Embracing the Reset Agenda  “Change of mindset opens you up to new possibilities”  Slumber Tsogwane, VP

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President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left) and Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Mmusi Kgafela launching the P170 million Pandamatenga silos yesterday. President Masisi said the 60 000 metric tonne silos, consisted of cutting edge electrical systems and durable storages that preserved the quality of grains. The project is a government initiative, funded by the Special Economic Zones Authority and is set to present opportunities, including job creation and reduction of the food import bill.

Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

STORY PAGE 3

Masisi launches silos
**Botswana diamond story worth preserving**

*By Moshe Galeragwe*

**GABORONE** - Botswana has been applauded for its achievements powered by the diamond industry.

Speaking during tour of the Diamond Trading Company Botswana (DTCB) facilities in Gaborone on Tuesday, Governor General of The Bahamas, Dame Cynthia Alexandria Pratt noted that the story of Botswana diamonds was unique, something worth preserving and sharing with the world.

“I have never seen such remarkable works in my life. I am happy to see the hard work involved in the sorting and valuing of diamonds. I will now be able to speak to my people with some knowledge. You are doing some remarkable work,” she said. The Governor General said she was inspired and could not wait for the day when the two countries would be working together to advance the natural diamond story.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, Mr Pelaolo Khowe, said the visit by the Governor General opened a window of opportunities for both countries.

He said it would equally strengthen ties and act as a catalyst for constructive dialogue in identifying areas where the two countries would work together for mutual benefits.

Additionally, he said both countries shared a common commitment for sustainable development.

We aspire to share knowledge, experience and best practices to lay the groundwork for enduring partnerships that will contribute to prosperity and progress for both Botswana and The Bahamas,” he said.

He said the minerals sector presented multiple opportunities for collaboration encompassing areas such as mineral exploration, sustainable resource management, renewable energy initiatives, technological advancement and governance best practices.

Giving an overview of DTCB, the company’s Managing Director, Mr Seditlong Serumula, said the story of Botswana was intertwined with the discovery of diamonds.

He said the country’s evolution to its current status where it was aspiring to achieve high-income status was driven by revenue generated through the sales of diamonds.

Additionally, he said market dynamics were also changing, as some consumers of diamonds were now diverting their interest to other investment materials. He said diamond markets such as China have not fully recovered, as they were still struggling from the aftermath of COVID-19.

“Consumer preferences are also changing. We are working on developing scenarios that will prepare us to move forward and survive the changing environment,” said Mr Serumula. He said the DTCB was mandated with the sorting and valuing of diamonds from the Debswana mines.

However, he explained that it was important to exploit the diamond value chain to maximise revenue generation for the country.

He said maximising value coming out of diamonds would increase economic activities, grow Gross Domestic Product and create employment.

He emphasised the need for the DTCB to move into other sectors of the diamond value chain such as processing and polishing to maximise the value of diamonds sold by the country. BOPA

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**Diamond Academy manager, Ms Game Mkgane (centre) taking The Bahamas Foreign Minister, Mr Frederick Mitchell (left), Governor General Pratt (second left) and Minister of Finance, Ms Peggy Game Makgane (centre) on a tour of DTCB sorting operation in Gaborone on Tuesday. Governor Pratt said the remarkable story of the Botswana diamonds was unique, something worth preserving and sharing with the rest of the world. Photo: Phenygo Moalosi**

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**GUMARE** - Residents of Gumare in the Okavango District have called for culling of elephants to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

The residents made the plea at a consultative meeting by Okavango Bushmen Institute (ORI) held in Gumare recently. ORI has been tasked by government to consult communities with heightened human-wildlife conflict in the country on a guide to drawing a strategy to address the predicament.

One resident, Mr Maramete Nchindo said elephants were the most problematic in their area as they destroyed fields and properties yet compensation was low.

He was of the view that a certain number of elephants should be killed to reduce their population and that compensation for farmers should be reviewed and include those crops that were not considered.

Another resident Ms Weke Lesotho also called for culling of some elephants to reduce their population. She also emphasised the need to strengthen buffalo fence that separated wild animals from domesticated ones.

Mr Mosenodi Baagetswekae said elephants destroyed ploughing fields, injured and killed people.

He, therefore, said Botswana should have a dialogue with neighbouring countries on how to control the elephant population.

Another resident Mr Osefelepelo Gaiboloe said it was necessary for government to consider providing water for elephants as a deterrent. He also said there was need to review compensation for farmers since the current rate was low.

He also suggested that the local technical college should offer courses and programmes to empower youth in the area.

Earlier on, ORI acting Director, Advocate Stephen Tiroyakgosi informed the residents that they were in a consultation mission with communities to establish areas with high human-wildlife conflict and the most problematic animals in those areas.

Consultation also includes introspection of the existing compensation, reflecting on the role of communities and stakeholders and on tourism value chain.

Prof Mbesiwa said the consultations would help government to develop a short and long term strategy to address human-wildlife conflict. BOPA

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**OMBUD Expo fosters collaborations**

*By Chendzimu Manyepedza*

**GABORONE** - The international OMBUD Expo intends to foster collaborations, and discussions on emerging trends in the fields of ombudsmen.

The statement was made by the UK based consultancy firm, Governance and Management Service International (GMS) director, Professor Victor Ayeni during the second edition of the expo in Gaborone on Tuesday.

Giving an overview, Professor Ayeni stated that the office of the Ombudsman played a critical role in upholding and protection of justice and integrity, accountability, democracy and transparency among others.

He, therefore, said the expo was crucial as it provided the office of the Ombudsman the opportunity to share experiences and discover feasible and long-term solutions to emerging trends in the field.

“This is an opportunity to learn from each other and come up with a collective approach aimed at enhancing awareness about the importance of the Ombudsman institutions in the promotion of good governance and transparency amongst other roles,” he said.

The expo held under the theme: Trusted Institutions, Righting Injustice, Bolstering quality Governance, attended by different international Ombudsman stakeholders will feature workshops and discussions to share best practices in different areas in the field.

Some of the issues that were penciled for discussion include creating virtuous circles of integrity, navigating the challenges of standard and effectiveness, the implications of emerging issues in health and artificial intelligence and environment among others.

For his part, Ombudsman, Advocate Stephen Tiroyakgosi said the event was an opportunity that brought fresh and innovative ideas to the local and international Ombudsman offices for them to remain relevant to customers and stakeholders.

The first edition of the event was held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2019. BOPA
By Pako Lebanna

**GABORONE** - As the Setswana musical rhythm, culinary fare and backdrop of the National Museum kgotla courtyard gave warm welcome to the Botswanas warm welcome on Tuesday night, the expression of stronger bond of ties between the two nations was laid bare.

Speaking during the state banquet he hosted in honour of the visiting Governor General, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi expressed how the two countries were drawing towards a mutually beneficial cooperation.

"Just this year alone, there have been a number of high level exchanges between our two countries in various sectors. These were all geared towards further exploring the myriad avenues for cooperation with urgency," Dr Masisi said.

President Masisi said the interactions have led to increased cooperation in the education sector, particularly between institutions of higher learning in the two countries.

"My government has offered 10 postgraduate scholarships to Bahamian students in the fields of natural resources and engineering, at the University of Botswana and the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources and respectively, a calculated investment," he said.

The President added that he envisioned such a gesture to pave the way for further collaboration in fields such as finance, trade and investment, youth and sports, as well as the combating of crime and corruption.

Noting that Botswana and The Bahamas have strong bonds of friendship anchored on the shared values of democracy, respect for the rule of law and ‘the sacrosanct tenets of the United Nations Charter,’ President Masisi said the eagerness to cultivate this relationship had been expressed most profoundly over the year.

He recalled his visit to The Bahamas last year September, and that the Governor General’s visit comes just five months hot on the heels of the March 2024 state visit of The Bahamas Prime Minister Mr Philip Davis.

"I also had the sheer pleasure of interacting again with my esteemed friend Prime Minister Davis during the Global Citizen NOW Summit in New York, United States of America. We graciously shared the stage, and used the occasion to reiterate our commitments towards enhancing the relations between our countries," Dr Masisi said.

He further noted that Botswana sought to leverage on The Bahamas experience with a world class and economically successful tourism industry, and noted that the two states were also acting on interventions towards the mitigation of climate change.

For her part, Ms Pratt echoed the sentiments that Botswana and The Bahamas were bound together by shared values including cultural identity.

"The kgotla with its rich history reminds of the values that bind our two countries such as respect and cooperation. Bahamas also would have meetings in canoes, and the baskets here in Botswana remind me of those woven in the largest island in The Bahamas. Although our countries are separated by geographical distance, our shared values transcend boundaries," Ms Pratt said.

She expressed the wish that other Bahamians would visit Botswana, adding that her delegation was ‘deeply moved by the hospitality we saw today, First Lady and people of Botswana.’

Located in the northwestern part of the Caribbean island nation states, largely based on tourism and offshore finance.

When The Bahamas gained independence from United Kingdom in 1973, the country kept the British crown as their monarchy, and developed a system where a democratically elected Prime Minister heads the government, with a politically neutral Governor General appointed by the monarch, currently King Charles III, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Ms Pratt has been the Governor General since September 2022, and her role includes giving royal assent to legislation passed by Parliament, the appointment of judges and ambassadors as well as issuing writs for elections, bestowing national honours and representing The Bahamas interests abroad in official visits.

**Pandamatenga silos engine of transformation**

By Portia Ikgopoleng

**PANDAMATENGA** - The newly opened grain silos in Pandamatenga will enhance food security and promote innovation in the agriculture sector.

Officially opening the site yesterday, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi said the 60 000 metric tonne silos consisted of cutting edge electrical and instrumentation systems as well as durable storages that preserved the quality of grains.

He said Pandamatenga as a special economic zone and epicentre for arable agriculture required proper infrastructure to cultivate more opportunities for sustainable development.

President Masisi said they wanted to see Batswana happy and prosperous and that the special economic zones helped to create employment and fight hunger.

He noted that Pandamatenga farms consisted of over 97 000 hectares, 44 000 of which was commercial, 12 000 small scale farmers and 41 000 earmarked for the Zambezi integrated agro-commercial development project.

Furthermore, he said a railway line traversing through Pandamatenga was on the cards to enhance the movement of goods, including grain stored at the silos to the upper Zambezi region and the rest of the continent.

He said the silos would also enhance food security and store grains for consumption during droughts and to sell to other countries.

"The storage facility allows us to conduct tests on our produce and to explore food processing opportunities," said President Masisi. He thanked SEZA for funding the project and BAMB for providing land and managing the project as well as other stakeholders for ensuring that the project was successful.

Kgosig Rebecca Banika of Pandamatenga said the silos’ infrastructure propelled her village to even greater heights and as a hub for arable farming.

She said the silos would enhance food production and that they had inadequate storage for all the produce in the kgotla.

Kgosig Banika said Pandamatenga farmers, both commercial and small-scale, were business minded and took farming seriously. She urged government and the private sector to invest in small-scale farmers by erecting durable fences in their fields to deter wildlife.

Kgosig Banika also urged her people to teach children about farming so that they could carry the legacy. She said the facility would also prompt Batswana to venture into food processing as they ploughed sunflower but imported cooking oil.

DailyNews

Pakilele, The Bahamas solidify ties

By Pako Lebanna

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Published by: Department of Information Services. Plot 37979 Welle Sebani Drive.

Printed by: Government Printing and Publishing Services

Online Edition: https://dailynews.gov.bw

Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

Thursday August 1, 2024 No. 141 Page  3 | DailyNews

BOPA

Minister of Agriculture, Mr Fidelis Molao (left) and Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Lefoko Moagi at the launch of the Pandamatenga Silos yesterday. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

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Published by: Department of Information Services. Plot 37979 Welle Sebani Drive.

Private Bag BR 131 Gabarone.

Printed by: Government Printing and Publishing Services

Online Edition: https://dailynews.gov.bw

email: bopagovern@gbw

email: dailynews@gbw

Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.
Parliament has been informed that the Department of Road Transport and Safety has engaged BURS to collect road user charges from all foreign registered vehicles.

Ministry to close gaps in revenue collection

GABORONE - The Ministry of Transport and Public Works is looking into establishing a road authority or agency to replace the current Roads Department. This was said by Minister Eric Molale in response to a question in Parliament on Tuesday.

“Our road networks are an asset to this nation and they benefit us as growing the economy of the country,” Mr Molale said.

He indicated that there were major or critical roads that connected Botswana to her neighbours and because of the heavy investment on such roads, all foreign registered vehicles that entered the country were charged road user fees while Botswana registered vehicles paid annual licensing fees for use of the road or as road user fees.

He said the ministry, in its effort to enhance government revenues and optimise road network investments, had successfully sought and got approval from the Cabinet to increase road levy by P0.25 from P0.90 to P1.15 with effect from April this year.

He said the ministry experienced challenges in collecting the appropriate levy due to non-disclosure of actual quantities imported by some fuel suppliers.

“In order to close this leakage in revenue, my ministry has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) to start collecting the levy at the point of entry effective April this year and this is being fruit patent the correct amount is being collected,” he said.

He stated that if revenue collected as road user charges from both locally registered vehicles and foreign registered vehicles was directed to road maintenance and development and not to the consolidated fund, it would improve the road network of the country.

He indicated that the Trans Kalahari Highway was a regional corridor that links different countries to the port of Walvis Bay in Namibia. He pointed out that the corridor linked with the Mapato Corridor and the North South Corridor and therefore was mainly used by trucks from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“The user fees charged to the trucks using the Trans Kunene Corridor are based on the vehicle mass, hence different trucks are charged differently,” he explained.

He further told Parliament that the Department of Road Transport and Services (DRTS) had engaged BURS to collect road user charges from all foreign registered vehicles on its behalf at all points of entry and the revenue collected was then remitted to government treasury or consolidated fund.

“Botswana’s road user fees structure compares very well with that of her neighbours in the SADC member states even though they use different systems. Botswana and Namibia use a permit system to collect road user charge. This is whereby you pay at the point of entry into a country. South Africa uses a tolling system, whereby toll plazas are installed along the roads for collecting road user fees. Zambia uses both the permit system and tolling. South Africa has the lowest road user rates, whilst Botswana and Zambia have harmonised their charges except that Zambia has additional charges like carbon,” Mr Molale explained.

He added that the current road user fees were last reviewed in 2021 and were comparable to that of the neighbouring states.

“Botswana is a transit country and therefore we should not over charge the transit traffic that is using our roads, least we deter them from using our roads opting for alternative routes. This will deny us the revenue that we could have realised,” he said.

Currently, Mr Molale said road infrastructure is a review of the road funded through fuel levy, adding “and I am considering requesting that while we are remitting the revenue from the road user charges to the Consolidated Fund, part of that should be made available for road maintenance and development. This is if we do not establish a road authority or agency.”

Kanye North MP, Mr Thapelo Letsholo had asked the minister to update Parliament on the ministry’s efforts to enhance government revenues and optimise road network investments, including the potential transformation of the Department of Roads into an independent roads agency to reduce the burden on the national fiscus related to road construction and maintenance, particularly how it ensured an increased return on investment in road networks on critical routes like the Trans Kalahari Highway.

The MP further wanted to know if the ministry would establish a road authority or agency to replace the current Roads Department.

No district labour offices for Shakawe, Tonota

GABORONE - The Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs is not able to establish district labour offices in Shakawe and Tonota due to budgetary constraints.

This was said by Labour and Home Affairs minister, Ms Annah Mokgethi in response to a parliamentary question on Tuesday.

However, Ms Mokgethi said the ministry will consider the challenges experienced by residents of Shakawe in accessing immigration and labour related services. “With the little budget allocated to my ministry this financial year, we will only be able to establish district labour offices in three out of six villages covered under the approved budget. These three villages include Gumatse, Tutume and Good Hope,” she said.

She told Parliament that following the pronouncement on the rationalisation of ministries portfolio responsibilities in 2021, a new structure for the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs had since been approved.

“The Ministry is currently validating the Job Effectiveness Descriptions (JEDs) to facilitate operationalisation of the new structure during the Financial Year 2025/26. The manpower planning for Shakawe immigration office has been approved and the office will be operational during the financial year 2025/26,” she added.

As a short-term measure to alleviate the problem, she said the ministry had decentralised passport services to Mohembo Border while other immigration related services, including residence permits, may be accessed at Gumatse district immigration office.

She said the ministry was also on the process to provide online work and residence permit services, on a piloting basis, so that they may be accessed online.

She assured Parliament that the delay in opening immigration and labour offices in Shakawe should not in any way be misconstrued to mean the ministry undermined the village’s strategic location and the inconvenience that local people had to endure to secure services in Maun.

“It is our wish as we have already submitted budget requests for the next financial year to cater for establishment of district immigration and labour offices in other villages. Shakawe included,” the minister said.

She said in recognition of the vastness of the district, the ministry would continue to serve the community by conducting outreach services, visiting to a schedule that would be communicated to the village leadership.

Okavango MP, Mr Kenny Kapenga had wanted to know, among others, when the local immigration and labour offices would be opened in Shakawe.

Meanwhile, Parliament also heard that there were no plans to establish immigration or labour offices in Tonota, also due to budgetary constraints.

However, Ms Mokgethi said the Ministry of Labour and Social Security currently had an inspectorate office in Francistown, visited Tonota every Tuesday to provide services to the public.

“This arrangement has proved to be effective as customers no longer travel to Francistown to get services. The ministry also looks forward to this intervention will continue to improve service delivery in the area, establishing a district labour office in Francistown, which will allow for setting up of such offices in Tonota in the not so distant future,” she said.

Tonota MP, Mr Pono Mmotlodi had also wanted to know when the ministry would establish immigration and labour offices in Tonota.
Over 24,000 civil servants stagnate

GABORONE - A total of 24,460 out of 59,513 civil servants have stagnated at the top of the A, B and C1 scales for 10 or more years.

However, she pointed out that there was a plan to replace the current salary structure with a fan-shaped structure during the current financial year in order to address the stagnation of public service employees who had been at the top of the C1, A and B scales for 10 or more years.

The fan-shaped salary structure is a product of the 2019 and 2022 collective labour agreements entered into by recognised public sector trade unions and government as the employer represented by the Directorate of Public Service Management.

The salary structure has been designed to facilitate the movement of public service employees beyond the current ceiling to extended notches,” she explained.

The assistant minister was responding to a question asked by Botsema MP, Mr Talo, who wanted to know the number of civil servants who had stagnated at the top of the C1, A and B scales for 10 or more years.

Mr Lucas also asked the minister to state plans to address stagnation and its effects as on the civil service.

Parliament rejects DCEC amendment bill

By Lesedi Thatabayomido

GABORONE - Parliament has rejected a Bill that sought to amend the Corruption and Economic Crime Act to make the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) more independent in form and function to enhance its efficiency.

The move was rejected following divergent views by Members of Parliament on whether DCEC, in its operations, was autonomous or not, a debate which culminated in a vote which saw 21 MPs voting against the amendment while 15 supported it.

Presented to Parliament by Selebi Phikwe West MP, also Leader of Opposition, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse, the Bill had sought to have the DCEC hire its own staff and remove it from the public service and further establish a board that would oversee its business and be free from political interference.

Some MPs highlighted the need to have DCEC wholly isolated from political leadership particularly that of the President holding overall power and authority to politically and administratively direct DCEC operational functions.

The argument by some MPs was that the powers of the President to appoint or remove the Director General of DCEC, could influence investigations and delivery of work of the organisation, and therefore amending the Act would introduce a sense of transparency and fairness in the process.

Supporting the amendment, some MPs argued that it was relevant because corruption was widespread and on the rise.

They opined that the directorate should also directly be funded by Parliament and therefore directly account for its operations and use of funds, arguing that such a setup would insulate it from external influences and thus may not be susceptible to ‘capture’.

On one hand, some MPs were against amending of the Act, arguing that instead, stringent measures should be taken against those involved in corrupt dealings.

Also arguing against the amendment, some MPs said government was committed to fighting corruption nevertheless, hence the establishment of the DCEC.

They said the DCEC enjoyed operational independence and was immune from external influences.

Conversely, legislators unanimously agreed that there was need to fight against corruption in Botswana, despite the country being the least corrupt in international ratings.

BOPA

Over 24,000 civil servants stagnate

GABORONE - A total of 24,460 out of 59,513 civil servants have stagnated at the top of the A, B and C1 scales for 10 or more years.

This was revealed by Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Botsumelo Gothamodimo in response to a parliamentary question on Tuesday.

Ms Gothamodimo said the number translated to 41 per cent of employees at A, B and C1 scales.

However, she pointed out that there was a plan to replace the current salary structure with a fan-shaped structure during the current financial year in order to address the stagnation of public service employees who had been at the top of the C1, A and B scales for 10 or more years.

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Parliament is debating an Electoral Act Amendment Bill which seeks to amend the Electoral Act to have ballots for both parliamentary and council elections counted at polling district headquarters.

MPs debates Electoral Act Amendment Bill

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - A Bill that seeks to amend the Electoral Act to have the ballots for both parliamentary and council elections counted at polling district headquarters is before Parliament for debate.

Presenting the Bill on Tuesday, Member of Parliament for Maun West, Mr Dumelang Saleshando, said he was proposing the amendment for the third time because previous promises that the issue would be considered during the constitutional review exercise were never honoured.

Mr Saleshando argued that the amendment would be convenient, particularly in vast constituencies.

“Most of our rural constituencies have bad roads and others have wildlife which poses a risk as most ballot boxes travel more than three hours at night to counting centres,” he said.

He said there was also no doubt that transporting ballot boxes impacted on the reputation of elections and raised suspicions and risks.

He said the amendment was in line with recommendations of international and regional organisations including the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

“The forum, in its norms and standards of elections, indicates that counting of votes should be done at polling stations, and Botswana is a signatory to this agreement,” he said.

He added that Botswana had also signed other agreements with organisations such as the Elections Commissions Forum and the African Union.

He said in 2005, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) consulted all parties where there was a consensus to count ballots at polling districts.

He said the exercise was also done at party level during previous elections and had proved to be trouble free.

Mr Saleshando indicated that even though the amendment called for counting at polling district headquarters, the ideal arrangement would be counting at polling stations.

“However, polling stations might have inadequate security and under-resourced, which is why the Bill proposes designated polling districts within a ward instead,” he explained.

He argued that Botswana had a small voting population of around a million people, but with the current arrangement, it took between two and three days to finish counting.

“Britain, with a voting population of around 48 million, recently counted their ballots within 24 hours,” he added.

He also advised that elections were an emotional exercise, and therefore needed to be done within a short time to dispel any misconceptions and enhance transparency.

“Past arguments that the parliamentary ballots needed to be brought to a central place so candidates could personally satisfy themselves with the counting exercise does not hold any water as they can have agents at polling stations,” he said.

He pleaded with legislators across the political divide that in contributing to the Bill, they should put national interests above those of their parties.

Contributing to the debate, Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng, said government was committed to counting of ballots at polling stations as recommended by regional and international organs, but that due to inadequate security at polling stations, it was a risk to consider doing so.

“SADC and other organs insisted on counting at polling stations, so if we move counting to polling districts it might not be in line with the recommendations,” Mr Morwaeng said.

He therefore advised on delaying the amendment until the right time.

Debate on the Bill continues.

BOPA
Duo partners to enhance beef industry

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - Botswana’s agricultural sector, primarily driven by a robust beef industry, is set to enhance its collaboration with Zambia in the field of livestock and production.

This was said by Minister of Agriculture, Mr Fidelis Molao during the benchmarking visit by Zambia’s Provincial Minister of Livestock and Fisheries for Southern Province, Mr Credo Nanjuwa and his entourage on Tuesday.

He highlighted that beef production emerges from both commercial and communal farming systems, with the latter accounting for about 80 per cent of the country’s beef supply.

“This communal system is not yet performing to our desired level, with most producers and processors continuing to be unsatisfactory,” Mr Molao said.

The five-day visit is meant to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Botswana and Zambia in the field of livestock and production. By sharing knowledge, expertise and resources, Mr Molao said Botswana and Zambia could work together to combine the best of both countries’ strengths to complement each other, so as to expand their horizon and improve the health of livestock, and ultimately enhance the economic prosperity of both countries.

“Our collaboration is expected to give the two countries an opportunity to position their livestock for regional and international markets, thus promoting the development of the livestock sector, since the country has invested significantly in an animal health system supported by zoning, animal traceability and a veterinary public health system that has enabled the country to sustain access to high value markets including the European Union,” Mr Molao said.

Further, he said Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) had also been instrumental in the production of high-quality animal vaccines, which were only used within Southern Africa, but benefited East and West Africa as well.

He appreciated Zambia as one of Botswana’s prime customers for the BVI vaccines.

To promote research and development in agriculture, the two countries have also established a National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) to facilitate commercialisation and adoption of technologies, which had been lagging behind.

Mr Molao said one of the main issues that the delegation had identified was the need for Botswana’s value chain, from breeding to export, learning about the country’s regulatory frameworks, disease control measures and quality assurance systems.

Advanced solar backpacks tailored to harness energy during the day, possess USB ports for charging, and provide light during the night.

With plans to extend operations, Mr Liphi disclosed that Ked-Liphi had already registered the enterprise in South Africa. He stated, ‘Beginning of next year, we will be talking something different, as our intention is to establish plants in South Africa and Rwanda. We intend to identify agile young people in these countries who will become co-founders and gain a percentage in the business.’

Additionally, Mr Liphi expressed interest in penetrating the Nigerian market, noting discussions with a regional director of the UNDP who hails from Nigeria.

Cheza solar backpack directly targets African children without access to electricity, addressing educational disparities. Last year, the enterprise was recognized as the best innovation and technology business locally, receiving a seed climate change adaptation award regionally and accolades for their contributions at the Dubai COP 2018. Recently, Mr Liphi shared that his innovation is moving in regional, he said, appreciated the innovation and understood that they had sold locally, Mr Liphi was quick to point out that they had not sold much because the enterprise was quick to point out that they had not sold much because the enterprise had not sold much because the support was not in action. People, he said, appreciated the innovation but they were not fully supporting the enterprise but noted that “we are pushing, knocking door to door to lure organisations and the government buy-in.”

Recently my team met with the Minister of Education and Skills Development to discuss and strategise on how we can incorporate the solar backpack in schools and we are still waiting for response because the innovation is going to improve academic performance,” he added.

As Ked-Liphi prepares for its expansion, the enterprise is poised to make a lasting impact on education and clean energy access across Africa.

This project, he said, was ongoing saying they anticipated to test and pilot the army backpacks before the end of August this year appreciating that the innovation was making global impact and promoting solar economy. BOPA
Summit set to uncover opportunities

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - More than 400 participants are expected to attend a two-day manufacturing summit at the Gaborone International Convention Centre, scheduled for August 6-7.

The summit will focus on critical topics including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the local manufacturing landscape, export market access, and various challenges and opportunities facing the industry.

It aims to uncover prospects for aspiring local manufacturers and support initiatives aimed at diversifying the economy beyond mining.

Mr Joseph Ramotshabi, business development manager at the Botswana Chamber of Mines, emphasised the need for a platform that fosters networking and facilitates a deeper understanding of the local manufacturing landscape.

“We want people to develop networks and unpack the local manufacturing landscape,” he said during a media briefing earlier this week.

Additionally, Mr Ramotshabi said the summit would feature presentations and panel discussions led by industry leaders and professionals, offering local manufacturers opportunities to build connections with key stakeholders.

He indicated that the event would provide national and regional perspectives on manufacturing, as well as insights into market access for local exporters wishing to trade beyond Botswana’s borders.

Notably, exporters from Lesotho will participate to share their experiences with AGOA and how their textile and garment industries have benefited from the partnership.

“Botswana has been exposed to AGOA, but we have not been able to succeed,” Mr Ramotshabi acknowledged. He further mentioned that they have also invited representatives from Namibia, with hopes of including more countries in future editions of the summit.

Highlighting the importance of international perspectives, Mr Ramotshabi stated they intend to increase the number of foreign speakers in upcoming events.

“We want this to be an international conference,” he asserted, expressing a desire to benchmark against the best.

The summit will also address AfCFTA, with Ms Boitumelo Mbaakanyi, programme manager at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), noting that the provision of services is included in the continental agreement. She added that Botswana could offer professional services to several African nations.

“We are excited that professional services are included and will be discussed at the summit,” Ms Mbaakanyi shared.

Ms Kushatha Chilisa, head of the Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme at Stanbic Bank, emphasised the pivotal role of manufacturing in diversifying the economy and creating job opportunities.

She highlighted the need for increased participation by Batswana in the sector. As the date approaches, anticipation grows for this significant summit poised to shape the future of manufacturing in Botswana.

BOPA

EXTERIAL VACANCY

CIRCULAR NO. 09 OF 2024

Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) is a semi-autonomous organization of Government responsible for assessing and collecting tax revenue as well as border administration. BURS invites dynamic, self-motivated and qualified citizens of Botswana to visit the BURS website and apply for the following post:

1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR X 1 (GABORONE)

Kindly access the advert at BURS website and BURS Facebook page/sites as follows:
Website; www.burs.org.bw
Facebook page; https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaUnifiedRevenueService/

All applications should be sent to recruitment@burs.org.bw and addressed to;
Director Human Resources
Botswana Unified Revenue Service
Plot 54379 CBD - Tower Block, 5th Floor
Private Bag 0013
Gaborone

For more information regarding this position, please contact the Human Resources office at these numbers: Ms. E. Mmereki @ 3638924, Ms. M. Ramosese @ 3638905, Ms. M. Bothata @ 3638472 and Ms T. Toko @ 3638939.

Closing date: 14th August 2024
Botswana Police Service celebrates 140 years

GABORONE - The Botswana Police Service (BPS) will stage a two-day celebration of its 140 years of existence.

Planned for Friday, the first day of the events has been reserved for awards, where the President, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi will pin medals on more than 1 400 deserving officers.

The medal award ceremony will be held at Special Support Group parade ground in Gaborone.

A media release from BPS says the celebrations will continue at the National Stadium on Saturday, an event which will be open to members of the public.

President Masisi will be among the multitudes of people and dignitaries celebrating the police’s 140 years of existence.

Local artists, Han-C and Monnanogolo wa Thulaganyo are lined up to entertain the gathering at the National Stadium.

Other activities of the day will include air display, fire acrobatics and K9 dog display.

The release says the awarding of medals is a way of appreciating members of the BPS for their outstanding services and conduct in executing police duties.

Medals consist of Botswana Police Meritorious Service (BPM), awarded to police officers for a service of meritorious nature and it is awarded to a candidate, who has served for 12 years and set high example of his/her conduct and diligence.

The Botswana Police Distinguished Service Order (DSO) Medal is awarded to police officers who have distinguished themselves by devotion to duty. It is attained after serving for a period of 30 years.

The Botswana Police Jubilee Service Medal (JSM) is awarded to police officers who have served at least 25 years and have shown by their conduct and character that they are worthy of the honour.

The Botswana Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (LSCGM) is awarded to police officers who have served for continuous period of 18 years without among others convicted of any offence of a nature deemed to bring the name of Botswana Police Service into disrepute, has not been frequently guilty of minor disciplinary offences.

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NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING OF APPLICATIONS FOR BOOKMAKER AND TOTALISATOR LICENCES

Pursuant to Regulation 68 of the Gambling Regulations 2016, the Gambling Authority will convene a public hearing in respect of applications for Bookmaker and Totalisator licences submitted by the following applicants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF APPLICANT</th>
<th>TYPE OF LICENCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Delta Bay (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Independent Bookmaker Operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Atlas Influence (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Bookmaker Route Operator</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Supabets Botswana (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Bookmaker Route Operator</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. J &amp; Q Investments (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Independent Bookmaker Operator</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Mulasport Botswana (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Independent Bookmaker Operator</td>
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<td>6. Pula Fela Investments (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Independent Bookmaker Operator</td>
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<td>7. SNB Investments (Botswana) (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Bookmaker Route Operator</td>
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<td>8. SNB Investments (Botswana) (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Bookmaker Route Operator</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Direct Wholesale (Pty) Ltd t/a 100% Bet</td>
<td>Independent Bookmaker Operator</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Hollywoodbets Botswana (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Independent Bookmaker Operator</td>
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<td>11. Bet Pula (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Bookmaker Route Operator</td>
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<td>12. Sunbet Botswana (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Bookmaker Route Operator</td>
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<td>13. PstBet Botswana (Pty) Ltd</td>
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<td>14. Bechabet (Pty) Ltd</td>
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<td>15. Bellatrix Media (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Bookmaker Route Operator</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Mecaville Enterprises (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Bookmaker Route Operator</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The hearing will be held at the Travel Lodge, Plot 28295 in Block 3, Gaborone from the 6th to 8th August 2024 from 0800hrs.

Notice is further given that the applications for Bookmaker and Totalisator licences were published in the Government Gazette, Sunday Standard, Daily News and The Voice as public notice of the applications submitted at the public hearing.

If you are interested in attending the public hearing, please contact the Licensing Services Manager by calling 3986600 or 3957672, or by email at betting@gamblingauthority.co.bw and reference Bookmaker Licence Public Hearing as the subject line, and state your name, phone number and number of the intended attendees.

Your faithfully

Mopati Rammekwa
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Date: 17 July 2024

KANYE - Land boards must manage land prudently and allocate it equitably to deserving applicants, Ngwaketse Land Board Chairperson Mr Bobby Thihabiwe has said.

Addressing board members and stakeholders in Kanye during the board meeting, he said land ownership was a springboard to wealth, prosperity and dignity hence it was a human right that should never be violated.

He said that when allocating land, it must be ensured that good, purposeful and sustainable development were the same.

“The must be aware of the fact that though population grows, the land does not and may be a cause of conflict within and across boundaries and borders” he said.

Therefore, he said, this calls for all land boards to allocate land with that in mind, ensure proper use of land, adopt zero tolerance for illegal mining and other environmentally dangerous practices.

Mr Thihabiwe said land boards must be proactive in identifying land for various forms of business, allocating land according to procedures and laid down processes while ensuring conformity and compliance.

He further said when addressing land issues, the land board must engage stakeholders through varied platforms adding that Kgota meetings were very good place to discuss such matters freely because a Kgota was where everyone’s view was protected.

The board, he said, had also started an initiative to address school children, and had so far covered Kanye, Mosuapa, Mabutsane and Seisimane.

Mr Thihabiwe said the initiative was great, a powerful fertile ground for land use awareness and the importance of land.

He stressed the importance of attending the ongoing Kgota meetings and urged members of the public to attend in large numbers.
MISSION STATEMENT: Botswana Defence Force Exist to Defend Botswana’s Territorial Integrity, Sovereignty and National Interests

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 7 OF 2024
EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Botswana Defence Force is looking forward to employ suitably qualified Non-uniformed Personnel for the following positions:

1. DIRECTING STAFF E2 X3 (LAND WARFARE, AIR WARFARE & LOGISTICS)

Qualifications:
- Master’s Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies, Master of Arts in Military History & Strategic Studies and Master of Military Operational Art & Science or related field plus Staff College Qualification (psc).

Experience:
- Special expertise in Combat, Support Combat Support field. At least 2 years teaching experience in a Military Institution.

Salary scale: E2 (P449,256 – 467,436) per annum
Certification: Teaching or Training qualification, accreditation as Moderator and Assessor would be an added advantage

Terms of employment: The appointment is on contract terms of 24-36 months

Leaves: 30 working days per annum

Benefits:
- A. Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme with Botswana Public Service Medical Aid Scheme – BOMAS (Gov & paid 50% while Employee pays 50%)
- B. Gratuity payable at the rate of 30% of total basic salary
- C. Housing and upkeep allowance at 2% of basic salary

Job duties and responsibilities
- a. Research, prepare and deliver course material in line with DCSCC standards in order to ensure adherence to curriculum.
- b. Co-teaching or outline the course syllabus to ensure progress of students.
- c. Develop teaching materials and methods to ensure attainment of learning objectives.
- d. Support learners during various exercises in order to impart practical experience and enhance proficiency.
- e. Implement academic policies and procedures to ensure alignment of college goals and compliance to the National Credit and Qualification Framework.
- f. Undertakes research, lead research teams and other collaborative research initiatives in order to keep abreast with changes in the field and support decision making.
- g. Manage Performance Management System to ensure the achievement of long, medium and short terms objectives for the attainment of the college strategic plan.
- h. Evaluate performance of subordinates to ensure adherence to performance standards and compliance to college policies.

Key Competencies
- a. Leading and Decision Making
- b. Supporting and Co-operating
- c. Interacting and Presenting
- d. Analysing and Interpreting
- e. Creating and Conceptualizing
- f. Organizing and Executing
- g. Adapting and Coping
- h. Leadership and Performing

2. DIVISIONAL FIRE OFFICER C1 – X 5 POSITION TENABLE AT FRANCISTOWN, MOGOIDTSHANE X 2, THEBEPHATSWA AIR BASE & SELEBI PHIKWE

Qualifications:
- Diploma/ Degree in Fire Engineering and Safety Management.
- Minimum of two (2) years satisfactory service as Sub-Station Fire Officer at C4/3 salary scale.

Salary: E2 (P192.588 – P259.104) per annum
Leaves: 30 working days per annum

Benefits:
- A. Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% while Employee pays 50%).
- B. Contributory Pension Scheme (Government pays 15% while Employee pays 5%).
- C. P 309.00 housing and upkeep allowance.
- D. 30% Firefighters overtime allowance

Job Purpose:
Manage the implementation of the Crash, Rescue and Fire Fighting policies at regional level.

Job Duties and Responsibility
- a. Implement crash, fire and rescue policies and procedures to ensure safety and prevent loss of life and property.
- b. Coordinate the activities of the Regional Fire Station Station to ensure operational efficiency.
- c. Implement quality improvement initiatives to ensure adherence to set standards.
- d. Facilitate in-service training and development in order to ensure operational readiness.
- e. Implement fire safety plans and programs to ensure adherence to fire safety codes.
- f. Monitor the implementation of firefighting equipment storage procedures to ensure the adherence to set standards.
- g. Manage the implementation of Performance Management System to ensure the achievement of Fire, Crash and Rescue Services mission.

Key Competencies:
- a. Working with people
- b. Presenting and communicating information
- c. Writing and reporting
- d. Planning and organising
- e. Delivering results and meeting customer expectations
- f. Adapting and responding to change
- g. Coping with pressures and setbacks

3. STATION FIRE OFFICER C2 – X 2 POSITION TENABLE AT MOGOIDTSHANE & SELEBI PHIKWE

Qualifications:
- Minimum of two (2) years satisfactory service as Sub-Station Fire Officer at C4/3 salary scale.

Salary: C2 (P156.336 – P185.868) per annum
Leaves: 30 working days per annum

Benefits:
- A. Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% while Employee pays 50%).
- B. Contributory Pension Scheme (Government pays 15% while Employee pays 5%).
- C. P 309.00 housing and upkeep allowance.
- D. 30% Firefighters overtime allowance

Job Purpose:
Command and control shift activities for the effective and efficient Crash, Fire and Rescue services.

Job Duties and Responsibility
- a. Implement crash, fire and rescue policies and procedures to ensure safety and prevention of loss of life and property.
- b. Command and control the activities of the Fire Station to ensure operational efficiency.
- c. Implement quality improvement initiatives to ensure adherence to set standards.
- d. Facilitate in-service training and development in order to ensure operational readiness.
- e. Conduct fire safety awareness campaigns and fire prevention programs to ensure adherence to fire safety codes.
- f. Conduct fire-fighting drills to ensure operational readiness.
- g. Manage the implementation of firefighting equipment storage procedures to ensure adherence to set standards.
- h. Manage the implementation of Performance Management System to ensure the achievement of Fire and Rescue services mission.

Key Competencies:
- a. Working with people
- b. Presenting and communicating information
- c. Writing and reporting
- d. Planning and organising
- e. Delivering results and meeting customer expectations
- f. Adapting and responding to change
- g. Coping with pressures and setbacks

NB: All applicants should include the following information:
- a. Updated Curriculum Vitae
- b. Certified true copies of academic certificate(s) and transcrips(s) and at least two (2) work related references (not more than 6 months old).
- d. Where applicable proof of registration with relevant professional/governing body.
- e. Also indicate; Date of first appointment, present post and date of appointment thereto.

Applications from serving Government employees should be routed through the Permanent Secretary/ Heads of Departments. Applications not so routed will not be considered.

Closing date: 16 August 2024

Applicants should be addressed to The Commander, Botswana Defence Force, Civilian Personnel Registry, Private Bag X06, Gaborone

For further information, Contact Recruitment Division at 3663093/ 3663394/ 3662716/ 3663167

NB: No hand deliveries will be accepted. Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.
Mokgatlho wa Gochwe o aba dipompo

DSBBONG - Mokgatlho wa kgwele ya dinao wa Gochwe Social Club a osebile batho ba le babedi dipompo tsa metsi tse di lopileng Botlhokwa ya Tsabong. Modulasetelo wa mokgatlho, Rre Thshep Motlou, o thalositswe a metsi le le kotsoko o mo botseleng jwa motho ke ka moo ba boneng go le mabole go tuusa Mme Keseo Kgudi wa kgotla ya Bogosong le Rte Thutoyane Bareki wa kgotla ya Ikgareng kwa Tsabong.

A re o Gochwe Social Club e e se lesetla se le hlae na le tlhologile, go tseletse go tlhokafalang, le tla e le edikgwe, go reng se ne se leswafatsa kwele. Moaketsang a re maikaelelo a Rre Archie Mmabe a re komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa lefelo. A re ba ikopantse le ba ba nang a sa lebega a ba bonge, le gore go se ka tlhokafalang. A re e lebelele go lehlobo bana dijana.

Mangwe a maloko a setlhopha sa Gochwe Social Club.

Ka Catherine Simane

TSABONG - Mokgatlho wa kgwele ya dinao wa Gochwe Social Club o abe lela lekgolo le masome o godile e bile o na le maloko, di mo kgaolong eo.

Bagwebi ya lebogetse ditlhabololo

Ka Naomi Leepile

KANE - Go thalositswe go fela le bagwebi ba mo meblieng ba direlang mo go lono kwa mologoro wo kgwele. Mme Kgaudi a re kgotla ya dinao le fela le gongwe. A re e lebagwe ba ikemisitse a re lefelo ba lefelo, le gore go se ka tlhokafalang. A re e lebelele go lehlobo bana dijana.

Bagwebi ya lebogetse ditlhabololo

Ka Naomi Leepile

KANE - Go thalositswe go fela le bagwebi ba mo meblieng ba direlang mo go lono kwa mologoro wo kgwele. Mme Kgaudi a re kgotla ya dinao le fela le gongwe. A re e lebelele go lehlobo bana dijana.

Bagwebi ya lebogetse ditlhabololo

Ka Naomi Leepile

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Mme Monnakgotla o rotloeditsi banyalani go tlotlana go le go diegwe ka mano le mothoeng o o kitlanyang. A re batho ba dirise Re-a-Nyalana go nna le ditankana tse di tlohogekang mo dikganyeng tsa boswa.

Mme Ben a re ba temegsetse gore bongwe mo borarong jwa bana ba amega mo dikganyeng tse. A re go le gantsi ba-tswa setlhetho ba ngokwana ka ditseta tse di faoralanang di tshwana le go solofeditsi ditiro, dikile, dikwego le tse dingwe mme ba feke ba fitlhile ba ngokwone ditiro tsa go gweba ka mmele le tse dingwe tsa bokgoba.

O tshilhola see mongwe le mongwe a ka tswa mo-tswana setlhetho mme go le gantsi ba-tswa setlhetho le batho ba ba thlokileng lesego mo botseleng, ba wapwa a sa a tseholaleleg ka ba bakgogotsitweng ka ditiro le ka tsu tshilhakone dikelo.

Mme Ben a gapele gore ba tswa setlhetho ba motlhelo go jewa ka lelame ka nata ye kimole gore ba tsehelang go le gomo, motho a akanya gore le jaaka a bone phomolo.

A re ba lemgile gore ba tswa setlhetho ba motlhelo go jewa a leleme ka nata ye kimole gore ba tsehelang go le gomo, motho a akanya gore le jaaka a bone phomolo.

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FARM WORKER WANTED at Mahobitse Farm, write to Bothelo Mohurutshane, Box 72824706, Molepolole

WANTED: FARM WORKER at Semyawe. Apply: Traxnah Manyase, Box 403635, Gaborone. Closing date: 15/08/2024.

FARM WORKER WANTED at Botshabele, P.O. Box 1627, 56555.

FARM LABOURER WANTED at Mosakwane: Contact 71 329 506.

TWO FARM WORKERS NEEDED at Paje Sukosso Farm next to Phrama Rhino Sanctuary. P.O. Box 26161, Gaborone. Contact 74 012 269. Closing date 16 August 2024.

FARM WORKER WANTED at Betsawane, P.O. Box 162 555.

FARM WORKER NEEDED at Ditshwane with Horticultural experience Apply to Box 373, Serowe.

LIST OF VACANCIES

1. CARETAKER NEEDED

2. DOMESTIC WORKER & HOUSEmaids WANTED

3. FASHION DESIGNER WITH at least certificate in fashion and 6 years of experience is wanted. Apply to Supreme Fashion House (Pty) Ltd P.O. Box 2309, Gaborone. Closing date 18 August.

4. WORKER: PROJECT MANAGER 5 years experience or more Diploma in Project Management or above. Apply: Powaman Electrical Distributors (Pty) Ltd, Box 2148 Mogoditshane. Closing Date: 15/08/2024.

5. DOMESTIC WORKER & CHILD CARETAKER NEEDED at Vegi Block (Pty) Ltd, fluent in Afrikaans and English able to live on farm and have two years experience taking care of children, health care and safety qualification required. Apply to vegiblockoffice@gmail.com, closing date 16 August 2024.

6. FARM worker sought by BnRi Farm as follows 1 = Farm manager, 1x Farm supervisor & 6x Farm workers Apply to Ms Filina P.O Box AD564AC O Mogoditshane, Gaborone Closing date: 24 August 2024.

7. Owner of PLOT 4280 in Mmopane Block 1, wishes to erect a double storey, change land use and develop from single residential to multi-residential. For any queries, the public should contact 7650 7028 or the Mogoditshane Council Planning department within fourteen (14) days of this publication.

Agriculture:


2. FARM LABOURER WANTED at Mosakwane: Contact 71 329 506.

3. TWO FARM WORKERS NEEDED at Paje Sukosso Farm next to Phrama Rhino Sanctuary. P.O. Box 26161, Gaborone. Contact 74 012 269. Closing date 16 August 2024.

4. FARM WORKER WANTED at Betsawane, P.O. Box 162 555.

5. FARM WORKER NEEDED at Ditshwane with Horticultural experience Apply to Box 373, Serowe.

Notice of Next of Kin Meetings Administration of Estates Act (Cap. 31:01)

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap. 31:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of the High Court at FRANCISTOWN HIGH COURT on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person

Estate Number

Date of Meeting

Time

Masters

Gasekgetsha, M. Dinthe

ESMT-0023-23

02-24

09h00

Boleswana

Closing date: 24 July 2024.
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Digging gold in sand ‘poetic getaway’

YINCHUAN. To Tang Mingxi, 60, the Tengger Desert was a childhood nightmare.

“I will never forget that day, when I was on my way home from primary school, an unexpected sandstorm blew several of my classmates into a ditch and took their lives away,” recalling the mishap, Tang spoke in a heavy tone.

Tang grew up in Shapotou, in the city of Zhongwei, northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. An endless expanse of the Tengger Desert, China’s fourth-largest desert, abuts Shapotou in the north, stretching out as far as one’s eyes can see. Tang’s ancestors tried hard to escape from the sand dunes, which used to approach them closer by four to five meters every year. The year 1958 saw the inauguration of China’s first desert railway, the Baotou–Lanzhou Railway. To guarantee its safe operation, anti-desertification efforts were being poured into Shapotou, and its course of development began to alter. Thanks to the innovative ‘straw checkerboard barrier’ approach and other afforestation measures, the Tengger Desert has been pushed back by a significant 25km, marking a historic shift where human efforts triumphed over the encroachment of the sands. This remarkable achievement has ensured the stable operation of the railway to the present day. Despite holding a strong desire to run away from the desert since young, Tang eventually went back after graduating from the college and began a career in sand control. Now he is a senior forestry engineer and has participated in treating about 48,670 hectares of desert.

The vast sand, in his eyes, also turned from an enemy into a friend. Zhongwei’s success in sand control has drawn many Africans, who also suffer from encroaching sand dunes, to borrow from his experience. Also coming were some Western backpackers enticed by the mysterious desert along the ancient Silk Road. In 1987, Tao Neng was assigned to work for the foreign affairs and tourism bureau in Zhongwei. “There were very few domestic tourists at that time, so Zhongwei only established a tourism bureau for foreign tourists,” said 62-year-old Tao.

“Back then, I could not get my mind around that the foreign guests always seemed to have a fascination with venturing deep into the desert. They would stay there for several days, enduring the scorching sun and exhausting themselves, only to return covered in dust,” he said. To figure out the mysterious charm of the desert, Tao received a half-year language training in Beijing to better communicate with these adventurers.

“They told me the desert allowed them to take a break from the overloaded urban life,” he said. Xinhua

Beyond U’S Afro-Tech show expands

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - The Beyond U’S Afro-Tech music show, a local brand aiming to showcase the potential of Botswana’s Afro-tech space is expanding its wings outside the border.

Since the start of the brand, Beyond U’S music show has set a platform for Botswana’s best Afrotech DJs, both locally and those residing outside the country, to showcase their talent and shine in their own backyard. All three previous editions were all-local line up with some of Botswana’s best Afrotech DJs. It has previously featured Botswana’s export DJs Kele, Tan as well as Tefo Foxx and Benny T. The brand is an initiative by Tefo Phologoe, known as Tefo Foxx.

Tefo Foxx’s vision of this event is to celebrate Botswana talent through such an exclusive music show. When he started the brand, the Pretoria based DJ, had said the idea to have an all-local line-up was to build the brand, and later as the brand grows then include international features.

Now, in its fourth edition after creating a considerable fan base and building the brand, Beyond U’S will feature Afrotech DJs from South Africa.

The fourth Beyond U’S, which will be held at The Game City’s Horizon Marquee on August 10, will feature JNR SA, Darque and Lubonk from South Africa and they will electrify the night with Botswana’s Tefo Foxx, Hapex Guru as well as Deedlow.

Beyond U’S Afro tech has created a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for the genre’s lovers, continuing to promote the genre and African culture whilst also empowering local Afro tech DJs and inspiring aspiring young creatives to produce quality and excellent local content that speaks to their roots and culture.

BOPA

Beijing Central Axis in UNESCO World Heritage List

NEW DELHI. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has included the Beijing Central Axis in its world heritage list, recognising its integrity, authenticity, and protection and management status.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee believed that the Beijing Central Axis represented a unique type in the history of world cities, embodying the Chinese philosophical concepts of ‘Zhong’ (centrality) and ‘He’ (harmony), and made significant contributions to the history of urban planning worldwide.

The organisation also highly praised the Chinese government’s tremendous efforts and outstanding achievements in protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of the ancient city of Beijing.

The Beijing Central Axis, initially established in the 13th century and formed in the 16th century, runs through the old city of Beijing from north to south. It has become the longest urban axis in the world today, spanning 7.8 km.

At a themed event named ‘One Night in Beijing Central Axis held in India late Saturday, Li Qun, China’s deputy minister of culture and tourism, said the Beijing Central Axis was one of China’s most important world cultural heritages.

Li noted that the successful inclusion of the Beijing Central Axis in the World Heritage List further highlights the overall value of Beijing’s history and culture.

The event also witnessed the launch of the Digital Central Axis Weixin Mini Program, which offers users an immersive guided tour of the landmark on their smartphones.

The latest inclusions brought the total number of World Heritage sites in China to 59.

Xinhua
Botswana to host J30, J60 tournaments

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana will host the Tennis World Tour Juniors at the National Tennis Centre this month.

The two-week long tournament will start with the World J30 tournament from August 12 to 17, followed by the J60 from August 19 to 24.

According to the Botswana Tennis Association president, Oaitse Thipe, the tournaments carried different world rankings; hence a lot of athletes from around the world would be coming to Botswana.

Thipe said it was a welcome development that Botswana was given the hosting rights immediately after the end of the Davis Cup Africa Group V event.

“It also shows that Botswana is a good destination and a lot of players from the USA, Europe and Asia have signed to come and play in these tournament,” he said.

He said the main objective of the players would be to accumulate points that would enable them to qualify for the Grand Slam, Junior Wimbledon and the Junior USA Open.

Thipe said it was important for them to do well in the tournaments so that they could attract reputable universities.

According to the Botswana Tennis Association, the two important events will be available for the two tournaments.

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‘Team Botswana in good spirit’

By Anastacia Sibanda

Ntshwarang said the athletes were physically and mentally ready for the Olympics.

GABORONE - Team Botswana starts its track and field competition at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games with Oratile Nowe in the women 800m race tomorrow.

Letsile Teboho will follow with 100m on Saturday.

Team Botswana head coach, Chilume Ntshwarang said the athletes were in good spirit and rearing to go.

He said the players were not under any pressure, adding that they were mentally and physically ready.

“They can be anxiety here and there that the competitions are now starting but it is normal.

The mood is on another level, and let me paint you a picture. Botswana are a nation well known for singing their traditional songs, and therefore the athlete are dealing with anxiety by singing and dancing,” he said.

“Some of these athletes have been competing in Europe, and that alone makes them gain experience and how to manage pressure,” he added.

Though the athletes are aware that a lot is at stake as the country has only won two Olympics medals, he said they were not worried about that.

“What they are focusing on right now is to hit the track and the rest will follow,” he said. Ntshwarang said the athletes would do all their best to represent the country with pride.

“Their mood demonstrates that we are excited to be here, and we are confident to be here, and confidence translates into competing,” he said.

Botswana is represented by two athletes, who have been eliminated from the Olympics and 12 athletes from athletics.

Athletics team include, Teboho, who will run both 100m and 200m, Nowe (800m), Bayapo Ndori, Leungo Scotch and Collen Kebinatshipi (400m), Victor Ntsebulana will contest in the 400m hurdles, while Tshepiso Masalela, Kethogile Haingura and Tumo Nkape, will compete in the men’s 800m.

The 4x400m relay team comprises, Scotch, Ndori, Kebinatshipi, Lee Eppee, Anthony Pesela and Botumelo Masilo.
By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - A renowned local professional boxer, Moabi ‘The Eagle’ Ngaka will face South Korea’s Lee Juyoeong in what promises to be an epic showdown at the Legendary International Boxing Championship at the Hoiana Resort and Casino in Vietnam on Saturday.

Ngaka, who left for Vietnam on Tuesday, said during a press conference in Gaborone on Monday that he was more than ready and prepared for the fight.

He promised to win his fight at a boxing event expected to host fighters from seven countries.

Ngaka thanked Serenity Rehabilitation Centre for having afforded him psychological training, which had significantly enhanced his performance and mental resilience.

University of Botswana (UB) Chancellor, Tebelelo Seretse said UB found it fit to support and accompany Ngaka to Vietnam when approached by Serenity Rehabilitation Centre.

She said Ngaka deserved all the support and sponsorship, as an ambassador who continued to shine a light on Botswana.

The Chancellor thanked Serenity Rehabilitation Centre for having seen the trip as a chance to explore new opportunities that would benefit the centre, UB and the country.

She said the university was not only involved in academia, but was also involved in sports development.

She also appealed to the private sector to also support and sponsor other sporting codes, like boxing.

UB Associate Professor and Sports Scientist, Professor Tshepang Tshube said at the age of 28, Ngaka was ready to go to Vietnam as he had passed the identification stage by a coach and was moving away from the development stage, given his age and level of performance, as a professional boxer.

“...the development stage is a whole complex science. It’s very easy for someone to say I can coach Ngaka to be the best, but for you to coach him to be the best to the level where he is, science is very crucial. A Sports Psychologist, Exercise Physiologist and Sports Nutritionist are needed,” he added.

For that reason, Prof. Tshube said it was important for UB to be part of Ngaka’s Vietnam trip as the university had all the expertise to support him to reach to the highest level required.

Serenity Rehabilitation Centre founder and operations director, Morwadi Mosenki said the centre aimed to expand its services to specifically cater for the rehabilitation needs of sports persons in the country.

In line with this initiative, she said the centre had identified UB as a key partner, in recognition of its expertise, particularly as the only university in Botswana offering Sport Science programmes.

She said the collaboration would not only benefit the centre and the university, but would also benefit the country. Mosenki also appealed to the nation, more especially the business community, to support and sponsor talent in sport.