incredibly eye-opening, and for many was one of the highlights of the trip. Our experience in Lesotho was amazing and will not be forgotten by anyone on the team.



Once we had finished work on the houses, we returned to South Africa, and once everyone had recovered from food poisoning we all managed to enjoy a trip to a safari and to the water-park in Sun City. The trip had a hugely positive impact on everyone involved, and signing up for next year's trip (or a similar one organised outside of school) is something I would strongly advise anyone to do."



The Lesotho Embassy Facilitating Partnership between Maynooth University and the National University of Lesotho in 2015

The Embassy of Lesotho facilitated the National University of Lesotho (NUL) Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) to establish a cooperation partnership with their counterpart at the Maynooth University in County Kildare, Ireland in 2015. Dr Lehlohonolo Mohasi of the NUL CTL visited Maynooth where she was hosted by the Maynooth University Library.



Left: Professor Aidan Mulkeen, Vice-President and Registrar at Maynooth University and H.E. Ambassador P. Phamotse caught up with Dr Mohasi while she was visiting the Maynooth University Library in September 2015.

Below: Dr Mohasi and the Lesotho Ambassador were given an extensive tour of the Maynooth University Library by the friendly library staff.



Supporting the 2015 International Charity Bazaar in Dublin



The annual International Charity Bazaar (ICB) – established and supported by diplomatic missions based in Dublin in support of Irish Charities – took place at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) in October 2015, and Lesotho was represented (above). The Embassies launched the event at the Head Quarters of the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at Iveagh House in Dublin (left).

The ICB is not just an opportunity to extend a helping hand to disadvantaged groups around Ireland but also allows embassies to showcase goods and wares from their respective countries to the Irish public who support the Bazaar by purchasing products.



'The Forgotten Kingdom' – Lesotho-made Feature Movie in Ireland in 2015

The Lesotho Embassy – Dublin &
Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire Present a Feature Film:
The Forgotten Kingdom



Director: Andrew Mudge (2013)
Starring: Zenzo Ngqobe, Nozipho Nkelemba, Lebohlang Ntsane
Language: Sesotho (With English Subtitles)

Synopsis: The mountainous scenery of Lesotho provides the canvas for director Andrew Mudge's profoundly visual story, which tells the tale of Atang: a young man obliged to make a pilgrimage from the bustle of Johannesburg to his native Lesotho upon learning that his father has passed away. There, Atang is reunited with childhood friend Lineo, with whom he discovers a romantic spark. But her disapproving father whisks Lineo away and sends Atang back to Johannesburg. Resolving to win her back, Atang enlists the help of a young orphan boy to guide him through the arresting rural terrain. The Forgotten Kingdom is a beguiling quest steeped in the history and culture of the Basotho people.

For the Movie Trailer: <http://www.forgottenkingdomthemovie.com/trailer/>

Location: Pavilion Theatre, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Screening Time: 17.00
Duration: 97 minutes
Admission: Complementary (Confirmation necessary)
RSVP: Lesotho Embassy 0 1 676 2233 by 12.00 noon Monday 26 October 2015



The Lesotho-made feather film "*The Forgotten Kingdom*" was brought to Ireland in 2015 and the Embassy undertook to promote its viewing around Ireland. The main event was the featuring of the movie the Pavilion Theatre in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin in October. The *Cork Cine Club* also organised a featuring at St John's College in Cork City Centre in December 2015, where the Lesotho Ambassador was invited.

Above & below: The Ambassador of Lesotho and members of the Cock Cine Club, and movie attendants at St. John's College theatre in Cork.



The 49th Independence Day Celebration of the Kingdom of Lesotho in Ireland

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho in Dublin hosted at the Embassy Residence a diplomatic reception to mark the 49th anniversary of Lesotho's independence. Below are some of the photographs taken on the occasion.



The Embassy Celebrated Moshoeshoe's Day with the Basotho Diaspora

The Lesotho Mission in Dublin invited the Lesotho diaspora and their families in Ireland to celebrate Moshoeshoe's Day in March 2016. This was part of marking the fiftieth year of the Independence of Lesotho in 2016.



Photographs courtesy of: Lesotho Embassy Dublin, Action Ireland Trust, Fingal County Council, The High School, Regina Mundi College, Fingleton, White & Co, *Áras an Uachtaráin*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sweden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland, TIDI, Portmarnock Community School, Mr. Harri Mannila, and the Maynooth University Library.

© Lesotho Embassy Dublin



Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho

52 Upper Mount Street

Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 676 2233

Fax: +353 1 676 2258

Email: info@lesothoembassy.ie

www.lesothoembassy.ie

Countries of Accreditation

Ireland

Denmark

Finland

Iceland

Norway

Sweden