

# BOTSWANA Daily News

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# Boko engages diplomats

Thato Mosinyi  
**GABORONE**

Botswana's foreign policy, which has evolved significantly over the years, is now firmly anchored on economic diplomacy as a vital pillar of the country's growth and development strategy.

Speaking during an engagement with members of the Diplomatic Corps in Gaborone yesterday, President Advocate Duma Boko said Botswana's economic diplomacy was primarily focused on fostering industrial development, which was foundational to achieving sustainable economic growth.

As agents of economic diplomacy tasked with facilitating foreign direct investment, President Boko said diplomats were pivotal to the attainment of Botswana's economic diversification drive and the rollout of National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme.

"Through excellent working relations with members of the Diplomatic Corps, I am confident that Botswana will triumph amid the current downgraded economic outlook owing to the prolonged downturn in the diamond industry," he said.

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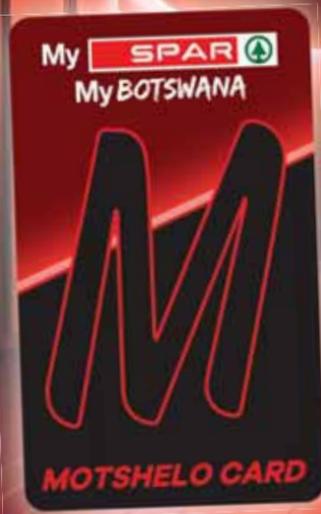


President Advocate Duma Boko addressing members of the Diplomatic Corps during an engagement session in Gaborone yesterday. He urged them to partner with government in transforming and diversifying the country into a knowledge-based and creative economy. Photo: Felicity Male

### Second phase of FMD vaccinations starts

The second phase of Foot and Mouth Disease FMD vaccination and surveillance is scheduled to commence on March 4 in zones 3c and 6b.

STORY PAGE 6



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# Gaolathe hails Marulamantsi primary as model of excellence

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe  
GABORONE

Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe has praised the outstanding performance of Marulamantsi Primary School, describing it as a model of excellence and innovation for Botswana's future.

Speaking at the school's prize-giving ceremony in Gaborone on Monday, Mr Gaolathe commended the inaugural cohort of Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) graduates for achieving an impressive 97.7 per cent pass rate in their first national examination. The results placed Marulamantsi at the top among government schools in Gaborone.

"This does not happen by luck. It is a reflection of discipline and a strong culture of excellence," he said.

Established just two years ago, the school was applauded for its innovative approach to education, including the integration of robotics and artificial intelligence

into the curriculum, as well as its commitment to inclusive learning.

Mr Gaolathe paid tribute to teachers for laying a solid foundation in literacy, numeracy and modern technology, and acknowledged the critical support of parents and the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) in fostering a conducive learning environment.

Addressing learners, he reflected on Botswana's history of diamond mining, which helped build the nation's infrastructure and stability.

However, he cautioned that reliance on natural resources alone was no longer sustainable in a rapidly evolving global economy driven by knowledge and innovation.

He highlighted government's broader economic vision under the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, which seeks to transition the country from resource dependency to a knowledge-based economy.

Encouraging learners to adopt excellence as a daily habit, Mr Gaolathe emphasised the



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe (centre) congratulating Myrrh Rantona (left), a straight A learner at Marulamantsi Primary School, during the school's 2025 Standard 7 victory celebration in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Gaolathe commended the school for creating a strong learning environment, including the introduction of STEM, robotics and support for special education learners. With them is the president of Gaborone West Customary Court, Kgosi Anorid Somolekae. Photo: Tshoganetso Mokowe

importance of integrity, effort and continuous learning.

"Excellence is not a one-time achievement but a way of life," he said. "Preparation begins with habits, habits build character, and character builds nations."

He urged pupils to envision themselves working in sectors such as finance, renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and technology, stressing that both skill and integrity were essential for national development.

The Vice President also underscored the importance of

inclusive education, noting that every child, regardless of ability, should be given an opportunity to succeed.

Mr Gaolathe expressed confidence that Marulamantsi Primary School would continue to inspire future generations and remain a beacon of excellence in Botswana.

Meanwhile, teachers Ms Banana Majagoba, Ms Angel Keitumetse and Ms Kagiso Mokoni each received P1,500 in recognition of their excellence.

Top-performing pupils Kutlo

Rantona and Tshwanelo Madikane were awarded P1,000, a trophy and a medal for attaining straight As.

The school further recognised 40 pupils who achieved grade A and 45 pupils who attained grades B and C.

In her remarks, Ms Majagoba thanked the PTA for its support, noting that when the school opened, it enrolled pupils from different institutions with varied attitudes and behaviours.

She said unity between teachers and parents had been key to achieving the school's goals. **BOPA**

## Scout instils discipline

Goweditse Kome  
MAPOKA

Government seeks to holistically revive pupil's development by introducing and resuscitating platforms in primary and secondary schools such as 4B clubs, Drum Majorettes, Girl Guides, Scripture Union and other structured youth development programmes.

These develop different dimensions of a child that include, leadership skills, spiritual grounding, discipline, teamwork, agriculture and practical skills, entrepreneurship, civic responsibility, creativity and talent.

Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa, stated when launching the Botswana Scout Movement at Batanani Junior Secondary School in Mapoka, where he encouraged learners to engage in radical transformation and balance service with academic excellence.

Patrol based study groups, peer tutoring systems, weekend revision camps, subject performance tracking systems, are systems that learners were encouraged to adopt instead waiting to be told what to do.

"The ministry is building a holistic education system, an education system that does not only produce exam writers but produces leaders through education with production," said Mr Hunyepa, who is also a scout.

As future leaders, learners were challenged to be smart, disciplined, resilient, innovative and think critically with a problem solving minds.

Mr Hunyepa explained that



Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware (left) and Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa inspecting a guard of honour during the launch of Botswana Scout Movement at Batanani Junior Secondary School in Mapoka recently. Mr Hunyepa encouraged learners to engage in radical transformation and balance service with academic excellence. Photo: Goweditse Kome

Scouts were volunteers who performed patriotic service without being paid hence must be treated well, properly supervised and their safety and welfare must always be protected.

In the same vein, Scouts must not have a sense of dependency but be self-sufficient.

"For too long we have normalised dependency, too many handouts, too little innovation, too little initiative," said Mr Hunyepa adding that through the movement, they sought to build independent thinkers where young people must ask themselves, what problem could they solve, business they could start and the value they could create.

Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, and a scout, Major General

Pius Mokgware, said he was a good citizen because of the principles instilled in him by the movement and the same could happen with every youth if they followed the same path.

He said Scout built a responsible community and a people who protected their nationality by putting their country first.

"We want a Motswana who protects our way of life, believing in the country's culture and motto," he said and explained that the movement equipped one with the tools of life that could be used in any situation.

Mapoka/Masukwane/Nlaphkwane councillor, Mr Nabalane Lenyatso, said job positions were not fixed, reputation was forever. **BOPA**

## BIUST hosts renowned robotics expert

Portia Rapitsenyane  
PALAPYE

Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) recently hosted internationally acclaimed robotics expert Professor Bradley Nelson for a public seminar.

Prof Nelson, who is listed in the Guinness World Records for developing one of the most advanced mini medical robots, delivered a presentation titled: Micro-robotics, Telesurgery for Stroke.

During his presentation, Prof. Nelson highlighted the transformative potential of micro-robotics in improving patient outcomes, particularly in time-critical conditions such as stroke. He explained how remote surgical capabilities could expand access to specialised care, especially in regions where advanced medical expertise was not readily available.

He also conducted a live demonstration showcasing the future of micro-robotics in stroke treatment.

Prof. Nelson noted that stroke was the second leading cause of death globally and emphasised the importance of timely intervention. He said patients in remote areas often struggled to access advanced care quickly, but emerging technologies could bridge that gap.

He said for stroke care, speed was everything, adding that people living far from major medical

centres could experience dangerous delays in receiving life-saving treatment.

He explained that a new generation of robotic and telerobotic systems aimed to change this reality by enabling expert neuro-interventionalists to perform emergency procedures across vast distances using internet connectivity.

Prof. Nelson further stated that the technology stemmed from over two decades of basic research.

He said they had demonstrated the feasibility of such procedures using animal models, paving the way for future clinical applications.

The American roboticist has been Professor of Robotics and Intelligent Systems at ETH Zurich in Switzerland since 2002. He is widely recognised for his pioneering research in micro-robotics, nanorobotics and medical robotics.

Dean of the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at BIUST, Dr Tjiparuro Zeundjua, thanked Prof. Nelson and his team for the complimentary lecture and for exposing students and faculty to cutting-edge advancements in robotics and their impact on medical care.

He described the seminar as a living testament to innovation in healthcare, highlighting the integration of telecommunications, micro-robotics, high-resolution imaging and other enabling technologies. **BOPA**

# LAPCAS revival to ease allocation bottlenecks



Ambassador Anna Karin Enestrom of Sweden



Ambassador Francisco Javier Pagalday Gastelurrutia of Kingdom of Spain

Thato Mosinyi  
**GABORONE**

Government intends to review and re-introduce the Land Administration Procedures, Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS) project, as it could remedy land allocation delays.

The project is one of the many commendable outputs yielded by the good bilateral relations between Botswana and Sweden, President Advocate Duma Boko said when receiving letters of credence from the Swedish envoy to Botswana, Ms Anna Eneström, Monday, in Gaborone.

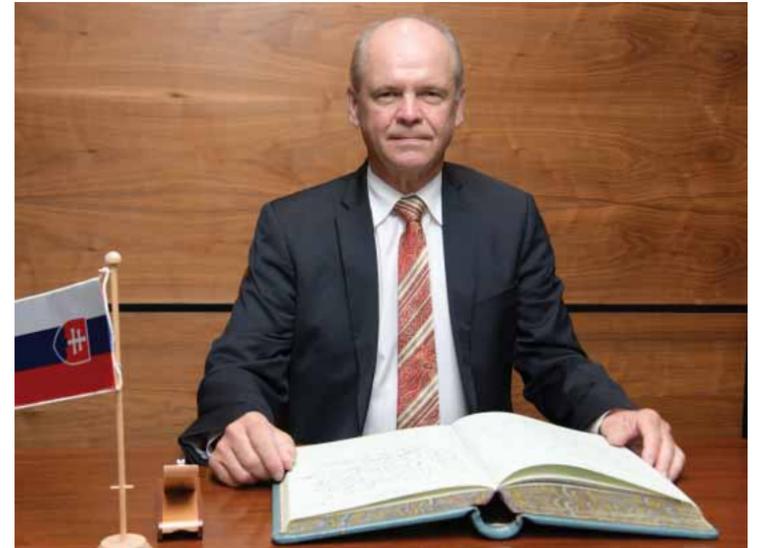
Botswana has benefited from the Swedish relations in many areas through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) which was instrumental in rolling out the LAPCAS programme.

On account of that, President Boko said there was strong contention for the LAPCAS programme to be reviewed and re-introduced as it could solve the many land management matters that government was wrestling with.

"I understand the many benefits of the LAPCAS programme which has since been halted and fallen into some limp but indications are that the programme was very solid and solved some of the delays in land allocation," said President Boko.

He said withdrawal of the programme had economically disadvantaged both the country and land owners.

Discontinuing LAPCAS has resulted in slow and erratic land allocation, mostly smeared with corruption and irregularities due to the uncertainty of land titles, President Boko explained



Ambassador Vladimir Gracz of Slovak Republic



Ambassador Rodrigo Guillermo Chiari Alvarez of Panama

## Boko engages diplomats

... from page 1

In an effort to bounce back, President Boko said Botswana had prioritised industrialisation with the aim of building a more resilient and diversified economy capable of withstanding global market fluctuations and external shocks.

He said the main objective was centred on diversifying Botswana's

economic partnerships, thereby reducing dependence on a limited number of trading partners and commodities.

Acknowledging that Botswana's prosperity was interconnected with global developments, President Boko indicated that the country's economic diplomacy would also extend to partnerships with international organisations focused on fostering development in critical areas such as health, education and infrastructure.

Additionally, he expressed appreciation for the contribution of foreign envoys, saying their support was vital in the country's pursuit of delivering on promises made to its citizenry.

"Allow me to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the foreign envoys for the indispensable support and assistance that Botswana continues to receive from respective countries and international organisations," he said.

President Boko added that diplomats were key in establishing and nurturing strategic partnerships as well as forging collaborations with other countries. He expressed hope that envoys would continue supporting government's development

agenda.

Similarly, Minister for International Affairs Dr Pheny Butale noted that Botswana's foreign policy remained grounded in principle.

"We believe that a just and peaceful international order is the foundation of national development. We stand for diplomacy as the first instrument of statecraft, and dialogue as the preferred path to dispute resolution, respect for sovereignty and international law," Dr Butale said.

He cautioned that the world was changing rapidly, and diplomacy must evolve accordingly.

"In the months ahead, you will see tangible improvements in the services our ministry provides to you. Our foreign service will be agile, responsive and service-oriented," he said.

Dr Butale also expressed gratitude towards Heads of Mission resident in Gaborone, stating that their daily engagement enriched public life and strengthened institutions.

To those accredited from outside Botswana, he said their willingness to travel and invest time in partnerships with Botswana was deeply appreciated. **BOPA**

and added that the delays, were a result of the absence of secure land title which would enable the land owner to make use of the land title for securitisation purpose to possible financiers.

Thus he said there was a strong and compelling case for the continuation of that special collaboration between Botswana and Sweden in rolling out the LAPCAS programme.

President Boko also received letters of credence from Slovak Republic, Panama and Spain envoys to officially begin their diplomatic duties and strengthen bilateral relations between Botswana and their respective countries.

In separate brief meetings, the President welcomed the new envoys and congratulated each of them on their appointments that marked the start of their mandate, focusing on cooperation in areas like security, bilateralism, trade, and exchange programmes all aimed at the betterment of the citizenry livelihoods.

When ushering in Slovak Republic Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Vladimir Gracz, President Boko said the Slovak Republic was a formidable motor vehicle manufacturer and also strong in vocational education, a field which Botswana was aiming to broaden its strides on.

"We are looking to broaden our involvement in skills development and venture fairly and quickly into manufacturing of car components as well as pharmaceutical production, therefore we trust that your active involvement will continue to strengthen relationship for Botswana to meet its desired goals," said President Boko.

With regard to Panama,

President Boko expressed optimism that the new Panama envoy, Mr Rodrigo Alvarez would add some momentum to what had been a largely stagnant relationship between Botswana and Panama.

He said there were failed attempts in the past to resuscitate the relationship through the offering of scholarships by the Panama government, which could not materialise due to the language barrier between the two countries.

As a diamond producing county and trading in the global north, President Boko said Botswana regarded Panama as a gateway to the lucrative Latin and Central America matter.

To the Spanish envoy, Ambassador Francisco Gastelurrutia, President Boko highlighted that Botswana highly valued its relationship with Spain and regarded it as a special friend despite the geographical locations.

He indicated that there were viable opportunities to enhance mutual knowledge and understanding between the two countries through the establishment of political consultations as well as through bilateral cooperation, particularly in sports and cultural exchange programmes.

The envoys vowed to nurture the excellent relations between their respective countries and Botswana, which are built on shared bonds and cooperation in international organisations such as the United Nations as well as a shared commitment to democracy, respect for human rights, peace and security, economic and social development together with an international trade system that benefits both countries. **BOPA**

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## PARLIAMENT 2026

# Legislators support labour disputes reforms

Mmoniemang Motsamai  
GABORONE

Members of Parliament have hailed the new Employment and Labour Relations Act (ELRA) of 2025 as a progressive milestone that will end the delays in workplace dispute resolutions. Debating the 2026/27 budget estimates for the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs on Monday, legislators argued that the establishment of an independent Mediation and Arbitration Commission aligned Botswana with international labour standards and would provide the needed relief to employees awaiting severance and benefit payouts.

The Act, officially designated as ELRA No. 27 of 2025, was passed by Parliament and assented to. Regulations are currently being developed and expected to be finalised before the end of this month to pave the way for full implementation.

Legislators emphasised that the new Mediation and Arbitration Commission was a critical structure designed to reduce the backlog of cases currently clogging the court system.

By streamlining the process for severance and labour grievances, government aimed to create a more stable industrial relations environment.

Supporting the ministry's proposed budget, Mogoditshane East MP, Mr Lethogonolo Barongwang, raised a concern over private sector welfare and thus called on government to establish a mandatory pension fund for the entire private sector to protect employees who currently retired without a safety net.

Mr Barongwang also noted that the move toward 24-hour border services was a positive step for the 24-hour economy, which he believed would stimulate growth for small businesses in his constituency.

However, he cautioned government to be vigilant against fraudsters who might attempt to exploit the extended hours.

Bobirwa MP, Mr Taolo Lucas focused on the living wage, noting that Batswana were still waiting for the promised P4 000 minimum, particularly in the retail and construction sectors. Mr Lucas implored the minister to provide a clear timeline for its implementation.

He also highlighted several localised grievances, saying in Bobirwa, an ex-miners' association had profiled members awaiting compensation, yet only eight out of 1 000 had been assisted thus far.

He added that farm or ranch workers remained highly exploited and further urged the ministry to resolve cases where companies used rolling one-month contracts to deny employees their rightful benefits.

Molepolole North MP, Mr Arafat Khan, called for faster turnaround times for Omang (ID) issuance as well as revitalisation of the Molepolole library, which he described as a white elephant in its current state.

In Tati West, MP Justin Hunyepa expressed relief over Citizenship Act amendments aimed at addressing statelessness. Mr Hunyepa pointed out that in his 27 villages, many children were denied basic rights and schooling due to their status.

To combat illegal immigration, he suggested the establishment of a formal border gate in Mbalambi. He also called for harmonisation of labour offices across the country so that people did not travel long distances to towns for services.

Mmadinare MP, Mr Kethalefile Motshegwa, echoed the same sentiments, adding that the National Migration Policy was essential for facilitating foreign nationals who wished to contribute to the country's growth.

Mr Motshegwa also welcomed the establishment of the Mediation and Arbitration Commission which he said was important for sound industrial relations.

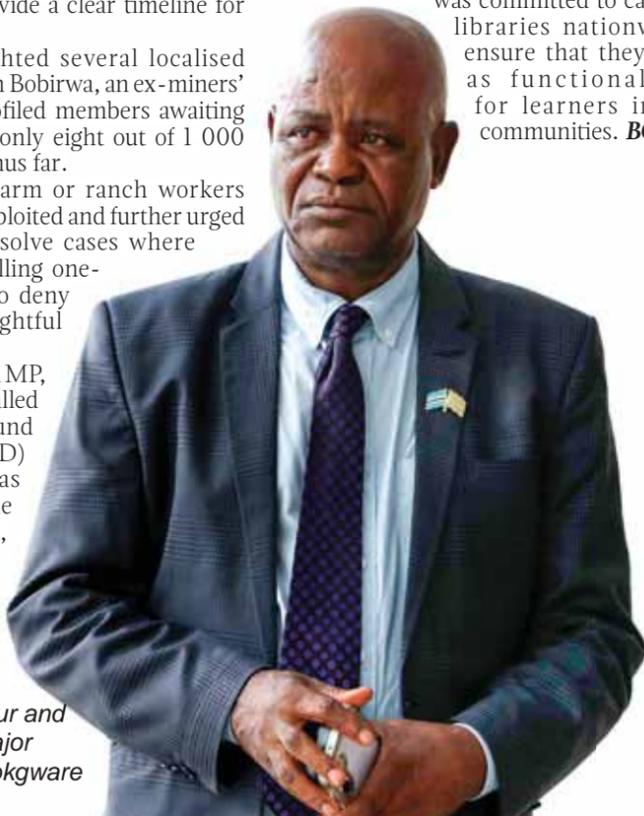
Kgatleng East MP, Mr Mabuse Pule welcome the profiling of families for compliance with the Citizenship Act requisites. Mr Pule also expressed delight over compensation of ex-minors and further asked the minister to update on the law to regularise migrants.

Responding to the debate, labour and home affairs minister, Major General Pius Mokgware's stance on labour violations was firm, stating that failing to pay an employee was a criminal offence that would not be tolerated.

Minister Mokgware warned that non-compliant businesses, especially in the security sector, should close their doors, noting that the ministry was liaising with contracting entities to ensure that workers were paid.

The minister also shared that they collaborating with the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs to train young people in languages for international translation work. On inclusive citizenship, he said certain barriers such as the Setswana proficiency requirement, needed to be removed to make the citizenship process more accommodative for essential labourers and herdsmen.

He further told legislators that the ministry was committed to capacitate libraries nationwide to ensure that they served as functional hubs for learners in rural communities. **BOPA**



Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Major General Pius Mokgware

Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe

# Gaolathe outlines roadmap to create jobs

GABORONE

**Government plans to tackle unemployment through increased investment; boosting public and private investment, focusing on private capital. Secondly, government will foster more diversified economic growth beyond traditional sectors as well as supporting SMEs.**

Answering a question in Parliament on Monday, Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, said government, through Statistics Botswana, monitored labour market developments using two complementary survey instruments including the Quarterly Multi-Topic Surveys (QMTS) and the Botswana Multi-Topic Household Surveys (BMTHS).

He said QMTS provided interim and short-term labour market indicators between major household surveys, while the BMTHS was conducted periodically.

Minister Gaolathe added that the 2024/25 BMTHS was designed with labour modules comparable to the 2015/16 BMTHS, thereby enabling long-term trend analysis across benchmark surveys.

He noted that the most recent QMTS, conducted in the first quarter of 2024, from January to March, recorded a national unemployment rate of 27.1 per cent.

He further told Parliament that broader quarterly series data from Statistics Botswana showed an upward movement in unemployment, particularly the rate increased by four percentage points, rising from 21.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019 to 25.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2023. Regarding long-term trends from benchmark surveys, he said Statistics Botswana conducted the BMTHS 2024/25 between November 2024 and November 2025 and preliminary results, pending final validation, estimated the national unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and above at 21.0 per cent.

"When compared to the 2015/16 BMTHS, which recorded an unemployment rate of 17.6 per cent, this represents an increase of 3.4 percentage points," he added.

The Minister noted that the difference lay

not in the direction of the trend but in the purpose and methodology where quarterly data reflected short-term movements at specific points in time, while the BMTHS reflected structural changes over a long period.

Regarding the total number of unemployed persons, including discouraged job seekers, Mr Gaolathe pointed out that based on preliminary BMTHS 2024/25 results, unemployed persons were estimated at 213 437, compared to 147 206 in 2015/16, an increase of 45 per cent.

Conversely, he said discouraged job seekers were estimated at 86 671, compared to 133 276 in 2015/16, representing a decline of about 33.5 per cent.

"The increase in the number of unemployed persons alongside the decline in discouraged job seekers does not represent a contradiction," he explained, noting that discouraged job seekers were those who had stopped looking for work, whereas unemployed persons were actively seeking employment.

Legislators heard that the decline in discouraged job seekers may indicate that more individuals had re-entered the labour market and resumed active job searches.

However, Mr Gaolathe explained that creating between 450 000 and 500 000 jobs over the next four years required deliberate and enabling economic environment.

First, he said it required higher levels of both public and private investment, with clear emphasis on crowding in private capital.

Secondly, he noted the need for faster, more diversified economic growth, including the expansion of productive sectors beyond traditional drivers.

Mr Gaolathe emphasised that this must be supported by stronger private sector participation, targeted support for SMEs and labour-absorbing value chains.

He further told Parliament that government was pursuing such conditions through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and the twelfth National Development Plan (NDP 12).

The BETP, he said had identified 186 projects across six economic priorities and was expected to unlock approximately P514 billion in cumulative investment and ultimately generating 512 000 jobs.

He also said that while employment levels had grown over time, labour force growth had continued to outpace job creation, placing upward pressure on unemployment.

Member of Parliament for Bobirwa, Mr Taolo Lucas, had asked for clarity on current unemployment rates, the distinction between unemployed persons and discouraged job seekers and the feasibility of government's job creation targets. **BOPA**

Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang has informed Parliament that a consultation process was ongoing to address grievances from Taxi and Combi Associations regarding high and increasing costs. He also said the ministry was also reviewing the Road Transport Permit Act to incorporate ride-hailing services such as Yango and inDrive into the national regulatory framework.



# Transport ministry to regulate ride-hailing and review permit fees

## GABORONE

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure is currently reviewing the Road Transport Permit Act to incorporate ride-hailing services like Yango and InDrive into the national regulatory framework.

Assistant Minister Mr Keoagile Atamelang informed Parliament in response to a question on Monday that while the current Act was silent on such digital platforms, the ministry was working to ensure that they operated under the same framework as local transport operators. Addressing grievances from Taxi and Combi Associations regarding

high and increasing costs, the assistant minister indicated that a consultation process was ongoing to address their concerns.

He explained that the current charges were classified as cost-recovery fees rather than profit-driven taxes.

He noted that the last official review of service fees was conducted in September 2021, adding 'despite limited resources, the ministry remains committed to providing timely service to the customer.'

To tackle delays in issuing temporary permits, the assistant minister highlighted that permits were intended to be issued over the counter and he acknowledged that

obsolete IT infrastructure had hindered efficiency. He further explained that permit processing was currently restricted to specific officers with delegated powers of the controller to maintain strict accountability and system security.

Again, he told Parliament that the ministry was also intensifying its crackdown on illegal transport operations, including conducting regular operations to target piracy and school buses operating without valid permits.

Under the Road Traffic Act, he said any vehicle alterations, including tinting, required written permission from the director while for public transport, tinting

must remain light enough to ensure visibility and safety of both drivers and passengers.

"Plans are underway to increase public education regarding the general safety of passenger service vehicles," he said.

Member of Parliament for Mmopane-Metsimotlhabe, Ms Helen Manyeneng had asked why permit processing was often delayed or restricted to single officials in certain offices.

Ms Manyeneng also raised concerns about the legal status of loaders at bus ranks and asked for a clear framework to level the playing field between local operators and international ride-hailing apps. **BOPA**

# Land allocation, disease control and agric. schemes dominate ministry budget debate

## Tebagano Ntshole GABORONE

Land allocation, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and the Lemang Dijo programme were the primary concerns raised by Members of Parliament during the debate on budget proposals for the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture for the 2026/27 financial year.

Contributing to the debate on Monday, MP for Mmopane-Metsimotlhabe, Ms Helen Manyeneng stated that lack of services had forced many Batswana to dispose of their undeveloped plots for fear of government repossession.

Ms Manyeneng requested that the youth be prioritised in land allocation, particularly for agricultural fields, to enable them to venture into agribusiness.

She also decried the high number of squatters in Mmopane, some of whom had reportedly connected water and electricity to their homes using fraudulent certificates. She argued that Land Boards should be dissolved, arguing that they had failed the nation in their mandate to allocate land.

However, she welcomed the establishment of the Green Climate Fund. Specially Elected

MP and Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo, urged the ministry to facilitate land for renewable energy projects.

Ms Kenewendo noted that solar parks could empower communities and provide electricity to areas currently off the national grid.

Regarding tourism, she highlighted the potential of the Boteti area, noting that with proper land servicing and development, it could rival the Chobe region due to its rivers and wildlife. She further lauded the Green Climate Fund for its role in enhancing the country's climate resilience and adaptive capabilities.

Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang, MP for Tswapong South, emphasised that agriculture had immense potential for economic diversification and job creation.

However, he questioned government's commitment to the sector, noting that a substantive minister had yet to be appointed.

Dr Gobotswang indicated that farmers nationwide were struggling with Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). He argued that vaccines were prohibitively expensive and called for government subsidies. Regarding FMD, he advocated for a bipartisan approach, calling the situation a national crisis.

He further noted that the P700 compensation fee was inadequate and required urgent review. On the technical side of farming, he argued that while artificial insemination improved cattle breeds, it however did not necessarily increase the national herd.

He called for the preservation of the indigenous Tswana breed due to its superior calving rates. Additionally, he highlighted the deplorable conditions faced by veterinary officers in Machaneng, citing lack of offices and transport.

He further argued that the Lemang Dijo had failed due to a late introduction and the reduction of subsidised ploughing size to just one hectare.

MP Gaefele Sedombo of Tonota noted that while the initiative was good, heavy rains and elephant crop destruction prevented farmers from fully utilising it.

MP Reason Lekutlane of Kgalagadi North complained that staff transfers from the Department of Crops in Kang had forced farmers to travel long distances just to collect seeds. MP Pheny Segokgo of Tlokeng called for a strict Return on Investment (ROI) for every Pula spent on development.

He urged government to ensure that

research findings did not gather dust but were used to modernise the sector. He also suggested that the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) be expanded to compete globally. Regarding housing, MP Segokgo proposed that youth received priority for Bonno houses and that the cost of the land be deducted from the total price, stating their right to free plots.

MP Karabo Gare of Moshupa-Manyana said the budget allocated was not enough to enable the country to be self-sustainable. He called on government to develop and maintain roads accessing production areas.

Responding to the debate, acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, assured MP Manyeneng that government was addressing the squatter issue in Mmopane, noting that certificates must be verified before services were provided.

Addressing the vaccine shortage, Dr Dikoloti encouraged farmers to form clusters to purchase Lumpy Skin Disease vaccines collectively, promising that the ministry would assist to navigate the current shortage in the international market.

He reiterated that Lemang Dijo remained a production-based programme designed to ensure food security. **BOPA**



# Daily Business

## Revised user service fees necessary

Lesedi Thatayamodimo  
GABORONE

The revision of user fees for services across the environmental sector forms part of the government's broader strategy to strengthen revenue mobilisation while ensuring affordability and sustainability.

This was said by Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi during a stakeholders consultative meeting in Gaborone recently.

Mr Mmolotsi said the country was experiencing severe economic contraction, largely due to declining diamond revenues, making the strengthening of revenue systems within the environmental and other sectors an urgent national priority.

He explained that the proposed

increases were necessitated by outdated fee structures, some of which had not been adjusted for many years.

"Waste management licence fees for waste carriers and waste facility operators have remained unchanged since their introduction in 2000," he said.

He added that the proposed increases were intended to generate additional revenue to cover operational costs, finance conservation initiatives and enhance

the ministry's monitoring and enforcement capacity.

To ensure the proposed fees remain relevant and sustainable, the minister suggested the formation of a joint task force comprising members from both the private sector and the ministry.

The task force, he said would guide the finalisation of the new fee structure to ensure the ministry thrived and contributed meaningfully to economic diversification, job creation and

national development.

Furthermore, Mr Mmolotsi said the objective of the consultative meeting was to reach a consensus that would benefit both government and the business community.

"It is the government's quest to deliver efficient and quality services to our stakeholders and to play our role in facilitating and promoting growth in both the environment and tourism sectors," he said.

A service provider, Mr Ernest Mokete, said the proposed implementation date of April 1 was too soon.

He noted that most businesses had already finalised their annual budgets at the beginning of the year, and the sudden adjustment would create financial strain as it had not been factored in.

Mr Jeff Khwarai said the ministry needed to ensure efficient and effective service delivery to justify the revised fees. **BOPA**

**'Waste management licence fees for waste carriers and waste facility operators have remained unchanged since their introduction in 2000.'**



*Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi during a consultative meeting with stakeholders in the environment sector on the review of user and regulatory fees in Gaborone recently.*

*He explained that that Botswana's charges were significantly lower compared to counterparts in Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe and that the proposed increases were necessitated by outdated fee structures, some of which had not been adjusted for many years.*

*Photo: Tshoganetso Mokowe*

## Second phase of FMD vaccinations starts today

Goweditse Kome  
MASUNGA

The second phase of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination and surveillance is scheduled to commence on March 4 in zones 3c and 6b, following the successful completion of the initial phase, where all vaccinated cattle will now undergo rigorous clinical inspections.

This was announced by principal veterinary officer at the FMD local command centre, Dr Thito Seomile recently briefing the North East District meeting on the progress of the first phase.

Dr Seomile reported satisfactory herd immunity levels across Zone 6b, North of Bisoli Farm where about 7 400 cattle were vaccinated representing 90.9 per cent coverage and 8 700 or 93.4 per cent in Zone 3c in Maitengwe.

He added that with respect to surveillance, 10 kilometres radius had been done and 1 287

cattle were inspected and was still ongoing as in the 20 kilometres radius a few were left out.

"The only difference there is that the 20km radius in zone 6a there has been an increase in the number of livestock amounting to over 6 700 cattle inspected for any signs of FMD," he said, adding the rest of zone 6a had not been surveyed due to shortage of resources both staff and vehicle.

He also indicated that inspections extended beyond cattle to including indicator species, such as 450 goats, 10 sheep and pigs in the Jackalas I area.

"The clinical inspection was based on the indicator species except for Jackalas I where inspection of over 450 goats was done, 10 sheep and pigs," he said.

Furthermore, he said efforts were being channelled into the FMD blockade to prevent further spread and 70km of fencing had been maintained, with 300km patrolled and 16km of bush clearing

completed.

He said a decision had been made to hire 180 casual labourers, 30 from each local village, to prioritise the 3c fence running from Vakaranga, Kgari, Pole, Mosojane, Letsholathebe, Vukwi, Kalakamati to Goshwe.

On one hand, Dr Seomile said six cattle were destroyed after straying into Zimbabwe, with owners receiving P700 compensation per animal while surveillance also showed that there were more Botswana-owned livestock remaining across the border.

He stated that 13 out of 25 villages had formed mephato or community groups, to assist with fence patrols and livestock management, adding they however still needed urgent mobilisation of the remaining communities by leaders.

Also, he indicated that while some regulations had been relaxed, strict controls remain in place to protect the industry and

animal products may move from Francistown into zones 3c and 6b, but the reverse was strictly prohibited.

Dr Seomile also said although meat movement had been relaxed, bush slaughter remained illegal and all slaughter must occur at authorised abattoirs in zones 4a, 4b, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

He also said a committee had been activated to inspect butcheries in North East and Francistown to ensure meat originated from approved zones.

He said inspections of the Tati ranches near Francistown ranches, revealed many ranch fences were in a dilapidated state, thus owners were urged to urgently repair them.

To sustain daily operations and complete the surveillance of Zone 6a, Dr Seomile emphasised the need for additional heavy equipment, including 4x4 vehicles, six dozers, six caterpillars and four Tractor-Loader-Backhoes (TLBs). **BOPA**

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Namibia launches FMD task force

WINDHOEK

Namibia recently launched a national Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Task Force and an accompanying FMD Support Fund to safeguard its about US\$945 million livestock industry, which supports the livelihoods of about 70 per cent of the population. Speaking at the launch in Namibia, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Inge Zaamwani said the initiatives aimed to strengthen the country's surveillance, early detection and rapid response to FMD, a highly contagious livestock disease increasingly reported in neighboring countries. The fund will support targeted vaccination campaigns in high-risk areas, reinforce veterinary cordon fences and enhance border biosecurity. **Xinhua**

#### Transition to renewable energy key

HARARE

As Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states seek to bolster energy security, forging partnerships with China, a global leader in green energy deployment, remains crucial, senior officials have said. Addressing the SADC Sustainable Energy Week recently held in Zimbabwe, SADC Executive Secretary Elias Magosi noted the region's energy deficiency, saying energy security and universal access remained fundamental enablers of regional integration, industrialisation, and sustainable economic growth. Magosi said coal-fired plants still dominated the region's installed electricity capacity, accounting for 59 per cent of generation, while hydropower contributes 24 per cent. With about 56 per cent of the population having access to electricity, Magosi stressed the need to explore a broad range of technologies to boost energy security and sustainability. **Xinhua**

#### Kenya records spike in Chinese tourists

NAIROBI

Kenya has witnessed a significant rise in the number of Chinese tourists visiting to enjoy its scenic attractions, including wildlife and sandy beaches, a senior tourism official has said. June Chepkemei, chief executive officer of the Kenya Tourism Board, a state-owned tourism marketing agency, said on Friday that a targeted outreach to Chinese travelers has paid off, injecting vitality into the East African country's hospitality sector. "Overall, in the year 2024, we saw about four million Chinese visiting the continent, and Kenya received about 100,000 of them," Chepkemei said during an interview with Xinhua in Kenya. The number of Chinese tourists visiting Kenya in February rose significantly due to the Chinese Spring Festival holiday, she said. **Xinhua**

# Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

## Ipapatse Fa Leletsa

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

## Kenalemang o itlama go somarela ngwao ka bodiragatsi

GUMARE

Rre Kapaletswe Kenalemang(41) yo o itsegeng ka leina Namane ya Kubu mo go tsa bodiragatsi go tswa kwa Kajaja 2 kwa kgaolong ya Okavango ke mongwe wa Batswana ba ba somaretseng puo ya Setswana gore e seka ya nyelela.

Rre Kenalemang o tswa kgakala le tsa poko e a dumelang ele mpho e a e filweng ke Modimo ka e bile le ba lelwapa la gagwe jaaka rraagwe e ne e e mmoki.

A re o leboga barutabana bangwe ba gagwe kwa sekoleng se segolwane jaaka Rre Tebogo Mogaetsho le Mme Masego Ntshonga ka go bo ba ne ba lemoga bokgeleke jwa gagwe jwa puo ya Setswana mme ba mo rotloetsa go e tsaya tsia.

Le fa go ntse jalo Rre Kenalemang o ne a simolola go tsaya talente ya gagwe ya poko ka tlhwaafalo ka ngwaga wa 2011 o ne a tsenelela dikgaisano tsa banana tsa ngwaga le ngwaga tsa botaki le bodiragatsi mo lethakoring la tsa poko.

A re o ne a bula khampani ya gagwe ya bodiragatsi ya Lekuka La Di Tswa-Ganong.

Rre Kenalemang a re ka thotloetso ya ga Rre Lebotse Chelane o ne a simolola go kwala leboko la ntlha le le bitswang Kgosi Kealetile Moremi ka ngwaga wa 2017 go lemoga Kgosi Kealetile yo o neng ele motshwarela bogosi jwa Batawana ka nako eo.

Ka jalo a re ka lesego o ne a kgona go gatisa buka ya gagwe e e bidiwang *Lekuka La Di Tswa-Ganong* mo kgwedding ya Lwetse ngwaga o o fetileng kwa Nati's Publishers kwa Gaborone.

Buka eo e na le maboko a le masome a mararo le borataro a akaretsang go lemoga bakaka ba pele, le bopo la tlhologo jaaka Noka ya Okavango le dibetsa jaaka bolwetse jwa Covid-19.

Maboko mangwe a a fitlhelwang mo bukeng eo a tshwana le la ga *Rre Festus Mogae* go lemoga Tautona wa pele wa lefatshe la Botswana ka tiro e tona ya go lwantsha segajaja sa mogare wa HIV/AIDS, le boko le le bidiwang *Letsile Tebogo* yo eleng sekgantshwane sa mabelo, le boko la *Mma Afrika* go lemoga Mme Lesego Chombo go bo a dirile bontle kwa dikgaisanyong tsa Miss World le maboko a a lemogang mabutswapele a tsa sepolotiki jaaka *Rre Motsamai Mpho* le *Rre Joseph Kavindama* le a mangwe.

Rre Kenalemang a re maikaelelo a gagwe ke go somarela ngwao le puo ya Setswana gore di seka tsa nyelela ka jalo a re o na le lenaneo la go rutintsha baithuti kwa dikoleng ka puo ya Setswana bogolo jang kwa kgaolong ya Okavango ka ba sa dire sentle mo dituthong tsa Setswana.

A re o dira jalo asa lope dituelo a re baeteledipele ba dikole ba ka itshwaraganya le ene.

O tshalositse fa buka e tlaa ribololwa semmuso kgwedi ya Motsheganong e fela mo ngwageng ono kwa Maun. BOPA



Puso e abetse lefatshe la India matlotse ale boferabongwe a a isitsweng lefatshe leo bosheng. Se ke bontlha bongwe jwa lenaneo la tirisanyo mmogo ya pabalelo ya diphologolo e e tshegetsang maiteko a India a go busetsa mofuta o wa diphologolo, o o saleng o nyelela koo go tsweng 1952. Moemedi wa India mo Botswana, Rre Bharath Kumar Kuthati, o kaile fa mpho e, e tsile go nonotsha tshireletso ya diphologolo le tirisanyo mmogo magareng ga mafatshe oo mabedi. Senepe: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

## Ba kopa thuto e e tseneletseng ka molao motheo

Portia Rapisenyane

PALAPYE

Banni bangwe ba Palapye ba kopile puso go ruta ka kgotla ya ditsheko ya molao motheo le molao motheo ka kakaretso.

Ba buile se kwa phuthengong ee neng e buisiwa ke Mothusana tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, Rre Ignatius Moswaane kwa Palapye bosheng.

Mongwe wa banni, Rre Opelo Modimooaitse o kopile puso go rerisa le go ruta Batswana mo go tseneletseng ka



Rre Ignatius Moswaane

molao motheo.

Fa a akgela Rre Onalethata Letso o ne a supa fa a se kgatlhanong le go simololwa ga kgotla ya ditsheko ya molao-motheo mme a lemoga fa e ka thusa Batswana fela thata mme a dumalana le puso go e simolodisa.

O ne a supa fa ba ba senang madi a go itsheka ba ka ya gone kwa kgotla kgolo ya molao-motheo mme ba thusega.

Fa a ala kgang, Rre Moswaane o ne a tshala fa a buisitse diphutho di le mmalwa lefatshe ka bophara mme ka go tlhoka lesego, bangwe ba tsere lethakore kgatlhanong le kakanyetso ya go tlhoma kgotla ya ditsheko ya molao motheo.

A re morero o puso e lekodisang Batswana wa maikaelelo a go simolodisa kgotla ya ditsheko ya molao-motheo ga o tshwane le wa ditlhopho ko go ipatlelwang phatlha mme o tlhokana le kakanyo e le nngwe fela mo Batswaneng.

Rre Moswaane o ne a tshala fa e rile ka ngwaga wa 2022, go nnile le pego ya lekoko le le neng le romilwe ke Tautona wa pele Rre Mokgweetsi Masisi nako eo la go sekaseka molao-motheo wa lefatshe mme Batswana mo lefatshegong lotlhe ka bophara ba ne ba bua ka lentse le le lengwe fela ba kopa gore ba tlhomelwe kgotla kgolo ya molao-motheo.

A re komiti eo ya re e ise e boele kwa go Tautona, ya re yone ga e bone go tlhomiwa ga kgotla kgolo ya molao-motheo go tlhokafala mme potso ya nna gore ba tsaya kae dithata tseo ka kopo eo e ne e tswa mo Batswaneng.

O tshalositse fa kgotla ya ditsheko ya molao motheo e na le dithata di le dintsi tse di menaganeng.

Mothusa tona o tshalositse gape gore

lekgotla tshekelo la molao motheo e le lekgotla le le tlhomiwang go sireletsa le go okamela molao-motheo wa lefatshe, go tolakolola le go tlhalosa ka fa o ntseng ka teng le gore ga gona epe kgotla ya ditsheko e e kwa godimo ga yone ka jalo fa e tsere tshwetso e tsere tshwetso. O ne a fa sekai ka kgang ya rre wa letso la Sesarwa yo o neng a nna dingwaga di le tharo kwa lefelong la setsidifatsi.

A re kgang ya ngwana wa rre yoo ya go batla go mo robatsa kwa lefelong le a tlhologileng kwa go lone e ne ya seka ya atlega kwa kgotleng kgolo ya boikuelo ya ditsheko mme fa kgotla kgolo ya molao-motheo e ka bo e le teng, o ka bo a ne a e fetisetse teng gore e lebiwe sentle ka leitlho le le tseneletseng thata.

Rre Moswaane a re kgotla ya ditsheko ya molao-motheo e ka nna motshereganyi e bile e ka neela Batswana tshiamelo ka go na le Batswana ba le bantsi ba kopa dilo dingwe mme dikeletso tsa bone di sa diragadiwe.

O ne a tshala fa e bangwe Batswana ba reng puso e itebaganye le letlhoko la melemo le seemo sa thuto mme ba emise kgang ya mogopolo wa go simolodisa kgotla kgolo ya molao-motheo, a supa fa puso e tswelotse ka go itebaganya le diemo tsothle.

A re fa ba goroga mo pusong, ba gorogile ba fitlhela go na le seemo sone sa tlhalelo ya melemo le dipilisi mme puso ya felela e di ithekela, a supa fa mo nakong eno melemo le dipilisi di goroga mme di sa goroge ka bokete jo puso e batlang di goroga ka jone.

Dibui ka go farologana kwa phuthengong eo ba ne ba ntsha megopolo e e farologaneng ka maikaelelo a puso a go simolodisa kgotla ya ditsheko ya molao motheo. BOPA



Bokaa residents during kgotla meeting addressed by Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana on government's proposal to establish a Constitutional Court recently. Mr Ramaotwana assured them that the court would not be established immediately, noting that all legal processes, including a national referendum must first be completed before it could become operational.

## Concourt proposal sparks debate in Mabalane and Bokaa

Lindi Morwaeng  
BOKAA

Residents of Mabalane and Bokaa have expressed mixed reactions to government's proposal to establish a Constitutional Court (ConCourt), with some welcoming the move while others questioned its timing, motives and cost.

Speaking during kgotla meetings addressed by Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana on Friday, several speakers argued that a comprehensive constitutional review should precede the establishment of the court.

Mr Koti Molefi of Mabalane said while Batswana were not opposed to the Constitutional Court in principle, they believed the Constitution should first be thoroughly reviewed.

"If Constitutional Court is established first and makes certain rulings, those decisions will set precedents on the Constitution," he said.

Another resident, Mr Godfrey Lekgabe raised concerns that the court could be used to abolish the death penalty and protect convicted murderers.

Ms Kgomotso Radibe, also from Mabalane, expressed appreciation for the minister's engagement with residents, saying the explanations had helped them better understand the role and importance of the proposed court.

In Bokaa, some residents expressed concerns about the timing and cost of the nationwide consultations.

One resident, Ms Motshidisi Mogotsi, questioned the need for physical kgotla meetings which she said was a very expensive exercise.

Others voiced fears that the President's powers to appoint judges could compromise the court's independence.

They said they suspected that the judges would pledge allegiance to the President and not to the nation, which would compromise their work. They thus pleaded for the court to operate independently.

However, not all were opposed to the initiative. Mr Peter Tau supported the idea in principle, describing the Constitutional Court as a potential "referee" in critical national matters.

He urged government to intensify public education on the Constitution so that citizens could better understand its provisions and implications.

Several residents called for broader civic education before the court was fully implemented.

Others appealed to government to halt the process and instead focus on a comprehensive constitutional review.

Some participants also cited examples from other African countries where constitutional courts exist but alleged human rights violations persisted, arguing that the establishment of such a court did not automatically guarantee improved human rights protection.

Conversely, other residents welcomed the development, noting that many citizens have experienced human rights violations without adequate avenues for appeal. They said the Constitutional Court could provide an additional platform for justice, especially for individuals who believed they were wrongly convicted.

Addressing the gatherings, Minister Ramaotwana explained that the establishment of the Constitutional Court required an amendment of Chapter 6 of the Constitution to formally incorporate it into the hierarchy of the courts.

He said the amendment would enable the court to focus specifically on matters relating to fundamental human rights and constitutional interpretation.

"The Constitutional Court will be an independent arbiter on constitutional issues and will play an important role during the broader constitutional review process," he said.

Mr Ramaotwana clarified that unlike the High Court and the Court of Appeal, which were courts of general jurisdiction dealing with criminal and civil matters, the Constitutional Court would be a specialised

court dedicated to constitutional issues.

He added that the court would help address existing gaps and limitations within the justice system, allowing citizens to bring constitutional matters directly before it rather than waiting in case backlogs that could take three to four years to be resolved.

The minister assured residents that the Constitutional Court would not be established immediately, noting that all legal processes, including a national referendum must first be completed before it could become operational. **BOPA**

## Leporung farmer loses big and receives charge



A farmer in Leporung, Mr Othusitse Tsamaesi, lost all his 20 cattle and might earn himself a charge not exceeding P5 000 or five years imprisonment for contravening the Animal Disease Control Act Chapter 37:01. The incident occurred after Mr Tsamaesi allegedly cut the cordon fence last Thursday night to allow his cow to cross into Botswana from neighbouring South Africa, where cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) have been reported. Acting Principal Veterinary Officer, Mr Montlamedi Keboitse said Mr Tsamaesi's cattle were destroyed in line with FMD control measures to prevent the potential spread of the disease. Photo: Aobakwe Molefi

Aobakwe Molefhi  
LEPORUNG

A farmer in Leporung has lost all his 20 cattle and might earn himself a charge not exceeding P5 000 or five years imprisonment for contravening the Animal Disease Control Act chapter 37:01.

This comes after the said farmer, Mr Othusitse Tsamaesi, illegally cut the cordon fence on Thursday night for his cow to cross into Botswana from neighbouring South Africa where numerous cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) had been reported.

According to Mr Tsamaesi, he received a report that his cow had been spotted in the South African side of the cordon fence.

Despite knowing that FMD control protocols prohibit animals from infected areas back into green zones, he went ahead and cut the fence to herd his animal back to its kraal.

Through numerous kgotla meetings that were held in our village, we were told about

the dangers of FMD, I do not know what got into me to do what I did, Mr Tsamaesi confessed.

Veterinary officers were on Friday, alerted by cluster police that a certain man was suspected to have cut the cordon fence and tracked his animal from an infected area into the country and in an area that was disease free.

Acting Principal Veterinary Officer, Mr Montlamedi Keboitse, explained that they were able to apprehend the culprit who confessed that indeed he had cut the cordon fence and tracked one of his animals to his farm to join others.

He said for violating FMD control measures, Mr Tsamaesi would be fined and all the cattle in his kraal destroyed.

"We have decided to destroy all the cattle in the kraal since we do not know the status of the cow which was brought in from South Africa," he said.

Mr Keboitse said cutting the cordon fence contravened the animal disease control act

and was damage to government property and

He said what happened put the entire Zone, II which stretched from the South of Botswana all the way Kuke gate and Dibete in risk because even if just one animal tested positive for FMD, the whole area would be declared a red zone, and Botswana would lose the lucrative European Union market.

The worst case scenario, he said was that if all the animals in Zone II were to be killed, restocking would be a challenge because the Northern zone had been restocking with cattle acquired from the Southern part of the country.

The Botswana Meat Commission too is at high risk because it would close down, and jobs would be lost in the process.

So far, at least 68 cattle belonging to Batswana have been destroyed after they were found in the red zone.

Mr Keboitse stated that Leporung and Phitshane villagers were habitual perpetrators. **BOPA**

# Arts & Culture

## Gaolaolwe carves path in music industry

Keetile Bontsibokae

### MOLEPOLOLE

Born Oliver Gaolaolwe in Kang, 'Oliver The Poet' is a rising star whose artistry transcends borders.

He first captured continental attention by winning the inaugural Africa Music Challenge in Lagos, Nigeria, in 2021.

Now, the multi-talented artist has unveiled his long-awaited debut album, *Tshenolo*, a 10-track collection available on digital platforms, brimming with songs of healing, hope, and cultural pride.

The album features standout tracks such as, *Lenyalo*, *Kgalalele*, *Moxuthu*, and *Africa*.

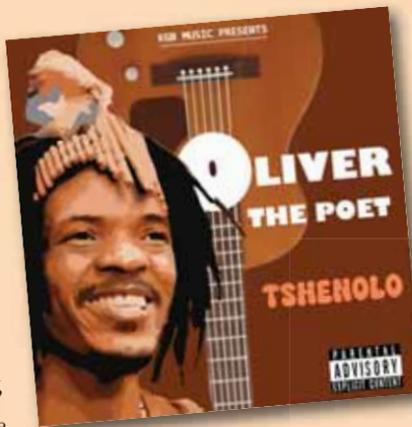
It was engineered at KGB Music Recording and Publishing, a label Oliver co-founded with sound engineer and producer, Kopano 'Berry Bone' Boduwe.

Their creative partnership, built on brotherhood and trust, has allowed Oliver to express his artistic vision boldly and with confidence.

"Berry Bone taps into my world while I try to communicate in human language," Gaolaolwe explained, praising his collaborator's ability to bring his ideas to life.

Despite economic challenges that slowed opportunities, Gaolaolwe remains undeterred.

He describes *Tshenolo* as an



album that will "brighten your day" and insists his mission is to inspire Africa's youth.

"I want to show youngsters that it is possible to make it happen, even if you are

Looking ahead, Gaolaolwe reveals that his second and third albums are nearly complete, awaiting video shoots and final touches.

His dream is expansive: to heal broken souls, reach the world's most influential platforms, and prove that Setswana music can resonate globally.

"I want to make a difference in every child," he said, strumming his guitar with

quiet determination.

His journey, from poetry and local competitions to continental recognition, is a testament to resilience, creativity, and cultural pride.

As he continues to carve his path, one thing is clear Gaolaolwe is not just making music; he is shaping a movement of hope and authenticity for Africa and beyond.

**BOPA**

## Art troupe introduces Ghanaians to dimensions of Chinese culture

### ACCRA

A Chinese art troupe from the Anhui Performing Arts Group joined Ghanaian students on Friday to showcase rich Chinese cultural performances.

The cultural exchange event, held at the Confucius Institute at the University of Ghana in Accra, featured spectacular Chinese cultural dances, the renowned dramatic face-changing show in which performers instantly switch masks, and the melodious performance of traditional Huangmei Opera.

The audience was also captivated by Chinese acrobatics, the lion dance, Chinese rap music, and many other performances.

"Cultural exchange is essential, so the Anhui Performing Arts Group came here to showcase Chinese culture to our students, especially

the Anhui culture, which is very famous in China," the institute's Chinese director, Liu Baijun told Xinhua.

Director and general manager of the Anhui Provincial Opera and Dance Theater, Lin Ling, said performing in Ghana was a wonderful experience.

"Through every melody and every dance move, we hope to enhance the relations between China and Ghana," Lin said. Senior Chinese language and linguistics student at the University of Ghana, Clara Ningson, lauded the visiting group from China's Anhui Province for the wonderful performances, which introduced Ghanaians to new and diverse dimensions of Chinese culture. Ningson said the combination of language and culture boosts the ability of students to learn the Chinese language faster and more easily. *Xinhua*

marginalised," he says with conviction.

Self-taught and self-inspired, Gaolaolwe picked up a four-string guitar in 2017, crafting a sound deeply rooted in Botswana's culture yet resonant across generations.

"I am my own role model. The music I play is me in every way," he reflects.

His refusal to be confined by genre, whether jazz, hip hop, or otherwise, has resulted in a unique style that audiences embrace regardless of tribe or background.

Beyond music, Gaolaolwe wears many hats: author, composer, and storyteller. His achievements include co-founding the Jive Africa Annual Music Festival in Botswana and contributing to the Africa Empire Warrior Sportainment Series, where his song *Being* became the theme track.

He has graced major cultural festivals such as Madikwe and Son of the Soil.

Oliver Gaolaolwe aka Oliver The Poet has unveiled his long-awaited debut album, *Tshenolo*, a 10-track collection available on digital platforms.



## Acrobatic team wraps up performance with theatrical flair

### BARCELONA

A Chinese acrobatic troupe wrapped up its performances on Monday at a major international circus festival held in Spain.

At the International Circus Festival Gold Elephant in Girona,

northeastern Spain, held from February 26 to March 2, the Jiangsu Yancheng Jianhu Acrobatic Troupe impressed audiences with a dazzling blend of precision, rhythm and mid-air acrobatics.

Their programme, featuring teeterboard and trampoline acts,

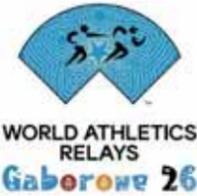
sent performers into synchronised flips and rapid aerial rotations, drawing audible gasps and prolonged applause. One segment featured two artists juggling umbrellas, a classic element of Chinese acrobatics, blending technical difficulty with theatrical flair.

One of the performers, Gao Yuanjie, said he felt nervous at first but was encouraged by the audience's enthusiastic response.

"For me, performing in Europe for the first time is very meaningful," Gao said. Jianhu, a county in Yancheng City in

east China's Jiangsu Province, is widely regarded as one of the birthplaces of the southern school of Chinese acrobatics. Listed as part of China's national intangible cultural heritage, Jiangsu acrobatics continue to evolve while preserving their traditional essence. *Xinhua*

# DailySport



**Ticket Prices**

**GOLD STAND**  
Grandstand North with a clear view of the final lap of the 100m):

**Day 1 – \$120**  
(approximately BWP1598)

**Day 2 onwards – \$150**  
(approximately BWP1986)



## Four athletes challenge doping results

Anastacia Sibanda  
**GABORONE**

A case in which four athletes Refilwe Murangi, Zibani Ngozi, Karabo Mothibi and Lydia Jele are questioning the credibility and authenticity of their positive doping results will return to court on April 20 for a further status hearing.

Tshepang Makwati, representing the quartet, said they had previously approached the court demanding direct access to Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS).

He said they were pleading to be allowed to have their own credentials, a username and password to access the system.

He explained that during earlier engagements, the respondents only allowed them to view the system on their laptops.

“That is not what the system is about. It is about being given proper access,” Makwati said.

He added that both parties were

now on the same page and would return to court on April 20 to provide an update on progress.

Pako Moakofi, a legal representative of the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and the National Anti-Doping Organisation said they opposed the application filed by the athletes.

Already, he said they had made the ADAMS available to the athletes. He said they had never denied them access. He said the matter had been postponed to April 20 to give the athletes ample time to review the system.

Moakofi explained that ADAMS belonged to the World Anti-Doping Agency, but in the interim, they would facilitate the issuance of credentials to allow the athletes to access the system and verify their results.

In October, BNOC released a statement indicating that Mothibi and Ngozi had been provisionally suspended following positive



Counsel Tshepang Makwati (second right) engaging with athletes he is representing during a doping case at Gaborone High Court on Monday. The athletes are challenging their doping results and authenticity. The case is scheduled for a further status hearing on April 20.

Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

doping control test results.

Mothibi tested positive for stanozolol and oxymetholone, while Ngozi tested positive for norandrosterone and

methylhexaneamine.

Murangi was handed a three-year ban after testing positive for furosemide, a diuretic masking agent, and oxymetholone, an

anabolic androgenic steroid, while Jele was suspended for eight years after testing positive for stanozolol, a prohibited substance. **BOPA**

## Seven coaches off to Old Trafford for benchmarking



President Advocate Duma Boko (fourth right) with seven coaches selected to travel to Old Trafford for a benchmarking mission with Manchester United during their unveiling ceremony in Gaborone on Monday. President Boko said the coaches were chosen on merit and for their demonstrated dedication to the sport.

Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Anastacia Sibanda  
**GABORONE**

President Advocate Duma Boko has unveiled seven coaches for training and benchmarking mission at one of the top English Premier League sides, Manchester United.

The initiative follows a recent meeting between President Boko and Jim Ratcliffe of Manchester United during which discussions to empower local coaches were initiated.

The seven are Alex Maletle, who will serve as head of delegation, William Monene from Gaborone United, Edwin Moalosi of Township Rollers, Seemo Mpatane from Jwaneng Galaxy, Godfrey Ranthoka of Eyes on the Ball in Palapye, Thatayaone Sonny from TAFIC FC and Kesego Kgaudi of Makgabz City in Tsabong.

Speaking at the unveiling session in Gaborone on Monday, President Boko said the coaches were selected based on merit and their dedication over time.

He stressed the importance of young players development, saying it was critical to the success of any football league or national team.

He said there was no team or nation that could succeed without a development structure, adding that early player development was essential in building muscle memory and long-term performance.

He further stressed the importance of incentivising the private sector to invest in sport, including grassroots development.

For his part, Maletle thanked President Boko for the good gesture, adding that it would also motivate them to do more.

He said going to Manchester United was a life changing opportunity that they would forever cherish and they would use to inspire the next generation **BOPA**