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Legwaila: Towering diplomatic figure

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Children day Nov.15



SADC Child-Led Parliamentary Forum member, Chauntelle Onneile (left) and Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education Ms Mmamiki Kamanakao updating members of the media on the upcoming World Children’s Day commemoration in Gaborone yesterday. Botswana will host the event on November 15, with 200 children from nine SADC countries expected to take part in the commemoration themed: My Day, My Rights-From Promises to Action. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse.

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Legwaila: Towering diplomatic figure

By Lindi Morwaeng

MOLEPOLOLE - Botswana mourns the passing of one of its most seasoned diplomats and peace advocates, Ambassador Joseph (88) who died peacefully at his home in Phakalane on October 31.

Born in Mathathane, Bobirwa, Legwaila’s journey from rural classrooms to global diplomatic arenas was marked not by loud ambition, but by a quiet determination to serve.

He began as a primary school teacher, first at Semolale Primary

School and later at Mosweu Primary School in Tswapong during the 1950s.

His keen intellect and clarity of thought were evident early.

His nephew, Mr Ishmael Mbe, remembers the young Legwaila as a brilliant student even during their

teacher training days at Serowe Teacher Training College in 1960.

He recalls one moment vividly the day their instructor assigned students to deliver demonstration lessons. Legwaila chose to teach the complex topic of communism.

“He taught for 45 minutes calmly and clearly,” Mr Mbe remembered.

“Our teacher was so impressed she arranged for him to further his studies abroad. That lesson changed the course of his life,” he said.

He later earned a Bachelor’s degree in History and Political Science from the University of Calgary and a Master’s in Political Science from the University of Alberta before returning home to serve his country.

In 1973 he joined the Office of the President as an Assistant External Affairs officer and soon became the first Senior Private Secretary to the founding President Sir Seretse Khama.

He continued serving under the presidency of Sir Ketumile Masire whose government recognised his dedication by awarding him the Presidential Order of Honour in 1992.

In 1980 he was appointed Botswana’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, a position he would hold for 22 years, also serving as non-resident ambassador to Cuba, Guyana and Jamaica. During these decades, he represented Botswana through shifting global alliances and crises quietly but firmly ensuring that the interests of a young nation were respected on the world stage.

He also served as vice president of the United Nations General Assembly three times and twice presided over the UN Security Council when Botswana held a temporary seat.

Former permanent secretary and historian, Dr Jeff Ramsay described him as ‘a towering figure in Botswana’s diplomatic history’ noting that his legacy was reflected both in major continental developments and in the countless behind-the-scenes negotiations where his calm presence prevented escalation.

“He was deeply respected not only for his intellect,” Dr Ramsay said, ‘but for his steady

temperament. His contribution to peace and governance in Africa was exceptional’.

Dr Ramsay stated that his work extended beyond diplomacy into hands-on conflict resolution.

He served as Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations in Namibia during the UNTAG process that oversaw that country’s transition to independence in 1990.

He was later appointed by the UN Secretary General to mediate in the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea in the 2000s and also in South Africa during the final years of apartheid transition and later as Special Advisor on Africa at the United Nations.

At home, his wisdom continued to be sought long after retirement. From 2015 to 2018, he served as Special Advisor to former president, Dr Festus Mogae during the South Sudan peace process.

His wife, Ms Pholile Legwaila, who also served with distinction as a diplomat at the UN, said he brought the same commitment to peace into their home.

“He was a wonderful husband, father, uncle and grandfather. He loved people dearly. He truly believed that education is your bread and he helped many relatives and friends pursue their studies,” she said.

“But most of all he carried peace in the family, the community and the world. Even in family disagreements, they called him to reconcile us. It was his nature,” Ms Legwaila added.

Last year, the University of Botswana conferred upon him an Honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in recognition of his service to public life and international diplomacy a rare tribute to a life lived with purpose, humility and grace.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Church in Gaborone today while his funeral will take place on Saturday in Mathathane in a private ceremony, according to his wishes.

Ambassador Legwaila leaves behind his wife Pholile, their three children, grandchildren and a legacy defined not only by the positions he held but by the gentle firmness with which he made peace. **BOPA**



Botswana mourns the passing of one of its most seasoned diplomats and peace advocates, Ambassador Joseph Legwaila (88) who died peacefully at his home in Phakalane on October 31. A memorial service will be held in Gaborone today, while his funeral will be in Mathathane on Saturday.

Teamwork central to project success - Dikoloti

By Aobakwe Molefhi

MMATHETHE - Mmathethe residents have been urged to work together to ensure that the Hatlhogang Game Farm project becomes a success.

When officially handing over the project to the community, Good Hope/Mmathehe MP and also acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti said working together would bring some tangible results.

Such, he said would not only be limited to profit making for the village, but would also create employment opportunities for

community members.

“The project will unlock partnerships with different business entities because it is the only one in the district,” he said.

Furthermore, he emphasised that if they worked as a team and stuck to the initial mandate of attracting tourists, the Return on Investment would be impressive.

Dr Dikoloti also pleaded with the community to own the game farm so the safety of the wildlife would be guaranteed.

Giving an overview of the project, Good Hope deputy council chairperson, Mr Matshediso Pitso said the project was funded through

the Constituency Community Projects funds with over P2 million.

Already, he said they had managed to construct a game proof perimeter fence, drilled a borehole and constructed a guardhouse, amongst other things. He said animals, which include impalas, elands, gemboks and ostriches were donated by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Mr Pitso said the project would impact positively in the district as a whole because even learners would have a chance to see the animals rather instead of going for expensive excursions to the national parks. **BOPA**

Minister urges youth to spearhead Africa green economy

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Young people across Africa have been called to take the lead in transforming the continent’s natural wealth into sustainable prosperity, with biodiversity described as Africa’s ‘competitive advantage’.

Speaking during the youth-led session of the Africa Biodiversity Summit in Gaborone on Monday, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi urged them to spearhead efforts to turn Africa’s vast biodiversity into a driver of sustainable growth.

Mr Mmolotsi noted that Africa’s youthful demographic was both a challenge and an opportunity, pointing out that over 60 per cent of the continent’s population was under 25 years old, adding that future of biodiversity rested in

their hands,.

“When young innovators are supported to lead, the continent not only safeguards its natural heritage, it accelerates development,” he said.

He further commended the participation of young leaders, innovators and environmental advocates from across the continent.

He further called on governments, investors and communities to support youth innovation in the green economy transformation.

The minister cited real-world examples of youth-driven environmental innovation across Africa, from transforming indigenous plants into cosmetics and food products to developing sustainable tourism, circular economies through waste recycling, and digital tools for

agriculture and conservation.

“Young people here today prove that a green future through leveraging biodiversity is not a distant dream,” he said.

Mr Mmolotsi encouraged youth to seize networking opportunities provided by the summit, particularly an intergenerational session linking young innovators with policymakers and investors.

He reiterated his appeal to private investors and financial institutions to invest meaningfully in youth-led green innovation.

“Invest in young enterprises, not as charity, but because they are the future of the industry. Create accessible and flexible financing, support incubation and mentorship and remove barriers that prevent youth from leading green economic transformation,” he said.

Mr Mmolotsi expressed

optimism about the youth’s role in shaping an inclusive, sustainable future.

“Your passion is powerful, your leadership is essential, the world is looking forward to your guidance,” said Mr Mmolotsi.

He explained that the summit’s theme: Leveraging Biodiversity for Africa’s Prosperity, emphasised that biodiversity was not merely a conservation concern, but Africa’s competitive advantage.

“Africa’s rich natural capital provides food, jobs, cultural identity, climate resilience and global value,” he said, adding that leveraging biodiversity meant turning natural wealth into sustainable enterprises, skilled employment and inclusive growth, especially for the youth while protecting the ecosystems that sustained people.

Mr Mmolotsi stressed that biodiversity protection should not be viewed as a cost, but as an investment in economic stability, dignity and shared wealth.

Minister Mmolotsi reaffirmed Botswana’s commitment to integrating biodiversity into its economic and cultural identity.

“In Botswana, biodiversity is central to identity and development, we remain committed to a green economy that values community-based resource management, sustainable tourism and wildlife co-management,” he said.

He added that Botswana was advancing initiatives in indigenous crop value chains, botanical product manufacturing and data-based enterprises, sectors that demonstrated how environmental stewardship could support local economies. **BOPA**

Boko pays tribute to Segokgo

By Booster Mogapi

MOGODITSHANE - As the outgoing Botswana Defence Force (BDF) commander bids farewell to a 42-year illustrious military career, he is remembered for serving with honour, integrity and selfless devotion.

Having joined the BDF in 1983, Lt Gen. Placid Segokgo retires from BDF tomorrow, and has already handed over a sword of authority to incoming Commander General Mpho Mophuting.

In a farewell dinner hosted in his honour in Gaborone on Monday, President Advocate Duma Boko, who is also Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces, applauded the retiring commander for his devotion and patriotism in serving the country.

“We are here to pay tribute to the man whose 42 years of selfless service in defence of his country, has left an enduring legacy that is steadfastly guiding our sovereignty and the protection of our freedoms,” he said.

President Boko said for more than four decades, Lt Gen. Segokgo carried out immense responsibilities of commanding courage, humility and discipline.

He added that his distinguished leadership, nine of which was spent as the commander, he guided the BDF through both times of peace and challenges.

The President also said the sacrifices he made in leading the army, both personal and professional, could not be taken for granted.

Furthermore, he highlighted that they had witnessed a historic moment, a peaceful political transition of power, and an unprecedented handover since independence in 1966, and during that period the BDF demonstrated its steadfast apolitical character, serving the constitution and never any person or political party.

“General, your stewardship of the BDF of the SADC Mission in Mozambique remains a defining moment of your illustrious military career and define Botswana as a pro-active member of the international community.”

President Boko said the outgoing commander’s leadership was tested when he had to account to the families who lost their loved ones in the line of service for their country.

In addition, he said the BDF provided their services during the COVID-19 pandemic where they provided logistical support in delivering medical items to where they were needed.

For his part, the incoming BDF Commander, General Mpho Mophuting also praised his predecessor for leading the institution with honour and integrity.

As Lt Gen Segokgo’s military journey came to an end, General Mophuting said his was an era led with discipline and character.

He advised him to rest, put himself first, worry about nothing, smile a lot and enjoy his life.

He said he started a new chapter where rank and position did not matter and urged him to enjoy life bearing in mind that old age came with its own issues, which he would overcome.

In his farewell speech, outgoing Commander Lt Gen. Segokgo appreciated BDF for honouring him with a farewell dinner that reflected the warmth and mutual respect, saying he had been humbled by their thoughtfulness and generosity.

He said he was thankful for having been given the opportunity to lead, adding that the support from government had been immense during the whole of his tenure.

Lt Gen. Segokgo added that as he stepped into a new life he was filled with nostalgia, emotions and excitement.

He said he celebrated a journey he shared with others and was also grateful for the support he enjoyed from regional partners, stakeholders, support staff and family.

He thanked his family for allowing him to be away from them but believed that as he has now handed the baton to another commander, he would have time to spend with them and enjoy each other’s company. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, (left) and outgoing Botswana Defence Force commander, Lt Gen. Placid Segokgo during a farewell dinner hosted in honour of the latter in Mogoditshane on Monday. President Boko thanked Lt Gen. Segokgo for his unwavering devotion and patriotism in service to the nation. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Over 200 to join World Children’s Day commemoration

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - Botswana will on November 15 host the 2025 Sub-Regional World Children’s Day Commemoration in Gaborone.

The World Children’s Day, observed annually, is a day dedicated to promoting, advocating and celebrating children’s rights through dialogue and action that build a better world for all children.

This year, a total of nine SADC countries are expected to participate in the festivities, with 200 children expected to attend.

Each participating country will bring 10 children, while Botswana will bring 120 children representing various age groups, and genders, including children with disabilities.

Speaking at a media briefing in Gaborone yesterday, acting Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa said hosting the 2025 commemoration, to be held at the Parliamentary Chambers, marked a significant milestone in Botswana’s commitment to championing the rights and welfare of children within the SADC region.

“Parliament signifies the highest decision-making platform, thereby elevating children’s issues to the highest level,” said Mr Hunyepa.

The acting minister noted that the event also aimed to provide a high-level platform for children to meaningfully engage in decision-making processes on issues that affected them. He revealed that the day would also promote collaboration among children and allow them to share experiences on how their respective member states were advancing their rights.

“As the theme for this year goes, My Day, My Rights-From Promises to Action, it gives children an opportunity to tell their side of the story regarding the realisation of their rights,” he said. The theme, he noted also challenged member states to reflect on the progress made in investing in children’s rights and welfare.

He further said all key ministries and sectors would be required to submit progress reports in line with the accountability framework reflecting issues raised by children. Mr Hunyepa further revealed that First Lady Kaone Boko was expected to host children at a traditional welcome

dinner on November 14, while on the following day, children would join the chairperson of the National Children’s Consultative Forum, Ms Aumake Aaron, to discuss the state of children in the region.

Their deliberations, he said would be followed by responses from Heads of State.

For his part, UNICEF Representative, Dr Kimanzi Muthengi affirmed the organisation’s commitment to creating a platform where children’s voices were heard and their rights promoted.

“Today’s UNICEF Botswana is about every child in this country,” said Dr Muthengi, emphasising that the organisation valued all partners who contributed toward advancing children’s rights.

He extended his gratitude to the government for its continued commitment to promoting children’s rights and well-being and the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education for its leadership.

“We appreciate the government’s effort in organising this event that will bring together stakeholders from Botswana and neighbouring countries,” he said. **BOPA**

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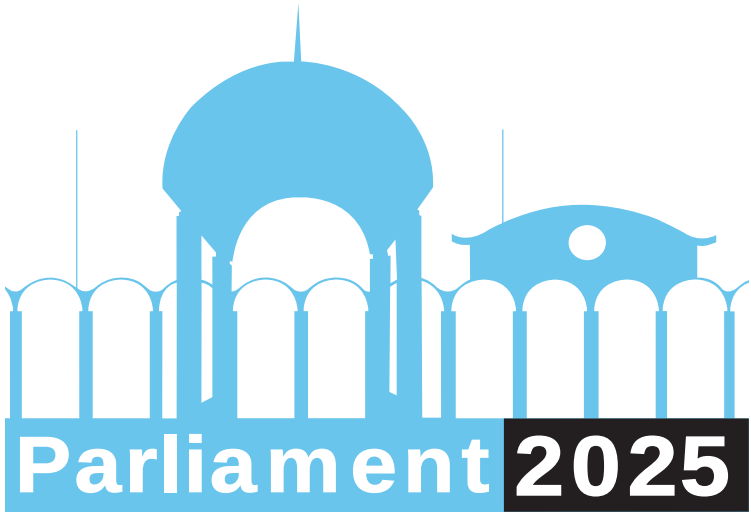
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Tax reforms to enhance revenue collection

By Kehumile Moekeje

GABORONE - The impending tax reforms targeting digital services is expected to improve the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) systems and enhance the country’s revenue collection by 40 per cent during the National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12), says Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe.

Mr Gaolathe said the new framework would expand Botswana’s fiscal base to fund various investments and developmental projects.

“The new technology framework will modernise the BURS VAT system and expand the VAT base for taxing digital services, expected to boost economic revenue by 40 per cent. This in turn will fund social protection, infrastructure and job creation investments,” he said.

Mr Gaolathe who is also the vice president said in Parliament on Friday proposing his Ministry’s P8.83 billion Public Investment Programme (PIP) budget proposal for NDP 12.

The sum of P6.76 billion will go toward implementing new projects which were meant to drive the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), while the remaining budget will be channeled toward completing ongoing projects.

Mr Gaolathe also mentioned the implementation of the electronic VAT invoicing and monitoring system which would enhance the effectiveness of the transactions.

He said the system would improve transparency and close revenue leakages through fraud and under declaration of VAT.

Mr Gaolathe further said the Government Accounting and Budgeting System (GABS) and Financial Management Information System (FMIS) would be revamped to ensure fiscal discipline and budget credibility were strengthened.

He said the modern transformation of the systems would also contribute toward a more transparent and efficient service delivery to the citizenry.

He said plans were underway to establish a locally based reinsurance entity in an endeavour to have a resilient insurance platform.

“By creating a locally based reinsurance entity, we will retain more premium value within Botswana.

The envisaged Botswana Insurance market platform project will support the creation of a digital and operational market place.

The whole idea is to enhance

transparency, data sharing and efficiency across the insurance value chain,” he explained.

In addition to contributing toward economic diversification through an inclusive financial sector, he said this would also position Botswana as a regional insurance hub.

Mr Gaolathe further noted that the manual procurement system would be substituted with an e-procurement procedure for the capacitation of procuring entities to enable them to effectively implement the new system.

He said PPRA IT systems would be developed to operationalise the organisation’s expanded mandate.

“This platform will serve as a centralised hub for publishing procurement data, tender notices and performance matrix of procuring entities.

It is designed to enhance stakeholder engagement, provide real time access to procurement information and streamline reporting processes,” he noted.

Furthermore, Mr Gaolathe noted that Bank of Botswana would introduce an innovation hub, alongside regulatory sandbox, national payment infrastructure forming part of the initiatives intended to drive BETP.

He said the projects would enhance innovation and improve the national payment ecosystem.

BOPA

Infrastructure funding catalyst for economic growth

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - In its endeavor to transform Botswana into a premier regional hub for trade, travel and investment by building world class infrastructure, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure has requested Parliament to approve over P148 billion for projects and programmes under National Development Plan 12.

Presenting the requested budget before Parliament on Monday, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae said the amount would be channeled to rebuild and expand infrastructure accompanied by the relevant reforms to improve efficiency.

Mr Salakae said P540 million was requested for upgrading driver licensing system, fleet tracking management and maintenance system, integrated Botswana roads management system as well as procurement of engineering software for roads and building projects .

He said rail infrastructure

programme would play a crucial role in facilitating trade and enhancing connection within the region.

As part of the economic transformation drive, he cited that an amount of over P64 million would be invested in the rail infrastructure.

The proposed rail infrastructure projects he said were the construction of Mmamabula-Lephalale, Mosetse-Kazangula-Livingstone and Trans-Kalahari rail links.

Mr Salakae said the ministry also aimed to procure rolling stock and fleet for rail passenger services, replace signaling and telecommunication system, rehabilitate Ramatlabama-Vakaranga and Francistown-Sua rail lines as well as capacitate Walvis Bay dry port and construct Mosetse dry port.

With regards to civil aviation infrastructure, Mr Salakae noted that funds amounting to over P5.4 billion were required for the development of Maun Airport, expansion of Sir Seretse Khama

International Airport cargo facility, improvement of aviation safety and security and procurement of aviation equipment among other things.

“Implementation of these aviation infrastructure will facilitate unlocking of high value export economy and establish a regional logistics hub as the country will be able to achieve the highest international civil aviation organisation audit ratings and reliability of airport operations,” he said.

Additionally, he said a total of P3.1 billion was requested for revenue generating projects citing the procurement of a cargo aircraft, establishment of an approved training facility, construction of a world class maintenance and repair facility and procurement of ground handling equipment.

Such projects, he said were a gateway to resuscitate the national airline through diversification of its revenue streams.

Minister Salakae further said the road infrastructure programme would require funds amounting over P72.7 billion for road projects that would be facilitating access to economic sectors and those which would be addressing urban congestion.

“Some of the strategic roads to be covered under this program include among others the upgrading of the A1 road, reconstruction of the Sehitwa-Mohembo road, construction of the Rasesa-Lentsweletau-Mahetlwe-Hatsalatlhadi-Diphuduhudu road and Mogoditshane-Gabane-Mmankodi junction dual road,” he said.

For building of infrastructure, Mr Salakae said a total of P1.3 billion was requested for refurbishment of the Ministry headquarters building, construction of driver and vehicle testing stations, construction of weighbridge and staff houses as well as construction and refurbishment of district offices.

BOPA



Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae said the road infrastructure programme would require funds amounting over P72.7 billion for road projects that would facilitate access to economic sectors.

Transport ministry gets lion share of NDP12 budget proposal

By Kehumile Moekeje

GABORONE - The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, with a proposed budget of 38.2 per cent will take a lion’s share of the P388 billion proposed budget for National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12).

Giving an overview of the Public Investment Programme (PIP) to Parliament on Friday, the Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Maipelo Mophuting noted that the over P148 billion budget estimate would primarily go toward infrastructure development and refurbishment to improve the country’s competitiveness and connectivity.

“The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure takes the largest share at a P148.09 billion or 38.2 per cent of the proposed development expenditure, mainly to cover roads, build infrastructure, railways and airports, including the recapitalisation of Air Botswana to enhance competitiveness and

connectivity.”

Ms Mophuting said government had prioritised refurbishment of dilapidated infrastructure and the largest share under this plan would be channeled toward restoration of this infrastructure.

As for the Ministry of Water and Human Settlement, she noted that a larger portion of the proposed P47.2 billion would be spent on water network rehabilitation, water supply upgrading and housing projects.

With the third largest budget of P40.12 billion, Ms Mophuting said the proposed development budget for the Ministry of Minerals and Energy would go toward electricity transmission and distribution, mineral exploration and research development, among other priorities.

“The resources are mainly earmarked for electricity generation, transmission and distribution, exploration and mineral development, mining and minerals governance, national oil

security and research development,” she said.

Ms Mophuting said the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs had proposed a development budget of P15.29 billion.

She underscored the need for prudent financial management, owing to a forecast of negative economic growth in the next financial year.

“This serves as a warning to us to be mindful of prudent management of resources as well as the limitation on the country’s ambitious project delivery goals of transforming this economy.

Government is cautious of the limited fiscal space which remains constrained to rising recurrent expenditures and modest revenue growth,” she said.

Consequently, she said NDP 12 would prioritise ongoing economically viable and impactful projects that addressed key socio-economic challenges, unemployment, inequality, climate

change and disability, among other national priority areas.

Ms Mophuting also noted that projects and programmes would be prioritised according to their contribution toward long term development transformation.

She said while the majority of the proposed projects would be financed through the Domestic Development Fund (DDF) and donor funding, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) would also play a critical role in driving the economic transformation agenda.

“It will be critical to augment the DDF with the assistance provided from donor funding such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union and others, without compromising our fiscal sustainability. The PPP model will also need to be fast tracked to finance some of the development projects and other strategies will be put in place for mobilising resources to support the transformation agenda and inclusivity,” she said.

BOPA

Lekutlane advocates inclusivity in foreign missions

By Kehumile Moekejo

GABORONE - Kgagagadi North MP, Mr Reason Lekutlane has urged the Ministry for International Relations to consider appointing people from marginalised tribes for Ambassador and High Commissioner roles.

He said certain tribes were usually side-lined when it comes to decision making roles, despite holding relevant qualifications.

“I urge the minister to make history and appoint Basarwa and Bakgalagadi on these positions because we have people who are qualified. This will not only involve our tribes in decision making positions but will also motivate our children to aim to be competitive like the rest of Batswana,” he said.

The MP said children from marginalised tribes were reluctant to pursue higher education since they did not have role models in high positions of power.

He aired his sentiments in Parliament on Monday contributing to the debate on the Public Investment Programme (PIP), in which the Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale indicated that his ministry had expanded diplomatic missions to six new locations of Ankara, Doha, Lilongwe, Moscow, Muscat as well as establishing a Consulate General in Dubai.

For his part, MP for Boteti East, Mr Keoagile Atamelang appreciated the role played by diplomacy in attracting investments and opening new markets for the country.

He underscored the need for all stakeholders, including the private sector to be patriotic and join hands in building this sector for Botswana. “Diplomacy must be economic, inclusive and visionary. The new African journey is the journey of knowledge, technology and trust, so every mission

abroad should open markets, attract investments and create opportunities for our people,” he said.

Subsequently, he implored relevant authorities to ensure that proposed infrastructure developments aimed at enhancing trade between countries were effectively implemented.

Mr Atamelang said projects such as the Trans-Kalahari Railway line and expansion of A1 Highway into dual carriage were some of the key projects that gave hope and enhanced diplomacy between Botswana and neighbouring countries. He said establishing an additional six missions in various locations indicated the government’s commitment to transforming the country.

Mr Atamelang said legislators should appreciate the need to have capital investment in order to leave a sustainable legacy for future generations. “We cannot achieve those infrastructure projects if there is no capital investment, so for us to get there we have to be very diplomatic,” he noted.

Responding to the debates, the acting Minister for International Relations, Ms Maipelo Mophuting said while she acknowledged the need to ensure equal opportunity for all Batswana, the appointment of Ambassadors and High Commissioners was based on merit and competence.

“It is important to note that merit and competence are generally the overriding considerations,” she said.

Additionally, she said establishing diplomatic relations with other countries was guided by Botswana’s principles which included democracy, development, respect for the rule of law and human rights, among other factors.

She further noted that Botswana aligned its diplomatic relations with the continually shifting geopolitical landscape. **BOPA**



Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs has proposed P650.3 million for projects, from which P588.9 million will cover new projects. The proposed new projects include among others, construction of facilities and refurbishment of Youth Centres, consultancies and various studies for youth and gender sectors.

Youth ministry proposes over P650m for projects

By Kehumile Moekejo

GABORONE - The Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs has proposed a total budget of P650.3 million for projects, from which P588.9 million will cover new projects, while ongoing Information and Communication

Technology (ICT) projects are estimated to cost P61.4 million under National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12).

The proposed new projects include among others, construction of facilities and refurbishment of Youth Centres, consultancies and various studies for youth and gender sectors.

Minister Lesego Chombo said P456.3 million would go toward ministry infrastructure which entailed construction, upgrading and refurbishment of youth centres to increase access and participation in youth empowerment programmes as well as establishing market centres for women entrepreneurs and providing office space and staff housing in various districts.

Ms Chombo was on Monday presenting before Parliament her Ministry’s Public Investment Programme (PIP) under NDP 12.

Furthermore, she said P125 million was required to implement youth and gender mainstreaming programmes, which were intended to promote gender equality and address youth issues and programming for sustainable empowerment programmes.

“Some of the projects to be implemented under this programme include the National Relationship Study II, establishment of Safe Havens/GBV One Stop Centres, the development of a GBV information management system and the study on youth mental health and wellbeing,” she said.

In addition to enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship among youth and women, she noted that the programmes were aimed at ensuring that women had equal opportunities that enabled

them to contribute to the economy.

She also said the strategic investments did not only target economic empowerment, but also addressed the mental and emotional wellbeing of the targeted groups.

Ms Chombo said government was committed to prioritising empowerment of youth and women, as well as promoting gender equality through existing policies and programmes.

“We are investing in systems that deliver, in voices that must be heard and in citizens who are ready to lead. The programmes I have outlined are not mere administrative undertakings, but strategic investments in people, productivity and national progress,” she noted.

To provide an integrated communication network and a platform for psycho social services, Ms Chombo said a total of P68.9 million was required to develop Information Technology infrastructure and establish the ministry’s call centre.

She said these would enable timely access to information and support public sector operations.

Ms Chombo noted that the success of these projects translated to more job opportunities and economic empowerment for youth and women, which contributed stronger and safer communities.

She also said empowering marginalised groups created a more inclusive and competitive economy.

“The resources requested are therefore not costs, but catalysts for measurable change, empowered young people, reduced gender inequalities, improved service delivery and a more resilient society,” she said. **BOPA**

improvements in various prisons as well as the establishment of the prison air arm.

“The refurbishment and construction of prison facilities is to ensure that inmates are not housed in dilapidated infrastructure that does not respect their human dignity,” he said.

Furthermore, he requested a revised amount of P169 million for the Office of the Receiver to construct customised warehouses in Gaborone, Lobatse and Francistown in order to secure storage for properties entrusted to the Receiver. The minister noted that P143 million will be needed for the Land Tribunal toward construction of offices in Palapye and Maun as well construction of staff houses to provide an enabling environment for improved service delivery and boost staff moral.

“These resources request represent a transformational investment in modernising and intergrading our justice delivery system,” he said.

Mr Ramotwana indicated that through these targeted investments, the Ministry reaffirms its commitment to a justice system that is accessible, transparent, efficient and responsive to the needs of all citizenry. **BOPA**

NDP 12 promotes justice for all

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - The justice sector remains steadfast to play a central role in upholding the role of law, protecting citizens and promoting good governance under the National Development Plan 12 (NDP12).

To achieve these objective, the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services is proposing resource allocation to key institutions within the sector with the aim to strengthen justice delivery and enhance transparency and improve efficiency.

It is against this background that the minister, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana requested Parliament to approve a total of P4.6 billion, of which P1.6 billion is earmarked for ongoing projects while P2.7 billion will finance new initiatives under NDP12.

The funds, he said would ensure that justice would be served in all its facets as outlined by the manifesto of the ruling Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC).

“Justice lies at the heart of our national values which are democracy, unity and fairness, therefore through the interventions outlined in NDP 12, we reaffirm our commitment to building a

just, accountable and inclusive Botswana,” he said.

Mr Ramaotwana made the request before Parliament on Monday, proposing for the approval of P672 million for the Administration of Justice, while the Attorney General (AG) Chamber required P314 million.

He said the requested funds would be directed toward the refurbishment of the AG headquarters building, construction of new offices in Lobatse and Palapye as well as the take over of prosecution duties from the Botswana Police Service.

He said an amount of P244 million was proposed for the Office of the Ombudsman, with the request intended to facilitate the construction of the Office of the Ombudsman in Palapye, Maun and Francistown.

To promote fairness and efficiency in labour relations, Mr Ramaotwana requested the approval P266 million for the Industrial Court, while P386 million was needed for Justice and Correctional Services.

He further said a total of P2 billion was requested for Botswana Prison Service in relations to execution of infrastructure projects and agricultural infrastructure

SPEDU area set for E-Mobility revolution

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE - The Selebi Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit (SPEDU) region has been identified as a promising area for piloting the E-Mobility transformation project.

This was said by the Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe during the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship ministerial forum on manufacturing, which focused on the E-Mobility project.

He said the implementation of the E-Mobility and Metallurgy projects represented the first phase of the ‘True North Projects,’ set to launch this month. The project aims at establishing the country as the regional leader in E-Mobility manufacturing and exports.

“The Ministry embarked on a comprehensive transformation strategy that identifies the Ministry’s True North, a guiding compass to align with NDP12, the National Transformation Strategy, and Vision 2036,” said Mr Mathoothe.

He highlighted that the SPEDU

region offered ideal conditions for piloting the project, given its existing industrial infrastructure from the mining era, a skilled and adaptable workforce, and a strategic location connecting regional markets.

He emphasised that the commitment from both government and private sector partners to rebuild Selebi Phikwe as an industrial growth hub also enhanced the case for the town to be the host.

Mr Mathoothe added that this would also enable the SPEDU region to transition from a copper-nickel legacy to a future driven by innovation, clean technology, and value addition.

Furthermore, he stated that the ‘True North’ strategy aimed to position entrepreneurship, manufacturing, and trade as engines for inclusive growth, primarily transforming the country from a consumer of finished goods to a producer and exporter of high-value manufactured products.

The assistant minister called for collaborative efforts from all stakeholders to ensure the project’s success, emphasising the importance of entrepreneurial development by integrating local entrepreneurs, suppliers, and service providers into the electric vehicle (EV) value chain.

The forum was set to develop an actionable plan to unlock the potential of metallurgical manufacturing and the EV value chain, leveraging SPEDU’s strategic position as a hub for green industrialisation and sustainable development, focusing on employment creation and export growth.

It also marked the start of a coordinated national effort to revitalise the country’s



The newly installed SPEDU E-Mobility charger in Selebi Phikwe. SPEDU area has been identified as a promising area for piloting the E-Mobility transformation project. Photos courtesy of SPEDU

manufacturing base, unlock local potential, and support the country’s Reset and Transformation Agenda.

For his part, SPEDU acting CEO, Mr Othata Batsetswe expressed optimism about the

project’s success and its goal to advance industrialisation, build climate resilience, and promote technological progress.

He noted that essential minerals such as copper, aluminium, nickel

and silver were available to support the growth of the EV industry, adding that the electronic charging systems had been installed at SPEDU, positioning the region to lead in the project’s success. **BOPA**



E-Mobility charger component.

Young farmers share ideas to foster entrepreneurship

By Tshiamiso Mosetlha

SEROWE - An upcoming farmer based in Serowe, Mr Oteng Gulubane, has advised that to commercialise small stock farming, one must focus on improving production through quality breeding, proper nutrition and disease prevention as well as

developing a structured marketing strategy.

Farming requires moving beyond subsistence to adopt a business mindset that includes financial planning, record keeping, and understanding market demands for quality products, Mr Gulubane said during a recent workshop in Serowe that attracted young

farmers to share ideas on how to commercialise their farming.

Funded by government through the Youth Development Fund (YDF) in 2015, Mr Gulubane started his enterprise with 50 goats.

He said taking up government programmes and joining farmers associations for support and collective bargaining power could also work in farmers’ favour.

Mr Gulubane who practices integrated farming stated that farmers should use high quality breeding stock and consider local breeds that were well suited to areas they operated from.

He advised farmers to implement health management plans that included regular vaccination and parasite control, to reduce mortality rates. He also urged farmers to invest in infrastructure and maintain detailed record keeping on breeding, sales, health and feed to track performance and make informed business decisions.

Another YDF beneficiary, Ms Oneile Lebonetse who started farming in 2018, said small stock had challenges as high mortality, and economic hurdles of high feed costs, limited access to credit and market strength.

Adding that other challenges were livestock theft, unpredictable weather and the need for specialised knowledge in areas like breeding and management.

She noted that young farmers in Botswana faced challenges including drought, water scarcity, poor soil quality and lack of arable land. **BOPA**

Botswana commits to AfCFTA operationalisation

By Marvin Motlhabane

GABORONE - Botswana remains committed to the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as outlined in the transitional National Development Plan (NDP12), while continuing to engage actively within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) frameworks.

In an interview, Chief Negotiator in the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Pazha Butale said the ministry had developed the AfCFTA National Implementation Strategy, which sought to increase exports and enhance regional trade flows.

He noted that, alongside the national strategy, the ministry had also identified SACU regional value chain sectors in agro-processing, clothing and textiles, pharmaceuticals and chemicals,

automotive, green minerals, and mineral beneficiation.

For the SADC regional value chain, he said priority sectors included agro-processing, clothing and textiles, and pharmaceuticals, complemented by the AfCFTA automotive strategy.

Mr Butale highlighted the successful piloting of electronic certificates of origin under SADC, noting that the initiatives had increased intra-SADC exports, supported gradual tariff reductions in line with AfCFTA commitments, and improved cross-border trade facilitation through border harmonisation.

He said Botswana continued to invest in trade-related infrastructure to enhance competitiveness and connectivity. Key projects include the Kazungula Bridge and One-Stop Border Post (OSBP), a strategic trade and transport hub between Botswana and Zambia.

These facilities, he said, had

reduced transit times and transport costs while improving the movement of goods and people.

Additionally, Mr Butale said the ministry has implemented Digital Customs Systems, including the development of an Electronic Single Window for customs clearance, in accordance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

He reiterated the ministry’s ongoing support for Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises to access regional markets through government agencies and international partnerships that offered export development, training, financing, and market-access initiatives.

He further noted that the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) promoted exports through initiatives such as the Botswana Exporter Development Programme (BEDP), which helped local manufacturers meet international export standards.

Other efforts include outward and inward buyer missions.

For the 2025/26 financial year, BITC plans to conduct outward trade missions to Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, and Kenya, subject to budget availability, while increasing virtual engagements with markets such as Ghana and Zambia.

In the area of e-commerce, BITC is collaborating with a Chinese company to list Botswana’s exportable products on its platform, targeting the Chinese market.

Botswana’s leading non-diamond export products include ignition wiring sets, meat and meat products, salt and soda ash, citrus fruits, automobile batteries, PVC tanks and pipes, and underground mining vehicles.

Mr Butale said Botswana was actively seeking to expand trade beyond traditional partners such as the European Union. **BOPA**

Bodiragatsi bo ka oka baeti

Ka Cathrine Simane

TSABONG - Kgosi wa GaMmangwato, Kgosi Khama IV a re mmmino wa Polka le Namastaap, o o tumileng thata kwa Kgalagadi Borwa o ka thusa go ngoka bojanala. bajanala mme seo se tokafatse itsholelo mo lefatsheng leno.

Kgosi Khama IV yo gape e leng tautona wa pele wa lefatsheng leno o buile se kwa moletlong wa mmmino wa Polka le Namastaap kwa Tsabong bosheng.

O tlhalositse gore ka nako ya fa e le tautona o ne a lemoga bothokwa jwa go somarela, go godisa, go rotloetsa le go tsosolosa ngwao.

Ke ka moo, a neng a simolodisa a dikgaaisano tsa ngwao le bodiragatsi ka ngwaga wa 2011, tse di neng di tshwarwa ka malatsi a ga tautona ngwaga le ngwaga e le tsela nngwe ya gore bagaisane ba kgone go itshetsa ka ditalente le go tokafatsa matshelo a bone.

Kgosi Khama IV o tlhalositse fa mmmino wa mmmino wa Polka o ne wa tsholetsa serudumo sa Kgaolo ya Kgalagadi Borwa mme mo nakong ya gompiano o setse o aname le dikgaolo tse dingwe mo lefatsheng leno ka jaana ba ne ba o atla le go o kgatlhegela.

O ne a supa fa Polka Festival e ne e tlwaelesegile go tshwarwa ngwaga le ngwaga mme ka ntlha ya letlhoko la madi mo dingwageng tse di fetileng le ngwaga ono e ne ya seka ya tshwarwa.

Ngwe ya maikaelelo a gagwe, ke go tshwaragana le batsamaisi ba dikgaaisano tsa Toyota Desert Race e e tlwaelesegileng ka leina la Mantshwabisi gore ba e fuduse go tswa Jwaneng go e tshegetsa mo Kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Borwa ka go le maleba ka e le kgaolo ya sekaka.

Kgosi Khama IV o ne a lebogela tiro ya letsatsi leo a bo a phophotha legetla Mme Diana Kaartzee yo e leng ene morulaganyi wa tiro eo ga mmogo le boeteledipele jwa motse.

Morulaganyi wa tiro eo yo ebileng e le moetelediple wa Annah Beela Trust Mme Kaartzee o ne a tlhalosa fa a simolodisitse Trust eo ka ngwaga

wa 2022 maikaelelo e le go fokotsa lehuma le le aparetseng kgaolo le gone go tsosolosa mhama wa bodiragatsi ka mmmino wa Polka le Namastaap le dingwao tse dingwe tse di tumileng mo Kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Borwa.

Mme Kaartze o ne a tswelela ka go tlhalosa fa mmmino o, ka fa o binwang ka teng ke bomme le borre o rotloetsa go nna ka boitumelo, kagiso, lorato le tlhokomelo e bobedi joo bo tshwanetseng go tshela ka yone ka lorato kwa malapeng, mme seo se fokotse kgogontsho ee tswelentseng ka go kekelana mo lefatsheng leno.

O ne a supa fa banana ba le bantsi mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Borwa ba setse ba inaakantse le mmmino wa Polka le Namastaap ka thotloetso ya ga tautona wa pele Kgosi Khama IV, yo gape a boletseng a ne a simolodisa moletlo wa Khawa Dune Challenge, e e ngokang bajanala lefatsheng ka bophara mme seo se tsisetse bagwebi ba ba botlana letseno le le botoka.

A re le tautona wa pele Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi o ne a tswelidisa jalo ngwaga le ngwaga dikgaaisano tseo tsa Polka Festival di tshwarwa ga mmogo le Khawa Dune Challenge go tsosolosa ngwao ka go epolola ditalente tsa bodiragatsi le bokgoni jwa bone.

Mme Kaartzee o ne a supa fa Annah Beela Trust e ne ya itshwaraganya le SKI Foundation le dikompone tse dingwe tse di ba thusitseng go tshegetsatsi la go ipelela ngwao ya mmmino wa Polka le Namastaap ka di sa kgonagala go tshwarwa ngwaga o o fetileng jaaka e ne e le maikaelelo a bone.

O ne a tswelela ka go tlhalosa fa ditlhophadi le lesome le bothano (tse nne tsa Namastaap le tse lesome le bongwe tsa Polka) di ne di natifisa mo letsatsing leo mme tsotlhe tsa atswiwa ka madi aa kanang ka P5,000.

Go le pele fa a amogela batsena moletlo wa letsatsi, Kgosi David Toto II o ne a leboga Kgosi Khama IV go lemoga a bo a rotloetsa ngwao tse di farologanyeng mo lefatsheng leno ka bophara.

BOPA



Bangwe ba ba neng ba natefisa kwa moletlong wa Namastaap le Polka oo tshwarwang ngwaga le ngwaga ke ba Annah Beela Trust. Kgosi Khama IV a re mmmino wa Polka le Namastaap o ka ngoka bajanala, selo se a tlhalositseng fa se ka tokafatsa itsholelo ya lefatsheng leno. Senepe: Cathrine Simane

Go tsoma ntle le teseletso go ile magoletsa

Ka Kedirebofe Pelontle

GUMARE - Go tsoma ntle teseletso go ile magoletsa mo Okavango.

Ka jalo mapodisi a ikuela mo setshabeng go lwantsha bogodu jwa diphologolo jo bo kekelang kwa kgaolong ya Okavango bogolo jang kwa mafelong a sireleditsweng.

Fa a bua ka bogodu jwa diphologolo, Constable Peter Ramakoloi wa sepodisi sa Gumare a re ba tswelitse ka go amogela dikgang tse diphologolo tsa naga di bolaiwang kwa mafelong a tshireletso ya diphologolo.

Constable Ramakoloi a re go tsewa dikarolo dingwe mo go

tsone jaaka matlalo le dinaka tsa ditlou, mme seo e le borukuthi.

O buile jalo kwa thuto-seka-dipuisanyong ya tshomarelo diphologolo tsa naga ya Sustainable Wildlife Management kwa Gumare ka Labobedi.

O supile fa go bolawa ga diphologolo ntle le teseletso go atile thata mo mafelong a tshireletsego ya diphologolo a NG26 le NG25 kwa Okavango.

Rre Ramakoloi a re phologolo ya Letswee e amega thata mme e tsoamelwa go jewa ka yone e se borai jaaka tlou le tau. A re nare le tholo le tsone di a amega mo letsomong la bogodu.

O tlhagisitse fa e le molato go fitlhelwa ka se se belaesegang ele

nama ya phologolo ya naga.

O ne a tswelela a tlhalosa fa go na le go tshwarwa ga ditlhapi mo go sa letelesegeng ka seelo se se kwa godimo kwa mafelong a a sireleditsweng.

Constable Ramakoloi a re go supa fa ditlhapi tseo di omisiwa di bo di rekisiwa kwa mafatsheng a a kwa ntle.

Kgosi Kenaletsala Fish wa motse wa Nokaneng o gwetlhile dikgosi go tshwaragana go lwantsha bogodu jwa diphologolo tsa naga.

A re dikgosi di tswa kgakala di na le karolo e kgolo mo tshomarelong ya di tsa tlhologo jaaka diphologolo le makgobokgobo.

BOPA

Court upholds Sinvula position pending review

By Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN - The Maun High Court has ruled in favour of Lawrence Liswaani Sinvula III, allowing him to continue serving as the Paramount Chief of the Basubiya

tribe while his application challenging the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs’ decision to derecognise him is reviewed. In delivering the judgement on Tuesday, Justice Godfrey

Nthomiwa of the Maun High Court described the ministry’s decision as unlawful and unreasonable noting that it was taken without the necessary consultations mandated by the Bogosi Act. “The decision to derecognise

the chief offended the principles of legality, fairness, and administrative justice that underpin our constitutional democracy hence it is the respondent’s approach that must be subjected to review,” he said.

The case stems from a 12 September 2025 communication addressed to Chief Sinvula, which clarified that the chief’s appointment would be rectified under Section 21, subsection 1 of the Bogosi Act, instead of Section 6, subsection 2.

The applicant contended that this effectively removed him from his rightful position as Basubiya chief, an action he argued was unlawful, irrational, and unreasonable.

During proceedings, Justice Nthomiwa highlighted that the applicant’s recognition as chief had been lawful and duly acknowledged for two years prior

to the ministry’s intervention. He emphasised that the Bogosi Act does not distinguish between those who are represented at Ntlo ya Dikgosi and those who are not, underlining that the ministry failed to adhere to statutory procedures.

“The Bogosi Act stands as a complete and independent code governing the recognition of tribes and their leaders, it draws no distinction between tribes represented in Ntlo ya Dikgosi and those that are not,” he said.

The judge further noted that the balance of convenience favoured the applicant, adding that the applicant had achieved strong success in the pending review, and the respondent has failed to support their case.

As a result, Chief Sinvula III will continue his duties as Paramount Chief of the Basubiya tribe until the matter is fully reviewed. **BOPA**



Maun High Court has ruled in favour of Lawrence Liswaani Sinvula III (centre), allowing him to continue serving as the Paramount Chief of the Basubiya tribe while his application challenging the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs’ decision to derecognise him is reviewed. Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

Police investigate fatal hit-and-run accident

By Calviniah Kgauthe

LOBATSE - Woodhall Police in Lobatse are investigating a case in which a 28-year-old man of Otse died on Wednesday night in a hit-and-run road accident.

Speaking in an interview, Woodhall Police station commander, Superintendent Goitsewang Sekgabo, said the police received the incident report from a passerby last week Thursday around 6am, who reported that she had seen the deceased lying beside the A1 road near a fuel station at Otse. Upon arrival at the scene, the police found the deceased lying about one meter away from the road, motionless with visible injuries on the head, a fractured left arm, and a deep wound on the hip.

He was taken to Athlone Hospital, where he was certified dead by a

medical doctor upon arrival.

He has since been identified by his grandfather at Otse, who informed the Police that the deceased was a psychiatric patient.

Superintendent Sekgabo told BOPA that the deceased was suspected to have been hit by a silver grey vehicle during the night, as the Police discovered some silver grey coloured pieces of the front parts of a vehicle at the scene.

Currently, he said no arrests had been made, adding that Police investigations were ongoing.

He appealed to members of the public to assist the Police with information regarding the person whom they suspect of having committed such an offense.

Additionally, he encouraged the individual who had committed the offense to surrender to the police. **BOPA**

Six appear for different offences at Lobatse Magistrate Court

By Aobakwe Molefhi

GOODHOPE - A 22-year old man who is the main suspect in the murder of a middle aged man appeared before Lobatse Senior Magistrate, Tshoganetso Atamelang on Monday.

The deceased was allegedly stabbed by a sharp object in the chest on Friday in Mmathethe and succumbed to injuries.

The accused will appear again on November 19 for bail hearing.

Still on Friday another two suspects who are believed to be friends with the deceased were apprehended after torching a house believed to be the homestead of the murder suspect.

The duo was arraigned before Lobatse Magistrate Court’s Chief magistrate Ms Rebecca Motsamai

on Monday and are likely to be charged with arson.

One of the suspects was out on bail with the charge of unlawfully wounding a police officer in July. The suspects will appear again in court on November 19 for possible bail hearing.

Still in Mmathethe another three middle aged men were arrested for unlawful wounding and preliminary investigations by the Good Hope Police suggest that they were avenging the murder of their friend.

The victim received medical attention and is recovering at home, while the suspects who were also arraigned in court and appeared before Senior Magistrate Atamelang on Monday, will appear again on November 17. **BOPA**



HIGH COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF Zambia GABORONE, BOTSWANA

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Only shortlisted candidates will be communicated to and provided with a detailed job description.

Nonofo enters book world

By Keetile Bontsibokae

MOLEPOLOLE - An 11-year-old girl from Emmanuel Adventist Academy in Mogokotswane ward, Molepolole, has made a leap into the world of writing. Nonofo Reetsang has authored a book titled: *The Journey of an 11-Year-Old Christian Girl*, aiming to motivate peers and

adults alike to believe in their voices and make positive choices. In an interview, Nonofo expressed her passion for inspiring others, saying, ‘even at 11, I believe I have something valuable to share. My goal is to encourage everyone to believe in themselves, regardless of age.’ She emphasised the need for maturity in today’s fast-paced

world, stating that ‘we were born into times that require us to mature quickly or risk falling behind. This book shares my journey as a young girl learning to be bold and make big decisions, like choosing to believe in Jesus Christ’.

Nonofo said her memoir, a seven-chapter, 63-page book, was meant to motivate readers of all ages to believe in themselves and pursue positive choices.

“My passion is to help the elderly in hospices and people with disabilities. I also want to encourage the young people,” said Nonofo.

She said she was inspired by her role models, who included her family members.

In her chronological analysis of the book’s chapters, she said the opening chapter, titled : *Small girl with a big mind*, was about her own mind wondering why elders fail to restrain children from drugs.

Her subsequent chapters describe her observations and her desire to help children avoid negative influences., labelled *The Beginning*, describes how Nonofo starts to independently notice details around her and what specific things she observes for the first time.

youngsters to chart their own lives and career paths away from drugs and substance abuse.

The chapter: *Understanding Things for Myself*, builds upon the previous chapter by exploring how the author begins to form independent perspectives and interpret experiences personally.

“I have started to realise that children do not take drugs on purpose. Sometimes it is pressure from their peers, while at other times it is pressure from their parents. Parents happen to put a lot of pressure on their children by choosing careers for them that do not match the child’s potential, thus derailing the children from pursuing their dreams, ” explained Nonofo.

The book, places an emphasis on character building and encourages children to adopt a traditional culture of courtesy, where children are expected to show respect to elders.

Nonofo said her parents helped her get the book printed. She also worked with her coach, Ms Ntlatso Keitirile, who runs Heavenly Voices Publishers in Francistown. The company helps Christian children write and market books. She said the support from her school was also astonishing, as she was even presented in front of the school’s assembly for her schoolmates to

support her work. Ms Precious Sibanda, Nonofo’s class teacher, described Nonofo as a talented individual who is well-mannered.

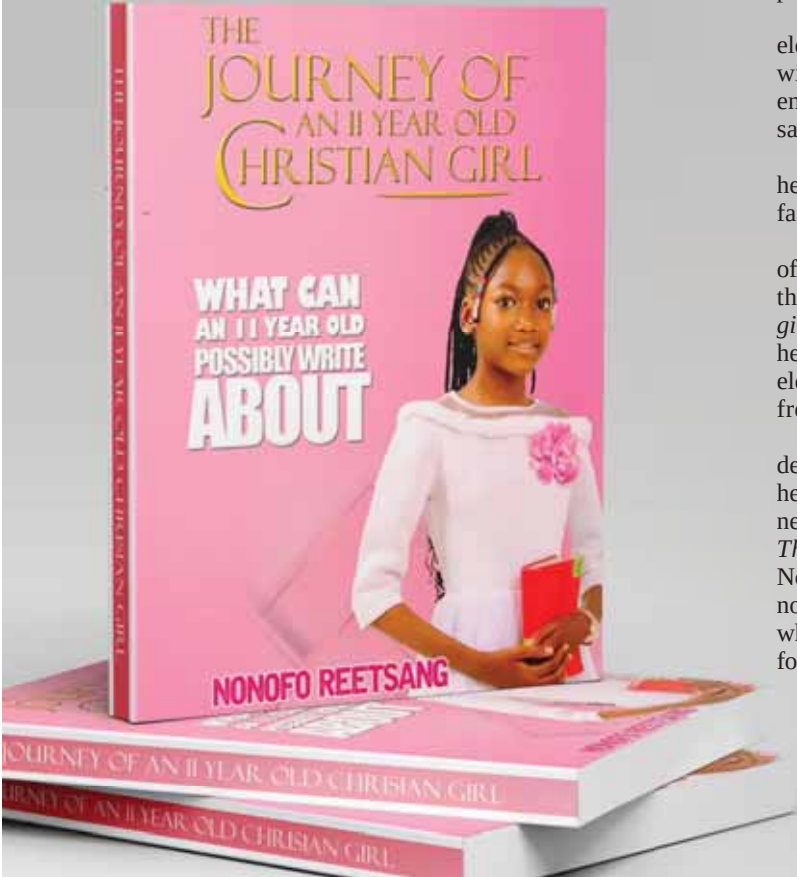
“She is an exceptional student who consistently shows her passion for learning and creativity. She is diligent and meets deadlines. Her compositions are outstanding and show true creativity and passion for her work,” said teacher Sibanda.

Teacher Sibanda said Nonofo’s book showcased a unique writing style, hence she was confident that readers, especially Nonofo’s age mates, would find the book engaging.

Aside from her academic pursuits, Nonofo is the vice-head girl of her school. She credits her success in balancing schoolwork and chores to her time-management skills, emphasising the importance of dreaming big to shape a better future.

Nonofo aspires to be an author while also advocating against drug abuse and promoting good behaviour among youth. She also encourages churches to establish kindergartens for underprivileged children.

Her book will be officially launched on December 6 at Miachi Gardens in Mogokotswane Ward, Molepolole. **BOPA**



She said she wanted to help

Nonofo Reetsang’s book titled: *The Journey of an 11-Year-Old Christian Girl* shares her journey on learning to be bold and making big decisions, like choosing to believe in God.
Photo: Courtesy of Nonofo Reetsang

Botswana creatives to take part at summit

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Botswana creatives alongside those from Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Seychelles, Réunion Island, and Eswatini will participate at the inaugural Global Creative Summit (GCS) in Johannesburg, South Africa this November 13 – 15.

The National Arts Council of Botswana in partnership with Arts Hub Botswana have taken the opportunity to send some of the creative players to the summit to expose them to opportunities available from the summit.

The summit, themed: *Visa to the World*, will be a three-day gathering of creative practitioners, dignitaries and representatives who impact the creative sector in Africa and across the globe.

It is set to offer attendees the platform to gain insights and promote African unity in the sector through conversion of global strategies.

With the multi-Grammy award-winning producer and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador Gordon Williams as keynote speaker, the summit will have various panel discussions and sector-specific conversations that promise robust and pragmatic deliveries, as they are framed around pertinent themes of mobility of art and the general work of creatives on the continent.

Ending the summit will be a musical performance hosted by Inside Art Fest 2025 featuring South Africa’s Maglera Doe Boy and Warras as well as DJ Switch from Nigeria among other acts. **BOPA**



Meat was galore at the Meat on Fire Africa organised by Kaelo Sabone in Gaborone recently. The gathering enjoyed different flavours ranging from beef, chicken, game, fish and crocodile meat. The event pulled a large audience including neighbouring countries of South Africa and Namibia who came for a carnivore experience. Photo: Felicity Male

BFL, DBS strike deal

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana Football League has signed a three-year broadcasting agreement worth P16 million with the Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS).

Speaking at the signing ceremony, DBS acting director Buyani Zongwani said the signing of the contract signified a long-standing commitment and the relationship between the two entities.

Zongwani said in their contract, there was something called obligation of parties adding that under the terms of the agreement, DBS is obliged to broadcast 60 FNB Premiership matches per season.

He said the contract also allowed them to produce different programmes using the footage taken at the stadiums.

He said the deal covered both television and radio, adding that both would provide pre and post-match coverage.

He said by signing the contract, DBS was also reaffirming its commitment to delivering football content to viewers and spectators.

“We know that Zebras will be competing at AFCON in Morocco, therefore this is the right time to give our spectators an opportunity to see their players doing their thing at the local grounds, so that they can make their impression of what is going to be happening in Morocco,” he said.

Botswana Premier League chief executive officer, Billy Sekgororoane said he was happy that they had signed the agreement.

Since the league’s resumption, BTV had only broadcast four games, and in that regard, Sekgororoane said playing football without television coverage was like playing behind closed doors.

“For some of us who have been in the industry for a long time, we know the value of television broadcasting of sport,” he said.

He said it was through such broadcasting that local players were seen and could get the opportunity to be scouted by teams outside the country.



Department of Broadcasting Services acting director, Buyani Zongwani (left) and Botswana Football League CEO, Billy Sekgororwane during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Gaborone on Monday. Zongwani said the MoU that would run for three years at the tune of P16 million catered for 60 live coverage games per season. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

“This is a welcome development. I know it took a bit of time; the season has started and we are

already in Week 10, but we always say better late than never,” he said. Sekgororoane said as Botswana

Premier League, they commit to give the DBS all the support that they need to be able to show all

the 60 games this season that as provided for under the contract. **BOPA**

Trio in Morocco for CAT Under-14 Circuit meet

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Three of Botswana’s top junior tennis players, Malak Macheng, Lebone Tlape, and Francesco Brink are in Casablanca, Morocco, to compete in two major continental events.

The players will take part in the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) Under-14 Circuit tournament from today until

Saturday.

Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) vice president, Nonfo Othusitse, said in an interview that the CAT Under-14 Circuit was hosted across several African countries and awards players continental ranking points.

“You will note that Botswana also hosts two of these tournaments. Through participation in these events, our

players have gained valuable points, and we now have a good number of ranked players,” he said.

Othusitse said Malak was currently ranked 12th, while Lebone and Francesco were ranked 28th and 46th, respectively.

He added that after the Circuit, the trio would compete in The Petits As – Africa Playoffs 2025, scheduled to take place at the

Moundir Tennis Academy in Morocco from November 10 to 14.

The Petits As – Africa Playoffs, he explained, was a singles-only qualifying event for the prestigious ‘Les Petits As’, widely regarded as the Under-14 Junior World Championships, which annually brings together the world’s best young tennis players.

Since its inception in 1982

and the first edition in 1983, the tournament has hosted some of the greatest champions in world tennis, including Michael Chang, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Justine Henin, Kim Clijsters, and Martina Hingis.

Othusitse noted that Botswana’s Ntungamili Raguin remained the only Mtswana player to have qualified for the event. **BOPA**