

Business
Sorghum flour to hit shelves
Page 4

Dikgang
Tshwaragano le bogogi e ka tsisa maduo
Tsebe 5

Arts&Culture
Nation mourns music icon A.T.I
Page 7

OUR ONLINE PLATFORMS

<https://dailynews.gov.bw>

<https://kutlwano.gov.bw>

DailyNewsbw

Kutlwano Magazine



Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Ms Lesego Chombo says corporal punishment is not the only form of discipline, as there are other positive ways of building better learners and responsible citizens. She made the remarks when responding to some concerns raised by parents during a kgotla meeting in Shorobe recently. Parents expressed concern that the abolition of corporal punishment in schools had exacerbated misconduct among learners.

‘Positive parenting effective’

By Esther Mmolai

SHOROBÉ - Corporal punishment is not the only form of discipline, as there are other positive ways of building better learners and responsible citizens.

Responding to come comments raised during a kgotla meeting in Shorobe, Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Ms Lesego Chombo said parents should teach children about the consequences of their actions, which would foster a sense of responsibility.

Some parents had earlier expressed concern that the abolition of corporal punishment in schools had exacerbated misconduct among learners.

As such, Ms Chombo encouraged parents to play an active role and teach their children moral values, respect and good behaviour from an early age in order to make teachers’ role fulfilling.

A child nurtured with values in the family, she said became easier to guide at school.

“As the Setswana idiom says *Lore lo ojwa lo sale metsi*, I encourage you

to instil moral virtues in children at home as a foundation for building an effective and decent society,” Ms Chombo said.

A strong family foundation, she said remained most effective way to positively shape the future of the children and encouraged parents to exercise their responsibilities.

Also, she challenged parents to instill moral values amongst their children by being exemplary or being role model.

North West District Council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng also shared Minister’s sentiments that parents should play their role in upbringing of their children as they were under their custody most of the time.

He expressed concern that juvenile delinquency was rampant in the district especially in schools, saying recently about 31 learners were suspended at Moeti Junior Secondary School for drinking alcohol and raping one of their fellow learners.

Cont.. page 3

My SPAR MyBOTSWANA

MOTSHELO CARD

WHY A SPAR MOTSHELO CARD

- Sign up as an individual or group
- Minimum deposit from as little as P50
- Enjoy additional rewards with our Motshelo Promotions

My SPAR My Botswana

Jwaneng solar project completion next year

By Kehumile Moekejo

JWANENG - The Jwaneng 100MW Solar Photovoltaic Project, which commenced last month, is scheduled to be completed by July 8, 2026.

Undertaken through a Chinese Consortium, Sinotswana Green Energy, the project is a key development in Botswana's energy transition to diversify the country's energy sources and increase renewable energy generation.

The developer has entered into a 25-year power purchase agreement with government, through the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC).

Addressing Jwaneng full council meeting recently, the project manager, Mr Kenneth Syanjibu noted that in addition to contributing toward the country's

aspiration of transitioning to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, once operational, the project would also assist in balancing the power network in the Southern region of Botswana.

He noted that to date, the cumulative progress on the designs was at 80 per cent, with most of the basic designs complete.

He also said procurement of major equipment packages, which included PV brackets, inverters, transformers and cables was done, and the installation of solar brackets and substation buildings were 31.4 per cent and 30 per cent complete, respectively.

Additionally, Mr Syanjibu said the project currently employed a total of 260 people, 231 of which were Batswana while the remaining 39 were Chinese. He noted that even though

the number was expected to continue increasing during the construction phase due to the works involved, they would significantly decrease during the operation and maintenance phase.

"We are expecting the current numbers to go up because we are starting to pull the cables inside the plant in the next two months, and this requires a lot of people.

We have also noted that the number of women employed is low, hence we have advised that they should be given more opportunities," he explained.

He noted that part of their agreement was that there should be skills transfer to Batswana, and therefore the contractor had an obligation to train different employees in various areas.

He said that would empower the local people and ensure sustainability for the project and future needs.

He also highlighted that the project was expected to benefit the local communities in various

ramifications through social responsibility investment.

The councillors appreciated the economic opportunities created by the project, which they said had both direct and indirect benefits, particularly to the informal sector.

Nominated councillor, Ms Joyce Medupe underscored the need to align the remuneration to the P4 000 minimum living wage that government aspired to achieve.

She also called for sustainable social responsibility investment projects as compared to once-off food hampers donations.

Ngami ward councillor, Mr Bankinyana Montsiemang said he was optimistic that once complete, the plant would significantly augment the national energy supply, thereby reducing electricity costs incurred by consumers.

He also said the project was a key development that would ensure sustainable energy generation, with less carbon

emissions.

Raphalane ward councillor, Mr Lebogang Peloyamotho said the skills transfer to Batswana was a good initiative, adding that the contractor should collaborate with Jwaneng Technical College to engage students throughout all the stages of the project.

He noted that such would create a skills base, which would be instrumental for the maintenance of the plans after the lease had lapsed.

He also called for the deployment of highest safety standards to protect the workers.

The mayor, Mr Ronica Ntsimako applauded the contractor for creating opportunities for the local communities in various areas of the project.

He also said their social responsibility investment should consider installing solar panels in the councillors' office containers, which were donated by Red Path towards effective service delivery. **BOPA**

Centre to offer child offenders break - minister

By Booster Mogapi

MOLEPOLOLE - School to offer child offenders break – minister.

The ongoing refurbishment of Ikago School of Industry, which started on July 23, is scheduled to be complete on September 20.

The P4.5 million project awarded to KeboHoldings entails among other things, maintenance of three staff houses as well as renovation of hostels, administration block, guard house, parking area, walk ways and workshops.

Speaking during a tour of the school in Molepolole recently, Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka said once completed, the centre would play an important role on children with conflict with the law as it would offer them opportunity to pursue their dreams.

The decision to transfer children in conflict with the law from prisons to Ikago Centre was made in line with the Presidential Directive CAB 18 (A)/2025.

This move, Minister Kgafela-Mokoka said came in handy as the children would be attended to by different professionals and addressed underlying conditions, which they were facing.

She therefore said the running of the school required all stakeholders to work together for a common purpose of rebuilding child offenders.

The school she said offered an integrated programme where child offenders could relearn, rebuild and became what they wanted to be.

Even though those children broke the law, she said they deserved an opportunity to a better future as some may have committed offenses due to underlying circumstances that must be addressed.

The Minister said the ministry

had observed that many of such children grew up in violent environments and they also displayed violent behaviours.

Some she said lacked fatherly role model figures, developed anger and resentful attitudes.

Therefore, she said the school would serve to close the gap through different professionals among them probational psychologists, social workers and teachers as the school would have an academic unit, vocational training and other industrial skills.

She said the ministry would work in collaboration with that of Justice and Correctional Services, Botswana Police Service and Botswana Defence Force to ensure the children were given an opportunity to learn and pursue their desired dreams.

Giving an overview of the project, the Acting Director of Procurement and Project Management, Mr Cosmetic Molebatsi said the 60-day maintenance contract also included the resurrection of the perimeter fence and sewerage system.

He said the project would also cover installation of solar powered lights to act as backup during power cuts and CCTV cameras to enhance security within the institution.

Lephaleng Ward Councillor, Mr Motlhatlho Leselamose said maintenance of the centre was a welcome development to the residents of Molepolole as they had been worried about the status of the facility.

Mr Leselamotse said the school would now be put to good use.

He further thanked the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education for the programme, which encompassed integration programme for child offenders giving them an opportunity to learn and rebuild their lives. **BOPA**



Kgosi Puso of Batlokwa (left) and Batlokwa Royal Council organising committee chairperson, Mr Seitshiro Matlala unveiling the logo of the 145 years celebration during its launch and press conference in Tlokwen recently. Kgosi Puso said 2025 marked 145 years anniversary of Tlokwen's existence and also the 200th birthday of the founding kgosi, Kgosi Gaborone. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Anniversary opportunity to reflect on successes, challenges

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - Batlokwa are set to mark a monumental milestone as they celebrate their 145th anniversary, while also honouring the 200th birthday of their founding kgosi, Puso Gaborone.

Speaking at a press conference and logo unveiling ceremony in Tlokwen recently, Kgosi Puso of Batlokwa said the event, which would be held at the Royal Aria Stadium on November 29, would provide an opportunity to reflect on the Batlokwa's development and challenges since their settlement in Botswana in 1880.

He also said commemorating

the founding kgosi's 200th birthday honoured his enduring legacy.

"This celebration is a moment to assess the significance of Batlokwa Royal Leadership's efforts over time.

My leadership has consistently prioritised sustainable development, progressive transformation, and cultural preservation," Kgosi Puso said, pointing to the establishment of the Batlokwa Royal Council as a testament to his commitment to advancing the prosperity of Batlokwa.

He said the council served as both an engagement platform, where experts provided advisory

support to the royal leadership, and a strategic mechanism to drive sustainable growth.

Speaking on his vision for Tlokwen, Kgosi Puso expressed the desire to see the village evolving into a smart model village, complete with monumental hubs such as a local museum dedicated to Batlokwa culture.

As for the festivities, he said all Tlokwen residents, regardless of cultural background, as well as Batlokwa affiliates, to join the celebrations.

He added that guests from as far as South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho were expected to attend the jubilee. **BOPA**

Delivery of medical supplies continues

By Naomi Leepile

TSABONG - Government is committed to acting swiftly to fill gaps in the drug supply chain and support frontline healthcare workers.

This was said by Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise in Tsabong on Saturday during a delivery of consignment of medical supplies in the district.

“This is a moment of action, not just words. We are ensuring that our healthcare facilities, particularly those in areas like Tsabong have the necessary tools to care for our citizens during this challenging period,” Dr Modise said.

The consignment included a wide range of pharmaceuticals, surgical supplies and other vital medical commodities.

The minister said similar consignments were scheduled to arrive in other districts in the coming days.

The arrival of a crucial shipment of medicines and medical supplies has brought a wave of relief to Tsabong, with hospital staff and residents alike expressing gratitude for the timely intervention.

Tsabong Primary Hospital principal pharmacist, Ms Queen Dada confirmed the arrival of the much-needed supplies, stating it came at a time when the hospital needed them the most.

Ms Dada detailed the dire situation the facility had been

facing, having ran out of essential medications, including critical antibiotics for children, hypertension medication and drugs for cardiovascular conditions.

“We received what we ordered, which are the essential and most critical medicines,” said Ms Dada. She noted that while the hospital had managed to maintain a supply of medication for diabetes, the overall shortage had been a significant concern.

The impact of the shortage was deeply felt by the community, Ms Letso Kainamba, who heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing the news.

“I have gone for days without my hypertension medication. I was told that medication was not available and I was unable to afford the high costs of a private pharmacy. We are thankful that we would be able to continue with our medication,” she said

Mr Thomas Seru from Maubelo echoed the sentiment.

“At least, I will be able to see the doctor with the hope that I will get medication,” he stated, looking forward to finally receiving treatment.

Ms Ame Apadile from Tsabong said the arrival of the medication would, ‘help most of our parents who have been home without their Non-Communicable Diseases medication’.

She expressed appreciation for government’s swift response.

BOPA



Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise (right), Kgosi David Toto (left) and Tsabong District Council chairperson, Mr Elias Motlhanke during delivery of emergency medical supplies consignment in Tsabong on Saturday. Mr Modise said government was committed to acting swiftly to fill gaps in the drug supply chain and support frontline healthcare workers. Photo: Naomi Leepile

Masuku Parliamentary Counsel

GABORONE - Dr Ame Masuku has been appointed to the position of Parliamentary Counsel of the National Assembly.

A media release from the National Assembly on Friday says her appointment aligns with Section 70 (2) of the Constitution and Standing Order 13 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly of Botswana.

Dr Masuku, who is a Law Lecturer at the University of Botswana and former State Counsel at the Attorney General’s Chamber under the International and Commercial Division, is admitted to practice as an Attorney in the Courts of Botswana and a member of the Law Society of Botswana.

The release says she has also been legal consultant for Modisane Law since its inception.

According to the release, Dr Masuku holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Tax Policy from the University of Pretoria, a Master’s Degree in International Taxation from the University of Cape Town, a Master’s Degree in Trade, Investment and Business Law from the University of Western Cape, a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Botswana, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Advanced Taxation from the Botswana Accountancy

College.

It further states that she has attended various trainings including, Advantage’s Environmental, Social and Governance and Corporate Governance Training and World Intellectual Property Organizations’ International-CIPA Meister Course.

In addition, the release states that Dr Masuku currently sits on the Radiation Protection Board under the Radiation Protection Inspectorate in the Ministry of Communication and Innovation and is also a member of the Board of Adjudicators (BOA), established under Section 90 of the Income Tax Act.

As a member of the Board of Adjudicators, she adjudicates over tax disputes brought before the BOA and has rendered several judgements in that capacity.

The release states that she has also served as a director to the Botswana Motor Vehicle Accident Fund where she was deputy chairperson and chairperson of the Human Capital Committee.

In addition, the release says she has published in journals, book chapters, conference papers and a monograph currently being used by the University of Botswana Centre for Continuing Education as the prescribed manual for

Foundations of Contract Law.

Dr Masuku, the release says has consulted for international institutions, government entities and non-state actors on areas of tax law, company law, international investment law as well as international trade law.

She is a seasoned researcher and Botswana’s consultant for the International Bureau for Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) where she reports on all tax developments in Botswana and annually reviews the Botswana Chapter, says the release.

“As a lecturer at the University of Botswana, she facilitated the learning of law in mercantile and commercial law courses such as Tax Law in Botswana, The Law of Business Associations, Contract Law and Legal Research. She has supervised dissertations for both undergraduate and Masters students.”

The release further says Dr Masuku was an integral part of the organising team that hosted the 28th African Human Rights Moot Court Competitions at the University of Botswana in 2019 and also served as legal member of the Sexual Harassment Committee of the University of Botswana and the Special Economic Zone Authority Research Committee. **BOPA**

Positive parenting effective - Chombo

from page 1

“This is an indication that parents are not doing enough to reprimand or discipline their children and when discipline is neglected at home, there is no how teachers can win at school,” he added noting that parents had a duty to ensure children embraced basic morals.

He said teachers could only build upon foundations already laid by parents.

Meanwhile, some residents raised concern that they were not able to fully play a key role in their children’s education and provided parental guidance and support as they accessed

education in boarding facilities such as Makalamabedi Junior Secondary School.

They called on government to consider constructing a junior school in Shorobe to cater for Khwai, Mababe, Sankoyo, Matsaudi and Matlapana villages saying that would help them play a role in disciplining their children.

Currently, they said a number of learners from their village had been suspended from the school on allegation that they killed some chicken and grilled them but as parents they could not follow the issue to the letter because they were economically challenged.

BOPA

DailyNews

Editors

Ms Lorato Okaile

Tel: 365 3640

Email: lgaleage@gov.bw

Ms Masego Pilane

Tel: 365 3589

Email: mkpilane@gov.bw

Mr Sefhako Sefhako

Tel: 365 3589

Email: seseefhako@gov.bw

Head of Marketing

Ms Lucretia Chima

Tel: 365 3574

Email: lchima@gov.bw

Head of Photography

Mr Yobe Shonga

Tel: 365 3604

Email: yshonga@gov.bw

Published by: Department of Information Services.

Plot 37795 Wellie Seboni Drive.

Private Bag BR 139 Gaborone.

Printed by: Government Printing and Publishing Services

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

email: bopa@gov.bw

email: dailynews@gov.bw

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



Banni ba kgotla ya Tshikinyega kwa Serowe ba supile matshwenyego ka dikago dingwe tse di matlotla tse ba reng go belaelwa go direlwa borukutlhi le go hitlha dithoto tsa bogodu mo go tsone. Ba buile jalo mo phuthegong ee neng e buisiwa ke mopalamente wa Serowe North, Rre Baratiwa Mathoothe bosheng.

Senepe: Baldwin Nyamande

Banni ba Serowe ba lela ka matlotla

Tshiamiso Mosetlha

SEROWE - Banni ba kgotla ya Tshikinyega kwa Serowe ba lela ka matlotla a a mo motseng wa bone, ba re tlhalosa fa go direlwa borukutlhi mo go one. Banni ba kaile fa bontsi jwa matlo ao e le a khansele fa mangwe e le a beng ba o ne mme go sa itsiwe gore ke bo mang. Ba buile jalo kwa phuthegong e e neng e buisiwa ke mopalamente wa Serowe Bokone yo ebileng e le Mothusa Tona wa Papadi le Tlhabololo Dikgwebo, Rre Baratiwa Mathoothe, kwa kgotleng ya Tshikhinyega bosheng. Mme Collinar Kgosidintsi o tlhaloseditse mopalamente fa matlotla ao a ngoka magodu ka ba iphitlha mo go one bosigo. A re matlo a khansele a kgautlhanane ka go sa nne ope mo go o ne, mme a kopa gore khansele e a shafatse e bo e a firisetsa batho ba batlang boroko. Rre Madikwe Ramothala, le ene a lela ka ditsha dingwe kwa Tshikinyega tse di sa bolong go abelwa batho mme di sa tlhabololwe, jaanong go le dikgwa fela tse go direlwang borukutlhi mo go tsone. O ne kopa ba kabo ditsha go bona gore beng ba tsone ba tlhabolola ditsha tseo. Mme Seikaego Selepa o ne a lela ka bogodu jwa megala ya motlakase e e ileng magoletsa kwa Serowe. O boletse fa go utswiwa ga megala ya motlakase go ba jesetsa mo kgobedung ka gore ba duela madi a mantsi go e gokela. Modulasetilo wa lephata la kabo ditsha le le botlana la Serowe, Rre Sefane Phuthego o supile fa ba sa itse matlotla a a mo Serowe gore ke a bo mang, mme a kopa morafe gore o e kwa dikgosing ba botse ka matlotla ao, gore beng ba one ba

kae e bile ke bo mang. Ka ditsha tse di sa tlhabololweng, Rre Phuthego o boletse fa jaanong ba feditse go potiela ditsha tseo, go setse fela go di aba gore ba fokotse dikgwa tseo tse di fitlhang dirukutlhi. Fa a ba kgwa dikgaba ka matlo a khansele a a sa dirisiweng, Mopalamente Mathoothe o kopile khansele ya Serowe go shafatsa matlo ao ba bo ba firisetsa batho e le nngwe ya go tsenya madi mo letloleng la khansele. O supile fa ba tshwenngwa ke matlakala a a latlhelwang gongwe le gongwe kwa melapong, ditsela tsa masimo le matlotla a kopa banni go nna seopo sengwe mo go

somareleng tikologo e ba nnang mo go yone go hema malwetse a a ka ba tlhagogelang. O tlhalositse fa matlakala a leswefatsa tikologo mo Botswana ebile a tlaa koba babeeletsi. Mopalamente a re marekisetso a a kwa Serowe Mall, a makgasa e bile go leswe, mme a re se, se tlaa dira gore go ngoka babeeletsi go nne thata. A re o batla gore gaufi le marikesetso ao kwa nang le phatlha teng go agiwe a masha morago ga go ngoka babeeletsi ba dikgwebo. O tlhaloseditse banni ka seemo sa itsholelo ya lefatshe e e kwa tlase e bile puso e batla babeeletsi go tswakanya itsholelo. **BOPA**

Ka Kefilwe Selotlegeng

MAHALAPYE - Mopalamante wa kgaolo ya Mahalapye yo gape e leng Tona wa Ditlhaeletsano le Botlhami Rre David Tshere o kopile ba sepodisi go tshwaragana le bogogi jwa motse go lwantsha borukutlhi. Rre Tshere o buile jalo mo bokopanong jwa gagwe le bogogi jwa sepodisi kwa Mahalapye ka Laboraro. Rre Tshere a re o tshwengwa ke dikgang tsa borukutlhi jo boileng magoletsa jwa dipetelelo le tiriso botlhaswa ya bana ba ba kwa tlase ga dingwaga tse di lesome boferabobedi mo go tsa tlhakanelo dikobo. A re dikgang tse dingwe tse di tshwenyang thata mo kgaolong ya Mahalapye ke tsa dipolaano. O kopile mapodisi go ruta setshaba ka molato wa go tlhakanelo dikobo le ngwana

Thupa e na le seabe mo go ageng ngwana

Ka Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE - Mokhanselara wa kgaolwana ya Ikageleng Phase 1 kwa Selebi Phikwe, Rre Silent Leburu, a re thupa e na le seabe mo go ageng ngwana kwa gae gammogo le kwa sekoleng. Rre Leburu o buile jalobosheng fa a akgela mo pegong e e neng e dirwa ke Ratoropo wa Selebi Phikwe kwa bokopanong jwa khansele ka merero ya thuto. O kopile puso go sekaseka kgang ya go otlhaa bana ka thupa kwa dikoleng. Rre Leburu a re selo se sengwe se se tshwenyang ke kgonkgontsho magareng ga baithuti kwa dikoleng e e tswelletseng ka go gola e bile e setse e ama maduo a baithuti ba bangwe. A re kgokgontsho le botlhokatsebe jwa bangwe baithuti mo go ba bangwe ga e jese diwelang, a re seo se ka felela se diga seriti sa dikole gammogo le batsadi kwa lwapeng. Rre Leburu a re mangwe maitshwaro ao a kgokgontsho a felela a dira gore bangwe bana ba tseye gore kgokgontsho ke yone tsel e e maleba ya go rarabolola kgotlhang. Rre Leburu a re kgokgontsho e e bakiwang ke bangwe baithuti mo go ba bangwe, e ba dira gore ba nne ka mowa wa go itlhoboga le gone go tshaba go supa bokgoni jwa bone. O kopile makhanselara go

dirisana ka tlotlo mo dikgang tse di ka isang Khansele kwa pele e bile di baya dikeletso tsa Batswana kwa pele. O akgotse khansele go bo e kgona go tlamela baithuti ba dikole ka dijo le tse dingwe ka go farologana. Mo go tsa tlhabololo matshelo le boipelego, Mokhanselara wa Botshabelo Legare, Rre Mogomotsi Ditau, o kopile khansele go tlhatswa kgang ya go emisiwa ka nakwana ga lenaneo la Ipelegeng. A re seo se baka ketsaetsego le dikgang tse di senang boammaruri ka lone lenaneo le, sengwe se a reng se dira gore bangwe ba ipotse ka boleng jwa lone mo nakong ya gompiano. Rre Ditau a re e re ntswa le lenaneo leo e se la sennela ruri, le dira pharologanyo e e bonalang mo setshabeng. Mokhanselara yo o itlhophetsweng, Rre Dimpho Moruti, ene o supa fa dikgang tsa kgokgontsho ya bong di tswelletseng ka go gola, a re bomme ga se bone fela ba-tswa setlhabelo, le fa gontse jalo borre ba reteletswa ke go kopa thuso ka jaana gantsi ba jewa setshego fa ba ikuela. O gateletse botlhokwa jwa go tlhoma madirelo a ka one go ka dirwang dingwe dijo ka maungo a sika loo namune go tswa Selebi Phikwe Citrus. A re go dira jalo go ka thusa go tlhama mebereko e e botoka le go tswakanya itsholelo ya toropo eo. **BOPA.**

Tshwaragano le bogogi e ka tsisa maduo

a re 2024 ba fokoditse borukutlhi ka 19.8 per cent go feta seelo se se beilweng sa 5 per cent. Rre Kadiatla a re kgaolo ya District No 16 e okametse metse e le masome a mane le bobedi, dipolasi le meraka, tsela ya A1 gotswa Masama goema ka Radisele, diofisi tsa sepodisi di le thataro le makalana a sepodisi a le masome a mabedi le borataro. Rre Kadiatla a re ba itemogela tlhaelo ya boroko jwa bodiredi, a tlhalosa fa letlhoko la boroko le baka tlhaelo ya mapodisi. A re kgolo ya melato ya batho ba ba tlhakanelang dikobo le bana ba dingwaga tse di kwa tlase ga lesome le boferabobedi e a tshwenya, a supa fa ba tswelela ba itemogela ditagi tse di fetang kwa kgaolong ya Mahalapye di tsena ka dipolasi tse di fa thoko ga noka di tswa kwa mafatsheng a mangwe. A re ba na le mananeo a tshwaragano ya mapodisi le

setshaba le mananeo a go tsamaya ba phuruphutsha le dikganedi tsa tsela tse a reng di fokotsa borukutlhi. Mokhanselara wa Kgaolo ya Madiba, Rre Mokgweetsi Moisiraela, a re go loma mapodisi tsebe ga gona molemo ope ka jaana mapodisi mangwe ba dirisanya le dirukutlhi. Rre Moisiraela a re batho ba dikara tsa ditonki tse di tsamayang masigo ba utswa dipudi le dikoko. Fa mokhanselara yo o itlhophetsweng, Mme Kesegofetse Magapa, a akgotse mapodisi a re ba dira tiro e ntle ya go lwantsha borukutlhi. Mme Magapa o ne a lebogela lekalana le le haphegileng la tshireletso ya bana a tlhalosa fa le tlaa tokafatsa dikgang tsa bana. A re maikaelelo a bokopano jo, ke go bopa tshwaragano ya bogogi jwa kgaolo le sepodisi go lwantsha borukutlhi. **BOPA**

Balete welcome Mautlwakgosi

By Baleseng Batlotleng

RAMOTSWA - Multitudes of Bogwera initiates who gathered at the Gamalete main Kgotla on Saturday have been urged to uphold societal moral values as it is an important component in nation building. This was revealed by Balete Paramount Chief, Kgosi Mosadi Seboko during a pass out parade for those who had completed the Bogwera initiation rite in Ramotswa. "Culture is an important component in our efforts to unite our people. It is upon the mophato before me to uphold the call I have made in the past to unite the morafe by upholding basic principles of botho and tlotlo even to the next

rulers after me and to other merafe," said Kgosi Mosadi. Kgosi Mosadi said the successful completion of the initiation rite was a true testament that they had transitioned from boyhood into law abiding citizens who were expected to have learnt Setswana culture, history and most importantly Selete customs and values. The graduates who were named Mautlwakgosi by Kgosi Mosadi were also advised on living to the true testimony of their name and uphold what Kgosi required from adult members of the society. Kgosi Mosadi said through the guidance of other senior members of the morafe the initiates had completed the necessary training to be considered men within the Balete tribe.

She was highly confident that the rite of passage had instilled the required social values which would make them an important cog in contributing to social cohesion and stability within the tribe. Multitudes braced the blistering heat on Saturday and thronged the Gamalete main kgotla to witness the colourful ceremony of the procession of the over 200 male initiates. As early as six o'clock in the morning the kgotla was packed to the rafters and the Ditlhaka tsa Balete led in song as the tribe eagerly awaited the procession of the male initiates. The initiates finally emerged from their sacred space with Kgosi Mosadi and Deputy Paramount Chief Kgosi Tsimane

Mokgosi leading the procession to a deafening ululations from the crowd that had packed the kgotla. According to oral traditions related during the course of the processions the Balete had Bogwera initiates as early as 1890s with the first mophato being Maakathata regiment. Initiation school for Balete was halted in 1981 and the last regiment to be initiated was

called Mafithhakgosi because the ceremony coincided with the death of Botswana's founding president Sir Seretse Khama in 1980. Since then the Bogwera and Bojale were halted and only revived in 2012 with the Matsosangwao regiment passing out. The following years saw the graduation of other regiments such as Makatamotse and Mabopatshaba. **BOPA**



Kgosi Mosadi Seboko of Balete (second right) leading Mautlwakgosi to the main kgotla in Ramotswa on Saturday. The ceremony marked the arrival of over 220 initiates who had been on seclusion for a month. Photos: Teko Letsholo

Nation mourns music icon A.T.I

GABORONE - The nation is mourning the passing on of male rapper, Atlasaone Molemogi, aka A.T.I. A press release from Batho Bame Investments has confirmed A.T.I's passing, describing him as having been more than an entertainer. It says A.T.I was a cultural force, a voice of hope and a light to countless people who found strength in his music and his message. "He lived authentically, gave generously of his talent and inspired unity and courage in every state he touched," adds the

release. Batho Bame Investments requests the public to afford A.T.I's family privacy, as they mourn and prepare funeral arrangements. The statement further says the rapper was not just an artist, but a national treasure whose legacy will echo through generations. "Let us remember him not only as the icon he was, but as the son, brother and friend whose humanity touched us all," states the release. Details of the memorial service will be communicated in due course. **BOPA**



Batho Bame Investments has confirmed in a statement, the passing of music icon, Atlasaone Molemogi popularly known as A.T.I. The rapper, is described as having been more than an entertainer, but also a cultural force, a voice of hope and a light to countless people who drew strength in his music and his message.



BOTSWANA MULTI-TOPIC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY Providing insights into household consumption for a better tomorrow

BMTHS: Still On the Ground, Survey Ongoing-Your Cooperation Makes It Stronger!



Team Botswana during a joint send-off ceremony in Gaborone on Friday. The able-bodied athletes and para-athletes will compete at World Athletics Championship in Tokyo, Japan and the World Para Athletics Championships scheduled for New Delhi, India respectively. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Athletes head to world stage

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) has assembled two teams that will represent the country at the up coming World Athletics Championships and the World Para Athletics Championships.

The World Athletics Championships will be held in Tokyo, Japan from September 13 to 21 while the World Para Athletics Championships are scheduled for New Delhi, India from September 27 to October 5. Speaking at a joint send-off ceremony in Gaborone on

Friday, BNSC acting CEO Makuke Makuke pleaded with the athletes to aim for victory, reminding them that the true worth of a champion was not measured by medals only, but integrity and character.

He also cautioned them to stay away from performance-enhancing drugs.

"We want victories that are pure, clean, and earned through hard work and sacrifice. Remember, there is no place for doping in Botswana sport," he said. Makuke said the championships were stepping stones to even greater horizons, including Los Angeles 2028.

He therefore, urged the athletes to use the opportunity to test their limits, to learn, and inspire other young Batswana.

Furthermore, he said he was happy that for the first time, able-bodied athletes and para-athletes were sent off together, shoulder to shoulder, and united in purpose.

"This joint send-off is more than symbolic, it is a true reflection of the Botswana we strive for, a nation of inclusivity, unity and shared excellence," he said. He commended both Botswana Athletics Association and the Paralympic Association of Botswana for the bold and

visionary step.

For his part, BAA president Oabona Theetso pleaded with Batswana to support the athletes as they would be representing the nation.

"Please let us give them all the support they need. Our objective at the championships is to make Batswana happy," he said.

The World Athletics Championships team is made up of Letsile Tebogo (100m, 200m), Oratile Nowe (800m), Lee Eppie and Bayapo Ndori (400m) while Collen Kebinatshipi, Leungo Scotch, Zibani Ngozi and Justice Oratile will feature in the 4x400m relay.

Tshepiso Masalela and Kethobogile Haingura will represent the country in 800 metres men's category.

The 400 metres hurdles has Kemorena Tisang and Victor Ntweng.

World Para Athletics Championships team consist of Ronald Rich (200m, 400m T37), Edwin Masuge (400m T13), Tumo Masejane (400m T13), Lame Monamati (400m T12).

Bose Mokgwati will represent the country in 400m T13, Katlego Matuto (400m T12) Onkamile Bankaetse and his guide (400m T11) and Gloria Majaga in 400m T13. **BOPA**