



The Informal Sector and Legal Framework in Lesotho's Urban Landscape: A Policy Analysis

Makhotso Hlengiwa¹, Tlotlo Lekhuleni²

¹ Department of Advanced Studies, National University of Lesotho

² National University of Lesotho

Published: 20 March 2006 | **Received:** 23 January 2006 | **Accepted:** 28 February 2006

Correspondence: mhlengiwa@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18838830](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18838830)

Author notes

Makhotso Hlengiwa is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, National University of Lesotho and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Tlotlo Lekhuleni is affiliated with National University of Lesotho and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Abstract

The urban landscape of Lesotho is characterized by a significant informal sector that contributes substantially to the country's economy but operates outside formal legal frameworks. The study employs a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with stakeholders from various sectors including government officials, community leaders, and informal sector entrepreneurs. Quantitative data on employment statistics are also analysed to provide empirical insights. Insufficient legal protections exist for informal sector workers, leading to high levels of vulnerability and exploitation. The urban planning policies often overlook the needs of this sector, resulting in poor integration into formal urban development initiatives. Lesotho's current legal framework inadequately supports the growth and stability of its vibrant but marginalized informal sector, necessitating reforms that enhance worker rights and improve urban planning to better accommodate informal activities. The government should enact comprehensive labour laws protecting workers in the informal sector. Urban development policies must incorporate space for informal settlements and businesses to flourish legally.

Keywords: *Africanization, Informality, Jurisprudence, Legal Pluralism, Policy Studies, Regulatory Vacuum, Urban Governance*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge