

BOTSWANA

Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES

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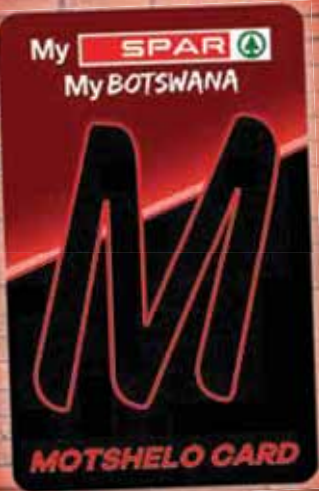
Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Ms Maipelo Mophutina-Dikoloti

- Botswana remains alert to vulnerability both as a destination and transit route for illicit substances, including cannabis, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, synthetic drugs and the abuse of pharmaceutical and pseudo-pharmaceutical substances.
- Tackling illicit drug trade requires law enforcement agencies to work closely together, share information and coordinate their efforts.

STORY PAGE 3

SPAR Motshelo Card Making saving fun.

SIGN UP FOR MORE!



Mohwasa lauds govt minimum wage initiative

Kabo Keaketswe
RAKOPS

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa acknowledges that the P4,000 minimum wage policy bears testimony to government commitment in ensuring improved standard and quality of lives for a better Botswana.

Speaking at a security and risk management youth empowerment training and certificates awards ceremony in Rakops on Sunday, Mr Mohwasa said though government had achieved the P4,000 minimum wage target in the public sector, implementation across the private sector was delayed due to economic challenges.

However, he assured Batswana that the initiative remained government’s commitment to ensure the target was attained across all sectors.

Furthermore, he said the country’s national development direction recognised that skills,

productivity, private-sector participation and job creation must work together to transform the economy.

As the minister responsible for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Mohwasa emphasised that security was also an economic issue, adding that when businesses operated in a secure environment, they could protect their investments, maintain productivity and create livelihoods.

“When workplaces are safe and risks are properly managed, businesses can focus on growing, creating value and wealth,” he said.

In addition, Mr Mohwasa emphasised that the national development framework recognised public safety and protection, capacity-building and partnerships as important elements in building a safer and more harmonious Botswana.

He therefore noted that the just ended training had relevance

beyond individual employment as it contributed to a broader culture of prevention, responsibility and security.

Consequently, the minister commended Emirates Consultancy Firm for the continued commitment to skills development and youth empowerment.

Kgosi Seane Tatolo of Rakops also commended the firm for training 100 young people in security and risk and loss control management in Boteti West.

He acknowledged that it would go a long way in improving the lives of the youth and that the initiative was the beginning of more good things to come, pointing the platform accorded graduates employment opportunities. **BOPA**



The Vice President also Member of Parliament for Gaborone Bonnington South, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe has encouraged Tlhabologo Primary School pupils to reach their full potential without fear and that they should demonstrate commitment to make their dreams a reality.



Marulamantsi Primary School is currently embarking on a project to construct an onsite swimming pool.

Marulamantsi embarks on swimming pool construction

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Nestled in the heart of Phase 4 location in Gaborone, Marulamantsi Primary School, is rewriting the narrative of a government funded education.

Having opened its doors in 2024, the school recently celebrated an outstanding 97.7 per cent pass rate from its inaugural 2025 Standard Seven cohort, securing the top spot in Primary School Leaving Examinations amongst government primary schools in Gaborone.

Building on this academic momentum, the school is currently embarking on an ambitious project to construct an onsite swimming pool.

Once completed, Marulamantsi will make history as the first government primary school in Botswana to boast such a facility.

Recently, Vice President and Member of Parliament for

Gaborone Bonnington South, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, visited the campus to engage directly with staff and learners.

Mr Gaolathe delivered a short and inspiring address, encouraging the young learners to cast away limitations and fly high like eagles.

Speaking on the sideline of Mr Gaolathe’s visit, School Head Ms Mumsy Utlwang said the Vice President’s tour was a vote of confidence that would propel both staff and pupils to even greater heights.

Talking about school’s soaring reputation, Ms Utlwang attributed that to parental interest and the commitment of the teaching staff.

On the school’s ambitious plan of constructing a swimming pool, she said their journey toward breaking glass ceilings with the project had started.

“We already have learners who train and swim at the University of Botswana and the Botswana Defence Force facilities and this

clearly demonstrates that beyond our academics, we are heavily investing in sports development,” she said.

One of the pupils, Dinesh Kamela, doing Standard Six, expressed her joy at receiving direct encouragement from the Vice President.

“My biggest takeaway from his message was that we should continue to fly high like eagles, and always respect our teachers and parents. In a way, I would say he was preaching to the converted and we are already determined to continue being excellent students,” she said

Another learner, Aretta Mangisi, currently doing Standard Five, said being addressed by the Vice President was a rare privilege.

She said the historic encounter served as a lifetime motivation, inspiring the learners to strive for continuous excellence and making their school proud. **BOPA**

‘Dream big to achieve more’

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

The Vice President also Member of Parliament for Gaborone Bonnington South, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe has encouraged Tlhabologo Primary School pupils to dream big in order to achieve more.

He shared the sentiment during a series of school tours in his constituency to motivate learners, where he urged them to embrace their dreams fully and immerse themselves in them.

He encouraged the learners to reach their full potential without fear, noting that they should demonstrate total commitment to make their dreams a reality and joyful part of their everyday life.

Mr Gaolathe also donated books to the school.

Expressing gratitude to the Vice President’s visit, Student Representative Council president, Renelwe Wamaradu, said although their school was located in a community full of cultural diversity and social challenges, they were not defined by such circumstances.

“We are a school of hardworking

teachers, determined learners and a school that is a community that believes in the power of education,” Wamaradu said, adding that even with limited resources the school managed to attain regional target of 85 per cent pass in the last Primary School Leaving Examinations.

She also highlighted that as learners, they were faced with circumstances of poverty, single-parent households, drug and alcohol abuse as well as other social problems. She further appreciated Mr Gaolathe’s visit saying it was an indication that they mattered as learners and a school.

The school head, Dr Bulukani Mongwa said with an enrolment of 962 learners, the school faced critical challenges such as lack of a proper kitchen, which affected the learners’ access to meals.

He stressed the need for improved feeding conditions as well as other facilities in the school like the school hall.

Meanwhile, Deputy Mayor of Gaborone City Council, Ms Mankie Sekete acknowledged their shortcomings and shared that efforts were being made to address the challenges for efficient results of the school. **BOPA**

Sahrawi Ambassador to Botswana dies

GABORONE



Ambassador Sidihiba Abbes Abdala

Ambassador of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic to Botswana and Permanent Representative to the Southern African Development Community, Sidihiba Abbes Abdala, has died.

A statement from the Ministry of International Relations says Ambassador Abdala passed away at Bokamoso Private Hospital in Gaborone on Sunday.

Ambassador Abdala commenced his tour of duty in Botswana in January, having served

as a diplomat in various capacities at Sahrawi diplomatic missions in Germany, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sweden and India.

During his tenure in Botswana, he played an instrumental role in strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between Botswana and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

Botswana extends heartfelt sympathies and deepest condolences to the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic following the ambassador’s death. **BOPA**



Acting Minister in the Ministry for International Relations, Ms Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti (second left), Ukraine Ambassador, Dr Oleksiy Syvak (left) and other dignitaries touring an art exhibition during Ukraine Independence Celebration in Gaborone on Monday. Ms Mophuting-Dikoloti highlighted Botswana's longstanding foreign policy of a belief in multilateralism, cessation of conflict through dialogue, and the respect for territorial integrity of sovereign states. Photo: Pheny Ramatu

Botswana and Ukraine toast to strong relations

Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

In his pre-event supplication prayer for the Independence Celebration of Ukraine at the Thapong Visual Arts Centre in Gaborone, Rev Mpho Moruakgomo cited the State Anthem of Ukraine, Shche ne vmerla Ukrainy i slava, i volia, that ‘the glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished’.

That set the tone for an evening where 35 years of the independence of Ukraine was commemorated alongside the launch of a two-week artistic exhibition themed: Resilience: The Unbreakable Human Spirit, where Batswana visual artists have collaborated with the Embassy of Ukraine.

Speaking at the event, the Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Ms Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti highlighted Botswana's longstanding foreign policy of a belief in multilateralism, cessation

of conflict through dialogue, and the respect for territorial integrity of sovereign states.

“In this regard, Botswana consistently affirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We reiterate our call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and urge all parties to seek a peaceful and durable resolution through substantive diplomatic engagement in accordance with international law,” said Ms Mophuting Dikoloti.

She further lauded the effort of the Ukraine diplomatic mission in Botswana to develop cultural and mutually beneficial people-to-people exchange initiatives. She cited the University of Botswana's Peace Park and Cultural Centre developed in partnership with Ukraine, and the unveiling of Africa's first monument dedicated to Taras Shevchenko, a renowned Ukrainian poet, artist, and thinker.

“Shevchenko's legacy symbolises the aspiration for freedom, human dignity, and national identity. His renowned poem ‘Zapovit’ (Testament) has been translated into Setswana by our esteemed linguistics expert, Professor Thapelo J. Otlogetswe. This remarkable collaboration epitomises people-to-people engagement, and I am confident that similar initiatives will emerge in the future,” said Ms Dikoloti-Mophuting.

Ambassador of Ukraine to Botswana and permanent representative to the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Dr Dr Oleksiy Syvak, also underscored the strong relations being explored between the two nations just two years after the Eastern European state set up their mission in Gaborone.

“Together, in these two short years, we have built more than I imagined possible. We opened

the Ukrainian Centre, which functions as a hub for educational and cultural opportunities, and has already welcomed 10 local interns to gain practical experience,” said Dr Syvak.

He further mentioned that they had presented the Khama III Museum in Serowe with a Ukrainian-minted commemorative coin bearing the image of Botswana's first President, Sir Seretse Khama and that a commemorative plaque of Sir Seretse also existed in Kramatorst, Ukraine.

“We are moving with big steps in educational cooperation too. The National Music Academy signed a memorandum with what will soon become Botswana's first music conservatory, at GIST Academy. Ukraine's National University of Life and Environmental Sciences signed a cooperation agreement with Botswana's own University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, to advance agricultural efforts here and to learn from Ukrainian farmers who feed the world,” said Dr Syvak.

He also said the Embassy of Ukraine was also launching Botswana's first audio guide at the Botswana National Museum, narrating the stories of its exhibits in five languages, Setswana, English, Ukrainian, French, and German, developed in partnership with the Embassies of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.

“For Botswana's own 60th independence next month, I have taken on a personal project close to my heart: the first Setswana-language textbook prepared for Ukrainian learners - 300 pages into what makes Botswana, Botswana. Culture, education, science, sport, security, scholarship - thread by thread, we have been weaving something real. And I promise you: this is only the beginning,” said Ambassador Syvak. **BOPA**

Government takes firm action against Illicit drugs

Baleseng Batlotleng
OTSE

In an effort to safeguard families, protect communities and secure the future of its people, government remains committed to taking firm action against those who produce, supply and profit from illicit drugs.

This was revealed by Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Ms Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti during the official opening of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) narcotics investigation and enforcement course at the Otse Police College on Monday.

The six-month specialised training for officers of the DEA is offered to strengthen their knowledge, sharpen skills and reaffirm a collective resolve to deal with drug related offences.

“The security of our nation is ultimately measured not only by the threats we confront but how prepared we are to confront them. This course will strengthen their ability to investigate drug related offences, enforce the law and respond to the challenges they will face in the field,” said Ms Mophuting-Dikoloti.

She highlighted that the establishment of the DEA under the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 2018 marked an important step in Botswana's response to the illicit drug trade

Its mandate is clear, to combat and eradicate the illicit production, supply, demand and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Drug trafficking and substance abuse are not victimless crimes as behind statistics are families who have watched loved ones struggle with addiction and young people whose lives are changed before they could realise their full potential, Ms Mophuting-Dikoloti said.

As families grappled with the phenomena, she said government's response extended beyond enforcement to include prevention,

public education, treatment rehabilitation and reintegration.

Ms Mophuting-Dikoloti explained that the DEA had continued to strengthen its capacity as it absorbed 29 internship officers in its permanent establishment last year, thus extending its human resource base.

“But an effective institution is ultimately defined by the people who carry out its mandate. This makes the partnership between the DEA and the BPS in delivering this programme particularly significant. I wish to commend the leadership and instructors at BPS for sharing their experience and expertise through this important programme,” she said.

The illicit drug trade is increasingly sophisticated and involves organised networks, financial transactions, technology, transportation routes and cross border connections hence Ms Mophuting-Dikoloti said tackling the problem required law enforcement agencies to work closely together, share information and coordinate their efforts.

Botswana Police Service (BPS) commissioner, Ms Dinah Marathe, said the course represented the institutional partnership, capability development and operational cooperation that Botswana required to confront contemporary and emerging security threats.

She said the training spoke directly to the direction set under the BPS Corporate Strategy 2026–2030 of building a modern, innovative and professional Police Service, supported by competent personnel, strong partnerships and the capacity to deliver quality investigations and other policing services.

“It demonstrates government's commitment to strengthening our national law enforcement architecture and ensuring that the institutions entrusted with the security of this country are appropriately capacitated to respond to evolving threats.

We remain grateful to government for the continued policy, institutional and material support extended to law enforcement agencies, particularly at a time when national resources are under considerable pressure,” she added.

Commissioner Marathe said Botswana's geographical position also meant that it remained alert to vulnerability both as a destination and transit route for illicit substances, including cannabis, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, synthetic drugs and the abuse of pharmaceutical and pseudo-pharmaceutical substances.

She said combating illicit drugs and disrupting the organised syndicates behind the trade remained a priority for police chiefs within the SADC region.

“The regional concern is clear, organised crime does not recognise the borders or institutional jurisdictions within which law enforcement agencies operate.

Therefore, we cannot effectively fight a network with isolated institutions.

Neither can we successfully dismantle transnational organised crime through the efforts of the police alone,” said Ms Marathe. **BOPA**

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email: bopa@gov.bw email: dailynews@gov.bw
Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

Editors

Ms Masego Pilane
Tel: 365 3569
Email: mkpilane@gov.bw

Mr Sefhako Sefhako
Tel: 365 3589
Email: ssefhako@gov.bw

Ms Sereki Mpitse
Tel: 365 3595
Email: smpitse@gov.bw

Head of Photography

Head of Marketing

Head of Graphics

Mr Yobe Shonga
Tel: 365 3604
Email: yshonga@gov.bw

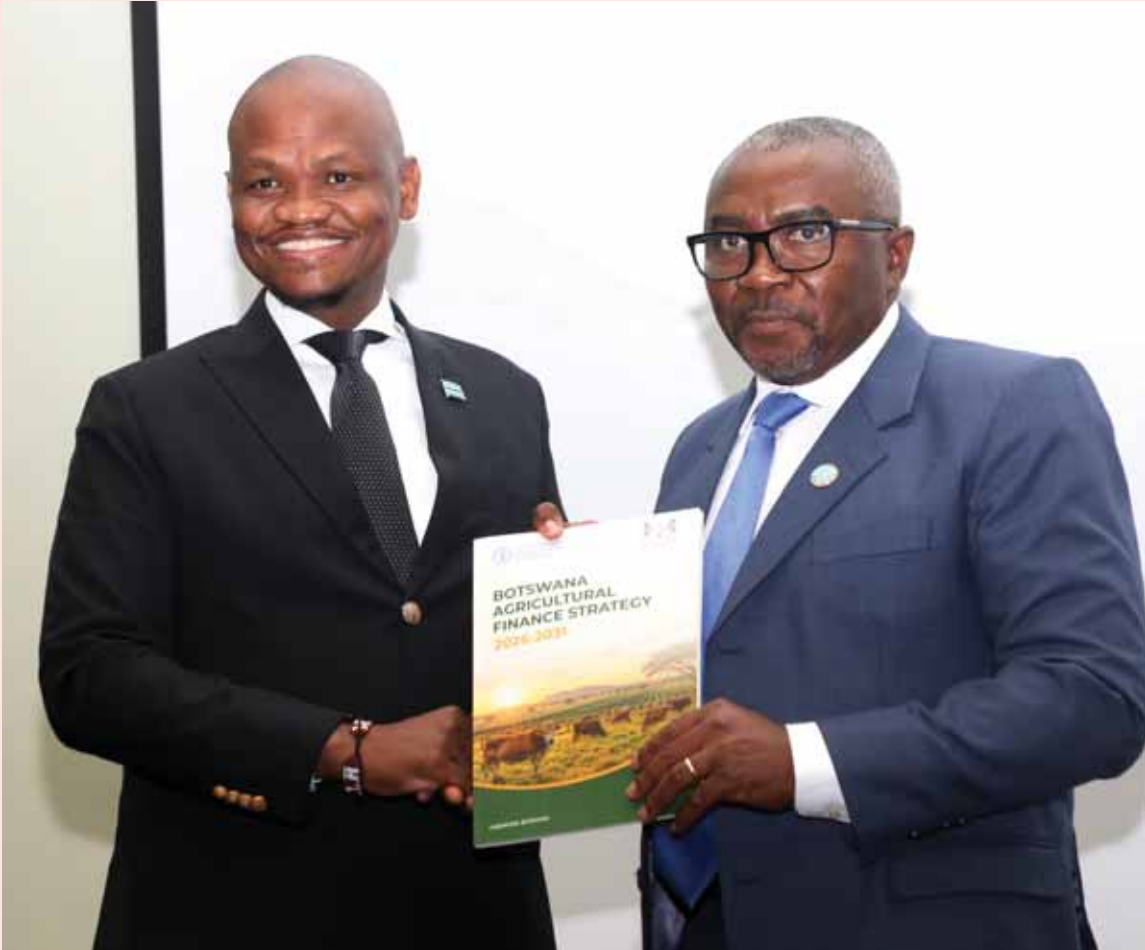
Ms Lucretia Chima
Tel: 365 3574
Email: lchima@gov.bw

Mr Edward Matlala
Tel: 365 3557
Email: ematlala@gov.bw

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DailyBusiness

Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti (left) and Sub Regional Coordinator and FAO Botswana Representative, Dr Patrice Talla during the launch of the agriculture financing strategy for Botswana in Gaborone recently. Dr Dikoloti said the strategy was important for agricultural sector and for transformation of the economy, as agriculture remained strategically important to Botswana. Photo: Washa Bofelwang



Agriculture financing strategy targets value chains

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

Botswana is shifting from financing individual farmers to financing bankable agricultural value chains in a bid to unlock investment, improve productivity and transform the agriculture sector.

Minister of Land and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, said this at the launch of the Botswana Agricultural Financing Strategy in Gaborone recently. The strategy, he said meant that financing should increasingly be linked to real economic activity, including markets, contracts, credible off-takers, aggregation, production, insurance, infrastructure and visible cash flows.

He said a farmer was a part of the value chain while the financier, producer, input supplier, service provider, insurer, aggregator, processor and off-taker were all participants in the same economic system. Dr Dikoloti said when these relationships worked together, it would be possible to finance not only an individual loan, but a viable agricultural business. He said the success of the strategy would depend on its implementation and that a phased approach had therefore been adopted. He said the first six months would focus on establishing institutional foundations, building a baseline, conducting a diagnosis, addressing legal gaps and preparing pilot projects. “Thereafter, the 18 to 24-month launch phase will test the model through three priority value-chain clusters. Successful models will then be scaled, while interventions that do not deliver will be redesigned or stopped,” he said. Dr Dikoloti said the approach was important to ensure that government did not scale up

failure, but instead scaled interventions based on evidence. “Every Pula committed under this strategy must be capable of answering three questions. The first is, what problem are we solving? The second, what results are we buying? And finally, how will we know whether it worked?” he said. He said accountability would be strengthened through a high-level Agriculture Finance Strategy Steering Committee and a Delivery Unit responsible for coordination, implementation, monitoring, reporting and resolving bottlenecks. “Let us finance productivity. Let us finance resilience. Let us finance enterprise. Let us finance value addition. Let us finance the future of Botswana’s agriculture. And, above all, let us finance our True North,” he said. Representing the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), sub-regional coordinator and FAO Botswana representative, Dr Patrice Talla said agriculture remained fundamental to food security, employment creation, rural development, economic diversification and climate resilience. Furthermore, he said the financing strategy sought to move beyond fragmented and subsidy-dependent approaches toward a coherent trans-financing architecture that segmented, data-driven, market-oriented, risk-shared and institutionally accountable. “Agriculture is not a single homogenous market. Smallholders, farmers, emerging commercial producers, processors, exporters, cooperatives, youth-led enterprise and agribusiness

each face different opportunities, production cycles, risks and financing requirements,” he said. He also said successful agricultural finance system must therefore be based on solutions tailored to specific value-chains, market opportunities and consumer segments because the strategy recognised the reality. He said the strategy sought to unlock investment through practical financing instruments linked to production, value chains, reliable market, credible up-takers, insurance mechanisms, leasing facilities, guarantees and risk-sharing arrangements that could increase confidence among producers and financiers. “The current global economic environment makes this shift even more urgent. Public resources and development assistance are becoming increasingly constrained,” he said. Business Botswana Agriculture Sector Chairperson, Mr Boiki Tema said the private sector partners and farmers would be held to task with regards to the implementation of the strategy, the delivery of the subsidies because there was a lot of fraud, waste and abuse coming from some of their members. Mr Tema said farmers would be segmented so that interventions would be directed and impactful to the different services. “I can understand the frustration of financial institutions where they are hesitant to fund into this sector because of the risk, but I must also say financial institutions and commercial banks have always financed agriculture. The only thing is that we have not segmented those instruments,” he said. BOPA

BUSINESS SERVICES

BSB introduces business banking

GABORONE - Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) is introducing Business Banking, a significant expansion of its banking proposition and an important milestone in the bank’s transformation. The move, according to a press release from the bank, extends BSB’s capabilities into the business market, enabling the bank to serve entrepreneurs, SMEs and established enterprises through a comprehensive suite of transactional banking, deposits and investments, financing, digital banking, payments and merchant solutions, complemented by dedicated relationship management. “This is a defining step in BSB’s evolution. We are broadening the role we play in the economy by bringing our capabilities closer to the businesses that create employment, generate opportunity and drive Botswana forward,” the release quotes the bank’s acting chief executive officer, Dr Wabo Moswate as having said. BOPA

Cape Town secures double victory at World Travel Awards

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town has won two top titles at the World Travel Awards, being named both Africa’s Leading City Destination and Africa’s Leading Meetings and Conference Destination for 2026, local media reported Saturday. The awards were announced at the World Travel Awards Africa Gala Ceremony 2026 in Tanzania’s Zanzibar on Friday. The awards recognised winners across a wide range of categories covering hotels, airlines, tour operators and destinations. Winners were determined by votes from travel professionals, industry leaders and the traveling public. The recognition comes as Cape Town sees growing tourism and investment from across Africa. Visitors arriving at Cape Town International Airport from elsewhere in Africa increased by 17 per cent in 2025, while foreign investor spending in the city rose by 18 per cent over the same period, according to Cape Town Tourism. Xinhua

Serbia signs battery plant deal with China

BELGRADE - The Serbian government, the Municipality of Indjija and Chinese battery maker Jiangsu Reliance Energy Tech signed a €100.5 million (UD\$116.5 million) framework agreement on Monday to build the company’s first overseas factory in the northern Serbian city of Indjija. The plant, to be built in Indjija’s high-tech zone, will produce batteries for drones, humanoid robots, unmanned vehicles, advanced power tools and household appliances. The agreement was signed at the Palace of Serbia in Belgrade by Serbian Economy Minister Adrijana Mesarovic, Indjija Municipality President Marko Gasic and Reliance co-founder and Chief Operating Officer Xu Fenlan. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic met with company representatives before the signing ceremony and said the investment will support Serbia’s efforts to develop a domestic supply chain for robots, drones and batteries. Xinhua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has, in terms of Section 17 of the Liquor Act (Cap. 43:11), applied to the **Goodhope District Council** for a Distributor Liquor Licence in respect of premises situated at **Plot 659, Metlojane**. Any person wishing to object to the grant of such licence should lodge their objection in writing, stating the grounds thereof, with the Licensing Authority within twenty-one (21) days from the date of the second publication of this notice.

Dated at Metlojane on this 24th day of August, 2026.

Applicant Details:

- * Name of Applicant/Company: Baywest (Pty) Ltd
- * Postal Address: P.O. Box 353, Maun
- * Physical Address: Plot 659, Metlojane

Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

Ipapatse Fa Leletsa

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261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500



Mogokaganyi wa ditirelo go tswa kwa ofising ya ga Tautona Dr Aupa Tsheko o gwetlhile ba-na-le seabe le setshaba ka kakaretso go ema ka dinao go lwantsha tshenyetso setshaba ka e na le seabe mo kwelong tlase ya itsholelo.

Twantsho tshenyetso setshaba ke ya botlhe

Cathrine Simane

TSABONG

Mogokaganya ditirelo go tswa kwa ofising ya ga Tautona, Dr Aupa Tsheko o gwetlhile ba-na le seabe le setshaba ka kakaretso go ema ka dinao go lwantsha tshenyetso setshaba ka e na le seabe mo kwelong tlase ya itsholelo. A re gape e ka baka lehuma le le kwa godimo ka jaana ditlamelo di felela di sa goroge kwa setshabeng ka fa go solofetsweng ka teng.

Dr Tsheko o buile se bosheng kwa Tsabong jaaka a ne a buisa baeteledipele ba maphata a puso maikaelelo e le go tswa ka megopolo le go sekaseka ka fa ba ka tlhabololang ka teng matshelo a batho ba ba mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Borwa.

A re mongwe le mongwe o tshwanetse a tseye karolo go lwantsha tshenyetso setshaba ka seo se ka thusa go tokafatsa itsholelo.

O ne a supa fa meamusu le di-tsa tlholego tse di fitlhelwang mo kgaolong eo di ka fetola matshelo a banni go fokotsa go ikaega ka puso.

Dr Tsheko o ne a supa fa dikgwetlho tse di fitlhelwang mo dikgaolong di farologana, ka jalo a re go botlhokwa gore baeteledipele ba itebaganye le se se ka solegelang banni molemo.

A re ka go dira jalo ba ka kgona go tlhama ditiro tse ka tsone banni ba ka tshelang botshelo jo bo itshetletseng mme e bile bo ka tswa maduo go fokotsa go ikaega ka puso le gone go fokotsa lehuma le le tswelletseng ka go kokonela kgaolo ya Kgalagadi Borwa.

O boletse fa kgaolo ya Kgalagadi Borwa e humile di-tsa tlholego di tshwana le ditotoma tsa mmu, diphologolo tsa naga, dikammela, tse tsotlhe di okang bajanala go tokafatsa itsholelo.

Fa a tswa la ga gwe Modulasetilo wa Khansele ya Tsabong Rre

Elias Motlhanke o ne a supa tshwaragano ya khansele le maphata a a farologanyeng a puso, a kaya fa ba eme ka dinao mo go tlhomamiseng gore mananeo a a leng teng a goroga kwa Batswaneng le go ba sologela molemo.

Motshwarelela mokwaledi wa khansele, Rre Mogolodi Modibu o tlhalositse fa ba itemogetse letlhoko la ditiro le le kwa godimo mo kgaolong eo. A re khansele e tshwere phage ka mangana go tlhokomela batho ba le 3 964 ba akaretsa batlhoki, ba-na-le bogole, dikhutsana, le ba bangwe kgwedi le kgwedi.

Rre Modibu a re le fa go ntse jalo, seemo sa batlhoki se gakaditswe ke bolwetsi jwa tlhako le molomo ka khansele e ne ya patelesega go sekaseka barui le ba dikgwebo tse dipotlana ba le 854 ka nakwana, a supa fa dipalo tse di nna di oketsega ka go laola bolwetsi go sa ntse go tswelsetse.

O ne a supa fa melawana ya go seka seka batlhoki (Destitute Policy 2002) e setse e siilwe ke nako mme e tshwanelwa ke go shafadiwa go itepatepanya le seemo sa botshelo sa nako eno.

Rre Modibu o ne a tlhalosa mo go tseneletseng ka ditiro tsa ditlhabololo tsa morafe tse di mo kgaolong eo le ka fa di ka sologelang morafe molemo ka teng ka go tlhama ditiro le go tlhabolola metse le matshelo go na le go ikaega fela ka puso.

O supile fa lenaneo la Bonno le tswelsetse ka kago ya matlo a supa mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Borwa.

Go le pele fa a bua maikaelelo a letsatsi mogolwane go tswa kwa lekalaneng la twantsho tshenyetso setshaba, Mme Felicitas Hlabano, o ne a tlhalosa fa maikaelelo e le go ruta le go tsibosa setshaba ka tshenyetso setshaba le ditlamorago tsa yone le gone go ama itsholelo le matshelo a setshaba ka kakaretso.

Mme Hlabano o tlhalositse fa

maikaelelo a ofisi ya bone e le go fitlhelela dikgaolo tse di kgakala le ditlamelo le go rotloetsa setshaba go loma tsebe ba ba maleba fa ba baelaela ditsamaiso tse di sokameng.

A re maikemisetso ke go tshwaraganya boeteledipele jwa kgaolo go akaretswa le ba ba ikemetseng. A supa fa lebone le le neng la amogelwa go le pele mo letsatsing leo, e le sesupo sa go senola tse di fitlhegileng mabapi le tshenyetso setshaba go di baa mo pontsheng. **BOPA**

Kgosi Josiah o tlhomamisitswe

Tebogo Masuruke
TUTUME

Mothusa tona ya lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, Rre Ignatius Moswaane a re tiro ya kgosi ke go etelela pele morafe, go rotloetsa kagiso le popagano mo motseng le setshaba ka kakaretso.

Rre Moswaane o buile se kwa moletlong wa go ipelela peo ya ga Kgosi Lucien Josiah kwa Dagwi ka Labotlhano.

A re Kgosi Josiah o tlhomamisitswe ka ngwaga wa 2023 morago ga go tlogela tiro ka bogodi ga ga Kgosi Jeremiah Chinguli.

A re seriti sa bogosi se kwa godimo thata e bile puso e tsere ka tlhoafalo go tsosolosa serodumo sa bogosi.

Mothusa tona a re magosi a botlhokwa thata mo go ageng batho le go tlhabolola lefatshe, a gatelela ka gore, naga e senang khudu tlou, bolobeto ba ipha naga.

O akgotse morafe wa Dagwi go bo ba amogana bogosi ka mowa o o iketlileng, lerato le kagiso.

Ipapatse Fa Leletsa

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Re A Nyalana e aga malwapa

Kefilwe Selotlegeng

MAHALAPYE

Lenaneo la Re A Nyalana le tswelsetse ka go aga malwapa a batho ba ba ntseng lobaka mmogo ba sa nyalana.

E rile ka Labotlhano kgaolo ya Mahalapye Botlhaba e bo e tshwere moletlo wa manyalo a le lesome le botlhano kwa Shakwe.

Fa a bua kwa moletlong oo, Tona wa lephata la thuto e kgolwane Rre Prince Maele a re o ema nokeng lenaneo la Re A Nyalana, a re o dumela fa lenyalo le le botlhokwa e bile le naya motho seriti.

Rre Maele yo gape e leng Mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Tswapong North o ne a lebogela mosimolodisi wa Re A Nyalana tiro e ntle e a e dirileng ya go aga malwapa a Batswana ba ba nang le lobaka ba nna mmogo mme ba sa nyalana.

A re o sa le a ratile lenaneo le, fa le simolola ka 2013 le go le ema nokeng ka jaana le thusa go hema dintwa tsa boswa fa mongwe wa baratani a tlhokafetse.

Rre Maele a re lenaneo le, le setse le nyadisitse batho ba ka tshwara 7 914, a tlhalosa fa lenyalo la Re A Nyalana e le lenyalo fela le le nang le seriti e bile le dirwa ka fa molaong wa lenyalo wa Botswana. A re mo manyalong a Re A Nyalana, ga gona lepe le le fedileng.

O kopile batho go tsenelela lenaneo le, a re ba seka ba kgobiwa marapo ke batho ba ba le nyenyefatsang.

Rre Maele a re lenaneo le ke la Motswana mongwe le mongwe, a tlhalosa fa banyalani ba ikana kwa ga molaodi mme ba fiwe ditlankana.

A re setlankana se botlhokwa ka jaana se sireletsa dithoto tsa banyalani, a tlhalosa fa go le gantsi boo-ra-monna ba rata go duba manyalo a banyalani.

O kopile masika go tswa mo manyalong a batho a supa fa lenyalo e le la batho ba babedi.

Mosimolodisi wa lenaneo le, Mme Motshidisi Morwaagole, o ne a tlhalosa maikaelelo a lone, a supa fa e le go nonotsha malwapa a a seng ka fa molaong ka go rotloetsa baratani go nyalana.

Mme Morwaagole a re ba thusa batho ba ba nang le keletso ya go nyalana mme ditsompelo di sa kopane.

A re ba tlotla thulaganyo ya Setswana ya lenyalo, a tlhalosa gore ba dira tsamaiso yotlhe ya Setswana, ya go ntshiwa ga magadi.

Mme Morwaagole a re ba naya banyalani bogakolodi le dithuto tse di tseeneletseng ka lenyalo, go akaretsa le go dira mokwalo wa thulaganyo ya dithoto le kgaoganyo ya boswa.

Mothusa tona wa lephata la boatlhodi le popo sesha ya magolegwa, yo gape a leng Mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Mahalapye East, Rre Augustine Nyatanga, o boletse fa se e le ditso e bile e le sesupo sa lorato.

Rre Nyatanga o lebogetse barulaganyi ba lenaneo le thulaganyo e e botlhokwa e ya go aga malwapa a a nonofileng. **BOPA**

rafela dikgafela, ka jalo a rotloetsa Kgosi Josiah go nna le tshimo e e tlaa bong e le ya setshaba go thusa morafe.

Fa a amogela thomo, Kgosi Josiah o ne a leboga thata tlotla e a e filweng ke morafe wa Dagwi ya go ba etelela e le kgosi ya bone.

A re o tshepisana batho ba motse oo go re ga a kitla a ba swabisa ka letsatsi lepe.

O ba tshepisitse gore fa le ene nako ya go tlogele tiro ya bogosi e goroga, o tlaa neela yo o tlaa bong a mo tlhatlhama ka kagiso.

Kgosi Josiah o ile a solofetsa morafe le boeteledipele jwa motse oo fa a tlaa dirisanya le bone le go tswelledisa kagiso le lerato mo motseng.

E rile a latlhela la gagwe, Kgosi Shadreck Mphala-Mengwe wa Maitengwe a bolela fa Kgosi Josiah e le motho le go bala le go nna a ikoketsa dithuto le ntswa dingwaga tsa gagwe di ile.

Kgosi Mengwe a re se a se dirang se sentle thata ka a nna a na le kitso ya ntlha ka se se diragalang lefatshe ka bophara. **BOPA**

Morula primary wins waste-to-art challenge

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Morula Primary School of Phikwe has emerged as the overall winner of Bonnita's Collect, Create and Win Challenge, earning P50,000 after transforming used milk cartons into creative sculptures.

The seven-week challenge brought together learners from 18 schools, who collected used Bonnita milk cartons and transformed them into artworks as part of an initiative aimed at encouraging creativity while promoting waste recovery and sustainability.

Crescent International School of Lobatse came second and received P30,000, while Boitumelo Primary school claimed third place and took home P20,000.

Beyond the competition, the initiative challenged learners to view everyday packaging differently, not simply as waste to be discarded, but as material that could be reused and given a new purpose.

Through the project, learners were encouraged to embrace the principles of reducing, reusing and recycling, while developing creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Lactalis Botswana marketing manager, Ms Bakwena Maphakwane, said the campaign was designed to help young people recognise that materials commonly regarded as waste still had value beyond their original purpose.

The initiative comes as Bonnita celebrates its 60th anniversary, marking six decades of being part of the lives of Batswana.

Ms Maphakwane said the milestone provided an opportunity not only to reflect on the brand's history, but also to consider the future it wanted to help create, with sustainability forming part of that vision.

Bonnita expressed appreciation to all 18 participating schools for the creativity, enthusiasm and teamwork demonstrated by learners throughout the challenge.

The initiative also drew attention to Botswana's ongoing challenges relating to littering and waste management.

Department of environmental protection director, Ms Ingrid Mpundu Chite, said introducing children to waste recovery at an early age could help cultivate responsible habits and encouraged them to see possibilities in materials that would otherwise be discarded.

For the learners, the challenge offered more than an opportunity to compete for prize money. It demonstrated that something as ordinary as a milk carton could be transformed into something useful, creative and even prize-winning.

The initiative therefore turned waste into art while giving young learners a practical lesson in sustainability, creativity and responsible waste management.

BOPA



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said the government's hands were currently tied by the legal complexities of the BCL liquidation process and acknowledged that several commitments made to employees following the mine's closure in October 2016 remained unfulfilled.

Govt to compensate former BCL mine workers

Kelebogile Taolo
FRANCISTOWN

Government will be in a position to compensate former BCL Mine workers once the ongoing liquidation process is officially concluded, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa has said.

Addressing Francistown City and North East District council leadership in a joint meeting on Thursday in Francistown he said government's

hands were currently tied by legal complexities of the liquidation.

The Minister acknowledged that several commitments made to employees following the mine's closure in October 2016 remain unfulfilled.

He was specifically citing the promised 18 month payment and other outstanding benefits.

Mr Mohwasa, however, clarified that government would not be providing compensation in the exact form of the original 18-month soft landing agreement.

He assured stakeholders that the matter was being treated with due diligence and that a resolution was being sought for the affected workers.

On housing, the minister further noted that former Tati Nickel mine houses had been sold to Botswana Defence Force.

He said there were currently no mine-owned residential properties available in Francistown.

Commenting on the update, the two councils appreciated the minister's visit to address them on the matter, adding

that the liquidation process had taken too long and was frustrating.

They urged the government to expedite the liquidation process, and pointed out that the liquidation proceedings were draining state resources, costing government more money that could be better utilised to provide critical support to former employees affected by the mine closure.

BCL Mine, a state-owned enterprise, ceased operations in October 2016 after government placed it under provisional liquidation due to losses. **BOPA**

Panelists endorse ConCourt ability to address injustice

Mothusi Galekhutle
LETLHAKENG

Panelists in a debate relating to the proposed establishment of a Constitutional Court argue that the specialised court will play a crucial role in interpreting, safeguarding and nullifying laws that infringe on fundamental human rights and the Constitution.

Deliberating at a ConCourt debate at Letlhakeng recently, the five panelists expressed their endorsement of the initiative.

They further emphasised that the ConCourt would protect the rights of marginalised communities and ensured equitable representation, particularly within Ntlo ya Dikgosi.

One of the panelists, Mr Jimmy Thukwi, a student attorney, said that the ConCourt would interpret the Constitution to make sure that certain fundamental human rights were not compromised.

He added that it would also safeguard the rights of minority groups. He said that it would ensure that no law was

inconsistent with the Constitution.

However, he criticised Bogosi Act of 2008 and the Tribal Land Act, stating that the two pieces of legislation contained provisions that promote unfair tribal discrimination.

Therefore, he expressed hope that the ConCourt would help address identified injustices existing in some pieces of legislation.

Another panelist, Letlhakeng MP, Brigadier Domcaza Mokgwathi, said the ConCourt would preserve the basic human rights enshrined in the Constitution and serve as a voice for the voiceless.

He added that it would also reinforce democratic principles.

Mr Thobo Nthukwi stated that ConCourt would interpret the Constitution and safeguard fundamental human rights, including freedom of association and other human rights protections.

Other panelists, including Mr Mosupi Motsonono and Ms Tetelelo Dinoge, expressed similar views, stating that the introduction of the ConCourt was well-timed.

From the audience, Mr Mafoko Dingake said that the ConCourt would

provide solutions to human rights violations faced by citizens and would serve even the most disadvantaged members of the community.

Mr Maikgantsho Ramontsho called for an overhaul of the Constitution before setting up a ConCourt.

He warned that if the country establishes the ConCourt before refining its Constitution, the former might set incorrect precedents as it would base its judgments on an inconsistent Constitution.

He said without prior overhaul of the Constitution, the ConCourt will serve and be dictated to by what was contained in the supreme law of the country and by so doing only protected and served what was contained in the Constitution.

"Ideally, the ConCourt should enforce laws that are clearly established in the Constitution or abolish laws that contradict it," he said.

Mr Lefty Ramotshwai said that the timing was not appropriate, therefore urging government to give preference to Constitutional review before setting up a ConCourt. **BOPA**

Mr Jimmy Thukwi, a student attorney expressed hope that the establishment of the ConCourt would help address the identified injustice existing in some pieces of legislation.

Arts
& Culture

Thomas turns heads in Vietnam

Benita Magopane
GABORONE

Miss World Botswana, Ruth Thomas has built a fashion identity defined by elegance and appreciation for both contemporary design and cultural heritage.

It is perhaps her background in clothing and textiles that has allowed her to stay fashionably on point every single day at the ongoing 73rd Miss World competitions currently taking place in Vietnam.

Whatever the case may be, it is evident that Thomas and her styling team are doing something right considering Batswana’s constant raving praises for her online.

Miss World Botswana fans are not exactly known for holding back criticism if their observant eye catches anything amiss. From an elegant smoky silver and corset style jumpsuit as she heads out dinner, to outfits that pay homage to Botswana’s identity as she walked the World Fashion Designer round competition in a royal blue leteisi by MET Designs, Thomas has proven herself a force to be reckoned with.

Perhaps the most head turning outfit the 24 year-old has adorned, was the dramatic high thigh slit, avant-garde black couture gown with a distinctly sculptural and mysterious aesthetic, of NĒT Collection by Hoàng Minh Hà for the Top Model finale competition, which saw her emerge at the Top 6 in Africa.

However, her most intriguing signature fashion piece yet, is her statement head piece, which has divided opinion online.

Needless to say, Thomas has still held her own, serving fashion statement to glamour statement at every turn.

So far, she must still fight an uphill battle to the Top 40 in the ongoing People’s Choice Award competition of which she currently stands at the Top 5 in the global leader board.

Thomas has secured 124 781 votes as announced by the Miss World Botswana organisation three days ago.

However, they highlighted that she would need four million five hundred to reach the Top 40 by September 4, just a day before the Miss World finale. BOPA



Miss World Botswana, Ruth Thomas has built a fashion identity defined by elegance and appreciation for both contemporary design and cultural heritage. Courtesy of Miss World Botswana

Karyn White in Botswana for GIMC



Karyn White

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

The 12th edition of the Gaborone International Music and Culture Week (GIMC) featuring US R&B star Karyn White kicks off on Saturday at Bojanala Waterfront.

The annual week-long festival celebrates local and international diversity in the creative space. The event continues to be one of the fastest growing in the region, and Karyn White as a headline act is a boost to GIMC.

“Her being our headline artist for this year’s event will certainly boost GIMC because she is a high-profile artists who has been in the industry for a long time with a huge following,” said event organiser Fish Pabalinga. More brand interest toward GIMC is also anticipated.

“Bringing artists of this calibre shows how serious we are about quality entertainment

and engagement for our clients,” Pabalinga said adding that GIMC positioned itself as a go to festival for both entertainment, networking and culture exchange.

Fans from across the region are expected to grace the event to also experience a rich local line-up of Sereetsi and the Natives, Ezra Neethings who both have a huge following in the region, Han C as well as some of South Africa acts including Amanda Black and Encore.

The schedule of events for GIMC with a packed line-up of cultural entertainment will start off with Fitness Challenge at GICC on Friday, followed by GIMC Jazz Festival on Saturday at Bojanala Waterfront. Champagne Picnic is scheduled for September 6 at Wagga Gardens, making way for a week of Poetry at Botswana Craft, Comedy at Avani as well as Clap & Tap at Boipuso Hall, Fairgrounds. BOPA



Zimbabwe clinches region 5 darts championship crown

Tankiso Mogapi
GABORONE

Zimbabwe has emerged as the overall champion of the 32nd African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Senior Darts Championship.

Host nation Botswana secured a strong second-place finish, while South Africa rounded out the podium in third.

The flagship tournament convened top-tier talent from across Southern Africa at Aquarian Tide Hotel in Gaborone including Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia, eSwatini, and Namibia to showcase elite regional competition while reinforcing cross-border diplomacy and camaraderie through sport.

Delivering the closing remarks on Saturday, Botswana Darts Association (BODA) president, Pinkie Makhale commended the athletes and organisers for executing a seamless and highly competitive tournament.

She noted that the event highlighted exceptional sportsmanship and underscored the unifying power of athletics within the region.

“More importantly, we have witnessed the spirit of unity, friendship, and regional solidarity that sports continues to bring to our nations,” Makhale said.

Makhale emphasised the strategic need for continued investment in grassroots programmes and youth pathways to ensure long-term sustainability.

“The future of darts depends on developing talent, supporting our players and officials, and creating opportunities for the next generation to take this sport even further,” she said.

The competition featured diverse categories including Senior Men and Women, Under-25, and Veterans providing a comprehensive platform for athletes across all stages of their sporting careers.

Adding to the call for development, Region 5 Darts Federation president, Meynard Moyo advocated for greater structural support and institutional recognition for the sport.

Moyo urged sports ministries and governing bodies to explicitly include darts within national facility planning, financial allocations, and sports integrity policies.

He further lauded the discipline and professionalism demonstrated by the athletes, framing it as essential for elevating the profile of darts across the continent.

As the 32nd edition concluded, stakeholders are expected to build on the momentum generated by the championships by expanding participation, strengthening youth development programmes and securing greater sponsorship for future regional competitions.

BOPA



A total of 41 local swimmers are expected to take advantage of home ground and wade their way to stardom at the ongoing African Aquatics Zone IV Championships, held at the University of Botswana swimming pool. Photo: Washa Bofelwang

Local swimmers ready for Zone IV action

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

A total of 41 local swimmers are today expected to take advantage of home ground and wade their way to stardom at the ongoing African Aquatics Zone IV Championships, held at the University of Botswana (UB) Olympic-size swimming pool.

The regional showpiece, which concludes on Saturday, has seen Team Botswana field a competitive blend of emerging youth and seasoned swimmers aimed at

hoisting the country’s flag high. Expectations are high within the local camp, as medal prospects like Jade Chilisa are ready to deliver on the big stage.

“Training has been going very well, although I suffered an injury at one point and missed some sessions. However, I managed to get back into the pool and maintained consistency.

“I am very excited for this competition and just pray everything goes well because anything can happen. Training under Coach Coulter every single day has been great, and I am ready for the challenge,” he said.

Rayhan Khonat said his rigorous preparation, combining intensive pool mileage and strength training, has put him in prime condition.

“I have been through a very tough training block, so I feel highly prepared. I have put in a lot of mileage coming into this competition,” he said.

Despite the high stakes of a home championship, Khonat emphasised that he was not under pressure, choosing instead to embrace the atmosphere.

“My focus is more on enjoying the competition on home soil. It is an enjoyable experience to swim in front of a home crowd, so I do not feel any

pressure,” he said.

Botswana Swimming Sports Association (BSSA) president and LOC chairperson Kgaotsang Matthews said they had assembled a team of good swimmers.

“We have all the faith in you. Swim as hard as you can. I know you will do whatever you can to achieve what you need to achieve. No pressure. No pressure whatsoever,” she said.

The event has attracted 13 countries from the region, with the exception of the Comoros. More than 315 swimmers are expected to take to the blocks, supported by approximately 100 technical officials. BOPA



Kgaotsang Matthews