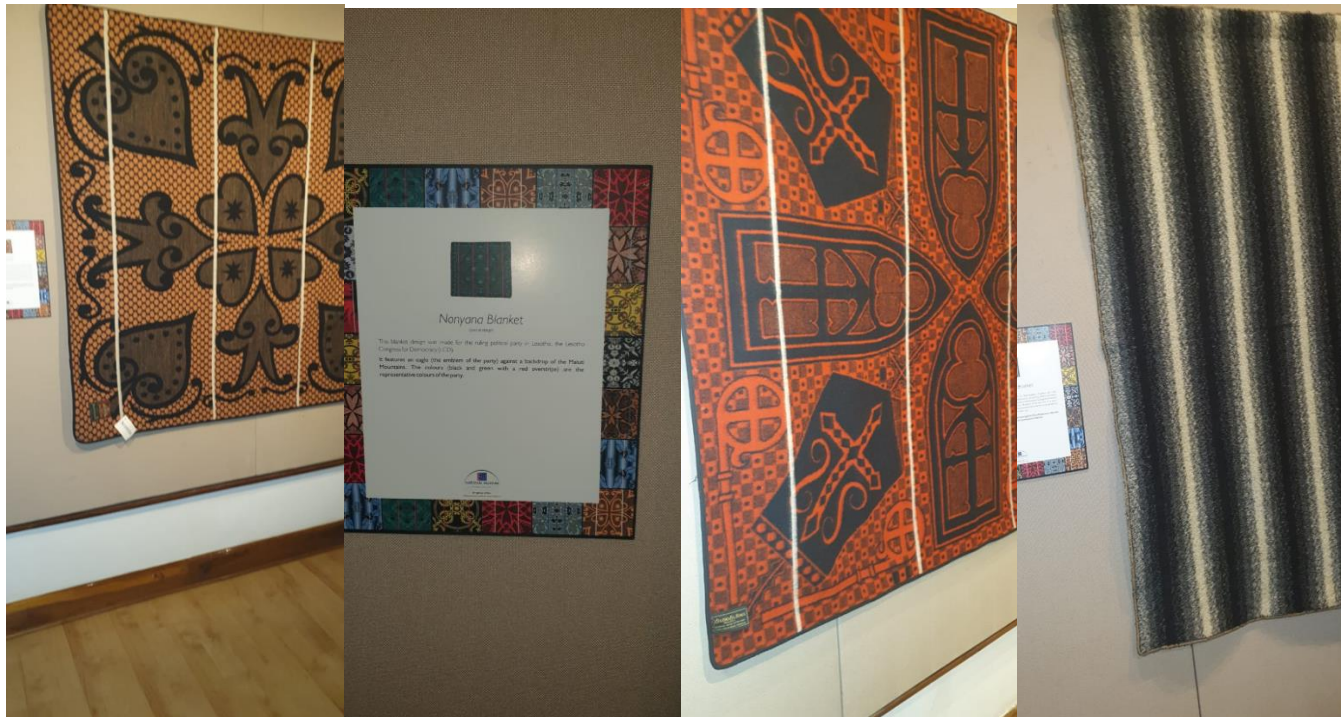




government
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Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

As part of the Africa Month celebrations the Olievenhuis Art Gallery in Bloemfontein, Free State is currently exhibiting Basotho blankets for the public to learn more about the blankets and what their names mean. The exhibition will run until 23 June 2019.





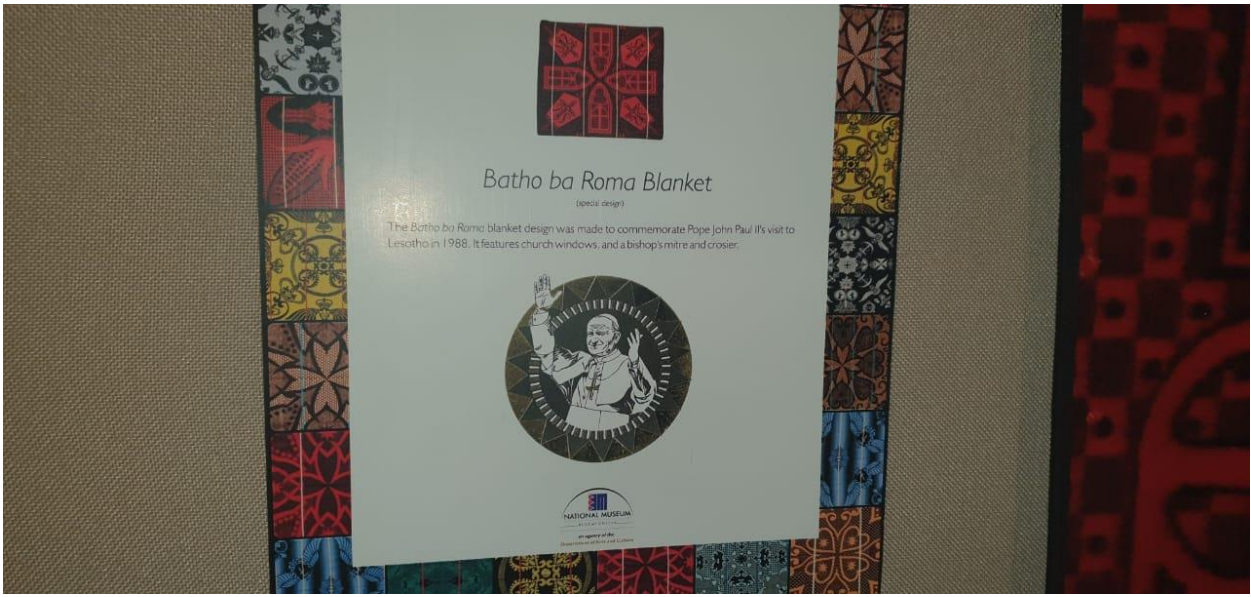
Sandringham Blanket

This blanket was named after the royal palace at Sandringham, England, and was made of pure wool. It was made in 1914 and was used by the royal family. The first of the blanket was made by the British and the inside of a stag head and a lion's head, giving it the name "Stag and Lion". Because of its warmth, it is used especially in the snow-covered highlands of Lesotho and other areas where a good wool blanket is needed for fellow Britons who call it the "mountain rug".

This particular blanket dates back to 1914 and belonged to Olive Robertson, the wife of Charles Honby Robertson who designed the Soanemano blanket.



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Batho ba Roma Blanket

(special design)

The Batho ba Roma blanket design was made to commemorate Pope John Paul II's visit to Lesotho in 1988. It features church windows, and a bishop's mitre and crozier.



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Setzoto
Magician (Monkeynut)

This Setzoto blanket is of high quality with a very soft finish. The Basotho refer to this finish as *serope*, meaning 'as soft as a pregnant woman's thigh'. Traditionally a husband gives this type of blanket to his wife on the birth of their first child.

It is an extraordinary thick, soft and warm blanket and has always been very popular in the cold mountainous areas.

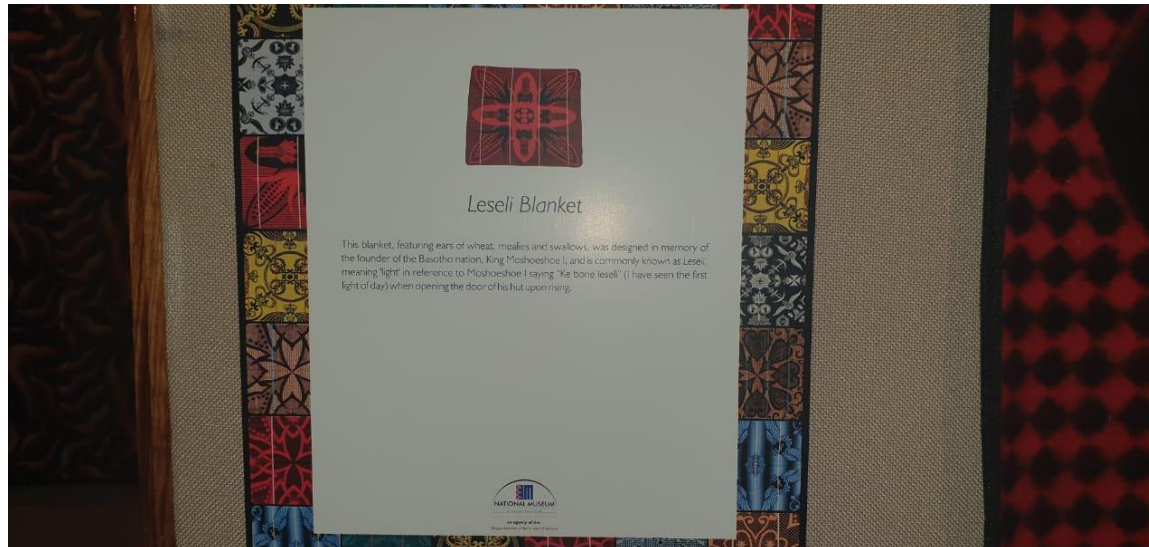
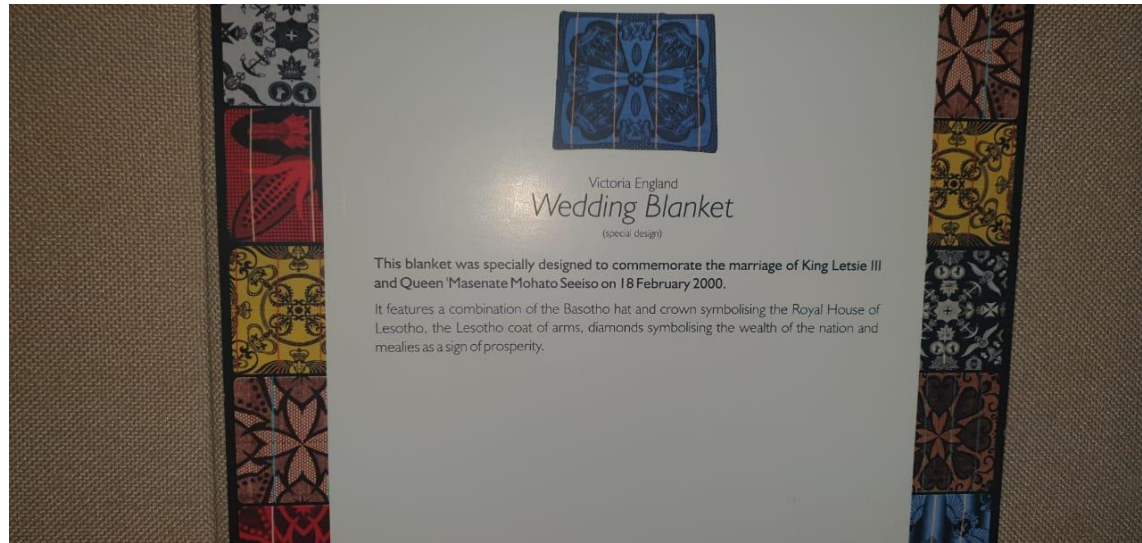
This particular design is commonly known as *Monkeynut* as the motifs on the blanket reminded the Basotho people of a monkeynut.



Mamohato Blanket

The interest of Queen Mamohato of Lesotho in the blanket in the late 1980s was displayed when she gave input for designs and ideas, resulting in a blanket design known as *Mamohatho*.

The design looks like flames of fire.





Moholobela Blanket

The *Moholobela* blanket's name refers to an old Sesotho saying, when a person, after travelling a long journey on foot or horseback says: "Moholobela wa dihota" (I am from the desert), implying (after this journey) I am not sure which direction I am going'. This blanket is very traditional as it was used from its inception for the *Leboko*, the initiation ceremony for Basotho boys.

The *Moholobela* blanket has a crocodile on its label but not in its motifs, the crocodile being the totem of the royal *Kwena* tribe and also the national emblem of Lesotho.



Aranda Motlatsi

This blanket design was made to commemorate the birth of the Crown Prince Lerotsholi Seiso, the son of King Letsie III, in 2007.

It features a series of different hearts, signifying the heart of the nation, and is commonly known as *Motlatsi* meaning successor.



