Hello!

I AM SECHABA MOKHETHI
I am a journalist and editor at the MNN Centre for Investigative Journalism in Lesotho.

I am also a graduate of the 2022 #PowerTracker programme.
Gone with the wind: Lesotho’s $15-billion energy pipedream

- Wind farm project was designed to increase Lesotho energy production
- Stop importation of expensive and polluting energy from South Africa and Mozambique
- Reduce local electricity prices
- Mitigate South Africa’s loadshedding crisis
- Job creation
Key findings

- Derailed by shady dealings between politicians, contractors and investors
- Court records show that funders started business rescue proceedings in 2013 and was finally liquidated in 2017
- The wind project stalled when funder was liquidated after another investor pulled out
Experience & learnings

• Pitching
  ○ Choosing a story idea: major windfarm project lost in Lesotho’s dreams
  ○ Testing hypothesis through research
  ○ Is this of public interest?

• Following the money
  ○ Who is funding this project, and how?
  ○ Where is the money going and how it is being spent?
  ○ Background check on financiers/investors

• Does this project demonstrate best practice, given how much is being invested?
Experience & learnings

● Approaching sources
  ○ Desktop research: news articles, academic reports, court documents, etc
  ○ Interviewing role-players

● Sourcing data
  ○ Global Energy Monitor project trackers and datasets
Thank you

You can find me at
lescij.org
@Mokhethiss
mokhethiss@gmail.com