

BOTSWANA Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES

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Acting President Ndaba Gaolathe (second left) and Chief Justice Gaolapew Ketlogetswe (left) with high court judges during the official opening of the Legal Year 2026 in Gaborone yesterday. Justice Ketlogetswe said the Office of the Master of the High Court was set to become an independent entity, aiming to improve services and efficiency in addressing estates and guardianship cases.
Photo: Pheno Moalosi



Master's office to transition to independent entity

Bonang Masolotate
GABORONE

The Office of the Master of the High Court is set to become an independent entity, aiming to improve its services and efficiency in handling estates and guardianship cases.

The Chief Justice Gaolapew Ketlogetswe, said on Tuesday during the opening of the legal year, that such would improve

the prudency and efficiency of the services of the Master.

The Master's Office deals with the Guardian Fund, whose beneficiaries are in some instances minor children who are in need of support and maintenance.

He said the Office of the Master of the High Court handled issues affecting the vulnerable members of the society; being those who have lost their loved ones and the welfare of children, which impact on the daily lives of people and the

efficiency to deliver on time.

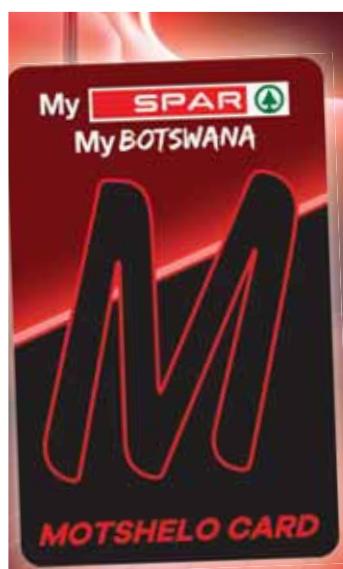
"We trust that as a result of this restructuring, the turnaround times of services rendered by the Master's Office will be shortened," he said, noting that in the interim, there were additional Masters appointed in courts around the country.

He said the Master of the High Court should be made an independent office from the Administration of Justice with its own resources, noting that

government was in the process and in consultation with the Office of the President.

He noted delays in the administration of estates of deceased persons, adding that some of the estates were generally not complex and could be administered efficiently through the customary law system by Dikgosi, and such would come cheaply.

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Bathoen II JSS celebrates JCE academic results



Bathoen II Junior Secondary School learners after taking part in a walk through the streets of Kanye recently, to mark the school's commendable 2025 Form 3 results. The school surpassed its 50 per cent pass-rate target, achieving 50.4 per cent and ranked first in the Kanye Sub-Region. The walk also served to motivate current learners to aim higher and sustain the school's upward academic performance trend.

Photos: Marvin Mothabane

Marvin Mothabane

KANYE

Bathoen II Junior Secondary School marked its impressive 2025 Form 3 results with a celebratory walk around the streets of Kanye, organised to commemorate surpassing the 50 per cent pass mark target and to

motivate current students.

Speaking in an interview on Friday after the celebratory walk, School Head Mr Phemelo Sejabosigo, who joined the school in September 2024, praised the dedication from teachers and students, and a notably low level of indiscipline.

He noted that since his arrival,

no student has been suspended for misconduct, highlighting the evident teamwork and positive spirit that contributed to the satisfactory performance.

Mr Sejabosigo highlighted a consistent upward trend in academic results since 2020, crediting the two dedicated Heads of Departments, Mr Gofaone

Mpape and Mr Innocent Mosweu for their instrumental role in driving students toward excellence. The 2025 cohort had pledged to maintain or exceed the 43.8 percent pass rate achieved by the 2024 class and they delivered, achieving 50.4 per cent.

The walk, requested from the Chief Education Officer for the Kanye Sub-Region, served dual purposes: celebrating the milestone which Mr Sejabosigo described as difficult to attain and inspiring the current Form 3 learners to aim higher.

Key strategies behind the success include strict punctuality for both weekday and weekend classes, allowing extra time for quizzes and exercises. From Monday to Friday, students participate in afternoon silent studies from 1430hrs to 1600hrs, followed by extended studies until 1730hrs in smaller groups focused on the

'Most Important Lessons Learnt Yesterday' (MILLY) reflection exercise. Saturday studies from 8am to 10am, supervised by the above mentioned HODs.

Despite the achievements, challenges persist, including a shortage of teaching aids and teaching materials, top of them all being a duplicating machine and duplicating papers. Mr Sejabosigo also expressed concern over historically low parent turnout at Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meetings, though he noted a positive shift with strong attendance during recent Form 1 enrollments / orientation.

Parents appear to recognise the staff's hard work in delivering strong results, boosting interest in the school. A new PTA committee has been elected, replacing a less

effective previous one, with fresh programmes aimed at sustaining progress, he added.

Chief Education Officer for the Kanye Sub-Region, Mr Daniel Zulu who assumed the role just yesterday prior commended Bathoen II's stellar performance. among the eight (8) schools in the Sub-Region, Bathoen II ranked first, becoming fourth in the region out of thirty-four(34) and thirty-nine(39) in the Country out of 247 schools. The school has added 2.5 per cent value in higher credentials (merit, A, and B) and 6.6 per cent in quantity (merit, A, B and C), earning appreciation for their hard work.

In the broader Southern Region, out of 34 schools, Bathoen II placed fourth, shifting their focus to competing with top performers beyond Kanye.

Mr Zulu noted that their pass rate aligned with leading schools outside the region, providing extra motivation for 2026.

Addressing challenges, Mr Zulu acknowledged shortages of teaching and learning materials across schools and has sought assistance from the District Commissioner's office, though similar constraints exist there.

"Schools are proactively engaging parents and private donors for support.

With regards to staffing, inadequate teacher numbers have compromised performance, prompting facilitation for temporary teacher absorptions," he explained.

The walk and results reflect Bathoen II's commitment to continuous improvement, teamwork and community involvement in education.

BOPA

Centre to strengthen monitoring of drug safety

Naomi Leepile

TSABONG

Residents of Tsabong and surrounding areas have been urged to exercise vigilance regarding the medications they receive from local health facilities.

The call was made by Tsabong Primary Hospital family physician, Dr Ineeleng Kengwenyane, during the official launch of the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Centre (AMC) and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held in Tsabong on Friday.

Dr Kengwenyane emphasised that patient participation was vital to the success of the new facility. She encouraged members of the public to report any side effects they experience after taking prescribed medicines, noting that such feedback was essential for

improving medical services and ensuring patient safety throughout the district.

Echoing these sentiments, Mr Lebogang Koitsiwe, the acting Director of Pharmacovigilance and Clinical Trials at the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA), explained that the new centre was designed to strengthen the monitoring of drug safety.

He noted that the facility's core mission is to ensure that all drugs are used appropriately and that any side effects are addressed quickly to ensure the benefit-risk balance of medications remains positive.

According to Mr Koitsiwe, Tsabong marks the 15th office established in Botswana. He highlighted that the location was specifically selected due to the presence of special communities within the region who might be at a higher risk of adverse reactions and

the initiative would ultimately help health officials determine which medications work most effectively for the local population.

The initiative received strong support from the Deputy Council Secretary, Mr Mooketsi Rakose, who described the launch as a significant milestone for the district.

Mr Rakose acknowledged that the centre arrived at a critical time when the district was facing a shortage of certain medications. He appealed to the community to remain patient as the supply situation normalised, while simultaneously encouraging them to make full use of the new monitoring facility.

He concluded by urging residents to report any health concerns related to their treatment, as this transparency was key to maintaining high standards of healthcare in the region. BOPA



Tsabong Primary Hospital family physician, Dr Ineeleng Kengwenyane (left) and BoMRA acting director-pharmacovigilance and clinical trials, Mr Lebogang Koitsiwe signing a Memorandum of Understanding during the official launch of the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Centre in Tsabong recently. The initiative, which marks BoMRA's 15th monitoring centre nationwide, aims to strengthen drug safety surveillance. Photo: Naomi Leepile



Bathoen II Junior Secondary School head, Mr Phemelo Sejabosigo.

Child support grant starts April 1

Mothusi Galekhutle
LETLHAKENG

Starting April 1, government will roll out a monthly support grant of P300 for all Batswana children under the age of one, regardless of household income.

This is in line with realising the Vision 2036 goal as Botswana prepares for dual-pronged social and economic transformation. Recently, the Ministry of Rural Development and Traditional Affairs unveiled two major initiatives that promise to reshape the lives of both the youngest Batswana and the nation's workforce: the P300 Infant Support Grant and the evolution of Ipelegeng into the Ikageng Public Works programme.

Addressing a special council meeting in Lethakeng recently, deputy council secretary, Dr Delic Sehunwe highlighted that the programme was about more than just financial aid, but a strategic investment in early childhood development.

By easing the financial burden on families, government aims to ensure infants have better access to essential nutrition, healthcare and early learning services during their most formative months.

To prepare for the rollout, the ministry has called upon district councils to begin an aggressive mobilisation and registration drive.

Parents and caregivers are urged to ready their documentation, specifically the child's birth certificate (or health card) and the caregiver's identity card (Omang).

In the event that the caregiver is not the biological parent(s),



Dr Delic Sehunwe

valid proof of caregiver should be provided for instance court order, affidavit or other legally permissible documents. On one hand, while the infant grant looks to the future, the transformation of the Ipelegeng programme into Ikageng Public Works addresses the present-day dignity of the country's workforce.

For years, Ipelegeng has been a staple of social protection, but the shift to Ikageng marks a new chapter in national self-reliance. The programme is now officially aligned with the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and the African Union Agenda 2063.

The most significant change is the move toward a performance-based remuneration system. By shifting away from the old time-based model, government is motioning a new era where productivity and quality of work are rewarded.

"This bold transformation will uplift communities and expand economic opportunities, honouring

the spirit of Ipelegeng while reimagining it for the future," Dr Sehunwe said. To back the commitment, government has announced a substantial wage revision. Ikageng beneficiaries will now earn a monthly wage of P2 500.

The increase is designed not only to boost household incomes but to restore a sense of pride and professional value to public works.

The twin initiatives represent a holistic approach to social welfare. By supporting the health of infants and the productivity of adults, government is laying the groundwork for a more inclusive and high-income nation.

To that effect, the ministry plans to maintain close dialogue with traditional leaders, local authorities as well as the private sector with a view to move the country beyond simple safety nets and toward a system that empowers every citizen, from the cradle to the workplace. **BOPA**

Master's office to transition to independent entity

...from page 1

"We will be engaging with government and Dikgosi with a view to amending both the Customary Courts Act and the Administration of Estates Act, to empower our Dikgosi to administer deceased estates in terms of

customary law," he said.

The Chief Justice noted the need to strengthen and respect for the customary law, noting it would be helpful to speed up processes.

Also, he said government was in the process of incorporating the Industrial Court as part of the Administration of Justice in order to bring under one roof all the justice delivery structures.

He said the desire was also that the Land Tribunal be elevated to the level of a Court of record and as part of the High Court.

That, he said, would reduce tiers through which land disputes had to go through Land Boards, Land Tribunal, appeals to the High Court and ultimately the Court of Appeal.

For his part, Attorney General Mr Dick Bayford said the Attorney General's Chambers, in order to be people-serving, the institution must be adequately staffed with experienced litigators and specialists.

Noting that under-resourcing the Attorney General's Chambers burdened the executive, delayed justice and disserviced the public.

Further, he noted that he had taken the initiative to use his powers as Law Revision Commissioner

under the Revision of the Laws Act to remove from the Statute Book all laws that the court had struck down as unconstitutional, thereby ensuring that the country's legal framework was constitutionally compliant.

He also said, in alignment with the theme: Court as a Public Service, the Attorney General's Chambers, in a pioneering initiative with Parliament, had established a Simplification of Acts Committee to simplify law for citizens.

Law Society of Botswana Chairperson, Mr Lesedi Moahi, decried judicial appointments, saying the Law Society had, for many years, raised concerns regarding judicial appointments, including the composition and operation of the Judicial Service Commission.

This, he said, had damaged the relationship between the Law Society and the Administration of Justice, adding that the society had resolved to seek appropriate redress to remedy the situation and set aside some appointments.

Further, he said, the society demanded clear rules and regulations on the appointment of judicial officers and quasi-judicial officers. **BOPA**

Ombudsman highlights need to protect children's rights

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

In general, fulfilling children's rights to protection from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation requires coordination amongst different sectors and authorities. And, every child is entitled to decisions that prioritise their best interest.

The remarks were made by the Ombudsman, Advocate Stephen Tiroyakgosi when responding to some concerns during a recent meet and greet with stakeholders in Maun.

He expressed concern over the violations of children's fundamental rights, urging that the principle of the best interest of the child must take precedence.

This principle, he said compelled public and private entities, courts of law, administrative authorities and all actions that affected them.

He said it was even more worrying that despite child rights instruments in place, children continue to face a lot of challenges citing violation of the right to education, lack of special schools and a high rate of abuse and neglect of children.

Stakeholders expressed concern that the current situation exposes children to unruly behavior, sexual abuse, and exploitation due to a lack of parental care and guidance.

Ms Peggy Ramaphane, Executive Director of Women Against Rape, emphasised the rampant abuse issues faced by women and girls in the North West district. She praised the Office of the Ombudsman for its initiative, the 'North West Human Rights Lecture Series,' which aims to strengthen accountability and foster a culture of human rights in the region.

"Our district is central to tourism, yet many parents spend extended periods in the delta, leaving their children unsupervised and vulnerable to abuse and neglect," she remarked.

"What actions can the office take to improve the work environment in the tourism industry to support families?"

She raised alarm over the fact that some children are left to care for their siblings without parental guidance, leading to an increase in cases of defilement, teenage pregnancy, and school dropouts as parents are frequently away.

Ms Ramaphane also highlighted the poor state



Ombudsman Advocate Stephen Tiroyakgosi addressing stakeholders during a recent meet and greet session in Maun. He expressed concern that children's fundamental rights were being violated and stressed that the principle of the best interests of the child must be prioritised. Photo: Esther Mmolai



DailyBusiness

BIUST and Career Dreams partner to launch astro-tourism

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Botswana is globally renowned for its pristine landscapes and conservation leadership. Yet, above its famous wildlife and wetlands lies an equally powerful and largely untapped asset, the night sky.

In a bid to unlock the stories written in the stars, the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) and the Career Dreams Centre in Maun have partnered to develop astro-tourism as a new, high-value niche for the country.

Astro-tourism merges scientific discovery with sustainable travel.

By leveraging Botswana's dark skies, the initiative aims to boost local economies, foster cultural appreciation and position the nation as a premier destination for 'learning under the stars'.

To formalise the vision, the two institutions recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a framework that paves the way for joint training programmes, workshops and field-based activities that combine academic excellence with hands-on industry experience.

Speaking at the signing ceremony recently, BIUST vice chancellor, Professor Otoletswe Totolo emphasised that the university's mandate to advance science and innovation, required looking beyond traditional classrooms.

"We are excited to translate scientific knowledge into societal value. By working hand-in-hand with Career Dreams, we aim to develop marketable experiences for both national and international clientele, integrating astronomy into Botswana's tourism."

"We are excited to translate scientific knowledge into societal value. By working hand-in-hand with Career Dreams, we aim to develop marketable experiences for both national and international clientele, integrating astronomy into Botswana's tourism."

clientele, integrating astronomy into Botswana's tourism," Prof. Totolo said.

The partnership marries BIUST's scientific expertise with Career Dreams' proficiency in tourism training and guiding.

A unique aspect of the project is the integration of indigenous astronomy that would ensure that Botswana's rich heritage and traditional storytelling are central to the visitor experience.

The timing of the partnership is strategic, given that it serves as a precursor to the African Astronomical Society (AfAS) conference, scheduled to take place in Kasane from March 22-27.

In the build-up to the global event, BIUST plans to host an Astro-Tourism pre-conference workshop in Maun.

Prof. Totolo encouraged to stakeholders in the hospitality and conservation sectors to join the collective effort.



BIUST Vice Chancellor, Professor Otoletswe Totolo (left) and Career Dreams Centre managing director, Mr Kenneth Karanja during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Maun. The MoU is meant to promote and develop astro-tourism as niche products in the tourism sector. Prof. Totolo said the partnership sought to translate scientific knowledge into societal value by leveraging Botswana's dark skies to create sustainable tourism opportunities, empower communities and position the country as a destination for learning.

Photo: Esther Mmolai

"We see this collaboration as a foundation for youth empowerment and community-based initiatives. It is about diversifying our tourism bouquet for the future," he added.

Career Dreams Centre founder, Mr Kenneth Karanja, highlighted that the MoU was a commitment to national development. A key pillar of the agreement is capacity building to equip tour guides and students with specialised skills in sky interpretation.

"By building these skills, we enhance service quality and open

new career paths. Astro-tourism encourages visitors to extend their stay, generating additional socio-economic benefits while promoting the vital conservation of our dark skies," Mr Karanja explained.

Career Dreams Centre has already made significant strides in this field, having developed an astronomy training module now recognised by the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) as part of its Professional Nature Guide certificate. **BOPA**

Mozambique inaugurates graphite plant

MAPUTO

A graphite processing plant invested in and built by a Chinese-funded enterprise was inaugurated on Friday in the Nipepe district of Niassa Province in northern Mozambique.

At the ceremony, Mozambique president Daniel Chopo said more than inaugurating a production facility, the occasion celebrated the vision of a country that was moving away from being merely a supplier of raw materials and was instead positioning itself as a producer, processor and exporter of value-added products, thereby creating jobs for its people, generating income for families and bringing development to Mozambique.

He further commended representatives of DH Grafite and to the Chinese business community for the confidence they had shown in Mozambique



NIPEPE - Graphite processing plant in Nipepe District Mozambique. The Chinese company, Jinan Yuxiao Group invested US\$150 million in the project, which covers mining, beneficiation and processing and was designed with an annual capacity tonnes of graphite. Photo: Xinhua

and for their concrete commitment to production and local processing.

The project was initiated and invested in by the Chinese company Jinan Yuxiao Group, with a total investment of about US\$150 million.

It covers mining, beneficiation and processing and is designed with an annual capacity of 200 000 tonnes of graphite.

During project implementation, the company invested in the construction of a bridge across the Lurio River in Niassa Province and built nearly 100 kilometres of roads, connecting the Nipepe area to the national trunk transport network.

About 100 kilometres of 110-kilovolt power transmission lines were also built to provide

stable and reliable electricity for local residents and regional development.

Local resident, Domingos Yahaia said living conditions in the surrounding communities had improved significantly since the project began.

New housing has been built in Nipepe and Maua, relocated families now have safer homes, children can attend new schools, and access to healthcare and public security has also improved.

Wu Tao, chairperson of Jinan Yuxiao Group, said the project had employed more than 800 local workers, and with the advancement of the second phase, total employment is expected to exceed 2 000.

He added that systematic training programmes would be implemented to enhance workers' skills and help improve local incomes and living conditions. **Xinhua**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Zambia concludes IMF programme after final review approval

LUSAKA

The government of Zambia on Wednesday welcomed the conclusion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-supported Extended Credit Facility programme, saying it underscores the country's sustained commitment to economic reforms. The development follows the approval of the sixth and final review of the 38-month programme by the IMF Executive Board, which will see the immediate disbursement of US\$190 million, bringing total disbursements under the programme to US\$1.7 billion. **Xinhua**

Xiaomi launches smartphones in Kenya and eyes bigger market share

NAIROBI

China's electronics maker Xiaomi recently launched the REDMI Note 15 Series, comprising three smartphone models in Kenya. The launch event attracted senior executives from the telecommunications sector. Matt Huang, country manager of Xiaomi International, said the devices were aimed at meeting diverse user needs by combining durability, imaging, performance and display features. He said the REDMI Note 15 Series was designed for daily use while offering stable performance and imaging capabilities. Xiaomi currently ranks third in the African smartphone market, with a market share of 12.6 per cent, and was continuing to record steady growth, according to Huang. **Xinhua**

Algeria open Africa's first heavy-haul desert railway

ALGIERS

Algeria's Western Mining Railway, Africa's first heavy-haul desert railway, has opened to traffic, improving Algeria's national railway network and promoting connectivity and economic development in the country's southwestern areas. Algeria president Abdelmadjid Tebboune announced the project's official operation on Sunday in the southwestern province of Bechar. The 950-km railway, with 575km constructed by China Railway Construction Corporation and Algerian state-owned companies, represents the largest infrastructure project undertaken by a Chinese company in Algeria. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

Go tlhagogile bolwetse jwa letshoroma kwa kgaolong ya Tutume

Tebogo Masuruke
TUTUME

Banni ba kgaolo ya Tutume ba rotloeditswe go dira ka gotlhe go thibela go ka tsenwa ke bolwetse jwa letshoroma.

Kopo e e dirilwe ke modulasetilo wa khansele ya kgaolo ya Tutume bosheng fa a ne a supa fa go tlhagogile bolwetse jwa letshoroma kwa metseng ya Maitengwe le Dukwi.

Modulasetilo Rre Tabona Masole o boleleletse phuthego ya khansele e e faphegileng fa kwa Maitengwe go kwadisitswe balwetse ba le 31 fa kwa Dukwi go begilwe ba le babedi.

Rre Masole a re ka lesego balwetse bao ba kgonne go thusiwa ka jaana melema ya bolwetse joo e teng mo dikokelong, fa se se seyong mo nakong ya gompieno e le matloa a monang a a ka abelwang batho go itshireletsa.

Rre Masole a re kgaolo ya Tutume ke nngwe ya dikgaolo tse di nnang di amiwa ke tlhagogo ya bolwetse jwa letshoroma.

Ka jalo, o kopile makhanselara a kgaolo eo go tsibosa setshaba ka tlhagogo ya bolwetse joo, le go sala morago melawana ya ba botsogo e akaretsa wa phepafatsa tikologo e ba leng mo go yone go itsa monang go tsalela foo.

O ne gape a kopa setshaba go bona ba bongaka fa ba ka itemo-gela dikai tse di tsamaelanang le bolwetse joo.

Mothusa-tona wa lephata la botsogo, Rre Lawrence Ooked-itse yo a neng a tsere karolo mo phuthengoe eo, o ne a tsibogela selelo sa makhanselara ka mosuke kwa kokelong ya Tutume fa thulaganyo ya go aga kokelo eo e tlaa tswelela fa madi a ka nna teng.

Rre Ookeditse o kopile makhanselara go nna le seabe le boikarabelo mo dikgannyeng tsa botsogo, a bo a ba rotloetsa go sala tsamaiso morago fa ba nale ngongorego epe ka ditirelo tsa botsogo.

A re baetedipele ba tshwanetse ba tlogela go supasupana ka mon-wana, mme boemong jwa seo, ba tle ka dikgakololo le megopolo e e ka dirisang go tokafatsa dikgang tsa botsogo.

O kgadile banni bangwe ba go bolelwang fa ba dirisa matloa a bone a monang go tshwara ditlhapi.

Rre Ookeditse a re ngwaga ono dipula di nele ka bokete ka jalo a

kopile batho go leka ka bojolhe go itshireletsa le go ipabalela mo bolwetseng joo jwa letshoroma le a mangwe.

Gape mothusa tona o kgadile mokgwa wa bangwe mo setshabeng wa go kgokgontsha badiri ba botso-go, mme o ne a rotloetsa tirisanyo mmogo, tlotlo, lorato le tshwara-gano ya botlhe. **BOPA**

Monni wa Kumakwane, Rre Balekile Marape ke mongwe wa Batswana ba ba santseng ba tshegeditse ngwao ya boipelego ka go ithaopa. O ithaopa ka go thiba dikhuti mo tseleng ya Thamaga-Gaborone. O supile fa a dira se, ka go bona tsela e senyegile mme e ka tsenya matshelo a bakgweetsi mo diphatseng. A re o tsamaya ka kapetlana ya mokwalo o o supang fa a thusa, ka jalo a kopa bakgweetsi go tsenya letsogo mo tirong e, go mo thusa. Rre Marape o tlhalositse fa a simolotse tiro ya go kaba tsela fa e senyegileng teng ka ngwaga wa 2023. Senepe: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Ba Charleshill ba iteela mogopolo wa kgotla ya molao-motheo legofi

Malebogo Lekula
CHARLESHILL

E re ka puso e boloditse letsholo go ralala lefatshe leno, mabapi le patlo maikutlo ka molao kakanyetsa wa go tlhoma kgotla ya molao-motheo, banni ba kgaolo ya Charleshill baa tile mogopolo oo, e bile ba bua ka bothokwa jwa kgotla eo, ba supa fa e le bangwe ba merafe e e beilweng ka fa mosing ke ditsetlana dingwe, tsaa tsamaiso ya molao motheo.

O ne gape a kopa setshaba se rutiwe ka bonokopila ka molao motheo ga mmogo le ditshwanelo tsa setho gore ba kgone go tsaya ditshwetso tse di maleba.

Fa a latlhela la gagwe, Mothusa kgosi wa Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Mbaor Kahiko III o tlhalositse fa molao motheo e le yone pinagare ya go tsamaiso lefatshe mme dikgosi e le bone tshoso-e-rweling mo go tsamaiseng mananeo a puso kwa morafeng.

O buile se kwa mo phuthengoe ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke mothusa-tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, Rre Ignatius Moswaane ka Labotlhano. O tlhalositse fa goromente a itlamile go somarela ditshwanelo tsa setho go dirisiwa molao-motheo wa lefatshe.

A re fa molao motheo, o kwalwa ka ngwaga wa 1961 kwa Lobatse, go ne go sena kemedi ya bombe, ba-na-le-bogole le banana.

Rre seo, go papametse gore dikeletso tsa bao ba nankotsweng ga di a akarewa ka botlalo ka ntlha ya go tlhoka kemedi e netameng.

Kgosi Kahiko a re dipaka di fetogile ka molao-motheo o lemoga merafe e e riling.

A re seo, se papametse mo tsetlaneng ya molao motheo ya 77, 78 le 79 mme a re seo se tshwanetse go baakanngwa gore merafe yothle e e mo lefatshe leno e akarewa ke molao motheo.

Ka jalo, a re kgotla ya molao-motheo, e tlaa thusa go menagane go mekamekana le dikgang tsa tsuulolo ditshwanelo mme a rotloetsa go gefosa go fetola molao motheo ka kakaretso.

O ne a tlatsa ka gore setshaba se rutiwe ka bonokopila ka molao motheo ga mmogo le ditshwanelo tsa setho gore ba kgone go tsaya ditshwetso tse di maleba.

Fa a latlhela la gagwe, Rre Onkemetse Ping go tswa kwa Neojane, o ne a lebogela mogopolo wa go simolola kgotla ya molao-motheo, a supa fa e tlaa thusa go buelela merafe e e beilweng ka fa mosing

Le fa go le jalo, bangwe ba banni ba ne ba supa fa ba le bete se molangwana ka lepotlapota le kgotla ya molao-motheo e eteleditsweng pele go na le paakanyo molao motheo wa lefatshe.

Rre Brains Kwadipane wa Charleshill, e ne o ne a kgala boleng jwa tsamaiso ya kgotla ya molao motheo ka go nankola mafatshe mangwe aa nang le kgotla eo, a

Ipapatse Fa Leletsa

659 6315 | 625 0353 | 533 0379 | 297 8237
261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500

e le mengwe ya merafe e e sa lemogiweng ke molao motheo, mme kgotla e, e tlaa leka go tlisa tharabololo. **BOPA**

“ Go botlhokwa gore re tlhaloganye botlhokwa ja go tlhabolola loago la rona la puso le ka fa re tsamaisang puso ka teng gore fa re ya go tsena mo dikgannyeng tsa tshekatsheko ya molao-motheo re bo re na le lekgotla le le re tlhalosetsang dikgang ”

ConCourt necessary to strengthen democracy



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa (second right) and Kgalagadi North MP, Mr Reason Lekutlane (right) with district leadership during a kgotla meeting in Hukunsi to discuss the proposed establishment of Constitutional Court. Mr Motshegwa acknowledged public concerns over the high costs involved, but urged residents to consider the long-term benefits of the court. Photo: Thuso Kgakatsi

Lindi Morwaeng
MOGODITSHANE

Councillors in Mogoditshane-Thamaga District have welcomed the proposed establishment of a Constitutional Court (ConCourt), describing it as long overdue and a necessary step in strengthening Botswana's democracy.

The views were shared during a special consultative council meeting addressed by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana recently.

The meeting formed part of nationwide consultations on the possible establishment of an apex court.

Some Councillors said ConCourt would play a crucial role in addressing long-standing land disputes, concerns over land ownership and rights, which they

noted remained a persistent issue among Batswana.

Councillors argued that a dedicated ConCourt would help tackle inequalities, particularly those linked to land distribution and interpretation of Constitutional provisions affecting different tribes.

They further stressed the need for Botswana's Constitution to be more reflective of indigenous realities, moving away from a colonial-era framework and developing a Constitution written 'by Batswana, for Batswana'.

Furthermore, councillors agreed that ConCourt would be instrumental in closing legal gaps and providing clarity in future, on comprehensive review of the Constitution, especially on sensitive tribal matters.

Councillor Mokgatla Pule of Ditemogolo Ward reminded fellow councillors that the Umbrella for Democratic Change-led government had in its campaign strategy promised the establishment of Constitutional Court.

Therefore, he said government should not shy away from implementing promises, as the people have endorsed them by giving them an opportunity to govern the country.

He also cautioned those opposing the move on the basis of the ongoing health crisis and other national challenges, saying the court's establishment would be a process rather than an immediate roll-out and would not be, by any chance stall government focus on other social amenities. Cllr Pule added that health crisis and other pressing national matters were already being handled by relevant ministries.

Councillor Simon Moipolai of Ledumadumane South supported the proposal, saying a ConCourt would strengthen the protection of citizens' rights. He said the move aligned with what he described as the UDC government's human rights-centred approach to governance.

However, not all councillors were fully convinced and in support of the ConCourt proposal.

Cllr Ofentse Ditshuge of Tsolamosese East said while he agreed in principle with the envisaged introduction of the ConCourt, the timing was not right. He

argued that many Batswana were more concerned about urgent challenges such as addressing health and education crises and rising unemployment.

Similarly, Cllr Moreetsi Monareng of Lesirane Ward said the current economic climate was not conducive to establishing a new court.

He suggested that the move could be reconsidered when the country's economic situation improves and sufficient resources available.

Responding to the Cllrs contributions, Minister Ramaotwana assured them that while the ConCourt was a priority for his ministry, it was not being placed above other national priorities.

He explained that each ministry was responsible for its own mandate, adding that issues such as health and education were being addressed by the respective ministries.

The minister revealed that establishment of the ConCourt was budgeted for under National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) and that funding provisions were in place. Mr Ramaotwana also announced that a national referendum on the matter was planned for the 2026/27 financial year. "The goal is to implement a more human rights-based justice system," he said, adding that the court will help clear Constitutional case backlogs, improve efficiency in Constitutional interpretation and allow for expert input from various fields in delivering judgments. **BOPA**

Residents weigh pros and cons of Constitutional Court

Thuso Kgakatsi
HUKUNTSI

A recent kgotla meeting on the proposed establishment of Constitutional Court reflected divergent views from different speakers from the 14 villages that make up the Kgalagadi District.

The meeting, addressed by the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa in Hukunsi, revealed a strong appetite among residents to better understand the proposed Constitutional Court and its broader implications for the country.

On the other hand, some speakers described the establishment of Constitutional Court as long overdue, while others urged caution,

citing economic constraints and the need for a more comprehensive reform process.

Central to the discussion was whether the court should be established immediately or be introduced as part of a wider constitutional review.

Although there was broad consensus on the importance of a Constitutional Court, some speakers argued that its establishment would be more appropriate if undertaken within a holistic constitutional review.

They cautioned that pursuing the process independently would place a significant financial burden on government, particularly at a time when the country is grappling with economic recession.

According to the speakers, a comprehensive constitutional review that incorporates the establishment of a Constitutional

Court would be a more cost-effective and efficient approach.

They further warned that proceeding with the court as a standalone initiative could result in two national referendum, one for the Constitutional Court and another for a future constitutional review, thereby escalating costs for the government.

Despite raising concerns over cost and timing, speakers emphasised that their views should not be interpreted as opposition to the Constitutional Court, but described their position as a call for prudent sequencing of reforms to ensure fiscal responsibility.

Addressing the gathering earlier on, Minister Motshegwa acknowledged the concerns raised and conceded that the establishment of a Constitutional Court would indeed be costly. However, he said a cost-benefit analysis had already been conducted and showed that the Court would have a positive impact on the economy.

Mr Motshegwa also moved to dispel fears that the Constitutional Court would abolish the death penalty, clarifying that the law was explicit on the matter and that the creation of the court would not alter its legal status.

He added that the need for such a court was urgent as it directly concerns the protection of citizens' rights.

Mr Motshegwa observed that some people may not fully appreciate the importance of the court simply because they have never personally encountered constitutional challenges.

He further noted that the

Constitutional Court would play a critical role in clarifying constitutional matters and strengthening democracy.

Mr Motshegwa described its establishment as a significant step towards entrenching constitutionalism, upholding the rule of law, and safeguarding the Bill of Rights.

He further linked strong constitutional institutions to economic growth, noting that countries that upheld democracy, human rights and the rule of law were better positioned to attract foreign direct investment.

He added that the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) was committed to a human-rights-centred government, stating that a specialised Constitutional Court would sharpen jurisprudence on constitutional and human rights matters.

Mr Motshegwa noted that a full constitutional review process was expected to take more than four years, and stressed that the Constitutional Court could be introduced in the interim, arguing that it would help pave the way for broader constitutional reforms.

The minister raised a concern over the growing backlog of cases within the judiciary, revealing that courts were currently handling 1 216 criminal cases and 3 337 civil cases.

He said the introduction of specialised courts, including the Constitutional Court, would help reduce the backlog and improve efficiency.

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Merapelo Tshweneyagae commended government for rolling

out nationwide public consultations, noting that Batswana had previously expressed concern about being sidelined during the parliamentary passage of the Bill.

He said the current engagements were reassuring and would enable citizens to make informed decisions when voting.

Kgosi Tshweneyagae said the outreach was important as it provided clarity on the proposed Constitutional Court and ensured that citizens were adequately informed on its purpose and implications.

Meanwhile, he noted that the Minister had in the past engaged the nation on matters relating to Bogosi and traditional affairs, with the aim of reviewing laws to ensure that the institution of Bogosi operated efficiently and in accordance with Setswana customs and traditions.

He said while there had been expectations that the legal reforms concerning Bogosi would be implemented expeditiously, progress had been slower than anticipated. As such, he said traditional leaders had sought clarity on the delays affecting the process. **BOPA**

The court's establishment will be a process rather than an immediate roll-out and will not be, by any chance stall government's focus.



The New Four Seasons European tour starts in Hungary

BUDAPEST

A China-Hungary musical joint premiere was held Monday in Budapest as the European tour of 'The New Four Seasons of Hungary and China Concert' opened at the Liszt Academy of Music.

The concert featured The Hungarian Four Seasons by Hungarian composer, Peter Stefan and The Chinese Four Seasons by Chinese composer Wen Ziyang.

Hungaria's pianist Gergely Kovacs performed Stefan's piano work, which incorporates more than 50 Hungarian folk melodies and depicts scenes of the changing seasons.

Chinese violinist, Lu Siqing led the United Chinese-Hungarian Chamber Orchestra in performing Wen's The Chinese Four Seasons, a composition inspired by China's traditional 24 solar terms.

Although created in different cultural contexts, both works reflect

a shared understanding of time and seasonal change.

"This is a moment when we are united through the power of arts," Stefan told *Xinhua*.

Kovacs said he was honoured to share the stage with Chinese musicians, inviting the audience to savour both the similarities and the differences in the two pieces to enjoy their 'collaboration'.

Wen said the composition concluded in a joyful tone ahead of the 2026 Chinese Spring Festival, conveying a uniquely Chinese sense of anticipation for spring.

The European tour provides an opportunity to present Chinese music on the international stage, said Lu, voicing hope that continued collaboration will further deepen mutual understanding between China and Hungary. Following its Budapest performance, the concert will continue touring in Bulgaria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Xinhua



BUDAPEST - Chinese violinist Lu Siqing during The New Four Seasons of Hungary and China Concert at the Liszt Academy of Music in Hungary on Monday. Photo: *Xinhua*

Ancient dairy aroma inspires innovation and tourism in Inner Mongolia

HOHHOT

While sugar-coated haws wrapped in 'naipi', a traditional Mongolian milk skin, are going viral on Chinese social media, few realise that the heart of this culinary craze lies deep within the grasslands of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

No longer merely a staple of traditional morning tea, the ancient delicacy in Wushen Banner's Galutu Town is finding its way into hotpots, coffee, pizzas and mooncakes, activating a vibrant industrial chain that blends heritage with modern consumption. At 7am, herdsman Batu was already in his kitchen, where brick tea simmered in a copper pot.

He gently lifted a pale yellow,

wrinkled sheet of milk skin from the surface of fresh milk that had sat undisturbed overnight. This rich layer of milk fat, the concentrated essence of nearly two kilograms of fresh milk, is the soul of a Mongolian breakfast.

When broken into salty milk tea, it releases a rich aroma that cuts through the morning chill.

Only a few kilometres away, the Minxin Dairy Processing Workshop hummed with the sound of modern machinery. On standardised production lines, thousands of milk skin sheets were being simultaneously dried and shaped. They will be vacuum-packed and shipped to metropolitan hubs such as Shanghai and Hangzhou, both located in east China. "The orders simply don't

stop," said Bayinnamuri, head of the workshop. "Our 2025 output nearly doubled compared to the previous year. We now process about two tonnes of fresh milk daily to produce over 2,000 sheets of milk skin."

The 'breakout' of milk skin from a local staple to a national commodity is no accident. As health-conscious consumers seek natural, high-protein foods, Galutu, a town that once earned fame for making the world's largest milk skin, has seized this trend in revitalizing its dairy industry.

Since 2022, the town has implemented a systematic industrial chain project. Upstream, it established 266.67 hectares of 'central kitchen' for high-quality forage like oats and silage corn, while introducing Jersey

cows to boost milk yields.

Consequently, the town's annual milk production has surged from 817,000kg in 2022 to nearly 5 million kg, providing a stable supply of premium raw materials.

Innovation has turned the town into a 'flavor laboratory'. To meet the demands of younger, fashion-forward consumers, Galutu has launched creative dairy competitions, sparking a wave of fusion dishes.

Xing Heli, an entrepreneur who reinvented the traditional tanghulu, which are sugar-coated haws, by stuffing them with fruit-filled milk skin and cold-brew yogurt, sells hundreds of skewers daily.

"Initially, the market was hesitant," Xing said. "But by sticking

to the trend last year, it exploded. The fruit-filled versions are especially popular." "These innovative products do more than just open up sales. They connect traditional dairy food with modern life," said Wang Minjing, deputy head of Galutu.

The town's strategy focuses on integrating planting, breeding, processing and sales with tourism.

Visitors can now tour modern ranches, try their hand at making traditional milk skin, and taste an array of innovative snacks at local street shops before leaving with exquisite souvenir sets.

By challenging Guinness World Records and hosting cultural festivals, the town is cementing milk skin as a core cultural intellectual property (IP). *Xinhua*

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DailySport

Argentina must guard against complacency
- Saviola



Raguin joins top tier athletes

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Botswana is slowly positioning itself as the new giant of Africa in sport. Across sporting codes, several names have become entrenched in people's minds both at home and abroad. In athletics, Letsile Tebogo and Collen

Kebinatshipi have become much-loved icons, whereas in football Sedilame Bosija and Refilwe Tholakele have similarly endeared themselves to the nation. In swimming, upcoming star Jade Chilisa has thrown the code into the mix, putting it on a pedestal with her top-tier performance. Now tennis has taken centre stage. The code's showstopper, Ntungamili Raguin is constantly distinguishing himself as a

“During the Australian Open Junior week, he reached a career high ranking of 75. Now he is at 56 after the new rankings were released on Monday.”

crème de la crème of the sport. He is the man of firsts: the first Motswana to compete at the Australian Junior Open and first to win J100 back to back. Prior to the Australian Junior Open, Raguin who was ranked 75 but he now sits at Number 56 in the world. And just last year, he ranked among the top 250, a feat many paid little attention to despite efforts by the Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) to draw attention to the possibility of Botswana clinching a junior Grand Slam. Where Raguin is now requires concerted efforts and support from stakeholders including national sport agencies, government and corporates and indeed, the nation. He will require more resources in order to sustain these performances, given that he has three more junior Grand Slams this year; Wimbledon, French Open and US Open. In between he will play other bigger tournaments such as J300 and J500, all of which will require substantial budgets. But, what does this feat mean to the country? According to BTA vice president, Nonofo Othusitse, Raguin's incredible run at the 2026 Australian Open Junior Championships is a source of immense pride. “We were over the moon when we made it out of the qualifying draw into the main draw,” Othusitse said, highlighting how historic a performance it was for a player who was making a maiden appearance at a Grand Slam. Raguin simply defied the odds, exceeding all expectations in the process and the BTA could not be more elated. “To fully comprehend this performance, one needs to go back to last year December when he was ranked 168 in the world,” Othusitse said. “During the Australian Open Junior week he reached a career high ranking of 75. Now he is at 56 after the new rankings were released on Monday,” he added. Further rallying the nation to throw its entire weight behind the player, Othusitse believes that adequate support would spur Raguin on to keep raising the bar higher. While BTA appreciates the support they received from BNSC and BNOC through their programmes, more money is still required and according to Othusitse at least a million Pula a year in funding would suffice. “All in all, it looks like it is going to be an exciting year for Raguin and indeed Botswana tennis. We are grateful for the support he has received thus far and hope it continues into the future,” he said. **BOPA**

Argentina must guard against complacency - Saviola

RIO DE JANEIRO

Argentina must guard against complacency at this year's FIFA World Cup despite entering the tournament as favorite, former forward Javier Saviola said on Monday. The Albiceleste will be aiming for its fourth consecutive major tournament victory, having won the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and the past two Copa America titles. “I think that after becoming world champion, yes, Argentina arrives as favourite,” Saviola told reporters during an event in Rio de Janeiro. “But I also think you have to go about things with humility and keep your feet on the ground because we know that World Cups are serious business. We know there are tremendously competitive teams that will do everything possible to win,” he said.

Saviola, who represented Argentina at the 2006 World Cup in Germany and earned 39 caps for his country, said Lionel

Scaloni's team would benefit from having an established squad that is used to playing together.

“For the most part, the players who were a part of the last World Cup will be there again this time,” the former Barcelona and Real Madrid player said.

“There is a lot of excitement and a lot of expectation that Argentina can once again be the best national team in the world. They have the squad and the coaching staff to achieve it.” The World Cup will be played in the United States, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19.

Three-time World Cup champion Argentina has been drawn in Group J alongside Algeria, Austria and Jordan. **Xinhua**



Ntungamili Raguin

Javier Saviola