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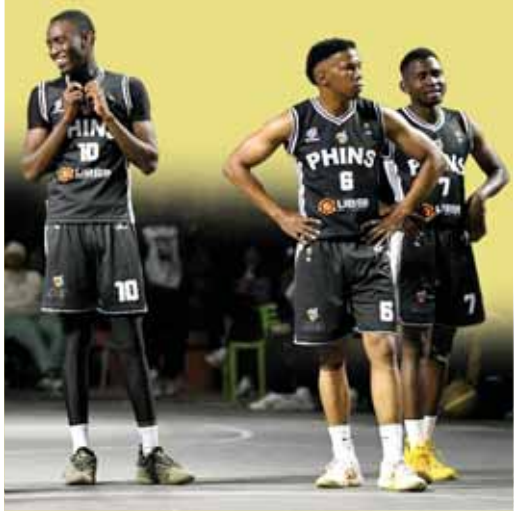
## Artists confident of future amid AI revolution

PAGE 7

## Dolphins dream in limbo

PAGE 8



NEWS

### Govt postpones passport fees increase

Page 3

BUSINESS

### Waste to wealth initiative to transform rural communities

Page 4

DIKGANG

### Ba Kgalagadi ba oba letsogo ka sengaparile

Tsebe 5

# Global economic turbulence hinders transformation agenda

"...volatile oil prices increases the cost of transportation and production of essential goods while trade fragmentation, changing financial conditions and technological disruption reshapes the foundations of global competitiveness."

**Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe**

*Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe at the Budget Pitso for Local Authorities in Maun on Monday. He said the journey to high-income status would demand difficult choices, institutional courage and sustained collective effort.*
Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

STORY PAGE 3

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# Embrace continuous learning - Mohwasa

Phodiso Rankwe
**TLOKWENG**

Education must be regarded as a comprehensive preparation for life rather than a narrow guarantee of immediate employment.

Speaking at the 20th Institute of Development Management (IDM) joint graduation ceremony held at Royal Aria conference facility on Friday, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa urged over 1 400 graduates from Botswana, Lesotho, and eSwatini to maintain resilience, humility and adaptability as they entered the professional sphere.

Held under the theme: Thriving as a Continuous Learner in an Ever-Changing Environment, the milestone event celebrated two decades of regional cooperation and family reunion in human capital development across the three partner nations.

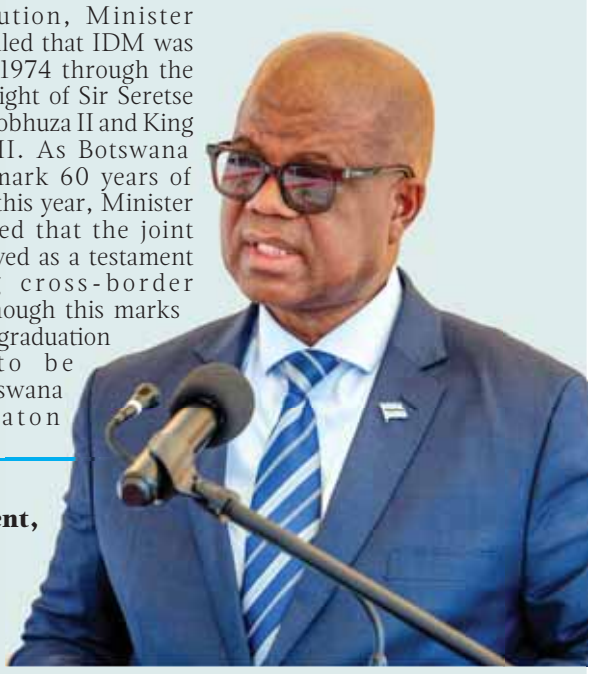
The success of IDM's regional model was underscored by the robust synergies between key regulatory bodies including the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA), Lesotho's Council of Higher Education, and the Eswatini Higher Education Council which ensured the comparability and high standard of qualifications offered across the region.

"Preliminary results from Statistics Botswana's 2024/25 Multi-Topic Household Survey place overall national unemployment at 21.0 per cent, while youth unemployment stands at 28.9 per cent. We must never become so accustomed to discussing unemployment in statistics that we forget the human beings represented by those numbers," said Mr Mohwasa.

He emphasised that a qualification equip individuals with critical cognitive tools to navigate difficult circumstances, question assumptions and recognise unseen opportunities even when the job market delayed initial entry. To counter structural employment hurdles, Mr Mohwasa said government was actively driving economic transformation through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and the Twelfth National Development Plan. He said the transformation programme had identified 186 high-impact projects, targeting the mobilisation of P514 billion in cumulative investment and the generation of increased employment by 2036. Beyond macroeconomic strategy, Minister Mohwasa challenged graduates to cultivate deep professional humility and integrity, warning against self-importance and professional arrogance. He advised graduates to remove the blinders and avoid confining themselves to narrow disciplinary boundaries, noting that modern careers required cross-functional competence, such as project managers understanding technology or public health professionals mastering data and community development.

Furthermore, he paid glowing tribute to parents and guardians who endured sleepless nights and heavy financial sacrifices to support the graduates.

Tracing the historical roots of the institution, Minister Mohwasa recalled that IDM was established in 1974 through the visionary foresight of Sir Seretse Khama, King Sobhuza II and King Moshoeshoe II. As Botswana and Lesotho mark 60 years of independence this year, Minister Mohwasa noted that the joint graduation served as a testament to enduring cross-border solidarity. Although this marks the final joint graduation ceremony to be hosted by Botswana with the baton officially passing to the Kingdom of eSwatini for October 2027 leaders emphasised that regional institutional bonds and human capital partnerships remain unshakable. ***BOPA***



**Minister for State President, Defence and Security Mr Moeti Mohwasa**

# EU forges partnership with Africa Geological surveys

Calviniah Kgautlhe
**LOBATSE**

Seventeen young Geoscientists from across Africa have completed a two-week European Union (EU), Pan African Geoscience programme on Geoscientific Information Management.

Officially closing the programme at Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI), that commenced October 12 and ended on Friday, European Union delegation to Botswana and SADC ambassador, Ms Belén Uyarra, said the development was a strategic partnership between the EU and Organisation of African Geological Surveys, aimed at strengthening and capacitating geologists across the African continent including Botswana.

It focused on training, knowledge exchange, and fostering long-term geological institutional collaboration, to empower national geological services to work independently and more efficiently. The training provided targeted investments in human capital, geological surveys tools, and infrastructure aimed at creating a lasting impact on Africa's geological sector, forging partnerships, and collectively making a lasting impact for sustainable development.

Ms Uyarra said minerals discovered by geologists provided critical raw materials to economic prosperity of countries hence geoscientific cooperation was important.

"We promote sustainable investment opportunities about critical raw materials and that is the work that we do through geoscientists. As geologists, you provide scientific evidence on what minerals are available to attract investment into your countries. I urge you to use the knowledge and skills you gained to facilitate dialogue on investment and to enhance geoscientific collaboration," she said.

BGI acting chief executive officer, Mr Puso Akanyang, appreciated that PanAfGeo+ programme would help transform geological delivery as Africa needed the new set of skills. The cohort, he said had mastered the Geoscientific Information Management, the digital workflows, and spatial analysis.

*Acting Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI) CEO, Mr Puso Akanyang (left), Ambassador of Delegation of EU to Botswana and SADC Ms Belén Uyarra (second left), PanAfGeo+ leader from France Geological Survey, Mr Marc Urvois (second right) and training leader from Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, Mr Frands Schjøth (right) after presenting a training completion certificate to BGI senior data base geologist, Mr Valiant Mosokomani during the closing ceremony of the PanAFGeo+ programme in Lobatse recently.*
Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

"You have gathered necessary skills to be able to analyse raw field data into actionable national progress," he said.

He stressed that geological decisions were economic, environmental, public decisions, that would be handy during delivery.

With the skills you have received and the computers that you have received, it is the decisions that you will make that will make a difference," said Mr Akanyang.

The PanAfGeo+ WP6 training leader, Dr Marc Urvois, of the French Geological Survey, emphasised that the programme had brought Europe and Africa together for the Pan African Support to Geological Sciences and Technology across the Africa.

The cohort, he said was drilled on new ways of collecting and managing geological data, geographic information systems, remote sensing, how to collect the data and bring the information from the field using new technology such as using mobile phones and integrating drones, analyse and disseminate data.

The programme was facilitated by the France Geological Survey and funded by the European Union, to advance the work of the Organisation of African Geological Surveys.

Speaking on behalf of the PanAfGeo+ WP6 trainees, Mr Takudzwa Muzopa, of Geological Survey of Zimbabwe, appreciated the programme for representing more than technical training, highlighting that it was an investment in strengthening Africa's geological institutions, advancing digital transformation and promoting international cooperation.

A participant from BGI, senior data base geologist, Mr Valiant Mosokomani, said he gained knowledge on managing geospatial data and related information to Geosciences as well as fresh knowledge on new tools used to improve efficiencies in managing data.

Mr Robert Kemokai of Liberia Geological Surveys regarded the training as beneficial and that he would apply the knowledge to his daily delivery, including in remote sensing, and mapping. ***BOPA***

# Botswana reaffirms commitment to enhance ties with Nigeria

Ketshepile More
**GABORONE**

Botswana has reaffirmed commitment to enhancing bilateral ties with Nigeria as well as advancing the African Agenda 2063.

Speaking at a reception to celebrate Nigeria's 66th independence anniversary on October 30, Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyo Butale said Botswana is dedicated to continue promoting democracy, peace and stability across the continent while expressing openness for further engagement on mutual interests.

Dr Butale said Botswana and Nigeria has endured friendship and cooperation and therefore commended Nigeria's commitment to democracy and socio-economic development since 1960.

"We commend President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his exemplary leadership with the objective to advance socio-economic development in Nigeria.

It is also noteworthy that this is also an occasion for Nigeria to reflect on her developmental trajectory as well as an opportunity to renew commitment to a future of shared prosperity," Dr Butale said.

In addition, Dr Butale made a call to revitalise the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation between the two countries which was established in 2002, urging officials to set a date for the next JPCC meeting.

He said Botswana appreciates Nigeria's past assistance; particularly in human resource development, and looks forward to strengthening strategic economic partnerships.

Nigeria High Commissioner to Botswana Mr John Shama Shaga said this independence anniversary served as a moment to reflect on national progress and honour the sacrifices of the two countries' founding fathers who secured independence from Britain.

He said the two countries had fostered cooperation across various sectors including trade, education and culture and aimed to expand investment, and cultural relations with Botswana for mutual benefit.

"Nigeria remains committed to strengthening its partnership with Botswana through practical

cooperation, increased trade and investment, cultural exchange, educational collaboration and

closer engagement between our private sectors," Mr Shaga said. He said the recent initiatives such as Nigerian trade mission and strategic appointments of Nigerians in Botswana, highlighted cordial bilateral collaboration.

Furthermore, Mr Shaga said the two countries' cultural relations were equally vibrant. He said

Nigeria's creative industry, particularly its music and film sectors, remained a major source of African soft power.

"The maiden edition of Felabration in Gaborone recently was a remarkable celebration of the legendary Afrobeat pioneer, Fela Anikulapo Kuti.

The fusion of Nigerian and Botswana musicians at the event demonstrated how our shared cultural experiences can promote mutual understanding, creativity and people-to-people relations," Mr Shaga noted. ***BOPA***

# Govt postpones passport fees increase

**GABORONE**

Government has postponed the implementation of revised passport fees from November 1, 2026 to January 1, 2027 to give Batswana more time to access passport services at the current rates.

In a press release issued on Monday, the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, says passport services remain heavily subsidised by government compared to the actual cost of producing passports.

The ministry says the last adjustment of passport fees was made in 2010, adding that rising production costs have necessitated a review of the existing fee structure.

According to the release, the review and adjustment of passport fees has been approved, with implementation initially scheduled for April 1, 2026.

However, the ministry deferred the implementation to allow Batswana more time to benefit from the existing fees.

It says the further postponement to January 1, 2027 intends to give members of the public an opportunity to access passport services at the current rates, particularly ahead of the festive season.

"The ministry further wishes to encourage Batswana who intend to apply for or renew their passports to do so early to minimise potential delays, particularly in view of the upcoming festive holiday season," the release states. ***BOPA***

# Global economic turbulence hinders transformation agenda

Esther Mmolai
**MAUN**

Vice President, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe says government is undertaking transformation in one of the most complex and uncertain global economic environments.

Delivering a keynote address at the Budget Pitso for Local Authorities in Maun on Monday, Mr Gaolathe who is also the Minister of Finance said wars and geopolitical tensions were disrupting energy markets, trade routes and supply chains.

Mr Gaolathe said volatile oil prices were increasing the cost of transportation and production of essential goods while trade fragmentation, changing financial conditions and technological disruption were reshaping the foundations of global competitiveness.

"For a small, open economy such as Botswana, such developments are not distant international events as they affect the price of fuel, the cost of food, the competitiveness of the businesses and the purchasing power of the households," he said.

Therefore, he urged local authorities to be engines of local economic development, investment facilitation and sustainable livelihood creation.

He said local authorities must not merely act as centres of administration and service delivery, noting that government ambition was not simply to help people survive poverty, but to create pathways through which they could sustainably overcome it.

"This is why local authorities are central to Botswana's transformation agenda. You understand the economic potential of your communities, the barriers confronting local enterprises and the practical conditions necessary for investment to flourish," he said.

Mr Gaolathe emphasised that the journey to high-income status will demand difficult choices, institutional courage and sustained collective efforts. ***BOPA***

# Fiscal discipline ensures future investment - Gaolathe

Esther Mmolai
**MAUN**

Government is pursuing fiscal discipline not as an end in itself, but to restore the country's capacity to invest in the future, says Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe.

Mr Gaolathe, who is also Minister of Finance, underscored the need to spend wisely, mobilise resources effectively, eliminate waste and protect investments that generate lasting economic and social returns.

Mr Gaolathe said fiscal resilience and economic transformation were not competing objectives but rather mutually reinforcing foundations of national prosperity.

Botswana cannot continue to build national prosperity on economic foundations where government exercises limited control, has said.

He said Botswana would not become a high-income economy driven solely by a rise in national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He said a prosperous nation would be achieved when economic opportunities extended to villages, towns and districts and when households were in a position to build secure, dignified and sustainable livelihoods.

Delivering a keynote address at the Budget Pitso for Local Authorities in Maun on Monday, Mr Gaolathe emphasised that government must build an economy that was more diversified, productive, resilient and capable of generating sustainable livelihoods.

He said national transformation must therefore be anchored in local economic development, hence a deliberate shift in how local authorities think about development was a necessity.

Mr Gaolathe said the central purpose of the 2027/28 budgetary strategy was, 'we must move beyond an approach that measures progress primarily through the infrastructure we construct or the assistance we distribute toward one that also measures the productive capacity we create in our communities.'

The Budget Pitso was held under the theme: Accelerating Economic Transformation and Building Fiscal Resilience for Sustainable Growth.

*Participants at the Budget Pitso for Local Authorities in Maun on Monday. Officiating at the event Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe said there was need to spend wisely, mobilise resources effectively and protect investments that generate lasting economic and social returns.*
Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

He also noted that consultations must influence policy, inform decisions and ultimately change lives.

Mr Gaolathe cited that in previous engagements, participants raised a wide range of important issues affecting local governance and development.

Among the key concerns raised were those relating to infrastructure financing, decentralisation, procurement inefficiencies and the financial sustainability of local authorities.

He said government was advancing the exploration of road tolling through Public-Private Partnerships, acknowledging that Cabinet approved the National Decentralisation Policy in September 2026, which was scheduled to be tabled before Parliament during the November 2026 sitting.

Mr Gaolathe said the policy would mark an important step in bringing decision-making and service delivery closer to communities.

Additionally, he said the review of the Public Procurement Act had commenced, aimed at improving efficiency, transparency and opportunities for local enterprises.

"These reforms are not yet complete, and I would not wish to suggest otherwise. But they demonstrate that the country is moving, institutions are responding and the foundations for a different economic future are being laid.

We must now accelerate implementation and ensure that progress is measured not merely by policies approved, but by results experienced by our citizens," he said.

Mr Gaolathe also appreciated that the introduction of the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), largely as a vision and a plan, had established a portfolio for prioritising projects and reforms across agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, energy, infrastructure, financial services and digitalisation.

He said the projects carried significant investment and employment potential, although much remained to be done to translate their potential into completed investments, productive enterprises and jobs.

Mr Gaolathe said BETP was now moving through the difficult but essential work of execution, mobilisation of investment, resolution of regulatory and infrastructure constraints, strengthening of institutional coordination and facilitation of projects toward implementation.

However, Mr Gaolathe stated that progress was not without challenges, yet appreciated that the public service was increasingly getting orientated toward delivery, problem-solving and measurable results.

"Our direction is clear, our reform agenda is taking shape, and our responsibility now is to translate this momentum into outcomes that our people can see and feel," said Mr Gaolathe. ***BOPA***

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# Waste to wealth initiative to transform rural communities

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
**GABORONE**

**The initiative seeks to transform waste into valuable products while creating alternative income-generating opportunities, improving waste management and promoting sustainable natural resource use.**

*Cheetah Conservation Botswana operations manager, Mr Douglas Thamage (left) and European Union head of partnerships, Mr Catalin Gherman at the launch of EU/SADC CSO grants for the support to green and digital transformation in Botswana in Gaborone recently. Mr Thamage said through the project, they would empower Community Trusts to establish and operate viable waste-to-product enterprises.* Photo: Felicity Male

What if the plastic polluting the environment could become a source of income, while food and farm waste could help restore agricultural soils? In the Western Kalahari, Cheater Conservation Botswana is working to turn this possibility into reality through an innovative, community-led circular economic initiative aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods and environmental resilience.

Targeting communities in Ghanzi District, the initiative seeks to transform waste into valuable products while creating alternative income-generating opportunities, improving waste management and promoting sustainable natural resource use.

By empowering community trusts to establish and operate viable waste-to-product enterprises, the organisation hopes to reduce dependence on livestock-based livelihoods and social protection programmes while strengthening community participation in environmental conservation.

In an interview with the organisation's Operations manager, Mr Douglas Thamage in Gaborone, recently, he said the initiative addresses interconnected socio-economic and environmental challenges through practical solutions that link environmental sustainability with economic empowerment. "The project is built around two key interventions: the Recycled Paver Pilot Project and the Organic Fertilizer Pilot Project," he said. Mr Thamage said through the Recycled Paver Pilot Project, plastic and other suitable waste materials would be transformed into paving blocks, giving discarded materials a second life while creating opportunities for local enterprise development.

He said a small-scale recycling and production unit would be established, with community members receiving training in recycling, paver production and business management.

He further said the project aimed to produce and market its first batches of paving blocks to local buyers, creating potential revenue streams for participating community trusts and supporting local employment.

Beyond generating income, he said the intervention was expected to encourage better waste collection, sorting and recycling practices, reducing plastic pollution in communities, adding that its long-term success would depend on sufficient market demand for the paving blocks and a consistent supply of suitable waste materials. Mr Thamage said complementing this intervention, the Organic Fertiliser Pilot Project would convert food and farm waste into organic fertiliser, offering farmers an affordable alternative to synthetic fertilisers while reducing organic waste sent to dumpsites.

Planned activities include installing and operating dehydration machinery, training farmers and community trust members and commencing the first production cycles.

Mr Thamage said the initiative was expected to help lower agricultural input costs, improve soil health and promote sustainable farming practices, adding that it also sought to enhance the profitability of the Exatheni Veld Product Centre (EVPC) in Ghanzi, while contributing to ecological regeneration and food security. He said its success would depend on reliable machinery, sufficient organic waste supplies and farmers' confidence in the quality of the fertiliser.

"Together, the two interventions aim to establish a practical circular economy in which discarded materials are recovered, processed and returned to productive use," he said. Furthermore, he said through technical training, business skills development and production facilities, community trusts would gain the capacity to manage sustainable enterprises and generate lasting economic benefits.

He pointed out that the initiative also carried an important conservation dimension, saying by improving waste management, reducing pollution and promoting healthier soils, "it seeks to improve environmental conditions within communities and surrounding wildlife corridors."

He said diversified livelihood opportunities could further strengthen human-wildlife coexistence by reducing pressure on livestock-dependent economies and encouraging responsible environmental stewardship.

Mr Thamage said expected milestones included an operational recycling unit, trained community members, marketed paving blocks, functioning dehydration machinery and the first organic fertiliser production cycles, adding that the activities were expected to contribute to employment, improved waste management, lower farming costs and diversified livelihoods. Ultimately, he said Cheater Conservative Botswana aimed to demonstrate that environmental challenges could become economic opportunities when communities were equipped with the skills, resources and support to drive change. If successful, the pilot projects could provide a model for expanding community-based recycling and organic fertiliser production across rural Botswana. *BOPA*

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Huawei launches programme to boost AI capacity

**LUSAKA** - Chinese tech giant Huawei on Monday launched a capacity-building programme in Lusaka, Zambia, to strengthen the country's ability to develop and apply artificial intelligence (AI) in public services. In collaboration with the Smart Zambia Institute, a government agency, Huawei organised a programme themed: Empowering Zambia's AI Future: From Strategy to Practice, gathering government officials, policymakers, and technical experts for discussions and practical sessions on AI applications in public institutions. According to Huawei, the programme would cover multiple areas, including the national AI strategy, large language models, AI-powered data centers, prompt engineering, retrieval-augmented generation and AI agents. *Xinhua*

### Kenya leverages CIIE to expand exports to China

**NAIROBI -** Kenya will leverage its participation in the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE), to be held in Shanghai from November 5 to 10, to boost exports of flagship agricultural products to the Chinese market. Floice Mukabana, chief executive officer of the Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency, said the upcoming CIIE offered a strategic platform for Kenyan start-ups to showcase high-value, traceable and certified products in the vast Chinese market, while forging long-term relationships with buyers, importers and distributors. "Kenya looks forward to participating in the CIIE, which is a key platform for gaining access to the Chinese market," Mukabana said during an interview with Xinhua recently. *Xinhua*

### US to suspend South Africa and Rwanda from duty-free trade access

**NEW YORK -** The United States plans to suspend South Africa and Rwanda from duty-free trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), with the suspensions taking effect on January 1, 2027. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on Monday notified Congress of the news. "President Donald Trump found that the governments of Rwanda and South Africa are engaging in practices that are inconsistent with AGOA's eligibility criteria," he said in a statement. Both countries are being suspended due to "barriers that undermine American trade and investment and practices that pose a threat to US national security and foreign policy interests in the region." South Africa has been the largest beneficiary of AGOA, exporting about US$1.7 billion worth of goods to the United States under the programME in 2025, with main exports including car parts, citrus fruit and wine. *Xinhua*

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# Polokwe o ipelela go dira ka bonatla

Relief Lephutshi
POLOKWE

Sekole se se botlana sa Polokwe, e ne ya re bosheng, sa ipelela maduo a mantle a lekwalo la bosupa jaaka baithuti ba le lesome le bosupa ba ne ba baa sekole seo mo maemong a ntlha.

Sekole se, se gaisitse dikole tse dipotlana di le lekgolo, masome a mabedi le bosupa mo kgaolong ya borwa mo ditlhatlhobong tsa lekwalo la bosupa ngogola.

Mo go lemogeng setlhopha seo kwa moletlong yo o neng o tshwaretswe kwa Polokwe, moithuti mongwe le mongwe o ne a bona moputso wa madi, jaaka fa baithuti ba le barataro ba letshwao la "A" ba abetswe makgolo a mane a dipula, ba le bararo ba letshwao la "B" ba abetswe makgolo a mararo, fa ba le boferabobedi ba maemo a "C",ba bonye makgolo a mabedi a dipula mongwe le mongwe se e le tebogo le thotloetso mo go berekeng ka bonatla.

Kwa moletlong wa go ipelela katlego eo, motshwarelela mookamela kgaolo ya borwa go tswa kwa lephateng la tlhokomelo ya bana le thuto gotswa kwa moding, Rre Tumelo Rakgabo o rotloeditse sekole seo go tshegetsa maemo ao ka nako tsotlhe.

Rre Rakgabo o tlhalositse fa matshego a mararo a pitsa e bong barutabana, baithuti, batsadi kgotsa morafe ga mmogo le kemonokeng ya boeteledipele jwa motse, bo berekile ka tshwaragano le botswerere gore sekole seo se kgone go ntsha maduo a mantle.

O akgotse mogokgo wa Polokwe, Rre Charles Sehularo le ditlhopha tse a dirang le tsone ka tiro e e duleng diatla.

Mo potsolotsong, Rre Sehularo o tlhalositse fa maduo a mantle a dule morago ga go tsamaya tsela ya kwelo tlase le koketsego ya maduo mo dingwageng tse tlhano tse di fetileng jaaka fa ka ngwaga wa 2021, se gapile 78.6 per cent, ka 2022 sa bona kwelo tlase go ya kwago 75 per cent, fa ka 2023 maduo a ne a tlhatloga go nna 90.9 per cent, le 94.1 per cent ka 2024.

A re ka 2025, sekole se ne sa bona phitlhelelo ya 100 per cent, e le matshwao a abeileng sekole seo kwa tlhogong e le lantlha mo ditsong. Mogokgo o tlhalositse fa katlego ya sekole seo, e dirilwe ke go goga

barutabana le go rutuntsha baithuti ka tiriso ya ditselana tse di farologanyeng di akaretsa go tseela tlhatlhobo kwa gae, go kwala tlhatlhobo e go bulwang dibuka tsa thuto ka nako ya dithuto, le go dirisa dipampiri tsa ditlhatlhobo tse di fetileng.

O tlhalositse gape fa go ela tlhoko le go tshegetsa lenaneo la tiro ya sekole go thusitse barutabana go diragatsa ithutuntsho ba sa salwa morago e bile go rotloetsa go diragatsa thulaganyo ya go ruta.

Rre Sehularo a re ba-na-le seabe ka go farologana ba tshwana le komiti ya batsadi le barutabana le bone ba ne ba tsisa pharoganyo ka ba ne ba thusa ka kapei le go rotloetsa bana.

A re ba-tsaya karolo ba bangwe segolo jang ba dikgwebo ba rotloeditse ka go tsaya boikarabelo jwa go thusa mo matlhokong mangwe jaaka go aga ntlwana ya borutelo ya ba ba ipaakanyetsang go dira mophato wa ntlha, go aga matlwana a boitiketso a a dirisang metsi, go dira tshingwana ya merogo, go reka fologa ya lefatshe le go baya matshwao a a kayang sekole. BOPA

*Motshwarelela mookamela lephata la tlamelo ya bana le thuto go tswa kwa moding, Rre Tumelo Rakgabo (mojeng) a abela mogokgo wa sekole se sebotlana sa Polokwe, Rre Charles Sehularo setlankana kwa moletlong wa go ipelela phenyo mo ditlhatlhobong tsa mophato wa bosupa tsa 2025 bosheng. Sekole se, se tsere maemo a ntlha se gaisa dikole tse di potlana di le lekgolo, masome a mabedi le bosupa mo kgaolong ya borwa.*
Senepe: Relief Lephutshi

# Ba Kgalagadi ba oba letsogo ka sengaparile

Cathrine Simane
TSABONG

Banni ba metse e e farologanyeng mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi borwa, e ne ya re bosheng, ba rekisetsa khamphani ya Matebele Milling Company go tswa kwa Mochudi sengaparile.

Mo potsolotsong, molomaganya ditirelo tsa lephata la dikgwa le dibapalwa nageng mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi, Rre Lesika Basalomi o tlhalositse fa monongwaga, ditlhwatlhwa tsa theko di ne di le botoka ka ba bapadi ba ne ba e rekisa ka P42 khilokereme, go nale P40 ngwaga o o fetileng.

Se, Rre Basalomi a re se supile kgolo ka go ne ga rekisiwa sengaparile sa selekanyo sa 15 855kg, mme se rekilwe ka madi a a kanang ka P665,973, a a duetsweng babapadi mo metseng e e farologanyeng.

O supile fa go nnile le koketsego ya thekiso mo kgaolwaneng e e akaretsang metse ya Gakhibana, Middlepits, Omaweneno, Kokotsha, Werda le Makopong a tlatsa ka gore ba metse e e mabapi ba ne ba latela thekiso kwa metseng e, mme kgwetlho ya nna letlhoko la dikoloi go pega dithoto tsa bone.

O tlhalositse fa kgaolo ya Kgalagadi e segofaditswe ka semela sa sengaparile se se bapalwang ngwaga le ngwaga ka jalo banni ba kgone go oba letsogo go tshedisa ba malwapa a bone.

Rre Basolomi a re go bapala sengaparile go na le dikgwetlho tsa bokgakala, go se epa, kgonagalo ya go kopana le diphologolo tse di borai le digagabi mo nageng, a re ka jalo theko e tshwanentse go nna e e botoka.

Molomaganya ditirelo tsa lephata la dikgwa le dibapalwa nageng o supile fa babapadi ba sengaparile ba tlhoka thuto mabapi le ka fa se epiwang ka teng ka seo se ka thusa gore se seka sa nyelela gore le dikokomane tse di tlang di fitlhele se le teng.

Rre Basolomi o tlhalositse fa e tlaa re mo bogaufing, ba lephata la dikgwa le dibapalwa nageng ba simolole diphuthego tsa kgotla go tsibosa banni ka molao wa dipapalwa nageng.

A re dipatlisiso di supa fa se nale mosola mo botsogong le gone go tokafatsa matshelo a Batswana.

Mongwe wa babapadi ba sengaparile go tswa kwa Omaweneno, Mme Elizaberh Kgotshane (57) o supile fa ngwaga ono a ne a itomile molomo wa tlase ka go rekisa dikgetsana tsa 50kg di le lesome le bongwe.

Mme Kgotshane o boletse fa a tsweletse ka go tlhabolola botshelo jwa gagwe ka tiro ya diatla bogolo jang mo dibapalwa nageng e leng sengaparile le mahupu.

A re monongwaga o kgonne go reka dilwana tsa ntlo le go tlhokomela ba lelwapa la gagwe ka madi a Thekiso ya sengaparile.

O gwetlhile babapadi ba bangwe mo kgaolong eo go bopa mokgatlho o ka one ba ka kgonang go ipopa ba bua ka lentswe le le lengwe mabapi le ditlhwatlhwa tsa theko tse di leng kwa tlase thata mo nakong ya gompieno. ***BOPA***

*Banni ba metse mengwe kwa kgaolong ya Kgalagadi borwa ba rekiseditse Matebeleng Milling Company sengaparile sa selekanyo sa 15 855kg ka P665,973 bosheng.*

*Ministry of Health permanent secretary, Dr Neo Tapela during Botswana Harvard Health Partnership's Pink and Powerful cancer awareness and advocacy event in Gaborone on Saturday. She encouraged women to seek medical attention if they notice unusual changes in their bodies.* Photo: Phenyo Ramatu

# Botswana steps up fight against breast cancer

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
**GABORONE**

Botswana is intensifying efforts to improve early detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, with the Ministry of Health prioritising patient navigation, decentralised diagnostic services and stronger referral systems to reduce delays in cancer care.

> Botswana pilot programme uses appointment tracking, active follow-ups and referral coordination to reduce time from screening to diagnosis to less than 60 days.

Ministry of Health permanent secretary, Dr Neo Tapela, stated Saturday in Gaborone, during the Pink and Powerful event organised as part of the Botswana Harvard Health Partnership's celebration of 30 years of research, training and capacity building in Botswana.

Dr Tapela said the milestone offered an opportunity to celebrate the partnership's achievements while renewing collective commitment to improving health outcomes. She commended BHP for dedicating its anniversary celebrations to cancer awareness, screening, healthy lifestyles and women's wellbeing.

"According to national cancer registry data and partner-supported research, breast cancer is Botswana's second most common cancer among women after cervical cancer, with approximately 70 per cent of cases diagnosed at advanced stages III or IV," she said.

Dr Tapela revealed that the median time between a patient's first visit to a health facility and reaching specialist care could be approximately 160 days, highlighting significant gaps in diagnostic and referral pathways.

She said interventions included training nurses to conduct clinical breast examinations, decentralising fine needle aspiration services to primary healthcare facilities and strengthening referrals to bring diagnostic services closer to women.

Dr Tapela also emphasised patient navigation, citing a Botswana pilot programme that used appointment tracking, active follow-ups and referral coordination to reduce the time from screening to diagnosis to less than 60 days.

Successful approaches should now be expanded across public oncology services, Dr Tapela said and called for reliable data and integration of breast and cervical cancer services into existing women's health programmes, including HIV, reproductive health and antenatal care platforms.

She said improving survival required early detection, timely diagnosis and coordinated care to ensure no patient was left behind.

The event brought together healthcare professionals, researchers, cancer survivors and families to promote awareness, screening and healthier lifestyles and attendees were treated to pilates, health education and conversations about breast and cervical cancer including screening.
***BOPA***

# BUAN-Sowa partnership puts communities first

Gontle Merafhe
**GABORONE**

The Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and Sowa Town Council will, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) come up with solutions that will develop the town and improve community livelihoods.

Speaking during the MoU signing, Friday in Gaborone, BUAN's Professor Wellington Masamba said parties would ensure cordial relationship in the interest of improving livelihoods through teaching, research and creating employment opportunities through viable industries.

He said the MoU sought to facilitate efficient and effective implementation of the mandate of both parties by clearly defining areas of collaboration.

"There are many areas that BUAN and Sowa Town Council can collaborate on which we hope will be centralised in implementing this MoU," said Prof. Masamba.

He said the MoU also sought to establish a framework of cooperation aimed at facilitating joint initiatives, a significant milestone marking the beginning of a collaborative journey that would benefit communities, enhance the impact and relevance of their research, service and programme offering a disaster-prone mutual support.

Sowa town mayor, Mr Mompoloki Moiteela, regarded the MoU as a strategic blueprint designed to translate research into real-world socio-economic growth.

"The collaboration comes at a critical time when our local authorities are aggressively driving national grassroots reforms. Central to this is the implementation of a newly developed economic and public works programme," he said.

Mr Moiteela expressed gratitute for the guidance already offered to them, to prepare a business case and laying the groundwork for the inspired BUAN satellite campus in Sowa Town.

He said that as government transitioned the initiative for short term to lead into a skill driven sustainable livelihood pathway, their communities desperately needed quality technical training.

Through the technical expertise of BUAN, Sowa Town Council intended to directly up-lift and train economic beneficiaries within specialised market-relevant fields and Mr Moiteela said the partnership would provide targeted training in natural resources, beneficiation, and sustainable tourism ventures, landscaping environmental conservation and commercial urban agriculture.

"We want to equip our people with dignified practical skills so that they can graduate from state dependency into self-reliance and successful enterprises globally. In return, Sowa town pledges peaceful structural support. We are ready to open our facility for BUAN student engagement, provide hands-on community engagement for our researchers and grant practical land access for your satellite campus, agriculture and environmental pilot projects," said Mr Moiteela.
***BOPA***

Arts & Culture

# Artists confident of future amid AI revolution

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Local artists remain optimistic about their future despite the growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI), which is transforming the creative industry and raising questions about originality, authenticity and the value of human talent.

While AI-powered tools are making it easier and cheaper to produce creative content, some artists fear that the technology could undermine traditional artistic skills and create unfair competition.

Others, however, view it as an opportunity to enhance their work, acquire new skills and reach wider audiences.

Digital creator, writer and animator, Try Gaotlhobogwe, known for producing Setswana animations, science lessons and content inspired by Botswana's myths and folklore, said AI had significantly supported his creative work.

He explained that although he could independently produce educational content in Setswana, storytelling through music and animation required skills he did not possess.

"Without AI, I would still be explaining physics and general natural science in Setswana, but storytelling would remain a future ambition," he said.

Gaotlhobogwe said using AI was faster and more affordable than outsourcing music composition and animation, particularly because his online content business was still developing.

He added that he made efforts to avoid copyright infringement by using original lyrics inspired by the stories he produced.

"From my perspective, AI has been empowering for the most part," he said, while acknowledging the potential negative effects of AI-generated content on the creative industry.

Author of a Setswana novel: *Sefefo*, Mitchell Kgosithebe, said AI could improve creativity and artistic standards if used responsibly.

However, she cautioned that misuse of the technology could threaten human creativity, emphasising that AI should support rather than replace artists.

"Artists deserve recognition, protection and opportunities for their original work," she said.

Similarly, Lorato Motswagae, founder of Aus Lolah Crockets, said AI has helped her handcraft business, improve branding and marketing through posters and social media content.

Nevertheless, she expressed concern that AI-generated products could undermine handmade crafts because they were often cheaper and easier to produce in large quantities.

She said consumers might opt for less expensive machine-generated products at the expense of authentic handmade work.

Another artist Emmanuel Boefelo: an author, cultural promoter radio contributor and known as Mmasekgethu in poetry circles also warned that AI could overshadow originality and disadvantage creatives who relied on their natural talent and acquired skills.

He argued that the technology has made it possible for almost anyone to produce content and identify themselves as an artist, potentially creating unfair competition.

"AI is a good tool if it is used to put icing on an already-made cake, not to make the whole cake," he said.

Meanwhile, Oliver Gaolaolwe, popularly known as Oliver The Poet, believes AI and human creativity can coexist.

He said the technology could help artists develop skills and access knowledge that might otherwise remain beyond their reach.

Gaolaolwe explained that AI could assist creatives with practical tasks, such as learning how to prepare proposals, while allowing them to concentrate on their artistic abilities.

He maintained that the outcome depended on how people chose to use the technology, adding that he was not afraid AI would replace his talent.

Christian author and poet Kgosi Kooagile said AI was not the end of literature but a development that challenged writers to become more deliberate about the value of their work.

He noted that AI could assist with research, editing, organisation and promotion, while digital platforms enabled local authors to reach readers beyond geographical boundaries.

However, he stressed that generating text was different from taking responsibility for authorship.

"Literature draws strength from observation, memory, environmental understanding, moral judgement, imagination and the courage to confront human complexity," he said.

Kooagile added that writers remained accountable for the meaning, accuracy and integrity of their work.

Visual artist, Wame Bodutu of Art By Wame, remain confident in the future of her Afrocentric art because of its authenticity, texture and originality.

She believes future generations will continue to appreciate the human touch evident in her creations, although acknowledging that AI-generated artwork was increasingly threatening traditional artistic practices.

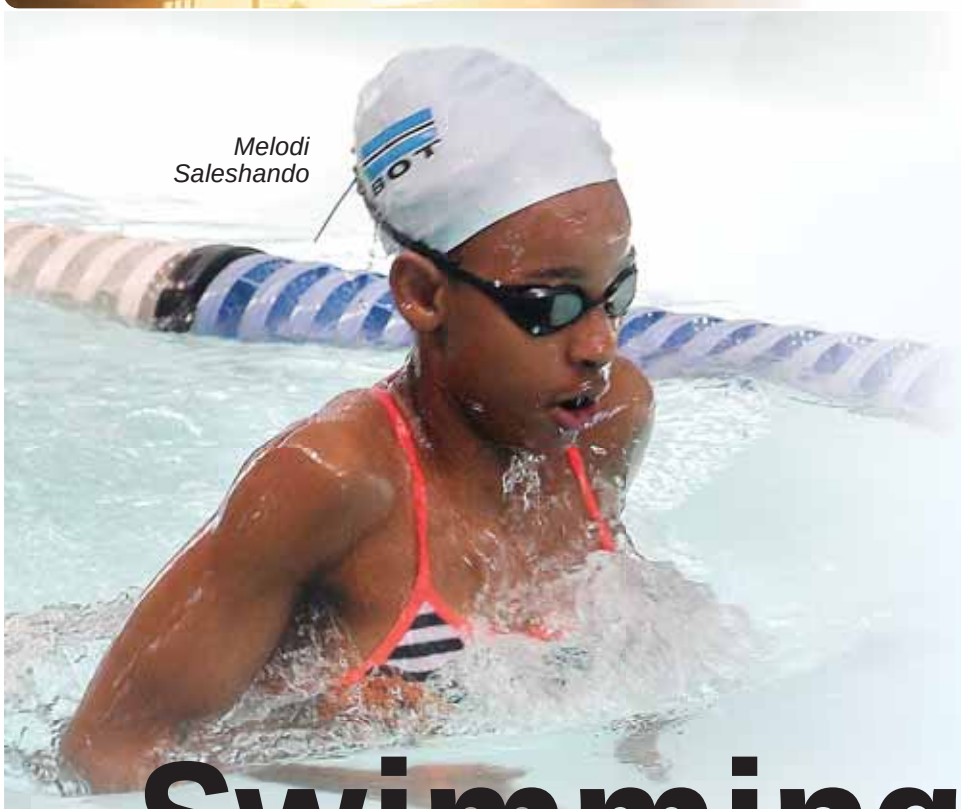
Multidisciplinary visual artist and eco-creator Kennet Bale, known as Artistic Bale, also believes human creativity will retain its value because people will continue to seek emotional connection and authentic storytelling.

He said traditional art carried history, cultural identity and the human experiences that technology could not fully reproduce.

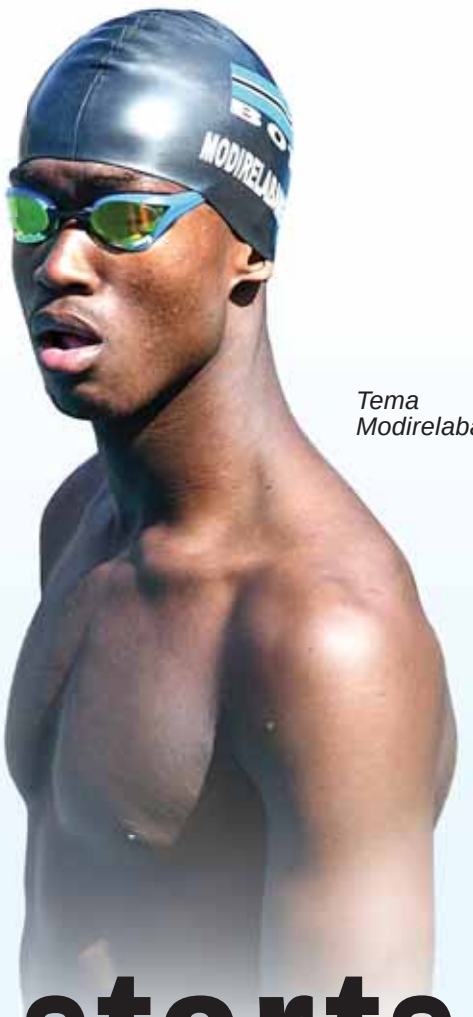
Bale maintained that the future of the creative industry depended on artists embracing innovation without sacrificing authenticity, cultural depth and emotional expression.

Despite differing views on AI, the artists share a common concern: technology should create opportunities for creativity rather than diminish the value of human talent. ***BOPA***

DailySport



Melodi Saleshando



Tema Modirelabangwe

# Swimming duo starts hunt for medals

Anastacia Sibanda
**GABORONE**

Botswana swimming duo of Melodi Saleshando and Tema Modirelabangwe is scheduled to make their splash, today at the ongoing Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Senegal.

Saleshando will take the blocks in the women's 50m freestyle preliminary round, while Modirelabangwe will look to secure a semifinal berth in the men's 50m butterfly.

The swimming heats are expected to test the aquatic speedsters against the world's elite youth talent as Botswana continues its hunt for its first podium finish in Senegal.

Team Botswana press attaché, Clifford Mooketsi, has confirmed that the two swimmers were in high spirits and physically ready for the competition

Mooketsi said while the competition in the pool had a competitive and globally stacked field, the technical team was confident about Botswana's prospects.

"The swimmers are ready to dive in. It is a stacked field, but we are very confident that our athletes are going to give a good account of themselves and perform well," he said.

Meanwhile, Team Botswana's captain, Theresa Tagarira missed out on a podium finish in the judo competition after losing a bronze medal match to her opponent Rosalvick Aguilar of Venezuela in the 44kg category.

Despite missing out on silverware, national judo coach, Thato Lebang was impressed with the young judoka's overall display.

"I am generally happy with her performance, but unfortunately, she fell out in the bronze final. It was just a slight misjudgment on her part, which is something we will correct for future competitions," he said.

Lebang said it was a learning curve for her future development, adding that he was happy because this was her first major international competition and she managed to fight all the way to a bronze medal match. ***BOPA***

# Dolphins dream in limbo

Thato Mosinyi
**GABORONE**

*Dolphins' dream of qualifying for the East Division Elite 16 stage of the 2027 Basketball Africa League season is in limbo following a 96-56 defeat to Munali Suns at the ongoing FIBA Africa Champions Clubs Road to BAL 2026 Division East qualifiers in Lusaka, Zambia.*

Dolphins dream of qualifying for the East Division Elite 16 stage of the 2027 Basketball Africa League (BAL) season is in limbo.The setback follows 96-56 defeat to Munali Suns on Sunday at the ongoing FIBA Africa Champions Clubs Road to BAL 2026 Division East qualifiers in Lusaka, Zambia.

Botswana Basketball League reigning champions, Dolphins tipped off their qualification campaign on a high with convincing victory on their first two opening games of the tournament against Zimbabwe's Harare Kings and Malawi's Bravehearts Basketball clubs respectively.

The Dolphins opened their qualification account with a 77-72 victory against the Kings at the NASDEC Sports Complex.

After trailing in the first half, the Dolphins turned the game around with a dominant 26-9 third-quarter performance with Dallan Coleman and Kesaobaka Ndawanyana combining for 36 points.

Coleman led with 19 points, eight rebounds, and four assists while Ndawanyana added 17 points and five rebounds and Peter Cheng Marial contributed 12 points and nine rebounds to secure maiden championship victory for the Dolphins.

Following their opening win against the Kings, the Dolphins went on to claim their second consecutive victory by defeating Malawi's Bravehearts 78–74.

The Dolphins opened the game with a bright 6-0 spark after Adrian Breitlauch and Jongkuch connected on consecutive three-pointers.

However, the Bravehearts responded with six unanswered points (6-6) before both teams traded baskets to tie again at 16-16 in the opening quarter of the game.The Dolphins fought back after trailing 42–32 at half-time surging to take the game over in the third quarter.

Coleman led the comeback with 20 points, four rebounds, one assist and one steal for the Dolphins, while South Sudanese centre, Makur Jongkuch added 17 points, six rebounds, two steals, one assist and one block.

However, Dolphins chances of qualifying to the next round nonetheless hangs in balance after suffering a defeat to the Suns in a dominant 40-point blowout in their third game of tournament.

With a bigger size in their roaster Munali Suns outscored the Dolphins 60-24 in the paint and won the rebounding battle 59-31.Despite suffering defeat in their last game, the journey is not over for the local lads with two games remaining against South Africa's Soweto Panthers and Mozambique's Ferroviario da Beira.

Dolphins captain Kesaobaka Ndawanyana revealed in an interview that the team was determined to bounce back strongly in the remaining two games.

The top two teams from the group phase will advance directly to the East Division Elite 16 stage, scheduled for November 23–29, where the ultimate qualifying spots for the 2027 Basketball Africa League season will be decided. ***BOPA***