

Daily News

THE PAPER
THAT
INFORMS
AND
EDUCATES

Tuesday July 2, 2024 No. 121

<https://dailynews.gov.bw>

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Sir Seretse Khama True Statesman



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left) and former president of Mozambique, Dr Joaquim Chissano laying a wreath during Sir Seretse Khama Day commemoration in Gaborone yesterday. Sir Seretse Khama was described as a distinguished son of the soil, who will be remembered because of events and circumstances surrounding his life as well as his leadership skills that were apparent in the interconnected concepts of constitutionalism, nation-building and Pan Africanism. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

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Teachers agents of transformation

By Jeremiah Sejabosigo

LOBATSE - The selfless dedication and sacrifices from teachers over the years has contributed significantly to the country's socio-economic development, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has said.

In a keynote address during the national commemoration of Teachers' Day at The Big Valley Lodge near Lobatse on Friday, Dr Masisi commended organisers of the celebrations for focusing on mindset change, which formed priorities of government's Reset and Reclaim Agenda aimed at propelling the country to a knowledge-based economy.

He said embracing mindset change would in turn weigh positively on the learning outcomes of learners.

"In a fundamental way, you hold the keys to our children and youth educational success through collaboration, teamwork, and critical reflection on your work or professional practice," he said.

President Masisi said the theme of the event: Positive Teacher Mindset: Key to a 21st Century Learner, resonated well with government's commitment to prepare and produce globally competitive graduates whose mastery of the subject-matter anchored on the possession of 21st century skills.

To produce globally competitive graduates, he said government had made reforms in the education sector over the years among them prioritising implementation of programmes focused on learner-centred teaching methodologies and a robust digitalisation drive meant to ensure a technology-driven learning approach.

Further, Dr Masisi noted that government had since developed an Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP) to facilitate the attainment of improved learning outcomes by addressing issues of access, equity, quality, relevance and accountability across the entire sector.

"The ETSSP is a System-level Sector Plan designed to comprehensively transform education from pre-primary to tertiary level, so as to transform Botswana from a resource-based to a knowledge and skill-based society. It is through this plan, implementable in successive five-year cycles, that the Ministry of Education and Skills Development is transforming to Outcome-Based Education in order to deliver 21st Century responsive learners," he said.

He said since January 2021, government had pioneered the Outcome-Based Education across all Senior Secondary Schools, through the introduction of new pre-vocational subjects, namely, Hospitality and Tourism, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Crop Production.

He said Vision 2036's overarching goal of transforming into a knowledge-based and diversified economy as a vehicle of achieving prosperity for all, placed a key responsibility on the education sector and teachers as agents of the desired transformation outcomes.

"Teachers, therefore, have a critical role to play in ensuring that no child is denied equal opportunity with others to undergo quality educational experiences



President Masisi (right) awarding Ms Moetsabatho Gakeolathele the Long and Distinguished Service medal during national commemoration of Teacher's Day in Lobatse on Friday. He commended teachers for their selfless dedication and sacrifices that had contributed to the country's socio-economic development.

Photo: Pheny Moalosi

that impart unto them the relevant skills sets and knowledge needed for economic transformation and balanced social development. I personally have a lot of trust in you to deliver, and today's ceremony bears testimony to the calibre of the profession in which we have placed this responsibility," he said.

President Masisi said the national adult literacy rate figures of 1 403 423 or 88.7 per cent of the country's adult population aged 15 years and

above, was a significant milestone worth celebrating thanks to the teachers' continued dedication and execution of their duties.

He, however, said more still needed to be done to address the low pass rates in some junior and senior secondary schools.

"A serious and urgent mindset change in this regard will be a welcome development, which will see our learners achieving at desirable higher levels," he said.

The President acknowledged challenges faced by teachers and he assured them of government commitment to address such, so as to attract, retain and motivate teachers to serve with dedication everywhere across the country.

Dr Masisi also noted that the largest allocation of the recurrent budget for the 2024/2025 financial year to the ministry of education was government's effort to drive transition of the country to a

knowledge-based economy.

The President reminded teachers and parents the need to instil discipline in children, noting that the issue of drugs in schools, in particular Methcathinone, commonly referred to as 'Cat', continued to be a serious cause for concern.

"Parents and teachers have to rise to the challenge and ensure that children do not fall into the trap of drug addiction, which, if not nipped in the bud, will impact negatively on students' academic performance, destroy our youth, and severely reverse Botswana's development gains," he said.

The President awarded a total of 200 medals to teachers.

The medal categories included 21 Long and Distinguished Service Awards to teachers who have given over 30 years of quality service.

The 29 Meritorious Service Awards were given to teachers who had shown excellence in service delivery throughout their career, while 43 Silver Jubilee Awards was for teachers who served 25 years or more with excellent service.

The 107 Mid-Career medals was for deserving teachers and lecturers who continued to give their best in the classroom. Minister for Education and Skills Development Dr Douglas Letsholathebe said the awards honoured teachers for their dedication and passion in their work.

He further said teachers played a critical role in motivation and guidance of learners in their education path.

He said the ministry noted with appreciation the level of commitment teachers continued to show in their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. **BOPA**

Founding president forever honourable

By Olekantse Sennamoso

GABORONE - The founding President, Sir Seretse Khama will forever remain an honourable and distinguished son of the soil, who will often be remembered because of events and circumstances surrounding his life.

Speaking on behalf of President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, Vice President, Mr Slumber Tsogwane said Sir Seretse could be described as a remarkable human being among the mortals of Earth.

"His leadership skills were apparent in the interconnected concepts of constitutionalism, nation building and Pan Africanism," he said during the commemoration of Sir Seretse Khama Day in Gaborone yesterday.

Mr Tsogwane said these concepts were evidenced in his leadership practices and projected in his speeches at various platforms on Africa's future.

He, thus described Sir Seretse as a nation builder, a non-racist and a constitutionalist who believed in multi-partyism as a laboratory for testing and defining democracy.

"His Pan Africanism was reflected in his deep support of the objectives of the then Organisation of African Unity, where he pledged that his government will support any practical measures proposed to promote African cooperation and unity," said Mr Tsogwane.

He said the commemorations

of Sir Seretse Khama Day were therefore, important to provide a platform to highlight such contributions as a father of the nation. The Vice President observed that in his nation building project, Sir Seretse worked with a team of equally committed political actors, civil servants and technocrats who were persuaded in the ideal of belonging together.

"We pride ourselves to date on being a united, stable and democratic nation state and society where unity in diversity is acknowledged, cherished and celebrated. It is not a happenstance, but an outcome of a project of determination inspired by a deep sense of devotion to the notion of nation building" he said.

At a more party level, Mr Tsogwane also credited Sir Seretse for leading the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) delegation that participated in the 1963 constitutional conference negotiating self-government for Botswana as well as the establishment of organs of the state for running that government.

He said during his era, most liberal democratic constitutional documents which made provisions for fundamental political and civil rights were influenced largely by the British government, and that as a primary regime for human rights, the task for Sir Seretse and his team was, therefore, a mammoth one.

"Nonetheless, he and his team

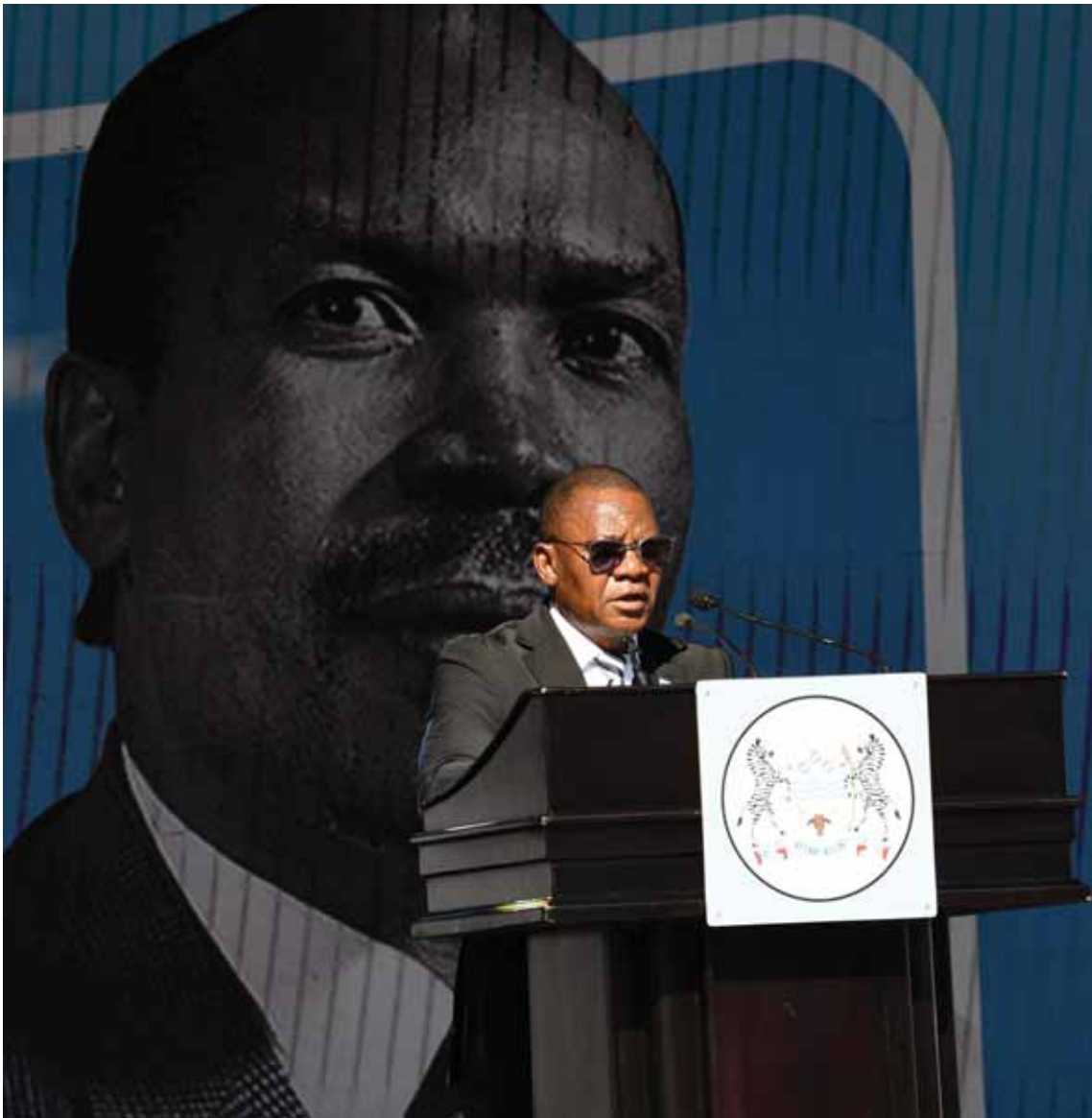
managed, and Sir Seretse turned out to be a faithful adherent to the adopted constitution, and this is the mark of a constitutionalist," he said.

Mr Tsogwane said upon assuming power first as a Prime

Minister and later as President, Sir Seretse further oversaw far reaching development policy choices and decisions, such as organising the economy and distributing state revenues, which were by then limited. **BOPA**



The Daimler Limousine that was used by Sir Seretse Khama on exhibition during Sir Seretse Khama Day commemoration yesterday. The first Daimler bought for presidential use prior to independence was used by Princess Marina on her visit to Botswana. The two vehicles are now kept as treasures at the National Museum. Photo: Pheny Moalosi



Vice President Tsogwane delivering a speech on behalf of President Masisi during Sir Seretse Khama Day commemoration in Gaborone yesterday. Mr Tsogwane described Sir Seretse as a nation builder, a non-racist and a constitutionalist who believed in multi-partyism as a laboratory for testing and defining democracy. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Sir Seretse Khama hailed for distinctive policy choices

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Sir Seretse Khama has been hailed for his foresight and distinctive policy choices that worked well for nation building, which is evident among others in the formulation of the Mines and Minerals Act of 1969.

The Act required that all minerals should be part of the national wealth, therefore, should be used to indiscriminately improve people's livelihoods.

This was said by the Vice President, Mr Slumber Tsogwane, who was speaking on behalf of President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi during the commemoration of Sir Seretse Khama day in Gaborone yesterday.

He said the Act ensured that all such findings were seceded to and vested in the authority of the state, which was also bestowed with the duty to use revenue accrued from such to benefit the nation equally.

"This was a critical nation building decision that we are still to this day proud of as a people, and this arrangement is credited to having saved Botswana from suffering the afflictions of the tensions and conflicts often associated with claims of property rights over land parcels with mineral deposits," he said.

Mr Tsogwane said such wisdom by Sir Seretse and his team ensured that Botswana's minerals constituted the common wealth of citizens, thus avoiding any misfortune of a resource-cursed nation.

He said the benefits of the development trajectory of this framework were evident in the many achievements in infrastructure development such as road networks, hospitals, clinics, energy and water utilities as well as a host of other social services.

Mr Tsogwane said this arrangement was further reflected in the associated choice of entering into a partnership with one of the world's foremost diamond mining companies in De Beers to create Debswana, which he said also demonstrated foresight.

"The benefits of that partnership are evident, but with hindsight, such benefits could have been far much better if the architecture of this foundational mining contract end-sales agreement of diamond production had been premised

on fairness of returns for the two parties," he said.

Mr Tsogwane said on that, Botswana has learnt its lessons to jealously guard its national interests, which he said spoke to the latest development in re-negotiating the agreement by President Masisi.

He said the new contract will ensure that the country was no longer taken advantage of in the exploitation of its mineral wealth by contracting in relationships that do not involve the country in equally beneficial downstream activities.

Mr Tsogwane thus said it should be the responsibility of the whole mineral rich Africa to ensure that minerals and other natural resources benefited the continent's development agenda.

He said Botswana could now stand and see far into the future because of most foundations laid by Sir Seretse, such as educational and health services provided from the benefits of minerals.

The Vice President said Dr Masisi's administration was also determined to ensure that the forthright and good socio-economic policy choices made during Sir Seretse's leadership shall continue to be made in the new and transformational efforts of Botswana that present an opportunity for achieving prosperity for all.

Such had informed policies such as the Reset and Reclaim agenda, which he said formed just part of an array of other interventions that would ensure that the nation rode the momentum of a transformation it desired. **BOPA**

Botswana holds special value - Chissano

By Marvin Motlhabane

GABORONE - Before independence, Sir Seretse Khama successfully mobilised Batswana to support the struggle for freedom and independence.

Former President of Mozambique, Dr Joaquim Chissano said during Sir Seretse Khama Day commemoration in Gaborone yesterday.

Dr Chissano said in this context, Botswana served as a transit corridor for several nationalists from the liberation movements of South Africa and Mozambique, who were on transit to Tanzania which was already independent and their fortress.

Dr Chissano said, "On March 4, 1963 we had resolved to join the liberation struggle led by FRELIMO, although under the threat of being arrested by the Portuguese political police."

He said at the time, Samora Machel; a nurse and FRELIMO activist had fled Mozambique via Swaziland, South Africa and Botswana, where he was welcomed by a local family in Lobatse, at a residence that had now been transformed into a museum.

This, according to Dr Chissano, showed engagement and sacrifice of Batswana in the fight for freedom and independence of their brethren.

He said after independence in 1966, President Sir Seretse Khama consolidated and continued to promote the policy of supporting the struggles for freedom and independence even though he was aware of the geopolitical vulnerability of his country, under the threat of the apartheid regime.

This support was done with great caution and always under firm support of Batswana who were a true allies of the nationalists and the movements that passed through their territory, Dr Chissano added.

"I earn witness to this atmosphere of commitment and support both from President Sir Seretse Khama and the people of Botswana. The proof is that in 1973, FRELIMO sent me here to Botswana with the mission of exchanging views with the President about ways his country could support the liberation struggle of Mozambique," he said.

On this mission, Dr Chissano disclosed that he was welcomed by state and was hosted at a residency of the permanent secretary in the Office of the President and later Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Archibald Mogwe in a place of little suspicion and from which he could only leave when inside a vehicle so as not to be seen by the enemy forces nearby in South Africa.

He said these were precautions for his safety, but mainly to not compromise that of his host himself.

Dr Chissano said concomitantly supporting the liberation and independence struggles, Sir Seretse Khama was champion of promotion of economic cooperation among all Southern African states, adding that the first president understood that the economic development of Botswana required creation of

a forum debate on forms to face the apartheid regime and above all for mutual assistance toward the development of the states and people across the region.

He said Sir Seretse Khama chose to collaborate economically with South Africa while the other countries were for sanctions against apartheid; one aspect that made him a realist and a pragmatic person and for this decision, Dr Chissano added that Sir Seretse Khama was condemned by no country, not even those against apartheid.

Dr Chissano said the first President brought the idea of cooperation among the independent states in Southern Africa that culminated into the creation of Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), wherein he was later nominated its chairperson by member states to coordinate the economic struggle.

In his parting words, Dr Chissano said Botswana had a special value for him and for the many men and women who passed through the country fighting for the liberation of Africa, from colonial domination, racism, oppressive and antidemocratic regimes.

He said all this was because of the vision and leadership of Sir Seretse Khama, who knew how to mobilise Batswana to consent to immediate sacrifices for the gains of great value enjoyed today - freedom and independence. **BOPA**



Dr Chissano delivering a speech during Sir Seretse Khama Day Commemoration in Gaborone yesterday. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

DailyNews
 Published by: Department of Information Services
 37795 Wellie Seboni Drive
 Private Bag BR 139 Gaborone
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 Online Edition: <https://dailynews.gov.bw>
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Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

'Weather monitoring key in policymaking'

GABORONE - The Department of Meteorological Services operates a weather observational network across the country to observe, analyse and predict weather and climate to be used for the benefit of policy making decisions and planning in the climate sensitive sectors of the economy.

Assistant Minister of

Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Setlhabelo Modukanele said this in response to a question, on behalf of Minister of Environment and Tourism, during Ntlo Ya Dikgosi session recently. Mr Modukanele said the weather observational network was also used to manage risk arising from climate variability and climate change. He said the

current weather observational platform across Botswana included a 28 Automatic Weather Stations (ASW), Automatic Weather Observing Stations (AWOS) at airports, 106 Automatic Rain gauges approximately 500 manual rainfall stations and a remote sensing unit.

He said Kgalagadi South operated three automation weather

stations located at Tsabong, Werda and Vaalhoek, while Tsabong and Werda also served as manned synoptic stations.

He said there were 26 rainfall stations in the district, out of which six were automatic rain gauges.

Mr Modukanele said weather parameters measured at such stations included rainfall, temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, solar radiation and sunshine hours and were used to predict future weather conditions to be used by various climate sensitive sectors of the economy.

"Dissemination of this information is carried out through multiple platforms which include television, radio, print media, social media, email, telephone, fairs and shows, open days and kgotla meetings to ensure broad public access and awareness," he said.

He added that weather forecasts were issued on Botswana Television every evening after the news both in Setswana and English, including the expected weather for the next day or two.

"Any rainfall recorded on that day is shown ranging from high to low. Due to broadcast time constraints, some places with low rainfall might not be included in the broadcast during times of widespread rains. The same applies to radio broadcast and as example during the period of January to June this year, Tsabong appeared 17 times on Btv and it is only three occasions that it did not appear where it had recorded rainfall of 0.4mm or less," he said.

He further indicated that despite some instances of low rainfall data not being reported in broadcasts, the information from all stations including Kgalagadi South was thoroughly analysed and incorporated into the district, national and international reports.

"This ensures that the sectors such as agriculture, aviation, water management, health and disaster risk reduction benefit from accurate and timely weather and climate information," he added.

Kgosi David Toto of Kgalagadi South had asked the minister to

explain the criteria for reporting rainfall and weather conditions throughout the country since some stations like Tsabong were not reported on national rainfall reports. **BOPA**

No plans to upgrade headman of arbitration

GABORONE - The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has no plans to upgrade headman of arbitration, Assistant Minister, Mr Setlhabelo Modukanele has said.

Responding to a question during the Ntlo ya Dikgosi meeting recently, Mr Modukanele said their positions was at the kgotla in their respective villages or wards and the succession plan was as per the customs and norms of the village in the customary manner.

"Therefore the ministry cannot plan for the promotion of headman of arbitration nor their succession," he said.

Specially elected Kgosi Oatleng Setlhodi had asked the minister if he had any plans to set out a clear progression and succession plan for headman of arbitration on permanent and pensionable under the Bogosi structure.

Responding to another question, Mr Modukanele said the ministry was aware of the two approved appointments of headman of arbitration in Ngwaketse West region at Molale Ward in Mmakgori and Moletsane Ward in Mabutsane, which were sent to the district on April 24.

Kgosi James Khumanego of Ngwaketse West had asked the minister to update Ntlo Ya Dikgosi on the number of pending appointments for headman of arbitration in the Ngwaketse West region. **BOPA**



Kgosi Banyula (left), Kgosi Mompoloki Motswagole of Molepolole Region (centre) and Kgosi Ezekiel Joel of Bobirwa Region at Ntlo Ya Dikgosi in Gaborone recently. Assistant Minister Modukanele said the Department of Meteorological Services operated a weather observational network across the country to observe, analyse and predict weather and climate to be used for policy making decisions. Photo: Felicity Male

Modukanele explains government drought management plan

GABORONE - The development of a Drought Monitoring Plan underscored Botswana's commitment to proactive drought management by ensuring that interventions are aligned with the severity of the situation as determined by the Botswana Vulnerability Assessment Committee (BVAC) findings.

This was said by Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Setlhabelo Modukanele during Ntlo Ya Dikgosi meeting recently. Mr Modukanele also told Ntlo Ya Dikgosi that the involvement of Cabinet leading to the drought declaration by the President further emphasised the importance of political leadership in responding to the shock.

He said the outlined systematic approach reflected the country's dedication to effectively monitor, manage and mitigate the impact of drought, ultimately safeguarding the well-being of citizens and the country's food security.

"To ensure preparedness should drought be declared, a number of meetings with all affected ministries for resource and financial mobilisation are undertaken to ensure that ministries re-look their ministerial priorities with the view to allocating funds timely to the proposed drought mitigation measures," he said.

Explaining the Rural Development Council (RDC) mandate, he said it included

drought monitoring, management and cross sectoral coordination through the BVA committee.

He said the committee undertook the drought and household food security and vulnerability assessment and analysis exercise during the month of April or May annually.

Subsequently, he said verification or rapid assessment was conducted in October or November to determine changes that had occurred since the first assessment.

He said the committee drew its membership from multiple stakeholders across ministries to facilitate a well-coordinated approach in addressing challenges posed by drought.

He said the assessment took a holistic approach which was essential for identifying strategies to mitigate vulnerability and enhance food security.

In that regard, he said the use of various data sources, such as rainfall records, satellite imagery and nutritional surveys were key for the assessment.

"Rainfall data establishes deficiencies in the season's rainfall and its extent. Cumulative rainfall amounts are therefore calculated on a monthly and seasonal basis and compared to the statistical long-term average for the area and for the period in question," he said.

Furthermore, he indicated that temperature fluctuations and humidity levels during the season were taken into

consideration as they controlled the rate of evaporation and evapotranspiration.

"This is done to establish the impact of the rainfall amounts and distribution specifically on plant growth and water sources as well as on rural incomes and human livelihoods. Critical to all of this is the timing of ploughing/planting activities, the area ploughed, yield and harvest estimates which are compared to their previous years' situations and also related to the rainfall patterns," he added.

Mr Modukanele said the integration of scientific data, such as Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) maps and temperature fluctuations, with on-the-ground observations was done to determine the drought's severity and its implications for agriculture, water sources and livelihoods. He said assessment of water inflows into major dams and through major perennial rivers was also undertaken.

Additionally, he said the extent of veldt fires was also reviewed since high fire damages may exacerbate levels of vulnerability if left unchecked.

He explained that using nutritional status of under-fives and the primary school feeding programme as an assessment tools was a valuable approach for understanding human vulnerability and taking necessary steps to address food insecurity and community wellbeing. **BOPA**

Constitutional review to address concerns

GABORONE - The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is aware that Mmea, Mokubilo and Makgaba villages receive services from Letlhakane District.

Answering a question during the Ntlo Ya Dikgosi meeting recently, Assistant Minister, Mr Setlhabelo Modukanele said that villages received services despite not forming part of the Boteti regional Electoral College.

"But the ongoing constitutional review is expected to address the concern as it proposes district representation and not regional Electoral Colleges," Mr Modukanele said.

Kgosi Benjamin Banyula of Boteti region had asked the minister whether he was aware that the three villages received

services from Boteti district tribal administration despite not forming part of Boteti regional Electoral College.

On other issues, the assistant minister also informed the Ntlo Ya Dikgosi that the rollout of SmartBots Internet connectivity was still underway.

"Phase one was completed last financial year having connected 169 dikgotla, and phase two of the project will commence this September and will connect a further 61 dikgotla. Gamodubu and Kotolaname villages will be included in the 2025/26 financial year," he said.

Kgosi Edison Gobuamang of Thamaga region had wanted to know when SmartBots would be connected at dikgotla of Gamodubu and Kotolaname villages. **BOPA**

Over 450 undergo eye cataract operation

By Goweditse Kome

MASUNGA - A total of 458 patients have undergone operations under the North East District eye cataract campaign conducted in partnership with Francistown Academic Hospital.

This was revealed during the North East District full council meeting by council chairperson, Mr Kudzani Tobokwani recently.

Mr Tobokwani said of the 458 patients, 170 were from the North East District and the campaign was currently ongoing at Masunga Primary Hospital.

On other issues, the council chairperson said the district continued to struggle with worrying statistics of cases involving crime against children which included 98 of defilement, 46 rape, eight of children in conflict with the law and 38 of children in need of protection including child neglect, foster care, child trafficking, abuse and abandonment.

However, he said with the District Child Protection Committee functionalised, the plan of action would continue revitalising Village Child Protection Committees through in-house trainings and workshops.

He indicated that Ramokgwebana and Masingwaneng committees had so far been trained in-house.

Furthermore, he said the council had managed to implement socio-economic programmes targeted to improve livelihoods in the district for beneficiaries under the destitute, orphans and needy students categories, who were all assisted with food rations, clothing and school uniform respectively.

He added that the council continued to provide Social Protection and Community Development Services to 3 150 beneficiaries registered on welfare programme since May.

"This includes 1 391 destitute persons, 575 orphans, 942 needy students, 28 Community Home Based clients and 147 children in need of care all receiving support in the form of material or psycho social support," he said.

In addition, he said the department had confirmed 67 needy students at brigades and technical colleges who were assisted with monthly living allowance of P1 100.

He indicated that numbers for students at vocational institutions

and brigades however continued to reduce as the students completed and graduated.

On waste management, he said the district continued to do well and the council had engaged six large scale and 47 small scale contractors to provide waste collection services for 10 and 33 villages respectively.

He also indicated that the newly constructed two dry cells and one wet cell had been completed and they were expected to extend the lifespan of the landfill for an estimated 10 years, on condition that the landfill disposal processes were followed to the letter.

He thus urged all to exercise proper waste management practices to protect the environment, adding that stakeholder engagement remained key in achieving a clean environment for all. **BOPA**



Doctors performing a cataract surgery. According to Mr Tobokwani, 458 patients had undergone operations under the North East District eye cataract campaign conducted in partnership with Francistown Academic Hospital.

Kgatleng makes headway in TNDP projects

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - Kgatleng District Council has made strides in the implementation of Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) projects.

Addressing a full council meeting recently, Kgatleng District Council chairperson, Mr Daniel Molokwe said they had made significant progress

in the construction of the new Primary school at Oodi, with both the teachers' houses and academic facilities nearing completion.

Additionally, Mr Molokwe said various maintenance projects, including classroom blocks and water-borne toilet conversions, were progressing according to schedule.

He said the construction

of classroom blocks at Tlhaakgame Primary School as well as conversion of pit latrines to water borne toilets at Lady Mitchison and Kgafela Primary schools were also progressing well and on schedule and to be completed on July 18.

The council chairperson said maintenance of Bogatsu and Pilane Primary schools had been awarded at P2.2 million and P2.3 million respectively.

He said maintenance of Bogatsu Primary School project entailed connection of nine toilet blocks at Segale Primary School to the nearby sewer reticulation network.

Moreover, he said the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development had funded the district at an amount of P4.3 million through TNDP II and funds would be used to construct three classrooms at Rasesa Primary School and two classrooms at Matsieng Primary School.

"The award of this tender is expected to be done during August," he said.

On other issues, he said the Local Economic Empowerment (LEA) continued to register and assist Chema Chema applicants.

He said by June 7, LEA had received 3 928 registrants out of which 1 202 had been trained, adding outreach efforts

had been conducted in various villages, while training was ongoing to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Council also learnt that the 2023/24 ploughing season under the facilitation of Temo Letlotlo arable programme had commenced with 3 768 farmers registered under the Crop Management System (CMS) in the district and about 2 672 farmers registered under micro-scale farmers and qualified for government grant while 1 159 registered as non-micro scale farmers.

Mr Molokwe further said out of the 1 159 farmers, only 493 managed to plough.

"The low number of farmers is an indicator of food shortage at household level.

The programme has a slow uptake which might have been contributed to erratic rainfall during the current ploughing season and reluctance of non-micro scale farmers to take insured seasonal loans," he said.

Furthermore, he said, the district received and had approved 40 applications of tractor and implements and 13 applicants had already paid 50 per cent of the total cost, while 47 applications were received under fencing component with 22 having been approved. **BOPA**



Kgatleng District Council Secretary, Mr Poloko Mojalemotho (right), Mr Molokwe (centre) and his deputy Mr Modise Ncube (third right) during full council meeting in Mochudi recently. Mr Molokwe said Kgatleng District had made significant strides in the implementation of projects under the Transitional National Development Plan. Photo: Mmoniemang Motsamai

DTC BOTSWANA WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

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3rd and 4th runner up: 6th July 2024, The National Stadium, Time: 12h00
Finals: 6th July 2024, National Stadium Time: 16h00

FREE ENTRY!





VP calls for sustainable farming methods

By **Thandy Tebogo**

LETLHAKANE - Harsh weather conditions and limited rainfall require farmers to change their way of doing things and focus more on methods and techniques that promote a sustainable development.

Vice President Slumber Tsogwane said during the Voorslag Boteti Agricultural Exposition held in Letlhakane on Friday that issues around environment, social and governance commonly known as ESG had taken a centre stage in agriculture.

Sustainability in farming, he said, meant that farmers met needs of existing and future generations, ensuring profitability, good environmental status, social and economic equity.

For his part, the Minister of Agriculture Mr Fidelis Molao said the recently launched Thuo Letlotlo could be used to unlock various agricultural value chains through livestock digitisation for the development of system applications in animal and business management.

Mr Molao stated that private extension service and agribusiness planning as well as training, coaching, mentoring and field support services to beneficiaries were crucial.

He indicated that the programme operated under eight objectives being commercialisation of the livestock sector, growing the livestock sector in numbers and quality, promoting food security through improved livestock productivity and improving livestock management practices.

He stated that it was expected that when fully implemented, the programme would lead to commercialisation, economic diversification, increased competitiveness of livestock products, uplifting the livelihoods of the rural populace and sustainable use of and conservation of natural resources.

The registration system, he said, was up and running, but in order to access it, one needed to either register under BAITS3 or migrate from BAITS2 to BAITS3.

Mr Molao stated that for one to proceed with the programme, a toilet or ablution facility must be constructed on the farm.

He said an ablution was a requirement because livestock diseases emanated from improper disposal of waste, therefore all ways possible were tried to eliminate any possible spread of diseases to livestock.

He stated that aquaculture and apiculture sub-sectors, although new to Botswana, were crucial in that they went a

long way in contributing to food and nutrition, employment and wealth creation, especially to the livelihoods of marginalised rural communities, as well as diversifying the economy.

President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi had declared 2023/24 season an extreme agricultural drought year.

Therefore, Mr Molao said, his ministry would continue to provide a 30 per cent livestock feed subsidy for roughage, concentrates, mineral supplements, botulism vaccine and vitamin supplements with effect from July 1 to July 31.

He said it would also provide subsidies for non-traditional commodities such as dairy, piggery, aquaculture, apiculture and poultry at 30 per cent for small holder farmers over the same period.

The ministry, he said would also equip boreholes and reticulate water for livestock in unused government or community borehole areas that had serious water shortage, with priority given to hotspot areas.

The general manager of Orapa Letlhakane and Damtshaa Mines (OLDM) Mr Mogakolodi

Maoketsa said they had since partnered with relevant local authorities and community groups to assist in the improvement of livelihoods of communities in

Malatswae, Khwee and Xhumo. Mr Maoketsa stated that with a commitment P7.4 million from its Corporate Social Investment budget towards the initiatives,

OLDM had achieved projects such as Malatswae Integrated Farm, Khwee Community Ranch and Xhumo Horticultural Farm. **BOPA**



Vice President Tsogwane (second left) and Mr Hennie Schutte of Hennie Schutte Dorpers and Boergoat Breeders (left) during a tour of stalls at the 8th edition of the Voorslag Boteti Mining and Farmers Day in Letlhakane recently. The Vice President urged farmers to change their way of doing things and focus more on methods and techniques that promoted sustainable development. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

BTC moves to digital business solutions

By **Bonang Masolotatse**

GABORONE- Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) is looking to transform its business by migrating to digital solutions as part of its transformation strategy.

Mr Anthony Masunga, the group managing director, announced this on Thursday during the presentation of BTC's financial results for the year ending March this year.



Mr Masunga presenting Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC)'s financial results for the year ending March 2024 in Gaborone recently. He said BTC had made a profit of P157 million and declared dividends of 15 thebe per share. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

“Going forward, BTC is going to be a completely different orientation but the purpose will not change.

We exist to empower our people to live connected,” Mr Masunga said.

He said digital transformation was a smarter way of delivering service to the market, hence BTC was migrating away from the current business where traditional telecommunication was key.

“The traditional

telecommunications industry is under pressure the world over, free Wi-Fi connections, lower prices and use of Internet voice calls.

These are among the reasons which necessitated the group to be creative and be more adaptive,” he said.

He added that the transformation would not be the first for the company, having previously migrated from being a state-owned enterprise before its listing with Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) as a commercial entity.

He said the processes entailed undergoing cultural change from being an SOE to a commercial entity, adding such included reaching out to customers in a highly competitive telecommunications space.

“We were a parastatal before listing, mindset completely different, not commercially orientated as our competitors, so we had to work very hard on our people to understand that we are new,” he said.

From cultural transformation, he said they had to work on the commercial transformation in terms of how to be more customer-oriented.

“BTC is committed to

enhancing customer experience. Where the company falters, we are ready to fix,” he said.

Also, he said their previous transformation led to significant investment in technology and modernising their network.

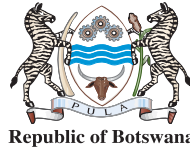
Furthermore, he said the country, despite having the networks in place, was a bit slow in the digital age in spite of the world being more into e-commerce.

Furthermore, he said BTC, whose shareholders included government at 56 per cent and Botswana or locally owned companies with remaining shares, had to meet their customer expectations.

He said since their listing in 2017, it had given its shareholders P1.035 billion in dividends payouts.

Meanwhile, he said BTC's execution of its strategy had resulted in solid financial performance for the year which ended on March 31, with overall revenue of P1.436 billion, which was a growth of three per cent compared with the prior year.

“This revenue increase was driven by the growth in fixed voice services and strong demand for mobile data services,” he said. **BOPA**



Republic of Botswana

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 49 OF 2024

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

REF NO. DP 19/33/VI (8)

DATE: 20th JUNE 2024

The Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) invites highly motivated and well experienced self-driven public officers to fill the following vacant senior position in the Office of the Auditor General:

VACANCY: Auditor General (1 post).

SALARY SCALE: F0 (P789,396) per annum.

LEAVE: 30 working days per annum.

BENEFITS:

- Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and the Employee pays 50%).
- Contributory Pension Fund Scheme (Government pays 15% and the Employee pays 5 %).
- New Entrants – A contract of thirty-six (36) months with gratuity at the rate of 30% payable upon expiry of the contract.

QUALIFICATIONS: To be considered for appointment to this position, candidates should possess Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Auditing or any other related field. Professional qualification is required (e.g BICA, ACCA, CA or equivalent) Membership to BICA is a Pre-requisite.

EXPERIENCE: Candidates must have twenty (20) years of relevant work experience of which two (2) years should have been served at Deputy Auditor General (F2) level or equivalent in the Private Sector or Parastatal.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB: To provide independent assurance that government activities are carried out as intended and that resources are utilized appropriately and accounted for by assessing the effectiveness of financial management systems and the level of compliance with financial management policies and guidelines in order to maintain the integrity of government systems and promote accountability in the public sector.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

1. Auditing Standards and Governing Requirements

Understand the role of professional ethics and values in organizational governance in the public sector by integrating ethical principles into all aspects of public sector financial and operational management.

2. Audit Principles & Procedures

Make decisions concerning the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures and evaluate audit procedures. Consider the effects of stakeholder concerns, public interest, regulatory requirements and consequences for society in decision-making.

3. Audit Approach and Methodology

Recommend and approve changes to multi-engagement workflows to manage the operational risk of each engagement and evaluate the execution and appropriateness of the engagement approach and methodology.

4. Audit Deliverables and Reporting

Propose and construct reports and deliverables for complex, high-risk engagements and approve the plan to report findings of known or likely fraud, non-compliance or abuse directly to parties outside of the audited entity in accordance with relevant requirements.

5. Public Accounts Committee

Advise the government and in particular the Public Accounts Committee on matters relating to Government Accounting, Auditing and other related matters.

6. Conclusions and Findings

Approve final conclusions reached in each engagement based on the overall assessment of results. Provide an opinion on whether reviewed documentation and audit results give an accurate and fair view of the current state of affairs of an entity.

7. Financial Management

Analyze, interpret and provide opinion on financial results and reports, understand the interaction between ratios, trends, external factors, business drivers and strategy. Use information to inform and drive strategic direction.

8. Strategy Creation

Identify, monitor and track economic, business, social, political and technological trends. Identify and predict consumer and industry trends, stay abreast with competitor strategies. Develop 5–10-year vision strategies and business model, create new paradigms and evolve the organization.

9. Leading Change

Lead cross-functional and organizational change to adapt

strategically to changing environmental demands. Champion the change, explain business rationale for the change, articulate what the future looks like and inspire the organization.

10. Execution and Delivery

Monitor core processes of the organization. Translate strategic intent into initiatives. Execute and deliver initiatives in a disciplined, focused and goal directed way within agreed time frames. Focus delivery on value creation.

11. Managing Complexity

Dealing with multiple abstract, complex, large scale and long term (5-10 years) programs, projects and initiatives. Give organizational direction by clearly communicating and clarifying the key drivers of success. Focus on initiatives that will add value and alter direction to cope with environmental changes.

12. Networking and Partnering

Seek out and cultivate a network to improve future organizational performance. Initiate and maintain strategic relationships, establish reciprocal relationships, build alliances and influence thinking. Strategically monitor and evaluate partnership arrangements, ensure mutual value add in partnership arrangements.

13. Brand Management

Understanding of the corporate brand, its equity, advantages and disadvantages vs. competitors and definition of strategic direction.

14. Performance Management

Define overall organizational performance management philosophy, policies and process. Source, implement, manage and monitor performance management systems and applications and report on corporate performance.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Analytical and Strategic Thinking
- Deciding and Initiating Action
- Teamwork and Partnering
- Communicating Effectively
- Supervision and Accountability
- Planning and Execution

- Innovating and Driving Change
- Delivering Quality Service

APPLICANTS: All applicants should quote the reference and Vacancy Circular number of this advert and provide the following:

- Detailed and updated Curriculum Vitae with duties;
- Certified copies of Certificates and Omang;
- At least three (3) recent work-related references confirming the required experience;
- Date of first appointment;
- Present position, date of appointment to the position and salary scale (All applicants);

IMPORTANT:

• All applications should be routed through their Heads of Department and Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered.

• **NOTE:** Only candidates who meet the minimum requirements as set out in this advertisement and are short listed will be responded to.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications should be addressed to:

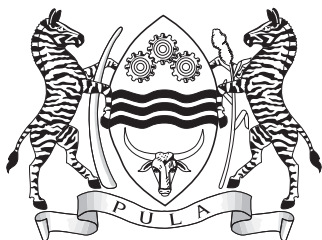
Director
Directorate of Public Service Management
Private Bag 0011 GABORONE

OR Hand Delivered to:

DPSM Executive Records Management Unit,
Temporarily Housed at Botswana Public Service College (Behind University of Botswana)
Administration Block (Floor 1)

CLOSING DATE: 5th July, 2024

For further information, please contact Ms Pono Kgoe at 362 2718, and OR Ms Boitumelo Tshenolo at 318 1578.



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

Ministry of Trade and Industry

REF: TI 4/7/1 III (25)

19th June, 2024

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 3 OF 2024

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) seeks the services of a highly motivated, experienced and self-driven Botswana citizen to fill the position below tenable in Gaborone, Department of Corporate Services.

VACANCY: Principal Data Protection Officer II, D3 salary scale

SALARY SCALE: D3 (P293, 652 – P323, 748) per annum

LEAVE: 30 working days per annum

QUALIFICATIONS:

Degree in Law/Data Science/Information Technology/Enterprise Risk Management, Project Management or any other related field from a reputable Institution. Data Protection and or Privacy certification will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE:

At least four (4) years' experience in a business environment handling personal data/data compliance/security of data/data processing or related field in Government, Parastatal or Private Sector.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

To administer the data Protection Act and carry out the due diligence to ensure adherence to the Act.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide guidance in implementation of policies, strategies and guidelines to enable compliance to the data protection act.
2. Coordinates and drives continuous evaluation, standardization and improvement of processes, procedures, strategies and solutions on the protection of personal data.
3. Guides in the assessment and alignment of MDA policies, procedures and standards to ensure compliance with Data Protection Act.
4. Coordinates data flow storage.
5. Develops and maintains inventory and records of all data processing activities in the Ministry.
6. Protects the rights and freedom of data subjects and thereby

ensuring that they are not adversely affected by processing operations.

7. Assesses risks inherent in the processing of personal data within the Ministry taking into account the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing.
8. Conducts impact assessment on the protection of data.
9. Addresses request and complaints related to processing of personal data.
10. Audits the operations in line with the data protection framework to identify areas for improvement.
11. Identifies areas of non-compliance and makes recommendation on remedial action.
12. Provides training on the Data Protection Act for the Ministry staff.
13. Designs and disseminates publicity tools to educate and sensitise staff on data protection and importance of adhering to its protocols.
14. Prepares reports on matters related to processing of personal data for submission to the Commission or as may be directed to the relevant Authorities.

KEY COMPETENCIES

- Deciding and Initiating action
- Adherence to Principles and values
- Analysing
- Writing and Reporting
- Applying Expertise and Technology
- Learning and Researching
- Delivering results and meeting customer expectation
- Formulating Strategies and concepts
- Following instructions

BENEFITS:

- Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and Employee pays 50%).
- Compulsory Contribution Pension Fund (Government pays 15% and Employee pays 5% for Permanent and Pensionable appointment).

- Housing and upkeep allowance of 309.00/month.

APPLICATIONS:

Applicants should quote the vacancy circular number and provide the following details:

- i) Full names, address, date and place of birth;
- ii) Detailed curriculum vitae;
- iii) Certified copies of educational certificates and National Identity Card;
- iv) Work related references from at least three referees which must not be more than six (6) months old;
- v) Applicants from Parastatal or Private Sector Organisations to provide proof of salary; and
- vi) Serving candidates should include the following information in their application letters:
 - Date of first appointment;
 - Date of present position, salary scale and date of appointment thereto.

IMPORTANT:

Applications from serving public officers should be routed through their Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered. Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements will not be responded to. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Applications should be addressed to:-

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Private Bag 004, Gaborone

Or hand delivered to CBD Plot 54380 fourth floor, office NO. 440

For more information contact:
Ms. P. Kgopolelo Tel: 3601233 and Ms. M. Relaeng Tel: 3601257

CLOSING DATE: 3rd July, 2024

Thuo Letlotlo replaces LIMID - official

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - Farmers who submitted applications for Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) Programme before introduction of Thuo Letlotlo should reapply under the new dispensation, the Kgatleng District Animal Production Officer, Dr Samuel Tjetjoo has said.

Updating Kgatleng District Councillors about Thuo Letlotlo Programme, he said the newly introduced programme has phased out LIMID, hence their applications were no longer valid for consideration.

He said unlike LIMID and other previous programmes, Thuo Letlotlo was output-based rather than input-based, hence offered rewards for those who reached the set productivity targets.

He said the programme was meant to develop sustainable, inclusive and diversified livestock sector.

Dr Tjetjoo said Thuo Letlotlo was aimed to commercialise the livestock sector, grow the sector in numbers and quality, promotes food security, management practices and unlock opportunities for private sector participation and value chain additions.

Through the initiative, he said applicants had the opportunity to uptake in a wide array of businesses opportunities brought about by the programme.

Among those, he said the programme had opportunity for spin off businesses that residents should tap into such as waste farm collection.

He said it was a requirement that all farmers who enrolled in Thuo Letlotlo should have proper waste management and disposal.

Dr Tjetjoo also advised farmers to migrate to Botswana Animal Identification and Traceability System (BAITS 3) that allowed farmers to register their livestock with ease.

Unlike BAITS 2, he said BAITS 3 provided a user-friendly interface to input all essential information about the animals, including species, breed, age and simplified the process of transferring ownership as well as keep records accurate and up-to-date.

Commenting, councillors called on the Ministry of Agriculture to increase resources for outreach activities for the Thuo Letlotlo programme, so that farmers in rural areas could also benefit.

They also called for one-stop service centre where farmers could be assisted for the uptake of Thuo Letlotlo. **BOPA**



Dr Tjetjoo has encouraged farmers who submitted applications for LIMID Programme before the introduction of Thuo Letlotlo, to reapply under the new dispensation.



MINISTRY OF MINERALS AND ENERGY

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 7 OF 2024

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY: DIRECTOR (PROCUREMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT)

Applications are invited from highly motivated and well experienced self-driven citizens of Botswana for the position of Director – Procurement and Project Management tenable in the Ministry of Minerals and Energy.

Salary: E1 (P512 148 – P532 860 per annum)

Leave: 30 working days per annum.

Benefits:

- Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government)
- Contributes 50% and employee 50%

Duration: 2 - 3 years contract

Qualifications: Degree in Supply Chain Management/ Purchasing & Materials Management/CIPS Level 6 or any other relevant field.

Experience: A minimum of 12 years work experience in the relevant area, two (2) years of which should have been served at E2 salary scale or equivalent.

Main Purpose of the Job: To provide strategic leadership and guidance on procurement services, facilities management and contract management, as well as asset disposal at Ministry and Independent Department level, in a timely and cost effective manner.

Key Performance Areas:

1. Liaises with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, Ministry of Finance and other relevant procurement structures, other ministries/departments and oversight bodies as may be necessary for successful delivery of procurement.
2. Provides professional leadership in negotiations with bidders/contractors to facilitate effective delivery of procurement services.
3. Oversees the development of contracts with contractors.
4. Aligns/endorsees contractor selection to procurement policy

and strategy of Government of Botswana and reviews the list of contractors based on their performance.

5. Facilitates implementation of contracts between contractors and Ministry/Departments.
6. Develop the procurement strategy in line with the relevant laws, policies and regulations and facilitates its implementation.
7. Leads the dissemination of best practices in procurement to facilitate greater work efficiencies in the procurement unit.
8. Oversees the examination and development of estimates of material, equipment and service requirement.
9. Manages all procurement and disposal by tender activities of the Ministry.
10. Provide professional advice and guidance to the Ministry on matters relating procurement practices for effective procurement of goods, works and services.
11. Coordinates the development and implementation of procurement plan.
12. Formulates procurement plans by coordinating planning activities with the technical and other user Departments to timely forecasts and consolidate procurement requirements for the entire Ministry.
13. Maintains systems for timely dissemination of procurement and contract award information.
14. Supervises the maintenance of adequate stock control and replenishment systems in the Procurement Units central and subsidiary warehouses and related disposal activities of assets and obsolete non-serviceable inventory items.

Key Competencies

- Deciding and Initiating Action
- Leading and Supervising
- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Analysing

- Formulating Strategies and Concepts
- Planning and Organising
- Delivering Results and Meeting Customer Expectations

- Adapting and Responding to Change
- Entrepreneurial and Commercial Thinking

APPLICANTS:

a) Applicants should quote the Vacancy Circular No. for this advertisement and provide the following details:

- i. Full names, address and place of birth.
- ii. Certified copy of National Identity Card.
- iii. Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae)
- iv. Certified copies of certificates together with their transcripts (both academic and professional).
- v. At least two (2) traceable references confirming the required experience (not more than six (6) months) old.
- vi. Names and contact details of two (2) current referees.

b) Applicants should indicate:

- i. Date of first appointment
- ii. Present post and date of appointment thereto.
- iii. Candidates from Parastatals and Private Sector Organisations should provide a certified statement of salary or pay.

IMPORTANT

All Applications from serving Public Officers should be routed through their respective Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries.

Applications NOT so routed will not be considered.

Note: All applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements stipulated above will not be responded to. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Applications should be addressed to:

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Minerals and Energy
Private Bag 0018 Gaborone

OR hand delivered to:

Ministry of Minerals and Energy
Fairgrounds Office Park, First Floor
Records Management Unit

CLOSING DATE: 02 AUGUST 2024.

For further information required contact Human Resource Management Unit at 365 6693 / 6695 / 6686.

Kanye water woes to be resolved soon

By Thuso Kgakatsi

KANYE - Member of Parliament for Kanye North, Mr Thapelo Letsholo has assured residents of Kanye North that acute water shortage would soon be addressed.

Addressing a meeting in Kanye recently, Mr Letsholo said the completion of Phase 1 project of water reticulation network maintenance of potable water, would alleviate residents from insufficient water supply.

Mr Letsholo said some areas had started experiencing improved water supply.

Therefore, he said he was optimistic that Phase 2 would ultimately resolve water woes in Kanye.

Concerning the construction of the new Kanye Hospital, Mr Letsholo said funds for the project had been released saying the company engaged had already

visited the site earmarked for the hospital.

Additionally, Mr Letsholo stated that the first stage of the construction of Kanye Stadium was complete, which included construction of the pitch and the boundary wall.

The next stage, he said would be construction of the ablution blocks.

He apprised the residents that, due to the extreme drought year, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has declared 2023/24 a drought season.

He said, the drought relief mitigation measures had been extended to July 1-31 2024, and shall include payment of 85 per cent for seasonal loans to farmers who got loans from Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA).

Mr Letsholo shared that the relief shall also provide a 30 per

cent feed subsidy for roughage concentrates and supplements and 50 per cent subsidy for acaricides and antibiotics, amongst others.

He therefore encouraged the residents to ensure that they take advantage and benefit from the initiative.

The Kanye North legislator also briefed residents about the increased Ipelegeng programme quota to 30 000 to cater for the high number of beneficiaries on the waiting list as a result of limited seasonal jobs in the agricultural sector.

He noted that the increase shall also include the budget and running costs to cater for the additional projects resulting from the increased Ipelegeng quota.

This, he said showed government commitment to addressing challenges affecting its people. The MP also updated residents about issues discussed in

the last Parliament sitting.

He said the Constitution Amendment Bill of 2024 was set to be moved to the third reading, a process which would not be in less than three months, where it would require two thirds of the majority votes MPs to decide whether it should be law or not..

He noted that the contents of the amendments included amongst others some clauses that called for the rights to health, education and work to be enshrined in the Constitution.

Mr Letsholo noted that other proposed amendments, which shall call for a referendum to be made include the death penalty, prostitution, inter-sex marriages and abortion.

While responding to questions, Mr Letsholo thanked Kanye Minister's Fraternal for setting up a plaque on the side of the road, in the A2 road, Kanye-Ranaka junction where the accident occurred, in

remembrance of the seven South African church members who lost their lives in the tragic accident on April 28 this year.

He said consultation would further be made with the Land Board and Roads Department to legalise and ensure the plaque was official and in accordance with the requirements of the law. Earlier on, in her remarks, the Umbrella Village Development Committee representative, Ms Gloria Keagile, decried shortage of water in the village.

She requested an update to be made on the progress in the water reticulation network maintenance of portable water, adding that as a mitigating factor, the VDC was considering increasing the water tanks to facilitate for more water bowing.

Ms Keagile also requested for an update on the much-anticipated construction of the Kanye Hospital. **BOPA**



Mr Letsholo told Kanye residents that water shortage that they had been experiencing would soon be addressed.

Kgatlang VDCs grapple with revenue collection

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Kgatlang continue to grapple with revenue collection, with some debts dating as far back as 2015, Kgatlang District Council Chairperson, Mr Daniel Molokwe has said.

Addressing a full council meeting recently, he said VDCs were owed a substantial amount of over P600 000 (P643 324.13)

Mr Molokwe said the outstanding payments significantly impacted implementation of various development projects.

"I urge all Heads of Departments to assist in this matter by encouraging their officers to fulfil their monthly rental obligations as stipulated in their lease agreements," said Mr Molokwe.

He said failure to collect debts was exacerbated by the fact that many individuals responsible were no longer traceable, adding that it was important to note that while some of those rental arrears were from public servants, a significant portion was also owed by community residents.

Mr Molokwe said the situation called for a more robust system of rent collection and tenant accountability.

He called on councillors to explore various strategies to address the issue in an effort to maximise the use of resources for community development.

On other issues, council learnt that , a total of 27 road paving projects were awarded, with 14 projects completed, 10 at 80 - 98 per cent paving stage, one declined, one being mobilised to site and one ongoing at 53 per cent under the Constituency Community Projects (CCP) for 2023/24.

Mr Molokwe said efforts were underway to address delays and non-performance issues, ensuring there was timely completion of infrastructure developments.

He said council has ensured that funds allocated to the wards were fully utilised on these projects.

As for the CCP 2024/2025, he said, the invitation to tender had been sent for publication in the government gazette and would be closing on the July 3, 2024.

Regarding maintenance of streetlights, Mr Molokwe said the

council had not done well and this was due to the fact that almost all of the electrical personnel were undergoing fulltime training on Centralised Traffic Control System in Gaborone since February this year.

He however said talks were in place with the ministry to stagger the course to reduce service disruptions.

Councillors also learnt that funds have been secured for repayment of vehicles, dozers and graders and that fire service ambulance had been repaired and bids for the two fire engine and the rapid response land cruiser were under evaluation.

Mr Molokwe also informed councillors that there has been a significant progress in road maintenance.

He said following the delivery of premix in April this year, council had successfully addressed road surface issues in several key areas.

"Our teams have effectively patched potholes in Bokaa, Pilane, and along the Old A1 highway. Additionally, we made headway in improving most of the roads within Mochudi," he said. **BOPA**

Official applauds Youth Impact for role in education transformation

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL), a programme by Youth Impact has received accolades for its positive impact in transforming the education system.

Established in 2014, Youth Impact is an evidence based youth led organisation that identifies, adapts and scales up health and education programmes for young people around the world. It is a remedial education approach supporting basic literacy and numeracy skills through differentiated instructions.

Stakeholders praised the organisation during its 10th anniversary celebration held at Maun Lodge recently for the programme that was implemented in primary in schools across the country.

They said it tackled challenges such as poor academic results and it had improved learning since pupils were taught basic skills targeted to their learning needs using fun and interactive activities.

North West regional education director, Ms Veronica Mochotli said government through the Ministry of Education and Skills Development had a mandate to ensure equitable access to quality education, from pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary including skills development and long life learning.

"We achieve this among others, through our commitment to stakeholder collaboration because we believe that as the government we cannot do it alone and we are up to deliver quality education which is a basic need and as such we need support and inputs from various sources as infrastructure, finances," she added.

Ms Mochotli further noted that the ministry had committed itself to a Memorandum of Understanding with Youth Impact, to scale up the programme nationally citing that in North West, they regarded TaRL programme as having potential to

revive and transform approach to teaching and learning in the 21st century across the country.

North West regions, she said had a history of low academic performance due to various factors noting that despite having qualified teachers, a number of learners were still challenged in literacy and numeracy operations.

She said the programme was implemented in the region in 2022, benefiting 75 primary schools and reaching out to 3 885 learners who needed remedial intervention.

"Our region needed a turnaround approach and we are proud to say we have noted a change among learners and that all the implementers have gone for training, to allow them to administer teaching at the right level.

We have seen an overall value addition annually as well as an improvement in academic results," she added.

Former permanent secretary in the ministries of health and education and skills development, Ms Grace Muzila hailed the organisation saying it had lived up to its dream of having a positive impact on education.

She said what the organisation was doing, she said was aligned to the Vision 2036 and the ministry of education strategic plan.

"What is important is moving forward and it is not an easy path as it requires more team work and thus means sharing ideas to celebrate 20 years with impact," she added.

Co-founders of Youth Impact, Ms Moitshepi Matsheng said the programme was implemented in nine regions out of 10 in Botswana noting that they were also working in 15 countries of which over 2 million classes had been impacted to date.

At the core of their mission, she said was to change the lives of young people by transforming the education system. She thanked the support they got from government and regional directors saying they were impressed to see the programme grow. **BOPA**



Ba gakololwa go lwantsha borukutlhi

By Thuso Kgakatsi

KANYE - Banni ba Pitsaneng ba kopilwe go tshwaraganela go lwantsha borukutlhi mo kgaolong ya bone.

Kopo e o dirilwe ke mopalamente wa Kanye Bophirima, Rre Thapelo Letsholo mo phuthengong ya kgotla e a neng a e buisa kwa motseng oo bosheng.

Mo dikakgelong tsa bone, banni ba ne ba supa fa ba apesitswe kobo ka letshoba ke seemo sa borukutlhi mo kgaolong ya bone, bogolo jang bogodu jwa leruo le motlhaba.

Ba ne ba supa seemo seo se ka kgoreletsa maiteko a puso a go rotloetsa thuo, ka jaana go lebeba bogodu bo golela pele.

Banni ba ne gape ba kopa gore go nne le molao o o tlaa laolang matimela, ba supa fa o o leng teng o sena boleng ka o rotloetsa bogodu jwa matimela. Ba supile khasele ka monwana ba re e maota o tshupa go tsibogela dikgang tsa dikgomo tse di timetseng.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Rre Letsholo o ne a kopa banni go tlhama komiti ya ntebela ke go lebele, a supa fa seo se ka thusa thata go lwantsha borukutlhi mo kgaolong.

O solofeditse fa a tlaa nna teng mo phuthengong ya bone ya go thama komiti ya ntebela ke go lebele, mme a ba gakolola go dirisanya le mapodisi gore komiti ya bone e tle e atlege.

Mo go tse dingwe, banni ba ne supa fa ba tshwenngwa ke ditshwene tse di ba senyetsang, gape di bolaa dikoko le dipotsane, ka jalo ba botsa fa go na le se puso e ka se dirang go ba phimola dikeledi.

Rre Letsholo o ne a supa fa mo nakong eno go sena thulaganyo ya go phimola dikeledi botlha ba ba senyediwang ke ditshwene.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o boletse banni fa a setse a kile a buisana

le Tona wa Lephata la Tshomarelo Tikologo le Bojanala go seka seka kgang eo mme a tlaa tswela ka go e sala morago ka jaana seemo seo se okeletsa banni lehuma.

Rre Letsholo o ne a tswela a kopa banni go tlhokomela ka fa ba latlhang metseto ya bana ka teng ka jaana go sa e latlha ka fa go tshwanetseng go ka tsenya botshelo jwa batho le leruo mo diphatseng.

O boletse fa a tlaa kopa khasele go ba thusa ka seemo seo.

Fa a bua ka ditlhabololo tsa motse, Rre Letsholo o ne a supa fa puso e amogetse kopo ya bone ya go agelwa sepatela, ebile madi a go aga a setse a le teng le khamphani e e tla agang e tlhophilwe.

O supile fa tshwetso e tserwe gore sepatela seo se agiwe kwa mabaleng a ditshupo, a supa fa puso e dumalane le khamphani eo gore e e fetse tiro ka nako, le ka madi a a dumalanweng.

A re nngwe ya dikatlego tse banni ba tshwanetseng go di itumelelela ke kago ya sekole se sebotlana kwa Losabanyana, a tlatse ka gore, le fa go ntse jalo, puso e lemoga lethoko la sekole se sebotlana mo kgaolong ya bone. Rre Letsholo are o tlaa dira ka thata go netefatsa gore sekole seo, ga mmogo le ditlhabololo tse dingwe jaaka kokelo e potlana di tsengwa mo ditogamaanong tsa ditlhabololo.

O ne a supa fa lebala le le tona la metshameko le setse le agilwe, jaanong go agiwa matlwana a boitiketso.

Fa a araba ka lethoko la metsi, Rre Letsholo o ne a rotloetsa banni gore ba seka ba kgobega marapo, a supa fa lenyora le ba sa bolong go lela ka lone le le gaufi le go fela ka jaana go na le khamphani e e tswelletseng ka go baakanya moalo wa go tsamaisa metsi a a phepa mo motseng mme seemo se tlaa tswela se tokafala fa khamphani e

ntse e tswelletseng ka tiro eo.

Mo go la gagwe, mogolwale wa mapodisi a Kanye, Superintendent Vincent Pitsietsile o ne a supa fa a tlaa tsaya dikgang tsa bogodu jwa leruo le jwa motlhaba ka tlhoafalo.

O ne a kopa banni go dira ka thata go tlhama komiti ya ntebela ke go lebele go lwantsha bogodu mo kgaolong ya bone.

Supt Pitsietsile a re ba itemogetse fa go na le mefuta mengwe ya dikoloi tse di dirisiwang mo bogodung, ka jalo batho ba seka ba gagamala fa ba emisiwa ke mapodise gangwe le gape.

O ne a rotloetsa banni go tswela ba ba thusa ka bosupi le go ba loma tsebe fa gona le sengwe se ba se itseng ka dikgang tsa borukutlhi. A

re se se ka thusa thata gore tiro ya bone e nne motlhofo.

Fa a ntsha pego, kgosana wa kgaolo eo, Rre Patrick Sebati a re ba itumelela gore a bo ba letleletswe go nna le lekgotlana la ditlhabololo tsa motse mo kgaolong ya bone, a supa fa ba ntse ba le ka fa tlase ga komiti ya kgaolo e e bapileng le bone ya Dilolwe. **BOPA**



Rre Letsholo o kopile banni ba Pitsaneng go tshwaraganela go lwantsha borukutlhi mo kgaolong ya bone. Banni ba ne ba supile fa ba apesitswe kobo ka letshoba ke borukutlhi bogolo jang bogodu jwa leruo le motlhaba.

Ditshupo di tsholetsa temo-thuo le metse

Ka Puseletso Kenyaditswe

MOTOKWE - Ditshupo tse di tshwaraganela kwa Motokwe ngwaga le ngwaga di baya motse oo mo mmpeng.

Mafoko a a builwe ke Kgosi Batho Tshoso wa Motokwe fa a ne a amogela batho kwa ditshupong tseo ka Labotlhano.

Kgosi o ne a supa gore ba ne ba ka nwa ditshupo moro thata fa maphata aa maleba a ne a ka tsibogela selelo sa bone ka ba tshwenngwa ke bojang jwa tlolela.

O supile fa bojang bo na le dingwaga di le lesome bo ntse bo le teng mo motseng , a bo a kopa ba ba tshwanetseng go dira dipatlisiso tse di tseletseng ka jone le gore ba ka bo fenyang jang.

Kgosi Tshoso o ne a supa fa gape tikologo ya motse wa gagwe e dikile e jelwe ke molelo mme masimo mangwe a amega, a bo a kopa gore go gopiwe go dirwe dikganedi tsa

melelo gore e seka ya jwelelela.

O tshalositse gape fa ba ne ba nna lesgo ka ngwaga wa 2022, Tautona Dr Mokgwetsi Masisi a ne a abela motse poo.

O ne gape a ntsha matshwenyego a gore balemi barui ga ba kgone go ipeela ditlhotlha jaaka bagwebi ba bangwe.

Morui ebile e le mothusa mokwaledi wa komiti ya ditshupo tsa Motokwe, Rre Orateng Dikomane o ne a supa fa thuo e le tiro. O kaile fa go le botlhokwa gore fa motho a ruile a tseye thuo ka tlhoafalo, a nne a le teng ka dinako tsothle. Rre Dikomane o ne a gakolola barui gore ba nne lerato mo diruiweng tsa bone.

O kopile barui gore ba seka ba kopanya go rua le ditiro tse di tla a ba tselang nako ya go tlhokomela leruo la bone.

E rile a ntsha la gagwe modulasetilo wa pele wa ditshupo tsa Motokwe, Rre Timon Kelebeng

a supa gore go fithelela ba tsaa temo-thuo jaaka kgwebo, ba tlaa tswela ba lela ka lethoko la dijo mo lefatsheng leno.

O tshalositse fa ba simolotse ditshupo tsa Motokwe ka ngwaga wa 2017, a supa fa barui ba ba neng ba tlisa leruo kwa ditshupong ba supa fa ba simolotse go boelwa ka jaana batho ba ba leletsfa fa ba batla go reka leruo.

Rre Kelebeng o ne a supa fa ditshupo di tshwanetseng go nna le kgogedi, a supa fa ba dira dikgaisanyo tsa kgwele ya dinao go oka banana.

O supile gape fa ba leka ka bojotlha gore ditshupo tse di gole mme di nne mo seemong sa Ghanzi, a bo a lebogela tirisano mmogo ya bone le khasele ya Letlhakeng.

Modulasetilo wa ditshupo tsa Ghanzi Rre Thuso Mackenzie o ne a supa matshwenyego a gore banana ga ba rate go tsaya boikarabelo mme ba rata go supa ka menwana.

O supile fa a tsene mo komiting ya ditshupo a le dingwaga di le masome a mabedi le borobabongwe, mme ya re morago ga ngwaga di le tharo a fiwa maemo a bodulasetilo.

Rre Mackenzie o ne a supa fa ba dirile Ghanzi Show Trust.

O tshalositse fa sengwe le sengwe se ba se dirang se na le motlhalo, a bo a tlhalosa gape fa monongwaga ditshupo tsa bone di tla a bo di digela dingwaga tse di masome a matlhano.

Rre Mackenzie o ne a tlhalosa gore le ntsa ba ipelela dingwaga tse di ntsi, ga ba na lebala le le tlhabolotsweng ka ntlha ya gore ke la khasele.

O supile fa ba dirile tumalano le khasele gore ba tlhabolole lebala leo mme ebile ba setse ba simolotse go le tlhabolola.

O kopile banni ba Motokwe go ithotloetsa go tlhabolola lebala la bone. Rre Mackenzie o ne a kopa gore ba seka ba dira ditshupo

tse dintsi mo kgaolong ka jaana barotloetsi ba le bangwefela.

O tshalositse fa ba na le dikomiti tse di farologanyeng tse di itebagantseng le ditiro tse di farologanyeng tsa ditshupo.

Modulasetilo o supile fa ba itumelela gore ditshupo tsa bone e le tsone tse ditona mo Botswana, a bo a ba gakolola ka gore ga go ke go tlhoka dikubetsano, ba tshwanetseng go itse gore ba direla morafe.

O supile gore ga ba dire dipolelo mme se ba se lebileng ke gore bagwebi ba kgaolo ya bone ba dire letseno ka nako eo gore ba kgone go fetola matshelo a bone.

Rre Mackenzie o ne gape a supa fa ba solofetse baeng go tswa kwa lefatsheng la ga Mmamosadinyana mme ba ne ba sa ba laetsa.

O tshalositse fa ditshupo tsa Ghanzi di ngoka batho ba ka nna dikete di lesome go ya ko go dikete tse di lesome le botlhano mo bekeng. **BOPA**

Celebrating Sir Seretse Khama

TUESDAY JULY 2, 2024 | No. 121



Sir Seretse Khama worth celebrating

By Kabo Keaketswe

LETLHAKANE - For a man who was a key figure in Botswana's independence movement, and has left behind a rich legacy, the significance of celebrating such an individual cannot be over emphasised.

Such can be no one other than the late Sir Seretse Khama, the founding President of the Republic of Botswana, who is remembered for his superb administration and how it had deeply and meaningfully impacted the lives of Batswana. History has it that Sir Seretse Khama led the country's independence movement and transition from the British rule into an independent nation, an exceptional move that generations

will always cherish. He founded the Botswana Democratic Party in 1962 and became Prime Minister in 1965, while in 1966 Botswana gained Independence and he was elected its first president until his death in 1980. During his presidency, the country underwent rapid economic and social progression, a foundation he laid for the next regimes.

In a vox pop, one synonymous trait said about the first president by those who lived in his era, was the spirit of Botho, regardless of social status, an attribute he strove to instill among many Batswana. Indeed the man was undoubtedly a blessing to the nation, as Kgosi Baruntshi Kegapetswe, of Letlhakane, who has been serving

since 1979 and had closely known Sir Seretse Khama, said the first president cared a lot about his people, as he always strove for improved lives where he would donate cattle to some of the less privileged families.

The first meeting, when Sir Seretse Khama addressed people of Lethakane and surrounding areas, Kgosi Kegapetswe said was somewhere in the outskirts popularly known as Sediba sa ga Kadimo between Orapa and Letlhakane, where he talked about developments such as the opening of mines in the area, among others.

He said the opening of Orapa mine was a big achievement for the people of Boteti and the country at large because to date, Botswana still relies

mainly on diamonds for its revenue. Kgosi Kegapetswe also commended Sir Seretse Khama for his intensified efforts to fight the Foot and Mouth Disease that devastated the farmers.

As Sir Seretse Khama became president when the country's economy was still very low, one village elder in Mmatshumo, Mr Gaboeletswe Motopi, praised him for the introduction of the lpelegeng programme.

Mr Motopi said during Khama's tenure, unemployment was high, while many relied on lpelegeng for a living.

The lpelegeng programme is also said to have immensely contributed to the country's infrastructural developments such as the construction of roads and schools. **BOPA**

Thobolwane shares experiences with Sir Seretse Khama

By Keith Ketji

SEROWE - Good things do not happen by chance.

To be a lucky dog or lucky duck is not everybody's cup of tea, as it requires a share in the glory of God's grace. Most people talk of being blessed with reference to good health, family, happiness and status. One such octogenarian is Mr Alfred Thobolwane, who had enjoyed strings of good luck having worked as a mobile office operator or driver and presidential bodyguard of the first president of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama, from the beginning when he laid the foundation of the country until his untimely demise in 1980.

He knew and mingled with Sir Seretse Khama during the pre-independence and the post-independence era and has witnessed the transformation of the country in different spheres, citing politics, environmental, socio-cultural and the economic landscape, among other things. Mr Thobolwane, who resides in Chichana ward in Serowe, worked with Sir Seretse Khama for 18 years, from 1962-1980 when he was driving Seretse's personal vehicle, the American Chevrolet V8, that was white in colour with red stripes. The car was said to be so sensitive that it could not be opened from outside when people were inside. Mr Thobolwane doubled as a presidential bodyguard. He narrated that after the Chevrolet, Sir Seretse Khama drifted to official vehicles (BX) as they were introduced thereafter. The First Daimler Limousine was in 1967 bought for Presidential use. Born in 1942 at the Sekgoma Memorial Hospital in Serowe, Mr Thobolwane schooled at Clever Home College in South Africa. Thereafter, he learnt his driving skills in 1962 taught by Mr Ngwenya in Lobatse.

He then advanced his driving skills through enrolling into heavy duty driving sessions in the same year taught by Dr Jaba in Francistown and was inspected by white people.

Immediately after graduating, he was offered employment in the highest office in the land. "While I was in Francistown, I was summoned by a certain Mayor who requested me to see him as early as 5am the following day so as to meet Sir Seretse Khama and I sensed something good would come out of the meeting," he said. He said on arrival at Sir Seretse Khama's residence after exchanging greetings, he got approval from his eyes that something positive would surface from the meeting.

The meeting, that was characterised by love, laughter and humour, he said, did not last long and he was offered employment and inducted into gate-keeping processes so as to equip him not to divulge the country's top secrets as the highest office needed to be protected at all costs. Nonetheless, he said the Botswana Democratic Party was



The First Daimler Limousine that was bought in 1967 for Presidential use arriving at a kgotla meeting in Tlokweng.

primarily shaped by two of its founders, Sir Seretse Khama and Sir Ketumile Masire, adding the former held political rallies ahead of the 1965 elections drumming up support for the general elections in which his party won a landslide in the 1965, garnering 28 out of 31 parliamentary seats. The latter began publishing the party newspaper, *Therisanyo/Consultation* in 1963, building on his past experiences as an accomplished journalist before joining politics.

That helped to elevate the party to another level. He said it was Sir Ketumile Masire and Sir Seretse Khama who drafted the party constitution, and then held the party's first public meeting in Gaborone on February 28 1962 that proved to be a success. Mr Thobolwane explained that Sir Seretse Khama's first residence was in Gaborone where The Office of the Ombudsman is situated. Sir Seretse Khama's office, he said, was at the Labour and Home Affairs Ministry in the Government Enclave.

He stated that in 1965, the founding president became the Prime Minister of the country after the general elections, the position he held until 1966 and thereafter it transformed into the position of the

President. Moreover, he said in 1966 the country's flag flew high while the British one Union Jack went down as a sign of attaining Independence in the wee hours of the morning. "That was followed by heavy down pours and winds.

However, the chilly weather did not deter all the people that had gathered at the celebrations as they were happy," he said. He shared that Sir Seretse Khama continued ruling and his deputy was his most trusted man, Sir Ketumile Masire. At some point while in Britain, he narrated, Sir Seretse Khama had a disagreement with the British administration and had to leave, adding that he was scheduled to land in Johannesburg, but due to political instability in South Africa he was advised to land in Rhodesia (current Zimbabwe).

Over and above, he said the founding father landed in the bush in the prairies or plains that is 10km away from Bulawayo.

"Tsatsi leo re ne re ile go mo kopantsha koo re ne ra nna le mathatanyana a ditlou di thibile tsele mme tsa felela di butse phatlha ra kgona go feta," he remembers.

This literally means they had an encounter with elephants on their way to welcome Sir Seretse Khama in Rhodesia from Britain, but finally they cleared and they and continued with the journey. He said the pilot managed

to land with an airplane that was using two engines and they welcomed him, pointing they bought snacks from a restaurant near a Shona shop called Nyori-Nyori.

Then they left Bulawayo and back then the tarmac road was only two 'stripes' from Bulawayo to Plumtree t h a t

required a seasoned driver.

He said after a perilous journey, they finally arrived in Plumtree and thereafter continued with their journey to Botswana. In Botswana, his first house in Serowe located near Food Botswana, was built by Bangwato for their Kgosi to welcome him back home from banishment in Britain. Sir Seretse Khama's house in the western part of Serowe was built by Mophato known as Makgasa lead by Mr Keaboka Kgamane.

Mr Thobolwane said at one point while on official trip in South Africa, Sir Seretse Khama was not well and was hospitalised in Johannesburg. He said on June 16, 1976 they witnessed about 20 000 black students who walked from their schools to Orlando Stadium for a rally to protest against Afrikaans in schools when he and the founding father were on their way to Botswana.

June 16, better known as the Soweto Uprisings, was a student-led protest that began on June 16, 1976, in Soweto, South Africa, against the government's plans to impose the Afrikaans language as a medium of instruction in schools for Black students and it spread to the entire parts of the country. He said during the June 16 era, the first president was not discharged from hospital but had to flee due to instability in South Africa. "E ne ele monna yo o dirang dilo kafa a bonang go mo siametse ka teng mme a nkopa gore ke tsene ka Soweto e bile koloi ya rona e na le korone mme e rile Maburu ba mmuso wa tlaolele ba ba neng ba direle dikganedi tsa tsela ba bona korone ba re sutela ra feta ka ba ne ba lemoga fa e le marara," he said. This literally means the first president knew what side of his bread is buttered, and requested him to go through Soweto and their vehicle was decorated with a crown, but when the bully apartheid regime Boers that had mounted a road block saw the crown, they realised it was people of the elite class and gave them a green light to proceed. **BOPA**



Mr Thobolwane

Ramsay on Sir Seretse Khama's enduring vision

By Marvin Mothabane

GABORONE - The story of Sir Seretse Khama cannot be separated from its Serowe roots, and appropriately so that the nation has come together to reflect on the legacy of the illustrious son of the soil while marking the 103rd Anniversary of his birth.

Speaking with *BOPA* recently, a historian, Dr Jeff Ramsay said Seretse's legacy could be summarised by the fact that in 1966 the reborn Botswana he led was an impoverished and internationally obscure state.

Yet, by the time of the president's passing in 1980,

it was globally known as a staunchly democratic and increasingly prosperous nation that was playing a positive and significant role in regional affairs, said Dr Ramsay.

How did this remarkable progress hen come about? Dr Ramsay said to achieve any goal, one must first envision it, as the founding president had a clear vision of where he wanted to lead the nation. Dr Ramsay said this quality was evident in April 1958 when for the first time he attended and rose to speak at a meeting of the Joint Advisory Council, a body then dominated by a handful of dikgosi and white settlers.

As an alternative to the then constant threat of incorporation into South Africa, some of the Council members had been attracted to the possibility of associating the Bechuanaland Protectorate with the supposedly multi-racial Central African Federation, which consisted of then Nyasaland (Malawi) as well as Southern and Northern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe and Zambia), he said.

Dr Ramsay said in his remarks, Seretse put forward his own independent vision, affirming that: "I think it is time that we ourselves in Bechuanaland, who neither belong to the Union of South Africa nor the Federation

nor any other part as far as I can see, except Great Britain, should try to formulate a policy of our own, which is probably unique to us."

"I must say, quite frankly, that I have been rather disturbed to find that on the whole there is a tendency to always look over our shoulders. Perhaps I am wrong, if so, I stand corrected. We want to see what is happening elsewhere instead of getting on with what we know is peculiar to us and to the country itself. We should get on and have no fear that we may incur someone's displeasure, as long as what we do is internationally accepted... And if we are right, I am afraid

emotion must come into this; we should not bother very much with what anyone might say... We have ample opportunity in this country to teach people how human beings can live together." Dr Ramsay said following Seretse's intervention, the notion of entering into talks to join the Federation was unanimously abandoned.

Today the statement provides the nation with an early affirmation of his lifelong conviction that national development should be rooted both in indigenous experience and universal values, he said.

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The house that saw Sir Seretse Khama through

By Keith Ketl

SEROWE - In the heart of Serowe sprawls a fascinating facility of historical significance that was home to Sir Seretse Khama upon his return from Britain.

The house, situated at a location near Foods Botswana at Newton ward in Serowe, has a significant bearing in the country's history given that it housed the founding father on his arrival in Serowe from Britain shortly after his marriage in 1948. One would wonder if there was an architecture of grander in the country back then, thus making it to be one of the few modern houses in Botswana during the time.

Speaking in an interview with *BOPA*, oral historian and former curator of Khama III Memorial Museum, Mr Scobie Lekhutile said attempts were made in 2016 to have the current owners donate the house to the community, but their efforts hit a snag.

He said their vision was to transform the house into a memorial museum. He therefore appealed to business community and capable Batswana to come forward and assist in buying the house for the community to accomplish their mission.

He said such a move would ensure that the structure was safeguarded from vandalism, alteration, defacing and preserving an important history of the country's founding president. Mr Lekhutile expressed concern that some of the historical buildings of significance and sites in Serowe were not

protected by the Monuments and Relics Act of 2001, which makes provision with respect to the protection and conservation of national monuments and protected heritage areas.

He decried that the arrangement exposed national heritage at high risk of being vandalised, altered and defaced thus loosing crucial history.

"The first president taught us how to safeguard cultural heritage through his famous quotes; 'A nation without culture is a lost nation,' therefore it is against this backdrop that I plead with all Batswana and companies to assist in purchasing the house that would serve as a memorial museum for Sir Seretse Khama," he said. Back then, he said people of elite positions citing Colonial Government Authorities, District Commissioners and Traders were given houses by Bangwato to stay on them and when leaving such posts those houses would be taken back by the community, hence Sir Seretse Khama was given that house as chief of the Bangwato. Such houses were built by regiments and the morafe shouldered all the expenses, said Mr Lekhutile.

He said as Batswana remembered and celebrated the life of the founding father the house would have added more impetus to the celebrations if it served as monumental memorial museum because of its rich history. Currently, he said the house was not owned by morafe to allow for flexibility of sites visit.

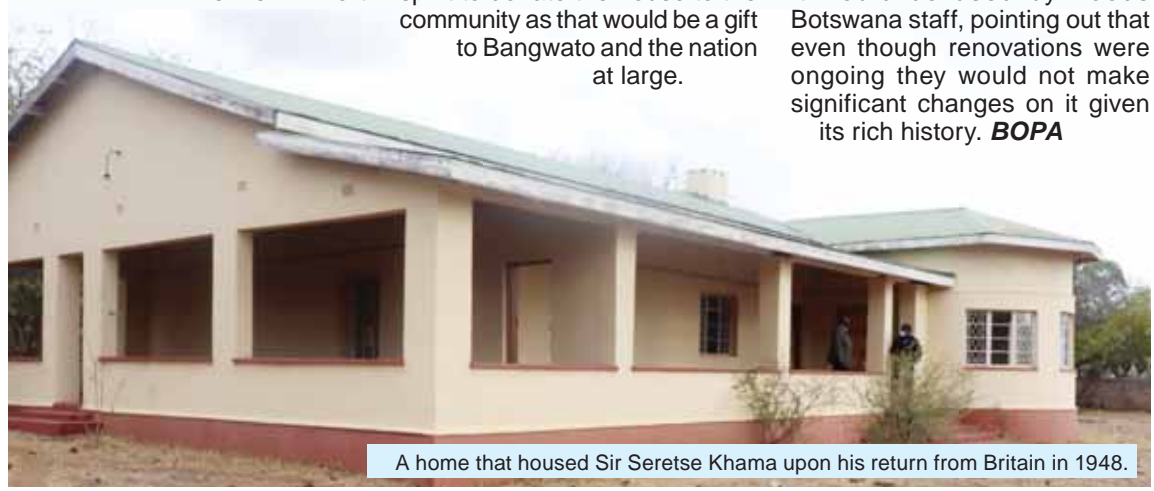
Moreover, Mr Lekhutile wished the current owners could be inspired by the holy spirit to donate the house to the community as that would be a gift to Bangwato and the nation at large.

Khama III Memorial Museum curator, Ms Gase Kediseng shared the same sentiments and said if such a house was purchased it would add to the country's inventory of rich heritage. Touching on sport tourism, she said while the international community came for first edition of Sir Seretse Khama marathon they could also visit tourism and cultural sites as well as buildings of historical significance. "They could climb Mmaswaneng Hill in Serowe where they could find formation of columnar joints rocks similar to the ones at Tropic of Capricorn latitude that bisects Botswana, the imaginary line of latitude just south of the town of Mahalapye that crosses Botswana."

Ms Kediseng said there is also Khama III Memorial Museum, Thataganyane Sand Rock that accommodated Old United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) or rather London Missionary Society (LMS) church in 1912, Royal Cemetery and the kgotla enclave where there is Sir Seretse Statue and his mother's house, among other things.

General Manager of Foods Botswana, Mr Oaitse Goitsemang said the house was owned by Foods Botswana, a subsidiary of Sefalana. He said he bought it on behalf of the company during an auction conducted by Botswana Building Society (BBS) after the previous owner had attached the property. He was of the view that the company would not sell the house at anything less than P1 million if at all anybody needed it.

Mr Goitsemang said the house was still under renovation and it would be used by Foods Botswana staff, pointing out that even though renovations were ongoing they would not make significant changes on it given its rich history. **BOPA**



A home that housed Sir Seretse Khama upon his return from Britain in 1948.

Ramsay on Sir Seretse Khama's enduring vision

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Dr Ramsay said this was a perspective that would remain as the touchstone of his statesmanship and as he would observe a dozen years later, while speaking at Dag Hammarskjöld Centre in Sweden (November 1970): "We in Botswana have chosen to develop our own guiding principles and describe them in terms readily comprehensible to our people. And these principles, rooted in our culture and traditions are now being tested in practice. Although we have chosen to develop our own ideology, our nationalism

and our non-alignment will not be permitted to degenerate into narrow chauvinism and isolation. Rather we seek to identify ourselves with what is positive and humane in all national ideologies.

We recognise certain fundamental values and hold them to be universal."

He said by then Seretse's ideals had crystallised into the ideological template of Kagisano, which was framed by the guiding principles of Democracy (puso ke puso ka batho), Development (tswelelopele), Unity (kopano) and Self-Reliance (Ipelegeng).

He observed (at an April 19 BDP conference in Francistown,

1972) that: "Kagisano should not merely be a slogan for our party, but an ideal for our nation. What are the roots of Kagisano? ...It has always been our custom that members of a family should help each other face and overcome the problems of life.

The well-known proverb kgetsi ya tsie e kgonwa ke go tshwaraganelwa accurately sums up our approach to national policy and to life in general. What we are trying to do in the new Botswana is in fact nothing new. We are simply applying a well-established value, applied in the family, the ward and the tribe to the wider concept of nationhood." **BOPA**

Seretse amicably united merafe toward independence

By Marvin Motlhabane

GABORONE - As the nation celebrated the birth of the founding president, Sir Seretse Khama yesterday, *BOPA* embarked on a project to find and interview the decreasing number of people who knew and worked with him to shape the modern Botswana that it is today.

One of those is former cabinet minister and Speaker of Parliament, Dr Margaret Nasha, who was a reporter at the Department of Information and Broadcasting Services at the time before rising through the ranks to become the director.

Dr Nasha said the first president was a remarkable leader and that he amicably and effortlessly unified different Tswana tribes while ushering in a new system of government that curtailed the powers of chiefs and gave them to elected officials.

A chief of the Bangwato, Dr Nasha said Sir Seretse was tasked with selling the new system of government to dikgosi of diverse tribes and that he did accomplished the assignment with flying colours. She also said it was remarkable how he managed to build a consensus around his vision among various tribes while respecting the role and authority of dikgosi and avoiding unnecessary conflicts.

The former Gaborone Central MP said the first president preached unity in diversity and emphasised that Batswana were one nation but belonging to different tribes, adding that those who lived through the era were proud of their tribal origin and beliefs.

Years into her career as a journalist, Dr Nasha said she gradually developed a relationship with the first president as she was often assigned to cover his events and addresses. She said what she observed was that government officials and some people feared him, but that it was out of respect than anything else.

Furthermore, she said Sir Seretse for his part realised that some people were uncomfortable around him and that he tried to put them at ease, especially reporters.

Dr Nasha also said the father of the nation led by example and was a hard working statesman, adding that it was a pity that he only served for 14 years because he was deeply loved and respected by all. The former minister acknowledges that Sir Seretse was faced with huge challenges as the country was classified as one of the poorest in the world with no known mineral resources

as diamonds and other minerals were discovered after independence. She said to deal with widespread poverty, Sir Seretse preached education and human resource development as well as self-reliance as ways out of the predicament. "Perhaps that is why his messages resonated with the entire nation and made sense to all," she said. She said his confidence that Batswana would emancipate themselves from poverty was relayed by the first president of Tanzania, Dr Julius Nyerere during his funeral.

She said president Nyerere said he had asked Sir Seretse why he was seeking independence when he did not even have a budget to take the country out of poverty.

Dr Nasha said president Nyerere said the first president told him that he was moving on with his vision because Batswana would work hard to take themselves out of poverty. She said another challenge the first president faced was Ian Smith's regime in Rhodesia, as his troops frequently crossed the border in their pursuit of liberation fighters.

Dr Nasha said Batswana were furious and some demanded that he establishes an army to fight back, noting Mr Phillip Matante of Botswana People's Party. She said the first president also had a huge tolerance for opposition parties and their leaders, adding that he dismissed them with humour and humility.

In other aspects of the first president, Dr Nasha said he was a very humble and down to earth leader who easily interacted with the man on the street, adding that he also dressed simply. She said that attribute and his simplicity made people around him comfortable. Furthermore, she said even after moving to the State House, Sir Seretse continued with his morning walks and would be seen at the Main Mall greeting fellow Batswana, adding that security threats were minimal at the time and that even ministers walked to Parliament and cabinet meetings.

With regard to his health, Dr Nasha said the nation was kept abreast, however, without giving extensive details as he was also human and deserved privacy and respect, adding that with time there was a national call for prayers over his health and that all churches participated.

She noted that he passed on at Princess Marina Hospital and that religious leaders were invited on radio to share messages of condolences and healing over the nation. **BOPA**

The wisdom of Sir Seretse Khama at home, abroad

By Marvin Motlhabane

GABORONE - In celebrating the nation's 103rd anniversary of the birth of Sir Seretse Khama, Dr Jeff Ramsay, a historian, shares some of the words of wisdom from the first president of Botswana.

At his inaugural sitting on the Joint Advisory Council in April 1958, Seretse Khama affirmed his national vision when he rose to speak against those advocating that the then Bechuanaland Protectorate establish ties with the white settler dominated Central African Federation:

"I think it is time that we ourselves in Bechuanaland, who neither belong to the Union of South Africa nor the federation, or any other part as far as I can see, except Great Britain, should try to formulate a policy of our own which is probably unique to us. And that is a policy, perhaps; of even teaching those countries who profess to be more advanced than ourselves, that in as far as administration and race relationships [are concerned] they have more to learn from us than we from them. I must say, quite frankly that I have been rather disturbed... to find that on the whole there is a tendency to look always over our shoulders.

Perhaps I am wrong, if so I stand corrected. We want to see what is happening elsewhere instead of getting on with what we know is peculiar to us and to the country itself. We should get on and have no fear that we may incur someone's displeasure, as long as what we do is internationally accepted... And if we are right I am afraid emotion must come into this; we should not bother very much with what anyone might say... We have ample opportunity in this country to teach people how human beings can live together."

On the challenges facing Botswana at independence in 1966, the first president said:

"The basic physical and social infrastructure was sadly deficient, if not almost totally lacking. Roads and telecommunications, water and power supplies were totally inadequate to provide a base for industrial development. Most important of all the colonial government had failed to recognise the need to educate and train our people so that they could run their own country. Not one single secondary school was completed by the colonial Government during the seventy years of British rule... Because of past neglect the administrative machine we inherited at independence was defective and ill-equipped to meet the challenge of development.

Above all it was largely staffed by expatriates from Britain and South Africa. Now, while many of these men were able and dedicated and ready to identify with our aspirations, others were sceptical of our chances and less than enthusiastic in their support of our policies. Finally, because of the low level of education in Botswana, the nature of traditional society, the scattered population and the relative isolation of Botswana from the rest of Africa, there was a low level of political consciousness among our people- if by political consciousness one means the understanding and determination to express political and social ideas through modern political institutions."

On past feelings about race, while in Malawi, July 1967 Sir Seretse said:



Sir Seretse Khama at the SADCC meeting in 1980. He called for cooperation and unity of purpose so that the region plan together for future generation.

"I think that the trouble we now face in the world is caused mainly by the refusal to try and see another man's point of view, to try and persuade by example — and the refusal to meet a rather passionate desire to impose your own will upon others, either by force or other means. Therefore that is why I myself have never been bitter, although at a certain stage I lived in exile, away from my country, in the United Kingdom for some time. I know it seems rather curious and funny that I should say that the biggest favour that Britain has ever done for me was to send me in exile. I had, while I was in the part of the world from which I come - and I had been to neighbouring territories - adopted certain attitudes towards a certain race. I disliked them intensely because I thought that they disliked me. I suppose some of them did. It was my late uncle [Tshekedi Khama] whom I told that I had just no trust at all for any white man. He said, 'Well that is more reason why you should go to the United Kingdom to continue your studies.'"

Addressing the UN General Assembly, September 1969:

"Botswana as a thriving majority-ruled state, on the borders of South Africa and Namibia, will present an effective and serious challenge to the credibility of South Africa's racial policies and in particular to its policy of developing so-called Bantu homelands and its stated goal of eventual independence for these Bantustans.

A prosperous non-racial democracy in Botswana will add to the problems South Africa is already facing in reconciling its irrational racial policies with its desire for economic growth... Botswana needs the support and sympathy of friendly nations.

We recognise that our independence ultimately depends on the durability of our political institutions and our success in achieving economic development. But our independence is also buttressed by our external relations. We have friends on all continents."

Seretse's often misquoted observation on the importance of knowing one's own history delivered at the May 1970 UBLS graduation:

"We were taught, sometimes in a very positive way, to despise ourselves and our ways of life. We were made to believe that we had no past to speak of, no history to boast of. The past, so far as we were concerned, was just a blank and nothing more... It should now be our intention to try to retrieve what we can of our past. We should write our own history books, to prove that we did have a past,

and that it was a past that was just as worth writing and learning about as any other. We must do this for the simple reason that a nation without a past is a lost nation, and a people without a past are a people without a soul."

Speaking at Dag Hammarskjold Centre in Sweden, November 1970:

"We in Botswana have chosen to develop our own guiding principles and describe them in terms readily comprehensible to our people. And these principles, rooted in our culture and traditions are now being tested in practice... Although we have chosen to develop our own ideology, our nationalism and our non-alignment will not be permitted to degenerate in to narrow chauvinism and isolation. Rather we seek to identify ourselves with what is positive and humane in all national ideologies. We recognise certain fundamental values and hold them to be universal"

Speaking at the 11th Annual Conference of the BDP at Francistown, April 1972 on the importance of Kagisano:

"Kagisano should not merely be a slogan for our party, but an ideal for our nation. What are the roots of Kagisano? ... It has always been our custom that members of a family should help each other face and overcome the problems of life.

The well known proverb kgetse ya tsie e kgonwa ke go tshwaraganelwa accurately sums up our approach to national policy and to life in general. What we are trying to do in the new Botswana is in fact nothing new. We are simply applying a well-established value, applied in the family, the ward and the tribe to the wider concept of nationhood."

Speaking to South African Journalists, August 1974:

"The present white minority governments will sooner or later have to give way to more democratic forms of government. The only question is how the transformation will come about. I would like to see the transformation brought about by peaceful means; but it will depend on the attitudes of the governments concerned. These governments will determine whether the white ruled states of southern Africa will achieve true democracy and equality by peaceful means or through bitter warfare. I am, as I pointed out in my recent speech, still hopeful that the worst can still be avoided. But I am afraid that time is running out fast."

From his September 1974 election message to the nation, on the need to build a 'strong society' in the shadow of apartheid and colonialism:

"We live in a world in which one man's problem easily becomes another's. Violence spills over frontiers. It is both an interest and obligation for Botswana to work as best it can for the resolution of problems confronting our continent. Our geographical position carries with it responsibilities which are the concern of our people and of the Botswana Democratic Party. But this external threat can be withstood more easily if we guard ourselves against the threat from within. We must protect ourselves from the weaknesses within our society, which our enemies seek to exploit. We must defend our independence by defending our developing non-racialism and social justice for all. The BDP is pledging to build a strong society, in which all our citizens, irrespective of race, tribe or occupation, can fulfil themselves as much as possible and live together in peace and dignity."

At the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, China, July 1976:

"Apartheid and racism are so repugnant to us that we would still protest in no uncertain terms even if these twin enemies of human decency were practised by any other country in the world. Our desire for peace, our respect for human freedom and dignity and our very concept of human equality commit us inexorably to the struggle for the restoration of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms in Southern Africa."

At a state banquet at No. 10 Downing Street, May 1978:

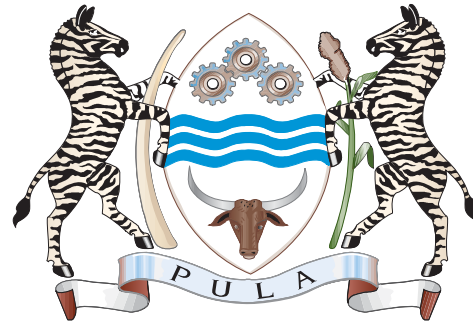
"I am happy to be here, once again, as a guest of the government of the United Kingdom. I recall the first time I was invited to London, I was kept here for six years. I hope this time we can go home when we please."

As chairperson opening the first meeting of the then Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in Arusha, Tanzania, July 1979:

"We need to gain mastery of our own destiny in this turbulent region of our continent and we can only succeed within the framework of a united Southern African community. I am not calling for the dismantlement of our independent states, I am calling for cooperation and unity of purpose so that we can together plan for our future and the future of our children... The full exploitation of our natural resources and the development of our productive sectors are constrained by small markets in our economies, but taken as a whole, Southern Africa forms a sizable market.

Economic regional cooperation would of necessity lead to co-ordinated production expansion which would in turn encourage the expansion of markets for intra-Southern Africa trade. South Africa in particular would be too happy to continue to exploit us individually in the hope that we would in time be lured by their economic power to join the so-called constellation of Southern African states in which we would be bundled together with the so-called independent Bantustans and the UDI regimes in Zimbabwe and Namibia. These manoeuvres must be frustrated!"

BOPA



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

(EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT)

REF: MoJ 4/7/8 I (18) AG. DPS-CS

25th June 2024

The Ministry of Justice seeks to recruit highly motivated, well experienced and self-driven applicants to fill the following vacant position.

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 5 OF 2024

POST: Deputy Manager – Human Resource Management* 1 Tenable at: Department of Land Tribunal

SALARY SCALE: D1 (P368 460 – P406 332) per annum

Terms of Employment: Temporary Employment.

Duration: Twelve (12) months.

BENEFITS:

- 30 working days per annum
- Severance benefits.

QUALIFICATIONS:

To be considered for appointment to this position, candidates must have a Degree in Public Administration or Human Resource Management or its equivalent.

EXPERIENCE: Twelve (12) years relevant work experience, two (2) years of which should have been served as Assistant Manager – Human Resource Management or Administration at D2 level.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

To provide leadership and management of the Human Resource Management and Administration functions.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Coordinates the human resource management processes of recruitment, training and development, compensation and benefits.
- Initiates, develops and implements long, medium and short term plans and programmes on training and development, personnel administration and health and safety.

- Develops plans, strategies and programmes for Records Management, Security, Secretarial, Cleaning and Transport Services.
- Prepares and or consolidates the Human Resource Management and administration function budget.
- Provides advice and guidance on the interpretation and application of human resource management and administration policies to the customers.
- Coordinates preparation of manpower estimates/requirements.
- Identifies staff skills gaps and determines relevant development programme.
- Undertakes any other related duties as may be assigned by Management.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Deciding and initiating action
- Adhering to principles and values
- Working with People
- Analyzing
- Writing and reporting
- Planning and Organizing
- Delivering results and meeting customer expectation
- Adapting and responding to Change

Applicants should quote the reference Vacancy Circular number and provide the following:

- Full name, address, date and place of birth
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- Date of first appointment, Present post, scale and date into current post.
- Certified copies of certificates and valid Omang.
- At least two recent references.

Applications not accompanied by all the stipulated documents will not be considered.

NB: Officers to be considered for this position should be aged between 35 to 50 years.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Justice
Private Bag 00406
Gaborone

OR Hand deliver to:

Ministry of Justice
Fairgrounds Office Park
Plot No 50371, Ground Floor
Records Management Unit
Office No. 112.

NB: Faxed and emailed applications will not be accepted.

Only shortlisted applicants will be responded to.

Closing date: 19th July 2024

For further information, please contact the Human Resource Division on 373 2621 / 22 / 23 / 82 / 94

2024 WORLD REFUGEE DAY



Minister of Justice, Honourable Machana Ronald Shamukuni – Delivering a keynote address

The following keynote address was made by the Minister of Justice Honourable Machana Ronald Shamukuni at Dukwi Refugee Camp on June 20.

Salutations!

Good Morning! (English) | Dumelang! (Setswana) | Jambo! (Kiswahili) |
Amahoro! (Kirundi) | Mbote! (Lingala) | Bonjour! (French) | Salam Alaykum! (Arabic)



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Ms. Naledi Stella Moroka giving the objectives of the event



Dukwi village Kgosi, Mr Bohedile Tlwaelang, giving the welcome remarks



UNHCR Representative, Mr. Madoda Nasha delivering a message



Refugee Welfare Chairperson



scouts

COMMEMORATION - DUKWI



Amahoro Dance group

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen, today we meet again in commemoration of World Refugee Day. I am honoured that I have an opportunity to speak on behalf of the government of Botswana and share my ministry's planned objectives in line with this year's theme which is **SOLIDARITY WITH REFUGEES – FOR A WORLD WHERE REFUGEES ARE WELCOMED.**

Last year, we congregated here on the 20th June on a similar occasion under the theme Hope away from Home. A world where refugees are always included. Ladies and gentlemen, it is widely known that refugees flee their homes in fear of conflict and persecution. The primary goal being to protect life. This year's theme makes a call to refugee host countries to make refugees feel welcome. You will recall that I shared with you how the government of Botswana has committed to providing refugees with a home. A home to give refugees hope and ease their plight and a home that creates an opportunity for durable solutions to the plight of refugees.

Director of Ceremonies, I am happy to inform you that in December 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the government of Switzerland hosted the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) where government of Botswana made four (4) pledges that directly relate to this year's commemoration theme.

The pledges are:

- Review of the Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act CAP 25:01.
- Inclusion of refugees in the National Development Agenda
- Issuance of Identity and Travel Documents
- Local integration of protracted cases, unaccompanied

minors and individuals at risk of being stateless.

My ministry, with the support of key stakeholders have made significant strides towards attainment of these pledges. The fundamental and first instance opportunity to welcome refugees is to have a legislative framework that is aligned to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. I am happy to announce that I will in the next session of Parliament, present a Bill that seeks to amend the Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act in order to align it to best international practices.

Director of ceremonies, for refugees to feel welcomed, they must have an interest in the affairs of the host country. It is to their advantage to learn and embrace the way of life, culture, language of the host communities. They must respect the norms and traditions. I am happy that Dukwi Community under the able leadership of Kgosi Tlwaelang has accommodated persons granted refugee status in Botswana. I personally do not forget the kind gesture of your people, Kgosi Tlwaelang, to agree for resettlement of former refugees among them as a permanent solution to their plight.

Last year, director of ceremonies, I urged refugees to consider local integration as an option, but I regret that very low number of applications have been received. Local integration will give refugees an opportunity to apply for land and settle anywhere they wish as they would have acquired Botswana citizenship.

Director of ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the support and collaboration of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. UNHCR

has over the years supported the Government with food and non-food items for refugees. These items include housing, grant money for livelihoods, sponsorship for education, medical expenses among others.

I further appreciate the resettlement to other host countries that has been on-going with additional two hundred and eighty-nine (289) individuals undergoing resettlement procedures. We are hopeful that by next month the 289 individuals will have found a durable solution to their plight.

Director of ceremonies, part of my mandate in the Ministry of Justice deals with coordination of Botswana's efforts towards combating Trafficking in Persons. I am worried about the unfolding situation of individuals who arrive in Botswana seeking asylum and soon after being welcomed, they disappear. We highly suspect that these are people who are engaged in human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. We have engaged security experts on this matter to ensure protection of all.

Director of ceremonies, as I close my remarks, let me reaffirm my Ministry's continued commitment in collaborating with other Government Ministries, International and Local NGOs, Faith-Based Organisations, the business community which enhance solidarity with refugees and ensure that they are welcomed. Our efforts as the Government would not be possible without the generous support of our valued donors and cooperating partners.

I thank you. Pula! Pula!



Westwood International School entertaining during the event



Area MP, Mr Polson Majaha



Lomamba Dance Group

Classified Ads

BUSINESS SERVICES

TENDER PREPARATION, SECURITY, Cleaning, IT, Construction, Compliance.
74402828

BUSINESS LOANS APPLICATION, Cashflows 73 343 501.

DESIGN & BUILD SPECIALISTS for standard, Premium Carports 78553920.

AIR - CONDITIONING, REFRIGERATION, Refrigerated Trucks, coldrooms 76 640 740.

LAVENDER GUEST HOUSE, Gaborone block 9, en-suite rooms, wifi, free breakfast at P400. Contact details 310 2344 / 76826816 whatsapp

FARM WORKERS

MALE FARM WORKER wanted Kopong, Sasakwe 72372821.

2 FARM WORKERS at Boditsane lands. Contact 71 888 511 or 73545410.

HORTICULTURE FARM WORKER wanted at Tutume, urgently contact 74 201 561 / 77 441 013.

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

Master's Ref: ESHGB- 000281/22

IN THE ESTATE of the Late **CAROLINE PENEKA PULE** who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the 28th November 2007.

THE FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT in the Estate will lie open for inspection at the offices of the Master of the High Court at Gaborone for a period of twenty- one (21) days from the date of publication hereof.

Any objection to the Estate Account may be lodged with the Master.

DATED at _____ on this _____ Day of _____ 2024.

The Executor
Edward Pakiso Pule
P O Box 221
Sikwane
Tel: 77060808

VACANCY: CONTRACT MANAGER

Colic Construction Development Co Ltd t/a Weihai Construction Group is a Civil, Buildings and Infrastructure Development Contractor established in 2007 under the Company Act of the Government of Botswana.

The company intends to secure the services of a qualified and experienced person for the position of Contracts Manager.

The candidate should possess a minimum of BSc or BEng in Civil Engineering with a minimum of 15 years' experience in buildings and civil engineering works; 5 of which must be at Project Manager position.

Applicants should submit an up to date Curriculum Vitae (CV), certified copies of certificates, Identity card/Passport and copies of Registration Certificate with the Engineers' Registration Board, including a ERB valid Practising Licence.

Applications should be addressed to:

Human Resources Manager,
Colic Construction and Development (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 3165881, Gaborone

Tel: +267 3165881 Fax: +267 3165880 Email: colicon@126.com

Closing date for applications: 16th July 2024



KJG JEWELRY BOTSWANA PTY. LTD.

Date: 27.06.2024

VACANCY: GENERAL MANAGER

KJG JEWELRY BOTSWANA PTY LTD it's a Jewelry manufacturing Company seeking passionate, driven candidate to fill in the Post of General Manager, who will direct day to day Jewelry manufacturing and Administration activities, requiring strong leadership skills and the ability to develop and implement successful management strategies.

Responsibilities:

- Oversee and coordinate day to day Jewellery manufacturing and ensure smooth production process.
- Overseeing all management, leading and directing managers as well as developing strategies to improve overall quality and production.
- Implement strategies to enhance production, reduce costs and ensure compliance.
- Plan and approve production schedule and manage budgets.
- Maintain organizational structure, guides managers and assigns duties.

Qualification & Experience:

- Degree in Management or Related degree qualification in Management
- At least 15 years' experience in Jewelry manufacturing or related field
- Proven Leadership skills
- Computer literacy
- Motivation to drive continuous improvement processes and ensure the capacity is maximized
- Ability to manage dynamic and changing workforce as well as being able to work extremely well under pressure.

Those who meet the requirements may send their applications (CV, certificates and references) to:

hr.botswana@kgkbw.com

or

P O BOX 2169 ABG Gaborone
Botswana

CLOSING DATE :16/07/2024

Plot No. 20588, Block 3 Industrial Gaborone, Botswana. PO Box 2169 ABG Gaborone Tel: (+267) 391 7637 Email: kgkgroup.com
Company Registration No BW0000082700

FARM WORKER WANTED at Jamataka. Bakgonne Lebane 73069772 / 71981876

ONE FARM WORKER wanted. Tebogo Makhale Box 3181 Francistown 71754380

ONE HERD BOY wanted Japi Strauss. Box 416 Francistown 71661045

FARM WORKER WANTED BOX 10014 SELIBE PHIKWE.

THREE (3) FARM Workers with experience in Horticulture wanted at Lekgatshwane Farms, Gakuto. Apply to Mr. P. B. Kgokgwe, Box 2611 Gaborone. Tel: 72107255

HERDBOY WANTED AT Tutume. Contact 74 201 561 / 77 441 013

HERDBOY WANTED AT Dhuthu Cattlepost in Changate Village. Must be able to read and write. Previous experience as a headboy is an added advantage. Apply before 16/07/2024 or contact 71204471

FARMWORKER URGENTLY NEEDED at Ramaphate Thamaga Apply to P.O.Box 618 Thamaga Cell: 72 234 197

HERD BOY WANTED at Botlaote. Contact Mr Ndinabo Madziba 71629365 P O Box 221 Makaleng

RE BATLA BADISA ba le babedi ko Kang. Leletsa mogala wa 77998439/ 72773431.

FARM WORKER WANTED at Bobonong. Contact 76 305 664 /72233499

FARM WORKER NEEDED at Matsuke lands, Kweneng District. 5 yrs experience. Apply: 71 306 433.

FARM WORKER WANTED Molepolole, Lesilakgokong lands 77 876 168 / 77 503 038

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

THE OLD APOSTOLIC Church, in Old Naledi, owner of Plot No; 51646 & 51647, would like to build a boundary wall. Any objections to the proposal should be forwarded to GCC, in writing, within 14 days of this publication.

OWNER OF PLOT 6959 in Tlokweg wishes to erect a double storey. Call Tlokweg physical planning department for enquiries.

MONTI TLAGEE OWNER of plot 322 Metsimotlhabe consult owner of plot 321,323 and 327 concerning proposed multi-residential. Any objection contact 72428128

OWNER OF PLOT 25063 @ Thomaditotse Ward, Palapye wish to change landuse from single family residential to multi residential, construct boundary wall and do a sub-division. For objections contact Palapye Physical Planning at 4930800..

OWNER OF PLOT No: 37929 Mogoditshane block 5, would like to change land use from single family residential to multi family residential, development of double storey and erection of a boundary wall. For any objections contact Mogoditshane District Council Physical Planning office within 14 days of this publication notice.

MR THEOPHILUS MELAETSA, owner of plot 17071, Lesunyane ward, Tlokweg informs the neighbours and public of multi-residential development on the plot mentioned. Any objection contact 76556967 within fourteen(14) days of this publication.

OWNER OF PLOT 3513 Metlabeng Tlokweg, intend to build a double storey. Anyone with objections, contact Tlokweg Council Physical Planning at 3695096 within 14 days of publication of this notice.

VACANCIES

JOB AVERTISMENT ANEJ Family Medical Clinic in Maun(New Mall) is looking for a medical Officer to run the clinic. Qualification: MBcbb. Experience: 3years and above. Requirements: Curriculum vitae, certified copies of BHPC license, application letter. Respond to Box 1134 Maun, email, anejfmc@gmail. com. contact 73915835. deadline 22 July 2024.

THREE THATCHERS WANTED. Diploma/certificate in Thatching and gum pole work at least 5 year experience. KAGISONG THATCHERS INVESTMENTS(PTY) LTD Box 30919 Francistown 71445334

IMAM PRIEST WANTED BA In Islamic Dawah. Well versed in Islamic history, Arabic and English Quranic memorisation, more than six year experience. Ahle Sunnat wa Jamaat of Botswana Box 2 Francistown.

PRESTINE PALMS PRIMARY SCHOOL

JOB TITLE: TEACHERS

Diploma in primary education teachers urgently wanted. Should have at least 5 years experience in lower/upper primary. **Summary:** Ensure syllabus coverage and be able to scheme and lesson plan daily. General teaching and learning activities in a classroom setting.

Applications to be addressed to

The Director, Prestine-Palms Primary School
Box 77582324 Kgabo Mall, Mochudi
Plot 22454 Mochudi
Cell: 75 533 902 / 78 243 616

CLOSING DATE: 19/07/2024

ADVERTS

365 3592
365 3599

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

Notice is hereby given that undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Deed of Fixed Period Grant No. 786/2004 dated 22nd April, 2004 made in favour of PRISCA GOTHATAMANG BASELE in respect of the below mentioned property namely;

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 36231, GABORONE;
SITUATED : In Gaborone West Extension 37;
MEASURING : 417m²(Four Hundred and Seventeen Square Metres);
HELD : under Title Deed No.786/2004 dated 22nd April 2004 made in favour of PRISCA GOTHATAMANG BASELE.

SUBJECT TO : the terms and conditions as are contained in the aforesaid deed.

All person objecting to the issuance of such copy are hereby requested to lodge such objection in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020 Gaborone within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 27th DAY OF JUNE 2024
SENAMELA SEKGA ATTORNEYS, APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY PLOT 2859 EXTENSION 10,
CHURCH ROAD P.O.BOX 1551 GABORONE.

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETING FOR THE LATE JAVID ABDUL RASHID KHAN

Masters Reference: ESHGB-000253/24

IN PURSUANCE of Section 31 of the Administration of the Estates Act (Cap 31:01) the heirs and Next of Kin of the deceased persons specified above hereby invited to attend Next of Kin meeting on the 8th day of August 2024 at 0830hours before – Thato L. Dibeela. At the Masters Office, Gaborone High Court Building.

At the respective meeting, the next of Kin are to recommend person(s) to be appointed as Executor(s) / Executrices Dative, identify beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to the estate of their deceased relative.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 25th JUNE 2024



S.Khan Law, Plot 2851 South Ring Road,
PO Box 72, Gaborone
Tel: 393 3443

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: ESHGB 000246/22

IN THE ESTATE of the Late **DAVID MODIKWAGAE APHIRI** who died at Gaborone Private Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the 07 February 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED at _____ on this _____ Day of _____ 2024.

The Executrix
Mamello T. Motswagosele
P O Box 285
Mochudi. Tel: 72892330

The Executrix
Refiloe Aphiri
P O Box 285
Mochudi. Tel: 71672910

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- PMP Certification
- Previous Experience with Chinese Contractors
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Position 2: Senior Quantity Surveyor

- Master's Degree in Quantity Surveying
- Over 20 Years of Working Experience as a Quantity Surveyor
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- Previous Experience with Chinese Contractors: Experience working with Chinese contractors to ensure effective project execution.
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Interested candidates are invited to send their resume and cover letter to kleinw394@gmail.com or post to the postal address, BEWG (PTY) LTD, P.O. BOX 402451, Gaborone by 10th July 2024. Please include "Position Title" in the subject line.

'Engage in physical, mental health activities'

By Tshiamiso Moseitlha

SEROWE - Health workers have been encouraged to participate in a range of physical and mental health activities, including sport competitions, healthy eating challenges and exercises.

Officiating at this year's Ministry of Health Northern Region Inter-Games in Serowe recently, Safety Health Environment (SHE) coordinator, Ms Ellen Kaovera encouraged health workers to support each other and ensure that they were able to take care of themselves as well as their patients. "Your wellbeing is essential to the health of your communities," Ms Kaovera said.

The week-long competition,

which ended on Friday, has brought together teams from 11 District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) in the Northern part of Botswana.

Ms Kaovera said the Inter-Health Games were a vibrant part of promoting healthy lifestyles and improving the wellbeing of staff members and the community.

She said the goal of the games was to promote health and wellness among all those involved, adding that the games were an opportunity to honour healthcare workers and remind them of the importance of compassionate and patient-centered care.

She added that in physical paybacks, the games provided an opportunity for participants to

build relationships and nurture some sense of community.

Again, she said the games provided a unique opportunity to recognise and celebrate the important work of healthcare specialists.

She said despite the risks they faced, health workers were on the frontlines of patient care every day.

"Sport and exercise can play a critical role in promoting physical wellness, mental well-being as well as teamwork among employees," she said. On behalf of Serowe District commissioner, Ms Angelina Leano-Bakoko, HIV/AIDS coordinator, Ms Masego Mabe-Ranthokgwane, based in Serowe urged participants to use the games for awareness about Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Ms Mabe-Ranthokgwane said NCDs such as hypertension, sugar diabetes, cancer among others, had increased and became a major global concern.

"Creating awareness about NCDs, their risks and avoidable measure was crucial," she said.

She added that participation in the Inter Health Games would benefit healthcare workers by improving their wellness and would also help to strengthen the health system since it would be run by healthy people.

"Healthy staff in healthy system will help to improve access to quality health care services. By engaging in physical activity and socialising with others, participants would improve their overall health and reduce stress levels.

She further said health workers were faced with increasing pandemics including HIV/AIDS, mental health, and NCDs.

"Healthcare workers can be inspired to provide the best possible care to their clients and to make a positive impact on the lives of those they serve," she said.

Outlining the event objectives,

Northern Inter Health Games chairperson, Mr Gabaitso Banda, said the games were organised to promote wellness and cooperation, among healthcare workers.

Mr Banda said healthcare workers should be physically and mentally healthy since they provided critical services to the nation.

In his welcome remarks, deputy chief o GaMmangwato, Kgosi Serogola Seretse, warned adults against selling drugs to learners, saying doing so could destroy their lives. He also called upon parents to join forces with other stakeholders to fight alcohol and drug consumption, monitor and report any suspicious behaviour among children.

He expressed concern about some parents who were engaged in selling drugs as well as the prevalence in the use of a drug known as Cat among the youth.

BOPA

Kgosi decries rise in psychiatric problem cases

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Kgosi Kealetile Moremi has called for protection of mentally ill persons from the harsh environmental factors.

She said the traditional leadership was concerned about the rising number of people with mental disorders in Maun, the majority of whom were young people spotted roaming the streets exhibiting anti-social behaviours.

Kgosi Moremi made the remarks during the just-ended international mental health conference with tourism organised by The Just Hope Foundation (JHF), complaining that many of mentally ill persons had no shelter and therefore slept in the streets while some had places to stay, but were uncontrollable.

Serious mental illness, she said, not only impacted individuals, but also their families and circle of support, adding that care givers of people with mental illness faced unique challenges as they lacked skill of how to handle them.

However, she thanked the organisers of the conference, which attracted care givers and professionals in mental health institutions as well as social workers, saying participants would share ideas on how best those people could be protected and supported.

The coordinator of The Just Hope for Foundation, Ms Karabo Swartland concurred that they were equally concerned about mentally ill persons roaming the streets and stated that they had a dream of constructing a day care centre intended to provide a safe space for the mentally ill, where they could be assisted to regain their dignity.

Through the centre, she said the patients would also be assisted to regain dignity as well as hope restored into their lives through the support and care provided to them.

The intention, she said, was to collect them in the morning, offer the necessary support and take them back home in the evening.

Ms Swartland admitted that caring for someone with mental illness could be challenging more so that some were uncontrollable and believed that through the

centre, patients could be managed better, fed, bathed, given treatment and monitored at one place.

"It is our dream to have a care centre one day, where we can gather people with mental illness and take care of them and we can achieve our dream through collaboration with stakeholders. It is heart breaking to see these people roaming the streets with dirty clothes scavenging the garbage cans in malls," she added.

Ms Swartland further appealed to business community and members of the public at large to come on board and assist the foundation in realising its dream of taking care of mentally ill persons.

Apprising the conference about the foundation, she said it was a citizen-owned non-governmental organisation birthed in 2014 and brought into life in 2022 with the generous help from National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency.

The foundation primarily inspires hope, caring and healing, fostering growth through the provision of counselling services, education and information sharing.

In a side interview, Ngami District Health Management Team coordinator, Dr Sandra Maripe-Ebutswe explained that mental health disorders were caused by a number of factors ranging from alcohol and substance abuse, complications related to mental health disorders, poor family support system, and poor adherence to treatment cause by poor social economic status.

She emphasised the need to discuss mental health, saying they were critical for human health.

She appreciated JHF for organising the conference, which she said would motivate participants to share experiences and knowledge on how best they could meet mental healthcare needs of the society.

During the conference, Dr Lorraine Guth from Indiana University of Pennsylvania presented on optimising wellness for mental health professionals and helpers, emphasising self-care, which she said was critical in ensuring that one could support themselves and their the one under their care. **BOPA**



Ms Kahovera (second left) and other dignitaries touring stalls during Ministry of Health Northern Region Inter-Games in Serowe recently. Ms Kahovera said the games were crucial to the physical and mental health of employees. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

Company equips learners with essential skills

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - In its efforts to foster creativity, innovation and problem-solving skills, Destination Imagination Botswana (DI) organised a one-day bootcamp for Regent Hill Primary School learners to equip them with essential skills and mindset change to become creative and innovative thinkers.

Speaking in an interview Saturday, after the boot camp held in Gaborone, Destination Imagination Botswana programmes facilitator and digital creator, Ms Sophia Diboko said the bootcamp's activities were meant to introduce students to exciting world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education.

She said students were taught coding, robotics skills and Artificial Intelligence, adding

that the sessions were designed to aid students improve on their soft skills.

The soft skills, she said included; communication, critical thinking, team work and problem-solving.

Destination Imagination Botswana's main goal, she said was to encourage students to fully embrace the soft skills they were good at, as an individual or as a collective, as well as those they believed they were not good at.

"Our bootcamp fosters creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving, through STEAM activities. By teaching children to believe in themselves and the skills they possess, we want to boost their confidence, creativity and innovation," she explained.

Ms Diboko also said the company's programmes and activities were designed to empower primary, secondary, tertiary learners, as well as educators to prepare them

to tackle future challenges, through both problem-solving and critical thinking techniques.

By imparting such knowledge and skills in the students, she said this would help them become innovative and sustainable leaders in their communities, as well as in their professional pursuit.

Destination Imagination Botswana is an affiliate of DI Africa, a global educational non-profit making organisation, aimed at inspiring and equipping Africa's next generation with new realities of the digital world.

Through hands on STEAM education, Destination Imagination Botswana empowers young minds with critical thinking, creativity and collaboration as well as problem-solving skills so that in future they help them transform their communities and contribute positively to the global society. **BOPA**



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (DSD) BRIGADES AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES CONTINUING GROUPS INTAKE – AUGUST 2024

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following listed programmes:
The spaces available are as indicated in the table below:

1:AUTO MECHANICS TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Chobe Brigade
- 2 Ghanzi Brigade
- 3 Kang Brigade
- 4 Kanye Brigade
- 5 KRDA
- 6 Madiba Brigade
- 7 Marobela Brigade
- 8 Matsheng Brigade
- 9 Moseitse Brigade
- 10 Okavango Brigade Centre
- 11 Serowe Brigade
- 12 Tswelopele Brigade Centre
- 13 Tutume Brigade Centre
- 14 Zwenshambe Brigade

2:CARPENTRY & JOINERY TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Bobonong Brigades Centre
- 2 Boteti Brigade
- 3 Gweta Brigade
- 4 Jwaneng Technical College
- 5 Kang Brigade
- 6 Kgatleng Brigade
- 7 Lobatse Brigade
- 8 Madiba Brigade
- 9 Marobela Brigade
- 10 Maun Technical College
- 11 Nswazwi Brigade
- 12 Serowe Brigade
- 13 Tlokweng Brigade
- 14 Tswapong Bokone Brigade
- 15 Tswelopele Brigade Centre
- 16 Tutume Brigade Centre
- 17 Zwenshambe Brigade
- 18 Shashe Brigade

3:ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Ghanzi Brigade
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- 2 Shoshong Brigade
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6:LIVESTOCK FARMING & MANAGEMENT TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Serowe Brigade

7:FORESTRY TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Serowe Brigade

8:BRICKLAYING & PLASTERING TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Boteti Brigade
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- 3 Ghanzi Brigade
- 4 Gweta Brigade
- 5 Jwaneng Technical College
- 6 Kang Brigade
- 7 Kgatleng Brigade
- 8 KRDA
- 9 Lobatse Brigade
- 10 Madiba Brigade
- 11 Matsheng Brigade
- 12 Maun Technical College
- 13 Mohupa Brigade
- 14 Nswazwi Brigade
- 15 Okavango Brigade Centre
- 16 Palapye Technical College
- 17 Serowe Brigade
- 18 Shashe Brigade
- 19 Shoshong Brigade
- 20 Tswapong Bokone Brigade
- 21 Tswelopele Brigade Centre
- 22 Zwenshambe Brigade

9:CARPENTRY & JOINERY "NCC"

- 1 Palapye Technical College

11:PLUMBING & PIPEFITTING "NCC"

- 1 Maun Technical College
- 2 Palapye Ttechnical College
- 3 Selebi Phikwe Technical College

12:BOREHOLE MECHANICS TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Boteti Brigade

14:BRICKLAYING & PLASTERING "NCC"

- 1 Maun Technical College
- 2 Kweneng Rural Development Ass.
- 2 Palapye Technical College

16:ELECTRONICS TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Maun Technical College

18:DRESSMAKING TRADE TEST "B"

- 1 Mahalapye
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- 3 Moshupa Brigade
- 4 Selebi Phikwe Technical College
- 5 Tshwaragano Brigade
- 6 Tlokweng Brigade
- 7 Barolong VTC

21:ELECTRONICS "NCC"

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23:REFRIDGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONER "B"

- 1 Kanye brigade

24:WELDING AND FABRICATION "NCC"

- 1 Maun Technical College
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- 2 Kgatleng Brigade
- 3 Lobatse Brigade
- 4 Madiba Brigade
- 5 Ngethu Brigade
- 6 Serowe Brigade
- 7 Shashe Brigade

13:PLUMBING & PIPEFITTING TRADE TEST "B"

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- 3 Madiba Brigade

15: FURNITURE DESIGN & CABINET MAKING "NCC"

- 1 Selibe Phikwe Technical college

17: FURNITURE DESIGN & CABINET MAKING "B"

- 1 Selibe Phikwe Technical college

19:MAINTENANCE FITTING "NCC"

- 1 Palapye Technical College

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22:PAINTING & DECORATING "NCC"

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2.0. HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should complete the application form.

Completed application forms with attachments should be sent by post or hand delivered in a sealed envelope.

3.0.CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION

Interested candidates who are 16-35 years may apply.

For Trade Test B applicants must be in possession of Trade Test C in the relevant vocational field.

For National Craft Certificate applicants must be in possession of Trade Test B in the relevant vocational field.

Only shortlisted applicants will be responded to.

Applicants from disadvantaged groups and those with special needs are encouraged to apply. A valid assessment report should be attached.

Failure to disclose accurate information will result in the candidate being disqualified and their admission revoked.

Certified copies of educational certificates and a Certified Copy of Omang should be attached to the application.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE INSTITUTIONS NOT LATER THAN:

INSTITUTION	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Barolong	P/Bag 26, Pitsane	Tel: 5486275
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Boteti	P. O. Box 231, Letlhakane	Tel: 2978221
Chobe	P/Bag 42, Kasane	Tel: 6250349
Ghanzi	P. O. Box 387, Ghanzi	Tel: 6596347
Gweta	P/Bag 003, Gweta	Tel: 6212214
Jwaneng	P/Bag 009, Jwaneng	Tel: 5880685
Kang	P. O. Box 3, Kang	Tel: 6517009
Kanye	P/Bag 28, Kanye	Tel: 5480080
Kgatleng	P/Bag 208, Mochudi	Tel: 5777356
Kweneng	P/bag 001, Takatokwane	Tel: 5960058
Kweneng	P/bag 7, Molepolole	Tel: 590614
Lobatse	P/Bag 42, Lobatse	Tel: 5330484
Madiba	P/Bag 17, Mahalapye	Tel: 4710285
Mahalapye	P.O. Box 16, Mahalapye	Tel: 4710256
Marapong	P/Bag M2, Marapong	Tel: 2981411
Marobela	P/Bag S4, Marobela	Tel: 2981385
Matsheng	P. O. Box 12 Lehututu	Tel: 6511053
Maun	P/Bag 073, Maun	Tel: 6860518
Mosetse	P/Bag D3 Dukwi	Tel: 2977229
Moshupa	P. O. Box 950, Moshupa	TEL: 5490118
Ngethu	P/Bag 004, Gumare	Tel: 6874127
Nswazwi	P/Bag F312, Francistown	Tel: 2982212
Okavango	P/Bag 14, Shakawe	Tel: 6875034
Palapye	P/Bag 0046, Palapye	Tel: 4920576
Selibe Phikwe	P/Bag 0062, S/Phikwe	Tel: 2610045
Serowe	P. O. Box 121, Serowe	Tel: 4630415
Shashe	P/Bag 84, Tonota	Tel: 2484227
Shoshong	P/Bag 12, Shoshong	TEL: 4769238
Tlokweng	P/Bag T021, Tlokweng	Tel: 3928332
Kgalagadi South	P. O. Box 220, Tsabong	Tel: 6530121
Tshwaragano	P. O. Box 181, Gabane	Tel: 3947058
Tswelelopele	P. O. Box V99, Ramotswa	Tel: 5390226
Tswapong Bokone	P/Bag 003, Lerala	Tel: 4954021
Tutume	P/Bag 008, Tutume	Tel: 2987223
Zwenshambe	P/Bag 10, Masunga	Tel: 2489230

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For further clarification please feel free to contact us at:

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Tel: (+267) 373 2739, Fax: (+267) 318 0941

Application forms can be collected from any TVET Institutions.



A re chen Cheng!



Groups impress at arts festival

By Calviniah Kgautlhe

TSABONG - Kgalagadi's colourful, vibrant cultural heritage came to play on Saturday at the National Arts Festival, western region competitions.

The groups did not disappoint as scores of traditional music fanatics were treated to rich display of culture at the competitions in Tsabong where 15 Polka groups and nine Namastaap groups battled it out to book themselves a place at the National Arts Festival competitions slated for Ghanzi on Saturday.

Trek 'E' Ding Polka group from Vaalhoek proved to be a cut above the rest, attaining position one, followed by Tsabong Polka group, while last year's regional winners Remmogo Polka group from Ghanzi scooped position three failing to book themselves a space in the nationals.

Only two Polka groups will proceed to the nationals to face two other groups from Maun and Central, Gaborone and Southern regions.

Trek 'E' Ding Polka group leader Amogelang Visagie could not hide his excitement at their achievement saying it meant a lot after enduring years of no victory since 2018.

"All of our group members are not employed. Polka is our source of livelihood, this win means a lot," he said.

The victory has inspired them to do better at the nationals. He said the win did not come by easily as they had to do introspection to rectify their mistakes in the past competitions.

In the Namastaap category, Tsabong groups: Tibasen scooped position one beating the 2024 national champions Khoesip at position two while Ihunikam scooped position three and You and I from Ramotswa scooped position four.

"The competition was tough, we managed because we had prepared very well and we are happy with the results. We have all that it takes and we will work even harder to win at nationals," said Tibasen group leader Fredrick Cooper in an interview.

In an interview, Ministry of Youth Gender Sport and Culture, Kgalagadi, acting principal programmes officer Keabetswe Motswasele said the western region block consisted of Tsabong, Ghanzi, Hukuntsi, Charleshill districts where top two Polka groups were selected from 15 competing groups while top four Namastaap groups were selected from the competing nine groups to compete in the nationals.

He said in the past all Polka

groups competed for nationals in Tsabong as there were many groups there but that changed this year adding that a decision was made for the groups to compete in their regions as Polka had spread to other parts of the country.

Motswasele said groups which failed to make it in the competitions received no consolation prizes adding that only Polka group which had attained position three would be awarded P10 000.

At national level, he said National Arts Festival had increased prizes adding that four groups would compete under each category where position one prize money had been increased

from P30 000 to P50 000, Position two has been increased from P25 000 to P42 000, position three has been increased from P22 500 to P38 000 while position four prize has been increased from P20 000 to P33 000.

Delivering objectives of the competition, MYSC deputy district coordinator for Kgalagadi Dintle Kenosi the competitions were run under the theme: The Creative Economy: Botswana's Economic Future Redefined, adding that the objective was to empower the artists economically to improve their livelihoods, to promote and preserve culture by giving young people opportunity to unleash and nurture talent.

She said the competitions also served to unearth talent thus she implored artists to work hard and deliver rich and classic renditions.

For his part MP for Kgalagadi South Samuel Brooks said government had demonstrated commitment to developing the creative industry thus it was pertinent for communities to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the diversity.

He said maintaining originality during performance was very important to avoid losing important components of culture.

MP Brooks said artists played a pivotal role in preserving the nation's culture and therefore must embrace their responsibility

with the necessary rigor and diligence. He highlighted that government continued to increase prize monies to acknowledge the creative industry for culture preservation for posterity as well as branding Botswana.

He appreciated growth in the creatives as reflected by more groups who continued to register to participate.

Polka chief judge Mr Aron Visagie appreciated artistes for quality performance, which he said reflected that groups had prepared.

The groups were judged on team work, stage presence, attire, uniformity, form and dance, time management. **BOPA**



It was a tight competition as Namastaap groups took turns to impress a panel of three judges with well composed cultural display on stage. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

Welkom polka club advance to finals

By Baleseng Batlotleng

RAMOTSWA - Gabane-based Welkom Polka Club proved their mettle and scooped position one in the National Arts Festival Regional Competitions held in Ramotswa over the weekend.

They were followed by the youthful and upcoming Dikgajwana Polka club from Mochudi while Tsolamosese based Desert Polka group settled for the third spot.

The winners Welkom advanced to finals slated for Ghanzi this coming weekend while Dikgajwana pocketed P10 000

and Desert walked home with P7 000 for their efforts.

Ramotswa District Principal Programmes officer Lebotshe Modibedi said 11 groups were expected to compete in the Southern Region but only seven groups came through.

He said the Polka dance competition, popular in the south western part of the country and now widespread to other areas was meant to showcase the diversity and uniqueness of Botswana as a nation, raise profile of Botswana artists and help artistes realise their full potential and contribution towards the economy

and economic diversification.

Welkom group founder Kabelo Mmualefhe said they were all geared up to defend the prestigious title they won last year at the national finals.

He said his group was established in 2012 and had been on a steady growth learning about the polka originality and concept. He said they had travelled as far as Struizendam to take a leaf from experienced groups in Kgalagadi South. He said the ability to grow had been made possible by the group's drive for passion, ambition and discipline. Chief judge Kgotla Gotcha advised groups to yearn

for a better performance in the next round of competition. He said contestants should understand the originality of the dance whose basics included footwork.

He said most competitors lacked skill of practicality and stage presence. He said tempo of the song must be in-sync with the dance.

Gotcha said there must also be uniformity of display and attire. Other groups who performed were Honey Polka group (Kanye), Phuas polka group (Molepolole), Vietnam polka group (Ramotswa) and Armature polka group from Ledumang in Gaborone. **BOPA**

'Sir Seretse Khama half marathon to be upgraded'

By Kgotsotalang Botsang

SEROWE - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has revealed that the Sir Seretse Khama Half Marathon will be upgraded to a full one next year.

He said this during the half marathon awards ceremony in Serowe on Saturday.

Dr Masisi also commended organisers for delivering a successful marathon, which was meant to resuscitate, ignite and revive the commemoration of the Sir Seretse Khama Day.

Meanwhile, 29-year-old Motswana woman, Kefilwe Galeitsewe from Lion's Den Club and her South African male counterpart, Sibusiso Nzima emerged winners of the Sir Seretse Khama Half Marathon.

The winners, who ran 21.1km race, pocketed P20 000 each.

"Winning this race is a big achievement though it was not easy," said Galeitsewe in an interview.

She attributed her win to intensive training thanking her coach and fellow athletes at Lion's Den club for the support they gave her.

Galeitsewe, who scooped position two at Diacore marathon recently, said the route was not flat forcing her to push herself harder to maintain the pace.

"Though I faced a fierce competition from foreign runners in my heart I was the winner," she said.

Twenty-nine-year-old Nzima was also thrilled to have won the half marathon after recovering from an injury, which forced him to stop running.

"I participated in this marathon to test my fitness and I am happy for my win today," said Nzima.

He commended Batswana for promoting sports tourism through marathons, adding that Sir Seretse Khama half marathon had the potential to attract tourists from other countries.

He thanked the sponsors of the marathon for successfully organising the event.

Their runners up, Boikhutso Bakha and Abel Chibanda pocketed P15 000 each after coming second in female and male categories respectively whilst Rutendo Nyahora and Lazarus Too won P10 000 each after coming third in both female and male categories respectively.

In the 10km race, Olebogeng Segolame and Medupi Tladi pocketed P10 000 each in the female and male categories respectively.

Winners of the 5km categories

pocketed P5 000 each for both male and female categories.

The winners were Botlhe Mazwiduma and Wilson Othusitse in the female and male categories respectively.

Boitumelo Tshotlego won the 10km para female category while the male category was won by Akanyang Golebamang.

Marathon national coordinator, Botshelo Nthaga said the marathon attracted 1 870 runners from Botswana and neighbouring countries. **BOPA**



President Masisi (left) presenting a medal to Sir Seretse Khama Half Marathon champion in the women's category, Galeitsewe in Serowe on Saturday. The winners of the 21.1km marathon pocketed P20 000 each. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

Athletics continue to be torchbearers

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Athletics continues to raise the national flag high by asserting itself as a force to reckon with globally, Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) president, Colonel Botsang Tshenyego has said.

Tshenyego said this at the organisation's ordinary general meeting recently, indicating that so far, athletics was the only sporting code that had managed to qualify athletes for the Olympic Games to be held in Paris, France from July 26 to August 11.

Thus, he encouraged other national associations to use the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA)'s development blueprint.

"Despite failure to send athletes, efforts by other sporting codes are also noted. Another time, another chance surely awaits," he said.

He also said the collapse of schools sport had undoubtedly contributed to the low performance by many sporting codes.

"It is surely a big struggle to ignore the compound effect of the collapse of schools sport, which poses more threat towards the Youth Olympics Games (YOG)

2026 in Dakar, Senegal, unless there is a drastic change," he said.

He also bemoaned the effects of delayed funding, which he said was all the more evident.

Again, he said apart from late funding, lack of deliberate development pathways to feed the appetite for medals continued to be another biggest downfall to national sport.

He said medals could not be realistically attainable without a holistic and deliberate process and therefore tantamount to self-sabotage to continue immense obsession with medals without

proper long term plans in place to achieve that.

"There is an urgent need to invest in development and federations that capitalised on the opportunity of schools sport collapse and established club systems as another option for grassroots development are likely to benefit in the emerging club support policy," he said.

He advised that in the absence of schools sport, clubs were a more sustainable way going forward.

He further decried the decline in female participation at base and all levels, adding BNOC would however grasp every opportunity to advance women in sport from the boardroom to the field.

He added that urgent strategising on what could be done individually and collectively to change the current state of affairs was therefore needed.

On more positive news, he indicated that BNOC had enjoyed generous positives this year, which included the presence of a technical sponsor for the games for the very first time.

He also hailed the appointment of the Gaborone city clerk to the BNOC board, saying that would help influence new or improved infrastructure to benefit sport.

For her part, BNOC caretaker chief executive officer, Tebogobane Kesupile reiterated the need for the organisation to do more to ensure that more women athletes qualified for major events such as the Olympics as their participation had been low.

Kesupile said for the coming Olympics, they had a target of seven female athletes, but so far no female athlete had qualified.

"To achieve this, I would urge codes to invest more in young talent and this will help in the overall performance of our athletes and not just in women participation," she said. **BOPA**

Molao hails Chadibe football club

By Goitsemolimo Williams-Madzonga

CHADIBE - Debswana First Division North champions and Botswana Premier League newcomers, Chadibe Football Club has been hailed for the milestone achieved.

Speaking at the team's awards ceremony, Shashe West MP, Fidelis Molao said the team's promotion meant going all out to compete with giants of local football who had much experience of playing in the elite league.

This, he said, called for commitment and discipline in order to succeed.

He said being an amateur in premier league should not demoralise them but serve as a morale booster for them to excel and to ultimately be crowned champions once again.

He added that playing well in the league would help the team to attract investors and sponsors while at the same time it would put them in a better position to recruit more players to beef up

their squad.

Taking attendees through the club's journey thus far, the club president, Omega Ngurume highlighted that the team was established in 2015 and started off by playing at Francistown Regional Football Association (FRAFA) division two.

He said because of determination and eagerness of success they excelled through divisions until they gained promotion to play in the first division league in 2019.

In the 2022/2023 season while playing for first division, he said they were eliminated at playoffs just at the edge of gaining promotion to play in the elite league.

Ngurume appreciated Molao's support from the time they were established to date, helping them with necessary resources to continue doing well.

At this point, he said they were preparing a team that was going to compete and remain in the premier league forever and that would only be possible with the support of their followers

attending their games in numbers.

"Huge attendance of supporters boosts team moral in games," he said

He further stated that with school sports returning, they were going to engage with schools to scout young players whom they would groom and nurture from grassroots.

The FRAFA chairperson, Jonas Ikgopoleng urged the team to tighten their screws to go all out and compete as they added to the numbers of Francistown teams in the premier league.

Meanwhile, Molao awarded 10 players, who were key to the success of the team, P20 000 with each getting P2 000 and a trophy. The player of the season award went to Samuel Phiri while top goal score award went to Moses Nyathi and Modise Kenewang was voted players' player of the season.

Apart from the P20 000 for players, P20 000 was also given to the team as start-up capital for the season and P7 000 to be shared among the technical team. **BOPA**

It's do or die for Zebras

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - It is now-or-never for the senior national football team, the Zebras in their today's match against Mozambique in the ongoing HOLYWOODBETS COSAFA Cup held in South Africa.

Against Bafana Bafana of South Africa on Saturday, the Zebras played well and created few scoring opportunities, which they however failed to convert.

In an interview, the Zebras head coach, Didier Da Rosa said today's match would require his side to be more clinical in

front of the goal posts and also win against Mozambique in order to proceed to the next round of the competition.

Da Rosa said it was his responsibility to ensure that the Zebras made it to the next of the competition and therefore would approach the game with effective attacking transitions.

Therefore, he said players would have to be mobile and quick and open up vertical passing lines and push forward to ultimately score against Mozambique.

"Surely our attacking approach means we will be a little unbalanced in our defence.

But at the end of the day we have to take that risk and try to score. In our two games, we did not concede any goals and that alone means players are very committed and disciplined," he said.

He added said he was apperceive in how to play against Mozambique and therefore hopeful that the players would understand his philosophy and follow instructions.

Da Rosa further said he would continue to give all the players a chance given that one of the Botswana Football Association (BFA)'s key objectives was to develop young players in efforts to build the

future of Botswana football.

Conversely, he said he was happy with the players' performance given that they learn with every game.

The Zebras are in Group A together with Mozambique, eSwatini and the hosts, South Africa and the group is currently open given that each of the four teams have two points.

South Africa are leading the group, Mozambique are second followed by Zebras and eSwatini are at the bottom of the table.

eSwatini also play against South Africa today. **BOPA**



The Zebras will play against Mozambique today in a do or die match at the ongoing HOLYWOODBETS COSAFA Cup in South Africa.

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