

# DailyNews

THE PAPER  
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Wednesday October 2, 2024 No. 183

<https://dailynews.gov.bw>

**BOTSWANA  
DECIDES**

**VOTE**

ONLY **28** DAYS LEFT

October 30

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Legends match arouses nostalgia

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# Celebrations opportunity to shape destiny



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi arriving at the National Stadium to celebrate Botswana's 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence with the nation on Monday. Those in attendance were treated to the traditional Independence Day fare of military parade, aeroplane flypast and parachute landing, calisthenics, as well as cultural dance and music performances. In his Independence Day message, President Masisi urged the nation to not only reflect on past achievements, but shape a prosperous destiny.

Photo: Pheny Moalosi

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# Honours, awards appreciation of dedication

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - The Botswana Honours and Awards are a special occasion to honour and recognise Batswana who have contributed in one way or the other to socio-economic upliftment of the country, the Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng has said.

Giving welcome remarks at the 2024 Botswana Honours and Awards ceremony in Gaborone on Sunday, Mr Morwaeng said the nation's appreciation of a job well done by the awardees.

The 2024 Botswana Honours and Awards saw 48 individuals receiving awards in four categories namely: Naledi Ya Botswana (NYB), Presidential Order of Honour (PH), Presidential Order of Meritorious Service (PMS) and Presidential Certificate of Honour (PCH).

Mr Morwaeng said some of the recipients were being recognised posthumously.

"We remain eternally appreciative of their indelible legacies," he said.

Mr Morwaeng said the awards also celebrated and recognised tireless efforts by the government of Botswana teams that negotiated successfully with De Beers Group. He said the outcome of their work would result in Botswana benefiting significantly through participation in the diamond value chain.

Furthermore, Mr Morwaeng said among the achievements of some of the awardees was the profound result of partnership that had seen Botswana benefiting from the HIV and AIDS care and treatment, enabling near elimination of Mother- to-Child Transmission of HIV.

He said the country was also taking pride in the men and women who contributed to the defence and security not only of the country, but also of SADC at large, as well as those who had impacted the lives of fellow citizens and communities of Botswana with their services.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Boitumelo Gofhamodimo said the event recognised and appreciated the hard work and dedication of men and women who had over many years, served the country selflessly in their different roles in society.

Ms Gofhamodimo said President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi had through his progressive leadership, including the Reset and Reclaim Agenda, guided the nation to become an agile society. "Let us carry forward the spirit of independence, hard

work and unity that has guided us for the past 58 years. The same call should encourage our youth to serve their country with vigour and enthusiasm in order to realise our national vision, Vision 2036," she said.

Ms Gofhamodimo said the awardees had earned accolades through their commitment, diligence and hard work in various sectors of the economy.

"Your dedication in different roles was not without challenges, but you persevered and spent time giving back to your country. You are indeed a source of inspiration to many, if not all Batswana," she said.

**BOPA**



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left) presenting the Presidential Order of Meritorious Service award to Ms Julia Matumo at the 2024 Botswana Honours and Awards ceremony in Gaborone on Sunday. The Botswana Honours and Awards for 2024 were bestowed upon 48 deserving candidates across four categories: Naledi Ya Botswana, Presidential Order of Honour, Presidential Order of Meritorious Service and Presidential Certificate of Honour. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

## Autlwetse launches projects, unveils new logo

By Mothusi Galekhutle

LETLHAKENG - Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Kgotla Autlwetse has launched the Asphalt overlay, road edge repair, and road marking of Letlhakeng internal road funded with P1.2 million, as well as the street lights installation funded to the tune of P2.7 million.

Launching the projects in Letlhakeng, Minister Autlwetse commended Letlhakeng District Council for its commitment to delivering projects despite financial constraints, saying such helped government fulfil its promises to the citizens.

Moreover, he acknowledged challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasised government's

dedication to compensating for lost time in project execution.

He said some funds were used to cushion the effects of the pandemic.

Mr Autlwetse dismissed as untrue, claims that recent government projects launches were purely public relations strategies. He emphasised the necessity of infrastructure development regardless of whether it was an election year or not. He said government could not abdicate its responsibilities just because it was an election year.

The minister expressed concern over reports of Village Development Committee (VDC) members engaging in political activities, citing it as a public outcry. Such, he said, had the potential to affect community

members with no political affiliations.

To address the issue, he said, there was a need for guidelines to determine suitable candidates for VDC positions.

He regretted the inability of VDC to maintain own infrastructure such as houses, urging the committee to utilise revenues from rentals on maintenance rather than relying on council.

Lack of accountability within VDC offices, he said was a worrisome issue needing immediate attention.

Meanwhile, Letlhakeng District Council chairperson, Mr. Anderson Mathibe, reaffirmed the council's commitment to prioritising projects that benefitted the broader community.

Minister Autlwetse also unveiled the Letlhakeng council's new logo and officially handed over to the community the completed projects for 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 period.

The projects included Letlhakeng bus rank, installation of solar streetlights at Letlhakeng bus rank, paving of roads in Letlhakeng, Khudumelapye, Motokwe, spot improvement at Moshaweng, Maboane, and Motokwe.

They also included gravelling of Salajwe road, bush clearing of access roads, and demarcated plots layout in Letlhakeng, Metsibothoko, and Sesung, patching of potholes in Letlhakeng and Ditshegwane, as well as dry grading of 400 km roads across the district among others. **BOPA**



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (fourth right), Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng (right), deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Pono Moathodi (fourth left), envoys and other dignitaries during a State Reception hosted by the President and First Lady Neo at the State House on Monday, to commemorate Botswana's 58th Independence anniversary. Guests, among them, the Olympians and Independence Day award recipients were treated to an evening of traditional cuisine and music from Socca Moruakgomo and Nono Siile. Photo: Yobe Shonga

# Masisi honours 48 for contribution to dev.

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has honoured 48 individuals for their outstanding contributions to the nation's development.

The President presented the awards to the recipients during the Botswana Honours and Awards 2024 on Sunday.

The awards and honours categories were: Naledi Ya Botswana (NYB), the Presidential Order of Honour (PH), the Presidential Order of Meritorious Service (PMS), and the Presidential Certificate of Honour (PCH).

Recipients of the Naledi Ya Botswana, awarded for exemplary service to the country, included the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Lefoko Moagi. Mr Moagi played a pivotal role as the lead negotiator during the negotiations with De Beers that culminated in a 10-year sales agreement for Debswana's rough diamond production.

Additionally, members of the 2011 Botswana negotiating team involved in the discussions of a new deal were also celebrated. They included Mr Eric Molale, Dr Athalia Molokomme, the late Ms Linah Mohohlo, Messrs Solomon Sekwakwa, Gabaake Gabaake, Boikobo Paya and Terence Siamisang.

Members of the Botswana negotiating team with De Beers from June 2023 onwards being Ms Emmah Peloetletse, Ms Mmako Abram, Advocate Abraham Keetshabe, Mr Cornelius Dekop, Mr Moses Pelaelo, Mr Olesitse Masimega, Dr Wilfred Mandlebe, Mr Pelaelo Khowe, Ms Ellen Richard-Madisa, Dr Obolokile Obakeng, Mr Johannes Tsimako and Mr Bame Pule were also pinned with Naledi Ya Botswana.

The Presidential Order of Honour is awarded for efficient and devoted service to the country. Notably, Ms Peggy Serame, the first woman appointed Minister of Finance, received this award.

Previously, Serame held the position of Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry. Her achievements include participation in the World Bank's Voice Secondment Programme and recognition as a 2022 nominee for the Women Achievers Awards.

Professor Paul Klotman, president and CEO of the Baylor College of Medicine, was also honoured with the Presidential Order of Honour, as acknowledgement for his role in establishing the Botswana-Baylor Trust in 2003, which led to the opening of Africa's first pediatric HIV clinic.

His initiative has positively impacted over 39 000 children and family members affected by HIV and AIDS.

Among the recipients of the Presidential Order of Meritorious Service was reigning Miss World Africa, Lesego Chombo.

As the founder of the Lesego Chombo Foundation, she has dedicated her efforts to improving living conditions for families in poverty, seeking to reduce socio-

economic disparities between urban and rural communities.

Posthumous honours were awarded to Mr John Leo Kgaboesele, a respected politician known for providing sanctuary to refugees during apartheid. His residence in Lobatse has since become the

Samora Machel Museum. The late Prophet Jacob Mokgweetsi Mokaleng Motswasele, founder of the Spiritual Healing Church, received the Presidential Certificate of Honour for his contribution to spiritual healing and community building, having established 58 church branches

across Botswana and Namibia.

Ms Keneilwe Mpuang was among recipients of the Presidential Certificate of Honour. She was honoured for her impactful 36-year teaching career, significantly shaping the lives of young people in her community. **BOPA**



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left) awarding Naledi Ya Botswana to Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Lefoko Moagi during Botswana Honours awards in Gaborone on Sunday. Minister Moagi was the lead negotiator during the negotiations with De Beers that culminated in a 10-year diamond sales agreement. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

## Tsogwane encourages Batswana to vote in numbers

By Kabo Keaketswe

RAKOPS - Vice President Slumber Tsogwane has encouraged Batswana to vote in large numbers during the October 30 polls.

Speaking during Independence Day celebration in Rakops, Mr Tsogwane advised those who have registered to vote in the upcoming general elections to keep their registration cards safe and ensure that their identity cards were valid.

Mr Tsogwane emphasised the importance of voting, saying it was a way of protecting the peace and democracy that had prevailed in the country since 1966.

Because of the free and fair elections since independence, the Vice President said Botswana had been a shining example of democracy to other African states.

He also commended churches for their role in ensuring citizens' uprightness, adding that they played a critical role in the peace and tranquillity prevailing in the country.

Still at the event, Mr Tsogwane, who is former Boteti West MP assured Rakops residents that government would assist where possible in this drought period.

He encouraged farmers to prepare well in time for ploughing as the season was approaching.

Mr Tsogwane highlighted that farming was a typical lifestyle of a Motswana, hence the younger generation should embrace it and continue the legacy of their forefathers.

For his part, Kgosi Jacob Diane of Rakops, commended the country for having maintained stability and harmony since independence.

He noted some countries had experienced civil wars because of political instability. **BOPA**

## Celebrations opportunity to reflect, shape destiny

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - As the pomp and ceremony that accompanied the main 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of independence celebrations at the National Stadium on Monday enthralled the public, the nation was urged to not only reflect on past achievement, but shape a prosperous destiny.

In his Independence Day message to the nation, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi said the meaning of Botswana Day was not only in the attainment of statehood and sovereignty, as well as the milestones realised by an independent republic, but a cause to seek a bright future for the nation.

"Fifty eight years ago, September 30 1966, Botswana emerged from the shadows of being a British protectorate where she had limited governmental power and economic prospects. As a people, we stepped into the

light of self-determination and sovereignty. Notwithstanding this beautiful story of our past, our independence celebration is also a critical moment of reflection to take stock of the journey we have travelled as a people, and reflect on our future as we move forward with nation building," Dr Masisi said.

Noting that Botswana had risen to become a beacon of hope, political and economic stability on the African continent, President Masisi rallied the nation towards the future, noting that government had paved the way by introducing policies, projects and programmes highlighting the quest for sustainable development, inclusive growth and prosperity for all.

Held under the theme: Mindset Change; Transforming Minds, Shaping Botswana's Destiny, this year's independence celebration was held at a point when the

country is working on practical steps towards achieving the aims of the National Vision 2036 of attaining high income status.

Independence day marked exactly a month before the October 30 general elections that will usher in the country's 13<sup>th</sup> Parliament and government that would drive the 12<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP 12) set to commence next year and guide the country towards the realisation of the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the National Vision 2036.

At the National Stadium, those in attendance including President Masisi, First Lady Neo, cabinet ministers and various other dignitaries, were treated to the traditional Independence Day fare of military parade, aeroplane flypast and parachute landing, calisthenics, as well as cultural dance and music performances. **BOPA**



# BOTSWANA DECIDES

## Four presidential candidates

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - Leaders of Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Botswana Congress Party (BCP), Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) and Botswana Patriot Front (BPF) have been declared as presidential candidates for the 2024 general elections.

Their candidacy was confirmed at the Gaborone High Court on Saturday by Chief Justice Terrence Rannowane in his capacity as the returning officer.

The four presidential candidates are: sitting President, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi of BDP, Mr Dumelang Saleshando of BCP, Advocate Duma Boko of UDC and Mr Mephato Reatile of BPF.

The above-mentioned, Justice Rannowane declared "have been validly nominated as candidates for presidential election, by reason of having a name in a nomination paper that complies with Section 5, of the Presidential Elections (Supplementary Provisions) Act and for whom I have counted not less than 998 authenticated support papers."

Additionally, to qualify for nomination as a presidential candidate, a candidate must be nominated by a proposer and a seconder and also by not less than 998 supporters, being persons who were registered as voters for the purpose of elections to the National Assembly, he explained.

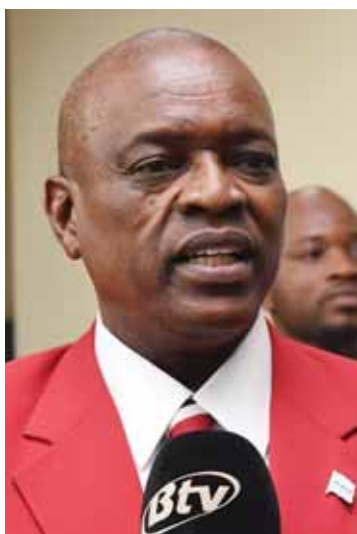
In line with the Presidential Elections (Supplementary Provisions) Act Cap 02:01, nomination of presidential candidates followed the expiry of 20 days after dissolution of the National Assembly by President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi on September 5.

Meanwhile, Justice Rannowane announced that Botswana Republican Party (BRP) leader, Mr Biggie Butale failed to qualify for nomination, as a Presidential candidate due to failure to comply with the legal requirements, as set out in the Presidential Elections Act.

"We received 987 support papers from the BRP and 979 were authenticated while eight were rejected. Therefore, Mr Butale of BRP has failed to comply with the requirements of the law- that you should be nominated by a proposer and a seconder and not less than 998 supporters. For that reason, he has failed to qualify for nomination as a presidential candidate," he said.

"I regret this apparent figure, but then he came quite late and obviously when you come late and your papers are not in order, you have robbed yourself an opportunity to run around and try rectify the situation," he added.

The 2024 general elections are set for October 30. **BOPA**



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi



Mr Dumelang Saleshando



Advocate Duma Boko



Mr Mephato Reatile

## Prospective candidates make promises to Tlokweng voters

By Baleseng Batlotleng

TLOKWENG - Three Tlokweng constituency parliamentary aspirants on Saturday went for the jugular in a highly charged Radio Botswana live debate.

The trio, Mr Thulagano Segokgo of Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Mr Masego Segokgo of Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and Mr Pheny Segokgo of Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) presented their plans in an effort to convince Tlokweng electorate to vote for them on October 30.

Mr Segokgo of the UDC decried the alarming numbers of unemployed youth in Tlokweng.

He said instead of funding Air Botswana to purchase aircraft, government could have considered the construction of a school in Tlokweng.

Mr Segokgo said while serving as chairperson of Tlokweng District Council he had proposed in the district development plan that a primary hospital be built in Tlokweng to decongest Princess Marina Hospital.

He said with Tlokweng being the fourth largest village in Botswana, his party would take advantage of the numbers and establish industries and manufacturing sites to economically benefit residents.

He said given a chance the UDC-led government would promote urban agriculture and urban farming as the village was next to Madikwe Game Reserve.

He said urban tourism opportunities were abundant in the village.

On matters of land, Mr Segokgo said UDC called for a comprehensive land audit.

He said in an effort to address

shortage of land in Tlokweng his party would procure land in freehold farms such as Ruretse.

Mr Segokgo of the BCP said lack of land in Tlokweng was reversing economic gains of Batlokwa.

He said health facilities were poorly managed, which led to avoidable deaths. He also said the education system was poor which led to lack of extracurricular activities in schools.

He said the road networks projects currently underway in the village were just a political gimmick to entice voters.

He said BCP was ready to provide solutions to challenges facing Batswana.

Mr Segokgo said corruption was rising as some individuals were looking to line up their pockets with funds allocated to projects.

He said he was worried that some projects included in the

Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) had not been started though the plan was coming to an end in four months.

He also disparaged the Tlokweng District Development Plan as a document not well thought of as its master plan was also not provided.

Mr Segokgo of the BDP said the ruling party had a track record of delivering on its promises espoused in its manifesto.

He said BDP government was engaged in major infrastructural development projects such as water, road networks and quality primary health provision.

He said programmes such as Thuo Letlotlo and Temo Letlotlo were proof that BDP was committed to improving livelihoods of Batswana.

He promised voters that a primary hospital was in the pipeline.

Mr Segokgo said industrialisation and manufacturing were part and parcel of his party's manifesto aspirations.

He said mineral beneficiation was also earmarked to benefit citizens.

He said BDP government had also explored the pharmaceutical sector as Botswana had shown potential in producing its own medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

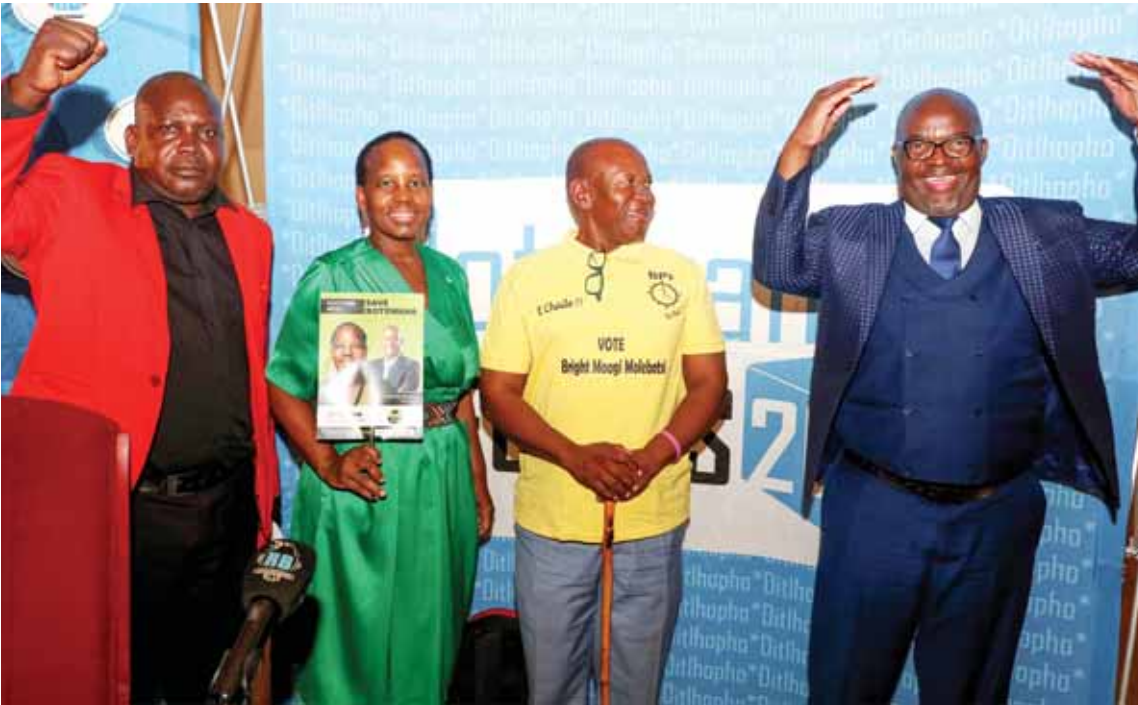
Mr Segokgo said the economic recovery and transformation plan had resulted in some of the ongoing projects in Tlokweng such roads.

Regarding the Air Botswana purchase of the Embraer aircraft Mr Segokgo said the procurement was done to increase the company's fleet and improve efficiency.

On land issues, he said Tlokweng Land Board had set aside 1 050 plots for allocation and had so far allocated 949 while a further 147 would be serviced and allocated. **BOPA**



Tlokweng constituency prospective parliamentary candidates, Mr Pheny Segokgo of UDC (left), Mr Masego Segokgo of BCP (centre) and Mr Thulagano Segokgo of BDP during a Radio Botswana debate in Tlokweng on Saturday. Candidates raised issues of youth unemployment, school sport, economic diversification, land and roads development as some of the key issues that they would tackle once elected. Photo: Tshepo Gombo



**Kgatlang West constituency prospective parliamentary candidates, Mr Daniel Molokwe of BDP (left), Dr Unity Dow of BCP (second left), Mr Kenneth Rapoo of UDC (second right) and Mr Bright Molebatsi of BPF during a Radio Botswana debate in Mochudi recently. Candidates highlighted several pressing issues they aimed to tackle when elected, such as land disputes, inadequate health facilities, educational deficiencies, unemployment and corruption. Photo: Tshepo Gombo**

## Land, unemployment issues dominate kgatleng West debate

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

**MOCHUDI** - Shortage of residential land and unemployment were on the spotlight during the Parliamentary Radio Botswana debates for Kgatleng West Constituency.

All four prospective parliamentary candidates mentioned the two as major factors, which challenged them to seek a seat in the national assembly.

The candidates; Botswana Congress Party (BCP), Dr Unity Dow, Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Mr Daniel Molokwe, Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), Mr Bright Molebatsi and Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), Mr Kenneth Rapoo concurred that more needed to be done to improve the constituency.

Mr Rapoo said if voted, he would advocate for better health services, adding that clinics in the constituency were overwhelmed and not staffed to deal with complex illnesses, adding that specialist services were also needed in severe cases.

He also submitted that the vastness of the constituency coupled with difficult terrain made it difficult for ambulances to assist emergency patients on time.

"In some instances patients from Kgomodiatsaba, Artesia, Leshibitse and Bodungwane lost lives due to these bad roads during their transit to health facilities," he said.

Mr Rapoo also said the education system should be overhauled because it no longer served purpose.

He complained of lack of manufacturing industries that could spur economic activities and thereby create employment opportunities.

He opined that UDC was the only party that can improve Botswana's lives.

Under UDC leadership, among other incentives he said pensioners would receive P1 800 monthly allowance, tertiary students P2 500 and the same would apply to Ipelegeng workers.

BPF's Mr Molebatsi said Kgatleng West should be well developed given that A1 road, which connects the southern and

the northern part of the country lies in the heart of the constituency.

He said A1 road alone was a catalyst for economic activities and should be able to attract industries to be established along the road starting from Mmamashia to Dibete, thereby generating some jobs for residents.

He said the A1 road was the only low hanging fruit that should be utilised to attract industries, adding that another added advantage was that the railway line also lied adjacent to the A1, which he said should also be used to ferry goods to industries along the A1.

He submitted that Bokaa dam was also another oasis of wealth if it was utilised for horticultural farming.

He envisioned a constituency with more infrastructural road networks enabling movement of the people within the constituency, without heavily relying on the A1 main road.

Mr Molebatsi also said Kgatleng West had poor road networks that should be tarred, adding that measures be put in place to take care of such roads.

"We also need a police station in Kgatleng West at Bokaa," he said.

He also spoke against corruption which he said deprived Kgatleng West developments.

In her submission, BCP's Dr Unity Dow said she was the most suitable candidate to represent Kgatleng West, which she said was the most affected by poverty.

She said the constituency was under developed and poverty stricken as there was high number of unemployed people, while most relied on Ipelegeng, which hired on rotational basis.

Dr Dow said that poor economic performance of the country greatly affected residents, most of whom looked up to government for daily survival.

Dr Dow also said the constituency lacked manufacturing industries to create employment for the Residents.

She said the constituency also needed a police station to increase visibility of police in far and remote areas such as Kgomodiatsaba.

She also opined that Deborah Retief Hospital in Mochudi was

too small for Kgatleng District population and was in a dilapidated state, and not well resourced.

Given a chance, she said, BCP manifesto had a clear direction as to how they could turn around the economy to improve residents' lives.

This, she said would be achieved through good policies, good governance and prudent use of funds for developmental projects.

She said BCP government would come up with policy shifts to ensure that standards were followed, introduction of child grants and further ensured that labour laws were respected.

BDP's Mr Molokwe submitted that Kgatleng District had made strides in improving some of the services in the district including encouraging businesses to set up in the district.

He said he was better placed to represent the residents because he understood the district better than the trio, because when he served as the district council chairperson, he traversed the entire constituency.

He acknowledged that lack of employment was the topical issue in the entire district including Kgatleng West, adding that Ipelegeng was never meant to be a permanent employment, but a temporary relief initiative.

In that regard, he said the District Development Plan had some plans to revitalise the Kgatleng economic activities by attracting investors who would spur economic activities and employ more people.

He said Bokaa-Kopong, Lentsweletau-Rasesa and Artesia-Kgomodiatsaba were some of the roads that should be improved.

"At council level, there are some roads that are not under our jurisdiction, but as a Member of Parliament, I will advocate better for improvement of these roads," he said.

Mr Molokwe said the hospital was on cards and that he was aware that the health system was not performing well in some areas, but said strides had been made in some services.

He also said although DRM was old, the hospital had state of the art equipment in laboratories and other amenities. **BOPA**

## Moshupa/Manyana prospective candidates woo voters

By Keonee Majoto

**MOSHUPA** - In a bid to sway votes in their favour, three prospective candidates seeking to claim the Moshupa-Manyana parliamentary seat in next month's general elections, each dangled a carrot before the electorate in a live Radio Botswana debate on Wednesday, presenting to them a wide array of promises.

While the three candidates from the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) and the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) generally concurred on the challenges that the constituency is faced with, they each fought hard to stay ahead of the pack, every one of them working hard to convince the voters that he was best suited to chart a brand new course for the area.

Among the promises he made, The BDP prospective parliamentary candidate, Mr Karabo Gare, said once voted into office, he would work hard to inculcate in the people of Moshupa-Manyana the spirit of entrepreneurship.

"In terms of entrepreneurship, this constituency is lagging behind. The number and types of businesses in it, their size and turnover are all indicative of a culture in which entrepreneurship is regarded as not important," he said.

Instilling a culture of entrepreneurship, he said, would put residents of the constituency in good stead to contribute significantly to both the local and national economy, thereby helping efforts to drive economic growth and diversification.

"The lack of entrepreneurial drive doesn't affect just the people of Moshupa-Manyana, it is a nationwide problem. And if changing the (educational) curriculum is what it will take to instil in our people the spirit of entrepreneurship, let us do so," he said.

Mr Gare attributed the low uptake of government empowerment initiatives in the constituency to this lack of entrepreneurial drive, promising voters that once given a fresh mandate, the BDP government would do its absolute best to reverse the trend.

In yet another promise, Mr Gare said his party would continue to push efforts to create a conducive environment necessary for the private sector to thrive, in an effort to move Botswana's economy away from being government-led.

He said unlike its private sector-led version, a government-led economy is prone to reacting negatively to economic shocks.

The UDC prospective parliamentary candidate, Mr Moses Loeto, said once in office, he would advocate for the improvement of conditions of service of the health personnel in line with his party's vision to overhaul the health sector and make it more responsive to people's needs.

"When we assume power, the exodus of health workers to other countries will stop. We will improve their conditions of service. We will raise their salaries and

ensure they are well-matched with those of the countries they keep emigrating to," he said.

Mr Loeto said employment creation was also among the top priorities that they have set for themselves.

He said their motto 'Decent Lives; Decent Jobs', underlined the UDC's deep-seated commitment to ensure that Botswana have good access to opportunities for decent work that also pays well.

Mr Loeto said he would also ensure that the people of Moshupa-Manyana benefit from natural resources found in their area such as rivers and streams.

"Our natural resources are being plundered by people who shouldn't be benefiting from them and the BDP government is just sitting and watching," he said, referring to among a couple of other things the illegal mining of sand in the Moshupa-Manyana constituency.

Mr Pako Monageng of the BCP said his party would revolutionise Botswana's land management system and ensure that the citizens enjoy better and easier access to land.

One of the wrongs that he said the BCP government would address is the lack of foresight in allocating land, alleging that land authorities at times allocated residential plots in areas suitable for other uses such as agriculture.

"In the Manyana-Mogonye area, we have an area called Seshaba that is rich with a special type of grass that we use to thatch our roundavels, and recently we saw the land board allocating residential plots there," he said, contesting that such a move threatened the continued existence of the grass species and went against the spirit of environmental preservation.

Mr Monageng said they would also make access to land for residential purposes easier to curb crowding in households.

Further he said once in power, the BCP would make Botswana's education system accommodative of all tribes, saying in its present state, it was discriminatory.

"We want the mother-tongue instruction in schools to be adopted and practiced in respect to every local language," he said.

In the end when the three candidates were each granted a moment to make that final plea for votes, Mr Monageng succinctly summed up his plea with, "Re neeleng puso," assuring the electorate that the BCP is the best party in whose hands they could commit the country's future.

"Give me a chance to complete what I have started," Mr Gare closed his remarks, assuring the voters that based on what he had achieved as area Member of Parliament in the past five years, he still had more to offer.

Mr Loeto on the one hand said the UDC would do wonders for Moshupa-Manyana and Botswana as a whole in terms of developments.

"We are going to bring about sustainable developments; developments that ooze life," he said in summation of his deliberation. **BOPA**



# Organisation to promote tourism

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - To exploit opportunities in tourism, Botswana and Zimbabwe must work together to enhance and develop their tourism

sectors.

Zimbabwe Youth in Tourism organisation cultural expert and mentor in tourism, Dr Munyuki Ncube has said, noting that it will also promote the cultural tourism

aspect,

He made the remarks during the annual Botswana Tourism Tour Guide competition and expo themed; Promoting sustainable tourism to rural communities

through health issues, wilderness service and cultural tourism held at Lunar Garden in Maun recently.

He also pledged to collaborate with the founder of the competition to promote cross cultural understanding through tourism.

Dr Ncube said both countries could initiate a tourism ambassadorial programme and organize cultural and food exchange expos to discover both countries wilderness, culture and lifestyle.

He said the tourism ambassadors could inspire tourism partnerships, operators, and volunteers among others to turn every visitor encounter into a positive experience.

"Through the expos, we could learn from each other, appreciate diverse cultures, food, music and dance as well as enjoy everything about our cultures and countries," Dr Ncube added.

Both countries, he said could also have language and tourism

programme where they learn to communicate in diverse languages, citing that language was important in tourism as it acted as a gateway to local environment, adding that proper communication channels help promote sustainable tourism.

He acknowledged the establishment of community trusts in Botswana, saying it was impressive, adding how they are operated was what Zimbabwe could benchmark from.

In Zimbabwe, he said they had campfire programmes and hoped that once they start exchange trips, Botswana would learn more on how they work for the benefit of communities.

"Our director general has also emphasized a need for both countries to organise youth in tourism conferences yearly and mentorship programme where stakeholders would inspire youths to partake in tourism as well as empower them create a more sustainable and responsible tourism," he said.

Okavango Research Institute acting deputy director, Dr Oliver Moses appreciated that the event provided youth and community trusts with a platform to participate in tour guide competition and to exhibit their tourism products and services.

Tourism, he said was one of the fastest growing industries and was a catalyst for local community economic activities especially for communities in proximity to Okavango Delta.

He said it was the engine of growth for several Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Botswana citing that through it, CBOs became significant sources of income, employment and poverty alleviation strategies.

"CBOs like village trusts and cooperatives provide an organized and equitable community tourism beneficiation model and the ideal CBOs' arrangement is to empower the community through tourism opportunities with some real spillover effect such as local household entrepreneurial skills enhancement and local products market access and empowering the vulnerable and the poor," added Dr Moses.

He also said tourism played a significant role in preserving and promoting cultural heritage and cultural exchange of local communities.

International and domestic tourists, he said, were often excited to explore communities' unique traditions, customs and historical sites.

"Of recent, there has been an increased demand for cultural experiences, which encourages locals to preserve their traditions and showcase their heritage, hence tourism acts as a bridge for cultural exchange, fostering greater understanding and appreciation between tourists and local communities," he added. **BOPA**



Dignitaries touring Zimbabwe stall during the tour guide competition and expo in Maun recently. Zimbabwe Youth in Tourism organisation cultural expert and mentor in tourism, Dr Munyuki Ncube said to exploit opportunities in tourism, Botswana and Zimbabwe must work together to enhance and develop their tourism sectors as well as to promote the cultural tourism aspect. Photo: Esther Mmolai

# FGH introduces new flagship conference

By Marvin Motlhabane

GABORONE - Botswana's leading pioneer in the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) space, Fairgrounds Holdings (FGH) has added a new flagship conference dubbed Botswana Livestock Breeders Conference (BLBC) to its annual conferences.

The two-day conference, slated to hold yearly augments on the famous consumer fair and targets to support government in promoting and enhancing meat production capacity to meet the international demands.

Briefing BOPA on the BLBC recently, the FGH chief executive officer Ms Gorata Gabaraane said the conference provides a platform for interaction of stakeholders in the livestock breeding including the Ministry of Agriculture.

Ms Gabaraane said the country has a variety of breeds and with scientists introducing new technology on cross breeding to come up with competitive livestock, local farmers were more curious to learn how to enhance their produce.

She said the ideal period of hosting the conference was during the summer season, citing that the period of December to March experienced high rainfall which normally prevented easy movements of livestock.

Considering the conditions imposed by the summer season on livestock, Ms Gabaraane reiterated that they also believed the conference will address issues affecting farmers, particularly on challenges such as drought and

water shortage.

To draw significant output from the conference, she said FGH will invite reputable farmers locally, from South Africa, and specialists such as professors, nutritionists, and veterinarians to impart knowledge and skills with other farmers.

In promoting intense dialogue on the sector, Ms Gabaraane said they will also build synergies with government departments, livestock funders, enablers and beef distributors.

Ms Gabaraane acknowledged that government's reformative plan, recognised FGH as a pivot for the 120 hectares of International Finance and Technology Special Economic Zones (SEZ), therefore said FGH was up for the challenge, and shall ensure that their complementary unrefutably deliver this SEZ.

She said their commitment to MICE strategy will continue to be seen through providing good service, accrediting service providers and building a network of collaborative partners and sharing commercial space with SMMEs.

Meanwhile, FGH marketing coordinator, Ms Ludo Nong said the inaugural BLBC which was held on September 18-19 saw a whopping attendance of 130 participants including breeders, women, and youth.

Ms Nong said the conference attracted participation of key stakeholders from government and the parastatal sector.

"Our speakers represented various industries that are into offering water solutions; LK Beef Ranchers, providing beef cattle record books, and

Mpatlise, specializing in stock management, Techno Feeds, and NARDI explored issues of animal health and welfare for improved production," she said.

She added that two women participated as speakers and demonstrated their ability in

partaking in a male dominated industry of livestock farming.

Moreover, Ms Nong said the feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive and were looking forward to an even bigger and better second edition of the BLBC in 2025. **BOPA**



Fairgrounds Holdings CEO, Ms Gorata Gabaraane said new flagship conference dubbed Botswana Livestock Breeders Conference provided a platform for interaction of stakeholders in the livestock breeding including the Ministry of Agriculture.

# Letsholathebe commends Ditladi Farmers Association

By **Thamani Shabani**

DITLADI - Minister of Education and Skills Development has commended Ditladi Farmers Association for its thoughtful act of kindness. Dr Douglas Letsholathebe said this during Independence Day celebrations following food hampers and mattresses to the elderly of Ditladi by the farmers association

He said their action had inspired others to give to those in need, creating a ripple effect of kindness and compassion throughout the village.

“The generosity by Ditladi Farmers Association during the Independence Day celebrations would always be remembered as a shining example of compassion and care for others,” he added.

Dr Letsholathebe further indicated that in a bid to provide a stronger support for the elderly population of Botswana, the government had introduced programmes and policies aimed at improving their overall well-being and quality of their lives.

He said these initiatives, such as the old age pension allowance and the war veterans allowance underlined government’s commitment toward ensuring a comfortable and dignified life of the senior citizens of this country.

The initiatives, he said showed a significant milestone in government’s effort to addressing the needs of elderly.

He said the allowances enabled them to meet their basic needs and maintain a decent standard of living as they age gracefully.

He said government’s proactive stance in implementing these programmes highlighted its commitment to promoting social welfare and inclusivity for all members of society, including the elderly.

By prioritising the needs of the elderly population and providing them with the necessary support and resources, he said, government wanted to ensure that they lived their golden years in comfort and security.

Furthermore, he said these initiatives underscored government’s recognition of the valuable contributions and wisdom that elderly individuals brought to the society.

He said the initiatives served as a testament to government’s dedication to fostering a society that valued and cared for its senior citizens, to ensure that they were able to age with dignity and security.

Meanwhile, Ditladi Farmers Association chairperson and founder, Ms Lilian Mosweu said the association made a decision to honour the elderly, looking at the contribution they made for Botswana to attain independence.

Ms Mosweu said it was the wisdom and guidance of the elderly that had inspired the

people of Botswana to rise up against colonial rule and fight for their independence.

“They had been the pillars of strength, the voices of reason, and the custodians of tradition during the tumultuous years leading up to Botswana’s independence in 1966,” she said.

She further appealed to Non-Governmental organisations, the private sector, church denominations and individuals to join forces with government to ensure that senior citizens were provided for without fail.

She said currently, there was no a single old age village for the

elderly in Botswana, calling for the establishment of such.

One of the beneficiaries of the donation, Ms Gaile Senthuthe aged 96, who could not contain her excitement and gratitude towards the gesture, commended the association for the act of kindness bestowed upon her and

others in the community, adding that it had provided them with a sense of dignity..

Dr Letsholathebe also donated 30 blankets to the elderly on top of the 30 bed mattresses and food hampers worth close to P15 000 donated by Ditladi Farmers Association. **BOPA**

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# Botswana moves forward



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## **Legislative changes and initiatives regarding wildlife conservation and management from 2019 to date include;**

- **Wildlife Policy (2019):** Botswana updated its National Wildlife Conservation Strategy.
- **Botswana's Hunting Policy:** Aimed to balance conservation efforts with community benefits and economic development through regulated hunting.
- **Access and Benefit Sharing Policy (2020):** To ensure that communities living alongside wildlife benefit from its conservation.
- **The Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act (amendments) :** To strengthen laws pertaining to wildlife conservation, including penalties for poaching and illegal trade.
- **Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM):** Programmes reinforced to enhance community involvement in wildlife management.

# Elephant Protection Society makes strides



Mr Nawa of Elephant Protection Society. Photo: Esther Mmolai

By Esther Mmolai

**MAUN:** Five years after its inception, the Maun-based Elephant Protection Society (EPS) is making significant progress in its mission to promote conservation while fostering co-existence between humans and wildlife.

Founded in 2018, the non-governmental organisation is dedicated to ensuring the survival of elephants and preserving the ecological integrity of their habitats. The EPS works to enhance protection for elephants and educate local communities about their value, as well as the importance of other wildlife species.

In an interview, EPS founder Mr Oaitse Nawa expressed pride in the organisation's achievements, noting its goal to help people live alongside elephants without fear or hostility. Despite facing challenges, he remains committed to his vision of conservation, inspired by a family history rooted in wildlife protection. His great-grandfather was one of the founders of the Moremi Game Reserve, established in the 1960s as a cooperative effort between local communities and conservationists concerned about the adverse effects of hunting and cattle encroachment on wildlife.

The Moremi Game Reserve now safeguards approximately 20 per cent of the Okavango Delta, an area rich in biodiversity. Growing up in a family that revered nature instilled in Mr Nawa a profound love for the wilderness. However, he witnessed firsthand the rising number of elephant-human conflicts as elephant populations expanded into human settlements.

"My mother was a full-time farmer forced to relocate to Maun due to elephants ravaging her crops yearly," Mr Nawa recalled. "I also encountered an elderly man fleeing from elephants while carrying a child, and that experience

deeply affected me. It marked the beginning of my journey to understand elephant behaviour."

His dedication to conservation grew as he volunteered with a renowned photographer well-versed in wildlife tourism. Through this experience, he came to appreciate the unique relationship between humans and elephants. Armed with knowledge about elephant behavior, Mr Nawa began working with local communities to resolve conflicts creatively. He actively engaged farmers to identify specific areas where elephants posed threats and implemented innovative measures to protect their crops without resorting to violence.

Today, the community collaborates closely with EPS, reporting elephant incidents, allowing Mr Nawa to safely redirect them without harm.

"My lifelong love for wildlife, particularly elephants, inspired me to establish this organisation. I aim to educate people to embrace change, viewing elephants not as enemies but as assets that enhance tourism and contribute to our economy," he said.

With the help of some knowledgeable people, he quickly learned how elephants behave and that they could become aggressive if one does not respect their territory.

Since then, Mr Nawa said the knowledge he acquired sparked the fire that was his passion for conservation and pushed him to look for ways to improve the natural world he lived in.

Although he said he did not have adequate resources to execute the organisation's mandate, but with the little he had, he embarked on campaigns with support from other organizations to educate local communities on elephant behaviour and habitat protection with a hope of instilling an understanding of the benefits of conservation.

He walked with farmers to discover specific areas of conflict with elephants and implement creative solutions to keep elephants away from their ploughing fields instead of killing or retaliating, as it was the case before.

Nowadays, members of the communities worked well with the organisation as they always report elephant incidents and in which he would just chase them away without any harm.

"My interest in conservation comes from the love of wildlife, particularly elephants that I have had my entire life and it was this love that prompted me to establish this organisation and educate people to embrace change and not to view the giant species as enemies, but rather value them as they attract tourists who eventually contributed to the country's economy," he added. **BOPA**



Farmers in Kgalagadi lost a total of 244 cattle, 150 sheep and goats as well as 83 horses killed by predators.

## Tackling human-wildlife conflict in KTFP

By Calviniah Kgautlhe

**TSABONG:** In the peripheries of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTFP), just near the wildlife management areas, the thin interface between humans, domestic animals and wild animals exists, resulting in a long 'unending war' between wildlife and humans.

As such, government continues to device interventions to tackle the problem, as human-wildlife conflict is one of the most pressing issues facing biodiversity conservation and sustainable development today.

Department of Wildlife and National Parks, chief wildlife officer for Kgalagadi Mr Mooketsi Solomon admitted that there was a serious challenge of human-wildlife conflict especially in farms near the park, which became rampant during the winter season.

From 2020-2024, Kgalagadi recorded 299 human-wildlife conflict cases where lions, wild dogs and leopards were the most problematic.

Farmers lost a total of 244 cattle, 150 sheep and goats as well as 83 horses killed by predators.

"We have identified the conflict hot spots where we have begun to deploy wildlife staff in those areas. Staff members will now not be seating in the offices waiting for reports. They would now be strategically positioned in hotspot areas to attend to cases close by," he said.

He said even if there were no reports, they would be positioned there and would rotate every two weeks to deal with the challenge. They are expected to find the predators and translocate them inside the park to avoid farmers killing them at an alarming rate.

Mr Solomon highlighted that they have come up with new plans to deal with the rampant human-wildlife conflict.

"We are now going to have Forward Operating Bases, which are temporary camps in areas where incidents occur. We have committed officers that will now be going into trips to stay in the camps for about 15 days. This we hope will reduce the conflict," he said.

He reasoned that waiting in the office for reports caused delays in tackling the problem swiftly as it was a challenge to mobilise resources timely, causing farmers to be agitated and end up killing the animals in defense.

The move, he said, would improve communication and response time as wildlife officers would be visible in farms moving around in conflict hotspot areas

and interacting with farmers and building rapport to make farmers feel safer.

He highlighted that predators were complicated animals and very smart as they would strike domestic animals at night and return back to the park, hence they must think ahead.

Furthermore, Mr Solomon underscored the development of an all-encompassing, robust National Human Wildlife Conflict strategy, which incorporated community ideas to end human wildlife conflict, which they stood ready to implement once passed in Parliament.

He said government paid large sums of compensation to farmers, which were depleted within a short period of time, adding that people affected by human wildlife conflict complained that the compensation rates were too low.

Mr Solomon said hence the need for effective implementation of solutions once the National Human Wildlife Conflict strategy was completed.

He said some of the suggested solutions to human-wildlife conflict by the Khawa community were that the Khawa Kopanelo Development Trust hunting quotas include a lion.

This, he noted, could also help allay the human-wildlife conflict, as the lion population was high at Mabuasehube.

Furthermore, on other interventions, he said plans were underway to maintain the predator proof fence between Khawa and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

"We recently sat with our South Africa counterparts as we share the park and prioritised our challenges. The German International Cooperation (GIZ) proposed to assist us with biodiversity conservation in a three-year project to benefit both South Africa and Botswana and we highlighted predator proof fence as a need," he said.

Moreover, he said the United Nations Development Programme through the Kgalagadi Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystem Project, had provided funds for construction of 12 predator proof kraals for the beneficiaries, where six would be constructed at Struizendam while the other six would be at Khawa.

They were nominated due to high numbers of their livestock predation, he added.

He said currently, camping equipment and cage traps had been procured through the drylands project, which would assist the department to control problematic animals to avoid direct and recurring threat to the livelihood or safety of people and their livestock. **BOPA**



# Conserving, mitigating human-wildlife conflict: Botswana story

By Esther Mmolai

**MAUN:** Human-wildlife conflict presents a significant threat to communities residing near wildlife areas in Botswana. Experts, community members, and organisations are advocating for management strategies to address problematic animals and alleviate these conflicts.

While acknowledging the economic benefits of wildlife conservation, residents stress that more must be done to mitigate the negative impacts of human-wildlife interactions on their livelihoods. Many call on the government to achieve a balance between the demands of tourism and agriculture.

In one of the kgotla meetings in Matlapana ward, residents expressed the urgent need for the government to create a safer environment, safeguarding both human lives and conservation efforts. These discussions form part of a strategy development initiative led by the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) at the University of Botswana.

Agriculture serves as the primary source of sustenance for these communities, and residents are urging the government to consider reducing the elephant population, which has been a major source of hardship. Reports of elephants invading ploughing fields and homes have left many in fear and compelled some to abandon their farms entirely.

Some community members are advocating for the establishment of abattoirs for elephant meat sales, while others have suggested increasing hunting quotas for community trusts involved in sustainable hunting tourism. Furthermore,



**Residents during one of the kgotla meetings in Maun. The meeting aimed to solicit ideas on how human-wildlife conflict could be managed to reduce the impact on communities. Photo: Esther Mmolai**

residents are requesting government support to monitor elephant movements and fund local conservation activities.

"Every year, we cultivate our ploughing fields only to be frustrated by elephants that raid them day and night," lamented resident Ms Otshwanetse Phorano, who called for the reduction of the elephant population to manageable levels to support their farming endeavors.

Professor Joseph Mbaiwa from ORI

highlighted the need for short and long-term plans to manage wildlife conflicts, particularly in light of Botswana's large elephant population. He noted that such conflicts often arise from the overlap of elephant habitats and human settlements, causing significant destruction of crops and property, especially in rural areas where resources are limited.

Through consultations across the country, Prof. Mbaiwa identified prevalent



**Prof Joseph Mbaiwa**

issues, including threats to human safety, property damage, and crop losses, particularly from elephants that raid farmlands adjacent to their habitats. He acknowledged residents' proposals for mitigating these conflicts, including the installation of electric fences around farms, community engagement, and educational initiatives to promote wildlife conservation and conflict management strategies.

Prof. Mbaiwa further emphasised the necessity for early warning systems to alert communities of approaching elephants, enabling them to take preventative measures. He commended ongoing government and conservation organisations' efforts to balance the needs of both local populations and elephants to ensure the long-term survival of wildlife.

Mr Oaitse Nawa, founder of the Elephant Protection Society, emphasised the importance of awareness campaigns to help communities live harmoniously with wildlife. He pointed out that understanding local attitudes towards human-wildlife conflict is essential for designing effective mitigation strategies.

"It is important to educate the community about the immense value of elephants," Mr Nawa said, highlighting efforts to empower residents to explore income-generating projects that also support conservation. He noted that during the dry season, elephants migrate toward communities in search of water, amplifying the risks to local populations. **BOPA**

## Lease rentals help develop villages

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

**SERONGA:** Okavango Community Trust (OCT), which was formed in 1995 and officially registered in 1996 is one of the success stories of Community Based Natural Resources Management CBNRM programme in the country.

The trust was formed by communities of five villages found in the eastern side of the Okavango Delta being Seronga, Gunutsoga, Eretsha, Beetsha and Gudigwa.

In an interview, the trust's general manager Mr Botshelo Sesinyi said that they operated under the photographic section and was given two concession areas of NG22 and NG23.

The trust has since leased the two concessions to Wilderness Safaris and Great Plains, which operates Vumbura Plains and Duba Plains camps respectively. Through the lease rentals accrued from the concession areas, Okavango trust has made immense contributions to the development of its communities.

Seronga, which is the headquarters of the five OCT villages has a mortuary as one of the businesses operated by the trust for income generation to diversify its income sources while bringing services closer to their communities.

Prior to the inception of the mortuary business, the villages in the eastern side of the Okavango (commonly known as overseas) were reliant on mortuary services from Shakawe village, which is about 90 kilometers away on a dusty road.

The trust operates another entity of hardware at Gunutsoga to generate profit while bringing services to its communities while Beetsha and Gudigwa villages have general dealers with the same aim.



**Okavango Community Trust general manager Mr Botshelo Sesinyi showing the Selective Service Hotel project which is partially completed. Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle**

Additionally, the trust is currently constructing a Selective Service Hotel for accommodation facilities for visitors and tourists at the OCT premises in Seronga.

"The Selective Service Hotel has 11 rooms of safari style, bringing the delta into the village," he said.

Mr Sesinyi said the hotel was built in phases and that the first phase of accommodation cost about P4 000 000 while the second phase would be construction of the main area encompassing kitchen, swimming pool and conference rooms.

He said the other ongoing project is construction of a cultural village at Eretsha, which was funded by Conservation Trust Fund (CTF).

Mr Sesinyi said the cultural village would have representation of Hambukushu,

Bayei and Basarwa tribes, which are common in the OCT villages.

The cultural village also housed a herbarium laboratory, which was funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through Small Grant Program.

"Herbs are kept in the laboratory to showcase how our forefathers used herbs for medicinal purposes," he said.

Mr Sesinyi said that a pre-school that was built by the OCT at Eretsha has since been lent to government and turned into a primary school for pupils to attend closer as they used to do so in the next village of Beetsha.

The trust, he added, had a partnership with Botswana Open University through sponsorship of students at a study group in Beetsha who retook Form 3 and Form 5. He said the trust also sponsored two

young people from each of its villages for vocational/tertiary, especially in tourism related programmes annually.

The trust also supported communities in events such as independence and schools' prize giving ceremonies.

Mr Sesinyi observed that CBNRM was a good programme since communities with rich natural resources benefited handsomely. Government, in the 1990s, to promote biodiversity conservation and rural development, introduced CBNRM.

According to Government Paper No.2 of 2007 on CBNRM Policy, CBNRM in Botswana largely involves wildlife-based tourism activities such as photographic and safari hunting while offering local communities chance to participate in tourism development and natural resources conservation. **BOPA**



## Chobe National Park collects over P30m

By Portia Ikgopoleng

**K**asane: Chobe National Park has collected over P30 million in park entrance fees from January 2024 to date.

The fees were generated by 276 400 people who visited the park from different countries across the world including Botswana.

Chobe National Park is one of the world's leading wildlife destinations with a high density of elephants offering tourists an option for game viewing on a safari drive or explore by a boat in the mighty Chobe River, a boundary of the park.

According to the 2022 KAZA Elephant Survey report, Botswana is home to a total of 131 909 elephants, which qualifies as the highest volume in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) states.

The survey outlines that the estimated total number of elephant population across the KAZA region was 227 900.

It further reports that the distribution and density of elephants was recorded as high at permanent sources of Okavango and

Chobe-Linyanti-Kwando river systems as well as part of North Matebeleland in Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe.

In an interview, Chobe acting wildlife regional director Mr Ernest Madimabe stated that wildlife and environment conservation was very essential for the Chobe ecosystem.

He said this is why they conducted routine patrols in the entire park and engaged with the tour operators through conference sittings to evaluate utilization of park facilities like roads and picnic sites.

Mr Madimabe pointed out that The Department of Wildlife and National Parks collaborated with other government departments, NGOs, private sector and community trusts to advocate for biodiversity conservation and discuss mitigations to address human wildlife conflict. He said the department had appointed Okavango Research Institute as consultant to develop the National Human Wildlife Conflict Strategy for the design and monitoring implementation of human wildlife conflict interventions in Botswana. Furthermore, he said they engaged with

communities on conservation issues, more-especially in the management of the community hunting quotas in order to ensure maximum utilization of the quota for community benefits

"Human wildlife conflict is a challenge in Chobe district, however we work extensively by addressing communities during Kgotla meetings and farmers associations' meetings in order to share information on how best we can come up with human wildlife conflict mitigation interventions to address this conflict."

He said 2024, declared a drought year, posed a threat to different wildlife species, especially elephants due to the prolonged dry season until the next rains.

"Elephants cover long distances in search of preferable forage along the Chobe River, which results in calculated numbers of mortalities threatening elephant populations as the carcasses are recorded while on their way from water bodies," he said. Moreover, he remarked that most elephants and other species like zebras, buffalos, concentrated along the Chobe River for forage and water

which contributed to land degradation and erosion.

Mr Madimabe stated that drought significantly leads to loss of biodiversity and an increase in human wildlife interface, translating to increasing human-wildlife conflict incidents.

On fishing, he said since the beginning of the year, there had been low to zero harvesting of fish in the Linyanti-Chobe River basin because Chobe River didn't flow westwards, pushing down water on floodplains as a result of Zambezi River overflows. **BOPA**

## CECT : Model of natural resources conservation

By Portia Ikgopoleng

**K**AVIMBA: Chobe Enclave Community Trust (CECT) success story has positioned the community entity as an excellent model in conserving natural resources and building viable projects that sustain communities.

It was established 30 years ago through Community Based Natural resources Management (CBNRM) policy and has championed and cultivated natural resources beneficiation while instilling conservation principles for people to coexist with wildlife. In recognition of their endeavors, the trust received international recognition at the 2022 African Leadership Forum as the second runner-up in the leading in progressive policies category.

The financial statements of the trust presented at their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March this year revealed that CECT generated a total income of P15.8 million in 2023.

A total of P8.7 million spawned from hunting, P3.9 million photographic concession fees, P1.7 million from variable community fees generated from Ngoma Lodge revenue, P540 000 from general dealer sales, P500 000 tractor income, P316 000 brick moulding sales. Villages constituting CECT are Mabele, Kavimba, Kachikau, Satau as

well as Parakarungu and each received P1.6 million from the 2023 income, which were channeled towards village projects. In an interview, CECT General Manager, Mr Moses Sinchembe stated that CECT was able to attract investors and in return generate income injected back into the community through their good governance and conservation strategies.

Mr Sinchembe indicated that the trust has leased out land in Ngoma and Linyanti of which the rentals accrued helped them acquire two general dealers in Mabele and Parakarungu.

They also acquired a milling company in Parakarungu, brick moulding projects in Kavimba and Satau, eight ploughing tractors, which promoted food security.

He stated that issuing of hunting quotas in their concessions was a cash cow, which is why CECT board chairperson, Mr Poniso Shamukuni formed part of the team that went to London to lobby against the trophy hunting Ban, where he delivered a presentation on the impact of human-wildlife conflict. Underscoring their conservation strategies, the manager pointed out that the CECT board comprised of a trans-boundary sub-committee charged with the responsibility of educating the community on conservation.

He stated that CECT signed a

trans-boundary Memorandum of Agreement with their Namibian counterparts Salambala and Bamunu conservancies for joint patrols and conservation of natural resources along the shared border. "Our AGMs are not only aimed at bringing reports but a platform to educate the rest of Chobe Enclave communities on the importance of conservation, human-wildlife conflict mitigations and wildlife and environmental advocacy," he said.

Mr Sinchembe indicated that in the past, people built temporary house structures from reeds and tree logs, which depleted the environment.

He however said with the establishment of brick moulding depot, Chobe Enclave communities bought bricks at a subsidised price, which relieved the strain on the environment.

The manager highlighted that it was essential that community trusts abided to principles of governance and understood the objectives of the CBNRM policy to ensure maximum benefits to communities.

"As a community entity we understand that the objectives of trusts was to give responsibilities to communities existing around natural resources like wildlife, rivers, and heritage sites to manage and safeguard them while deriving benefits from those sources sustainably," he said. **BOPA**



Mr Moses Sinchembe, the CECT General Manager

# Electric backline fence effective buffer

By Manowe Motsaathebe

**B**OBONONG: A 30-kilometre electric and live backline fence cuts between Mathathane ploughing fields and Tuli Block wildlife management area.

Along the fence are some solar panels and energisers that fire electricity into the line to keep it live and shock animals back into their areas.

Clearly, it has managed to curtail movements from either side of it. Only humans can go across through the gazetted points.

Mountainous elephant dung and other animals' droppings litter the eastern side of the fence, while on the west, expectedly, are droppings of the domesticated animals – testimony to a disappointed lot that were barred from proceeding on-to either side of the fence.

Here and there, stones have been shoved in under the fence to close down holes that are apparently dug by some wild animals that refuse to be shackled by human interventions against exploiting their natural habitat.

This is an intervention that residents of Mathathane have arduously advocated for.

While agitating for such an intervention, some farmers were forced into folding up their farming activities and fled to the village where they surrendered to hunger while simultaneously seething with anger.

The elephants would reportedly ravage farmers' crops and boreholes while presenting danger to human lives, after trampling upon the then normal fence with utter impunity.

Only the strangely brave would conquer their fears and face the jumbos while continuing with their farming activities despite the potential danger that constantly lurked over them.

Prior to the erection of the electric fence, Mathathane traditional leader, Kgosi Olgas Serumola, in an interview, was upbeat that Terra

Conservancy Operations, which possesses vast experience in elephant and animal management, would succeed in erecting a barrier fence that would address his subjects' concerns.

The community leader's conviction was by backed by director of Terra Conservancy Operations, Mr Jurgen Elbertse.

"This fence is a new design, a double fence and fully electrified and will prevent elephants from breaking the fence and major predators going through this fence. It will also stop cattle from damaging the fence and will have major effect on stopping the poaching activities in the area," Mr Elbertse said in February 2021.

The fence is owned by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) but Terra Conservancy Operations funded the construction, provided the project management and paid for the shortfall of materials.

Before erection of the electric fence, a public private partnership between Terra Conservancy Operations (a Botswana operating company owned by Timbo Afrika Foundation in The Netherlands), DWNP and Mathathane community, wild animals roamed freely in the human spaces and birthed the human-wildlife conflict.

During the ground-breaking of the construction of the fence, the then portfolio minister, Ms Philda Kereng said that the fence was a direct response to the then Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism's national elephant management plan with emphasis on curbing human-elephant conflict.

She said that there would also be some systematic and regular maintenance of the fence to ensure it continued to provide the intended purpose for the next 20 years.

**Terra Conservancy provided P3 million for direct costs of**

construction and an estimated P1.2 million for monitoring and fence maintenance for the next three years.

Since the fence was completed in 2022, its benefits are felt and enjoyed on either side of it by both the community and private landowners.

In a recent interview, chief wildlife warden overseeing Bobirwa area, Mr Setokinyana Nkai confirmed the benefits generated by the electric backline fence.

"Human-wildlife conflict, especially with the farmers, has significantly dropped. I can only remember one incident of sighting of elephant in the human space," said Mr Nkai.

Although the fence is lauded for, amongst other things, curbing human-wildlife conflict, hindering poaching and barring livestock from entering private land, Mr Nkai noted that there were incidents where elephants outmanoeuvred cattle grid placed across the tarred road heading to Lekkerpot junction.

However, he explained that the problem has since been addressed by placing lights on the spots to scare elephants away at night.

"Those elephants that can be sighted around Motlhabaneng are not a big problem. We've actually contained them," Mr Nkai said, adding that the elephants remained on the human spaces when the rest were driven out because they had young calves that could not cope with the speed at the time. As for poaching, he said suspicion was rife that some of the people who were engaged during the erection of the fence could have been privy to how to circumvent the electric fence, as there were some sporadic incidents where the fence was cut.

Kgosi Serumola of Mathathane said they were aware of such incidents and has since called meetings to rebuke all those who could be involved.

He said that he, too, was aware of reported sporadic incidents of poaching and cutting of fence.

Again, he was aware of the theft of the fence's associated equipment, but has resultantly called on his *morafe* to own the fence and care for it.

Additionally, Kgosi Serumola said that he had tabled a proposal before senior chief representative, Kgosi Joel Masilo to have a 20-men to augment anti-poaching officers in patrolling the fence.

That way, as done along the borderline with Zimbabwe, chances of theft, poaching and destruction of fence, either by animals or humans, could be eliminated. **BOPA**



Ms Philda Kereng





# Trust enjoys economic benefits from CBNRM

By Esther Mmolai

**M**AUN : Natural resources have long sustained the rural communities residing in the wildlife resource areas for centuries even before adoption of the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme as an alternative strategy of natural resource management.

The programme focuses on providing incentives for communities to take responsibility for managing natural resources sustainably. It is aimed at ensuring the communities derive socio-economic benefits from the programme such as participation in decision-making, employment and income generation.

Expert literature indicates that the driving force behind the introduction of CBNRM was a result of factors such as threat of species extinction due to over utilisation of resources, especially wildlife through poaching and the inability of the state to protect its declining wildlife resources among others.

CBNRM promotes rural community development, community participation in tourism development and the sustainable use of natural resources. Some community based trusts have been exceptional in harnessing economic benefits from the implementation of the CBNRM.

Through the programme, some trusts leased their concessions to private operators and companies while some operated campsites in the prestigious Okavango Delta. Some forged partnerships to undertake photographic tourism in the areas while some operate the famous *mokoro* excursion. Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust (OKMCT) is one of the success stories of the programme.

The trust is made up of six settlements namely; Ditshiping, Boro, Daunara, Xuxao, Xaxaba and Xharaxao. All are within the vicinity of the wildlife management area known as NG32, a concession in which the trust has been operating since 1997.

The trust is meant to promote sustainable utilisation of natural resources through direct participation of communities in managing the environment, wildlife and plant species abundant in their vicinity.

It offers tourism products and services in a controlled hunting area situated right in the heart of the Okavango Delta, such as affordable trips to allow more people to enjoy the delta, and has created job opportunities in disadvantaged and economically impoverished rural areas.

OKMCT manager, Mr Seikaneng Moepedi told *BOPA* that CBNRM had indeed worked wonders for them.

He said that their purpose had been very clear from the beginning as they aimed to promote conservation and focus on rural development.

Mr Moepedi said the proceeds generated through the CBNRM projects had made an impact in every settlement affiliated to the trust to ensure social equity.

He appreciated that the programme had alleviated rural poverty and advanced conservation by strengthening rural economies and empowering communities to manage resources for long-term social, economic and ecological benefits.

He noted that the programme had enabled communities to generate income that is used for rural development.

He mentioned some of their achievements as drilling and equipping of boreholes in all settlements to

provide potable water to the communities, building houses for the elderly, constructing playgrounds and offering sponsorship to some youths to pursue tertiary education, among others. He disclosed that more than 100 young people had benefited from the sponsorship fund and were all absorbed in the camps working as guides, chefs, and housekeepers, among others. The trust also provides social allowance for elderly people aged over 55 years.

"This programme has contributed a lot to rural economic development as well as enhancing rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable natural resource use. The camps doing business in our concession have created employment opportunities for our members," he added.

Mr Moepedi narrated that the trust had joint venture partnerships with various safari companies, which undertake photographic tourism in their concession, which is located to the south of Moremi Game Reserve and in return, the community trust benefited from rental income and employment opportunities.

Another activity is the famous *mokoro* excursion, which is run by the trust in which it receives revenue by charging tourists who enter the concession gate.

The community members also benefit financially because the tourists pay them directly for the guiding services.

OKMCT 2023 annual report indicates that the trust has two main sources of revenue being the rentals and gate fees. The report showed that for the financial year ending 31 December 2023, the trust

accrued over P8 million in land rental and over P2 million in gate takings.

Mr Moepedi said they expected revenue to increase this year as they were anticipating an increase to over P9 million in land rental and over P3.3 million in gate fees. He reiterated that the trust has also embraced mindset change, which served as a wake up call for all to do things differently. The trust had taken a decision to diversify its revenue streams to maintain a more stable level of revenue over time and build resilience.

He said diversification of revenue streams was critical in today's rapidly changing business landscape as it could provide a cushion during tough times.

OKMCT has now ventured into big and tangible projects in a bid to boost their financial muscle and improve the livelihoods of the communities.

The trust first started with the construction of its office in 2021 and soon, it would embark on a ground breaking ceremony of a double storey mini mall opposite their office, which would comprise of a shopping centre and a filling station space.

Mr Moepedi noted that plans were also underway to construct internet towers at Boro, Khiri Camp and Xaxaba settlement in the delta to ensure members of the community enjoy the use of technology in the comfort of their homes and businesses.

The trust, has partnered with Admira Solution to build the internet towers in order to provide internet connectivity to the villages and safari camps operating in the area for a fee. **BOPA**



CBNRM promotes rural community development and participation in tourism development as well as sustainable use of natural resources.

# Photography tourism vital in conservation

By Calviniah Kgautlhe

**K**HAWA: Khawa village's spectacular natural attraction has caught the eye of Akashinga partners who have signed a two-year photography ecotourism development agreement with Khawa Kopanelo Development Trust.

Under the Akashinga partnership comprising Modisa Wildlife Project as well as Kalahari Research and Conservation, and the Khawa Kopanelo Development Trust, they will work closely to charter a historic path for the community to enter the travel tourism photography, which is an under explored niche in the tourism industry in the area.

In an interview, representative of Modisa Wildlife Project Mr Valentin Gruener said the aim was to develop Khawa ecotourism at KD15 Wildlife Management area in order to assist diversify the village's tourism portfolio.

He said the development was birthed against the backdrop that the area was endowed with an abundance of game and beautiful landscapes, which blossomed with great ecotourism potential.

Such a move, he said, was a powerful conservation strategy targeted at empowering the community and reducing wildlife and predator poaching in the area. He added that they had noticed that opportunities existed in travel tourism photography.

The two-year project shall focus on capacity building for the youth in order to show them alternative wildlife livelihoods and the value of photography where they shall use attractions that are naturally found in their culture, tradition and area.

This development, he said, would contribute towards employment creation and reduce the degradation of the natural environment caused by human activities.

Furthermore, he underscored that photography based tourism was where tourists chronicled their travels.

He noted that the visuals created a stimulus for travel, where people would have an insight into unknown lands, especially that Kgalagadi was less travelled and could potentially draw in more tourists to explore dryland tourism safari.

"Images shape and reshape tourists' destination perceptions and consequently influence their decision making of where to spend vacations. Photographic tourism is that form of special interest tourism in which tourists visit a particular place with the aim of photographing subjects that are unique to them," he said.

Thus Mr Gruener wants to infect the people with

his enthusiasm for wildlife conservation, highlighting that due to the significant impact of photography on tourism, marketers invest greatly in this visual stimulation tool.

He highlighted that introducing the community to photography tourism was part of exploring other smart value chains in the wildlife sector.

"It is important to work with nature in a morally sound way. Last week, we were at the kgotla to sign the contract. We are not generating any profit from this. It is part of our conservation efforts and community empowerment," he said.

Furthermore, he said the photographic and film potential for KD15 is far much bigger than what hunting is currently doing for communities.

"When the hunting season is over, the hunter has nothing to do and we can use this time to do something else," he said.

Mr Gruener divulged that the agreement entailed that the trust will benefit P15 000 as KD15 lease for photography per month for two years, construction of a boom gate, clean campsites, training, adding that P106 000 shall be expended to develop the boom gate.

"We have noticed that there is illegal camping going on there. We need to make sure that tourists pay for camping. It is the community that will manage this as part of taking responsibility to manage their resources" he said.

He said he strongly believed that they could have an attraction in the Kalahari that is equal in size to that of the Serengeti in Tanzania.

Communities, he added, have to decide to do that with their animals as they are sitting on massive treasure.

"We can learn from Khwai and Mababe areas who have benefitted from this and now have a lot of photographic lodges. The same is possible here in Kgalagadi," he said.

Khawa village Kgosi Piet Manyoro is optimistic of the agreement. He said the community's trust acquired funds through their annual hunting quota allocated by government.

He said the agreement would support the community to develop other wildlife revenue streams, which would run throughout the year and thus create employment opportunities for locals.

"Ba ya go tsamaisa bajaranala ba tsaya dinepe mo KD15 ba duela trust. Ba ya go hira di tour guides tse di tlaa tsamaisang bajaranala, jaanong se se tlaa re thusa fela thata re le morafe gore re seka ra emela letsomo fela mme re bo re ntse re dira sengwe, ditumalano di dirilwe, ba tlaa hira bana ba motse, go a simologa," he said. **BOPA**



Game rancher in Tsabong Mr Valentin Gruener conducting head count of wildlife in his farm in a helicopter. He said he would share skills on wildlife conservation with Khawa community to kick start photography ecotourism as part of empowering the community to diversify its tourism portfolio. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe



Khawa sandunes activities. The annual festival plays a crucial in photography tourism.

# Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park: Tourists marvel

By Calviniah Kgauthe

**N**OSSOB: Deep in the Kalahari Desert on the hoof of Botswana map lies a truly distinct wilderness landscape, a wildlife paradise and one of Africa's iconic destinations—the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

A journey into this enchanting realm reveals awe inspiring untouched landscape and untamed wonders of nature's artistry beautifully appointed on the desert. Each element contributes to the scenic unspoiled splendor of the wilderness.

On this pristine portion of the earth sits a special geographical tripoint at which boundaries of three countries; Botswana, Namibia and South Africa meet at the 'Union End' where tourists could seamlessly visit three countries all at once conveniently.

"For me the Kalahari is the top of the ranking of all the game reserves I have visited because the wilderness here possesses a unique, harmonious intrinsic charm, open and untouched breathtaking landscape," said tourist Mr Jaco Moelich while bird viewing through binoculars at Nossob located on the South Africa side of the Park.

Mr Moelich deeply appreciated the joint wildlife conservation efforts of the park, which is sitting on 38 000 square kilometers land shared by governments of Botswana and South Africa.

"What makes the Kalahari unique and special is its remoteness and wildness. This place is a sanctuary for the soul reminding us that true beauty often lies in the unspoiled wilderness," he said.

The adventurous tourist prefers the Botswana side of the park because it is more remote, where the wildlife is free to roam wherever it wants, rather than the South Africa side, which he reasons has more developments that could be disturbing to tourists who want abundance of pure wilderness. "We want the wilderness kind of experience where we explore pure nature, star gaze, listen to the sounds of animals and birds, see animals in their natural state where there are no developments. I live in Cape Town where there are lots of developments, so coming here is refreshing. I will be very disappointed if there are more developments in the park," he noted.

Mr Moelich relishes the natural, rugged, undeveloped, open wilderness area.

"It makes me feel in touch with nature and gives one a good rest as well. This is where I come to replenish, to retrospect and remind myself of natural creation. It is a fantastic environment to just relax and rest with the wild animals around," he said.

Mr Bennie Marais and his wife Sonja from Western Cape, South Africa were also spotted having fun at the park. "We prefer the Botswana side of the park because it is unfenced and untouched by human hand. It is totally different.

It is magical. While there, you get a different feel, which is quite amazing," said Mr Marais.



Regular Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park tourists Mr and Ms Marais visit the park every two years to replenish. They specifically value the untouched landscape and prefer little or no developments inside the park. Photo: Calviniah Kgauthe



Furthermore, he said they preferred the Kalahari because the Kalahari Lions are huge and so different, the gemsbok and the springbok is a lot bigger than elsewhere in Africa.

"The only challenge is that the park is wide and it is hard to see the animals frequently," he said.

He called for more roads to be constructed in the park to enable tourists to maneuver through it with ease to explore the wildlife and to increase their chances of seeing all species.

Mr Marais highlighted that they noticed over the years that there is a huge demand for tourists to come to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, as they had to wait for more than a year to get a booking. "We accommodate a lot of overseas clients here who lodge at Nossob and go into the Botswana side. Similarly, clients from Rooiputs and Polentswa on the Botswana side freely maneuver the park on the South Africa side. Our occupancy rate is 90 percent bookings all year round. It is unbelievable how busy we are," said Mr Ricardo Julies of South African National Parks.

Department of Wildlife and National Parks, chief wildlife officer for Kgalagadi Mr Mooketsi Solomon confirmed that the park, which was established in 2000, straddles the border between Botswana and South Africa and had a special offing of dry land

tourism safari.

The two governments ratified an agreement to run it as a transfrontier park of which three-quarters of the park lies on the Botswana side.

"All entrance fees are shared on a 50/50 basis while for camping each country benefits from campsites on its side of the park. Certified auditors reconcile books, then a finance audit is carried out and the money benefits the two countries," he said.

The mighty park is not just a tourism entity but also a critical community development enabler.

It has a wildlife management area on the fringes of the park, which is a controlled hunting area of KD15 used by the Khawa Kopanelo Development Trust, where the community benefits a hunting quota per annum.

Since 2020 to date, he said they were able to make over P1.5 million from their hunting quota, which the community utilised to develop the trust tourism campsite and run the Swakara Farm.

Furthermore, Mr Solomon said the BORAVAST Community Trust, which benefits the four adjacent villages of Bokspits, Rappelspan, Vaalhoek and Struizendam has also been allocated a campsite at the Park, which was currently developed to the tune of P 600 000. The campsite, he said would create employment opportunities for the community. **BOPA**



Samochima Fisheries treasurer Mr Kebalebile Kachara.

# Samochima Fisheries perseveres

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

**S**AMOCHIMA: Established nearly 30 years ago, Samochima Fisheries, founded by a group of community members in Samochima in Okavango District, has navigated various challenges over the decades to sustain its operations.

Originally named Samochima Boiteko Fisheries Syndicate, the organisation began in 1994 with a small-scale fish catching and selling initiative. As the group's fishing activities expanded, the need for preservation methods grew in order to access broader markets. To tackle the challenges associated with their business growth, the members formalised their organisation and received support from the government's Financial Assistance Policy (FAP) in 1995.

This assistance enabled Samochima Fisheries to secure a plot and construct a facility for selling fish, as well as acquire eight fridges to preserve their catch for the market.

In an interview, the current treasurer of Samochima Fisheries, Mr Kebalebile Kachara, stated that the society now comprises 27 members, including 24 men and three women.

He emphasised the significance of the society in improving the lives of its members, who receive monthly stipends to support their livelihoods.

In 2004, Bio Okavango company provided assistance by supplying a cold room, further enhancing their operational capabilities.

And, in 2018, the society received support from Nyeletso Lehuma (Poverty Eradication), which facilitated maintenance of their office and construction of a marketplace, among other improvements.

"We procured two deep freezers, furniture, air conditioning units, equipment for smoking fish, and completed the fencing of our premises," Mr Kachara noted.

The assistance from Nyeletso Lehuma was pivotal, allowing them to expand their market reach, even marketing their fish as far as Gaborone through various shows.

However, Mr Kachara highlighted ongoing challenges, particularly relating to the limited availability of engine boats, with only one currently operational.

These boats, he said were crucial for navigating the wildlife-infested Okavango River, allowing for faster trips between the riverbank and *mokoro* (traditional canoe), which were essential for drawing fish nets.

The shortage of engine boats has adversely affected their fishing operations, leading to a rotational fishing schedule and leaving some members inactive.

To address this, the society has applied for assistance from Chema Chema, hoping to acquire additional engine boats.

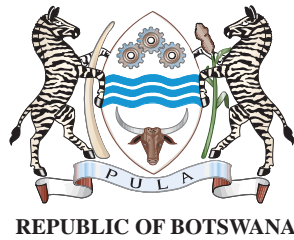
As experienced fishermen, the members place a high value on fish conservation, utilising size-four-and-a-half fishing nets that target well-grown fish.

Mr Kachara expressed a desire for the government to enforce stricter fishing regulations by banning smaller size-four nets, which capture juvenile fish and undermine conservation efforts.

While recognising the research-based off-season for fishing in Botswana, which runs from December to February to facilitate fish breeding, Mr Kachara shared a differing perspective.

He believes that fish breeding peaks between October and November and has called for reconsideration of the off-season to reflect these findings.

**BOPA**



## INTRODUCTION

Ntlo ya Dikgosi is a Constitutional House which was established by Section 77 (1) of the Constitution of Botswana and Section 85 defines the functions of the House.

Ntlo ya Dikgosi is made up of 35 Members as stipulated in Section 77 and 78 of the Constitution of Botswana. This membership is categorised as follows:-

**(A)** One person from each of the following areas, which for the time being performs the functions of the office of Kgosi in respect of such areas;-

- (i) Barolong Farms in the Southern District
- (ii) Ga Malete in the South East District
- (iii) Ga Mmangwato in the Central District
- (iv) Goo Tawana in the North West District
- (v) Kgatleng District
- (vi) Kweneng District
- (vii) Ngwaketse in Southern District
- (viii) Tlokweng in the South East District
- (ix) North East District
- (x) Ghanzi District
- (xi) Kgalagadi District
- (xii) Chobe District

Except for areas of Ghanzi, Chobe, Kgalagadi and North East, the Members for the areas referred to in Section 77 (1) (a), shall be designated to Ntlo ya Dikgosi according to the established norms and practices of those areas.

**(B)** Section 78 (2) states that the Members for the Ghanzi, Chobe, Kgalagadi and North East areas referred to in Section 77 (1) (a) shall be selected, from their own number, to Ntlo ya Dikgosi by persons for the time being performing the functions of the office of Kgosi within each of those areas.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 77 (1) (a) and Sub Sections (2) and 4(c) of this Section, the areas of Ghanzi and Kgalagadi shall each have the option of either selecting one member under Sub Section (2) of this Section or of each selecting two regional members under Sub Section (4) (c) of this Section, but may not select members under both Sub Sections.

**(C)** Selection of Members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi by the 20 regional electoral colleges from; Bobirwa region, Boteti region, Mahalapye region, Serowe region, Tonota region, Tswapong region, Tutume region, Ghanzi East region, Ghanzi West region, Kgalagadi North region, Kgalagadi South region, Letlhakeng region, Molepolole region, Thamaga region, Maun region, Ngami region, Okavango region, Kanye region, Moshupa region and Ngwaketse West region is done in accordance with Section 78 (3 and 4) of the Constitution

**(D)** Five (5) Specially Elected Members are appointed by His Excellency, The President as per Section 77 (1) (b) of the Constitution.

## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

### (A) DISSOLUTION OF NTLO YA DIKGOSI

Conclusion and end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ntlo ya Dikgosi was on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 upon the dissolution of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament in accordance with Section 82 (e) of the Constitution. The life of Ntlo ya Dikgosi is tied to that of Parliament therefore, when Parliament is dissolved after five years by His Excellency the President in accordance with Section 91(3) of the Constitution, Ntlo ya Dikgosi is automatically dissolved.

### (B) SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Dissolution of Ntlo ya Dikgosi is followed by;

- (1) The designation of 8 Members to the Ntlo ya Dikgosi,
- (2) Selection of Members from areas of Ghanzi, Chobe, Kgalagadi and North East in accordance with Section 78(2) of the Constitution as read with Section 78(5).
- (3) Election of Members by the 20 Regional Electoral Colleges in accordance with Section 78 (3 and 4) of the Constitution.

### (C) ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBERS

Five (5) Specially Elected Members are appointed by His Excellency the President in accordance with Section 77 (1) (b) of the Constitution.

Subject to the Rules of Procedure, meetings of Ntlo ya Dikgosi shall be held at such times as the Vice-President may determine as per Rule 12 of the Ntlo ya Dikgosi Rules of Procedure.

### (D) SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

According to Section 80 of the Constitution and Rule 2 of the Ntlo ya Dikgosi Rules of Procedure, every Member of Ntlo ya Dikgosi shall before taking his or her seat therein, take and subscribe before the Ntlo ya Dikgosi the Oath of Allegiance.

### (E) ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF NTLO YA DIKGOSI

Any Member of the House may nominate any other Member for election as Chairperson of Ntlo ya Dikgosi. If that nomination is seconded, the Presiding Officer (Secretary of Ntlo ya Dikgosi) shall call upon the Member so nominated and seconded to declare whether he/ she accepts candidature or not.

### (F) ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF NTLO YA DIKGOSI

In the case of the Deputy Chairperson, the same procedure applies except that the Chairperson would preside over the elections.

### (G) 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> NTLO YA DIKGOSI





## Banni ba itumelela tshwetso ya kabo ditsha

Ka Lindi Morwaeng

MOGODITSHANE - Banni ba Ledumadumane ba akgotse lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Kweneng go bo le tsere tshwetso ya go baya ditsha tsa bana ba batsadi ba bone ba tseetsweng masimo ba ba tumileng ka leina la 'Mpeepe Bana.'

Se se tla morago ga gore puso e tseye masimo a batsadi ba bone go sutela kgolo le ditlhabololo tsa toropo kgolo Gaborone.

Banni ba supile boitumelo jo mo phuthengong ya kgotla e e neng e buiswa ke modulasetilo wa lekgotla la kabo ditsha la kweneng, Rre Kgang Kgang ka Laboraro kwa kgotleng ya Ledumadumane, ba supa fa pelo tshwaana e boetse mannong ka mmatlal kgwana ya gaabo a e bone.

E ne ya re a rola mafoko a peo ya ditsha tse, Rre Kgang a tlhalosa gore lekgotlana la kabo ditsha la Mogoditshane le tlaa baya batho ba le sekete le makgolo a supa ba ba supilweng e le bone bana ba batsadi ba ba tseetsweng masimo go ya ka pego ya komiti e e tlhophilweng go tsamaisa kgang ya Mpeepe Bana.

Mme le fa go ntse jalo, o supile matshwenyego a gore, e re ntsa go itsewe gore batho ba ba tshwanetseng go atswiwa ke bo mang, go nnile le gore palo ya batho bao e oketsege morago ga gore maina a bangwe a sukunyediwe ka bokukuntshwane mme seo sa dira gore palo e ba e neetsweng e oketsege.

Rre Kgang a re letshwenyego le lengwe ke gore e re ntsa kopo e, ya go beelwa bana e se tshwanelo, bangwe jaanong ba batla go sokeletsa puso letsogo gore ba beelwe bana ba bana mme e ne e se tumalano.

O kopile botlhe ba ba amiwang ke kgang e go tsamaya ka motlhala gore ba kgone go thusiwa ka go ikgolaganya le komiti e e tlhophilweng.

Fa ba mo kgwa kgaba, leloko la komiti eo, Rre Phagenyana Phage o tlhalositse fa komiti e dirile thomo ya batho ba metse e e akaretsang Kgaphamadi, Ledumadumane, Mmatseta, Kopong le Lentsweletau.

O tlhalositse fa batho bangwe ba ne ba bewa mo dingwageng tse di fetileng fa bangwe ba ne ba batla go tsietsa puso.

A re morago ga gore batho ba ntlha ba masimo ba sena go bewa, ba ne ba itsise morafe mme ba tsena mo legatong la bobedi ba ya go buisana le puso mme ba dumalana gore bana ba bana ba ye

go bewa ditsha.

A re sebe sa phiri ke gore bana ba Ledumadumane ba ne ba rekisa ditsha ka bokete jo bo hakgamatsang. Ka jalo o kopile morafe gore o ba letlelele ba fetse kgang e, e wele.

Mme Shana Lekgetho, e le mongwe wa ba ba amegang, o akgotse Rre Kgang fela thata mme ebile a supa fa mafoko a a tlang ka one a sa tlhoke go fetolwa.

Rre Onkemetse Leteane ene e le mongwe wa maloko a komiti, o kopile lekgotla la kabo ditsha gore ba fefose dikgang tse di fele.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o kopile gore lekgotla leo, le seegele batho ba ba ka tshwarang lekgolo le metso e meraro tsebe, bone e le ba ba beilweng mme ba ne ba sena tshwanelo ya go bewa gore le bone kgang ya bone e fele ba kgone go fiwa ditlankana.

O kopile lekgotla gape gore le duele madi a didiba le matamo a bone ka jaana kgang ya tsone e seke e umakiwa fa go buiwa ka kgang ya dikatso.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, mothusa modulasetilo wa Khansele ya Mogoditshane/Thamaga, Rre Bakang Matlho, fela jaaka banni ba Ledumadumane, o akgotse lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Kweneng go bo le tlele ka tharabololo ya kgang e ka gore e na le dingwaga e ntse e buiwa.

Ka jalo, o kopile gore kgang e, e batla e fela ka gore dikgang tsa Mogoditshane tsa lefatshe di dintsi ka jaana lefatshe la Mogoditshane e le teemane. **BOPA**

## Twisser Entertainment e phepafatsa motse

Ka Cathrine Simane

KOLONKWANENG - Twisser Entertainment e e eteletsweng pele ke Mongwe wa ba-na-le-bogole Rre Lucky Sephiri e phepafaditse motse wa Kolonkwaneng e le tsela nngwe ya go rotloetsa bophepa ka e le bone konokono mo botsogong jo bo siameng.

Mo potsolosong le BOPA ka Tshipi, Rre Sephiri o ne a supa fa e sale ba simolotse tiro eo ngwaga oo fetileng ga mmogo le ba Phepafatso tikologo (Environmental Health), morafe, komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse, mokhanselara, dikgosi le ba bangwe ba ba amegang.

Rre Sephiri o boletse fa go simolola ngwaga o o fetileng, maikaelelo a kompone ya gagwe ya Twisser Entertainment e le go tshwara maitiso le go phepafatsa motse pele ga boipuso, ka go sela



*Bakgweetsi ba dikotsekara tsa ditonki ba Selokolela morago ga go rutwa ka pabalesego ya bone mo ditseleng ke komiti ya ipabalelo tseleng ya Kanye bosheng. Mogokaganya ditiro tsa ipabalelo tseleng wa komiti, Mme Neo Walesedi a re fela jaaka koloi, sekotsekara e tshwanetse ya bo e itekanetse pele e tsena mo tseleng, go tlhomamisa pabalesego ya modirisi wa yone. Senepa: Keonee Majoto*

## Ba dikotsekara tsa ditonki ba rutiwa ka ipabalelo tseleng

Ka Keonee Majoto

SELOKOLELA - Komiti ya ipabalelo tseleng ya Kanye e rotloeditse bakgweetsi ba dikotsekara tsa ditonki kwa Selokolela go ipabalela mo tseleng go hema dikotsi.

Mogokaganya ditiro tsa ipabalelo tseleng wa komiti, Mme Neo Walesedi o gakolotse ka Labone kwa motseng oo fa go ne go rutuntshiwa bakgweetsi ba dikotsekara gore fela jaaka bakgweetsi ba dikoloi le bone ba na le tse di solofetsweng mo go bone.

A re fela jaaka koloi, sekotsekara e tshwanetse ya bo e itekanetse pele e tsena mo tseleng, go tlhomamisa pabalesego ya modirisi wa yone.

Mme Walesedi a re bakgweetsi ba tshwanetse ba rurifatsa fa dikotsekara di na le mebala e e galalelang gore ba bonwe ke badirisi ba bangwe ba tsela (reflectors) le gore dithaere di mo seemong se se siameng.

A re go tsenya sekotsekara dithaere tse di tlhobogilweng ke badirisi ba dikoloi ga o a siama mme ba ba dirang jalo ba tshwanetse ba emise.

Lepodisi la pharakano go tswa kwa ofising ya sepodisi ya Sejelo kwa Kanye Superintendent Lovemore Ntuluki a re komiti e tlhophile Selokolela ka go lemoga fa tiriso ya dikotsekara e atile teng. A re le fa ba ise ba itemogele dikotsi dipe tse di kalo tse di amang dikotsekara, go botlhokwa gore go dirwe gotlhe

mo go ka kgonegang go thibela kgolo ya dikotsi. Jaaka Mme Walesedi, Supt Ntuluki a re dikotsekara di tshwanetse tsa bo di itekanetse, ga mmogo le ene mokgweetsi.

Supt Ntuluki a re sekotsekara e tshwanetse ya nna le lebone ka fa letsogong la moja kwa pele le go tsenngwa mebala e e galalelang (reflectors) kwa morago.

Leloko le lengwe la komiti, Rre Andrew Paledi go tswa kwa lephateng la dipagamo le ipabalelo tseleng, o supile fa tiriso e e babalesegileng ya dikotsekara e le botlhokwa. A re go pegwa ga dithoto le gone go tshwanetse ga dirwa ka tsela e e sa beyeng bapagami mo diphatseng.

Fa ba akgela, banni ba ne ba supa fa ba itumeletse dithuto tseo mme e bile ba tlaa di tshetsetsa go ya pele.

Rre Kenosi Simanyana o supile matshwenyego ka go sotlwa ga ditonki ke bakgweetsi bangwe ba dikotsekara, a re bangwe ba itaya ditonki mo go setlhogo mme a gwetlha ba ba dirang jalo go rata ditonki tsa bone le go lemoga fa e le tsone di tshageditseng matshelo a bone.

Rre Kebenne Tolo le ene o kopile bakgweetsi ka ene go tlhokomela ditonki tsa tsone. A re go a swabisa gore e re di ba belege mo go kalo, ee ba bo ba di dirisa ka lesotlo.

Rre Peter Leero o ne o ikuetse mo komiting go ruta sekotsekara ya maotwana a mabedi, a tlhalosa fa e sa babalesega e bile e ka baka dikgobalo tse di masisi le dintsho tota fa e ka amega mo kotsing.

Morago ga dithuto tseo, bakgweetsi ba dikotsekara ba ne ba abelwa kapari ya mebala e e galalelang gore ba bonale botoka bogolo jang bosigo.

Dikotsekara tsa bone di ne tsa tsenngwa mebala eo, e le tsela nngwe ya go tokafatsa go bonwa motlhofo ga tsone ke badirisi ba bangwe ba tsela. **BOPA**

matlakala gore tikologo e nne mo seemong se se kgathisang. O boletse fa ba le bane fela mo komponeng.

O ne a tlhalosa fa khansele ya Tsabong e ba thusa ka badiri ba ba dirang tiro ya go phepafatsa, le didirisiwa tse di akaretsang koloi ya matlakala, dipolasetiki tse di olelang matlakala, diatlana le tse dingwe tse di tlhokafalang.

A re go tshwaragana le setshaba le puso go ba fa sebaka sa gore ba itse ka komponi ya bone mme ba e rotloetse fa go na le ditiro tsa puso jaaka go natifisa fa go na le meletlo mengwe mo motseng le kgaolo ka bophara ka moopelo le tiriso ya diletso.

O boletse fa ba na le moono wa 'Kwa Kgaolong' o o akaretsang motse wa Kolonkwaneng, Bogogobo, Khuis le Middlepits, mme a supa fa mo ngwageng oo fetileng ba ne ba le kwa

Middlepits, ngwaga ono ba ne ba le kwa Kolonkwaneng mme ba ikaelela go phepafatsa le go dira maitiso kwa metseng eo yotlhe go itirela letseno ka maitiso go itshetsa.

Rre Sephiri o boletse fa tiro ya go phepafatsa kwa Kolonkwaneng e atlegile fela thata ka morafe o ne o e tshologetse ka dipalo tse di kwa godimo ka jaana mokhanselara wa kgaolwana eo Rre Ikitsing Dipone a ne a e laleditse ka segoagoe mme a kgothaditsa metse e mengwe go dira fela jalo mo nakong e e tlang.

Rre Sephiri o ne a rotloetsa banana ba bangwe go itshetsa ka ditale tse ba di filweng ke Modimo le go inakanya le mananeo a puso go tokafatsa le go tlhabolola matshelo a bone go fokotsa letlhoko la ditiro mo lefatsheng leno ka ba ka seke ba kgone go bereka botlhe mo pusong. **BOPA**



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO.4 OF 2024

The Ministry of Defence and Security invites applications from qualified citizens of Botswana to fill the vacant position of PRINCIPAL PROCUREMENT OFFICER I in the Ministry Headquarters.

**SALARY SCALE:** D2 (P337, 008 – P371, 628) per annum

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB**

To facilitate formulation of tender contracts between suppliers and the Ministry, and procurement of Ministry supplies, services and works as well as provide advice on compliance to procurement regulations and guidelines.

**KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS**

1. Advise the Ministry on stock range of different quantities of supplies to ensure that adequate stocks are held to meet the demand.
2. Monitor contractual agreements to ensure compliance, recommends amendments and extensions to contracts and advises on contractual rights and obligations.
3. Analyse material and equipment losses, investigates losses and discuss findings with management.
4. Authorise purchase orders of authorized limit and submits exceeding amount to the supervisor for approval.
5. Manage the inventory of the Ministry's assets.
6. Facilitate disposal of obsolete and unserviceable goods.
7. Facilitate bulk procurement of supplies to ensure compliance with local procurement programme.
8. Conduct market research to ensure that advertised specifications are aligned to the new product developments

9. Undertakes any other related duties as may be assigned by Management

**QUALIFIED APPLICANTS PROFILE**

To be considered for this position, candidates must have atleast Degree in Strategic Supply Chain Management or Business Administration or Chartered Institute of Purchase and Supply level 6 or any other related field, complemented with at least ten (10) years' work experience in Purchasing, Supply and Materials Management, two (2) of which should have been served as Principal Procurement Officer II at D3 salary scale or equivalent.

**KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES**

1. Adhering to Principles and values
2. Planning and Organizing
3. Relating and Networking
4. Delivering results and meeting customer expectations
5. Analyzing
6. Learning and Researching
7. Entrepreneurial and Commercial thinking
8. Following instructions and procedures

**BENEFITS**

- a) Leave of 30 working days per annum
- b) Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and employee 50%).
- c) Contributory Pension Scheme (Government pays 15%

and employee 5%).

**IMPORTANT**

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

- a) Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- b) Certified copies of certificates and at least three recent work related references confirming the required experience.
- c) In case of serving Public Officers, applications must be routed through their Heads of Department and Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered.

Applications should be addressed to;

Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Defence and Security  
Private Bag 00384, GABORONE

Or  
Hand delivered to the Ministry Headquarters,  
Plot 54355 Central Square Building, West Wing, and  
Office Number 221. Gaborone CBD, Phase 2.

For further information contact:  
**3698253 / 3698205**

**CLOSING DATE: 08<sup>th</sup> October 2024**



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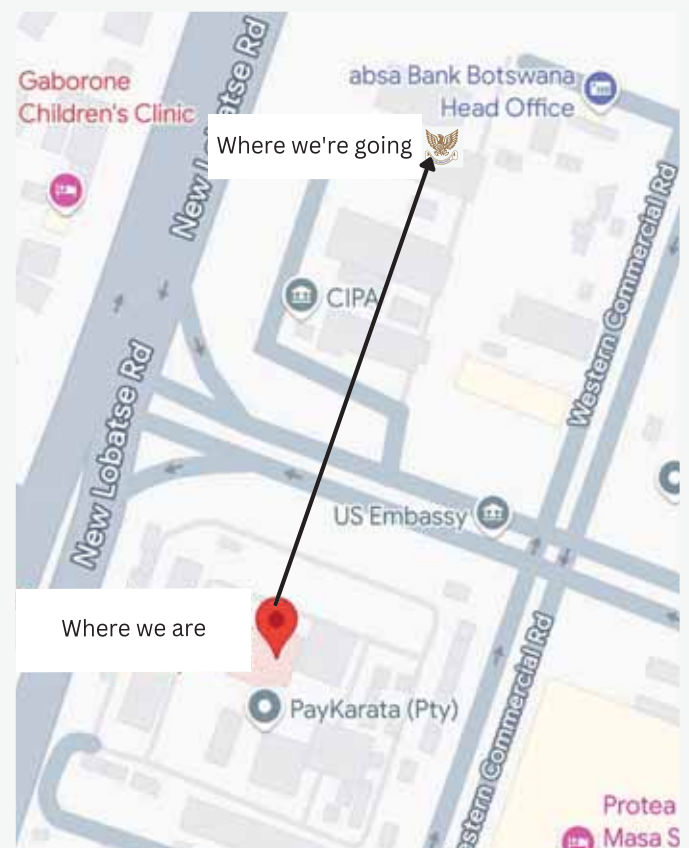
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**To** Plot 54358 South wing, Ground  
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# ClassifiedAds

## FARM WORKERS

**FARM WORKER WANTED COUPLES**, please contact Silcar Enterprises Pty Ltd Silvia Leago Chalebogwa P O Box 209203 Maun 74 896 212 / 71 685 122

**I AM LOOKING FOR A FARM WORKER** for an integrated farm (Tshimo + Moraka) at Tsutsuga in Letlhakane/ Mosu area. Thabane S. Malasa. Apply to: P O Box 105 Sowa Town Cell: 74 000 569 / 71 719 597

**FARM WORKERS NEEDED.** Call 71313774, 78 468 161. Farm no 185 NA Box 330 Ghanzi

**FARM WORKER WANTED** at Oodi lands. Requirements -Basic Literacy. - Farm machinery operation. -Driving license.- Age 25 and above. Apply to Mma Keabetswe, P O BOX 601359 Gaborone. Cell 72 223 16 Closing Date: 18 October 2024

**3 FARM LABOURERS WANTED** at Gerald farm No 29. Apply to Mbakiso Nchochi Box 2267 Francistown 74 659 717

**MACHOKOCHOKO FARM IN** Sebina Phanga. Want a married male all-rounder farm worker aged between 24 and 35 years. Contact: P. O BOX 47795 Phakalane. Mobile: 75 592 393

**MALE FARM WORKER WANTED** in Legotlong Mochudi at silverfox farm. Call Ms Ntuka Orapeleng 71611198

**IM LOOKING FOR** a farm worker to work at Makawe lands. Apply to P O Box 38 Manyana Cell 72 171 258

## NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

**NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION LEKKER** bottle store plot 4996 Boseja, Mochudi wishes to operate the bar. Any objections contact Kgatlang council 577 7411 commercial within 14 days of this publication.

**GROUPIFY (PTY) LTD** of plot 12797 Tlokweng Kholwane ward informs owners of plot 12795 and 12798 concerning development of a boundary wall. Any objection contact 72 428 128

**NANA BALOLE, OWNER** of plot 853 in Oodi Matebele, intends to change land use from horticulture to multi-family residential. For inquiries, contact the Kgatlang district council physical planning office.

**CHANGE OF LAND USE.** Owner of plot 3681 Sefoke Tlokweng wishes to change land use for part of the plot from multi-residential to single residential. For any objections contact Tlokweng district council physical planning office on 369600 within 14 days of publication notice.

**NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION. OWNER** of plot 787 in Goodhope would like to notify owners of plot 786 about intent to change land use from residential to multi residential and erecting a boundary wall. For any objections, contact Goodhope physical planning office on 5404284

## IC Projects (Pty) Ltd

**Position: General Manager - Sporting**

**Job Summary:**

Lead and manage all sporting operations with strategic vision and excellence.

**Requirements:**

- Both UEFA Pro Licence and CAF Instructor Licence
- Minimum 15 years as Head Coach of a National Team.

Apply by sending your CV and motivation letter to: icprojects@gmail.com

Tel: 5751004

**Closing Date: 12 October 2024**

## NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETING FOR LATE OLAOLUWA AYODELE OLUWAYOMI

IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 31 of the Administration of Estates Act ( Cap 31:01) , the heirs and next of kin of the deceased persons specified above are hereby invited to attend a next kin meeting on **Tuesday 26th November 2024** at **14:00 hours** at the office of the Master Batho Kferethwa located at the Gaborone High Court Division .

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

For any Enquires concerning the person's estate please contact the Master's office 371 8343, 371 8000/ 371 8040( Switchboard).



## Kellytodds English Medium Pre-Primary School (KEMPS)

**Vacancy Announcement**

1. Lower and Upper Primary Teacher
2. Pre-School Teachers
3. Music Teacher
4. Cleaner

**Requirements:**

- All applicants must have a minimum qualification of a Diploma in Early Childhood Education/Diploma in Primary Education or above
- Experience in an English Medium School
- Permission to teach is mandatory

**Please send your of applications;**

CVs, cover letters, and copies of your ID/Passport to:

Email:kellytoddschools@gmail.com

For more details, please contact:

Phone: 5390713/ 77712776/71665277

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**Closing Date: 23 October 2024**

## ADS • 625 0353 • 654 0323

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER A PLOUGHING FIELD WITH A NON CITIZEN IN TERMS OF SECTION 34 OF TRIBAL ACT ,2018

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Tribal Land Act, that Ms Itshekeng Mapodise intends to transfer property to Abouelela Trading ( Proprietary) Limited

**CERTAIN:** piece of land (Ploughing field)

**SITUATE:** Kgantshang, about 50M from main road

**MEASURING:** 182m (N) +106m(E)+153m(S)+183m(W) square metres/hectares

**HELD UNDER:** Certificate of customary land Grant

**To ABOULELA TRADING PTY LTD** a non citizen owned company for the sum of P77 000,00 (seventy seven thousand pula only)

All persons having objection to the sale of the property are hereby requested to lodge such objections in writing with Maun Sub Land Board, P Bag 201 Maun within 30 days of publication of this notice

**Dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

### Position Title: Special Needs Programme Coordinator

**Position Overview:** A non-teaching role. Ideal candidate will -

- To develop and implement diagnostic assessments for learners with special needs
  - Develop appropriate curriculum and school based assessments to support the academic development of special needs learners.
  - Oversee special education inventory of props, equipment and materials
  - Serve as resource person for admission of special needs students
  - Monitor and evaluate special education programme effectiveness
  - Communicate with staff, parents and community on the school's specialized programmes
  - Maintaining special needs student files.
- Qualifications: must possess**
- A master's degree in special education
  - Minimum 1 to 2 years of demonstrable experience of working in a school setting
- How to apply:**  
**Apply in writing, annexing a CV and References to:**  
**Dipeo Nursery School**  
P O Box 149 Gaborone  
**Closing date:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### PIONEER ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER

We wish to employ a dynamic and proactive primary school teacher (Grade 4 - 7).

**Requirements:**

- B-Ed with at least five years of teaching experience within grades 4 to 7
- Cambridge International experience is essential
- Experience in special needs education is an advantage
- Computer Literate
- Ability to coach various sports/cultural activities

**Closing date:** 29 October 2024

Forward a covering letter and a CV with at least two traceable references to [recruitment@pioneeracademy.ac.bw](mailto:recruitment@pioneeracademy.ac.bw)

## VACANCIES

**INDIAN CUISINE CHEF** 2 post wanted to prepare and present both buffet and a la carte meals, ordering and stock takes. Candidate must be willing to work for extended periods. Certificate of food and beverage management or equivalent. Apply to Concorde Agencies (PTY) Ltd. P O Box 21686 Boseja Maun.

## BRAND MANAGER

**A. Role title: Brand Manager**

**B. Core Responsibilities**

- Prepare for new product launches
- Plan and execute media actions on all channels, (social media, outdoor, radio)
- In charge of promotional material for product branding
- Managing the budget for advertising and promotional items
- Competitor and customer insights analysis
- Give feedback on local marketing and assist operations

**C. Qualification**

- Minimum of Cambridge to Diploma
- Relevant training in FMCG brand promotion
- Minimum of 5-year relevant work experience

**D. Apply to:** Human Resources, Baobab Energy Plot 1093 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Queens Road Main Mall Gaborone

**E. Closing date: 10 October 2024**

# YOUR AD HERE!

CALL: 365 3500 / 3587 / 3591 / 3592 / 3593

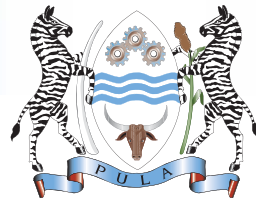
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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY DIRECTORATE

**REMINDER**

**SUBMISSION OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, INCOME, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**WHEN ARE DECLARATIONS MADE?**

As per the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act No. 12 of 2019

- Within 60 days after appointment or assumption of office or taking an oath of allegiance before the National Assembly.
- Every 24 months after the first declaration and thereafter every 24 months after every subsequent declaration.
- Within 30 days where, a declarant had made a declaration and subsequent to that the value of his/her interest, income, assets and liabilities is reduced or increased by a minimum value of P200,000.00
- A declarant shall continue to declare for 5 years after leaving the office



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**BENEFICIARY ASSESSMENT NOTICE**



**CALL FOR BENEFICIARIES – DEATH BENEFIT CLAIMS**

In line with the provisions of the Retirement Funds Act (2022) (the Act) which require retirement funds administrators to trace beneficiaries of death claims, NMG Administrators Botswana is currently assessing beneficiaries for deceased members of the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund listed below. Therefore, all possible beneficiaries/dependants should liaise with the Administrator. This is to ensure that all beneficiaries or dependants are known and considered by the Trustees in

apportioning the Death Benefits in pursuit of their fiduciary responsibility. The social investigations for the other known beneficiaries/dependants are also ongoing and the already engaged concerned parties should ignore this call.

Kindly contact the Administrator within 14 days from the date of this Publication.

Name Of Deceased Member	Deceased ID	Date Of Death	Membership Status	Name Of Deceased Member	Deceased ID	Date Of Death	Membership Status
Agnes Gopolang	177020106	26/07/24	Active	Lentibile Kubuitsile	565413002	12/12/23	Active
Boitshupo Bobing	500720706	05/02/24	Active	Lepadile Gwanda	993419607	28/11/23	Active
Bornwell Mabechu	700114000	09/08/24	Pensioner	Marang Basutli	865325907	20/05/24	Active
Isaac M Mazebedi	606715415	30/06/24	Active	Mopoloki Machacha	401519318	09/05/24	Active
Joseph Motshwari	555712709	29/06/24	Active	Nelson Mokwaledi	266818416	30/06/24	Active
Keabaka Gareutlwane	591120908	22/03/24	Active	Onnetse Mokgothe	718620709	22/04/24	Active
Kedibonye Kuti	297621303	01/05/24	Active	Oromile Gaisang	027619608	31/01/20	Active
Kelly Monageng	855914007	24/11/23	Active	Papa Gaokwalelwe	707914303	30/06/24	Active
Kgosiemang Kgokgonyane	760313601	15/07/24	Active	Segomotso Thejane	843423515	27/06/24	Active
Khomela Khomela	854119004	24/05/15	Active	Sewetse Baseyo	470522701	26/05/24	Active
Khumoetsile Dikago	361329405	25/12/20	Active	Tomeletso Mmapadi	457211408	13/05/24	Active
Lame Gakebaiphe	231213701	06/06/24	Active	Zweli Kgakatsi	676313000	17/09/24	Pensioner
Lenthatile Bothale	658229500	07/06/24	Active				

Please contact NMG Administrators Botswana at: +267 318 6820/ 241 2562/ 588 1236/ 686 0597 or Toll Free: 0800 600 177

Finding a better way



## Culture day promotes inclusion

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - Culture day celebrations provide an understanding, inclusion and enjoyment, which promotes happiness, respect and harmony between people and communities, the Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary, Nancy Chengeta has said.

Delivering a keynote address on Thursday, during the launch of the inaugural Ministry of Agriculture Culture Day celebrations in Gaborone, Chengeta said culture day celebrations also provided a platform to fully understand and appreciate the diverse cultures within the country.

She said Botswana was a multilingual and multicultural nation, comprising of different ethnic groups, which together had their own rich and distinct culture and cultural heritage, but with similarities and differences.

Chengeta said culture was a form of identity for the group, which played an important role in shaping its identity, adding that the Ministry of Agriculture also had its own culture that ensured that the ministry's economic empowerment programmes were inclusive, regardless of one's status in society.

She highlighted that the newly launched programmes of Temo Letlotlo and Thuo Letlotlo were inclusive 'as they cater for the young, old, people with disabilities, among others.

She, therefore, urged the ministry staff to nurture the culture.

The Permanent Secretary said the ministry intended to hold the event annually.

By doing so, she said it would give the staff a moment to pause and reflect, as sons and daughters of the Ministry of Agriculture, on the things of great substance that worked for the ministry throughout the years and discard those that did not add value to humankind.

Therefore, she commended the event organisers for initiating a well thought and well executed event, which symbolised unity, tolerance and acceptance of cultural diversity.

"By breaking down stereotypes and fostering acceptance, culture day helps dismantle barriers and promotes a sense of belonging for the people," she said.

"The culture day should be a lesson to all of us that silos have no room in our ministry and work together as departments. The Mindset Change campaign,

as launched by President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, signifies the importance of doing things differently, looking at the bigger picture and inculcating the spirit of unity and togetherness amongst ourselves," she added.

That, Chengeta said was a prerequisite to reach the status of a high-income country, encouraging all the ministry directors to cascade the spirit of togetherness and break the silos amongst ministry departments.

As the nation readies for the general elections on October 30, she encouraged those who had registered to vote to go and exercise their constitutional right and vote.

She also encouraged the ministry staff to continue praying for Botswana to have peaceful, free and fair elections to foster the country's growth as Africa's shining example of democracy.

The day's celebrations, which was celebrated through songs, dance, poems, artifacts and traditional cuisine and attire, were held under the theme: Promoting Cultural Diversity. **BOPA**



Ministry of Agriculture permanent secretary, Neo Chengeta (right) celebrating with the ministry choir during a culture day event in Gaborone recently. She said celebrating culture could not be overemphasised as it provided a platform to fully understand and appreciate diverse cultures within the country.

Photo: Dimpho Buisanyang

## WhySo Sundays show thrills

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - The WhySo Sundays independence special festival, a grassroots event by WhySo Group, is showing growth in its second instalment held at Pylon Park in Gaborone.

The first independence show under

this brand was held in 2023 as a collaboration between two other brands Piano Sunsets and The Day Club.

As WhySo brand grows in authenticity and purpose, it remains a positive event celebrating Botswana's independence and embracing the creative culture in

the country.

Held under a cool breeze on Sunday, the WhySo Sundays independence hip hop show had some of Botswana's cream of hip hop artistes in Baanthata 'Ban-T' Mokgwathi, Luvuyo 'Veezo' Lejowa and Game 'Zeus' Bantsi as well as South Africa's Khulani 'Khuli Chana' Morule and Tokelo 'Maglera Boy' Moyakhe alongside DJs Slim, TeddyIsNotADJ, Fauz, Ms Daisy, Frostbite and Quest.

The performances levelled a playing field while the DJs ensured music rose to the expectation of the crowd as they kept them in check with a variety of musical genres.

Ban-T and Veezo View gave a short strong performance from their OTV project, leaving the crowd mesmerised with their constantly maintained chemistry.

The duo reinforced their brief display with a timeless sing along Naomi hit.

Following the duo's thrilling act was Khuli Chana with his energetic performance. Dipped in black and white outfit, the Mafikeng-born amped the crowd with bits of tribute to the late AKA while setting the stage ablaze with some mixes of his hit classics, which included *Tswa Daar*, *Hape le Hape* and also a short mix of tribute to

the late HHP.

While his immaculate performance kept the crowd entranced, perhaps the highlight of the show was Zeus' performance as he was celebrating 20 years in the game.

Clad in blue jeans and a red t-shirt, Zeus took the crowd down memory lane with his loved hits *Gijima* and *Imagination*, which energised the crowd to jam, storm and sing along with him.

Closing off the event was Maglera Boy, who was interestingly clad in a pantsula style outfit.

He gave his Botswana fans a memorable 58<sup>th</sup> independence Day celebrations.

With not much of hip hop events in the creative space, Zeus said in an interview that, "We need to understand that for us to put together a memorable good experience, we need great support from the business community".

He said the business community should invest more on experiential eventing, where fans need not to have to pay anything to watch top tier artistes because 'events such as these bring in various demographics of culture, lifestyle, history and so much that a good business is about. They (businesses) need to tap into that'. **BOPA**



Ban-T (left) and Veezo View electrifying the crowd with their performance of the hit Naomi at the WhySo Sundays hip hop show in Gaborone. Photo: Dimpho Buisanyang

# Tshane Horse Race gratifies spectators

By Thuso Kgakatsi

TSHANE - Amid the sparse crowds, horse race fanatics immersed themselves in the evolution of the thunderous roar of the race and the elegance that was displayed at the annual horse race competition dubbed, Tshane Horse Race, Boipuso Derby.

With the event held at Tshane sports ground, more than 30 stallions and mares of indigenous finest breeds made an independence gift and massive gratification to the horse lovers.

The race brought in unparalleled exploration of the village, offering a perfect opportunity for spectators an adventure to come to, and also explore the elegance and insightful stories about the pans, which are the village identity.

Speaking in an interview with BOPA, Hukuntsi District Council, deputy chairperson, Kebaneilwe Mmesetse shared that she was impressed at the ability at which the horse race was able to unite people, adding that the race has been able to offer both sports competition and a unique cultural spectacle of the tactical skills from the jockeys.

She also indicated that these kind of events were crucial as they were fundamental to empowering the local business community, adding that they definitely go a long way in promoting small businesses.

She said as the council, they have advised that such initiatives should be assisted in terms of securing market, partnership and other measures that the council was in position to assist.

"We really support these events, we are hopeful that the organisers

will further give a report to the council about the event so we can establish how best we can assist them," she said.

For his part, Events Incorporated event organiser Ofentse Kogobi shared that the aim was to provide entertainment for the community during activities.

Kogobi said with the show being hosted annually, they have experienced that more needed to be done to improve its standard.

He cited insufficiency of funds and challenges in securing a reputable sponsorship as major set-backs that had contributed to the show's stagnant growth.

Kogobi however shared that they are optimistic that the race will grow over time, adding that they were in consultation with respective organisations to ensure that they operated professionally.

"We are currently with Botswana Horse Race Association, and Botswana Gambling Authority as a way of ensuring that our race can be held professionally, and able to secure funds in order to be successful," he said.

He noted that the race was currently held on rugged and sandy terrain. However, he said they were in the process of improving the race track.

"We are working on the race to become part of the elite sport where outstanding horses and experienced jockeys can compete on a smooth track without obstacles. Our plan is to ensure that the race is held according to the international standards and that races are conducted by weight in accordance with the horse's age, gender and race category," he said

He said their race showcased the indigenous horses from



Tshane Horse Race dubbed Boipuso Derby, where more than 30 stallions and mares of indigenous breeds gratified horse race enthusiasts. Photo: Thuso Kgakatsi

Tshane and surrounding villages, adding that the breeds were near extinction and needed to be preserved for their strengths, agility and endurance.

"Our aim is to preserve our indigenous horses so that they are still available in future, as they are perfect for our climatic condition in our area," he said.

Kogobi therefore implored farmers to ensure that they preserve the breed so that the future generation can also utilise it. He said they had intentionally

invited Department of Wildlife and National Parks to be present at the race, to assist in addressing issues of human-wildlife conflict that was bedeviling them.

Under 1000m Tswana breeds, Justify of jockey Mothusiemang Olebile garnered position one, followed by Porsche Screen of jockey Olebile Hiri and on third position, Terminator of jockey Mogapi Pasi.

The 1200 metres Tswana breed race category was won by Justify, followed by Terminator

and thirdly, Go Black of jockey Tumo Katai. Under the Mule category, Thabang won position one, followed by Fish and Blasten.

The zero category Tswana horse race was scooped by English Boy of jockey Emmanuel Tlhase followed by Mental Case of jockey Thabang Leepile and thirdly, Voice Roll of jockey Esau Tlhage.

Position one category scooped P650, with position two earning P350 and third position getting P250 on these categories. **BOPA**

## Legends match arouses nostalgia

By Jeremiah Sejabosigo

GABORONE - The independence friendly match between Botswana legends and their South African counterparts brought back fond memories of yesteryear football.

Botswana beat South Africa 3-2 after producing a rousing fightback in the last five minutes at the National Stadium on Monday afternoon.

The match was organised by the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Gender and Culture as part of festivities for the 58th Independence Day celebrations.

Botswana legends team comprised of some of the finest players to have graced the local game, such as Itumeleng 'Tumie' Duiker and Naphtally 'Scara' Kebalepile, stars of the LCS Gunners team, which ruled local football in the early 1990s.

It also included former Tafic midfield maestro Mmoloki 'Bestobel' Sechele, Diphetogo 'Dipsy' Selolwane who starred for Gaborone United and several teams abroad, as well as Mogogi 'Gino' Gabonamong, Kagiso Tshelametsi, Joel '16' Mogorosi, Pheny 'Mzambiya' Mogala, Pontsho 'Piro' Moloi, Tshapo 'Talktalk' Motlhabankwe and Phadza Butale amongst others.

The visitors had former Kaizer Chiefs superstar Doctor '16V' Khumalo as its centre of attraction. It also included former famous names in the Premier Soccer League such as Jerry Skosana, Katlego Mphela, George Lebeso, Mthokozisi Yende, Jappie Motale, Isaac Mabotja and goalkeeper Silver Tshabalala among others.

Though age is no longer on their side and most of them have accumulated extra weight, the

legends didn't disappoint as they dished entertaining football to spectators who braved the chilly conditions to watch the match.

Duiker gave Botswana the lead in the fifth minute with a well taken shot from the edge of the penalty area after receiving a pass from Selolwane. Khumalo, who showed some of his trademark deft touches in midfield came close to equalising for South Africa, but his well taken shot rebounded off the cross bar with Tshelametsi well beaten.

Selolwane caused havoc at the other end and tested goalkeeper

Tshabalala with a stinging shot. Mongala troubled Motale with his trickery on the left wing while Mogorosi used his trademark speed to get behind the South African defence on several occasions.

Lebeso equalised for South Africa midway through the first half, and then put his team in front a minute before half-time. The second half saw the two teams cancel each other in midfield with few scoring chances created, until Botswana snatched victory with two late goals from Moloi and Molwantwa. **BOPA**



Zebras legends Pius Kolagano (centre) and Mogogi Gabonamong (left) defending against Bafana Bafana legends striker, Molefi Ntsoelengoe during an Independence day friendly game at the National Stadium in Gaborone on Monday. Zebras legends won 3-2. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

## 'Motorbike race can diversify tourism'

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Potential sponsors have been implored to support the annual Nhabe off-road championship aimed to promote sport tourism as well as develop and nurture star riders who could compete in the international arena.

One of the sport administrators in Maun, Ralph Ledimo appealed to potential sponsors in an interview on the sidelines of the event explaining that the initiative was a brilliant idea and had the potential to contribute to the tourism industry.

He said lack of sponsors for such spectacular event was a serious concern and wished potential sponsors could come on board and appreciate the magnitude of the event and the benefits attached to it.

"This motorsport event is gradually growing as compared to previous years in terms of the number of riders and spectators and I believe if the organisers can secure a sponsorship, the event can be bigger and better."

Ledimo who is also the chairperson of Maun Track and Field Club and Sports Volunteer Movement also expressed concern that some motorbike

clubs across the country could not make it to the event as a result of lack of sponsors.

He said the annual motor biking event could diversify sport tourism activities in the tourism hub apart from horse racing and athletics among others.

Ledimo emphasised on early promotion of the event calling on the organisers to enhance their marketing strategy to attract more attention.

While he appreciated that this year, there was a motorcade prior to the event, he was of the view that organisers could do more, engage other sport persons to build momentum and to sensitize the community about the event.

Meanwhile, organised by Maun team in collaboration with Orapa team, the event attracted over 40 motor bikers with a combination of professionals and amateur riders competing in various races.

Lion Pretorius of Kalahari X CR was crowned the overall winner in the junior category. Other overall champions in other categories included Aiden Webber and the sensational rider Kosmas Mamaloukos both from RD Motorsport as well as Kgosi Tsogang of Desert Rats among other. **BOPA**

## Spinners burn tyre in Francistown

By **Thamani Shabani**

FRANCISTOWN - The sky around Francistown was clouded by tyre smoke and the raucous cheering of the crowd.

Roar of powerful engines filled the air at the Francistown Spin Bash, which has been on hold for the past four years due to COVID-19.

Cars started to hit the track at 1600 hours until midnight and car spinning fans arrived some hours earlier because of limited space in the family friendly event.

They performed a number of stunts to impress the spectators with their continuous spinning motions at high rev and speed for a certain amount of time.

The spinners also performed stand-still burnouts, whereby drivers keep their handbrake up while also applying their foot to the

brake pedal at the same time accelerating, causing the back and front wheels to spin whilst the vehicle is stationary and creating as much smoke as possible. It was a day of intense competition and amazing stunts by the spinners and some of the highlights of the day came from some of the visiting performers from South Africa and Zimbabwe.

But it was when Mzololo Mlilo, aka 'Shaka' from Zimbabwe and John Mpya from South Africa rev their engines that saw clouds of smoke hide their modified BMWs and that was when the real spinning came into life.

They performed a number of tight manoeuvres so that their cars spin around, creating a cloud of smoke before they casually stepped out of the car while they were still spinning round driverless, engine

revving, and tyres screeching.

Mlilo and his partner, Ryan Mashobani, trading under the name 'Amakhosi' veered his car and sent his spinning around in circles whilst still maintaining control of his vehicle.

Whilst all this is happening, he would get out of the moving car and strike a pose, but there was more skill involved than putting the foot down the burning rubber.

In the driver's seat, Mlilo gripped the steering wheel and was determined to put on a show for the spectators who had gathered around the tyre barricaded spin track.

Mpya on the other hand, continued to leap into the bonnet whilst his car was still spinning.

On the roof, he would lift up the bonnet, balances on the window frame, before re-entering through the door or

through the sun roof to take control of the vehicle once again. The local side featured renowned spinners in the likes of Mothusi Alfred, also known as King Joe, VMUD, real name Thuso Mudongo, Thabang Phiri (Bosphiri), Thabo Mudongo, also known as Timpower and Steven Given, the Ghetto Child.

They took the youth and pop culture by storm as this high-octane activity makes its way into the mainstream motorway scene. Their spinning teams hung from their car doors and posed on the roofs of their speeding vehicles, all this in front of an adoring crowd who could not hide their excitement and begging for more. The organiser of the event, Cannedy Sibanda, said they had expected a lot of spinners to partake in the event but some failed due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control. He said

the motorsport industry is a very expensive one that requires a lot of money to maintain their spinning cars.

However, he said the event went as planned, adding that the Francistown spinning continues to grow, looking at the number of people who continue to throng the event. "I am pleased by the number of people who came despite a late notice but I am optimistic that next year's event will attract more revellers," he added.

Sibanda pleaded with companies and individuals to donate any form of help so that the teams realise their dreams.

He wants to see more young people joining the sport, including women who seem to be more fearful about spinning.

"The management should now focus on women to make the spinning more attractive," disclosed Sibanda. **BOPA**



Action during the Francistown Spin Bash on Saturday. The bash attracted spinners from Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo