

Urgent Appeal for Support: Help Bring Reliable Power to the Lesotho Ministry

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm reaching out with an urgent plea for support that's crucial for our life and ministry here in Lesotho. Over the past few years, the frequency and duration of power cuts have skyrocketed, severely impacting our daily living conditions and the vital work we do within the community of Lesotho.

These power cuts, lasting over four hours at least twice a week, have presented numerous challenges that hinder our ability to function and serve effectively:

Water Shortage: No power means no water as our pump relies on electricity.

Food Storage: Our freezer thaws within a few hours, jeopardizing our ability to store necessary groceries due to our remote location and the need for bulk shopping.

Communication Disruption: Interruptions in power affect our ability to stay connected, hindering essential communication and internet access for bookkeeping, reporting, and coordination with OM.

Sanitation Issues: Our dry-toilet system requires a constant fan to prevent odours from becoming unbearable in the house.

Workshop Shutdown: Power cuts force a halt to our workshop activities, disrupting our skills training, productivity and impacting the projects we undertake.

The solution to these challenges lies in the installation of a solar system with batteries. Not only will this provide a reliable source of power during outages, but it will also safeguard our electronic devices from damage caused by surges during power fluctuations and lightning strikes to the power lines.

The estimated cost for a 8 kW solar system amounts to R 153,000 (~US\$ 8,300) in South Africa, with an additional 15% import tax required to bring it into Lesotho. This is a substantial investment that we've hesitated to pursue so far, but the current situation leaves us no choice.

Your support, whether through financial contributions or spreading the word, would immensely help us acquire this vital system. Together, we can ensure uninterrupted access to power, allowing us to continue our work without the crippling impact of frequent outages.

Your generosity and solidarity in this time of need would make an incredible difference, not just for us but for the entire community we serve.

Please consider contributing or sharing our plea with your network. Every bit of support brings us closer to sustaining our efforts and enhancing the impact of OM's Ministry in Lesotho.

Thank you for your unwavering support and consideration.

Warm regards,



Stephan Schmidt

(Stephan.schmidt@om.org | +266 69360159)

Donations can be done via our Lesotho Bank account, OM in South Africa or PayPal.

Our private Bank Account in Lesotho

Bank: FNB Lesotho
Account Holder: Stephan Schmidt
Account Type: FNB Aspire Current Account
Account Number: 62916461908
Branch Code: 280061
(Reference: Solar for Lesotho)

OM South Africa

Bank: Standard Bank, Branch Hatfield
Account Holder: OM South Africa
Account Type: Cheque Account
Account Number: 331947331
Branch Code: 051001
(Reference: Family Schmidt, Lesotho)

PayPal

Stephan.schmidt@gmx.at
(Reference: Solar for Lesotho)