



ANNOUNCEMENT



PROF. LINEO K. THAHANE NAMED FOUNDING DEAN OF THE LESOTHO MEDICAL SCHOOL

Maseru, Lesotho. The Lesotho-Boston Health Alliance is proud to announce that Prof. Lineo K. Thahane has been named the founding Dean of the newly established Lesotho Medical School. Prof. Thahane is currently serving as Executive Director of the Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Lesotho, and will assume the position in September 2026.

The international search committee circulated the notice of the Dean position across Africa, and received 36 completed applications. The committee interviewed nine outstanding candidates and invited four world-class finalists to Lesotho to make formal presentations and meet with key stakeholders. Prof. Thahane emerged from this rigorous and competitive process as the top candidate.

Prof. Thahane received her BA in Molecular Biology from Princeton University, her Doctor of Medicine degree from Washington University School of Medicine, and completed specialty training in Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the United States of America. In 2005, she returned to Lesotho with the Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Lesotho, and became its Associate Director in 2009, overseeing day to day clinical operations. In 2018, she was appointed Executive Director, assuming responsibility for the strategic leadership of all Baylor Foundation Lesotho activities, including service delivery across six clinical sites and support to Ministry of Health through donor projects implementation nationwide.

Prof. Thahane is Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and a Diplomate and Fellow of the American Board of Pediatrics. She is an experienced medical educator and scholar, publishing many peer-reviewed scientific articles in international journals describing her global health work in pediatric HIV/AIDS. Prof. Thahane is well-versed in the Lesotho health systems, and the policy and programming landscape in sub-Saharan Africa.

Reflecting on the importance of the Lesotho Medical School, Prof. Thahane said:

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As a young Pediatrician consulting in Maseru in the early 2000s, at the height of Lesotho's battle with the HIV epidemic, I clearly remember what it meant to my patients' caregivers to be cared for by a Mosotho doctor. Many were elderly and intimidated by the circumstances of navigating the health system with a critically ill child, and they would be truly thrilled when I entered the clinic or hospital room.

To them, encountering a mosotho doctor meant having an immediate ally... someone who literally spoke their language and could clearly understand their fears, complaints, and daily challenges and, most critically, who could explain in their language the details of what was happening to their children and provide reassurance by being present and fully engaged.

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LeBoHA

Background of the Lesotho-Boston Health Alliance (LeBoHA)

Founded in the early 2000s to combat the HIV crisis and address severe health workforce shortages, the Lesotho-Boston Health Alliance (LeBoHA) works to build a sustainable, Basotho-led health system. Since launching the country's first accredited medical training program in 2008, LeBoHA has evolved into a registered and audited Higher Education Institution. It offers the Master of Medicine in Family Medicine, manages the national medical and dental internship program, and facilitates the development of additional Master of Medicine programs in disciplines such as Obstetrics and Gynecology and Paediatrics. Most recently, LeBoHA has taken the lead in establishing the Lesotho Medical School (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery), which received government approval in 2026.

Reflecting on the Dean's appointment, Dr Elizabeth Nkabane-Nkholongo Executive Director of LeBoHA said:

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The mission of the Lesotho medical school, rooted in social responsibility, has inspired candidates from across Africa to apply for the position of Dean. We are deeply fortunate to have identified a Mosotho candidate who possesses all the required qualifications, knows the country and its people, speaks the language, and understands the challenges ahead. We look forward to working with her in training the doctors of the future.

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The Lesotho Medical School is on track to enroll its first class in July 2027.

For more information, please contact: LeBoHA on info@leboha.org.ls

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