

BOTSWANA

Daily News

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Botswana thanks Bangladesh for Molapisi clemency



Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyo Butale said government thanked Bangladesh for granting Lesedi Molapisi clemency. Molapisi, who was convicted of a drug-smuggling offence and sentenced to death on May 27, 2024, was expected back home yesterday.

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Ministry commits to strengthening Bogosi

Kelebogile Taolo
FRANCISTOWN

Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs is committed to strengthening the institution of Bogosi as it values the critical role Dikgosi play in nation-building.

Speaking at the Dikgosi and Court Presidents Forum held in Francistown on Tuesday, Minister Ketlhalefile Motshegwa stated that the government recognised Bogosi as a fundamental pillar of governance and community development.

As such, he urged Dikgosi to uphold strong leadership, noting that the success of communities and institutions depended on good governance.

“I deeply and warmly cherish your devoted, exemplary leadership and guidance in our society,” Mr Motshegwa said.

He further encouraged Dikgosi to help shape a practical and implementable strategy that responded to the evolving needs of local communities.

He emphasised that strengthening collaboration between hereditary and elected leadership was key to promoting peace, resolving disputes and accelerating development. Furthermore, the Minister challenged Dikgosi to identify opportunities within their respective districts to stimulate local economic growth while preserving Botswana’s rich cultural heritage.

“We need innovative, community-driven solutions that can be replicated across the country to improve the livelihoods of citizens,” he said.

In his remarks, the President of the Customary Court of Appeal (North), Kgosi Christopher Masunga, said the forum must elevate Bogosi beyond ceremonial duties and integrate it into active governance.

“This forum exists to draw Dikgosi more deliberately into the business of governance and the delivery of services to our people. For too long, Bogosi has been treated as ceremonial, a matter of statutes and titles rather than the working institution it has always been,” Kgosi Masunga said.

He welcomed the draft strategy’s recognition of ‘Empowered Traditional Leadership, Bogosi’ as a strategic pillar, as well as its commitment to reviewing the Bogosi Act, the Customary Courts Act, and the Tribal Territories Act.

“The strategy commits to moving beyond the symbolic treatment of Dikgosi, upgrading Tribal Administration infrastructure, clarifying our judicial mandates, and positioning Bogosi as central actors in grassroots decision-making,” he said.

During the discussions, Dikgosi proposed several measures to strengthen the institution of Bogosi and improve collaboration with

other stakeholders such as greater involvement of traditional leaders in district planning processes alongside councillors to ensure their roles complement each other in community development. For her part, the acting Permanent Secretary, Ms Tshepo Kebakile, said the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, developed with support from the United Nations Development Programme, provided a roadmap for improving local governance, strengthening traditional administration and enhancing service delivery.

The two-day forum seeks to ensure that the strategy reflects community priorities and successfully positions Dikgosi as key partners in national development. **BOPA**



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa (right) and Assistant Minister, Mr Ignatius Moswaane at the Dikgosi Court President forum in Francistown on Tuesday. Mr Motshegwa said the government recognised Bogosi as a fundamental pillar of governance and community development. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Prescribed fire burning vital for conservation

Portia Keetile
KASANE

Prescribed early fire burning has emerged as a sustainable solution for environmental conservation and an opportunity for Botswana communities to integrate their indigenous knowledge with modern satellite data.

Introduced to Pandamatenga and Lesoma in 2021 by Australian company, MAKI Planet Systems in partnership with the Department of Forestry and Range Resources, the Savanna Fire Management framework has flipped the script on wildfire control.

MAKI Planet Systems-Australia CEO, Mr Julien Gastaldi explained that setting controlled, low-intensity fires early in the dry season effectively reduced accumulated vegetation, preventing the devastating, high-emission wildfires that historically ravaged Chobe National Park, communal rangelands, and forest reserves later in the year.

He revealed that the proactive environmental management had already yielded massive results, successfully extracting 45 000 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere since its launch in Lesoma and Pandamatenga.

“By eliminating the heavy emissions linked to uncontrolled blazes, the practice creates certified carbon credits that can be sold directly to well-capitalised international buyers and eco-conscious corporations”.

Mr Gastaldi said the system, originally developed in Australia and used in Brazil, Zimbabwe and Namibia stood to net the Chobe community roughly US\$300,000, translating to approximately P4 million per year.

However, he said because the framework was entirely new to Botswana, the country currently lacked the legal frameworks needed to regulate the carbon credit market and distribute these funds.

The Department of Forestry and Range Resources and MAKI Planet

Systems are currently educating local populations on the market’s potential while waiting for official guidelines.

Department of Forestry and Range Resources manager- for Chobe District, Mr Keletso Seabo confirmed that since the early burning exercise was piloted and implemented, it had successfully safeguarded critical forest reserves, communal rangelands, and the rich Chobe National Park.

He said by intentionally conducting controlled burns early in the dry season, the Savanna management framework safely reduced accumulated vegetation and fuel loads.

He alluded that the strategic intervention effectively mitigated the devastating, widespread impact of uncontrolled, late-dry-season wildfires that historically ravaged the landscape.

Moreover, Mr Seabo remarked that the innovative approach delivered environmental protection while positioning rural

communities for a major economic transformation.

“Because these cool, early controlled burns release significantly fewer greenhouse gases than intense, wild late-season blazes, the district reduces overall emissions and generates measurable carbon savings”.

To fully unlock the financial benefits, Mr Seabo stressed the urgent need to expedite discussions around carbon credit trading regulations, adding that the pioneer of the framework, MAKI Planet Systems was engaged in consultative meetings with the Minister of Environment and Tourism.

He stated that formalising the market ensured that the local communities who invested their traditional knowledge and labour to control wildfires were rightfully rewarded, converting environmental conservation into a sustainable economic boost for the villages.

Ms Gladys Moses, chairperson of the Lesoma community fire team, joined the local fire control efforts in 2013, later adopting the innovative Savanna Fire Management framework introduced five years ago.

She is one of people in Chobe who had witnessed traditional wisdom and modern satellite data create a powerful defense against devastating wildfires.

Ms Moses shared that on the ground, firefighters used fuel and drip torches to conduct early dry-season controlled burns.

“This strategic burning reduces excess fuel loads, ensuring that crucial wildlife habitats, grazing lands, and thatch roofing grass are not wiped out by intense, late-season blazes.”

She called for the swift implementation of carbon credit market regulations to formalize those savings into revenue in order to unlock financial benefits for communities.

She opined that once a policy was enacted, such funding would reward community volunteers, secure advanced firefighting equipment, purchase field vehicles, and allow for direct reinvestment into village development projects, thus creating a sustainable blueprint for both environmental conservation and rural economic growth. **BOPA**



Early fire burning exercise along the A33 road between Pandamatenga and Lesoma. This Savanna fire management framework has been described as sustainable solution for environmental conservation. Photo: Portia Keetile

Botswana thanks Bangladesh for Molapisi clemency

Bakang Wren
GABORONE

Government has thanked Bangladesh for granting Lesedi Molapisi clemency.

Molapisi was expected to return home yesterday after being released from prison in Bangladesh, more than four years after she was arrested and later sentenced to death for a drug-smuggling offence. She was arrested on January 23, 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, after she was found in possession of narcotics. She was subsequently convicted of a drug-smuggling offence and sentenced to death by a Bangladeshi court on May 27, 2024. Speaking in an interview yesterday, Minister for International Relations, Dr

Phenyo Butale said her release was the result of sustained efforts by government and several other individuals and organisations, who worked to secure her freedom. He said President Advocate Duma Boko had personally appealed for executive clemency and the commutation of Molapisi’s death sentence, while the Ministry for International Relations pursued the matter through diplomatic channels. Dr Butale said he engaged with Bangladesh’s former Interim Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Yunus and the country’s current Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Khalilur Rahman, as part of efforts to secure Molapisi’s release. Botswana’s diplomatic missions in South Africa and India, he said were also involved in the case, providing consular assistance and engaging with Bangladeshi authorities. According to Dr Butale, the efforts extended beyond government, with Botswana working with local and international human-rights organisations, including Ditshwanelo, to ensure Molapisi received the necessary legal representation. **BOPA**



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said while there was no budget allocated to maintenance of the Serule Police Station, government would seek alternative solutions to address the deteriorating infrastructure. Photo: Chendzimu Manyepedza

Govt seeks alternative funding for Serule police station

Chendzimu Manyepedza
SELEBI PHIKWE
Government is seeking alternative solutions to address the deteriorating infrastructure at Serule Police Station, despite having no funds currently budgeted

for its maintenance, says Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa. Speaking during a recent tour of the facility, Minister Mohwasa acknowledged the station’s poor condition and emphasised that maintaining public infrastructure was critical to providing a

conducive working environment for police officers and ensuring effective service delivery. “While no funds are currently allocated for this purpose, government is committed to exploring every possible avenue to address the maintenance issues here. Maintaining government facilities is paramount. Government understands the challenges faced here and is determined to consider effective measures to improve conditions,” he said.

An inspection of the station revealed several defects, including a damaged ceiling, broken doors and windows as well as structural cracks across walls and floors. Deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ms Gorata Moleboge, explained that police station structures were designed to remain functional for at least 20 years before requiring major overhauls. Having been operational since 2005, Ms Moleboge noted that the Serule facility was long due for routine maintenance. For his part, Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang, identified inadequate supervision as a major contributor to the rapid decline of public facilities. Mr Barongwang stated that government was upgrading personnel training and establishing stricter supervisory frameworks to monitor ongoing projects closely. Early detection of defects, he noted, would ensure that contractors adhered to agreed quality standards and guarantee value for public funds. **BOPA**

Dikoloti calls for proactiveness in service delivery



Aobakwe Molefhi
MMATHETHE

Good Hope / M m a t h e t h e Member of Parliament, Dr Edwin Dikoloti has challenged civil servants to be more responsive and proactive for enhanced service delivery.

Addressing a kgotla meeting in Mmathethe on Monday, Dr Dikoloti said some of the issues raised by the public during kgotla meetings and other forums should be addressed as a matter of urgency. He said delaying to address issues and giving feedback to the concerned people delayed progress. Minister Dikoloti said this following a complaint from area councillor and Village Development Committee chairperson on poor school infrastructure including dilapidated toilets. They also complained of lack of water in some sections of the village, hence the MP called on all those involved to proactively seek solutions, saying most of the problems could be attended at local authority level. On other issues, Dr Dikoloti informed the residents that government was working round

the clock to find solutions to Mmathethe-Metlobo-Bray-Werda Road, saying it remained a priority route in unlocking the economic future of the district. Once completed, he said the road would give people access to Hatlhogang Trust, which was one of the tourism attractions in the area. Further, he applauded Kgosi Thabo Mathiba of Mmathethe and the community for playing a leading role in fighting the spread of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Earlier on, when welcoming the Minister and delegation, Kgosi Mathiba encouraged livestock owners to take the lead in the fight against the spread of FMD. He encouraged them to guard their fences and ensure that gates for the containment zone were closed all the time. **BOPA**

Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti

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Botswana economy on recovery path

Thamani Shabani
FRANCISTOWN

Botswana's economy is slowly recovering, with a 3.5 per cent growth registered in the first quarter of last year.

Addressing a kgotla meeting at Phillip Matante East ward in his constituency on Tuesday, Member of Parliament for Francistown South, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi attributed the recovery to a number of factors, among them increased diamond sales.

He said in July last year diamond sales stood at P100 million, but rose to P300 million in July this year; an increase he labelled dramatic.

Another factor, he said, was cost containment which, among other things, compels that any government purchase be requested and approved by the Ministry of Finance.

"This has saved government a lot of money because some procurements have been disqualified or rejected," Mr Mmolotsi said. He added that despite the financial challenges facing the country, government had managed to pay all civil servants on time. The wage bill for civil servants currently stands at P2.5 billion per month.

Mr Mmolotsi also informed residents that the country's reserves presently stood at P51 billion, with P6.1 billion in the Government Investment Account.

"This is a major improvement from the time the new administration took over in 2024," he said. On a different matter, the MP said the issue of drug shortages would soon be a thing of the past as the drug situation was gradually improving, with some essential drugs now at over 90 per cent stock levels. He said to address the challenge further, government had allocated P140 million to the

Ministry of Health, a sum that he explained would be distributed to districts.

In addition, the Ministry of Finance has taken a deliberate decision to prioritise funding for the Ministry of Health, he added.

Mr Mmolotsi however noted that inflation had risen to 9.4 per cent, against the Bank of Botswana's projected range of 3 to 6 per cent.

He also said there was a shortage of condoms in health facilities, which had contributed to an increase in the number of people seeking treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

"Condoms have now been found, though not enough. I appeal to

those who need them to collect and leave some for others," he said.

Mr Mmolotsi, who is also the Minister of Environment and Tourism, warned residents of the looming el nino, which is expected to bring severe drought and extreme heat that could lead

to livestock deaths.

He appealed to farmers with large herds to consider selling some of their animals and saving the proceeds. He also urged those who had a bumper harvest in the last ploughing season to store their grain safely for use during the peak of el nino.

On Independence Day celebrations, he said constituencies had each been allocated P150,000 to mark the country's 60th independence celebration.

"The independence of Botswana is a unique story. Sixty years is not a joke for a country like Botswana, which is known for peace, stability, prosperity, good governance and democracy," he said. **BOPA**

Botswana's economy is slowly recovering, with a 3.5 per cent growth registered in the first quarter of 2025.



Member of Parliament for Francistown South, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi (left) interacting with residents after addressing a kgotla meeting at Phillip Matante East ward in his constituency on Tuesday. The legislator informed residents that the country's economy was slowly recovering, with a 3.5 per cent growth registered in the first quarter of 2025. Photo: Thamani Shabani

Robotics revolution present opportunities for Africa

CAPE TOWN

China's rapid advances in robotics are creating opportunities for Africa, particularly South Africa, across multiple areas, a Cape Town-based China-Africa expert has said.

"Robotics has enormous potential for Africa's development," Farhana Paruk, who has studied China and China-Africa relations for more than 20 years since she visited China in 2005, told Xinhua in a recent interview. Paruk said China's achievements in robotics have been remarkable, noting that the country had evolved from a manufacturing powerhouse into a global leader in advanced technologies, including robotics and artificial intelligence (AI).

Citing data from the International Federation of Robotics, Paruk noted that China installed approximately 295 000 industrial robots in 2024, accounting for 54 per cent of

global installations and bringing the country's operational stock of industrial robots to more than two million. "What impresses me most is the speed at which China transforms innovation into practical applications," she said, adding that robotics was no longer confined to factories but was increasingly being used in healthcare, logistics, education, agriculture and everyday life. The integration of robotics, AI and industrial digitalisation was also showcased at the 2026 World Robot Conference and the second World Humanoid Robot Games, both held in Beijing in August.

According to Paruk, China's distinctive strength lies in its ability to combine research, manufacturing capacity and market demand, allowing new technologies to be scaled "quickly and effectively." She said China's robotics development reflected a combination of "vision, policy

consistency, investment, and talent development," while government support, a strong manufacturing base and investment in education, research and skills development have created an ecosystem conducive to technological advancement.

"For Africa and particularly South Africa, Chinese advances in robotics could help address chronic weaknesses in manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, mining and skills development," Paruk said. In agriculture, according to her, Chinese robotics and AI-powered systems could help African farmers respond to labor shortages, water constraints, poor logistics and unpredictable weather. "Robotic systems linked to artificial intelligence could support precision planting, targeted irrigation, crop monitoring and the early detection of disease," Paruk said, adding that small agricultural drones and automated equipment could help

farmers use fertilizer, pesticides and water more efficiently.

Healthcare is another area with major potential, particularly given shortages of doctors, nurses, technicians and specialised medical services in many African countries, Paruk said, noting that robotics "can extend the reach of limited professional capacity." Remote diagnostic tools, automated laboratory equipment, rehabilitation devices and robotic systems for hospital logistics could reduce workloads and improve access to healthcare, while in rural areas, robotics integrated with telemedicine could help health workers collect and transmit information to specialists in urban centers, she said. Paruk also highlighted the potential of Chinese robotics in Africa's mining industry, where automation could directly enhance occupational health and safety. **Xinhua**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Partnership to advance women empowerment

MAPUTO - A thematic event under the African Mothers' New Farm project was held Monday in Maputo, Mozambique, with cooperation planned in areas including skills training, agricultural production, entrepreneurship and employment to help local women enhance their development capacity. The Women's Federation of central China's Hunan Province and the Office of the First Lady of Mozambique will work together to advance the project. Mozambique First Lady Gueta Chapo said women played an important role in the country's agricultural production, family life, and economic and social development, expressing hope that the project would help translate knowledge, technology and productive capacity into tangible development opportunities accessible to women. "We do not only want to provide women with what they need today, but also help them acquire the knowledge, capabilities and means of livelihood that will enable them to build their own future," she said. **Xinhua**

Cote d'Ivoire expands cocoa processing

ABIDJAN - Cote d'Ivoire plans to expand local cocoa processing to capture more value from the sector as farmgate prices fall sharply, authorities said Tuesday. Cote d'Ivoire expects its installed cocoa processing capacity to increase from the current 1 155 million tonnes to 1 344 million tonnes during the 2026-2027 season, following the commissioning of new industrial processing plants, said Yves Brahima Kone, director general of the Coffee and Cocoa Board, at the opening of the 10th edition of the National Cocoa and Chocolate Days in Abidjan. The increase in capacity is part of the efforts to develop local processing, increase the added-value generated in the country, and strengthen the competitiveness of the cocoa sector. **Xinhua**

EU tightens rules for tech platforms

BRUSSELS - The European Commission on Monday designated ChatGPT, Reddit and Roblox as very large online services under the Digital Services Act (DSA), putting the three services under additional regulatory requirements. The Commission designated ChatGPT as a Very Large Online Search Engine (VLOSE), and Reddit and Roblox as Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs). The three services reported that they each reach at least 45 million average monthly users in the European Union (EU), meeting the threshold for such designation, according to the Commission. The three services will have four months, until the end of November, to comply with additional obligations under the DSA, including assessing and mitigating systemic risks related to illegal content, negative effects on minors, users' physical and mental well-being, fundamental rights, electoral processes and public security. The designations also give the Commission investigative powers to assess the functionalities behind the services and related systems. **Xinhua**

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Balete ba alosa mophato wa Mautlwakgosi

Moshe Galeragwe
RAMOTSWA

Kgosi Mosadi a re go rupa ke go fa ngwana motheo o o nonofileng gore a nne le boikarabelo mo setshabeng.

O buile jalo ka Matlhatso kwa Ramotswa jaaka a ne a alosa mophato wa bomme wa Mautlwakgosi.

“Ke eme fano go phutholola gore ke le rolela mare mang. Re supa Mautlwakgosi a bomme, a ba eme ka dinao ba amogele leina la bone,” ga bua Kgosi Mosadi.

Go alositse bomme ba ba ititeileng sehuba go somarela le go tumisa ngwao ya Balete ba le 36, ba eteletswe pele ke Tefo Otsetswe Sekolokwane, a thusiwa ke Mme Bakang Mogopodi le Mme Lerato Khudu.

“Barwa kgodumo, re alosa mophato wa bomme, basadi ba go ititaa dihuba ba re re a tsamaya, re ya go diragatsa, go babalela le go somarela ngwao ya rona,” ga tlhalosa Kgosi Mosadi.

O supile gore thulaganyo ya go rupa e tsamaisiwa ke bomme ba ba tsereng boikarabelo jwa go somarela ngwao ya Selete.

“Batlhokomedi ba bojale ba ne ba eteletswe pele ke Mme Gadifele Ramolapong. O tswa kgakala e le mongwe wa ba ba gogang dikole tsa Setswana, a diragatsa thomo ya Balete, a tshegeditse ditso le ngwao gore di seka tsa nyelela,” ga tlatsa jalo Kgosi Mosadi.

Kgosi a re batsadi ba tsepame mo kgodisong ya bana gore setshaba sa GaMaletle le Batswana ka kakaretso ba bone tswelopele.

Moletlo wa go alosa Bojale le go supa ngwao ya GaMaletle o ne o tshwerwe ka setlhogo sa: Matlotlo A Rona, Mahumo A Rona, Ke Maikarabelo Ame, ka jalo Kgosi Mosadi a gatelela gore mongwe le mongwe o tshwanetse a nna le seabe go sireletsa le go tlotlomatsa ngwao le setso.

A re go somarela ngwao go tlhoka tlotlo la boikarabelo.

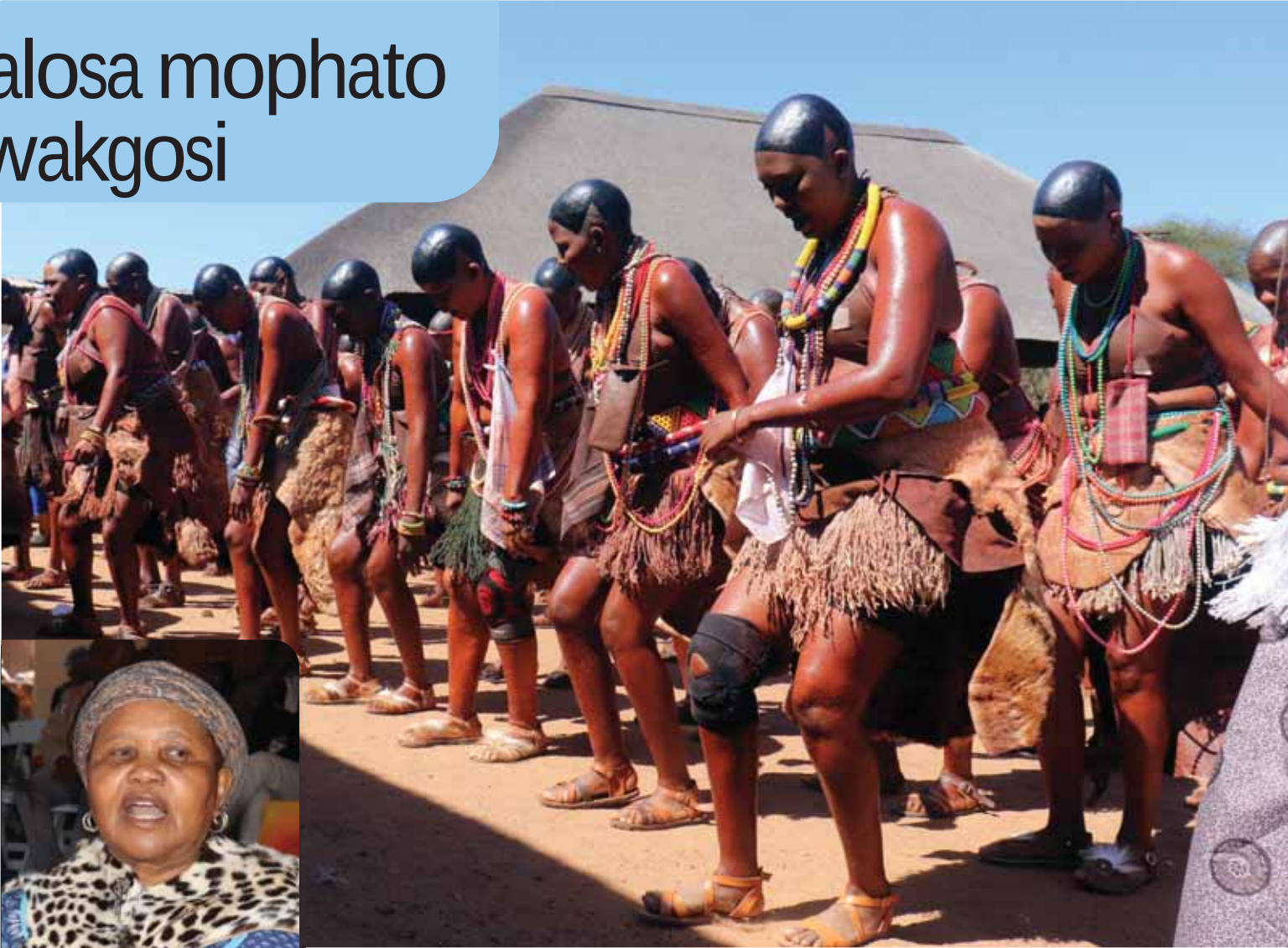
Kgosi Mosadi a re bomme ba tshwanetse go ema ka dinao ba itirele gore ba kgone go godisa bana ba tsweledisa matshello a bone ba sa ikaega thata ka borre.

E rile a bua mo boemong jwa molalediwa wa tlotla, Mme Ntombi Setshwaelo yo o neng a tshwerwe ke ditiro tse dingwe, Mothusa Kgosi ya BaGamaletle, Kgosi Tsimane Mokgosi a re ba matlotlo go tsweledisa tsamaiso go somarela ngwao.

Kgosi Mokgosi a re bomme ba Mautlwakgosi ba aloga jaana morago ga go rutuntshiwa sebaka sa kgwedi ba le ka fa tlase ga tlhokomelo ya Makgajane, ba ba ka fa tlase ga taolo ya bahumagadi.

A re Mautlwakgosi ba tswa go abelwa kitso ya ngwao e feletseng, le maele a gore ba kgone go itshetsa le go rotloetsa tshwaragano le tswelopele ya morafe.

“Ba rutwa go itirela gore ba kgone go itlamela le go itlhabolola.



Kgosi Mosadi wa Balete o alositse mophato wa Mautlwakgosi wa bomme ka Matlhatso. Sethopha sa bomme ba le masome mararo le borataro ba alogile morago ga go tseenelela dithuto tsa ngwao ya Selete sebaka sa kgwedi. Dinepe: Moshe Galeragwe

Ba rutwa botho gore ba nne bonolo, ba tshegetsane, ba gakololane le go thusana botshelo,” ga tlhalosa Kgosi Mokgosi.

Mongwe wa bahumagadi go tswa kwa Kgatleng, Mme Maruapula Pilane le ene o gateletse botlhokwa jwa go somarela ngwao.

A re merafe ya Balete le Bakgatla e santse e tshwere ngwao ya go kaela bana maele a botshelo go dirisiwa dikole tsa Setswana tsa

bogwera le bojale go rupa.

“Ke solofela gore morafe o o mo lekgotleng o lemoga monate wa ngwao ka gore e bopa motho, e bile e lomaganya morafe. Go rupa go raya gore motho a ikitse, a nne le botho a farologanye le yo o sa rupang,” ga tlhalosa Mme Pilane.

Mme Pilane a re bomme ba ba alogang ba tswa go rutwa go tshela ka tsela e e faphegileng ka jalo ba tshwanetse ba ikgantsha ka

ngwao ya bone, ba nne sekao mo setshabeng.

A re go botlhokwa gore bomme ba itirele ba sa ikaege ka borre. Le fa go ntse jalo, a re le fa mme a ikemela ka dinao a itirela, go botlhokwa gore ba tswelele ka go tlotla banna ba bone.

“Emang ka dinao le itirele, le na le diatla, le na le bokgoni le rutegile go nna baeteledipele ba mafatshe jaaka le bona kwa

Namibia le Tanzania. Gape lona le sekao se se tshelang sa gore mme o ka nna moeteledipele wa motia jaaka le bona ka Kgosi ya lona,” ga tlhalosa Mme Pilane.

O gateletse gore ba eme ka dinao, ba dirise motheo wa popota o ba o filweng ke tsamaiso ya bojale go dira ditiro tsa morafe di akaretse kgodiso ya bana e e lolameng le go bopaganya setshaba.**BOPA**

Banni ba Metlobo ba batla tsela

Aobakwe Molefhi
METLOBO

Banni ba Metlobo kwa kgaolong ya Good Hope/Mmathethe ba kopile Tona wa ditsela Rre Keoagile Atamelang gore a netefatse gore tsela e e simolalang kwa Mmathethe go ya Werda e a dirwa.

Ba boletse fa tsela eo e ba senyeditse dikoloi ba supa fa le dipalamo tsa setshaba di sa tlhole di le teng mo tseleng eo ntateng ya seemo sa yone.

Ba buile jalo kwa phuthegong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke mopalamente wa kgaolo, Dr Edwin Dikoloti ka Mosupologo.

Tona Atamelang o supile fa tsela eo ya boleleele jwa 250km e setse e diretswe moalo. O boletse morafe gore tsela eo e

mo ditogamaanong tsa NDP 12.

O boletse morafe gore tsela eo ke nngwe ya tse di tlaa dirwang m o nakong e e sa fediseng pelo ka jaana e golaganya balemi le mmara, ka jalo a ba kopa go nna pelo telele.

Mopalamente wa pele Rre Patrick Ralotsia o supile fa go utlwiswa botlhoko gore abo ba lema mme e re morago ba

‘Tsela eo ya boleleele jwa 250km e setse e diretswe moalo ebile e mo ditogamaanong tsa NDP 12.’

palelwa ke go isa thobo mmarakeng.

Banni ba supile fa go ngomola pelo ka jaana tsela eo e kile gatwe madi a yone a teng mme jaanong mo nakong ya gompieno go sena nko e tswang lemina.

Mokhanselara wa kgaolo Mme Lizzy Lekalabuswa le ene o supile fa tsela eo e tswa kgakala gotwe e tlaa dirwa mme le jaana ba ntse ba letile.

O ne a kopa gore bogolo go dirwe tsela fela e e ka felelang mo motseng fa go santse go emetswe go bona madi ka jaana 250km e

le boleleele jo bo tona.

Tona Atamelang o boletse morafe gore puso e santse e batla methale e mengwe ya go e dira ka go dira tsela go le turu. A re ba tlaa leka le gone go bua le bagwebi gore gongwe mongwe o ka e ithaopela.

Banni ba kopile mopalamente wa kgaolo le tona ya ditsela gore bogolo ba ba fe nako ya gore tsela eo fa go padile e tlaa dirwa ngwaga ofe.

Mo go tse dingwe, ba kopile Tona Dikoloti gore a netefatse gore baruakgomo ba tsa bone di bolaiwang morago ga go tlotla terata ya tlhako le molomo, ba sidilwe maikutlo ka jaana go bolaelwa leruo go se bonolo. Mopalamente Dikoloti o ne a abela banni dikobo di le lekgolo.**BOPA**

Death row inmate pleads for mercy

Bonang Masolotatse
GABORONE

A death-row inmate awaiting sentencing for two passion-related murders, Simba Mampori, has pleaded with Chief Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe to temper justice with mercy when passing his final verdict.

Mampori, 39, stands convicted of the murder of Tshagofatso Namoshe in 2016 and of Matlhogonolo Moshashu in 2019, on suspicion that they were cheating on him.

Through his lawyer, Ms Nsi Sianang, Mampori asked the High Court to temper justice with mercy and to reject the state’s push for an extended prison term ahead of sentencing on the two murder convictions.

She said during mitigation that the convict’s personal circumstances should be taken into account.

Sianang said Mampori had pleaded guilty to one charge, which demonstrated remorse.

She argued that his diagnosed anti-social personality disorder should not be treated as an aggravating factor, and asked the court not to extend his sentence.

She further noted that the convict had acted without premeditation and had been triggered by extreme jealousy in both incidents, adding that the events were unrelated.

“The accused has been undergoing counselling since incarceration. He has been seeing a therapist for the past seven years,” Ms Sianang said.

She pleaded with the court that the 2019 conviction should carry no weight in the impending sentencing.

Adding that when the 2019 murder occurred he had not been convicted of any offence. She said the court should treat Mampori as a first offender in respect of both sentences.

Ms Sianang further submitted that Mampori’s antisocial personality disorder, for which she said there was no cure, effectively amounted to a life sentence and should be considered by the court in mitigation.

However, prosecutor Ms Tshiamo Moilwa submitted that the disorder was an aggravating factor that warranted a

longer sentence.

“An extended sentence should be considered with regard to the accused, since there is no medication or any remedy that can be explored,” Moilwa told the court.

She said Mampori’s victims were Namoshe, who was in her twenties when she was murdered in 2016, and Matlhogonolo Moshashu, the mother of Mampori’s son, who was killed in 2019.

“The appropriate sentence should be one that puts the convict away for the longest time,” Moilwa said, adding that Mampori had “made himself judge and jury” after suspecting both women of cheating on him.

She argued that the aggravating

factors in the offences far outweighed the mitigating factors, adding that the accused had been merciless in his killings.

“On 23 March 2019 in Bontleng, he took Matlhogonolo Moshashu’s blood and wrote ‘ke lapile ka maaka’,” she said, adding that an appropriate sentence should be one that puts the convict away for a long time.

A former soldier, Mampori was convicted of murdering Namoshe in 2016 and Moshashu in 2019, and he will be sentenced on October 13.

He is already on death row for the murder of Tswanelo Moruti in 2019 by stabbing her 12 times, and further hitting her with a stone. **BOPA**

Search team recovers body from Thamalakane river

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN



Police have retrieved the body of a 44-year-old Zimbabwean national who drowned in the Thamalakane River in Maun. Acting station commander, assistant superintendent Moutlatse Ikobeng, said the body was located around 9:30am on Tuesday and transported to Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital for post-mortem. Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

A search and rescue operation in Maun ended Tuesday morning with the recovery of the body of a 44-year-old Zimbabwean national who drowned in the Thamalakane River at Riverside Ward on Monday evening.

In an interview, acting station commander, Assistant Superintendent Moutlatse Ikobeng, said the body was located around 9.30am on Tuesday and transported to Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital for post-mortem.

He said police received the initial report shortly after 4pm on Monday from a local fisherman who was at the river with the deceased.

“The two were fishing when the deceased shot at a bird and entered the river in an attempt to retrieve it, but drowned in the process,” Ikobeng said.

He indicated that a joint search operation was launched immediately following the report on Monday but was suspended at nightfall due to low visibility before resuming again Tuesday morning.

He further confirmed that the victim was identified using credentials held by his fishing companion.

Meanwhile, police are currently working to trace and notify the deceased’s next of kin. **BOPA**

Mnangagwa urges Africa to lead development

LUSAKA

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has called on Africa to take greater responsibility for building, modernising and industrialising its economy, saying the continent must harness its own opportunities while remaining firmly in charge of its development priorities.

President Mnangagwa made the call in Lusaka on Tuesday when he attended the inauguration of Zambia President Hakainde Hichilema for his second term in office.

He said African countries should welcome partnerships and external support, but ensure such assistance was guided by their own national visions and priorities.

“In looking into the future, in the context of new and emerging realities, let us harness the opportunities presented to our SADC region and great Continent of Africa,” President Mnangagwa said.

“In doing so, we must remain mindful that the responsibility to build, develop, modernise and industrialise our respective countries lies with us. Partners come to help us, based on our own vision and priorities.”

President Mnangagwa urged Africans to remain confident in their sovereignty and independence, stressing that the continent should not apologise for pursuing its own

development path.

“Let us never apologise for being a proud, sovereign and independent African people,” he said.

He reinforced the message by invoking the message, “Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo”, which means that a country is built,



LUSAKA - President Emmerson Mnangagwa said African countries should welcome partnerships and external support, but ensure such assistance was guided by their own national visions and priorities. Photo: New Ziana

governed and prayed for by its own people.

President Mnangagwa also used the occasion to congratulate President Hichilema on his re-election, describing his victory and that of his United Party for National Development as evidence of the confidence Zambians have placed in his leadership.

“Your resounding victory and that of the Party you lead, the United Party for National Development, is testament of their faith, trust and confidence in your astute leadership and ability to steward the country to unity, prosperity and a higher quality of life,” President Mnangagwa said.

He pledged Zimbabwe’s continued cooperation with Zambia during Hichilema’s second term, particularly in strengthening bilateral relations for the benefit of citizens of both countries.

The two neighbouring countries, he said, enjoy strong historical, cultural and economic ties, which have been further strengthened by the elevation of their Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation into a Bi-National Commission.

President Mnangagwa recalled President Hichilema’s working visit to Zimbabwe in November 2025, during which the two leaders co-chaired the inaugural session of the Zimbabwe-Zambia Bi-National Commission.

He described the visit as a confirmation of the longstanding friendship and solidarity between the two countries and expressed confidence that the second Hichilema administration would provide fresh impetus for deeper cooperation.

“I am confident that under this new mandate entrusted to you by the great people of Zambia, we shall continue working together with stronger synergies and strategic focus to achieve the development targets we set for our two countries,” he said.

President Mnangagwa further emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation within the Southern African Development Community and other international platforms to advance peace, security and shared development.

He thanked Zambia for supporting Zimbabwe’s successful election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2027-2028 period.

He also expressed appreciation for Zambia’s calls for the removal of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe, describing the country’s position as a demonstration of solidarity between the two neighbours.

President Mnangagwa said the two nations must continue working together to exploit opportunities emerging across the region and the wider African continent. **New Ziana**

Arts & Culture

Motsomi stages solo performance

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

Lone Motsomi went inward on stage with a personal solo performance titled *Kgololo* at Maitisong Theatre on Sunday. The one-hour piece was marked by thoughtful and inclusive choreography. The highly personal work traces Lone's journey through loss and a painful past before ultimately finding her

way back to herself and expressing what had long been held within. Through movement, she confronted memories, resistance, grief and pain carried within the body, gradually moving towards release, transformation and a renewed sense of self. Lone appeared completely at ease with herself and in full creative control, successfully balancing the weight of past trauma with moments of joy and

humour. This ensured that the story ultimately emerged as a celebration of personal triumph. She connected intensely with the audience, creating an intimate and direct conversation through movement and performance. Her use of subtle props, including a womb-like structure symbolising her emergence from difficult circumstances, further strengthened the connection with the audience. During a

post-show conversation, some audience members described the performance as relatable and therapeutic. *Kgololo* packs in everything meaningful to Lone through a three-act dance creation that traces different chapters of her life. The opening act features constrained movements that convey the weight of grief, childhood pain and unexpressed resentment. The middle section

intensifies into a dynamic portrayal of internal conflict, with Lone using her body to carry and eventually release repressed trauma. The final arc transitions into an expansive contemporary African dance routine, culminating in liberation, self-acceptance and spiritual rebirth. The performance also featured singer Alefa Amos, whose voice echoed support at various points in the show. **BOPA**



Lone Motsomi during a solo performance, *Kgololo*, at Maitisong Theatre in Gaborone on Sunday. The one-hour piece traces Motsomi's journey through loss and a painful past before ultimately finding her way back. Photos: Courtesy of Botswana Unplugged

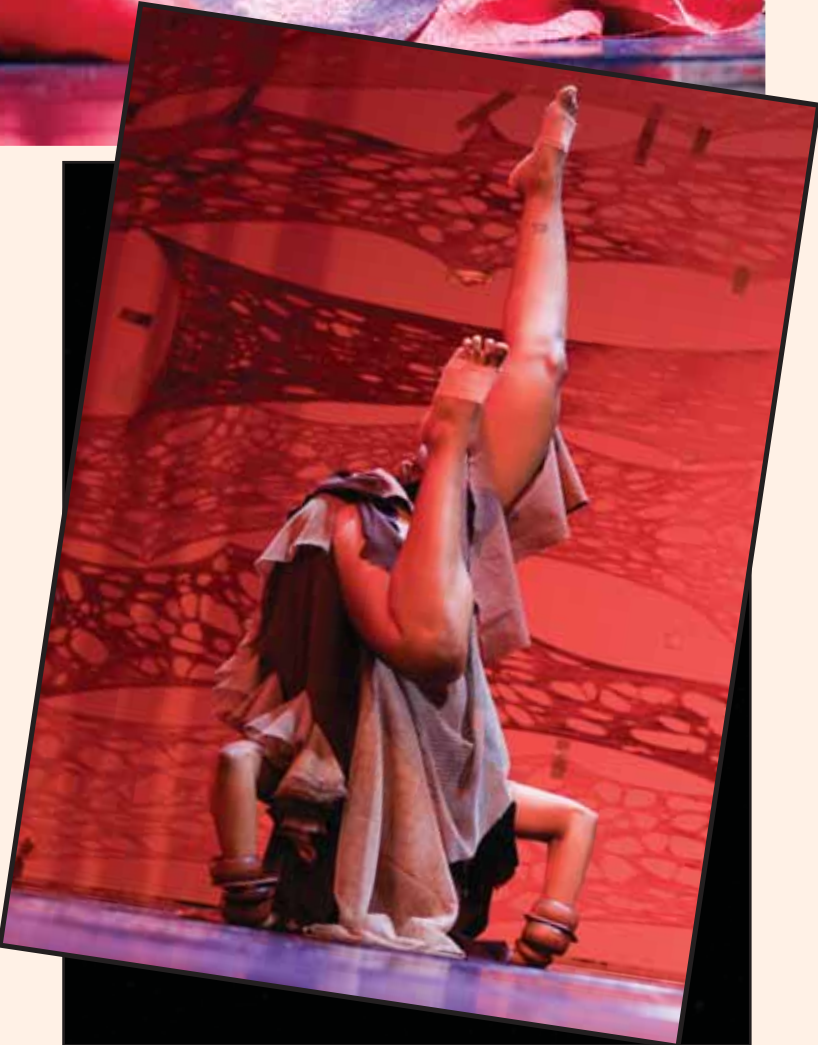
Open Sky Gathering promises uplifting session

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Gospel music lovers and creatives are set for an uplifting evening as the fifth edition of the Grand Open Sky Gathering: Amplified, returns to Molepolole on September 12. The annual outdoor event promises a blend of worship, contemporary gospel music, poetry, rap and dance. Event coordinator, Abednico Wadiengalo, aka Abed Live, launched the event in 2022 to counter the social isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Open Sky Gathering was born when people longed for hope, connection and a fresh beginning. We wanted to create a safe space where people could worship freely

while showcasing their God-given gifts. Today, that vision has grown into a movement," Wadiengalo said in an interview. He said the event empowered emerging artistes to use their talents for positive social impact and also gave back directly through the Family Basket Initiative, which donated grocery hampers to two vulnerable families during the Independence holidays. "Our vision is bigger than hosting a concert. We are building a platform that develops talent, strengthens communities and demonstrates that faith and creativity can transform lives," he added. However, he said scaling the event came with operational hurdles, owing to production costs for sound, lighting,

staging and venue hire remain high while ticket sales alone did not cover expenses. Sustained largely by grassroots support and volunteer performers, Wadiengalo was hopeful that corporate organisations and government institutions would step up investment in the creative and gospel sectors. "Every year, attendance and impact grow. While breaking even financially remains difficult, we are encouraged that the vision continues to touch lives," he said. Meanwhile, organisers promise an atmosphere of healing, joy and spiritual renewal for all attendees. Tickets are available via Webtickets at selected SPAR stores and through official online platforms. **BOPA**





Northern Ireland-based prodigy Karabo eyes bright future

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

At just 11-years-old, Northern Ireland-based prodigy, Karabo Ditshupo, offers Botswana a rare preview of what happens when raw local passion meets world-class youth development.

Former Mares
midfielder
burial
Saturday

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Former women’s national team midfielder, Annah Sechane, will be laid to rest in Gathwane on Saturday, following her recent tragic death in a car accident in Lobatse. The 25-year-old Township Rollers Ladies player sustained fatal injuries in the crash last Saturday morning and later succumbed to them, plunging the football fraternity into mourning.

In an interview, her aunt, Banyana Gaadingwe, confirmed the passing and paid tribute to the late player.

“We are heartbroken. Annah was still young and we had high hopes for her,” Gaadingwe said, describing Sechane as a well-behaved young woman who loved football and cared deeply for her family.

“Whenever she came home, she would bring gifts for the little ones,” she said.

Sechane was a seasoned presence in the women’s football architecture. At international level, she earned caps for the Mares on major continental stages, representing Botswana at the 2020 COSAFA Women’s Championship and making the national squad for the 2022 Women’s Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON).

Locally, Sechane featured for both Gaborone United and Township Rollers in the women’s league, eventually returning for a second stint with Rollers.

News of her passing has drawn widespread condolences from local clubs, officials and supporters.

The tragedy adds to a poignant moment for the domestic game, following the country’s recent successful hosting of the CAF Women’s Champions League COSAFA Qualifier in Gaborone.

Sechane leaves behind a distinguished legacy as a player who represented both club and country at the highest levels of African women’s football.

BOPA

Ditshupo carries the multi-positional versatility of a European academy product and the heart of a Motswana.

From kicking a crushed plastic bottle in a living room to mastering Northern Ireland’s competitive youth leagues, Karabo is building the tactical foundation to one day power Botswana’s national team, guided every step of the way by a mother determined to give him the world stage.

While global football powerhouses like Spain continue to dominate through fully integrated academies, combining elite UEFA Pro coaching, residential facilities, formal education and structured competitive leagues, Botswana’s grassroots system has traditionally lacked this level of holistic infrastructure.

Local youth development often relies on informal play, fragmented club setups or late-stage talent identification, creating a gap between raw natural talent and professional execution.

However, Botswana may soon harvest its own elite international

payout directly from Europe’s structured youth circuit, bridging this systemic gap through Karabo’s steady rise.

Sensing her son’s early spark, his mother, Topo Ditshupo, originally from Serowe and now working as a nurse in Northern Ireland, replaced that crushed plastic bottle with a proper leather ball to lay the groundwork for a versatile playmaker whose deep attachment to his roots makes him a bright future prospect for the Zebras.

Born at Craigavon Hospital in Northern Ireland on January 1, 2015, Karabo’s formal development began at the age of five with Banbridge Town.

“When I first started playing, we didn’t have fixed positions. We mostly just ran around, chased the ball and tried to enjoy the game,” Karabo recalls.

By the age of six, he took a turn in goal,

developing an early reading of the game through stopping shots.

He transitioned to the wings at the age of seven, moved to central midfield at nine to dictate play and shifted to striker at 10, winning both Best Player and Top Goalscorer awards.

Recent trials at left-back added defensive grit against tough opposition like Portadown and Dungannon, giving him a complete and multi-positional tactical foundation that few local prospects are exposed to at such a young age.

“Right now, I am going to stick with midfield because I really enjoy getting a lot of the ball, dribbling past players and creating opportunities. I have always worked really hard and that work helped me achieve these things,” he adds.

N o w

balancing elite youth football in Europe with academics at Newbridge College, the former Bridge Primary pupil manages a strict routine, tackling homework immediately after school before heading to training.

Inspired by Cristiano Ronaldo, Karabo dreams of playing for top European clubs like Ajax and Paris Saint-Germain.

However, his long-term sights remain firmly set on wearing the iconic blue, black and white jersey on the international stage, giving the Zebras a European-trained engine in midfield as he matures toward senior football.

Driving this vision is Topo Ditshupo, who acts as manager, cheerleader and anchor. In return, Karabo’s ultimate goal is to repay her sacrifices.

“Always listen to your parents, stay humble and remember that hard work will always beat talent when talent doesn’t work,” Karabo advises the next generation. **BOPA**

At just 11-years, Karabo Ditshupo (right) is mastering Northern Ireland’s competitive youth leagues.

