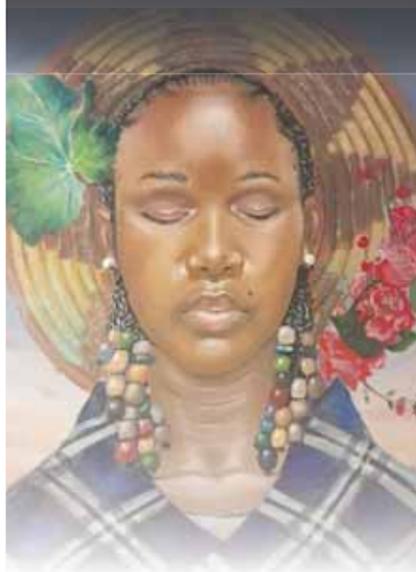


BOTSWANA Daily News

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Madisakwana advises caution as conflict escalates



Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE

As conflict continues to grip parts of the Middle East, the Acting Ambassador of Botswana to the State of Kuwait, with accreditations to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, Mr Amangwe Madisakwana has urged Batswana nationals living in the region to exercise extreme caution.

His caution comes amid ongoing attacks involving the United States of America (USA), Israel and Iran.

Speaking in an interview with BOPA on Monday, Mr Madisakwana advised citizens to limit unnecessary movement, warning that ordinary routines now carry heightened risk.

“Simple things like going to the shop or travelling to work now require careful consideration. For now, I am working from home. They should avoid frequenting shopping malls and crowded places, as one may never know where the next strike may occur,” he said.

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First Lady calls for smarter school meals programmes

Lindi Morwaeng
TLOKWENG

The first Lady Ms Kaone Boko has called for a shift from blanket school feeding policies to community-driven, evidence-based interventions, saying Africa must ensure that “no child ever learns on an empty stomach.”

Speaking at the 11th Africa Day of School Feeding gala dinner held Saturday in Tlokweng, ahead of the official opening of the conference, Ms Boko said school feeding programmes had evolved beyond welfare interventions into “ecosystems of hope” that linked agriculture, health and education.

“When we feed a child, we don’t just nourish the body, we nourish a huge possibility. Across Africa, school feeding programmes have turned classrooms into spaces of hope. They improve attendance, they bridge the gap between the vulnerable and the well-resourced home,” said Ms Boko.

She acknowledged that in the past, government adopted a top-down approach in determining school menus, often without consulting

communities.

“We would make a blanket assumption and say, this is what we are going to feed the rest of the children across the country. What we did is to forget that some people don’t even know the food we are giving them. Through research we found that they don’t eat it and they don’t know how to cook it,” she said.

Ms Boko said that consultations with communities, particularly in Ghanzi District, revealed a desire for participation in designing feeding programmes.

“When parents participate, when we involve children and local producers, the programme becomes a movement. Each district should produce for its own children. That way, we ensure culturally appropriate foods that communities know and enjoy,” she said.

Ms Boko said the initiative, which started in Ghanzi, would expand to other districts, with a focus on nutritious meals, clean water and hygiene under this year’s theme: Ensuring Access to Nutritious Meals, Clean Water and Hygiene: Promoting Safety and Resilience in Every School Meal Investment.

“As a mother, when you feed your child, you ensure the food is

“When we feed a child, we don’t just nourish the body, we nourish a huge possibility. Across Africa, school feeding programmes have turned classrooms into spaces of hope. They improve attendance, they bridge the gap between the vulnerable and the well-resourced home.”



First Lady Kaone Boko (centre) with children during the 11th Africa Day of School Feeding gala dinner in Tlokweng on Saturday. She called for strengthened investment in school feeding programmes, saying no child should ever learn on an empty stomach. Photo: Tshoganetso Mokowe

nutritious, their hands are clean and the environment is safe,” she said, adding that investing in child nutrition was investing in Africa’s stability and prosperity.

Presenting research on malnutrition among San indigenous communities, Dr Tebogo Leepile-Donald said her PhD study sought to close critical data gaps on household food insecurity, anemia and undernutrition.

Her findings revealed that 42 per cent of children in the surveyed

communities were anemic, while nearly 70 per cent were stunted.

Among women, 40 per cent were underweight, and 26 per cent of pregnant women were anemic.

Dr Leepile-Donald said 70 per cent of households in the study area survived on less than US\$1.75 a month, with low dietary diversity and limited access to sanitation facilities compounding malnutrition.

She said communities had called for greater consultation

and incorporation of indigenous knowledge in policy design.

“We cannot programme for people without specific information about their day-to-day experiences,” she said, adding that translating research into policy action was critical.

Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, permanent secretary, Ms Mmamiki Kamanakao, said government was implementing integrated early childhood development interventions in partnership with the Office of the First Lady.

She announced plans to construct a satellite school in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) up to Standard Four, to allow children to remain with their families during their early schooling years.

Further, she said government was also reviewing training programmes to incorporate mother tongue instruction in indigenous communities.

“We are increasing food rations in clinics and early childhood centres in indigenous areas, to ensure children benefit from nutritious meals,” she said.

The National Children’s Consultative Forum of Botswana, president, Mr Tumelo Matinkeja, urged governments to include children in decisions that affected them.

“School meals cannot be complete without clean water and proper hygiene,” he said, calling for nutritionally sensitive menus. Echoing the sentiment, SADC Child Forum, president, Ms Aumake Aaron, said school feeding programmes were integral to academic performance.

“A school feeding programme is more than just feeding. Children focus better and perform academically when they are well fed,” she said, advocating for meals to be served immediately upon arrival at school and to include salads and fruit.

The Africa Day of School Feeding is about continental unity and shared responsibility. **BOPA**

School feeding strategic investment

Vice President Mphahlele Mofokeng has called for bold, predictable financing and stronger cross-sector coordination to sustain school feeding programmes across Africa as he officially opened the 11th African Day of School Feeding in Gaborone on Saturday.

Addressing ministers, development partners and child representatives from across the continent, the Vice President said school feeding must be viewed not as a welfare intervention but as a strategic investment in Africa’s human capital.

Quoting African Union Commissioner Ms Sarah Anyang Agbor, he reminded delegates that “if education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world, then quality food is the source of the strength for quality education.”

“A hungry child cannot fully learn,” Mr Gaolathe said, adding that nutrition, clean water, sanitation and education must function as a coordinated system if school meals were to deliver lasting results.

The continental event, established by the African Union in 2016, to be commemorated annually on March 1, celebrates

progress in home-grown school feeding while reviewing challenges and financing gaps.

This year’s theme focuses on ensuring access to nutritious meals, clean water and hygiene in schools.

Mr Gaolathe said “Botswana speaks not from theory, but from lived experience,” noting that the country’s school feeding programme spanned nearly six decades and currently reached close to 400 000 learners from pre-primary to secondary level.

He revealed that Botswana spent more than US\$100 million annually (over P1 billion) on school feeding, supporting smallholder farmers, women and youth entrepreneurs, manufacturers and rural economies.

“School feeding must feed the child while feeding the local economy,” he said, urging governments to strengthen procurement systems, modernise delivery oversight and shield the programme from short-term fiscal pressures.

The programme however, has its own threats that include rising food prices, climate shocks and supply chain disruptions, which may lead to irregular deliveries that erode confidence and disrupt learning.

These therefore, require predictable financing, transparency and strong monitoring systems, to safeguarding the programme.

Mr Gaolathe called on African governments and international partners to support the next replenishment cycle of the Global Partnership for Education, describing education financing as “co-investment in human capital” rather than charity.

The African Union Commission, School Feeding Division – head, Mr Yurise Fawo-Yunesko, commended member states for increasing domestic financing of school meals, revealing that 83 per cent of the estimated US\$2 billion (about P27 billion) invested in school feeding across Africa in 2024 was financed by governments themselves.

He said the number of children benefiting from the programmes had more than doubled over the past decade, now reaching 87 million learners in the continent.

However, he cautioned that climate shocks, economic fluctuations and infrastructure gaps continued to threaten gains.

The World Food Programme executive director, Ms Cindy McCain, in her remarks delivered

virtually, described school meals as “one of Africa’s most powerful investments,” noting that provision had grown by more than 30 per cent in just two years.

She said while progress was encouraging, millions of vulnerable children still lacked access to school meals and clean water, urging governments to deepen domestic financing and integrate water, sanitation and hygiene into feeding programmes.

National Children’s Consultative Forum of Botswana president, Tumelo Matinkeja, urged leaders to include children in decisions affecting them, saying school meals could not be complete without clean water and proper hygiene.

Similarly, SADC Child Forum president, Ms Aumake Aaron said learners performed better academically when well fed, advocating for meals to be served immediately upon arrival at school and to include fruit and salads.

The event that attracted representatives from more than 30 African states, concluded with ministerial statements from participating countries and visits to selected primary and secondary schools in Gaborone and Mogoditshane. **BOPA**

Envoys promise result-driven ties

Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

Diplomatic envoys accredited to Botswana have pledged to deepen and broaden cooperation with the country as they begin their tour of duty.

Presenting their letters of credence to President Duma Boko at the Office of the President on Monday, the diplomats emphasised that cordial relations must translate into tangible economic and social benefits.

The new Ambassador of the Portuguese Republic to Botswana, Mr Carlos da Costa Neves, said Portugal's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would soon visit Botswana to explore areas of bilateral cooperation and discuss Portugal's candidature for the 2026-27 United Nations Security Council term.

He noted that Portuguese businesses already have a footprint in neighbouring countries such as South Africa, Angola and Mozambique, and could consider expanding investment into Botswana.

Mr Neves added that he had initiated discussions with sports authorities in South Africa on football development partnerships and hoped to extend similar cooperation to Botswana, particularly in training football coaches and organising friendly matches at under-20, under-17 and women's levels.

President Boko observed that Portugal, despite its relatively small population of about 10 million, enjoys a high gross domestic product and low unemployment

levels, achievements Botswana aspires to emulate.

Turning to relations with Pakistan, President Boko urged High Commissioner Mr Malik Farooq to encourage Pakistan's strong textile industry to invest in Botswana. He said such investment could benefit from frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area and the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Ambassador Farooq agreed on the need to expand trade volumes between the two countries, identifying mining, energy and agriculture alongside cultural diplomacy as promising areas of cooperation. He pledged to motivate Pakistani businesses to support Botswana's economic diversification drive.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador of Somalia, Mr Mohammed Ibrahim, expressed gratitude to Botswana for hosting approximately 200 Somali refugees and for the role played by the Botswana Defence Force in United Nations peacekeeping operations in the 1990s. He called for enhanced collaboration in trade and investment, mineral resource development, tourism, education and training.

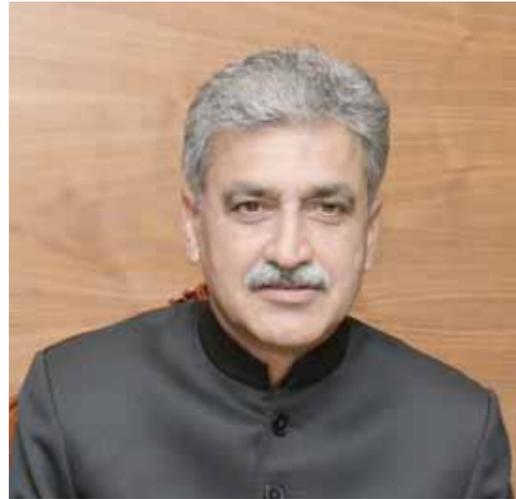
The first-ever High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr William MacDonald, highlighted



Ambassador Carlos da Costa Neves of Portugal



High Commissioner William Alexander MacDonald of Barbados



High Commissioner Malik Muhammad Farooq of Pakistan



Ambassador Mohamed Issak Ibrahim of Somalia

similarities between the two nations, noting that both attained independence from the United Kingdom in 1966 and have since progressed from modest beginnings to upper middle-income status.

He said Barbadian Prime

Minister Mia Mottley, upon assuming office in 2018, prioritised establishing stronger diplomatic representation in Africa, and regarded President Boko as a like-minded leader.

President Boko reciprocated the sentiment, describing

Prime Minister Mottley as a strong voice for the developing world, particularly on reform of international financial institutions and climate financing, and expressed willingness for the two leaders to meet for bilateral engagements. **BOPA**

Madisakwana advises caution as conflict escalates

...from page 1

Mr Madisakwana shared a firsthand account of fear, resilience and hope in the midst of growing uncertainty, noting that the situation appeared to be escalating as hostilities intensify.

"Air raid sirens, security alerts and restricted movement have quickly become part of everyday life," he said, adding that the atmosphere changed rapidly as developments unfold.

He encouraged Batswana in affected areas to strictly adhere to safety precautions, including seeking refuge in designated bomb shelters during alerts.

He noted that evacuation remained a challenge due to ongoing airspace closures.

"Getting out of the Middle East is still difficult, as airspace to and from some areas has been halted. We are exploring several options, but currently flights remain the primary mode of travel and these

have been severely disrupted," he explained.

While authorities in affected countries have implemented safety measures such as public alerts, emergency response systems, and access to bomb shelters, Mr Madisakwana said the emotional toll of the conflict was significant.

"Even when it is quiet, you are never fully at ease," he stated.

He described the situation as "unpredictable and emotionally exhausting," with windows and houses rattling from explosions as tensions continue to escalate while daily routines get repeatedly disrupted.

He pointed out that although food, electricity and water remain available in many areas, uncertainty over supply chains had triggered panic buying in some communities.

Despite the challenges, Mr Madisakwana said strong community networks had provided some comfort. He noted that they had been engaging with

counterparts from South Africa and Eswatini to explore ways of sharing resources where possible.

"As SADC member-states, we regularly check in on one another and share safety updates and information," he said.

Mr Madisakwana confirmed that communication channels with Botswana authorities remained active.

He said there were approximately 300 Batswana nationals residing in the Middle East, with about 200 based in the United Arab Emirates and 50 in Qatar.

He said the Embassy was constantly in touch with all nationals in the region through various active media platforms to ensure consistent messaging and render advice.

Mr Madisakwana therefore urged Batswana in the Middle East to remain vigilant, resilient and hopeful for calm and navigate each day with caution.

"We must continue to take

care of ourselves and follow the guidance provided by local authorities," he said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of International Relations has in a press-release advised Batswana to avoid travelling to the affected countries and re-route their travel away from the Middle East airspace until the situation has calmed.

Batswana living in the Middle East have been requested to contact the Botswana Embassy in the State of Kuwait and the Botswana High Commission in London or any nearby for assistance.

For any inquiries, kindly contact the Kuwait Embassy at +965 25396153 or Charge' d' Affaires a.i Mr Amanagwe Madisakwana at +956 6968 8801, or email botkuw@gov.bw or Botswana High Commission in London at +447704665413, or ttshekiso@govbw.com **BOPA**

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PARLIAMENT 2026

Minister envisions reforms to boost service delivery

GABORONE

The Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs envisions spearheading reforms aimed at facilitating and contributing to national economic recovery.

Presenting the ministry's budget estimates for the 2026/27 financial year, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware, stated that a key driver of such recovery included transitioning to 24-hour operations at strategic border posts shared with neighboring countries. Minister Mokgware said the four borders identified for 24-hour operation included Kazungula, Martins Drift, Pioneer Gate and Tlokweng.

He noted that the move would create opportunities for Batswana, facilitate movement of travellers and trade as well as improve Botswana's overall global competitiveness. He also emphasised that strengthening a 24-hour economy would allow for limitless access to services.

He also revealed that the ministry was exploring engagement with key stakeholders to implement shift work within the public sector with the aim to reduce employee fatigue while creating more job opportunities. "These interventions are expected to bring efficiency to service delivery and ensure the timely issuance of vital documents, including National Identity Cards (Omang), work and residence permits, visas and birth and death certificates. I must underline that as we digitise the economy, these initiatives will serve to augment our digital platforms," he added. Regarding Omang, Maj. Gen. Mokgware acknowledged that the ministry had encountered service delivery challenges, particularly in the application and issuance of identification documents. To address such, he said the ministry was undertaking a series of reforms, including digitalisation of services and strengthening of performance monitoring mechanisms.

Furthermore, he said the National Registration (Amendment) Act of 2025 now allowed for the use of passports and drivers' licenses as valid identification during the period when identity cards were being replaced, to ensure continuity of service and convenience for citizens. Regarding the amended Citizenship Act, the minister stated that the ministry would undertake an assessment and profiling of specific communities to eliminate the possibility of statelessness.

On the digital ID initiative, he explained that the Electronic Identification System, originally prioritised for the 2025/26 financial year under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, had evolved into a broader Digital ID project.

"This programme aims to deliver a unified, secure and citizen-centric digital infrastructure that integrates digital IDs, a national e-wallet and e-government services," he noted. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs' total budget request for 2026/27 amounts to P973 million for the recurrent budget and P70 million for the development budget. Under the development budget of P70 million, P42 million will be allocated

to computerisation projects, including the Biometric Omang system. The remainder would fund the Records Management System, a Library Management System and general infrastructure development. The recurrent budget will cover personnel emoluments, subventions for the Botswana National Productivity Centre and the Non-Governmental Organisation Council, maintenance and office rentals.

The immigration and citizenship will get P362 million for the procurement of passport booklets and maintenance of the Immigration and Citizenship System and the Passport and Border Control System. Under Civil and National Registration, P105 million will fund the production of Omang cards and maintenance of the Births and Deaths Registration System.

The Labour and Industrial Relations will be allocated P76m for subscriptions to international organisations and board sitting allowances, with an additional P16.5 million for workplace safety inspections and health audits. Other departmental allocations include P89.6 million for Botswana National Library Services, P111 million for Department of Employment Services, P40.9 million for Botswana Public Service College, P29.9 million for the Botswana National Archives and Records Services as well as P10.6 million for the Department of Productivity and Competitiveness. **BOPA**

MPs rally behind 24-hour operation initiative

Mmoniemang Motsamai
GABORONE

Members of Parliament have rallied behind the move to extend operation hours at the Kazungula, Martins Drift, Pioneer Gate and Tlokweng borders to 24 hours.

They hailed the move as a positive step for boosting economic activity and facilitating seamless transportation of goods.

Debating the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs budget allocations for 2026/27 presented by Minister Maj. Gen. Pius Mokgware on Thursday, MPs noted that the move would improve border services and reduce transit times for long-haulage trucks.

Mahalapye East legislator, Mr Augustine Nyatanga, hailed the initiative and called on the ministry to evaluate operating times for all borders, including the Parshalt border near Makwate.

He also commended the ministry for the upcoming Employment and Labour Relations Act, noting that it would help standardise short-term employment.

On the issue of occupational health and safety, Mr Nyatanga emphasised the need for timely labour inspections, especially at farm where workers faced high levels of exploitation.

He praised electronic identification as a vital tool for safeguarding the country's integrity and welcomed the introduction of dual citizenship.

Maun East legislator, Mr Goretetse Kekgonegile, expressed concern that many

labour laws remained unenforced. He described the Employment and Labour Relations Act as long overdue. Mr Kekgonegile also touched on several administrative and economic points, acknowledging the move to allow driver's licenses as valid ID during Omang renewals but warned against the rise of fraudulent cards.

He proposed a 'Job Creation Pitso' with stakeholders and the development of a digital dashboard for employment. He requested an update on the proposed living wage of P4 000 monthly pay and urged the minister to bring the minimum wage law to Parliament.

Francistown South MP, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi, called for the regularisation of long-term foreign residents, arguing that stringent citizenship laws often led to dishonest reporting on birth certificates.

He also advocated for improving the visa system to be more efficient in terms of assisting former employees in settling compensation disputes as well as allowing large tour groups to bring their own chefs for specialised excursions.

Shashe West MP, Mr Jeremiah Frenzel, supported the extended hours for four major borders but expressed disappointment that Ramokgwebana was excluded. He suggested that if 24-hour operation was not feasible, the hours should at least be extended.

While Mr Frenzel supported dual citizenship, he cautioned that some foreign nationals might misuse it to enter business sectors reserved for Batswana, such as brick-laying and street vending. **BOPA**



Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware told Parliament that four borders identified for 24-hour operation included Kazungula, Martins Drift, Pioneer Gate and Tlokweng.

Parliament leverages ICT to drive transformation

Mmoniemang Motsamai
GABORONE

Parliament is set to transform into a high-performing institution through the implementation of the E-Parliament initiative.

By leveraging Information Communication Technology (ICT), the move aims to enhance legislative efficiency and deepen citizen engagement. Under the digital shift, ICT solutions would be deployed to manage parliamentary business, including minutes, Hansard records, library resources and order papers, while optimising legislative workflows.

Presenting the 2026/27 budget proposals for Parliament, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, stated that the modernisation would enable legislators and staff to collaborate more effectively and track the progress of bills in real-time.

"This initiative will reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks and overall costs, while

simultaneously protecting Parliament's legitimacy to deliver for its people," Mr Mohwasa said.

The minister also informed Parliament that the 2026/27 financial year would prioritise significant oversight actions. To build a more robust system, he said government intended to implement a structured post-budget oversight framework.

"This moves beyond the traditional practice of Committee of Supply briefings by establishing a mechanism to track the Executive's planned activities and monitor expenditure against the approved budget," he explained.

Regarding Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Mr Mohwasa noted that the body would embark on a transformative journey to enhance its systems. That, he said would include in-house training for members on legislative drafting, policy analysis and amended rules of procedure to ensure efficient legislative output.

Minister Mohwasa presented a recurrent budget request for Parliament of over P206.4

million for the 2026/27 financial year, representing a three per cent increase, or roughly P5.5 million, over the 2025/26 budget. Within the proposal, he said P147.6 million was dedicated to personnel emoluments for both the National Assembly and Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, while the remaining P58.8 million, approximately 28.5 per cent, was reserved for critical operational costs.

In addition to recurrent spending, the minister proposed a development budget of P8 million to fund six ongoing modernisation projects, including a P2 million allocation for computerisation to drive the Parliament Digital Transformation Strategy, which aimed to digitise manual processes and enhance transparency.

The remaining development funds were earmarked for physical and organisational upgrades with P1 million for the refurbishment of the main committee room, P2 million for heightening parliamentary security, P1 million for organisational restructuring and P2 million to facilitate the live broadcasting of Parliament proceedings. **BOPA**

Legislators push for Parliament autonomy

Mmoniemang Motsamai

GABORONE

Legislators have called for the autonomy of Parliament in managing its budget, staff and facilities to ensure separation of powers.

Debating the proposed 2026/27 budget allocations for Parliament, presented by the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, MPs argued that independence from the Executive was essential.

They maintained that such autonomy would allow the legislature to manage its own infrastructure, exercise its core functions and provide oversight without interference.

Kgatleng West legislator, Dr Unity Dow advocated for political funding to strengthen democracy and governance. She noted that the Clerk of the National Assembly was currently administratively constrained because key decisions were made externally. Furthermore, she highlighted critical shortage of committee researchers.

“Our support system is very weak,” Dr Dow said, noting that some staff members were forced to serve seven committees simultaneously, leading to some committees failing to sit at all.

She also implored cabinet ministers to stop scheduling Executive activities during Parliamentary sittings.

“There are only three times a year that Parliament sits and Cabinet should respect these sittings,” Dr Dow said. Mmopane/Metsimothabe MP and Deputy Speaker, Ms Hellen Manyeneng, concurred that financial independence was vital for law-making and representation.

Ms Manyeneng argued that Parliament currently lagged behind continental standards and called for a Parliament Act and a Code of Conduct and Ethics for staff.

She also called for an increased budget to prevent the disruption of committee functions, reforms regarding the ratification of treaties and protocols as well as enhanced training for Parliamentarians

on international agreements. Mogoditshane West MP, Mr Galenawabo Lekau, called for the formal empowerment of Whips to ensure that they performed their roles efficiently and without fear.

Mr Lekau also argued that legislators should be given full control over Constituency Community Project funds.

Maun West MP, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama said Parliament should not be an extension of the executive.

Mr Hikuama lamented lack of official transport for constituency roles, noting that MPs were currently forced to use their personal salaries to cover official activities.

“That Parliament must still ask for permission to travel proves there is no true separation of powers,” he said.

Shoshong MP, Mr Moneedi Bagaisamang, contended that

support staff were currently under-capacitated to handle complex bills and called for specialised empowerment to better advise committees.

Meanwhile, Boteti East MP, Mr Keoagile Atamelang, welcomed the move toward an e-Parliament, including the e-Hansard system.

Mr Atamelang suggested that IT graduates be recruited to improve efficiency and urged for better integration with agencies like Statistics Botswana to provide crucial data for policy crafting.

In response, Minister Mohwasa appreciated the contributions but reminded Parliament of the country’s limited financial resources.

He called on MPs to work together to strengthen the independence of both the judiciary and the legislature while keeping the Executive in check. **BOPA**



Legislators leaving Parliament after a session recently. They called for the autonomy of Parliament in managing its own budget to ensure separation of powers. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Govt commits to tackle cross-border crime

GABORONE

The Ministry for State President, Defence and Security has committed to undertake comprehensive benchmarking exercises on border management security, studying best practices from jurisdictions that have successfully established border management agencies.

Responding to a question in Parliament, Minister Moeti Mohwasa said the benchmarking exercises would help determine the need for continuous review of border management capabilities to address the evolving nature of cross-border threats that were on the rise.

Minister Mohwasa said while the establishment of a dedicated border patrol management authority remained under consideration, the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and Botswana Police Service continued to execute their primary mandate of border security with vigilance.

Recognising that transboundary crime cannot be tackled in isolation, the minister said on February 21, he led a high-level bilateral engagement with the South African Minister of Defence and military veterans.

“We agreed to develop an urgent, structured Bilateral Security Cooperation Model which includes formal intelligence-sharing mechanisms between defence, border management and intelligence authorities, joint early-warning systems to detect security vulnerabilities along the two states’ common border, coordinated response protocols for cross-border criminal activities and disease outbreaks and a high-level technical meeting within two weeks in Mafikeng to finalise this framework and operational protocols,” he said.

He added that while in South Africa, he also held a separate engagement with the head of the South African Border Management Authority and discussed several border management issues affecting the two countries, including a proposal to have some border posts operating on a 24-

hour basis to facilitate efficient movement of people and goods while enhancing security controls during off-peak hours.

Mr Mohwasa also said on February 25, he officiated a meeting of Southern African Police Chiefs from all countries sharing borders with Botswana Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, specifically dedicated to collaborative solutions for cross-border crime.

“These bilateral and multilateral steps demonstrate our commitment to a proactive and collaborative approach to border security with all our neighbour,” he said.

He further indicated that establishing a new Authority was a complex undertaking that involved significant legal, financial and administrative considerations. He highlighted that the process required thorough assessment to ensure that any new structure did not duplicate the existing roles and responsibilities of current security organs, including the BDF, BPS and Directorate of Intelligence and Security, immigration and Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS).

“Government is committed to ensuring any new structure adds tangible value to the national security architecture and that the ministry is actively exploring all options to ensure a cohesive and whole-of-government approach,” he said.

Mr Mohwasa also said discussions with South Africa and Namibia following benchmarking visits would collectively inform the future structure of Botswana’s domestic border management arrangements.

Member of Parliament for Okavango East, Mr Gabatsholwe Disho had asked the minister to state steps intended to address cross-border crime in the absence of a fully functioning border patrol management authority.

Mr Disho also wanted to know why the border patrol management authority had not yet been set up and when the ministry intended to set it up or a similar agency in that respect. **BOPA**

Botswana transitions to economic recovery

Tebagano Ntshole

GABORONE

Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe has told Parliament that Botswana has currently transitioned from economic diagnosis to a phase of active recovery and growth.

Mr Gaolathe emphasised that government was now focused on execution and structural transformation rather than just identifying problems.

He was responding to deliberations from Members of Parliament on the proposed Ministry of Finance’s P1 billion budget for the 2026/27 financial year and also addressed concerns from Maun West MP, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama, who had opined that government was ‘all talk and no action,’ citing the poor performance of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

While MP Hikuama suggested merging the National Development Bank (NDB) and Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) to save funds, the Minister explained that government was aiming higher, saying instead of merging entities simply to cut costs, the goal was to transform them into large

and global competitors.

He said NDB was currently profitable and expanding its mandate beyond agriculture into tourism and the new legislation was being drafted to allow the bank to work with large corporations beyond Botswana’s borders.

On the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI), the minister said the entity was also undergoing expansion to compete in international markets.

Mr Gaolathe further acknowledged points raised by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Dumelang Saleshando, regarding the need for measurable targets.

He said the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme now monitored targets on a weekly basis, with a promise of regular public updates.

On other issues regarding combating financial wastage, the minister announced that the current centralisation of Government Purchase Orders (GPOs) was temporary and a new e-Procurement system would soon be introduced to modernise the process.

Legislators also heard that a review of the government payroll to eliminate ‘ghost employees’

was nearing completion, with disciplinary measures expected to follow.

Addressing remarks by Bobonong MP, Mr Taolo Lucas, Minister Gaolathe confirmed that government had successfully implemented a P4 000 living wage for public officers by utilising a system of allowances.

However, he noted that the private sector had not yet been able to match this due to ongoing cash flow challenges.

He emphasised that government’s long-term strategy was to build a robust economy capable of sustaining this wage across all sectors, though he cautioned that the transition would take time.

The minister also updated Parliament on the Sovereign Wealth Fund, stating that the Ministry of Finance was currently drafting the governing Act.

“This work is being done in coordination with the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security to ensure a solid foundation for the nation’s future savings. Subsequently, Parliament approved the Ministry of Finance’s budget estimates for the 2026/27 financial year. **BOPA**

PSP credits public officers for neutrality

Malebogo Lekula
GHANZI

Public officers have been hailed for upholding neutrality as custodians of administrative continuity during Botswana's political transition that saw the emergence of a new government in 2024.

"I will like to appreciate the entire public service for its commitment and resilience in promoting service delivery despite administrative difficulties before transition and even after ushering in the new government," Permanent Secretary to the President Ms Emmah Peloetletse during an inter-district consultative meeting with public officers in Ghanzi on Friday. The meeting was attended by officers from three districts of Ghanzi, Charleshill and North West.

Ms Peloetletse said public officers played a critical role in the transition of power as they were the operational backbone of government, responsible for implementing policies and managing public resources with integrity and accountability.

To ensure continuity and a smooth transition, she implored public officers to familiarise themselves with the Public Service Charter and to also uphold it at all times.

She said the Public Service Charter carried the principles through to which serving officers were expected to conform to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

She outlined the principles of the Public Service Charter, including regard for public interest, as a cornerstone of ethical public service.

Ms Peloetletse said the principle also called for every officer to serve with courtesy, humility and respect for all persons while acting in the best interest of the public at all times. Other principles, she said, included respect for the law, and avoidance of personal interest in the execution of public duties.

On other issues, she underscored the importance of investing in Information and

Communication Technologies by migrating services and offering them digitally so that human effort could be concentrated only on those that could not be automated.

Moreover, she called on serving officers to familiarise themselves with the National Development Plan (NDP) 12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), and ensure that they developed local economic plans that aligned with such reforms.

Ms Peloetletse also highlighted the fiscal challenges faced by government and called for financial prudence and accountability to ensure that NDP 12 and BETP plans

were realised to accelerate the economic development of the country.

She, however, noted that rationalisation of functions and technology-driven efficiencies were expected to contribute to cost containment and better value for money.

Earlier in her welcome remarks, Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) deputy director, Ms Tebogo Mogotsi said the objective of the consultative meeting was to interact with public officers and gather feedback that would improve decision making and foster a shared and inclusive vision for the public service.

In his closing remarks, Ghanzi District

Council secretary, Mr Gabobofane Mbwe appreciated the meeting saying it would serve as a wake-up call for public officers to introspect and identify bottlenecks that hindered service delivery.

He also implored them to develop personal and organisational strategies that could help enhance productivity in the public service.

Furthermore, he said the meeting laid a foundation for stronger collaboration between the three neighbouring districts and offered an opportunity for them to explore strategic working partnerships that would ensure continuity in their service delivery endeavours.

BOPA

Govt earmarks P108 million for Mabutsane-Morwamosu road

Kehumile Moekejo
MABUTSANE

Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae has told Mabutsane councillors that a P108 million budget has been earmarked for asphalt overlay of the Mabutsane-Morwamosu road in the 2026/2027 financial year.

Speaking at a full council meeting on Friday, Mr Salakae said the project would be financed through the Road Fund Levy.

He noted that the road, which was part of the Trans Kalahari Corridor was instrumental in linking Botswana with other countries thereby facilitating trade with external markets.

He said the road was currently in a bad state, characterised by potholes, uneven sections and overgrown vegetation. He also noted that plans were underway to improve the telecommunication network along the Trans Kalahari Corridor in an endeavour to ensure seamless communication and movement along

the road.

He said owing to economic challenges, government had taken a stance to prioritise primary roads, which had high traffic volumes and could enhance economic growth. While he acknowledged that there was need to improve the road network, he noted that some unpaved roads in the district would undergo dry grading and graveling.

Minister Salakae underscored the need to capacitate councils with proper machinery and equipment for them to effectively respond to the needs of the district. He also urged councillors to put political differences aside and work together to serve their communities.

For their part, councillors expressed concern that the Jwaneng-Maokane road and the one linking Kokong junction to Kokong were not included in the National Development Plan (NDP) 12.

They said the two roads were a priority for the district, considering their current bad state and their effects on the lives of the

communities.

Deputy council chairperson, Mr Obakeng Melome said the Jwaneng-Maokane road could enhance movement and improve the economy of the communities. He said as home to a service centre, Maokane housed the sub landboard and tribal services that provided services to other villages in the catchment area.

"Constructing this road would improve access to services and motivate the government employees who work there," he said.

Mabutsane/Kanaku Ward councillor, Mr Keberekile Pule said the Maokane road was in deplorable condition yet public officers who commuted daily from Jwaneng had to use it every day.

"We have been advocating for Maokane road for a long time. We wish it could be given attention," he said. He further said government should consider fencing the Trans Kalahari Highway to restrict movement of animals that contributed to high accidents on the road. **BOPA**



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR GABORONE CONSUMERS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Notice is hereby given to all members of Gaborone Consumers Co-operative Society Limited (GCCSL) that the Annual General Meeting will be held in Gaborone at Aquarian Tide Hotel on the 13th and 14th March 2026.

The meeting will commence at 1400 hours until 1800 hours on the 13th and at 0800 hours on the 14th March 2026.

All members and proxies should bring evidence of their membership or proof of appointment to represent members.

For administration purposes please confirm your attendance with the Secretary at 73 180 156, alternatively call 71 360 259, 71 327 665, 71 397 248, 71 812 232 or 72 271 434 on or before the 6th March, 2026.

The Agenda of the meeting will include:

- Board Business Report.
- Audited financial Statements for 2024/2025.
- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 14th to 15th March 2025.

KITSISO YA PHUTHEGO YA BOTLHE YA NGWAGA YA GABORONE CONSUMERS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Maloko a lekgotla la koporase ya Baji Bareki la Gaborone a lalediwa phuthago ya botlhe e e tlaa tshwarelwang mo Gaborone kwa hoteleng ya Aquarian Tide ka kgwedi ya Mopitlo e tlhola malatsi ale lesome le boraro go fitlhelela e tlhola malatsi ale lesome le bone. Phuthago e tlaa simolola ka Labotlhano ka nako ya bobedi go fitlhelela ka nako ya borataro, mme ebo e tswelela ka Saterataga go tloga ka nako ya boferabobedi.

Maloko le baemedi ba maloko ba rotloediwa gotla ka sesupo sa boloko kana sa thomo ya leloko.

Maloko a kopiwa go supa gotla phuthagong ga bone ka go leletsa mokwaledi wa khuduthamaga mo mogaleng wa 73 180 156, kana ee latelangl 71 360 259, 71 327 665, 71 397 248, 71 812 232 or 72 271 434 pele ga Mopitlo a tlhola ga rataro (6).

Thulaganyo ya phuthago e tlaa tsenya tse di latelang:

- Pego ya kgwebo ya Koporase
- Pego ya madi ya dingwaga tsa 2024/2025
- Metsotso ya phuthago ya botlhe ya Mopitlo ale 14 le 15 ka ngwaga wa 2025.



VACANCY

Phoenix of Botswana is a short-term insurance company established in 2012 in Botswana, providing all classes of short-term insurance policies and part of a well-established group of short-term insurance companies operating in five SADC countries.

We invite applications for the following position:

FINANCE MANAGER

Role Purpose: Reporting to the CEO, the Finance Manager leads the finance department, ensuring sound financial management, compliance with insurance regulations, and accurate reporting. The role provides financial insight to support strategic decision-making while maintaining strong controls, efficient processes, and stakeholder confidence

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversee the efficient day-to-day operations of the finance department, ensuring effective financial controls and processes.
- Manage accounts receivable and payable functions, including oversight of vendor relationships and payments.
- Liaise with brokers, reinsurers, suppliers, and service providers to support smooth financial operations.
- Maintain the general ledger and prepare monthly management accounts, financial statements, and ratio analyses.
- Work with IT service providers to resolve system issues and ensure the reliability of accounting applications.
- Oversee cash flow management, including bank and petty cash reconciliations.
- Lead the preparation of annual budgets and monitor financial performance against approved plans.

Qualifications Experience and Skills:

- Professional accounting qualification such as Chartered Accountant (CA), ACCA, CPA, or equivalent.
- At least 10 years of relevant accounting/finance

experience and a minimum 5 years in a senior finance role in short-term insurance or a related financial services sector.

- Exposure to budgeting, financial reporting, reinsurance accounting, payroll, cash management, and statutory compliance is essential.
- Strong knowledge of short-term insurance accounting principles, practices, and regulatory requirements.
- Sound experience in payroll management and preparation of reinsurance bordereaux.
- Good working knowledge of statutory and regulatory compliance requirements.
- Understanding of reinsurance treaty structures and their operational and financial implications.
- Ability to engage effectively with senior stakeholders, including the CEO, Board, and internal and external auditors.
- Solid understanding of insurance legislation, accounting standards, and industry regulations.

To apply: send your cv, certificates and cover letter to jobs@phoenixbotswana.com not later than 15 March 2026. Write "Finance Manager" on the subject line.

Job Applicant Privacy Notice

Phoenix of Botswana is committed to promoting transparency, trust and accountability in all its employee data practices. To know more about how we handle your personal data during the application process, please review our full Job Applicant Privacy Notice at <https://www.phoenixbotswana.com/job-applicants-privacy-notice/>



Daily Business

Tsabong multi-species abattoir opens April

Naomi Leepile
TSABONG

After years of anticipation and multiple delays, the Tsabong Multi-Species Abattoir (TMSA) is set to officially commence operations in April.

The announcement was made by TMSA production manager, Mr

Eric Gabaake, during the ongoing Tsabong District full council meeting.

Mr Gabaake told the council meeting that the facility was finally ready to fulfill its mandate.

"The long-awaited abattoir would finally be open in April," he said,

The facility is expected to create numerous jobs and stimulate secondary industries like leather tanning and packaging.

marking the end of a long period of construction and administrative preparation.

He noted that the project was designed to be a high-tech, multi-species hub capable of processing beef, small stock and game meat for both domestic consumption and lucrative international export markets.

He also pointed out that the facility was expected to create numerous jobs and stimulate secondary industries like leather tanning and packaging.

However, the production manager's assurance of an April start date did little to quiet the concerns regarding the bottom line.

While the news of the opening was initially met with relief, the atmosphere quickly shifted to frustration as the proposed pricing structure for livestock was unveiled to local leaders.

The primary point of disagreement centered on the announced buying price of P53 per kilogramme. Village leaders and local councillors reacted with sharp criticism, labelling the rate as a significant blow to the farming community.

During the presentation, several councillors decried the P53 figure, stating that it was far too low to

make a meaningful difference in the lives of rural producers.

They argued that the price was not only disappointing but was actually lower than the rates currently offered by local butcheries, effectively punishing farmers for choosing the state-of-the-art facility over private buyers.

Councillors expressed fear that the abattoir may struggle to secure a steady supply of animals if it cannot compete with the existing local market.

They noted that for a project of such magnitude to be considered a success, it must offer a premium that reflected the high costs of farming in the harsh Kgalagadi environment.

They warned that without a price revision, the multi-million-pula facility risked becoming a 'white elephant' as farmers continued to seek better returns through traditional informal channels.

As the countdown to the April opening begins, the pressure is mounting on the abattoir's leadership to address the grievances.

Farmers across the district are now watching closely to see if there would be any intervention to adjust the price points before the first animal is processed. **BOPA**



Tsabong Multi-Species Abattoir is set to officially commence operations in April.

Lobatse economic shift creates investor opportunity

Calviniah Kgauthe
LOBATSE

Potential investors have been encouraged to position themselves strategically as the town prepares for a major economic transition through the development of the Lobatse Meat and Leather City Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Addressing a full council meeting recently, Lobatse mayor Mr Aron Ganakgomo called on investors to prepare for emerging opportunities, noting that the town has secured six high-impact projects under the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), aimed at transforming the socio-economic landscape of Lobatse and the country at large.

The projects include the development of a primary slaughter facility, Milk Valley Farm expansion, establishment of a dairy farm and processing factory, production of roses for export, development of the Lobatse Meat and Leather SEZ, and fluids manufacturing initiatives.

On the Meat and Leather SEZ, Mayor Ganakgomo said it was a priority project under BETP and had been incorporated into National Development Plan 12 (NDP12). Phase I of the project will involve the design and servicing of 100 hectares of land.

He further revealed that a feasibility study assessing the viability of developing infrastructure

for all SEZs across the country, including Lobatse, through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model had been completed.

The study report is currently under review by a technical team and a steering committee comprising representatives from eight ministries.

The review process is expected to be finalised by the fourth quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year.

"My plea to all of us is to acquaint ourselves with these government projects with a view to readying ourselves for greater focus on performance and results. I continue to encourage potential investors, both local and international, the business community and Non-Governmental Organisations to strategically position themselves for these opportunities and their value chains," he said.

Regarding other major

developments in town, the mayor said the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) continued to record steady progress under its turnaround strategy, Thuo Khumo. He noted that the strategy had strengthened operational efficiencies, improved financial discipline and rebuilt trust with farmers.

Over the past year, BMC reduced its payment turnaround time to seven days and reported revenues exceeding P1 billion, as announced during the 2026/2027 Budget Speech, a milestone he described as commendable.

However, he acknowledged that 2026 presented significant setbacks following an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which disrupted slaughter operations, restricted cattle movement and affected export flows.

Despite these challenges, Mayor Ganakgomo said BMC



The Lobatse Tannery revitalisation project is progressing well and scheduled to be completed by April. Colic Construction site agent, Mr Ermias Pelay said delays were caused by the late arrival of construction materials, adding that civil works were almost complete. Photo: Calviniah Kgauthe

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China cuts carbon dioxide emissions by 5%

BEIJING

China's carbon dioxide emissions per ¥10,000 (US\$1,445) of GDP fell 5 per cent year on year in 2025, as the country made notable progress in energy conservation and carbon reduction, official data showed on Saturday. Energy consumption per ¥10,000 of GDP, excluding energy used as raw materials and non-fossil energy consumption, declined 5.1 per cent year on year in 2025, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Power generation from clean energy sources such as hydropower, nuclear power, wind power and solar power reached nearly 4.25 trillion kilowatt-hours, up 14.4 per cent over the previous year. New energy vehicle production totaled over 16.52 million units, marking a 25.1-per cent increase from a year earlier. **Xinhua**

Hong Kong investment scheme receives 3 200 applications

HONG KONG

Invest Hong Kong of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government announced on Monday that as of the end of February, the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme received nearly 3 200 applications. The figure represented an anticipated investment value of about US\$ 12.14 billion for Hong Kong. The scheme has steadily attracted global high-net-worth individuals and capital inflows to Hong Kong since its launch in March 2024, according to Invest Hong Kong. Alpha Lau, Invest Hong Kong's director-general of investment promotion, said that upon arriving in Hong Kong, investors under the scheme would not only bring substantial capital inflows but also generate ripple effects across real estate, dining, retail, education, and lifestyle services. **Xinhua**

China promotes market unity through compliance

BEIJING

China's State Taxation Administration on Monday unveiled the outcomes of key initiatives carried out in 2025, designed to build a unified national market and support high-quality economic development via fairer tax policies. A core component of these initiatives was strict governance of unlawful tax practices tied to local investment incentives, with a disciplinary rule enforced that prevented local tax authorities from participating in or overlooking such activities. Last year, 389 leads on suspected violations were investigated, with confirmed cases promptly rectified. According to Xu Sheng, a researcher, this move targeted involution-style competition among regions that often relied on preferential tax policies to attract businesses, which can distort market order and crowd out compliant enterprises. **Xinhua**

Government tackles inherited economic strain

Lawrence Seretse
GABORONE

Government has acknowledged that Botswana's economy remains under pressure but says corrective reforms are underway to address structural weaknesses accumulated over time.

The latest fourth quarter economic review states that "uncertainty and economic weakness persist," highlighting fragile growth, fiscal strain and continued reliance on diamond exports. Officials say the

According to the fourth quarter economic review, annual Gross Domestic Product growth returned marginally to positive territory in the third quarter of 2025, largely supported by a temporary rebound in diamond production.

findings confirm the structural imbalances confronting the economy and reinforce the urgency of ongoing reforms.

According to the review, annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

growth returned marginally to positive territory in the third quarter of 2025, largely supported by a temporary rebound in diamond production. However, broader economic performance remains

subdued, with weak domestic demand, slower credit expansion and rising financial pressures.

Authorities note that fiscal buffers had declined significantly in recent years, accompanied by increased

borrowing requirements and heightened exposure to fluctuations in the global diamond market. The review points to low diamond prices, excess global inventory and growing competition from synthetic stones as continuing risks to export earnings.

In response, government has initiated fiscal consolidation measures aimed at restoring sustainability. These include tighter expenditure controls, rationalisation of capital projects, enhanced tax administration and efforts to broaden domestic revenue sources.

The review emphasises the need for "concerted fiscal adjustment" alongside structural reform. Officials say this approach is intended to stabilise public finances while avoiding abrupt measures that could further dampen economic activity.

Foreign exchange reserves showed some stabilisation in the second half of 2025, though partly supported by external borrowing. Government has indicated that long-term resilience will depend on strengthening export performance rather than reliance on debt financing.

Adjustments to the exchange rate framework were introduced to ease distortions affecting exporters, following concerns that earlier settings had weakened trade competitiveness. Inflation remained contained at 3.9 per cent in December 2025 but is projected to rise moderately in 2026.

Economic diversification remains central to Government's strategy.

The Botswana Economic Transformation Programme and the



The fourth quarter economic review cites low diamond prices, excess global inventory and growing competition from synthetic stones as ongoing risks to export earnings.

Unemployment exceeds 27 per cent

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

At 27.6 per cent the rate of unemployment in Botswana is high and illustrates the scale of the challenge the budget and economic transformation initiatives seek to address.

Elevated unemployment, especially among young people and graduates, remains a significant structural challenge, that requires an urgent need for sustainable job creation.

Bank of Botswana governor, Mr Lesego Moseki, stated during the presentation of the Monetary Policy statement Thursday in Gaborone, explaining that government, through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and National Development Plan (NDP12), was advancing economic diversification to foster private sector led growth.

At the same time, he highlighted the importance of aligning the labour force with evolving market demands, skills development and education reforms, including strengthened Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

"Overall, Botswana's employment outlook remains challenging, reflecting structural rigidities, weak labour absorptive capacity, and low productivity growth. Therefore, as the country navigates the constrained fiscal environment, there is an urgent need to address structural constraints, accelerate

economic diversification and, generally, enable job creation," he said.

These priorities, Mr Moseki said were essential to counteract structural rigidities as well as ensure long-term financial stability and unconstrained conduct of macroeconomic policies.

With regard to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) output and price development, Mr Moseki noted that real GDP in Botswana grew by 0.1 per cent in the 12 months to September 2025, marking a modest recovery from the 1.7 per cent contraction in the corresponding period of 2024.

While this turnaround signals an incipient stabilisation of economic activity, the pace of growth remains weak and fragile.

Mr Moseki said the recovery was largely supported by growth in non-mining activities as non-mining GDP grew by 2.6 per cent in the year to September 2025, slightly higher than the 2.1 per cent growth in the corresponding period in 2024.

"While most non-mining sectors grew, the expansion was generally modest, against the background of continuance of low productivity, prior drought conditions and challenges associated with limited fiscal space," he said.

Mr Moseki further indicated that the low productivity and overall growth, continued despite economic transformation initiatives, suggesting the need to improve implementation to achieve desired

impact.

Thus, he highlighted the need to accelerate traction of transformation initiatives as outlined in NDP12 and the BETP.

In addition, he said the mining sector contracted by 10.7 per cent in the year to September 2025, an improvement from the 15.9 per cent decline in the year to September 2024.

The smaller contraction was attributed largely to diamond

mining, which declined by 11.4 per cent in the year to September 2025, compared with a larger contraction of 17 per cent in 2024.

The persistent weakness in mining output underscores Botswana's exposure to external shocks and reinforces the need for export-led economic diversification supported by maintenance of an appropriate macroeconomic policy framework and related macroeconomic stability.

BOPA



Bank of Botswana governor, Mr Lesego Moseki said government, through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme and National Development Plan 12, was advancing economic diversification to foster private sector led growth.

There is urgent need for a structural shift toward economic diversification and export-led growth.

forthcoming National Development Plan prioritise growth in copper and base metals, renewable energy, tourism, agricultural value chains and financial services.

The review notes the "urgent need for a structural shift toward economic diversification and export-led growth," a direction authorities say is already being pursued.

Efforts are also underway to improve the investment climate through streamlined licensing procedures and strengthened investor facilitation mechanisms. Officials maintain that private sector expansion will be critical to job creation and rebuilding fiscal resilience.

The review cautions that without sustained reform, growth could remain subdued and external buffers may face renewed pressure. Government maintains that while the challenges are significant, policy interventions are already in motion to stabilise the economy and lay the foundation for recovery. Botswana's near-term outlook remains uncertain.

However, authorities say fiscal discipline, structural reform and diversification will define the next phase of economic stabilisation.

BOPA

betway

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- P1.3 million payment to the team and management that participated in the 2025 Tokyo World Championships.

BETWAY BENEFICIARIES

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INVESTED IN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

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LOCAL JOBS CREATED

MULTIPLE
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FORMED

BIG WINS
COUNTLESS WINNING MOMENTS CELEBRATED

Fallen Heroes honoured

Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

The crowd gathered at the Parliamentary Grounds rose for a moment of reflection as the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) ceremonial band trumpeter sounded *The Last Post*, a British and Commonwealth bugle call performed at ceremonies commemorating those who died in military combat. On February 27, 38 years after 15 BDF soldiers were killed by the Rhodesian army in Lesoma at the Chobe Enclave, President Advocate Duma Boko, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, led the Fallen Heroes Day commemoration.

Accompanied by Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe and Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, the President and other dignitaries laid wreaths at the BDF Monument and the World War II Memorial site at Parliament Grounds. Observed since 2011, February 27 was initially dedicated by the BDF to honour those who perished in the Lesoma Ambush.

However, it has since been formally recognised as Fallen Heroes Day, commemorating all military personnel who died in the line of duty. In an interview, a survivor of the Lesoma ambush,

retired Major Hudson Mosweu, recalled the events of that fateful day during Zimbabwe's war of independence, commonly referred to as the Rhodesian Bush War.

Two freedom fighters of the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA), the armed wing of Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), had fled into Botswana following a combat mission in then-Rhodesia. They were pursued across the border by the Rhodesian army.

"The Rhodesian soldiers went across, moving across Lesoma looking for the two freedom fighters and we were alerted by Lesoma villagers at our BDF base camp that they were being harassed by the foreign army. We went there, cleared the bush and found the two Zimbabwean freedom fighters. As we left, we were ambushed, 15 BDF soldiers were killed, and one of the two boys who came to call us, and one Zimbabwean freedom fighter also died," Major Mosweu said.

As the ceremony concluded, the national flag, Presidential Standard and BDF flag, which had been flying at half-mast were raised.

The BDF band then performed the Reveille, a military bugle call primarily used to awaken personnel at sunrise, symbolising a nation once under siege rising in remembrance and resilience. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko laying a wreath during the Fallen Heroes Day commemoration at Parliamentary grounds on Friday. Observed since February 27, 2011, the day was initially dedicated by the Botswana Defence Force to honour those who perished in the Lesoma ambush. Photo: Pheny Moalosi



Members of Botswana Defence Force honouring fellow members who died in the line of duty during the commemoration of Fallen Heroes Day. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Botswana scales up school feeding budget to P1.6 billion

Lindi Morwaeng
GABORONE

Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka, has announced a significant expansion of Botswana's home-grown school feeding programme, with total allocations for 2026 reaching approximately P1.6 billion.

Presenting Botswana's national position during the 11th African Day of School Feeding in Gaborone, Ms Kgafela-Mokoka said P630 million had been earmarked specifically for primary schools.

The allocation forms part of a broader investment aimed at strengthening food safety systems, infrastructure upgrades, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) integration, and digital monitoring mechanisms.

She said the increased funding aligned directly with this year's continental theme of ensuring access to nutritious meals, clean water and hygiene in schools.

"Our investment reflects a deliberate shift towards safety, resilience and sustainability," she said. "Every meal must be safe, nutritionally balanced and supported by strong systems."

For 2026, she stated that Botswana would prioritise the introduction of food safety and traceability systems, scale up climate-smart and locally controlled procurement, strengthen WASH and kitchen standards, and improve digital monitoring and reporting.

Logistics coordination will also be enhanced in fragile and climate-affected districts to minimise disruptions. Ms Kgafela-Mokoka said the programme would intensify support for smallholder farmers through aggregation models and predictable procurement frameworks to stimulate rural economies and reduce vulnerability.

Under the second phase of implementation, the Home-Grown Feeding (HGF) model will operate as a coordinated national platform linking the education, agriculture and health sectors. Agricultural production will be aligned with school demand, while the health sector will enforce nutritional standards and hygiene compliance.

"This integrated model strengthens governance, improves value for money and enhances sustainability," she said.

The minister described Botswana's programme as universally inclusive, institutionally governed and firmly anchored on safety and climate resilience.

"Every child will be fed. Every meal shall be safe. Every investment will count," she said, adding that Botswana stood ready to collaborate with other African Union member states to advance sustainable school feeding systems.

Her remarks were reinforced by Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe, who earlier described school feeding as a strategic human capital investment and urged African governments to protect it through predictable financing and strong accountability systems.

Other ministers attending the summit echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the need to strengthen cross-sector coordination between education, agriculture, health and water ministries.

They emphasised increasing domestic financing, expanding local procurement from farmers, and integrating water and sanitation infrastructure into school feeding investments to improve safety and learning outcomes.

World Food Programme Executive Director Ms Cindy McCain, in remarks delivered virtually, commended African governments for growing domestic contributions to school meals but warned that millions of vulnerable children still lacked access. She called for deeper partnerships, including private sector engagement, to close remaining gaps.

Child representatives also urged

leaders to include children's voices in decision-making and to ensure meals are nutritious, served on time and supported by adequate hygiene facilities.

The summit concluded with ministerial commitments to translate policy discussions into measurable action, as Botswana positioned its scaled-up investment as both a national priority and a continental model for resilient, home-grown school feeding. **BOPA**

Masisi undertakes working visit to Burundi and Ethiopia

GABORONE

Former president, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi is in Burundi at the invitation of President of the Council of the Togolese Republic and Mediator appointed by the African Union, Mr Faure Essozimana Gnassingbe.

A press release from the Office of the former president says he is acting in his role as a member of the Panel of Facilitators for the Eastern Democratic Republic of

Congo (DRC) Peace Process.

The release further states that during his visit, Dr Masisi will engage in discussions with the President of Burundi, Mr Evariste Ndayishimiye on the ongoing mediation efforts to promote peace in the DRC and the Great Lakes Region. Dr Masisi will also participate in a high-level consultative meeting with the African Union Commission in Ethiopia before returning home on March 5. **BOPA**

Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

Ipapatse Fa Leletsa

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261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500



Modulasetilo o leboga mephato go lwantsha tlhako le molomo

Goweditswe Kome
MASUNGA

Modulasetilo wa khansela ya Bokone Botlhaba Rre Mbaakanyi Smart a re go botlhokwa go rerisanya le metse e e amilweng ke tshagogo ya bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo go simolola mephato.

E rile a etetse mafelo a a amilweng ke tlhako le molomo a go baakangwang terata ya thibelo malwetse a leruo, Rre Smart a re go a lebosega go bona morafe wa metse mengwe ya kgaolo ya Bokone Botlhaba e tshwaraganetse go lwantsha tlhako le molomo ka go baakanya terata e e senyegileng le go rema ditlhare.

O ba kopile go tswelala ba baakanya terata eo, go rema ditlhare mo terateng le go tswelala ba disa terata go koba dikgomo tse di tsamaelang gaufi le yone.

“Ha terata e senyega, mme puso e tshwanetse ke go batla madi a go e baakanya, e nna poelo morago ka madi ao a ne a ka dira ditlhabololo tse dingwe mo motseng,” ga rialo Rre Smart.

Rre Smart o ba lebogetse go ithaopa go thusa go tsosolosa le go baakanya terata le go rema ditlhare tse di medileng ba dirisa ditsompelo le didirisiwa tsa bone.

“Maloba fa ke buisa phuthego ya kgotla kwa Pole, ba ne ba tlhalosa fa go na le ko terata e seyong teng gotlhelele, mme e tsewa ke bangwe mo motseng ba ya go e dirisa go agelela masimo a bone,” Rre Smart a tlhalosa.

E rile a ba ema ka lefoko, molaodi wa kgaolo ya Bokone Botlhaba Mme Wame Samapipi a leboga baithaopi go bo e le batsaya karolo mo go lwantsheng tlhako le molomo.

O ba tlhaloseditse gore le fa ba ka tswa e se barui, bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo bo ka ba ama ka tsela nngwe o le modisa, mmereki kwa madirelong a dijo tsa leruo kana ole mo kgwebong ya thekiso ya dijo.

Mme Samapipi o ba akgoletse go bo ba ithaopile go nna batsaya karolo mo go sireletseng itsholelo ya lefatse ba sa eteletsapele go ka neelwa tiro ya sennela ruri.

“Ke etetsa re le metse ya kgaolo go tla ka tharabololo ya sennela ruri mo go tsa ditlamelo re lebeletse gore bolwetse jo bo tla kgapetsa kgapetsa, re lebeletse gore diterata di seka tsa senyega,” ga rialo Mme Samapipi. O ne a ba tlhalosetsa fa puso e lemoga gore mo seemong se seng seng jaana, ba tshwanetse go bo ba neetswe didirisiwa tsa itshireletso le tse dingwe jaaka dilepe mme go fetetse go padile ka itsholelo e sa

letle, ka jalo ba ithaopa go dirisa tsa malapa a bone.

Mme Samapipi o supile fa go se maleba go emela bolwetse go tshagoga pele e bo e re morago go bo go simololwa go thibelwa ka go baakanya diterata le go disa kana go tlathela dikgomo.

Mokhanselara wa Zwenshambe/Gambule/Gungwe Rre Tumelo Mhlambi o ne a lebogela tshwaragano e e supilweng ke baagi ba Zwenshambe morago ga go dumalana kwa kgotleng go tla go baakanya terata e bile ba thusa ka madi go ithekela dijo.

O tlhalositse fa ba bangwe ba thusa ka dikoloi tsa bone go isa baithaopi kwa lefelong le la go baakanya terata. **BOPA**



Bangwe ba baithaopi ba rema ditlhare le go baakanyang terata ya matlhoko a leruo go thibela kamamo ya bolwetse ja tlhako le molomo bosheng. Modulasetilo wa khansela ya bokone botlhaba, Rre Mbaakanyi Smart o lebogetse baithaopi go tshwaraganela twantsho tlhako le molomo. Senepe: Goweditswe Kome

BaGammangwato ba kopa gore go potlakelwe tokafatso ya botsogo le thuto pele

ntlha mo go dirweng.

O kaile fa lefatshela Botswana le ne le ntse le thusiwa ke dikgotla tshetshetso tse di leng teng mo dikgangnyeng tsa ditshwanelo tsa motho, ka jalo a re lekgotla leo le ka tla kwa morago.

Kgosi Khama IV o boletse fa mebuso e neng e busa pele e ne ele yone e neng e gatelela ditshwanelo tsa batho mme molao-motheo o ntse o ntse o le teng.

O ne a fa sekai ka kgotla ya BaGammangwato mo pusong e e fetileng, a re ba ne ba idiwa go tsena kwa kgotleng ya bone ke puso ya nako eo.

Gape o boletse fa a bona go le botoka gore go dirwe tshetshetso ya molao motheo pele, mme kwa morago go dirwe lekgotla la molao motheo la ditshwanelo tsa batho.

O boletse fa go ya go turela puso thata ka gore ga e dirwa gompieno go batla go hirwa baatlhodi ba ba mmalwa, go dirwa patlo maikutlo mo bathong, babereki ka go farologana le theko ya dikoloi tsa bone mme puso e santse e sena madi.

A re katlholelo leso yone e seka ya tla ya phimolwa mo molaong motheo, a re fa ba bolaileng, go na le bosupi sentle, ba kaladiwe ka gore go ka dira go re batho ba boife go bolaya ba bangwe.

Kgosi Mokgosi Baipusi wa kgotla ya Basimane a re madi a tlaa bong a simolodisa lekgotla la molao motheo a tshwanetse a haposetswe kwa go shafatseng dikole ka gore puso e santse e sena madi a a lekaneng.

O tlhalositse fa ditsela le botsogo di tshwanetse di fiwe maemo a ntlha pele go ka akanngwa go tlhoma lekgotla la molao motheo.

Gape o boletse fa banni ba ba nnang kwa metseng e e kgakala le ditlamelo ba tsaya melemo kgakala kwa Serowe.

Kgosi Mathodi Mathodi wa kgotla ya Maaloso o tlhalositse fa lekgotla leo le se botlhokwa thata go na le go tokafatsa seemo sa melemo mo dipateleng.

Kgosi Botswelero Mogapi wa kgotla ya Ditimamodimo o tlhalositse fa kgotla ya molao motheo e se botlhokwa gompieno, a re ngwagaono ba hilwe go lema tema fela mo go tsileng go ba bolaisa tlaa, a re madi a teng a ka bo a ya ko temong go na le lekgotla leo.

A re o belaela gore kgotla eo e tsile go emisa katlholelo leso ka gore ke puso ya ditshwanelo e e sa letleleleng motho go bolaiwa a bolaile yo mongwe.

Mme Goaba Letlhare a re mo molaong ya lekgotla leo la ditshwanelo go ka bo go nonotshwa

makgotla a ntseng a le teng ka ditshetlana dingwe go na le go dira lekgotla la molao motheo.

Mongwe wa banni, Rre Moreri Mareka, o ne a gatelela botlhokwa jwa lekgotla la molao motheo fa le botlhokwa thata le tshwanetse la potlakelwa a bolela fa batho bangwe ba sa bolo go gataka ditshwanelo tsa bone.

Rre Mareka a re bangwe ba na le dingwaga ngwaga ba sa abelwe ditsha tsa bonno, lemororo ele tshwanelo ya bone.

A re lekgotla leo le ya go thusa thata ba ba dikobo dikhutshwane ba ba senang madi a go ipuelela kwa makgotla tshetshetso.

O boletse fa baneetsi ba rata thata fa go nang le lekgotla leo ka gore batla goroga ka bontsi batla go gweba mo Botswana.

Mothusa tona, Rre Moswaane o ne a ba rerisa ka lekgotla la molao motheo, gore le bone ba nne le seabe, a re go botlhokwa gore go rutwe ka botlhokwa jwa kgotla ya ditshetso ya molao-motheo gore go itsiwe ditsamaiso tsa yone pele ga ba ka ema puso nokeng.

O boletse banni ba Serowe gore go botlhokwa gore e re pele ga go fetolwa molao-motheo wa lefatshela, go bo go tlhomilwe pele kgotla ya molao-motheo. **BOPA**

Constitutional Court: Nation in discourse

Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

As the nation commences a year of Botswana's 60th anniversary of independence, a national debate has commenced on the establishment of a constitutional court, with varying viewpoints being expressed.

A Constitutional Court is set up as the highest court in a country, serving the purpose of dealing exclusively with constitutional matters; handling cases that raise questions about the application and interpretation of the constitution.

Around 85 countries worldwide, including 13 African states have the constitutional court.

South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia and Zimbabwe are Southern African Development Community (SADC) region countries that have the constitutional court.

Botswana came into existence after an exhaustive process of various legal frameworks enacted over differing periods of time leading to the 1966 constitution.

An Order in Council enacted by the British Parliament on May 9, 1891 established the legal basis for British authority over Bechuanaland Protectorate.

It empowered the British High Commissioner to the Cape Colony (thereafter the Union of South Africa after its creation in 1910) to act on behalf of the British crown, exercising jurisdiction, legislating by proclamation and appointing administrative officers (district commissioners) in Bechuanaland.

Another Bechuanaland Protectorate Constitution Order in Council of 1960 established an Executive and Legislative Council, which advanced the territory towards self-government.

The 1963 Lobatse Constitutional Conference, featured 20 delegates, among them Sir Seretse Khama, Quett Ketumile Masire and Moutlaggola Nwako of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Philip Matante, Kgalemgang Motsete and Thari Motlhogodi of the Botswana Peoples Party (BPP), Motsamai Mpho joined by two other delegates of the BPP faction that later formed the Botswana Independence Party (BIP).

Three paramount chiefs-Bathoen II of the Bangwaketse, Mokgosi III of the Balete and Linchwe II of the Bakgatla were also present, as were six white representatives led by resident commissioner, Peter Fawcus and AC Chand, of Asian descent.

The Lobatse Constitutional Conference produced a constitution that paved the way for self-government in 1965, proposing that the Legislative Council be replaced by a National Assembly of 32 Members of Parliament (MPs) elected through universal franchise, and four specially elected MPs.



The John K Modise versus Botswana became a landmark human rights case where the African Commission on Human and People's Rights ruled that Botswana had violated Mr Modise's rights by deporting him four times despite his claim to citizenship by descent. The Commission found that Mr Modise's constitutional rights to freedom of movement, liberty, and the rights of his family had been violated by the state, urging Botswana to recognise his citizenship and compensate him.

This Parliament would elect a prime minister who would be the head of government, while the British crown remained the head of state.

This provided the legal basis for the March 1, 1965 general elections, which ushered in a nominally self-governing period (1965-66) led by Prime Minister Khama, whose government worked toward creating a constitution and selecting national symbols, a flag, anthem, and coat of arms, for an independent Republic of Botswana.

The Constitutional Talks took place in February 1966 at Marlborough House, London, with prime minister Khama, deputy prime minister Masire, Leader of the Opposition, Phillip Matante and royal representative Bathoen II joining British authorities in deliberating on a constitution for the independent republic.

The constitution is divided into nine chapters, the first, The Republic, declaring Botswana as a sovereign state and defining

the public seal; the second chapter, a Bill of Rights titled: Protection of the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual, covers section 3 to 19 and confers personal liberties.

Among the rights accorded to each resident of Botswana is the right to life, personal liberty, protection from slavery and forced labour and from inhuman treatment (torture, degrading punishment), protection for privacy, freedom of conscience, expression, association.

Section 15 (3) offers protection from discrimination on the base of race, tribe, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex.

Other chapters deal with Citizenship, The Executive, Parliament, The Judicature, Public Service, Finance and Miscellaneous (resignations from public office, appointments and the interpretation of terms contained in the constitution).

A Botswana Independence Act of 1966 was passed by the British Parliament declaring that 'on September 30, 1966 the territory which immediately before that day constitutes the Bechuanaland Protectorate shall cease to be a protectorate and shall become an independent republic under the name of Botswana, and on and after that day Her Majesty shall

have no jurisdiction over that territory'.

After independence, situations have arisen where constitutional matters have been presented before courts of law.

In the Citizenship Case, (Attorney General versus Unity Dow), the applicant, Unity Dow, a citizen of Botswana married to an American challenged the Citizenship Act of 1984, which stated that a person born in Botswana would be a citizen if their father was a Motswana, or if born out of wedlock, their mother was a Motswana.

This excluded Dr Dow's children who were born in the country, since their father was a foreigner, depriving them of citizenship. Dr Dow's counsel had relied on Chapter II of the constitution to argue that her children were being deprived of their constitutional rights by the Citizenship Act.

Justice Martin Horwitz in his High Court ruling on the case, delivered on June 11, 1991 ruled in favour of Dr Dow, stating that 'Sections 4 and 5 of the Citizenship Act Cap 01:01 are declared ultra vires the Constitution of Botswana'.

Another case of citizenship involved John Modise, whose father was a Motswana who went to work in South Africa.

There he married a South African woman, and Mr Modise was born out of that union.

He thus claimed Botswana citizenship by descent.

But on October 17, 1978, he was arrested and deported to South Africa, and was declared a prohibited immigrant on his third

attempt to return to the country thereafter.

He then lived in the nominally independent homeland of Bophuthatswana for seven years before being deported there as well, and proceeded to live in the no man's land between Botswana and Bophuthatswana.

He was later readmitted to Botswana in 1995 on temporary humanitarian grounds.

The John K Modise versus Botswana became a landmark human rights case where the African Commission on Human and People's Rights ruled that Botswana had violated Mr Modise's rights by deporting him four times despite his claim to citizenship by descent.

The Commission found that Mr Modise's constitutional rights to freedom of movement, liberty, and the rights of his family had been violated by the state, urging Botswana to recognise his citizenship and compensate him.

It is such cases that in other jurisdictions have prompted the enacting of a Constitutional Court as a statutory body that deals with constitutional law, to ensure that laws do not conflict with constitutionally established rules, rights and freedoms.

In debating at the National Assembly in December President Advocate Duma Boko stated that the establishment of a Constitutional Court would be an important step toward strengthening the judicial process, and clearly delineate a legal route where constitutional matters are handled with urgency, consistency and authority. **BOPA**

Bechuanaland Prime Minister, Sir Seretse Khama (third right), Deputy Prime Minister, Sir Ketumile Masire (fourth right), Chief Bathoen II (second right), Leader of Opposition, Mr Philip Matante (fifth right) and the Queen's Commissioner, Sir Hugh Norman-Walker (right) at the opening of Independence Conference at Marlborough House in London on February 14, 1966. The leaders joined British authorities to shape the constitution that would pave the way for the birth of the independent Botswana.



Tsabong District Council chairperson, Mr Elias Motlhanke (right) and acting council secretary, Ms Boitumelo Pitsane during a full council meeting recently. Mr Motlhanke outlined plans to revitalise infrastructure, strengthen water security, expand digital connectivity and empower youth entrepreneurship across the district. Photo: Naomi Leepile

Official outlines plans to revamp infrastructure for Tsabong District

Naomi Leepile
TSABONG

Tsabong District Council Chairperson, Mr Elias Motlhanke has unveiled a development roadmap for the district, outlining plans to modernise infrastructure, strengthen water security and stimulate youth-driven economic growth.

Addressing a full council meeting in Tsabong on Tuesday, Mr Motlhanke said the district was at a critical turning point, where its traditional pastoral lifestyle must be aligned with emerging industrial and commercial opportunities.

He stressed the urgency of completing stalled infrastructure

projects, describing them as ‘the arteries of our local economy.’

He noted that limited connectivity between Tsabong and surrounding sub-districts continued to hinder trade, service delivery and access to healthcare.

To address these challenges, Mr Motlhanke announced renewed efforts to improve road maintenance and expand digital telecommunications infrastructure to bridge the connectivity gap across the vast Kgalagadi region.

Water security also featured prominently in his address. Acknowledging recurring water shortages affecting farmers in the arid district, the chairperson revealed plans to modernise borehole management systems and

introduce sustainable desalination technologies.

He said a dependable water supply was essential for achieving agricultural self-sufficiency and unlocking broader economic potential.

Mr Motlhanke further called on young people to seize opportunities in emerging sectors, particularly green energy and tourism, highlighting forthcoming government grant programmes aimed at supporting youth entrepreneurship.

He concluded by emphasising that the success of the council’s development agenda would depend on transparent governance and active community participation. **BOPA**

Councillors advocate adoption of strategic plan

Kedirebofe Pelontle
GUMARE

Okavango District Council (ODC) councillors have called for implementation of the council’s roadmap to realise results.

Commenting on the chairman’s speech during a full council meeting recently, ODC Leader of Opposition, who is a nominated councillor Mr Lekonne Masoko said it was time for the council to spring to action and change the status quo of the Okavango District from being the poorest and harness its rich natural resources for economic benefit of the district.

Mr Masoko said cultural heritage, tourism as well as agriculture and their value chains were among areas that should be explored by the council to attract investors and tourists.

He said the council’s Local Economic Development (LED) committee responsible for fostering economic growth, job creation and sustainable growth should start functioning to ensure the council generated income.

For instance, Mr Masoko said the Okavango District was said to have the highest herd of cattle, therefore the establishment of slaughter slabs and abattoirs would go a long way in benefiting from the agricultural sector. Councillor for Seronga-Gunotsoga Mr Boiteko Marokwa

said for LED to be effective, there was need for ODC to assess impact organisations such as business associations and community trusts and form alliances for the betterment of the district.

Mr Marokwa also said the district should also find gaps in the national import bill to produce and supply some goods such as cooking oil, citing an association that produced cooking oil from the Mongongo tree in Okavango, which could be aided to produce at a larger scale.

Nominated councillor, Mr Sheta Kafuru said there was need to revive some ailing community trusts to be instrumental in economic growth of the district by establishing tangible projects of economic benefit such as shopping markets and guesthouses.

In his remarks, ODC chairman Mr Gaopalelwe Ronald highlighted the council’s commitment to transform the district to be a hub for sustainable livelihoods, strong local governance and inclusive socio economic development.

Mr Ronald said the National Development Plan (NDP) 12 programmes and projects approval was expected to ensure the district improved in job creation, aid investment and socio-economic advancement for all.

He observed that the community has welcomed the council’s roadmap warmly after intensive consultations. **BOPA**

Balopi implores BDP members to provide individual support

Portia Rapitsenyane
PALAPYE

Members of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) have been encouraged to individually make efforts to strengthen the party and restore its strength.

The party convened a strategic retreat, Saturday in Palapye, themed: Reconstruction After the Storm-Empowering Structures to Revive the Spirit of Self-Reliance and Unity of Purpose.

It followed the party’s defeat in the 2024 general elections and was meant for the leadership and party members to reflect on the outcome. The BDP leader, Mr Mpho Balopi, challenged member to play a role in reconstructing the party.

He said the theme was a reminder that as members, they needed honesty, love, kindness, forgiveness, and selflessness, to forge ahead.

“We need the bricks to build, not bricks to throw at one another. I can assure you that, in this reconstruction exercise, I, for one, have no intention of throwing a brick at any party member with the intention of harming them,” he said.

Mr Balopi said their forefathers left them a rich heritage and a solid legacy, a party built on the enduring bricks of democracy, development, self-reliance and unity as the bedrock for Kagisano as well as Botho, and these pillars formed the

foundation that must firmly anchor the BDP. The core values Mr Balopi said would also serve as a constant reminder to Batswana that the BDP was the party of choice.

Its appeal lies in these timeless values, and in the principle of therisanyo, the building blocks of their reconstruction, Mr Balopi said and expressed confidence that the pessimistic predictions by some about the party’s demise stemmed from innocent ignorance rather than malice.

“The fact is we are the BDP, we are united, and we are formidable,” he said.

He said as Botswana celebrated its 60th anniversary of independence this year, he trusted that Batswana would heed Sir Seretse Khama’s words and remember the legacy of their past 58 years as a ruling party, during which, achieved significant progress in economic transformation, education, health facilities and services, infrastructure development, sound economic management, and poverty alleviation, in collaboration with Batswana.

Mr Balopi said that going forward, they must continually remind Batswana of the strong union that they formed with them and ensure that they did not forget their shared achievements because investing time and energy in this area was crucial in positioning the party for a return to

its best shape.

The retreat he said, was not about individual pursuit but rather, achieving a collective goal of becoming a formidable and leading political force, as outlined in the party’s founding preamble. “We owe it to this party to leave it in the state our forefathers left it for us in order to continue their legacy of

service, so that future generations may inherit a party in good shape,” said Mr Balopi.

He said membership of the party was a heavy responsibility demanding selflessness and sacrifice for the collective good hence thanked Sir Seretse and Sir Ketumile who demonstrated that carrying such a burden was achievable. “They

accomplished it in the 1960s under vastly different circumstances, so we can succeed now under much better circumstances than theirs,” said Mr Balopi, reminding members that party membership was voluntary and those who joined accepted the responsibility of embarking on a democratic journey guided by their shared values. **BOPA**



Members of the Botswana Democratic Party during the party’s strategic retreat in Palapye on Saturday. Party leader, Mr Mpho Balopi encouraged them to individually make efforts to strengthen the party and restore its strength. Photo: Portia Rapitsenyane

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FARM WORKERS

URGENTLY, HERD BOY Wanted at Kamangao, Nata. Box 464 Nata. Contact 71224481, Isaac Nthaba

FARM WORKER URGENTLY needed at Ramaphate, Thamaga. Apply to Box 618 Thamaga. Call: 72234197.

FARM WORKER WANTED at Mmashoro. Box 798, Serowe. Call 72409032. Closing date 18 March 2026

FARM WORKERS x3 wanted at Nswazwi lands. Experience in livestock farming, horticulture and general farm equipment maintenance. Contact A. Oitsile 74303975, Box 13 Nswazwi. Closing date: 18/03/2026

LOOKING FOR A farm labourer at Tonota P/Bag 155 Tonota call: 72219266 Clouwd D. Chipata

FARM WORKERS WANTED in Kweneng. Apply to: Kabthavin Investments. Contact Mr Motshwane P O Box 46519, Gaborone. Closing date: 16/03/2026

WANTED: FARM WORKER. Apply: Walgreen Investments (Pty) Ltd. Box 1431, Gaborone. Closing date: 16/03/2026

T. KOTLELE IS looking for 2 farm workers in Diphaxane Lands near Medie Village in Kweneng District. Contact: T. Kotlele on 72550681.

FARM WORKER WANTED, call 71605654

MASALA'S FARM PRODUCE (PTY) LTD is looking for three (3) farm workers in Ruretse Portion 37. Duties in General Crop Production practices. They should have experience in horticulture Production. Send your application to : P.O Box 954 AAD Gaborone. Contacts : + 267 74887084. Deadline : 18th March 2026.

FARM WORKER REQUIRED in Kokobela with 3 years experience. Write to Tshogofatso Mokoka before 14/03/2026 P O Box 40754 Gaborone 71258877

HERD BOY WANTED at Moseitse. Innocent K Mafa, P/Bag T3 Tonota 72442193

FARM WORKERS WANTED at Rabotsepo Lands, Bokaa. Contact: N. P. Rowland, Box 502132, Gaborone. 74400868.

WANTED EXPERIENCED FARMWORKERS in Lethakane. Apply: Box 289 Orapa. Contact 71910221.

HORTICULTURE FARM WORKER wanted at Ralekgetho. Contact Olefile Monakwe, 72929798. Closing date: 17/03/2026.

LOOKING FOR A farm worker. Leco Technology Pty Ltd, Saasane Ranch P O Box 403598 Gaborone, Botswana. Cowell Habana 71754002.

2 FARM WORKERS wanted at Nshakazhongwe lands Box 70003 Gaborone Tachilisa Balule 71306619

FARM WORKERS WANTED. Gakuto farms. Contacts 75515253/ 75253872

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**FOR ADS
365 3593**

MAPHAKWANE J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

Case No. CVHGB-002391-22

In the matter between:
LEAH ELIZABETH SAMPSON Plaintiff
And
BEN ELECTRICAL PROPRIETARY LIMITED First Defendant
MOTHUSI BERNARD DIPHOLO Second Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASD TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by public auction by the Deputy Sheriff AUGUSTINE MOKALAKE to the highest bidder as follows;

DATE OF SALE :14 March 2026
VENUE :Adom & Botha Attorneys Offices
TIME :1000HRS
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD :1 x 100 shares
CONDITIONS OF SALE :Cash Or Bank Guaranteed Cheque

CONDITIONS OF SALE TO BE VIEWED AT THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 5th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

DEPUTY SHERIFF AUGUSTINE MOKALAKE c/o ADOM & BOTHA ATTORNEYS
PLOT 61127, GROUND FLOOR, MEDSWANA BUILDING BLOCK 8, GABORONE, P O BOX 27, LOBATSE
TELEPHONE NO.398 5256/73436412

APPLICATION FOR LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of **DEED OF FIXED PERIOD STATE GRANT No. 1645/2003** dated 11th day of August 2003 made in favour of **FANNY RABATSIMAKO** in respect of the following:-

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 35819, Gaborone;
SITUATE : in Gaborone West Extension 35;
MEASURING : 425m² (Four Hundred and Twenty Five Square Metres);

All persons having objection to the issuance of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same, in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020, Gaborone within 3 weeks of the publication of this notice hereof.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 23rd OF JANUARY 2025

Ajayi Legal Chambers | Lot 19383, Phase 2, Gaborone
P.O. Box 3484, Gaborone | Tel: 311 1321 | Cell: 71 471 308

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

ESHGB - 000552-23

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE **MOHAMAD RAFIQ BANU** who died at Extension 10, Plot 2888, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the 3rd of November 2022.

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

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

The Executor, James Martin Fern
C/O SCI Fiduciary (PTY) Ltd
P. O. Box 89AAH, GABORONE
3180111

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS

Administrative of Estates Act [Cap.31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap:33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the **Master of the High Court at Francistown High Court** on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
THAPELO MOESI	ESHFT-001510-25	26-05-2026	0900HRS	SARM2

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap:33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the **Master of the High Court at Francistown High Court** on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
BETHUEL SEATLE	ESHFT-000170-26	13/05/26	0900HRS	DRM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

LOST TITLE DEED

DRIVING SUCCESS THROUGH LEGAL STRATEGY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer No. 919/2022 dated 12th day of May 2022 made in favour of **MADULO MANTLE PROPRIETARY LIMITED**, in respect of the below mentioned property, namely;

CERTAIN: piece of land being Lot 2899 Gaborone;
SITUATE: in Gaborone Extension 10;
MEASURING: 1165 m² (One Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Five Square Metres);
WHICH PROPERTY: is held under Deed of Transfer No. 919/2022 dated 12th day of May 2022 made in favour of **MADULO MANTLE PROPRIETARY LIMITED**;

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

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

AJA House, Unit 2, Matante Mews Tel: (+267) 316 3125 Fax: (+267) 316 3124
Plot 54373 CBD, Gaborone Email: info@aja.co.bw
P O Box 20575, Gaborone Botswana Web: www.aja.co.bw
Plot 17396 Boseja Ward Maun, Botswana

Partner: Akheel Jinnabhai
Consultant Partners: Mark McKee | Obrien Bivindi (F I Ad)
Associates: | Jawairiyah Maher | Khaled Khani | Lesedi Kgakole | Gorata Major | Letika Nkolonyane | Ame Rindo

Pharmacist wanted at Ebenezer pharmacy Pty limited

Qualification and relevant experience:

- * Bachelor's or master of pharmacy
- * Minimum of 10 years post qualification experience
- Valid pharmacy private practice for Francistown
- Valid registration with Botswana Health professions council

Key competencies for the post include: attentiveness and responsibility, excellent interpersonal skills, teamwork, good verbal communication skills, maturity and stress tolerance, ideas sharing and confidence, Conversant with various dispensing systems.

Application include, cover letter, resume and certified certificates

Applications should be sent via email:
ebenezerpharmacybw@gmail.com

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN ESHFT 0000078-23

FIRST AND FINAL DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

IN THE ESTATE OF the late Johannes Maboka – ESHFT 0000078-23 who dies on 15-03-2023 at Princess Marina.
NOTICE IS HEREBY First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court Francistown for period of twenty –one (21) days from the date of the second publications thereof.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

Malebogo Maboka Executor Dative P O Box 1351 Bobonong
Kabelo Morwadi Executor P O Box 1351 Bobonong
AND TO: Master of the High Court Private Bag F13, FRANCISTOWN



PO BOX 502130, GABORONE BOTSWANA TEL: 392 2512 EMAIL: kerry@rhinoplanthire.co.bw

POST FOR A DIESEL PLANT FITTER & PLANT MANAGER- MINING ENVIRONMENTS: CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS- 2nd March 2026.

This challenging role will be suited to a well experienced and detail orientated individual with a demonstrable ability to juggle multiple activities in an extremely pressurised environment.

THE APPLICANT MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER TO APPLY:

- A minimum of 15 years' experience in the related field, mainly mining
- -Certificate/ Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Certificate in Diesel plant fitting
- Certificate of Motor/ Plant Mechanics- including diesel and tractor mechanics
- Experience in the field, especially regarding troubleshooting and diagnostics of Hydraulic Systems, Pneumatic systems, cooling systems, repairs, overhauls & maintenance of fuel injection systems, exhaust systems and cooling systems.
- Experience in repairs, trouble shooting and maintaining mobile heavy duty construction equipment. Experience on maintenance and repair on pressure vessels and lifting equipment.
- Experience in Systems; namely Lubrication systems, Engine control systems, major internal engine repairs/ overhauls, installation and alignment of engines and machinery and electrical repairs
- Experience on Motor Graders, Dozers, Tractors, Dump trucks, Shovels, TLB's, Various size & different makes of Excavators and Front-end loaders, Drill rigs, Trucks and buses, as well as have vast motor spares experience.
- Experience in Motor vehicles; replacing engines, steering mechanisms transmissions, electrics and braking systems
- Experience in running workshop operations, overseeing plant maintenance, repairs and inspections on Mining Sites.
- Experience in Maintaining fleet vehicles and having a planned maintenance program that is followed by all mechanics. Performing general and preventative maintenance, as well as service records, maintenance records and part inventory and management.
- Experience in Mining environments, with focus on health, safety and risk management strategies, providing fast, efficient and organised back up for production targets, housekeeping on Mining sites, supervising and co-ordinating support function.
- Running daily job coaching and on-site training sessions; demonstrating ideas and efforts to improve operations, cut costs where can, improve on turnaround time to repair machines & Streamline processes. Must have good communication skills and be able to manage Mining sites and employees.

ATTENTION: The General Manager, P.O Box 502130, Gaborone. Tel: 3922512. Email: workshop@rhinoplanthire.co.bw

FARM WORKER REQUIRED at Plot 59 Ruretse with 18 years experience with sheep, cattle, horses, hydroponic, vegetable production, knowledge essential. Please call Mrs Ryan: 72379505. P O Box AB 76, ABC, Phakalane

HERD BOY WANTED Moreomabele. Contact Vincent Tebogo, Box 10 Masunga. 77444889

FARM WORKER WANTED at Patikwane lands. Apply to Box 533 Tonota. Call 72319433/ 75613071

URGENTLY LOOKING FOR a herdboy. Box 3311, Serowe. Contact Ephraim M 71601566/74340341.

HERD BOY WANTED AT MUCHENJE / MABELLE VILLAGE CONTACT ISINZA JENIFER NTUKWA CONTACT NUMBER 77126569 BOX 151 KASANE

FARM MANAGER , ANIMAL HUSBANDRY worker and 5 farm workers needed at Koama's fresh farm, Ditladi, Botlhapatlou village, five years experience. Contact 73224643 / 75237666

FARM WORKER WANTED at Tsutsuga farm. Apply to Oabona Keemenao Keoarabile, P O Box 1000 Orapa. 76225340/74554704

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

I CHISINA MUALEFHE requests to change landuse of plot 3287, Bokaa into multi residential. Contact Mochudi Council at 5773200 for comments

OWNER OF PLOT 9357 would like to build a boundary wall. For any objections please contact Palapye Physical Planning Office on Private Bag 0072 Palapye or contact 71615035

I NITA BHAGAT of Rambaxy (Pty) Ltd owner of lease area 2382-KO village, Gaborone intend to change use of our plot from civic and community to commercial. Any objections contact 71553421 or Physical Planning Gaborone City Council 3657400 within 14 days from the date of this application.

MOSIMANEGAPE TSHANE AT Kanye, Sebege Ward, wishes to change landuse from residential to commercial (Hotel). Any objections contact Kanye District Council, Physical Planning office at 5440217 within 14 days of this publication.

MERIUM GAOBATWE WISHES to change land use of her plot 8490, Extension 9, Palapye from single family to multi-family residential. Please contact Palapye District Council at 4921093 for enquiries.

ACTIMAL (PTY) LTD at Mogoditshane, plot 14555, Tapananoga, wishes to change landuse from single residential to mixed use office (Retail commercial). Any objections contact Mogoditshane District Council, Physical Planning office at 3105615 within 14 days of this publication.

KEITUMETSE STEVEN KOBONYE of tribal lot 24991 would like to change land use (civic & community and residential). For any comments or objections, please contact Kweneng district council physical office on Telephone 5915122 within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice.

I BARULUGANYE MATSHABA owner of plot no 6919 Mogoditshane Block 7 wishes to change land use from single to multi-residential. Whoever has objection should contact Mogoditshane physical planning office at 3105615 within 14 days of notice publication.

THE OWNER OF plot 5772 at Metsimotlhabe, wishes to change landuse from single residential to multi-residential. Any objections contact Mogoditshane District Council, Physical Planning office at 3105615 within 14 days of this publication.

OWNER OF PLOT 3271, Sefoke Ward, Tlokweneng, would like to change land-use from industrial to mixed use commercial. Any objections contact Tlokweneng District Council Physical Planning office within 14 days of this publication.

TIMOTHY EDWARD J Calvert, owner of ploughing field in Senamane, Kgatleng intends to subdivide his plot into 2 portions. Any objections should contact Kgatleng landboard 5777351 or 76952994 within 14 days of publication

OWNER OF PLOT 13676 Serowe wishes to build boundary wall. Objection call 72217708

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
GALELALE TICHANA	ESHFT-001180-25	12-05-2026	0900HRS	SARM 2

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
TJENDZIMU TJAIGWA	ESHFT-001300-25	22-04-26	0900HRS	SARM 1

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
TSHWARISANG KEOTLOGETSE	ESHFT-000721-25	22/04/26	0900HRS	ARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 12TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
BOLEKO BOY	ESHFT-000150-26	13/05/26	0900HRS	DRM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
MOLAPO SOKISI	ESHFT-000956-25	21/04/26	0900HRS	ARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 12TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
ODUETSE BOY	ESHFT-000790/25	13/05/26	0900HRS	SARM 2

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

LIQUOR ACT (Cap.43:11) FORM 2 (reg. 3(1))
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has applied for a BAR licence in terms of section 13 of the Liquor Act(Cap.43:11) in respect of the premises situated at Rakhuna and the Liquor Control Authority has determined that the application shall be heard by the Liquor Control Authority on the 26th day of March 2026.

Any person who wishes to object to the grant of the licence should within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice, give notice in writing to the Liquor Control Authority of this intention to oppose the application and state the grounds on which his objection is based.

Company/Business
Name: COME TOMORROW PROPRIETARY LIMITED
Address: MOKWENA WARD RAKHUNA P O BOX 351 PITSANE
Submitted by: TEFO ELVIS MOABI
Date: 27/02/2026

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT [CAP 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
THOMAS MLILO	ESHFT-000151-26	29/04/26	0900HRS	SARM1

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED intends applying for a certified copy of DEED OF TRANSFER NO. 2031/2018 dated 5TH day of NOVEMBER 2018 made in favour of FREEDOM DIMHAIRO in respect of the following property:

CERTAIN : piece of land being Lot 36360 Gaborone;
SITUATE : in the Gaborone West Extension 37;
MEASURING : 418m2 (Four Hundred and Eighteen Square Metres);
HELD UNDER : Deed of Transfer No. 2031/2018 dated 5th day of November 2018 made in favour of FREEDOM DIMHAIRO;

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the REGISTRAR OF DEEDS FOR BOTSWANA AT GABORONE within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THE 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MOYO LEGAL PRACTICE
PLOT 19111, PHASE 2 ARESUTALANE WAY
P O BOX AE 451 AEH GABORONE

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT OF GRANT OF LEASE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Lease Tribal Grant No:1436-KP, dated 30th day of March 2015 made in favour of LETJANI MOATSHE in respect of the following property:

CERTAIN: Piece of land being Tribal Grant NO.1436-KP;
SITUATE: At Mmamashia in the Bakgatla Tribal Territory;
MEASURING: 1,6822ha (One Comma Six Eight Two Two Hectares);

Any person having objection to the issue of such copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks from last publication of this notice.

PLOT 6358, KGWALE ROAD
Broadhurst
P O BOX AD 34 ADC , GABORONE
(PS/gS/PS18280)

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF A LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 2596/2010 dated the 27th day of October 2010 made in favour of KEBAFALOTSE SEKANA in respect of:

CERTAIN: piece of land being Lot 56968, Gaborone;
SITUATE: in Gaborone Administrative District;
MEASURING: 375m² (Three Hundred and Seventy-Five Square Metres);

WHICH ROPERTY: is held under Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 2596/2010 dated the 27th day of October 2010 made in favour of KEBAFALOTSE SEKANA;

SUBJECT TO: the reservations and conditions contained in the aforesaid Deed.

Any person having objection to the issuing of such copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds within three (3) weeks from last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 28th January 2026.

WINFRED MASITHA LEGAL PRACTICE
P. O. BOX 1511
PLOT 19201, PHASE 2, GABORONE
TEL: 76050594/73566512

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date Of Meeting	Time	Master
KEELETSANG MOALOSI	ESHFT-000072-26	28-04-26	0900HRS	ARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
Master's Reference: ESHGB 000267/24

IN THE ESTATE of the late Lesedi Keetile who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the 3rd day of April 2022.

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

DATED at..... on this..... Day of..... 2026

The Executor
Kago Keetile
P O Box 5094, GABORONE
Cell: 76150976/72597495

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that I the undersigned Tumediso Florence Ratsatsi hereby gives notice of my intention to give and transfer the following property to Mastow Ndimande

CERTAIN: Residential Plot
SITUATE: Mochudi Rantlha ward
MEASURING: 658SQM (Six hundred and eighty-five square metres).
WHICH PROPERTY: is held under the customary land resolution issued to Tumediso Florence Ratsatsi by Mochudi sub land board.

For the sum of BWP450,000.00 (Four hundred and fifty thousand) subject to other terms as inspection to consideration at the address of the undersigned owner.

Any citizen willing and able likewise conclude the transaction may make a similar offer through the undersigned owner within (30) days of this publication of this notice.

T RATATSATI P. O BOX 20602, MOCHUDI CELLPHONE: 74225776

INTENT TO DISPOSE

Dated at Ramotswa on this 3rd March 2026

Notice of intention to dispose land to a Non-Citizen Company

Be pleased to Take Notice that the following controlled transaction is proposed:

Transferor: Tiny Antoinett Kgari
Transferee: HG Legacy Group Proprietary Limited
Certain: Ploughing Field with Mokoro Station in Taung
Situate: Taung, Ramotswa
Measuring: 233X32X244X207
Which property: is held by resolution MLB6/4/1-2979/1998
Purchase: Consideration P250,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pula)
Subject: to terms and conditions of the law applicable.

Be pleased to Take notice further that:

The transaction is between Tiny Antoinett Kgari and HG Legacy Group Proprietary Limited

By virtue of this notice, any citizen of Botswana interested in entering into a similar offer in the above mentioned property must give their submission to the contacts below within 30 (thirty) days of publication hereof.

**Tiny Antoinett Kgari, Applicant Box V23, Ramotswa
 Cell phone number 76198041**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DISPOSE TRIBAL LAND TO A NON-CITIZEN

This serves as a notification, in accordance with section 34 of the Tribal Land Act, that TSHWANELO MOSES RANTSOPENG OF ID: 958 512 217 has entered into sale agreement with EPHRAIM MUSOSI, holder of Passport No. FN507592, a non-citizen, for the sale of the following property:

Property Details: Residential Plot No. 1225 Mmathethe (Metlobo)
Location: Mmathethe
Size: 35X25X35X25 m2
Development: None

Any citizen in a similar transaction for this property shall be given priority, regardless of the agreement reached between the parties. Should any citizen wish to object to this transaction, they must do so in writing to the Mmathethe Sub Land board within thirty days (30) of the date of this publication.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

ESHFT – 000320-25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late TUMELO MOLATHIWA-ESHT-000320-25/ who died at SEKGOMA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SEROWE, SEROWE DISTRICT, on the 10th of FEBRUARY 2021.

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

DATED AT SEROWE THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

MR BOEMO BARAKANYE
 Executor Dative
 P O Box 4092,
 SEROWE

PRESCHOOL TEACHER | TEACHER AIDS

Mochudi Resource Centre is looking for **one** qualified preschool teacher with Diploma in Early Childhood Education and teaching experience. The Centre is also looking for two qualified teacher Aids with Certificate in Early Childhood Education. Permission to teach for both posts.

The Director
 Private Bag 19 Mochudi

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Contact 76 616 727

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETING

Administration of Estates Act (Cap 31:01)

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap 33:01) heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of the High Court at Mahalapye High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
KEMORENG NTSOSA & TSHENOLO NTSOSA	ESHMY 000021-26	21.04.2026	0900 HRS	SARM

DATED AT MAHALAPYE THIS 26th FEBRUARY 2026

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

I THATO MOLOI seek to change land use from poultry to residential and subdivision of the same at Matebele Phathaneng ward (P. O. Box 403937 Gaborone Cell no. 72973018), For any objection contact Kgatleng District Council planning officer on telephone no. 5777411 within fourteen (14) working days of this publication.

VACANCIES

UPHOLSTERY DESIGNER WANTED. Uppertee Innovative Canvas tents and furniture. Minestone, Francistown. Call Miss Bengingazi 75973487/ 74437771

UREGENTLY REQUIRED, TAYLOR Cutter with Embroidery skills. Minimum three years experience plus Tailoring Certificate. Call Feura 76306105. Closing 18/03/2026.

VACANCY

A reputed long established Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians in Gaborone requires candidate for the following position:

- Optometrist:** Candidates must be a Bachelor of Science in Optometry or of equivalent qualification with a minimum of three years post qualification experience and be eligible for registration as such with Ministry.

Remuneration not a constraint to the right candidate.

Please send applications to The Manager, P O Box 379, Plot 1154, Gaborone or email to ocbmedicals@gmail.com. Contact: 3933874

Closing date is 20th March 2026.

FORM SF 010(1)
 RECORD OF ISSUE OF BID DOCUMENTS
 (TO BE USED FOR METHODS OF SALE TO THE PUBLIC) (REGULATION 136)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Name of Local Authority: **GABORONE CITY COUNCIL** Date: 10-02-2026

The Gaborone City Council- intends to sell boarded council vehicles by Public Auction Sale. Gaborone City Council shall have no further liability after sale.

The Auction Sale will be conducted by Gaborone City Council - Procurement Unit at Sebele Fire Station, Plot No: 54501 Sebele on the **07th March 2026 and 08th March 2026 at 0930hrs.**

A refundable fee of **BWP2000.00** will be charged from those wishing to bid for boarded vehicles. Fully paid items shall be removed immediately after the sale from the yard/premises, on proof production of an official receipt.

Auction Sale will be open to 100 % citizens only with valid Identity Card (Omang).

Items shall be sold in lot numbers to the highest bidder and negotiations shall not be permitted.

Items shall be sold as they are, as no warranty is expressed. Payment will be in cash or Bank guaranteed transfers (EFT) payable to Gaborone City Council respectively. Bidders wishing to participate in auction shall pay a refundable of **BWP2000.00**, for vehicles at **Civic Hall Revenue Office Room No.1**, Plot No: 330 along Independence Avenue, failing which they shall not bid.

Interested bidders may view the boarded vehicles from the 23rd February 2026 to 06th March 2026 during working hours from 0730 hrs to 1245 hrs and from 1345 hrs to 1600 hrs at Sebele Fire Station.

THERE WILL BE NO COLLECTION OF DEPOSITS ON THE DAY OF SALE.

Bids shall be oral and the procedure for bidding shall be specified by the Council auctioneer in accordance with normal Auction Sale practices. The auctioned property shall remain the custody of Gaborone City Council until fully paid for.

Items sold and paid for must be removed from the premises within five (5) working days, failing which it will render both BWP2000.00 being forfeited and Council shall take discretion to dispose of the boarded vehicles.

The registration of potential bidders in possession of official receipt shall start on the **07th March 2026** during working hours from **0730hrs to 0900hrs** at Sebele Fire Gaborone City Council.

NB: BIDDERS WILL BE GIVEN 10 DAYS TO VIEW BEFORE AUCTION, THERE WILL BE NO BIDDER ALLOWED INTO THE STOCK YARD DURING AUCTION FOR VIEWING. Further information can be obtained from Gaborone City Council – Principal Procurement Officer I – Procurement, Private Bag 0089, Gaborone, Telephone No. 365 7369 / 7476 / 7315

Thank you
 Daniel Katjinothiwa, For/Town Clerk

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Statistics Botswana will conduct a Customer Satisfaction Survey from **23 February 2026 to 14 March 2026.**

The survey takes **5-10 minutes** and participation is voluntary.

The exercise will be administered by Maze Meadows, an independent professional consultancy firm.

- All responses are confidential
- Information will be used for product and service improvement only
- You may opt out at any time

Court remands two for copper cable theft



Two men accused of unlawful possession of suspected stolen copper cables have been remanded by the Maun Magistrate Court for seven days pending investigations.

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN

Magistrate Chandapiwa Molefhi of Maun Magistrate court remanded two men accused of unlawful possession of suspected stolen copper cables for seven days pending investigations.

Ogaufi Boalotswe (43) of Maun and Orapeleng Tshimane (37) of Salajwe were arrested on February 20 at Samedupi cattle post after being found in possession of copper cables.

When apply for the accused to be remanded in custody, State Prosecutor, Mr Mothusi citing ongoing investigations while Investigating Officer, Sergeant Kotomwa Mogomotsi submitted that five other suspects fled the scene during the arrest and were still being pursued.

He further stated that police had received between five and seven additional reports of copper theft, which they were investigating for possible links.

Sergeant Mogomotsi requested 14 days to complete investigations, adding that police were following information suggesting that the suspected stolen copper was being sold in Gaborone.

Furthermore, the officer submitted that releasing the accused persons on bail would put their lives in danger as the public was currently angry about the rising copper cable theft that has

been affecting their daily routines.

When pleading for bail, one of the accused, Boalotswe said he had been tortured during detention and denied access to his medication.

Another accused, Tshimane also pleaded for bail, stating that he sustained a gunshot wound during arrest and required medical attention, including an X-ray.

"I have not received medical attention for my gunshot wound and have not bathed for the past seven days since my arrest and if we could get bail then we could seek medical attention," he said.

In delivering her ruling, Magistrate Molefhi granted the state seven days' and further remanded the accused.

She further ordered that the accused receive medical attention before their next court appearance

She however expressed displeasure that the accused had been detained beyond the constitutionally permitted 48 hours without being presented before court to be formally charged.

She said the court had to balance the liberty of the accused against the interests of justice and the need to protect the integrity of investigations.

She further noted that cable theft had severely disrupted communities and was becoming a public nuisance.

"Household utilities have been interrupted and power cuts disrupt daily life," she said. **BOPA**

Health department sensitises boys on menstruation

Relief Lephutshi

MOSHANA

In a move to breakdown stigma and promote understanding on girls' experiences, boys at Mosidi Primary school were drilled on menstrual cycle, which normally occurs after puberty transition stage.

This developed during mobilisation of International Women's Day commemoration scheduled for March 8.

According to the District Principal Health Education Technician, Ms Jacqueline Medupe, awareness about menstruation on the boy child was key.

She cautioned boys about mocking the girl child whilst having their menstrual cycle.

"It is not a laughing matter, boys should be prepared to be supportive and understand issues concerning menstrual cycle," she said.

Ms Medupe put emphasis that they should be allies and create a more inclusive environment.

Proper hygiene during menstruation is very critical as it breaks taboos and make it easier for girls to manage with confidence.

Demonstration on the use of sanitary pads during menstruation also prepares the boy child to know what to do in the process.

Girls were implored to speak up and seek proper support from their mothers as failure to inform parents could lead to use of unsafe alternatives, such as homemade sanitary pads, raising concern on its cleanliness.

She further cautioned the female pupils to be vigilant against being snared by men into sexual actions further highlighting that such actions had high potential of terminating the girl child's rights to education.

Ms Medupe indicated that Kanye District had teenage pregnancies from 10 to 14 year olds, hence the campaign on teenage pregnancies held recently.

The girl child, she said, was also prone to sexually transmitted diseases.

She urged the learners that they should desist from use of drugs and alcohol as it endangered their destiny.

She said they could be charged with possession.

She also highlighted the offense of cultivation of dagga plant, saying that even if children were involved in caring for it, they would be charged with the cultivation offense through the aid of a social worker.

Meanwhile presenting on children's rights, law, and offenses committed against children, Sejelo Police's Narcotics, Faun and Flora Investigations unit, Detective

Constable Doreen Kaumba encouraged learners to shun use of drugs and alcohol as it endangered their destiny.

She said they could be charged with possession including being aware of the existence of such drugs in case of their availability in households by relatives.

She highlighted that cultivation of dagga plant was an offense warning that those who engaged children to care for it, would be charged through the aid of a social worker.

Furthermore, child negligence is said to be a challenge as most of them were kept at the ploughing fields, rendering the girl child vulnerable.

The Women Sector Coordinator, Mr Kabelo Tsiang from the Department of Youth and Gender had earlier on highlighted on the objectives of the upcoming International Women's day which he said were to promote women's rights and their access to justice and economic empowerment.

He further said the event would help to recognise and celebrate women and girls as agents of development.

He also encouraged the mobilisation of partnerships across government, the private sector and civil society and development partners.

He further said it will help to engage men, boys' traditional

leaders and communities in advancing gender equality and

preventing gender – based violence. **BOPA**

Maphogo to receive six strokes for arson

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN

Maun Magistrate Court has sentenced 22-year-old Lengwe Maphogo of Bodibeng to receive six strokes following his conviction on a single count of arson.

Delivering judgment recently, Magistrate Gofaone Mosweu ordered that Maphogo be caned at a customary court and further directed that he compensated the complainant for property destroyed in the fire.

Court records indicated that on July 13, 2022, at Bokamoso Ward in Bodibeng, Maphogo unlawfully set fire to a structure belonging to Mr Johannes Kangora after a dispute over unpaid wages amounting to P1 600 for work allegedly done at a cattle post.

During previous proceedings, Maphogo pleaded guilty to the charge, stating that he committed the offence out of frustration after Mr Kangora failed to pay him.

In the blaze, several items were destroyed, including a tent valued at P3,800, four blankets worth

P300 each, a jacket valued at P300, food estimated at P800, two axes worth P300 each, a net shade valued at P100, a pair of shoes worth P400, four shovels valued at P120 each, two mattresses worth P200 each, P20,000 as well as a livestock certificate and a national identity card.

Magistrate Mosweu ruled that Maphogo must reimburse Mr Kangora for the value of the destroyed items and further stated that the alleged P1 600 debt would not be considered in the compensation order.

"The P20,000 that is said to have been destroyed in the fire has not been satisfactorily proven before court and will therefore not form part of the compensation," she said.

The court noted that the value of the damaged property exceeded the amount Maphogo claimed he was owed hence he would not get any compensation.

Maphogo would undergo corporal punishment in accordance with customary court procedures. **BOPA**

It is not a laughing matter, boys should be prepared to be supportive and understand issues concerning menstrual cycle.

Act entitles land board to repossess land - Dikoloti

GABORONE

Parliament has learnt that in terms of the provisions of the Tribal Land Act, particularly Section 31, land boards are entitled to repossess land where it is in the public interest to do so, and for the purpose of ensuring fair and equitable distribution of land among the citizens of Botswana.

Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti said in Parliament on Wednesday that in doing so, the Land Boards were guided by the Village Development Plans, which indicated designated growth areas, hence the repossession was not selective.

Dr Dikoloti said he was aware that village expansions were implemented in phases, as provided for in the relevant development plans.

“These phases are not usually implemented simultaneously. For example, in Sese village which is under the Maokane Sub Land Board, the Land Board, in consultation with the community, decided in 2025 to commence repossessions in the village expansion phase located to the south-west of the village, as opposed to the eastern side, which has also been earmarked for future expansion,” he said.

Additionally, he said, repossessions may

be pursued in line with Section 5(1) of the Act through cancellation of a grant of rights to use land by the grantee.

In that regard, he said such cancellation may arise as a result of a breach of conditions attached to the grant. He also explained that the Land Board, as a body corporate, may also implement court orders, which may result in repossessions and cancellations of land rights. For example, he said, the Ngwaketse Land Board was in the process of implementing a court order for a matter within the jurisdiction of the Maokane Sub Land Board, which may result in cancellations of land rights of already allocated ploughing fields in the area and where possible relocations to alternative areas. He also apprised Parliament that the Mabutsane Sub Land Board had not undertaken any repossessions or cancellations of land rights since 2017.

He was responding to questions from Jwaneng/Mabutsane MP, Mr Omphemetse Kwapa, who wanted to know if the minister was aware that Ngwaketse Landboard, Maokane Sub Landboard and Mabutsane Sub Landboard were selective in repossessing prime plots while those belonging to certain individuals were never repossessed. **BOPA**

Masama Coal Mine remains under care as investor search continues

GABORONE

Masama coal mine at Medie remains under care and maintenance as efforts to engage and acquire new investors continue.

Responding to a question in Parliament on behalf of Minister of Minerals and Energy on Thursday, Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr David Tshere said various parties that were involved with the mine continued to engage investors from different parts of the globe looking at robust plans of ensuring the mine’s long sustainability post resumption.

Mr Tshere said it should also be noted that there was an associated matter before the courts that was scheduled for hearing soon.

Additionally, he stated that negotiations between parties were an intricate process and still sensitive as wooing investors must be done on consideration of a win-win basis for the country and the investors in the long term.

“It is therefore not advisable to put a definite date and timeline on this process and the subsequent resumption of operations as the teams continue to work on tight timelines with intentions to reach a suitable deal intended to reopen the mine in the nearest future,” he said. Lentswetau-Lephephe MP, Mr Tshenolo Bogatsu, had asked the minister to update Parliament on the status of Medie coal mine following its closure. **BOPA**

Auction of unserviceable goods in Kgalagadi South set for May

GABORONE

Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, has acknowledged delays in the disposal of unserviceable government goods in Kgalagadi South, citing non-adherence to established disposal procedures. Responding to a question in Parliament on Wednesday to address concerns over the prolonged storage of obsolete items in the district, Mr Motshegwa confirmed that the delay was caused by a lapse in implementing the approved disposal plan.

The setback, he explained, resulted from administrative shortcomings in executing the structured process required for the disposal of government assets.

“It is true that unserviceable goods in Kgalagadi South have taken a long time to be disposed of due to failure to adhere to the disposal plan. However, the Ministry has now put measures in place to ensure that an auction sale was conducted on May 7 this year,” he said.

He further pointed out that the ministry

had assured the public that corrective measures had been taken to prevent similar delays in future and to ensure that disposal processes were conducted in accordance with government regulations.

Member of Parliament for Kgalagadi South, Mr Tokyo Modise, had asked the minister about prolonged delays in the disposal of unserviceable goods at tribal administration offices in the district.

MP Modise wanted the minister to explain why obsolete government items were left in open storage areas for extended periods while awaiting auction sales.

He noted that in some instances, the goods remained exposed for years, significantly diminishing in value due to harsh weather conditions.

He expressed concern that the situation not only led to financial losses for government but also reflected inefficiencies in asset management.

He further sought clarification on the measures being taken to ensure that disposal processes were conducted in a timely and efficient manner to safeguard public resources. **BOPA**



Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi told Parliament that the issuance of fishing permits had officially resumed following completion of amendments to the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act.

Issuance of fishing permits resume

GABORONE

Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi has announced that the issuance of fishing permits has officially resumed following completion of amendments to the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act.

Responding to a question in Parliament, from Tonota MP, Mr Gaefele Sedombo recently, Mr Mmolotsi said suspension of permits, introduced in 2020, had been necessary to address poor regulation of fishing activities in three seasonal rivers.

He explained that authorities had observed widespread non-compliance with licensing requirements, including illegal sale of fish by individuals without commercial fishing licences.

In some instances, the minister said subsistence fishers were found selling their catch, contrary to regulations. The situation, he said prompted the ministry, through the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, to review and amend the legislation to strengthen oversight and ensure sustainable management of fish resources.

He added that the amendment process was completed in 2023, and issuance of fishing license permits will be resumed following administrative processes.

“Fishing permits can now be obtained at the Department of Wildlife and National Parks offices in Masunga, Francistown and Bobonong for the three rivers mentioned,” he said.

Minister Mmolotsi apologised to communities affected by the suspension for the delay in lifting the restrictions, saying the measure had been temporary and aimed at restoring order and sustainability in the sector.

He reminded that January and

February remained a closed season for fishing in Botswana, during which fish harvesting was prohibited. Clarifying the distinction between subsistence and commercial fishing, the minister said subsistence fishers did not require permits to fish in rivers.

“They are allowed to catch fish in drying out pools and flood plains using traditional gear such as fishing basket and traps. They are allowed to catch 10 fishes per day,” he added.

Mr Mmolotsi explained that commercial fisherman used gillnets to catch fish and were required to apply for fishing permit.

He also encouraged both subsistence and commercial fishers to explore aquaculture as an alternative source of income.

Further, he noted that fish farming initiatives fell under the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture and pledged government support to communities willing to venture into the enterprise to diversify and improve their returns.

Mr Sedombo wanted to know if the minister was aware that issuance of fishing license permits for fishermen who traditionally operated along the Shashe, Tati and Motloutse rivers was suspended around the year 2020, thereby affecting the livelihoods of communities who relied on small scale and subsistence fishing as a source of income and food security.

Tonota MP had also wanted to know what prompted the suspension of the issuance of the permits, whether the suspension was temporary or permanent and whether there were any plans to issue permits to affected fishermen in the aforementioned areas.

Additionally, the legislator also asked if there were no immediate plans to resume permits issuance and alternative interventions or support mechanisms the ministry would consider to cushion the affected fishing communities. **BOPA**

SADC and China partnership spurs renewable energy transition

HARARE

As Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states seek to bolster energy security, forging partnerships with China, a global leader in green energy deployment, remains crucial, senior officials have said.

Addressing the SADC Sustainable Energy Week recently held in Zimbabwe, SADC executive secretary Elias Magosi noted the region's energy deficiency, saying energy security and universal access remained fundamental enablers of regional integration, industrialisation, and sustainable economic growth.

Magosi said coal-fired plants still dominate the region's installed electricity capacity, accounting for 59 per cent of generation, while hydropower contributes 24 per cent.

With about 56 per cent of the population having access to electricity, Magosi stressed the need to explore a broad range of technologies to boost energy security and sustainability.

Kudakwashe Ndhelukula, executive director of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, told *Xinhua* during the energy week that Chinese entities, with advanced renewable energy technologies, played a pivotal role in driving the region's green energy transition through investment.

He added the energy-insecure region should leverage China's extensive expertise, technology and financing to accelerate its clean energy transition.

Speaking to *Xinhua* on the sidelines of the energy week, Madagascar's Minister of Energy and Hydrocarbons, Ny Ando Ralitera, said the country was learning from China to promote the sustainable adoption of solar energy.

He added that China's industrial scale helped lower the cost of solar technologies, thereby encouraging wider uptake of renewable energy.

"One of the advantages of China is that it is a direct manufacturer. We can have a product of the latest tech generation at an affordable price. In terms of electricity and power generation, we are working closely with China," he noted.

In Zimbabwe, the adoption of renewable energy is taking center stage, driven by the need to bridge an electricity supply gap.

Victor Utedzi, chief executive officer of Centragrid, a Zimbabwean independent power producer that operates a photovoltaic power plant in Mashonaland, noted that China continued to be an important partner to Zimbabwe in plugging the energy shortfall.

"All that large scale projects in the renewable space, particularly solar, we have got Chinese partners in equipment supplies, financing, and construction. So we continue to count on our Chinese partners to support us in the development of these large-scale solar power projects," Utedzi said. *Xinhua*



DE AAR - Wind turbines of De Aar Wind Power Project in Northern Cape, South Africa. SADC executive secretary Elias Magosi said the region's energy security and universal access remained fundamental enablers of regional integration, industrialisation, and sustainable economic growth. Photo: Xinhua

Ndhelukula said the energy-insecure region should leverage China's extensive expertise, technology and financing to accelerate its clean energy transition



DE AAR - An aerial photo of a substation and wind turbines of De Aar Wind Power Project in Northern Cape, South Africa. Photo: Xinhua

Women play vital role in boosting cultural exchange

HARARE

Women are playing a significant role in boosting cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges between Zimbabwe and China, Zimbabwean Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Monica Mutsvangwa has said.

Speaking at celebrations on Friday to mark the Chinese Lantern Festival and the upcoming International Women's Day at the Chinese Embassy in Harare, Mutsvangwa said, "China and

Zimbabwe, though separated by geography, our cultures converge in the belief that celebrating life, nurturing connections, and lifting one another is what strengthens societies, and it is women who often lead the way in carrying these values forward."

Noting that Zimbabwe shares deep cultural ties with China, Mutsvangwa said that Zimbabwe joins the Chinese in celebrating the Lantern Festival, a celebration of the first full moon of the new lunar year.

"To me, lanterns are more than

decorations; they are symbols. They remind us that even in the darkness, light can shine. They remind us that hope can guide us through challenges, and that together, we can create warmth and harmony in our lives and communities," she said.

Ahead of International Women's Day, which is celebrated across the world on March 8, Mutsvangwa called for greater commitment to women's empowerment.

"Let us commit to seeing the potential in every woman, creating opportunities where none exist and

lighting the path for generations to follow," she said.

In his speech, Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe Zhou Ding noted that many of the Chinese-funded projects have brought tangible benefits to Zimbabwean women.

"This year has been designated as the China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges. Through gatherings like today's, many women from our two nations learn from each other and carry forward the torch of our friendship," Zhou added. *Xinhua*

China-Germany cooperation pillar of stability

BERLIN

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz is paying his first official visit to China on Wednesday. For the world's second- and third-largest economies, the trip presents a good opportunity to enhance mutual understanding, strengthen pragmatic cooperation and jointly contribute more to world peace and prosperity.

At a time when the world is experiencing turbulence and transformation, China and Germany, as major economies and advocates of multilateralism, share the responsibility to uphold the stability of global industrial and supply chains and oppose protectionism and economic coercion.

In a widely noted gesture, Merz recently extended Chinese New Year greetings via social platform X, expressing hope that the Year of the Horse would "bring strength and give new impetus to German-Chinese relations."

The message was widely interpreted in Germany as a signal of Berlin's positive expectations for the trip and its intention to reinvigorate economic ties through high-level dialogue. The composition of the delegation underscores the stakes.

Executives from around 30 major companies, including Bayer, Siemens, BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen, are expected to accompany the chancellor, once again demonstrating the confidence of the German business community in the Chinese economy and the vitality of bilateral cooperation.

According to German media *Handelsblatt*, applications for the trip far exceeded the available seats an indication of German

industry's determination to deepen its footprint in China and expand investments and partnerships.

The enthusiasm of German businesses is rooted in decades of economic logic. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1972, the two countries have built a dense web of economic links.

Germany has long been China's largest trading partner and source of foreign investment in Europe. Their industrial sectors are deeply integrated, and the foundation of cooperation continues to strengthen.

Official data from China's Ministry of Commerce show that bilateral trade between China and Germany has remained above 200 billion U.S. dollars for consecutive years.

China has also solidified its position as Germany's largest trading partner for nine of the past 10 years. Over the past two decades, the China-Germany relationship has matured further.

From automotive and machinery to chemicals and advanced materials, German firms have leveraged China not only for its immense scale but also as a hub for innovation.

While Germany's automotive giants treat China as a core global market, large companies like BASF and Merck have established R&D and manufacturing clusters, reflecting steadily deepening industrial ties.

The visit comes as debates over "decoupling" and "de-risking" from China continue in Europe and even within Germany. Business sentiment, however, reflects a different calculus rooted in long-term confidence.

A survey by the German Chamber of Commerce in China

reveals that 93 percent of German firms intend to maintain or expand their presence in China, more than half plan to increase investment in the next two years, and nearly two-thirds view Chinese partners as indispensable strategic pillars.

Meanwhile, innovation gains in China are now feeding back into German headquarters, driving product upgrades on a global scale. Hard data reinforce this trend.

Data from the German Economic Institute show that

new German direct investment in China amounted to around 7 billion euros (8.26 billion dollars) in 2025, well above the roughly 4.5 billion euros (5.3 billion dollars) a year earlier.

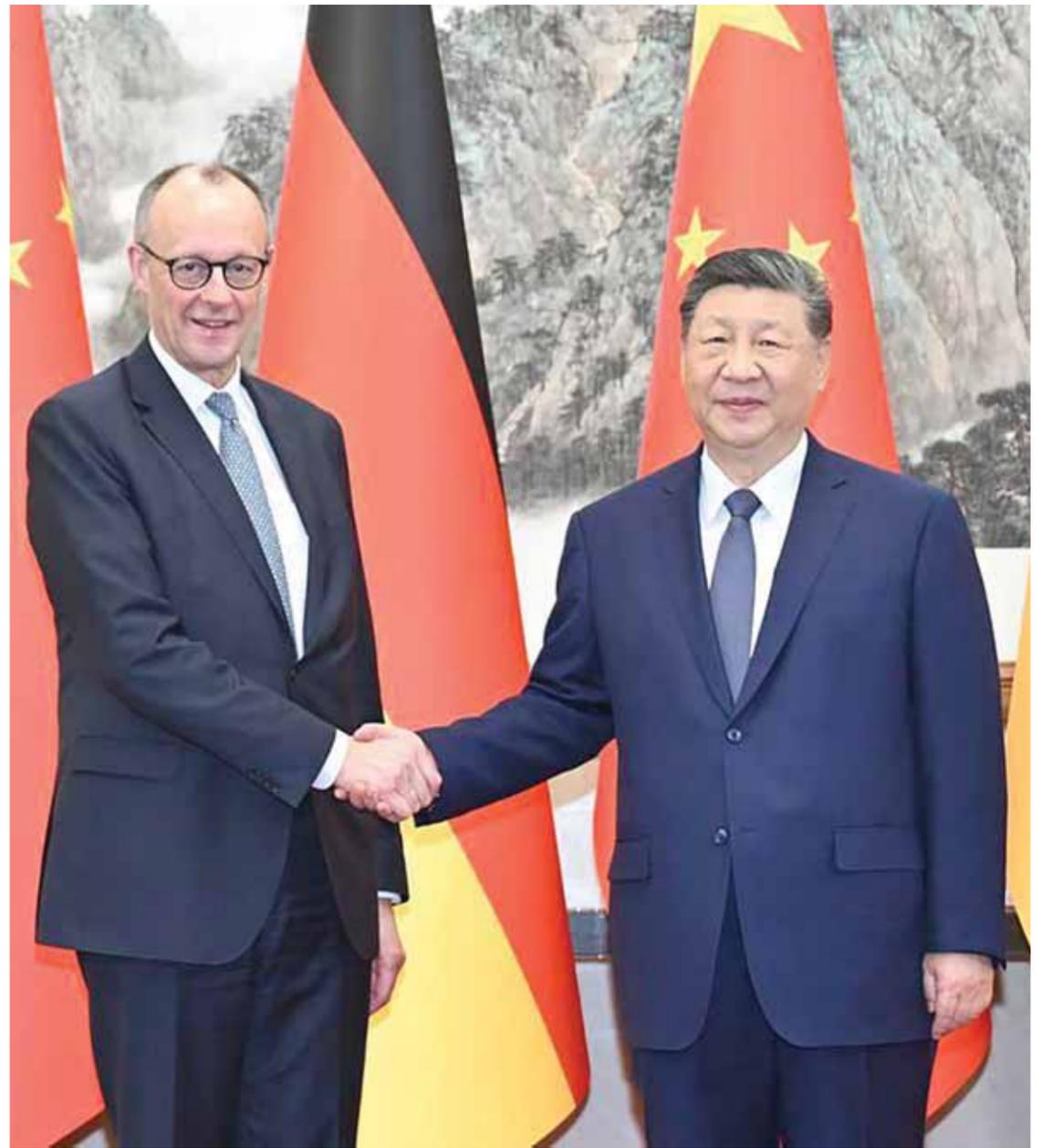
As noted by Juergen Matthes, an expert at the institute, German companies are not only expanding their presence in China but also accelerating the pace of investment.

The broader trajectory of China-Germany relations remains clear. Decades of exchange have closely linked the two economies,

making their partnership a case study in the gains of globalization, linking two manufacturing leaders through trade, investment and innovation.

In an era of rising protectionism and unilateralism, closer engagement between Beijing and Berlin carries significance far beyond their borders.

It serves as an anchor for global expectations, proving that openness and practical cooperation remain the most viable choice for major economies in an uncertain world. *Xinhua*



BEIJING - China President Xi Jinping (right) and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who was on an official visit to China. Photo: Xinhua

Evacuation of South African citizens in Middle East impossible - official

JOHANNESBURG

A South African government official said on Sunday that evacuating citizens from the Middle East is currently impossible, citing widespread airspace closures across the region for security reasons. "It is impossible to move in or out of those countries."

"We are in touch with South Africans using various communication platforms," said Clayton Monyela, deputy director-general of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). In a statement posted on X, he added that "various interventions and options are being explored."

The massive air travel disruption, which has forced the cancellation of thousands of flights, was triggered after the United States and Israel launched intensive airstrikes against Iran on Saturday morning.

As tensions escalated, several countries, including Israel, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, and Bahrain, have announced either full or partial closures of their airspace. Consequently, dozens of international and regional airlines have suspended their services. According to DIRCO, South African citizens currently in the Middle East must wait for the reopening of airspace or land borders before they can travel home.

Monyela told local media that the government is closely monitoring the situation for any opportunity to assist its citizens as soon as conditions allow. In a recent advisory published on X, DIRCO urged all South African citizens currently in the region to contact their respective embassies.

This is to ensure they are formally registered and that their whereabouts are known to diplomatic missions. *Xinhua*

ECOWAS voices concern over escalating tensions in Gulf region

ABUJA

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has voiced deep concern over the recent escalation of tensions in the Gulf region. In a statement issued Saturday, ECOWAS aligned itself with the African Union Commission's assessment of the situation, noting that the intensification of military actions poses a significant risk of widening instability in the Middle East, with potential repercussions for international peace and security.

This unrest could severely impact global energy markets, trade, and food supply chains, particularly affecting vulnerable regions, including Africa.

"ECOWAS therefore calls on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to act in full compliance with the United Nations Charter and international law, particularly the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The protection of civilian lives and critical infrastructure must remain paramount," the

statement said.

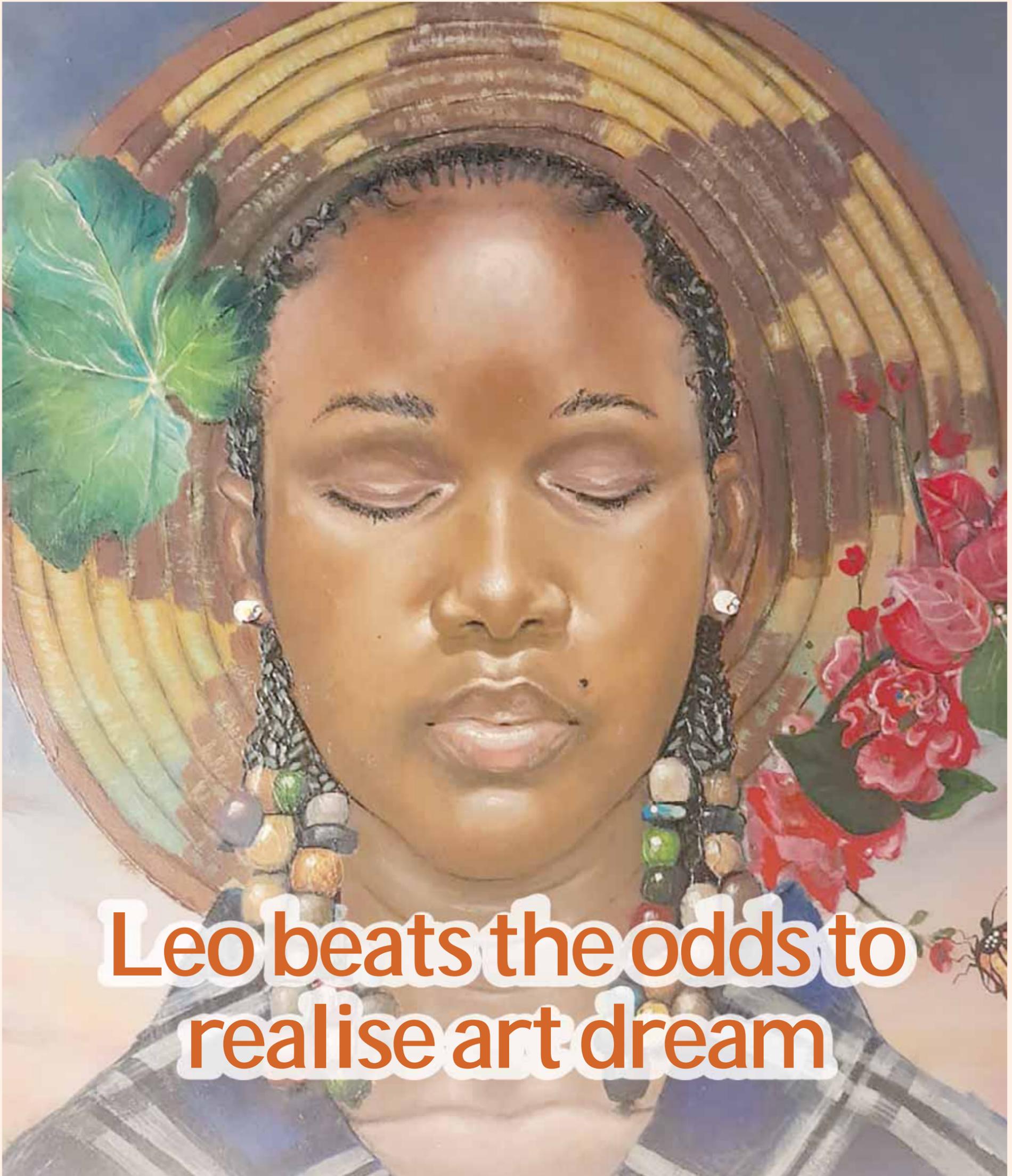
ECOWAS also calls for renewed diplomatic initiatives within established international and regional frameworks to promote dialogue, mitigate tensions, and restore stability in the region.

By endorsing the African Union's statements, ECOWAS reiterates West Africa's firm commitment to multilateralism and the peaceful resolution of disputes, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring lasting peace and stability in the Gulf region and beyond. *Xinhua*

Arts & Culture

Keinee finds comfort in Gospel music

Page 22



Leo beats the odds to realise art dream

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Inspired by his uncle, 24 year-old Phetso Leo from Ramotswa traces his love for art back to his toddler years, before even attending crèche. "At three years old, I was already in

love with drawing," he recalls.

Growing up without toys or art materials, Leo improvised with whatever he could find. His extraordinary talent drew praise from neighbours who marvelled at his sketches: "This little lad really draws," they would say.

Yet despite his gift, his parents

were hesitant to support his artistic ambitions, viewing art as an unstable career.

"They thought it was a low-standard job, and worried I spent too much time drawing," he explained.

Cont...page 22

Leo beats the odds to realise art dream

...from page 21

His uncle played a pivotal role, teaching him shading and realism. By junior secondary school, Leo's world expanded: he discovered sculpture, painting, performance art, and the power of themes.

"Art is not just beauty or sadness, it communicates meaning, even political issues," he said.

Balancing pure science studies with his artistic drive proved challenging, especially without family support. But access to proper stationery at school boosted his morale, and when he enrolled at university, he invested his allowance into sketchbooks, canvases, and paints.

"I carry five sketchbooks everywhere. They are not for finished works, but for ideas that later become masterpieces," he said.

His dedication meant sacrificing luxuries like driving lessons or clothing for art supplies. He even ordered coloured pencils online from China, spending nearly half his allowance.

"I really spent more on art than anything else," he admitted.

Without sponsors, he relied on patience and faith.

"I celebrate other people's wins because I know my turn will



Phetso Leo traces the love for art back to his toddler years.

come."

In 2024, his online presence flourished after completing exams. Though juggling a tough business course left him drained, he found relief in focusing on art and social media.

Leo adjusted his schedule to draw at night, sometimes working 10 hours straight, then posting content the next morning.

"At night it's quiet, so I can create," he said.

Starting small, he moved from A4 paper to canvas, then ventured into customisation, transforming shoes and denim jackets.

His sponsored posts attracted clients, including one from Jwaneng who commissioned a jacket design.

Despite limited resources and an old phone, he innovated by recording time-lapse videos of his process, adding credibility to his craft.

By his first year of customisation, Leo earned about P15 000 from seven or eight clients. He later began charging P1 600 for portraits, a price he considered fair by market standards.

In November, he reached a milestone by selling his first original artwork for P2 400 and completing murals in Mochudi and Ramotswa. "Life opened up for my artwork in November," he said proudly.

Art runs in his bloodline, several uncles were artists, including Onalenna Ramogojwana, an art teacher who has been his strongest supporter.

"Ramogojwana understood the demands of art and encouraged me not to tire," said Leo.

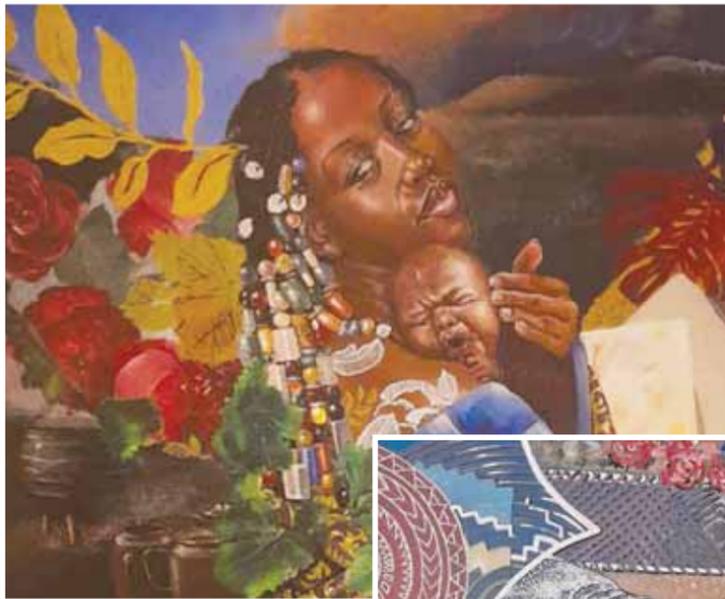
Still, he faced setbacks, including finishing fifth at the National Arts Festival in 2025 due to financial struggles and limited materials.

"It does not mean when you are talented things will go right from the earliest stages. I really suffered, but for a good reason, it taught me a lot," he reflected.

Now entering what he calls the "third stage" of his journey, Leo is creating personal works and preparing for exhibitions.

His current project, the Kalahari Series is an omnibus of the lifestyles of the san people.

He said despite budgeting from the blues, he was planning for an exhibition by April. **BOPA**



Phetso Leo's artwork reflects years of dedication and sacrifice, from carrying five sketchbooks everywhere to working late into the night to turn ideas into finished pieces.



Goratwamang Keinee

Keinee finds comfort in Gospel music

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN

After losing her father when she was only 26 years old, Goratwamang Keinee, now 39, was overwhelmed with grief.

At the time, she was pregnant with her second child.

Four years later, her mother passed on. Keinee had just given birth to her third child, who had just turned two months.

That was a very dark period in my life because I had no parents to turn to, so music became my refuge, Keinee said.

The Xhumo-bred gospel artiste, known by her stage name Ratie, speaks about music as more than just talent, but a lifeline.

Her journey began in Standard Four, after her teacher, Tumelo Letsole, nudged her into joining Xhumo Primary School traditional dance group.

Even then, she knew singing was something she loved deeply.

"I realised at a young age that music was part of who I am," she said.

Years later, while worshipping at Word of Faith Church, congregants were encouraged to pursue their God-given talents, a call that stirred something within her.

"When that call was made at church, I knew I had to explore my gift," she said, emphasising how a simple encouragement could turn into a life changing experience for someone.

Influenced by the music

of South African icons such as Brenda Fassie and gospel powerhouse, Winnie Mashaba, Ratie began building her path in gospel music.

But it was during one of the most difficult seasons of her life that music took on deeper meaning, after losing her parents.

Keinee reckons hardship strengthened a calling that had long existed.

In 2018, she released her six-track debut album, featuring the standout track, *Lona Barata go Phela*, which reflected her struggles, resilience and faith.

Other tracks included *Mphe Maatla*, *My Saviour*, *Re a Leboga*, *Batsadi Baaka* and *Lesang Bana*.

In 2022, she followed up with the single, *Morena Waaka*, a declaration of God's love and faithfulness through life's changing seasons. Currently a Praise and Worship member at her church, Ratie said ministering through song fueled her purpose.

"When you use your talent for God, doors begin to open. Music gives people comfort in a world full of negativity," she said.

Though financial constraints remain a challenge, from producing CDs to funding travel for performances, Keinee is determined to succeed.

She continues to promote her music online and encourages upcoming artistes to be resilient.

BOPA



Former Botswana Netball Association (BONA) and Netball Africa president, Tebogo Lebotse-Sebego sharing with the netball community in Gaborone on Saturday how she and her team successfully secured the bid to host the 2017 Netball World Youth Championships in Botswana. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Lebotse-Sebego shares nuggets of wisdom on netball

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Former Botswana Netball Association (BONA) and Netball Africa president, Tebogo Lebotse-Sebego has shared with the netball community how she managed to break the glass ceiling and ultimately bringing the Netball World Youth Championships in Botswana (NWYC2017) in 2017.

Speaking at the BONA Netball Pitso on Saturday, she said she left her newly born daughter when she was just 10 days old to defend Botswana's bid in Scotland.

Botswana was later awarded rights to host the youth championships.

Lebotse-Sebego said winning the bid was not rosy, as a lot of work was put in place.

In 2015, she said they attended the Sydney Netball World Cup Observers Program at the insistence of World Netball as future hosts, adding that they learnt invaluable lessons.

One of the key takeaways from Netball Australia was respecting the chain of command.

"To succeed, we respected the chain of command. In simple terms, Thulie Retshabile and Liz Broomhead owned the field of play, and even though I was the President then, they could kick me out of their meetings and I did not have access to the netball court during the games," she said.

She further said they saw how the Australians attended the games in large numbers, adding that to deliver a successful tournament, they became intentional to bring Botswana close to the event.

"We targeted students, children and families. We wanted #ReABaTsaa to be chanted from the mouths of babies and to date, children who were in pre-school

“We targeted students, children and families. We wanted #ReABaTsaa to be chanted from the mouths of babies and to date, children who were in pre-school then still remember the day #Naletsana visited their school.”

then still remember the day #Naletsana visited their school," she said.

Current BONA president, Mpopi Moatlhodi said netball in Botswana had a proud and inspiring history, from grassroots

development to national teams competing on regional and international stages.

"We have witnessed the power of dedication, teamwork and resilience. These achievements are the result of tireless efforts and commitment from administrators, coaches, volunteers and players who continue to grow the game despite challenges," she said.

Moatlhodi said the Pitso provided them with an important opportunity to reflect on their journey, to celebrate progress and to confront their challenges with honesty and courage.

Furthermore, she said it also allowed them to collectively shape the future of netball in Botswana by strengthening governance, enhancing development pathways, improving competitiveness and ensuring sustainability at all levels of the sport.

A Pitso, by its very nature, she said, was a platform for open dialogue, adding it was a place where voices were heard, ideas were exchanged and direction shaped collectively.

She said the Pitso was not a platform for personal attacks or settling individual differences.

Moatlhodi said while they may hold different views, they must always engage one another with respect and professionalism.

The Pitso, she said, was not a space for division, factionalism, or blame fixing, adding that netball was bigger than any one individual, club or zone.

"Our responsibility is to the sport and to the athletes who depend on us for leadership and direction. This Pitso is not about reopening past conflicts without purpose. We acknowledge our history, but we are here to focus on solutions and the way forward," she said. **BOPA**

F1 Australian Grand Prix to go ahead as planned despite travel disruptions

MELBOURNE

Organizers of the Formula One Australian Grand Prix said Monday that the season-opening race will go ahead as planned on Sunday despite travel disruptions caused by the conflict in the Middle East.

Travis Auld, chief executive officer of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, said at a press conference in Melbourne that the disruption for officials, team members and drivers is not expected to affect the first race weekend of the season.

Auld said mass flight cancellations in and out of the Middle East, amid U.S.-Israel strikes against Iran, have forced some teams to adjust travel plans.

He added that F1 officials have taken the lead in managing logistics to ensure drivers and team personnel arrive in Melbourne safely.

"Everyone will be here ready for the race, and for fans, they won't notice any difference," Auld said.

"There are some drivers already in Australia, there are some team members already in Australia, but

there are a number in the UK and broadly throughout Europe that need to get here, so they've just had to find another way. That's been a process for them, and I'm sure it's been a lot of work on their behalf."

Local media in the UK reported that up to 2,000 F1 workers had to reorganize flights from Europe to Melbourne to avoid stopovers in the Middle East, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported on Monday that an estimated 500 staffers will be flown to Australia on three chartered flights.

F1 tire supplier Pirelli canceled a test scheduled at the Bahrain International Circuit on Saturday and Sunday due to safety reasons.

Formula One said it is monitoring the situation in the Middle East ahead of scheduled races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in April.

Practice sessions for the Australian Grand Prix are set to begin at Melbourne's Albert Park Circuit on Friday, followed by qualifying on Saturday and the race on Sunday. **Xinhua**



MELBOURNE - Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation Travis Auld, said the season-opening race would go ahead as planned on Sunday despite travel disruptions caused by the conflict in the Middle East. Photo: Xinhua

Mukoloma and Mpofu claim marathon top honours

from page 24

Kelebeng added that the event contributed to local economic development by stimulating activity across various sectors during the marathon weekend, reaffirming government's commitment to investing in sport development and tourism infrastructure.

FNB KBM publicity manager

Losika Seboni said the race continued to draw athletes from across the globe, including the United States, Japan, Australia and other African countries.

He emphasised that the marathon promoted tourism diversity in the Chobe Region and boosted economic growth, with multiple sectors benefiting from the influx of participants and spectators. **BOPA**

DailySport



Ticket Prices
PREMIUM STAND
 (Southern Stand at the finishing line):
 Day 1 - \$170 (approximately BWP 2251)
 Day 2 onwards - \$200 (approximately BWP 2468)




Mukoloma and Mpofo claim marathon top honours



Elizabeth Mukoloma

Portia Keetile
KAZUNGULA

Zambia's Elizabeth Mukoloma and Zimbabwe's Isaac Mpofo claimed top honours in the 42.2km categories at the FNB Kazungula Bridge Marathon walking away with P50 000 each.

Mpofo dominated the men's full marathon, clocking 2:14:18 to outpace his competitors. South Africa's Siboniso Sikhakhane finished second with 2:19:17, while Namibia's Jeremia Shaliawwe secured third place in 2:20:09, earning P20 000 and P15 000 respectively.

In the women's open category, Mukoloma emerged victorious, with Kenya's Edna Kimitei and Nyaingiri Kemunto finishing second and third respectively, taking home similar prize money to their male counterparts.

In the 21.1km women's race, Namibia's Lavana Haitope successfully defended her title for the third consecutive year, crossing the line in 1:13:44. Botswana's Mosadikwena Gotswagosi followed in 1:18:06, while Kenya's Nancy Chepleting placed third in 1:20:47.

Zimbabwe's Tatenda Hove won the men's 21.1km race in 1:06:43. Kenya's Ezra Keter and Timothy Kosgey finished second and third, recording times of 1:10:10 and 1:10:11 respectively.

Ratang Lenyatso, won the women's 15km race in 59:19

while Zimbabwe's Moreblessing Masvoshe took second place in 1:00:56, with Botswana's Diteko Ketlhomphilwe finishing third in 1:02:01.

In the women's 8km race, Botswana's Bontle Nginya claimed victory in 29:49 followed by Yarona Ramoleele with 31:33, while Zimbabwe's Thobekile Ncube finished third in 31:56.

In a post-marathon interview, Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng described the marathon as a model of how sport could be leveraged to promote tourism and position Botswana as a growing sport tourism destination.

He noted that the marathon, which offered athletes a rare opportunity to run across the iconic Kazungula Bridge, had gained significant international recognition, attracting visitors, athletes and investors to the Chobe Region.



Isaac Mpofo

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BW Women Sports director Kesego Kebelaele-Okie

Women sports awards team receives 60 submissions

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

The 4th Vunani Annual Botswana Women Sports Awards adjudication team has received over 60 submissions.

According to BW Women Sports director, Kesego Kebelaele-Okie, out of the 17 categories they had, four fell within CEO's awards.

"This means therefore that 13 categories received more than 60 submissions. This is the largest entries we have received as compared to other years.

Kebelaele-Okie said the adjudication committee was now in the process of finalising the nominees.

Credit, she said should go to the stakeholders such as the National Sport Associations, athletes and administrators who ensured that quality submissions were delivered.

According to Kebelaele-Okie, this year's event would be unique as Botswana celebrates its 60th Independence.

She said their theme: Honouring Women, Shaping Botswana's Sporting Legacy was coined so that it goes with the country's Independence anniversary.

She said the awards would be held on March 27. **BOPA**



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