

# BOTSWANA Daily News

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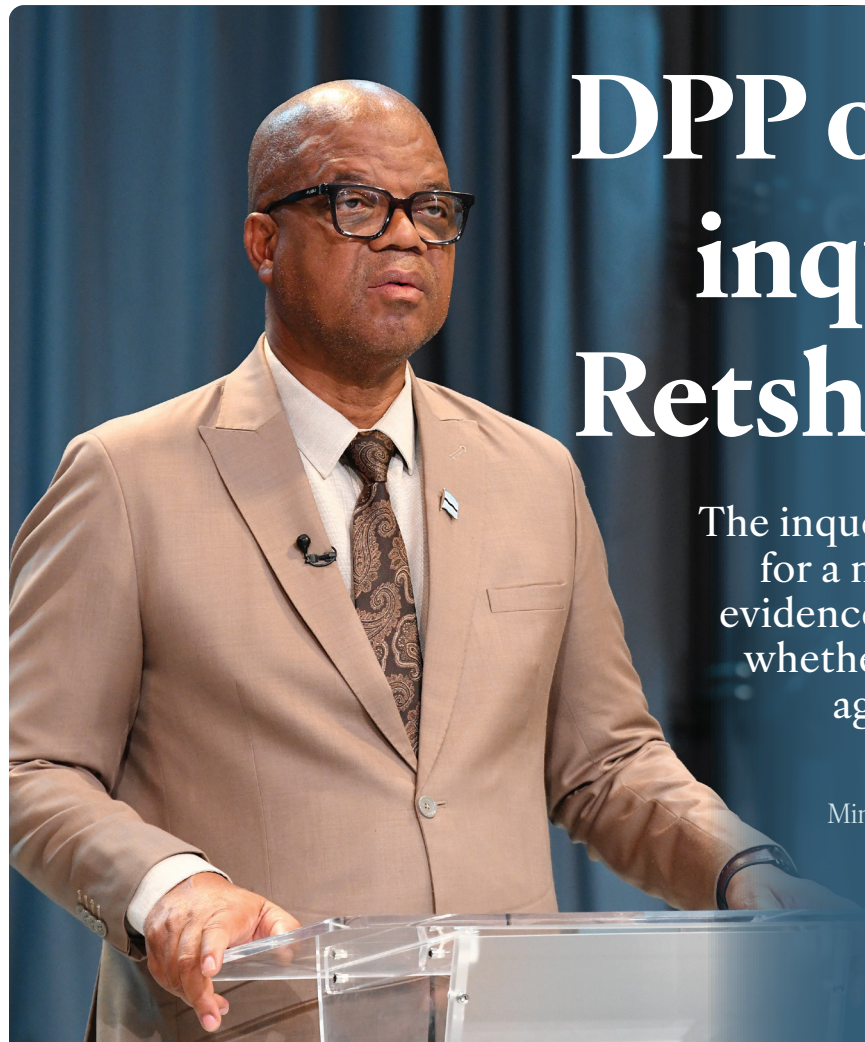
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The inquest will provide opportunity for a magistrate to examine all evidence presented and determine whether a prima facie case exist against any individual.

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa

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## Kgatleng ramps up preparedness for Ebola

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# Kgatleng ramps up preparedness for Ebola

Mmoniemang Motsamai  
**MOCHUDI**

Following recent outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda, Kgatleng District is ramping up preparedness and enhancing surveillance.

As of last week the district authorities have implemented strict border screenings at Sikwane port of entry.

During the Kgatleng District authorities meeting recently,

District Public Health Physician, Dr Leungo Rainer said frontline workers were alert and that district health response committees had also been resuscitated and strengthened.

"We are ready for rapid response and we have also started engaging communities," she said.

As Kgatleng District is also a transit route, Dr Rainer said it was important that Ebola protocols be strengthened at Artesia, where there was a high flow of truck

drivers with a significant number of non-citizens.

In that regard, she said screening would be conducted at Artesia, where long haulage trucks packed for rest and during curfew hours.

She said screening included evaluating travelers at points of entry and assessing patients in clinical settings to prevent virus spread.

"We rely on a combination of approaches, including travel history questionnaires, symptom

checks, temperature monitoring, and, if necessary molecular diagnostic tests," she said.

Dr Rainer emphasised that it was a requisite for health officials to thoroughly check travel history especially if travelers had visited or transited through Ebola-affected areas such as parts of the DRC, Uganda and others, within the last 21 days

However, she also cautioned strict adherence at check points as some travelers may be dishonest,

therefore emphasised the need to check their travel documents thoroughly.

Kgatleng District Commissioner, Mr Innocent Maotwe also called on district authorities and health officials to routinely align in order for swift response and preparedness for Ebola.

He also emphasised that screening protocols should be followed as prescribed and that the communities be sensitised. **BOPA**

## Hunyepa engages Tati West schools on challenges

Goweditsew Kome  
**MASUNGA**

School transfer issues remain a major challenge and a source of frustration for teachers across the country, says Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa.

Speaking on Monday to the staff of Masunga Senior Secondary School, Maenjani Junior Secondary School, Kalakamati Primary School, and Sekakangwe Primary School, Mr Hunyepa noted that these challenges had escalated to the point where school authorities were refusing to approve negotiated swapping arrangements between teachers.

He indicated that those in authority frequently decline swapping requests without reasonable grounds, even though such transfers could be effected immediately.

Resolving these requests fairly, he noted, could significantly reduce the current discontent within the teaching profession.

"Worse still, there are no promotions. As we speak right now, thousands of teachers are stuck at the CI salary scale with nowhere to move," he said, adding that current prospects for promotion remained bleak.

Mr Hunyepa stated that some teachers had stagnated at the CI scale for nearly 20 years despite

performing exceptionally well.

Turning to student behavior, the assistant minister emphasised that a teacher's work built directly on the foundation parents laid at home, particularly regarding discipline.

"If parents do not play their part at home, it becomes a heavy burden and a source of stress for teachers. Some parents even call on teachers to discipline their children through corporal punishment at school because they have failed to do so at home," he said.

He stressed that if children were mismanaged at home, it was nearly impossible for teachers to correct them at school, as character foundations began with the family.

Regarding the accommodation crisis, Mr Hunyepa acknowledged that housing shortages affected almost all schools, adding that most existing staff houses were dilapidated and needed maintenance.

"Teachers deserve good living conditions, decent salaries, proper housing, and clean, modern classrooms," he said.

He noted that ceilings were currently collapsing in some schools, while bats had overrun both classrooms and staff quarters.

To this end the assistant minister stated that the government had established the Education



Masunga Senior Secondary School staff during an address by Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa in Masunga on Monday. He said government had set up Education Infrastructure Management Company which would be responsible for maintenance, renovation and construction of schools in the country. Photo: Goweditsew Kome

Infrastructure Management Company (EIMC) to address these systemic issues.

The entity will be responsible for the maintenance, renovation, and construction of schools nationwide.

The schools' top brass highlighted an acute shortage of staff accommodation, classrooms, furniture, office space,

severe shortage of textbooks and learning materials and vacant posts that have left multiple classes unattended.

The Acting School Head for Masunga Senior Secondary School, Mr Rashoro Rebabedi, stated that the institution was grappling with a lack of hot bathing water for boarding students, which was destabilising

the school routine.

Other staff members urged the minister to fill existing vacancies using temporary teachers, noting that these positions were already budgeted for.

They also emphasised the need to fill vacancies created by retirements and transfers promptly to avoid learning disruptions. **BOPA**

## Over 5 000 vulnerable persons rely on welfare support in Kweneng

Lindi Morwaeng  
**MOLEPOLOLE**

More than 5 300 vulnerable people in Kweneng District currently depend on government social welfare programmes for survival.

Addressing a full council session recently, Council Chairperson, Mr Ontefetse Rankhibidu painted a sobering picture of social vulnerability in the district, revealing that thousands continued to rely on safety net programmes.

"The district is presently supporting 5 312 beneficiaries

through various welfare initiatives, including 3 406 destitute persons, 868 needy students, 1 033 orphans and vulnerable children, 154 children in need of protection, 19 community home-based care clients and 32 foster care children. At the same time, council is handling 345 social protection cases at different stages," he said.

Mr Rankhibidu said children remained among the most vulnerable, with neglect and sexual abuse cases emerging as dominant concerns.

He said the district authorities were grappling with rising cases

of child neglect and defilement.

According to Councillor Rankhibidu, child neglect accounted for 79 cases, while defilement stands at 62 cases, making them the most prevalent social protection issues confronting the district.

He said addressing neglect, malnutrition and vulnerability remained central to improving wellbeing across the district.

An increase in the number of children requiring care has also been observed, something authorities attribute largely to neglect and malnutrition cases.

"The district is deeply

committed to providing essential services to vulnerable community members," Mr Rankhibidu said.

Despite the challenges, he said council reported some positive movement, noting that destitution had declined by 177 cases, representing a 3.2 per cent reduction since the previous sitting.

He stated that officials believed the decrease may be linked to an ongoing data cleansing exercise.

Meanwhile, uncertainty over food support systems has emerged following the end of government's arrangement with Smart Switch Botswana for provision of food

rations through the coupon system in March this year.

To avoid disruption of assistance to vulnerable households, councils have been authorised to develop alternative models.

As a result, Kweneng District Council is now transitioning toward a cash transfer model, which is believed may offer beneficiaries greater flexibility and dignity in accessing necessities.

In the interim, Mr Rankhibidu said Kweneng District Council has sought permission to continue using Smart Switch services until the end of June to ensure uninterrupted support. **BOPA**

# Boko praises Belgium ties

Lesedi Thatayamodimo  
**GABORONE**

President Advocate Duma Boko has hailed the long-standing relations between Botswana and Belgium, describing the partnership as instrumental in the growth of Botswana's diamond industry and broader development efforts.

Speaking during a farewell courtesy call by outgoing Belgian Ambassador Paul Jansen, in Gaborone recently, President Boko acknowledged the ambassador's contributions and dedication during his four-year tenure.

He commended him for strengthening bilateral relations and fostering mutual understanding between the two countries.

President Boko said Botswana and Belgium had enjoyed strong diplomatic relations since 1975, with cooperation particularly evident in the diamond sector through the Antwerp diamond industry.

He noted that the partnership had helped Botswana achieve

significant milestones in the diamond industry and applauded Belgium's support in promoting local value addition, including diamond cutting, polishing and traceability.

"The relationship has been seamless and has brought positive cooperation in agriculture and the diplomatic space," said President Boko.

He further expressed gratitude for opportunities provided to Botswana students and professionals training in Belgium, saying such exchanges continued to strengthen ties between the two nations.

President Boko also praised the twinning arrangement between Francistown and the Belgian city of Genk, noting that the partnership continued to grow and benefit both cities.

"We want the relationship to keep on growing," he said.

On the growing impact of synthetic diamonds on the global market, President Boko said the industry must strengthen marketing and promotion efforts to protect natural diamonds.



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and Belgium Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Paul Jansen during a farewell courtesy call at the Office of the President recently. President Boko commended Ambassador Jansen for strengthening bilateral relations and fostering mutual understanding between the two countries during his four year tenure. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

He compared the situation to France's protection of champagne branding, saying natural diamonds should receive similar recognition.

"Just as the French say if it does not come from France it is not Champagne, if diamonds are not natural, they should not simply be called diamonds, synthetic diamonds should find their own name," he said.

President Boko also highlighted Belgium's vast potential for further collaboration across various sectors and said Botswana counted on Belgium's continued support in promoting the natural diamond

industry globally.

He thanked Ambassador Jansen for his remarkable work in linking the two countries and expressed hope that his successor would continue building on the strong foundation already established.

The President wished Ambassador Jansen well as he prepared to hand over responsibilities, emphasising the importance of continuity in diplomatic missions.

For his part, Ambassador

Jansen expressed gratitude for the hospitality extended to him during his stay in Botswana, describing the country as beautiful and highlighting attractions such as Chobe and the Okavango Delta.

He said Belgium had contributed significantly to Botswana's development through Antwerp and the diamond sector.

Cooperation between the two countries remain strong and mutually beneficial, Ambassador Jansen said. **BOPA**

## Prudence and foresight vital for stability

Gontle Merafhe  
**GABORONE**

It takes strict management of resources to weather the prevailing economic storm and enhance future stability, Minister for State President, Defence and Security Mr Moeti Mohwasa has said. Speaking at the 9<sup>th</sup> Thuto SACCOS 2026 Annual General Meeting in Gaborone recently, he said true stability came from continuous financial literacy and offering returns that made member savings worthwhile.

"I am very pleased to note your Premium Savings Account, which promotes fixed deposits attracting a highly competitive annual interest rate of slightly over 10 per cent. I urge every member here to embrace the culture of saving, no matter how small the amount,

because the little you set aside today, secures your tomorrow," he buttressed.

Mr Mohwasa said the SACCOS movement could undeniably be a primary engine for national economic transformation, massive job creation and poverty alleviation if managed well.

Historically, he said cooperative societies were formed by rural struggling, yet, deeply enterprising communities.

"They fostered the spirit of collaboration, raised livelihoods and left an enduring legacy of self-reliance long before and during our diamond boom," said Mr Mohwasa.

But today, the minister said the same spirit of community enterprise was poised to serve the modern generation well, as a powerful catalyst for economic diversification.

For her part, the outgoing Thuto SACCOS chairperson, Ms Karabo Morule-Segobye, said domestic and global pressures had occasionally pushed figures higher as they endured high inflation, directly impacting households by eroding purchasing power and increasing the cost of daily essentials.

Ms Morule-Segobye said Thuto SACCOS had remained an anchor of stability.

"Our strategic focus has been to ensure the society remains operationally self-sufficient while continuing to provide constant real benefits to you, our members," she said.

By carefully managing capital structure, Ms Morule-Segobye said they had shielded their members from the harshest economic shocks, ensuring that their savings

continued to work for them.

She also said their performance over the last fiscal year was a testament to their collective strength.

She further said that Thuto SACCOS had achieved a level of fiscal precision that placed them at the forefront of the cooperative movement.

"In terms of capital assets, our total actual assets reached P141 535 018 representing a 96.7 per cent achievement of our strategic target. In terms of revenue generation, we realised a total revenue of P22 999 752 aligning with our budget at a remarkable precision rate of 99.99 per cent. This revenue growth is the engine that allows us to fund our operations and also return value to you," she declared.

Ms Morule-Segobye said they were looking to expand the common bond and proposed opening it to cater for the nuclear family thereby making their society more inclusive by allowing the benefits of digital cycles to extend to member spouses and children as well as improving the well-being of member families.

Thuto SACCOS boasts of close to 7 000 members who are civil servants and retired civil servants.

The 2026 AGM culminated with Executive and Supervisory committees elections which saw Mr Charles Keikotlhae assuming the office of chairperson while Mr Layani Elias took office of assistant chairperson.

Other newly elected members include, Ms Dorah Letsholo, Mr Mthusi Sekgetle, Mr Lucky Lekote, Ms Kobontle Kgakge, Mr Knowledge Basupi and Ms Mpho Kabelo. **BOPA**

## DPP orders open inquest into Retshepile death

Lesedi Thatayamodimo  
**GABORONE**

The death of Retshepile "Tshepi" Tshedu is set to come under public judicial scrutiny after the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) directed that an open inquest be held.

The move to hold an inquest marks a significant phase in a case that has attracted widespread public attention and calls for accountability.

Addressing the nation through public media platforms on Tuesday, the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa confirmed that investigations into matter were complete and the case docket with all the evidence had been submitted to the DPP for an independent assessment.

"Following what was described as an exhaustive and meticulous legal evaluation, the DPP has now determined that the matter should proceed to an open inquest," Mr Mohwasa said. He explained that the decision would take immediate effect through the formal registration of the case with the Magistrate's Court.

According to Mr Mohwasa, the inquest would provide an opportunity for a magistrate to examine all evidence presented and determine whether a prima facie case existed against any individual.

He added that the magistrate would also assess whether criminal charges should be recommended based on the evidence brought before the court.

In a move aimed at promoting transparency and strengthening public confidence in the justice system, Mr Mohwasa said the proceedings would be open to the

public. He noted that the inquest would serve as an official legal forum where members of the public and other individuals with relevant information or material evidence may submit such information for judicial consideration.

He further indicated that regular administrative updates would be provided as the matter transitioned from the investigative phase into the judicial process.

At the same time, Mr Mohwasa urged members of the public, civil society organisations and the media to exercise restraint and respect the sensitivity of the case, particularly because it involved a minor child.

He cautioned against public speculation, trial by media and unauthorised disclosure of information that could compromise witnesses, affect the integrity of evidence or violate legal protections afforded to minors.

"Our government's commitment to safeguarding children, ensuring accountability and upholding the rule of law remains steadfast," he said. Mr Mohwasa expressed confidence in the judicial process, describing it as deliberate, disciplined and guided by the principles of fairness and justice. He also acknowledged the grief experienced by Retshepile's family and called for national unity and patience as the courts undertake their work.

"Let us maintain calm, respect the constitutional mandates of our institutions, and allow this judicial process to deliver the truth and accountability that our people seek," he said.

The date for the commencement of the inquest is expected to be announced following the completion of the court registration process. **BOPA**

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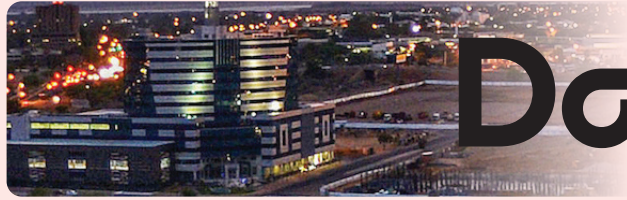
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# DailyBusiness

## Skills shortage threaten investment drive

Lorato Gaofise  
GABORONE

Botswana's plans to attract foreign investment and transform its economy are being undermined by a growing shortage of critical skills, a challenge that government now considers one of the biggest obstacles to national development.

This was said by the Ministry of Higher Education permanent secretary, Professor Richard Tabulawa, during a courtesy call paid on the Minister, Mr Prince Maele by the Indian High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr Bharath Kumar Kuthati in Gaborone on Monday.

"The acute skills shortages and a mismatch between graduate qualifications and industry needs are discouraging potential investors and weakening the country's competitiveness," he said.

Prof. Tabulawa said investors frequently raised concerns about the availability of skilled labour before committing resources to the country.

"We interact with investors and industry players all the time, and one of the first issues they raise is whether the required skills are available in Botswana. If those skills are lacking, many choose to relocate or withdraw their investments altogether," he added.

He expressed concern that the challenge extended across several sectors, particularly mining, where companies continued to report shortages of specialised skills despite the growing number of unemployed graduates.

The situation, Prof. Tabulawa said reflected years of disconnect between educational institutions and industry requirements, resulting in graduates who often possessed qualifications that did not match labour market demands.

To address the problem, he said the Ministry of Higher Education was pursuing a major shift in policy that would give industry a leading role in determining the skills and competencies taught in tertiary institutions.

"The old model allowed institutions to decide what industry needed. We are now reversing that approach and allowing industry to lead curriculum development so that graduates leave our institutions with skills that employers actually require," he said.

Professor Tabulawa further noted that the reforms formed part of government's broader strategy to revitalise Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), which it viewed as critical to driving industrialisation, job creation and economic growth.

He also revealed that the country's long-term goal was to have 60 per cent of tertiary students enrolled in TVET programmes, compared to 40 per cent pursuing traditional academic and professional pathways.

The permanent secretary also highlighted capacity constraints within tertiary institutions themselves, particularly the need to improve the qualifications and competencies of lecturers

responsible for training future graduates.

He said the country was looking to strengthen cooperation with India in higher education and skills development, including through a possible Memorandum of Understanding that could support lecturer training and institutional capacity building.

Professor Tabulawa pointed to India and China as examples of

countries that had successfully leveraged strong technical and vocational education systems to accelerate economic development and industrial growth.

He said Botswana also intended to draw lessons from such models as it sought to build a workforce capable of meeting the demands of a modern economy and attracting investment needed to create jobs for its growing population. **BOPA**



Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele (left) and India High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr Bharath Kumar Kathati during the latter's courtesy call to the minister in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Maele said Botswana sought to strengthen ties with India for human resource development to address acute skills shortage and mismatch which was discouraging potential investors. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

## Namibia welcomes inaugural Zurich -Windhoek direct flight

WINDHOEK

Namibia welcomed the inaugural Edelweiss flight from Zurich to Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International Airport on Monday evening, marking the launch of a direct air link between Switzerland and the southern African country.

The inaugural flight arrived in Windhoek with 285 passengers on board and departed with 261

passengers.

The new non-stop service, operated by Swiss leisure airline Edelweiss, will initially run twice a week, with plans to increase to three weekly flights from mid-July.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Namibia Airports Company (NAC) Chief Executive Officer Bisey Uirab said the new route would strengthen connectivity between Namibia and Europe while supporting tourism

and business travel.

He said that NAC was engaging relevant stakeholders on the development of cargo-handling services at Namibian airports as part of efforts to diversify revenue streams beyond passenger traffic.

According to Uirab, Switzerland is an important source market for Namibia, with about 22,000 two-way passengers recorded between the two countries in 2024. **Xinhua**

### BUSINESS

## British economy faces slower growth due to Mideast conflict

**LONDON** - Britain's economic growth is expected to remain subdued through 2026 and 2027 due to the fallout from the Middle East conflict, according to the latest economic forecast released Tuesday by the British Chambers of Commerce. The BCC revised its forecast for gross domestic product growth in 2026 to 0.9 per cent from 1 per cent in the previous forecast, and predicted the economy to expand 1 per cent in 2027 and 1.3 per cent in 2028. Citing the conflict as a major economic drag, the BCC said business investment was forecast to shrink sharply, contracting by 2.2 per cent in 2026 and 0.1 per cent in 2027 before recovering to grow 2.3 per cent in 2028. **Xinhua**

## Kenya flower sector eyes market diversification

**NAIROBI** - The 13<sup>th</sup> International Flower Trade Exhibition opened Tuesday in Nairobi, highlighting market diversification and sustainable production. The three-day event, themed: Shaping the Future of Floriculture, brought together 210 exhibitors and attracted thousands of global visitors, including flower buyers, growers, breeders, and consolidators from Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Americas. In his opening remarks, cabinet secretary in the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, Lee Kinyanjui said the expo had grown into one of the world's most important floriculture exhibitions, affirming Kenya's position as a global leader in flower production and trade. **Xinhua**

## WFP strengthens response systems to climate-related shocks

**WINDHOEK** - The World Food Program (WFP) has called for continued funding and support to consolidate food security gains in Namibia, warning that vulnerable households remain exposed to climate-related shocks despite an improving humanitarian situation. In its May country brief released on Monday, the UN agency said additional resources were needed to sustain food security interventions, strengthen national systems, improve early-warning and emergency preparedness mechanisms, and build resilience against future shocks. Namibia has faced successive climate-related challenges in recent years, including droughts, floods and pest outbreaks. **Xinhua**

# Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

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# Sekole se nwa ngwao moro

Keetile Bontsibokae  
**MOLEPOLOLE**

Sekole se segolwane sa Kgari Sechele II kwa Molepolole se ne se tshwere maitiso a ngwao go kokoanyeditse kabo dietsele madi.

Maitiso ao, a a neng a ipelwa ka setlhogo sa : Ngwao Boswa, a nna ngwaga le ngwaga ka ele sedibana pele se ba se ikanyang go itirela letseno go dira ditiro tse dingwe tsa sekole, di akaretsa le moletlo wa kabo dietsele.

Mongwe wa barulaganyi ba maitiso a, Mme Kelebogile Tawana, yo gape e leng morutabana wa puo ya sekgoa le ditlhamo, a re mogopolo o o gwethilwe ke gore sekole se kokoanyeditse moletlo wa go abela baithuti dietsele ga mmogo le barutabana ba ba dirileng bontle ba bo ba baya sekole mo maemong a mantle mo ditlathobong tsa ngwaga yo o hulereng.

Mme Tawana a re moonoo mogolo wa go dira maitiso a mofuta o gape ke tsela nngwe e ka yone sekole se supang fa se ikemiseditse go rotloetsa le go ipelela ka ngwao le puo ya Setswana segolo jang ba itebagantse le gore e akolwe ke baithuti gore ngwao e seka ya ba latlhegele.

A re se, ke tsela ya go ipelela ngwao ya Setswana; ka mmimo wa setso; borankana, phathise, tsutsube, dikhwaere le tse dingwe, go utlwa monate le tatso ya dijo tsa setso, go supa kapari ya ngwao, le go fa batho sebaka sa go itsane ba tsere dikgang ka puo ya Setswana, le go oketsa monate ka go supa metshameko ya setso.

Mme Tawana a re ba lephata la dithuto tsa puo ya Setswana ke bone ba ba neng ba rwele boikarabelo jwa go supa dilo tsa setso di akaretsa didirisiwa jaaka ditlatlana, digo, diphafana, leselo, kika le motshe ga mmogo le dijo tsa setso ka go farologana ga tsone.

Badiragatsi ka bontsi ba ne ba laleditswe go tlaa go fapaanela serala, ba itsolopantse go iteisa borathana ka mmimo wa setso, poka ba tswakantse le mmimo wa sesha go supa gore tlhabologo ga se go latlha ngwao.

Ga reng ga ba ba neng ba tseisa babogedi manya kwa seraleng go ne go le bo manke ba mmimo wa setso e leng Ditiro Leero, Mmurubele, Bana ba Kwena Traditional Dance Group, rakatara Solly Sebotso, Makgopokgopo Poets, Rre

Phandlane le Makrona.

Batsadi le bone ba ne ba tshwere ka thata ba ruta bana ditiro tsa setso jaaka go thuga mabele, go fefera, ga mmogo le go ba ruta metshameko ya Setswana jaaka go tlola koi.

Puo ya Setswana e ne e segetswe ka fa lefureng ka letsatsi le, ka go tthomamisa gore go buiwa yone fela go fitlhelela mokete o fela e le tsela nngwe ya go rotloetsa puo segolo jang mo morolong o mosesane yo o tlotlileng thata puo ya seesimane.

Molalediwa wa tlotla e ne e le moithuti wa pele wa sekolo sa Kgari Sechele II, Rre Moroka Moreri yo e leng, moopedi, mmoki e bile e le mokwadi wa dibuka tsa poko ya Setswana, o akgotse barutabana ba sekole go dira tiro e ntle.

Ka go rialo Rre Moreri o ne a supa gore maduo a sekole seo a anametsa e bile a tsisa tsholofelo.

Mo godimo ga moo, Rre Moreri o ne a kopela mogokgo wa sekole sa Kgari Sechele, Mme Baaitse Kebobone legofi le le tshikinyang magodimo ka gore fa e sale a tshwara teu ya sekolo se jaanong se fetogile naletsana e Bakwena ba e lebelang kwa godimodimo e galalela.

Rre Moreri a re ka nako ya bone fa e santse e le baithuti tiro ya bone e ne e le go tthomamisa gore sekole sa Kgari Sechele se feta ka tse di tsididi ka jalo a rotloetsa baithuti le barutabana go tshwara ka natla go busetsa serodumo sa pele sa sekole seo. BOPA



Batsadi ba supegets baithuti ba Kgari Sechele II ditiro le metshameko ya setswana ka letsatsi la go ipelela ngwao kwa Molepolole bosheng. Senepe: Kelebogile Tawana

# Kgosi Mmipi o a latlhela

Keetile Bontsibokae  
**METSIMOTLHABE-**

Kgosi Raphael Mmipi wa Metsimotlhabe o sa tswa go tlogela tiro ka bogodi a le dingwaga di le masome a robabobedi.

Kgosi Mmipi o sale a etelela morafe wa Balete le baagedi ba Metsimotlhabe go simolola ka ngwaga wa 1988 go fitlha monongwaga.

Mmipi o kailwe ke dibui ka go farologana ka poifo Modimo, boineelo, bokgeleke jwa go rarabolola dikgang a sa tsee letlhakore le go nna kutlwelobothoko.

Fa a laela Kgosi Mmipi, ka Labothlano, kgosi wa Bakwena Kgari Sechele III a re o ne a direla morafe tekatekanyo a sa lebelela gore motho ke wa maemo afe mo

setshabeng.

“Maemo a bogosi a ne a mo fitlhela a ntse a le mo tirong. Ga a ise a kope ope gore a mo tthatlose maemo ka gore o dira tiro. O ne a dira tiro ya bogosi ka boineelo a itse gore ke tiro ya boithapo le gore o direla morafe wa,” ga bua Kgosi Kgari.

A re go bo morafe o bone gole maleba gore ba thulanye ditlhogo ba mo direle moletlogadi wa tsamaya sentle ke bopaki jwa gore o berekile le bone go sena makgwere ape.

Kgosi Kgari a re le fa ntswa a fitlhetse Kgosi Mmipi mo bogosing o berekile le ene ka lebaka mme ga gona letsatsi lepe le a kileng a seke a bereka sentle le ene.

A re Kgosi Mmipi o tsene mo tirong ya bogosi a santse a

nonofile mme a dirisa nonofo eo le botlhale go direla morafe, ke jaaka a tlogela tiro eo ka mabaka a gore o godile, o feletswe ke maatla.

“Ke itumelela tirisanyo mmogo kgosi, mme ke eletsa thata gore le mo go itapologeng ga gago, Modimo a nne a go segofatse, a go okeletse malatsi, e re fa mabaka a patika re tle fa go wena, re ngunangune le wena o nne o re gakolole o re tthathelele,” ga bua Kgosi Kgari.

E rile a itebaganya le Kgosi Kgosi Ronald Mmipi, yo neng a tlhonga kgosi, Kgosi Kgari o ne mo gakolola gore a ikanye motsadi wa gagwe, go tsaya bogakolodi, fa marara a raraane.

Mo mafokong a gagwe a go laela morafe, Kgosi Mmipi o kaile fa tiro ya bogosi ele ya mautlwelobothoko ka jalo fa motho a e bereka o tshwanetse gore a e bereke a eteleditse mautlwelobothoko kwa pele.

Are o kgonne ka go ikanya thapelo, ka jalo a rotloetsa motlhatlhami wa gagwe, marara ka go farologana go dira ba ikantse Modimo ka dinako tsotlhe.

“Bagaetsho a re berekeng re tshwaragane thata, re tla kgona. Gatwe kgetsi ya tsie e kgonwa ke go tshwaraganelwa. Sengwe le sengwe fa re se dira ka popagano e kgolo kana re a bo re se direla gore Modimo a re thushe,” Kgosi Mmipi a laela.

Kgosi Lawrence Thobega wa Mmankgodi a re Kgosi Mmipi o tsamaya le ene a mo tthatlhetse maele a bogosi gore a kgone go etelela morafe.

Kgosi Thobega a re morafe wa Metsimotlhabe o letlhogonolo go etelelwa ke Kgosi Mmipi, a reetsa le bone ba mo utlwa.

A re mo bogompienong bogosi bo ratiwa ke mongwe le mongwe. BOPA

# Bagaisamang o leboga baithaopi go lwantsha tlhako le molomo

Kefilwe Selotlegeng  
**OTSE**

Mopalamente wa Shoshong, Rre Moneedi Bagaisamang, o lebogile le go akgola baithaopi ba ba baakanyang terata ya mafudiso e e kgaonyang kgaolo ya legare le dikgaolo tsa Kgatlang le Kweneng.

A re go botlhokwa go ikemele ka dinao go lwantsha kanamo ya mogare wa tlhako le molomo.

Rre Bagaisamang yo a neng a bua kwa phuthegong ya kgotla kwa Otse ka Labone a re baithaopi ba supile mowa wa boipelelo le boikarabelo, ka jalo ba tshwanetse go rotloediwa.

O kgothatitse setshaba go sala ditaello tsa lephata la temo-thuo morago, go hema bolwetse.

Fa a itebaganya le seemo se se sa itumediseng sa dikole le dikokelwana, a re puso e tsere tshwetso ya go tlhoma khamphani ya puso e e tlaa di baakanyang.

Rre Bagaisamang o supile fa a tshwenngwa ke batsadi ba ba ikgathololang bana a re, molao o teng o o sireletsang bana mme ba ba dirang jalo ba tlaa salwa morago.

Mopalamente o tsibositse banni ka tshenyetso setshaba, a re ba botlha ba ba ka amegang mo tshenyetso setshaba ba tlaa tseelwa dikgato go ya jaaka

molao o tlhalosa.

Mo gotse dingwe ,Rre Bagaisamang o rotloeditse banni ba Otse go tsosolosa dikoporase gammogo le go lema letlhare la moringa gore ba gwebo ka one.

Fa a akgela, modulasitilo wa komiti ya ditlhabolo tsa motse, Mme Kago Selebatso o lebogetse puso ka lenaneo la Ikageng le kago ya kokelwane e tswelletseng.

Mme Selebatso o ne a supa ngongora ka tlaalo ya metsi le motlakase ka ntlha ya go gola ga motseng le letlhoko la ditiro segolo jang mo bananeng mme a kopa gore ba agelwe lefelo la itloso bodutu.

BOPA

# Serowe District Wellness Day unites employees

Keamogetse Setilo  
**SEROWE**

The ground vibrated to the thumping of feet in a familiar rhythm that united men and women who tackled the 7km run during the Serowe District Wellness Day recently.

The event offered a glimpse of what employee welfare could look like, a deliberate push toward a work environment built for productivity.

Addressing attendees at the Serowe Sports Complex, Serowe district commissioner, Ms Angelina Leano-Bakoko officially opened the event with a simple but self-explanatory statement, "A worker's welfare is the core of productivity".

She urged supervisors and heads of departments to create safe spaces that prioritize employee welfare.

"Supervisors and heads of departments should ensure that employee welfare is part of core business. Disgruntled employees often lead to ineffectiveness and poor service delivery," she said.

As leaders, we must nurture those we lead, inspire them to spread their wings, and, above all, cultivate a workplace culture that embraces mental health practices".

For his part, Serowe District Council chairperson Mr Atamelang Thaga thanked everyone for their presence and dedication.

He said the event was designed to encourage workers to embrace healthy lifestyles through better eating and regular exercise.

"For too long, the health sector has warned us about the rise of non-communicable diseases, diabetes, hypertension and stress. Today is about action; eat better, move more; choose a stress-free life before stress chooses you!" he said.

He added that stress triggered a ripple effect: sickness, burnout, and lost productivity.

His appeal was simple; take up exercise, burn off steam, and channel frustration into movement.

The beauty of unity played out in teams made up of different stakeholders, all chasing the same goal; to win.

The sprints were a marvel. Men and women runners exploded off the line, feet barely kissing the track.

For a few seconds they were not civil servants or department heads.

Stakeholders who rarely share an office were suddenly sharing a lane, health workers pacing teachers, council staff matching police officers stride for stride.

All chasing one trophy: Best Overall Team. From the stands, teammates' cheers rang out, loud and constant, proof of cooperation

and unity.

Ms Ketshepileone Zachariah, chairperson of the Serowe District wellness committee, called the event a "starting block" for healthier working relationships.

She said the cooperation on display showed that productivity and positive outcomes grow when people work together.

"This cooperation is the real win. If we can run together, we definitely can work together; Productivity follows unity," she said.  
**BOPA**



Participants engaged in aerobics during the annual Serowe District Wellness Day recently. District Commissioner, Ms Angelina Leano-Bakoko urged supervisors and head of departments to ensure that employee wellness was part of core business. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

## Zimbabwe on alert for Ebola threat

**HARARE**

The Minister of Health and Child Care, Douglas Mombeshora on Monday said Zimbabwe had stepped up its public health vigilance in the face of the Ebola threat, and was also intensifying its response to drug and substance abuse scourge.

Speaking at a press conference on Ebola preparedness and the rising burden of drug and substance abuse, Mombeshora said the government was strengthening systems, expanding services, and mobilising communities to protect the health of the nation.

"Today, I wish to address two important but equally pressing public health priorities: our national preparedness for Ebola Virus Disease and the growing challenge of drug and substance abuse.

While these are separate issues, they share a common lesson, which is that prevention, early detection,

and timely intervention save lives.

"The Ministry wishes to assure the nation that there are currently no reported cases of Ebola Virus Disease in Zimbabwe.

However, given the high volume of human movement within the Southern African Development Community region, Zimbabwe remains on high alert," he said. T

he ongoing outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, have recorded more than 1 000 cases and 234 deaths as of 29 May 2026.

The rapid spread of the outbreaks, high fatality rate, and potential for cross-border transmission have attracted sustained international concern. Mombeshora revealed that Zimbabwe activated its preparedness measures immediately following the outbreak declaration and the subsequent elevation of regional risk by the World Health

Organization.

Cabinet reviewed the national preparedness report on 27 May 2026 and directed all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to maintain full readiness.

"The Incident Management System (IMS) has been activated, and a comprehensive preparedness and response plan is operational.

Surveillance systems are fully functional, screening has been intensified at all ports of entry, and health workers are receiving ongoing training in detection, infection prevention, and case management.

"Isolation facilities have been designated in Harare, Bulawayo, and Chirundu; specialised transportation has been arranged; personal protective equipment has been pre-positioned; and emergency coordination mechanisms remain active," he said.

The public has been urged to

remain vigilant and seek immediate medical attention if they develop symptoms consistent with Ebola, particularly following travel to affected areas or contact with a suspected case.

"Ladies and gentlemen, while Ebola represents a potential external public health threat, drug and substance abuse is an ongoing challenge with deepening consequences for families and communities across Zimbabwe."

On drug and substance abuse, Mombeshora said the Ministry of Health and Child Care was deeply concerned by the increasing misuse of drugs and substances, particularly among young people and the economically productive population.

He said the Ministry is also aware of the abuse of prescription medicines, including narcotic painkillers such as pethidine and Stilpain.

"The public is advised that controlled substances may only be dispensed on prescription by a registered medical practitioner.

Some of these medicines are being obtained illegally without a prescription or smuggled into the country through illicit channels," he said.

The Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Republic Police are conducting joint enforcement operations to seize contraband and remove illegal medicine traders and smuggled substances from the streets.

Operations have been conducted in identified hotspots, including Mbare, the Harare Central Business District, Penhalonga, the Bulawayo Central Business District, Mazowe Mine, Beitbridge Border Post, Senga in Gweru, Chinhoyi, Karoi and Marondera.

Significant seizures were recorded during the period from 3 March to 13 May 2026. These included 2 292.9 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 75 grams of cocaine, five ecstasy tablets and 2 358.4 kilograms of cannabis. An additional 780 cultivated cannabis plants were destroyed.

A further 24 058 bottles of unregistered cough syrup valued at ZiG3 608 700, together with khat and other unregistered medicines, were confiscated. The total estimated value of all substances recovered during the period amounted to ZiG79 931 130.  
**New Ziana**



**KINSHASA** - World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (left) during a visit to Bunia, the capital of Ituri Province in northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on Sunday. The DRC health ministry said 263 confirmed cases had been reported in the country as of May 29, including 42 deaths. Photo: Xinhua

# Arts & Culture

Miss World Botswana Ruth Thomas (fourth right) with members of the Nama community in Lokgwabe during a cultural exchange ahead of the Macheng Bushfire Festival. Photo: Samantha Gabaeme



## Miss World Botswana embraces Nama Culture

Samantha Gabaeme

### LOKGWABE

When Miss World Botswana 2026, Ruth Thomas, arrived at the Nama community in Lokgwabe on Friday, she was dressed in a crisp white suit that reflected modern elegance and sophistication.

However, the real transformation began moments later, when members of the Nama community welcomed her into their cultural fold as part of activities leading up to the Macheng Bushfire Festival which was held on Saturday.

With warm smiles and a deep sense of pride, Nama women carefully dressed the beauty queen in full traditional attire.

Layers of vibrant, multi-coloured skirts flowed gracefully around her, while a beautifully crafted shawl draped across her shoulders, showcasing patterns and designs that reflected generations of heritage.

Completing the ensemble was the iconic Nama headscarf, known as a kopdoek, while ochre and leather accents added a distinctive touch that embodied the identity and history of the Nama people.

The transformation was remarkable. By the time Thomas stepped out to greet the gathering, many in the crowd paused in admiration.

Clad in traditional Nama attire, she appeared completely at home among the women who had welcomed her. Her grace blended effortlessly with the cultural symbolism of the attire, creating a powerful image of unity and cultural appreciation.

For a brief moment, the distinction between visitor and community member seemed to disappear. Dressed in the colourful regalia and surrounded by Nama women, Thomas embodied the spirit of cultural exchange and mutual respect.

Those unfamiliar with her background could easily have mistaken her for a member of the Nama community.

The audience responded with more than applause. There was a visible sense of pride and admiration as community

members witnessed one of Botswana's leading cultural ambassadors embracing their tradition.

Her beauty did not overshadow the culture being celebrated. Instead, it reflected and amplified it.

As she interacted with residents, learning traditional greetings and engaging in conversations, an atmosphere of warmth and shared appreciation emerged. Laughter and applause filled the air, not only in recognition of her poise but also in appreciation of the respect she showed towards the community's traditions.

What began as a festival visit evolved into a meaningful cultural encounter that highlighted the importance of preserving and celebrating Botswana's diverse heritage.

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Charles Cooper of the Nama community explained that traditional Nama attire was characterised by its many colours, which symbolise the community's history of displacement and resilience.

He said that during periods of migration, their clothing was

often torn by trees and bushes as they moved from place to place, adding that community members subsequently

stitched together different pieces of fabric, a practice that gradually evolved into the colourful traditional dress worn today.

Kgosi Cooper also expressed appreciation that Thomas had chosen to visit Lokgwabe, noting that the gesture demonstrated recognition and respect for the Nama people and their cultural heritage.

He said her decision to wear traditional Nama attire would further help promote the community's craftsmanship and cultural identity to wider audiences.

Providing insight into the history of the community, Nama committee member Paul Cooper said the Nama people settled in Lokgwabe around 1995.

He explained that the building where discussions were held now serves as a museum and was originally a Nama school before independence, where community members were taught to read and write in the Nama language.

Paul Cooper said the Nama community is mainly found in Tsabong and Lokgwabe and has made significant efforts to preserve its language through the development of a Nama dictionary, Bible and hymn book.

He added that

the Nama Cultural Festival was launched in 2016 to preserve, promote and celebrate the community's culture and language. However, he noted that the festival, which is usually held during the last week of August, would not take place this year due to insufficient funding.

In her thanksgiving remarks, Thomas expressed gratitude after being presented with a beautifully crafted traditional Nama outfit.

Thomas further revealed that she intended to incorporate the experience and the traditional attire into her introduction video for the upcoming Miss World competition.

She said doing so would help promote cultural tourism and showcase Botswana's rich and diverse heritage on the international stage.

She added that the visit had been both educational and inspiring and expressed a desire to return in the future. **BOPA**



Nama women dressing beauty queen Ruth Thomas, in full Nama traditional attire.



# Athletes doping case August 10



Refilwe Murangi

**Anastacia Sibanda  
GABORONE**

High Court Justice Itumeleng Segopolo has confirmed that the legal battle involving four provisionally banned Botswana track athletes will be heard on August 10, following an emergency hearing called to address public confusion. The case was originally scheduled for June 1 but failed to proceed because it was omitted from the official court roll.

The scheduling glitch triggered a wave of viral social media videos condemning the local justice system, forcing the court to call an impromptu session to set the record straight.

Addressing the backlash, Justice Segopolo stated that a missing entry on the roll does not equate to judicial incompetence.

He noted that an individual, who is not part of the quartet in the matter was captured on video making allegations of corruption and improper involvement, claims that are now circulating publicly.

“What the court requires now is clarity, proper discovery, and orderly proceedings so that the matter can proceed efficiently and fairly,” he said.

The heart of the current dispute revolves around pre-trial discovery, the judge cautioned both legal teams for the confusion,

pointing out that multiple large files have been generated without coordination.

He ordered both sides to cooperate and compile a definitive schedule detailing exactly which documents are being requested and which have already been produced.

“I understand the subject matter concerns discovery and the production of documents that the applicants seek to rely upon, this matter has become somewhat confusing because there are disputes about the discovery and production of documents,” he said.

According to the athletes’ attorney, Dr Tshepang Makwati, the August date was selected because the court enters its winter vacation in July, meaning no trial dates were available next month.

The athletes Refilwe Murangi, Zibani Ngozi, Karabo Mothibi, and Lydia Jele have taken legal action against the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA).

The sprinters are contesting both the authenticity and the administrative handling of their positive anti-doping test results.

Meanwhile, the respondent Pako Moakofi told the court that they intend to demonstrate the High Court lacks jurisdiction over the matter, arguing that the anti-doping dispute should instead be settled through sports arbitration mechanisms.

However, Justice Segopolo said the issue will be thrashed when the paperwork is in order. **BOPA**



Lydia Jele

Zibani Ngozi



# Arts & Culture

