BOTSWANA Daily News
THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES

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TANA aims to transform public transport

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe
GABORONE

Government is banking on an electric public transport system to address persistent challenges in the sector, including unreliable services, rising commuting costs, inadequate transport infrastructure and pollution caused by vehicle emissions.

The initiative, known as TANA, comprises a metro bus and metro rail project being introduced in phases. The first phase focuses on electric buses, while the second will introduce public train services.

In an interview, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang, said the five-month pilot project was intended to establish public acceptance of the new transport model while allowing government to assess passenger demand, infrastructure requirements and operational needs before expanding the service.

Of the 10 electric buses procured, only four are currently deployed along the Phakalane-Game City and Tlokweng-Metsimotlhabe routes as part of the initial pilot.

Mr Atamelang said the initiative was informed by challenges experienced by commuters, some of whom arrive late for work due to long waiting times and limited availability of public transport, particularly in urban areas.

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Bus driver, Mr Bathusi Lere has welcomed the initiative, saying its full implementation and expansion could help address unemployment through creation of more job opportunities. Photo: Phenyo Ramatu

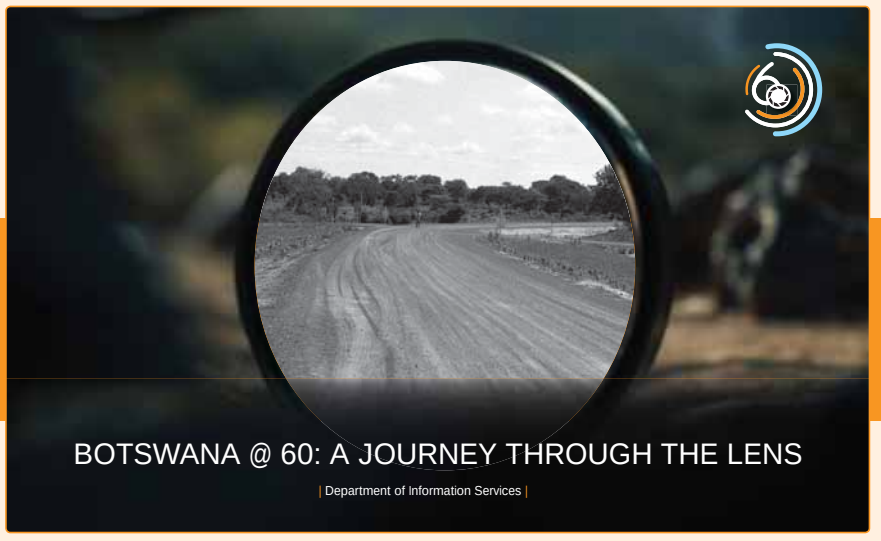
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Four in 10 adults hypertensive - official

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
GABORONE

Approximately four in every 10 adults in Botswana have high blood pressure, yet more than half of those living with the condition are unaware of their status, raising concern about the growing burden of cardiovascular diseases in the country.

Speaking at the 4th Global Conference on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Gaborone on Tuesday, Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary, Dr Neo Tapela, warned that many Batswana were living with hypertension without knowing it, exposing themselves to potentially life-threatening complications.

Held under the theme, "Heart Health in Focus: Tackling Cardiovascular Diseases in Botswana," the two-day conference brought together health professionals, researchers and policymakers to discuss strategies for preventing and controlling cardiovascular diseases. Dr Tapela said while Botswana had made significant progress in its response to HIV through sustained commitment and investment, non-communicable diseases had emerged as another major public health threat requiring urgent attention.

She noted that cardiovascular diseases were among the leading causes of illness, disability and premature death, often affecting people during their most productive years and placing financial pressure on families and the healthcare system.

She singled out hypertension, commonly known as the silent killer, because it can develop without symptoms for years before causing heart disease, stroke, kidney damage and premature death.

Dr Tapela also raised concern about the effectiveness of treatment, citing a study which found that only 19 per cent of people living with both HIV and hypertension had their blood pressure under control.



She said the findings highlighted gaps in early detection, diagnosis, treatment and patient follow-up.

"Screening is essential, but it is only the beginning. Diagnosis must lead to treatment that is effective and timely, regular follow-up with engaged, empowered patients and ultimately better blood pressure control and fewer avoidable deaths," she said.

She emphasised that prevention required a multisectoral approach, including access to affordable healthy food, opportunities for physical activity in schools and workplaces, and reduced exposure to tobacco, alcohol and other harmful substances.

Dr Tapela called on government, academia, the private sector and communities to work together, stressing that protecting heart health was a shared national responsibility.

She said strengthening primary healthcare was essential to bringing screening and treatment services closer to communities, adding that this would require trained health workers, functioning equipment, effective clinical protocols and reliable supplies of medicines.

She acknowledged challenges, including medicine shortages, equipment interruptions, heavy workloads among healthcare workers and patients being diagnosed only after complications had developed. Dr Tapela further urged researchers to generate locally relevant evidence, including research into the nutritional value of traditional foods, to inform effective and affordable interventions.

She said the Ministry of Health was working with other stakeholders to accelerate prevention and control efforts, while calling for increased investment in diagnostics, digital health, rehabilitation and workplace wellness.

She added that Botswana's target of achieving a Universal Health Coverage Index of 75 by 2030 would require equitable access to quality healthcare, including services for non-communicable diseases.

Dr Tapela urged healthcare professionals to bring the same determination demonstrated in the country's HIV response to tackling cardiovascular diseases, saying the knowledge and solutions needed to make progress were already available. ***BOPA***

Red cross lines up Christmas parties for three centres



Thamani Shabani
FRANCISTOWN

The Botswana Red Cross Society will hold a mass Christmas party for students of three centres : Tlamelong,Tshimologo and Sefhare Rehabilitation Centres in Tlokweng, Francistown and Sefhare respectively.

The announcement was made by the society's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Kutlwano Mukokomani at the end of the Tshimologo Rehabilitation Centre 2026 Football Festival held in Francistown Council Stadium on Sunday.

Dr Mukokomani said the event presented an opportunity to showcase the role of sport in fostering community cohesion, while highlighting the humanitarian work of the Botswana Red Cross Society.

He said through annual event the society assisted the less privileged members of the society, noting that Tshimologo Rehabilitation Centre was one of its major clients.

He said Botswana Red Cross Society will continue to support and amplify humanitarian initiatives in its three centres across the country.

Dr Mukokomani commended all the participating teams for taking part in the event, adding that their participation meant a lot to the society and to learners at the rehabilitation centre.

A representative of the social clubs, Mr Ace Kelekwang emphasised the value of social clubs in relation to community involvement, applauding the society for the initiative.

Mr Kelekwang said social clubs played a vital role beyond recreation, as they were a vehicle for community development, social cohesion and humanitarian support.



Chief Executive Officer, Dr Kutlwano Mokokomani

Botswana Red Cross Society held a one day football festival in Francistown to raise money for three rehabilitation centres. Chief Executive Officer, Dr Kutlwano Mokokomani said they would host Christmas parties for Tlamelong, Tshimologo and Sefhare rehabilitation centres. Photo: Thamani Shabani

He said through organised social clubs, members were able to pull resources, spare time and skills to uplift the less privileged and respond to social challenges within their communities.

"Social clubs bring people together for a common purpose. When we come together as clubs, we are able to support the needy, promote healthy lifestyles through sport, and foster a spirit of volunteerism and Botho," he said.

Mr Kelekwang said the participation of social clubs in Tshimologo Rehabilitation Centre Football Festival demonstrated how sport could be used as a platform to promote inclusion and raise awareness about people living with disabilities.

He added that social clubs also provided mentorship and positive engagement for the youth, keeping them away from social ills and instilling values of teamwork, discipline and community service.

He thanked the society for partnering with social clubs, calling for more collaboration to amplify humanitarian work across the country.

Kelekwang commended Tshimologo Rehabilitation Centre for nurturing talent, urging the business community to continue supporting such centres. ***BOPA***

Bus and taxi associations welcome TANA metro bus service

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Botswana Bus Association and Batlokwa Taxi Association have welcomed the TANA Metrobus service, describing it as an opportunity to improve public transport while supporting existing operators.

Botswana Bus Association chairperson, Mr Tirafalo Mponang, said government intervention was necessary to address challenges in the sector, including high fares, illegal operations and long waiting times for commuters at bus stops.

He said the association had been involved in discussions with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure from the early stages of the project, including consultations on proposed routes and visits to facilities where the buses were manufactured.

"We are in agreement with TANA with open arms. We are happy with what the government has done," he said.

Mr Mponang said the association was expected to hold a 35 per cent shareholding in the project, a stake which the minister confirmed.

"We do not necessarily view this as a government initiative because we are getting a 35 per cent shareholding, so this is also our project. We are not going to be competing with the government," he said.

He said the five-month pilot phase would allow government and operators to identify challenges and improve the service before considering a permanent rollout.

Mr Mponang expressed hope that the project would create employment opportunities, particularly for drivers who could be absorbed into permanent and pensionable positions. However, he cautioned that TANA would not be able to employ everyone in the industry.

He added that existing buses and taxis would continue operating alongside the new service.

Meanwhile, Batlokwa Taxi Association chairperson, Mr Ezekiel Nthite, described the initiative as a potential breakthrough for taxi operators grappling with challenging business conditions.

He said rising fuel prices and competition from e-hailing services had affected the trade, while concerns about passenger safety had also influenced commuters' transport choices.

Mr Nthite said the electric buses could reduce reliance on petrol-powered vehicles while providing commuters with an alternative means of transport on major routes.

He also highlighted the potential benefits for tourism, noting that improved public transport could make it easier for visitors to move around the city.

The TANA Metrobus project is a government initiative involving the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA). It is being implemented through Tana Holdings, a CEDA subsidiary responsible for day-to-day operations.

The pilot phase began over the weekend with 10 electric buses, although only four are currently operating on the Metsimotlhabe-Tlokweng and Game City-Phakalane routes.

Commuters are being offered free rides during the pilot phase as government assesses the service and gathers public feedback.

The initiative aims to improve accessibility and efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable urban mobility. ***BOPA***

Four envoys present credentials

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

President Advocate Duma Boko has reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, multilateralism and a rules-based international order following the accreditation of four newly appointed diplomatic envoys.

The envoys, representing the Hellenic Republic (Greece), Canada, Sri Lanka and Equatorial Guinea, presented their letters of credence to President Boko at the Office of the President.

A notable development was the accreditation of Equatorial Guinea's Ambassador-Designate, Mr Domingo Adugu, following the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in August 2026.

Welcoming the development, President Boko underscored the importance of strengthening intra-African partnerships to promote trade and economic cooperation.

"Our alignment with fellow African states is about building deep, results-driven economic corridors. We must transform our continental commitments into tangible trade assets, particularly in tourism, logistics and trade," he said.

During his engagement with Canada's incoming High Commissioner, Mr Jeffrey Senior, discussions centred on mining, infrastructure and capital mobilisation.

President Boko noted that Canada had been a longstanding partner in Botswana's mining sector, adding that the two countries could explore opportunities in technology-driven industries.

"Botswana values the enduring ties we share with Canada. As we shift towards a private-sector-led economy, we are targeting high-value investments that bring technical skills and empower our people directly," he said.

Discussions with Hellenic Republic's Ambassador-Designate, Ms Efthalia Kakiopoulou, focused on strengthening existing relations through capital investment and tourism cooperation, with emphasis on the role of young people in driving economic prosperity.

Ms Kakiopoulou said the two countries shared common values of stability, peace and respect for the rule of law.

"I am eager to grow the relationship between Botswana and Hellenic Republic, leveraging in growing her transformation through the support of established Hellenic experts in various progressive sectors such as mining and renewable green, green energy," she said.

Meanwhile, discussions with Sri Lanka's High Commissioner-Designate, retired Air Chief Marshal Appuhamillage Rajapaska, focused on trade diversification, textile manufacturing and exploring mutually beneficial opportunities.

President Boko said Botswana was keen to deepen cooperation with Sri Lanka, particularly in developing domestic value chains through international expertise.

"Our priority remains clear: inviting international expertise to establish robust domestic value chains," he said.

For his part, High Commissioner-Designate Rajapaska expressed commitment to his new diplomatic assignment, saying his experience in military strategy and defence logistics would inform his approach to strengthening bilateral relations.

"Having spent decades navigating defence logistics and strategy, I bring a disciplined, results-oriented focus to this diplomatic post. I intend to direct these towards mapping out robust bilateral milestones with Botswana," he said. ***BOPA***



Canada High Commissioner Mr Jeffrey Senior



Equatorial Guinea's Ambassador Mr Domingo Adugu



Hellenic Republic Ambassador Ms Efthalia Kakiopoulou



Sri Lanka High Commissioner Air Chief Marshal Appuhamillage Rajapaska

TANA metro buses to transform public transport

...from page 1

He also cited unsustainable daily payment arrangements affecting some drivers, unpermitted kombis, inadequate infrastructure and traffic lights that do not recognise public transport vehicles when approaching intersections.

He said government wanted to introduce a reliable, convenient and comfortable transport system that caters for all passengers, including people living with disabilities.

To achieve this, the buses are fitted with air conditioning, Wi-Fi, GPS tracking and CCTV cameras to enhance passenger comfort, safety and operational efficiency.

Each bus has a seating capacity of 24 passengers and can accommodate an additional 16 standing passengers. However, standing will not be permitted during the pilot phase because existing legislation does not provide for it.

The minister said the buses could travel approximately 250 kilometres on a full charge, with charging taking less than an hour and electricity costs amounting to less than P100 per charging session.

He explained that the adoption of electric mobility was also a deliberate move towards reducing carbon emissions and minimising air pollution associated with conventional vehicles.

Meanwhile, the pilot initially operated without a fixed timetable, with buses making random pickups to avoid disrupting existing kombi operators.

However, following two weeks of free service, which ended on November 1, the ministry will introduce a schedule while continuing to gather information on passenger demand and route requirements.

Mr Atamelang said the information would guide the finalisation of routes and help determine the appropriate operational model as the project progresses.

Government is also working on a cashless payment system, known as the Payless system, which is expected to incorporate various mobile money service providers to make fare payments more accessible and convenient.

The system is scheduled for piloting on November 14 and 15, while simulations are underway to determine affordable fares.

Mr Atamelang said government was considering fares lower than prevailing transport prices while ensuring that the service remained financially sustainable.

The project is being implemented in partnership with the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), which assisted with the procurement of the buses and will oversee its commercial aspects, including plans for an Independent Power Producer (IPP) to list shares.

He said the ministry had engaged relevant stakeholders from the outset, including various transport associations, to ensure that the introduction of the new system did not disregard the interests of existing operators.

Once the pilot is completed and the necessary arrangements are in place, government intends to increase the number of buses and create opportunities for workers already in the transport industry, including drivers, conductors and personnel responsible for managing schedules.

The initiative is also expected to generate employment in other areas, such as cleaning, mechanics, facility management and trainee programmes, extending its benefits beyond the provision of transport services.

Mr Atamelang said government would continue engaging stakeholders and drawing lessons from countries such as Brazil and South Africa, which have experience in public transport systems.

He added that following the pilot, relevant laws would be considered for amendment to accommodate the new transport model, while infrastructure development would also be undertaken.

The Gaborone pilot will serve as a basis for expansion to other towns, particularly Francistown, once the ministry has assessed its performance and addressed the necessary operational requirements.

To familiarise the public with the new transport system, exhibition rides will also be organised, with the minister encouraging Batswana to follow the TANA Botswana Facebook page for updates.

Meanwhile, one of the bus drivers, Mr Bathusi Lere, has welcomed the initiative, saying its full implementation and expansion could help address unemployment through the creation of more job opportunities.

Mr Lere, who holds a P4 licence and a specialised driving licence, said he underwent two days of training to familiarise himself with the buses and their features before taking up his duties.

Although uncertain about the initiative's eventual impact on private transport operators, he described it as a positive development, noting that commuters had already been using the buses along the Tlokweng-Metsimotlhabe route to travel to the bus rank.

He said expanding the fleet would not only provide commuters with an alternative mode of transport but also open up employment opportunities for more people. ***BOPA***

> "We want a reliable, convenient and comfortable transport system that caters for all passengers, including people living with disabilities."
>
> **- Minister Keoagile Atamelang**



The buses are fitted with air conditioners, Wi-Fi, GPS tracking and CCTV cameras to enhance passenger comfort, safety and operational efficiency. Photo: Phenyo Ramatu

DailyNews

Published by: Department of Information Services
37795 Wellie Seboni Drive
Private Bag BR 139 Gaborone
Printed by: Government Printing and Publishing Services
Online Edition: https://dailynews.gov.bw
email: *bopa@gov.bw* **email:** *dailynews@gov.bw*
Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

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DailyBusiness

‘Adopt smart farming practices to cushion against El Niño’

Portia Keetile
PANDAMATENGA

Farmers have been implored to adopt climate-smart farm practices to conserve soil moisture during the upcoming ploughing season as Botswana braces for El Niño. In an interview, Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers agronomist, Ms Emeliah Magosi, said preserving soil moisture could be achieved through the use of machinery like chisel plougher and reapers which do not cause deep cultivations.

She said some farmers were already futuristic having acquired no-till planters which were designed to deposit seeds directly into uncultivated soil.

Ms Magosi remarked that by depositing seeds on soil without ploughing preserved the moisture that could sustain crops when rain was scarce.

However, she advised farmers without such machinery to apply traditional practices of digging basins on soil only on the portion where the seeds would be cast.

“Digging precise basins targets only small holes, which then channels and traps localised moisture for the seed. One should then layer dry grass over the basin as insulation to block evaporation, blocking the sun and retain soil humidity.”

The agronomist stated that it was imperative for farmers to acquaint themselves with the weather forecasts as released by the Department of Meteorological Services in order to understand what below normal rainfall and extreme hot temperatures forecast translated to in farming. Furthermore, she called on farmers to plant crops that matured quickly to escape the El Niño conditions.

Ms Magosi opined that drought tolerant crops like sorghum, cowpeas, mung beans, black-eyed beans would be ideal to plough, adding that Pandamatenga farmers stood an advantage as these were always part of their cropping plan.

She remarked that the ongoing heatwaves had stripped the ground of its moisture reserves, leaving fields parched right at the start of the crucial ploughing season despite Pandamatenga having experienced rainfall of 200mm beginning of the year.

Moreover, Ms Magosi said the fact that farmers had planted sunflower extensively last season was disadvantageous because sunflower consumed a lot of moisture from the soil.

The agronomist advised that due to high temperatures experienced across the country farmers should not cast their seed on the ground after the first rains because most of the soils would be extremely dry to hold seeds. ***BOPA***



Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers agronomist Ms Emeliah Magosi



Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers agronomist, Ms Emeliah Magosi has advised farmers to plant drought tolerant crops to escape the El Niño conditions.

Government addresses capacity shortfalls in project implementation

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Government is moving in the right direction to address the issue of lack of capacity to ensure sustainable national development. Responding to comments raised by some participants at the just-ended Budget Pitso that was held in Maun, Vice President and also minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe stated that lack of capacity has been a serious challenge in government, hence efforts were ongoing to increase capacity in project implementation.

He said the problem was so bad that some mega projects worth millions of Pula had been failing because the institutions tasked with implementation had no capacity to even conduct feasibility studies.

He said government had, in the past, poured money into development projects with no tangible results due to institutions’ ineffectiveness.

Thus, he highlighted that going forward, no funding would be made without prior capacitation of the relevant institutions.

Mr Gaolathe also noted that some institutions did not take the issue of capacity seriously as they focused much on awarding tenders. “This undermines the importance of capacity. I can assure you that we are seeking to leverage on partnerships to increase capacity, and by doing so, we can reduce expenditure.”

The Vice President also highlighted the importance of building productive capacity in local communities.

“Our task is to strengthen their capabilities, unlock their productive potential and ensure that no community is left behind in the pursuit of national prosperity,” he said.

With regard to State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), Mr Gaolathe emphasised that public ownership must serve a clear economic or social purpose, noting that enterprises must be well-governed, financially-responsible and accountable for the value they delivered.

He said where the private sector could invest, innovate and compete effectively, the state should enable rather than unnecessarily displace it, adding that the question was not simply what government should own, but how every institution and every public asset could best contribute to national development.

Equally, local authorities must also strengthen revenue mobilisation, improve collection systems, eliminate procurement leakages and explore responsible partnerships that could unlock the value of underutilised assets.

The gathering learnt that greater decentralisation must be accompanied by stronger institutional capacity and fiscal accountability and that central government must also ensure that responsibilities, resources and decision-making authority were appropriately aligned.

Earlier on, some participants decried lack of consultation by government especially on the implementation of mega projects by investors.

While he appreciated that government was doing well to bring in investors, Goodhope District Council chairman, Mr Daniel Nkwane argued that consultation with key stakeholders including the community was key especially since government allocated tribal land to investors.

The mayor of Selebi Phikwe, Mr Oageng Makgosa called for the establishment of an economic intelligence unit whose primary purpose would be to collect, analyse and manage strategic economic data to protect national security, support decision-making and boost competitiveness.

He said such an agency could help accelerate project implementation, reduce bottlenecks and match investors with suitable property and land resources. *BOPA*

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SADC plans regional drug procurement

HARARE - The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is stepping up regional cooperation to improve access to affordable, quality-assured medical products through the operationalisation of the SADC Pharmaceuticals Pooled Procurement Services (SPPS). In a post on its website, the regional bloc said its Secretariat convened the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the SPPS on October 29, 2026, in Lusaka, Zambia, to review implementation progress, address outstanding requirements and agree on priority actions ahead of the launch of the first pilot contracts. The meeting was supported by German Cooperation and the African Development Bank which are serving as International Cooperating Partners. The two-day meeting focused on reviewing Member States' expressions of commitment and submissions of proposed pilot products, identifying outstanding requirements and agreeing on remedial measures, responsible parties and implementation deadlines. *New Ziana*

Kenya promotes local products through shopping festival

NAIROBI - The ninth Changamka Kenya shopping festival opened in Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday, bringing together over 400 exhibitors to celebrate homegrown products. Organised by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers alongside the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, the five-day showcase gives local manufacturers a dynamic space to connect with shoppers, forge business ties, and discover new growth opportunities. Lee Kinyanjui, cabinet secretary at the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, said the festival reaffirms Kenya’s commitment to promoting local manufacturing, value addition and export competitiveness. “We must make a deliberate choice to strengthen our industries and support local production.” *Xinhua*

Automaker launches electric commercial trucks in Zambia

LUSAKA - Chinese automaker Sany launched its electric commercial trucks in Zambia on Tuesday, as the country looks to advance cleaner transport. The launch in Lusaka followed a strategic partnership with local firm Pilatus Engineering Company Limited, which will distribute Sany vehicles in the country. Wang Chao, Sany’s original equipment manufacturer representative, said that the partnership would strengthen Sany’s footprint in Zambia’s commercial vehicle market through an established local dealership. “The partnership demonstrates our confidence in Zambia and our commitment to building a strong, long-term presence in the country,” said Wang. *Xinhua*

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Khwaere ya Mokwepa e ikaelela go fetola matshelo

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE



Khwaere ya Mokwepa go tswa kwa Molepolole e itshupile fa e sena molekane ka go gapa bommampudi jwa phadisanyo ya Koma48 mo ngwageng tse pedi ka tatelano.

Go tsweng goo-lowe mmino le moopelo wa dikhwaere o dirisiwa go supa ngwao, go anamisa melaetsa mo setshabeng, go natefisa meletlo le gone go ntsha bodutu.

Mo kgaolong tsa Kgatleng, Kweneng le Tonota, dikhwaere ke sejo sa malatsi otlhe ka jaana e le tsone tse di tumileng thata go iteisana borathana mo medirong ka go farologana kana di nkgisana magwafa ka bo tsone go bona e leng nkwenkgoga wa kopelo le mmino wa dikhwaere.

Ka malatsi a boitapoloso a bofelo jwa ngwaga, kwa Kgatleng, magae a nna bodutu ka jaana batho ba bonelwa kwa mabaleng a dikopelo.

Go lemoga botlhokwa le serodumo sa dikhwaere mo ngwaong le matshelo a morafe wa Bakgatla, boeteledipele ba dikhwaere ka go farologana ba ne ba ikopanya le ba lekalana la UNESCO go kwadisa le go somarela tlamo ya dikopelo tsa Sekgatla.

Bosheng, dikhwaere kana dikopelo di supile fa di tsweletse ka kgolo le go ngoka tatedi e eledisang lethe, selo se se neng sa dira gore go simolodisiwe kgaisano ya dikopelo e bidiwang KOMA 48, e tshwarwang ngwaga le ngwaga kwa Mochudi.

Le fa gone Bakgatla ba di goga kwa pele, Bakwena le bone ba supa ba itshetletse mo mminong wa dikopelo, ka jaana dithota tsotlhe tsa kgaolo ya Mokwena di tumile ka dikopelo.

Sengwe se se papamatsang, se supa fa Bakwena le bone ba tswa kgakala le dikopelo ke go dira bontle ga khwaere ya Mokwepa mo dikgaisanong tsa Koma48.

Khwaere ya Mokwepa e itshupile fa e sena molekane ka go gapa bommampudi jwa Koma48 mo ngwageng tse pedi ka tatelano. Mongwe wa bagolwane ba khwaere ya Mokwepa, Rre Phenyo Bogatsu a re khwaere ya bone e gola ka lebelo le sosobanyang moriri.

A re go kgatlhegelwa ke ba ba eletsang go nna maloko ka dipalo tse di kwa godimo ke ka mabaka a gore ba tsepame mo torong ya bone, ya goroga kwa kanana.

Khwaere ya Mokwepa e tlhamilwe ka ngwaga wa 2008 kwa thoteng ya Ga-Ratotoboro mo Molepolole. Le fa e tlhamilwe ke manotonyana fela, mo nakong eno e fetogile komang-ka-nna mo kopelong, segatlhamela masisi se se gapileng sejana sa kgaisano ya dikhwaere ya Koma48 ka tatelano.

Rre Bogatsu a re motheo wa khwaere ya Mokwepa o nonofileng ka mabaka a gore ba dirile dipatlisiso tse di tseneletseng ka mmino wa dikopelo le go ithuta mo go bomankge ba dikopelo kwa Kgatleng.

"Fa re thama Mokwepa, re tswa go tsaya malebela kwa dikhwaereng tsa Kgatleng tse eleng ditshimega tsa kopelo jaaka Botswana-Zimbabwe le Dikakapa tsa Bodiakhudu," ga tlhalosa Rre Bogatsu.

O tlhalositse gore go itshetlela mo mminong ke selo se se tsayang lobaka ka jalo go tlhoka Boineelo le bopelotelele.

"Re tsere dingwaga tsa ntlha tse tharo ka tatelano re ntse re leka mme go pala, maduo a nametsanyana mme e se mo re kwalelang kwa gae ka gone," ga tlhalosa Rre Bogatsu.

O tlhalositse gore dingwaganyana pele fa ba tsenelela kgaisano ya Koma48, ba ne ba ntse ba etela dikhwaere tsa Kgatleng go ithuta sephiri sa bone sa kopelo e ntle, mme seo ba se tswakanya le se ba se tshotsweng.

"Re ne ra lalediwa ele rona khwaere ya motsenelela gareng ga dikhwaere tsa Kgatleng, mme re ne ra mekamekana le mekaloba ya Kgatleng. Maduo a rona a ne a nametsanyana mme ra tswelela ra nna ra ipaakanya diphoso," ga tlhalosa Rre Bogatsu.

A re phenyo ya bone ya ntlha e tsile ka ngwaga wa 2025, e le lekgetho la bone ba ntse ba tsenelela dikgaisano tsa Koma48.

"Re ne re lwa ntwa re sa boele morago, re ipoleletse gore fa go padile go gapa sejana, lebala lone le ka se tlhole le mela tlhaga. Re ne re berekile thata ka nako ya ikatiso."

Rre Bogatsu a re sephiri sa Mokwepa ke gore kopelo ya bone e tswakantse meopelo ya dingwao ka go farologanya.

A re sengwe sa botlhokwa se ba se dirang ke go sa ipone tsapa go tswelela ba etela dikhwaere tse dingwe go tsaya malebela le gone go godisa botsalano.

Khwaere ya Mokwepa ya re pheko ya yone ke gore ba tlhomamisa gore fa ba ya phadisanyong ba tla ba golotse megagamola e mesha ya dipina selo se, Rre Bogatsu a reng ke sone se se dirang gore fa ba le mo seraleng ba gatelele dikhwaere tse dingwe tse a reng ngwaga le ngwaga di tla ka dipina tse dikgologolo.

"Go lebega o kare kwa Kgatleng ba tsaya nako e ntsi ba sa tlhame ka gore dikhwaere tsa bone ka bontsi ba santse ba opela dipina tsa bogologolo. Rona re digatlhamela masisi, ga re tlhama pina ga re belaele sepe e bile re ya go tlhabana ka yone," a tlhalosa.

A re maikaelelo magolo a khwaere ya Mokwepa ga se go kokoana go dira mmino fela, bana le toro ya go fetola matshelo a maloko le setshaba ka kakaretso.

"Khwaere ya Mokwepa ke mokgatlho o o kwadisitsweng ka fa molaong. Ke khwaere ya maphuta ditshaba; ke ya mongwe le mongwe yo ikutlwang a batla go nna leloko la yone. Khwaere e e gola ka lebelo le le tshosang mo maloko a yone a setseng a feta makgolo a mabedi," ga tlhalosa Rre Bogatsu.

A re bontsi jwa maloko a khwaere, ke banana ba ba sa berekeng, ka jalo e lemoga botlhokwa jwa go dira ka natla gore mo isagong e kgone go ba thusa ka maano a go tokafatsa matshelo.

A re ba-na-le-bogole bone ba fiwa boloko ntleng le go lefisiwa sepe mme ebile gape ba tshwaragane le khansele go sekaseka ditlamelo tsa ba-na-le-bogole.

A re ba santse ba lwa le kgang ya gore ba bewe setsha se ba tla se dirisang e le lebala la dikopelo le go aga ofisi ya sennela ruri.

Rre Bogatsu a re o lemoga seabe sa basamaria ba ba molemo ba ba thusang khwaere ya Mokwepa go fitlhelela ditoro tsa yone jaaka khansele ya Kweneng le dikgwebo tsa Molepolole ka go farologana.

A re ba akgola puso go nna le seabe mo go tsosoloseng ngwao, a tlatsa ka gore e se ipone tsapa mme e tswelele ka go lemoga seabe sa bodiragatsi ka go farologana mo go somareleng ngwao. *BOPA*

Mapodisi a tlhotlhomisa polao

Kelebogile Taolo
TONOTA

Mapodisi a Tonota a tlhotlhomisa tiragalo e mo go yone rre wa dingwaga tse di masome a mararo le borobabongwe go belaelwang a bolaile mme wa dingwaga tse di masome a mararo le borataro gone kwa Tonota.

Go ya ka mookamela-mapodisi a Tonota, Superintendent Moore Motsokono, o tlhalositse fa bobedi joo e le banyalani, mme go supa fa ba ile ba nna le tlhoka-kutlwisisanyo, mme wa rre go belaesega fa a dirisitse sengwe se se bogale go tlhaba mosadi wa gagwe.

O tlhalositse fa bobedi joo e le banni ba kgotla ya Rrampalo kwa Tonota, mme tiragalo eo e diragaletse kwa masimong a Makhubu gaufi le Tonota.

Le fa dikgang di eme jalo, mmelelwa o ne a isiwa fa pele ga kgotla ya ga mmakaseterata ya Francistown ka Labobedi, mme o solofetswe go itshupa gape teng kgwedi eno e tlhola malatsi a le lesome le bosupa.

Superintendent Motsokono o ne a tlhalosa fa mo ngwageng ono, e le yone tiragalo ya ntlha mo kgaolong ya gagwe.

O kopile batho mo setshabeng go nna ba kopa thuso fa ba nale mathata, a tlhalosa fa ba boipelego, ba sepodisi, baruti ga mmogo le batsadi ba ka thusa go tila dikgang tsa motlhale o. *BOPA*

Molepolole residents loses P1.3 million to cyber fraud

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Some residents of Molepolole have lost more than P1.3 million to cybercriminals this year, raising concern over the growing threat of online fraud and the need for increased public awareness.

Detective Constable Segametsi Monaise of Molepolole Police Station revealed the figures during the Twantsho Botsotsi campaign, an initiative led by the Office of the President in partnership with Cybersmart Botswana, ABSA Bank Botswana and the Botswana Police Service.

She said the money involved in the current year fraud related cases had increased from approximately P638 000 recorded in 2025.

Ms Monaise urged residents to remain vigilant, particularly as the festive season approaches, warning that criminals often took advantage of people who received money from savings such as motshelo and other financial arrangements.

"At this time of the year, criminals are sharpening their tactics because they know many people will be receiving money from motshelo contributions," she cautioned.

She said people spent considerable time on their mobile phones but remained unaware of the risks associated with online activities.

Ms Monaise highlighted cyberbullying, cyberstalking, offensive electronic communication and social media account hacking as some of the threats confronting the public.

She also warned that criminals were increasingly exploiting artificial intelligence (AI) to manipulate images and impersonate individuals, including using fake endorsements to promote fraudulent financial schemes.

She explained that unsuspecting victims could be persuaded to pay upfront fees in anticipation of financial benefits that never materialised.

Meanwhile, Bakwena deputy chief, Kgosi Lawrence Mhaladi said the trusting nature of Batswana often made them vulnerable to people who presented themselves as well-wishers.

He traced the evolution of communication, from traditional methods such as smoke signals and horn blowing to letters, telephones and modern digital platforms, noting that criminals had adapted alongside technological advancements.

"In the past, people used smoke to communicate, followed by horn blowing, letters and telephones. Today, we have advanced technologies that improve service delivery, but criminals are exploiting these same tools to deceive people," he said.

Kgosi Mhaladi disclosed that he had also fallen victim to cybercriminals who misused his image and social media accounts to advertise allegedly affordable rental properties without his knowledge.

He commended the Twantsho Botsotsi campaign for addressing a growing problem but expressed disappointment at the low attendance, saying community members needed such information to protect themselves against fraud.

Representing Cybersmart Botswana, Mr Mothusi Keorate echoed t Kgosi Mhaladi's concerns, saying society's increasing dependence on technology made digital literacy essential.

He said the public needed to understand how emerging technologies worked and how criminals exploited them to defraud unsuspecting users.

For his part, ABSA Bank Botswana forensic division representative, Mr Alfred Nthata, urged bank customers to avoid disclosing personal banking information to strangers or respond to suspicious requests received through telephone calls and social media.

He said cybercriminals often posed as successful businesspeople, tenderpreneurs or potential romantic partners to gain the trust of their victims before persuading them to transfer money into fraudulent accounts.

Mr Nthata also warned about account takeover scams, in which criminals impersonated legitimate businesses or retailers and manipulated victims into responding to messages or sharing information that enabled unauthorised access to their accounts.

He advised customers to verify suspicious requests directly with bank officials at their branches rather than relying on calls or social media communications.

Mr Nthata said banks sometimes contacted customers when they suspected fraudulent activity, but some clients ignore the warnings and proceed with transactions.

He added that victims were sometimes reluctant to report fraud because of embarrassment, allowing perpetrators to remain active and target more people.

"Some people would rather withdraw their money and deposit it at other cash outlets, where the bank cannot intervene. When they realise they have been defrauded, they become too embarrassed to report the matter," he said.

He further cautioned against renting out bank accounts to strangers, explaining that such accounts could be used for money laundering, leaving the account holders exposed to the consequences when suspicious transactions were investigated.

Mr Nthata warned that cybercriminals continued to devise new ways of targeting people, making collective vigilance and timely reporting essential in the fight against digital fraud. ***BOPA***



Detective Constable Segametsi Monaise urged residents to remain vigilant, particularly as the festive season approaches, warning that criminals often took advantage of people who received money from savings groups and other financial arrangements.
Photo: Keetile Botsibokae

Court awaits lab results in suspected human body parts case

Kelebogile Taolo
FRANCISTOWN

Francistown Magistrate Court has further remanded in custody Zimbabwean national, Nyasha Mugodzeri (28), pending forensic results to determine whether some of the exhibits found in his possession are human body parts.

Mugodzeri is facing two counts of entering Botswana through an ungazetted point of entry and possession of suspected human body parts.

Appraising court on the progress of investigations, State Prosecutor, Mr Ditshoto Mpale said the state was still awaiting results from the forensic laboratory.

He said the forensic analysis of the exhibits was crucial to establish whether they were human body parts and would determine the next course of action.

"We have communicated with the forensic laboratory and they have promised that by Friday this week they will give us the results. In the next mention we will determine whether to amend our charge sheet and map way forward," said Mr Mpale.

Meanwhile, Mugodzeri pleaded guilty to the first count of entering Botswana through an ungazetted point of entry and pleaded not guilty to the second count.

> ...forensic analysis of the exhibits is crucial to establish whether they are human body parts

In mitigation, he pleaded with the court not to impose a custodial sentence, saying his children were suffering as they had no one to take care of them.

The court ordered his further remand in custody until November 23, when the case will mention for status update.

Mugodzeri, who allegedly claims to be a spiritual healer, was arrested on September 14, at Phirinyane Ward in Shashe Mooke.

He was denied bail on September 18, after the court ruled that he was a flight risk, having allegedly entered the country illegally through an ungazetted point of entry.

It was previously revealed in court that laboratory tests had shown some of the exhibits initially suspected to be human body parts were government trophies. Some of the exhibits were then sent for further forensic examination. ***BOPA***

Arts & Culture

Kemaketse honours late sister through debut album



Kedirile Kemaketse said the album was not exclusively about loss but an exploration of life and resilience. Photos: Courtesy of Kedirile Kemaketse

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

For Kedirile Kemaketse, music is more than an artistic expression; it is a vessel for preserving memories, celebrating cultural identity and keeping cherished stories alive.

His debut album, *MAY22*, released under his artistic identity, Kedirile en eThTribe, is perhaps his most intimate storytelling project yet, paying tribute to his late sister, Onalenna Ngemi Ntsimane, affectionately known as Pontoooo.

The album title draws inspiration from May 22, the birthday Kemaketse and his sister shared.

Following her passing last year, the date took on deeper meaning, inspiring him to turn his grief into a musical dedication.

Kemaketse said his sister played an important role in his early musical journey, helping him type his songs when he first started writing.

"She never lived to experience the journey she started with me. This album is a letter to her, telling her that I have finished what we started together," he said.

Although dedicated to his sister, *MAY22* is not exclusively about loss but also explores life, resilience, identity, spirituality and human experiences.

The 10-track project features *Pelo, Ha O Ya Koo, Leperese, Kgomo, Segoloduwane, Mmapula, Motsogapele, Malome, Tsa ga Mmopi and Gamaila*. Each song tells a different story, drawing on everyday experiences and traditional expressions.

A multidisciplinary artist, songwriter and storyteller from Kanye, popularly known as the City of Hills, Kemaketse draws inspiration from folklore, nature, cultural heritage and memories of the past.

His artistic identity is also associated with the names Spense, Tribal Saint and PM10, the latter inspired by the endurance of old Eveready batteries, symbolising resilience and perseverance.

He traces his musical foundation to childhood, when his father introduced him to different sounds through an old Aiwa radio and cassette tapes.

"My father baptised me into music long before I understood what music really was," he recalled, explaining that exposure to traditional music, *Mmino wa Dikatara, Dipina le Maboko*, shaped his appreciation of storytelling.

Growing up in Kanye also influenced his creative direction, with everyday conversations, proverbs, humour and the experiences of ordinary people becoming important sources of inspiration.

He said his music sought to give forgotten stories another lease of life, allowing younger generations to connect with their cultural roots.

One of the songs, *Leperese*, explores hardship through traditional imagery and expressions, demonstrating how previous generations used proverbs and storytelling to communicate difficult experiences.

"I have always been drawn to ordinary people and ordinary experiences. These things may appear insignificant, but they carry entire histories," he said.

Although *MAY22* marks his debut album under Kedirile en eThTribe, Kemaketse is not new to the music industry.

He has contributed to works by artists such as Mmaausi Lekoma, Kgokgonono and Ditiro Leero.

In 2022, he also sang baritone with the Presidential Ensemble Choir.

Recorded at Southring Studios with producer Andy Batshogile, the album blends cultural identity with contemporary musical expression.

His musical influences include the late Phillip Tabane, Sello Galane, Tlokwe Sehume and Fatoumata Diawara, whom he admires for maintaining their artistic identities while exploring different musical possibilities.

Kemaketse has performed at platforms including Dithubaruba, Mmakgodumo, MoJazz Live, Organic Live and Debswana's World Day for Safety at Work.

He is working towards an intimate outdoor musical gathering, Tribal Meeting, planned before the end of the year, where he intends to share songs from *MAY22* and other works.

He envisions Kedirile en eThTribe growing beyond music into other forms of artistic expression, providing a platform for cultural preservation and storytelling.

For Kemaketse, the ultimate ambition is to create work that allows people to recognise themselves in familiar melodies and memories.

"Every story deserves to be heard. And sometimes, the story becomes a song," he said. ***BOPA***



Artistes from last year's 267 Hip-Hop Awards formerly known as Rarely Hip-Hop Awards. The event returns rebranded with an expanded lineup of 22 categories, including a new Best Regional Hip-Hop Award.

267 Hip-Hop Awards returns with bigger ambitions

Loago Thomas
GABORONE

The 267 Hip-Hop Awards are officially back for the second edition, 2026/2027.

Formerly known as the Rarely Hip-Hop Awards (RaHAs), the event returns rebranded and with an expanded lineup of 22 categories, including a new Best Regional Hip-Hop Award.

The awards celebrate Botswana's hip-hop culture, music and actors.

The new regional category is designed to build bridges with neighbouring countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Lesotho, eSwatini and South Africa.

Of the 22 categories, 16 are open for nomination, with five nominees each, just like in the first edition.

They include Lyricist, Producer, Rookie, Song, Album, EP/Mixtape, DJ and Video of the Year, as well as Best Solo Female, Best Solo Male, Best Duo/Group, Verse of the Year, Hustler of the Year, Best Live Performer, Best Dancer and the new regional award.

The remaining six are determined by the awards' partners and are not open for nomination: the ICON Award, WarZone Battle Rapper of the Year, BlackMobile Ringtone of the Year, Yarona FM Most Played Song, Spotify's Most Streamed Song and Fan's Choice.

Submission for nominees started November 1 and will continue until November 6, with the eligibility period running from November 30, 2025 to October 30, 20226.

Artists, producers, DJs, dancers and fans, are encouraged to get their work ready and be part of this year's celebration of Botswana hip-hop. ***BOPA***

DailySport

Radiakanyo pens ZESCO Ndola Girls deal



Lesego Radiakanyo has signed a two year contract with ZESCO Ndola Girls of Zambia, marking her first move to a club outside Botswana.

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

The senior national football team attacking midfielder, Lesego Radiakanyo (27) has signed a two-year contract with ZESCO Ndola Girls of Zambia, marking her first move to a club outside Botswana.

Gaborone United confirmed Radiakanyo's move to Zambia and has been an influential attacking midfielder who made a significant contribution to the club during her time with the team.

Her new club is among the leading sides in Zambia women football, having retained the Zambian Women's Super League title in May.

ZESCO Ndola Girls has also established themselves as a strong regional competitor, finishing runners-up in the COSAFA Women's Champions League qualifiers in both 2025 and 2026.

The club's most recent regional campaign was held in Gaborone in August, where it defeated Gaborone United 2-0 in the group stages before reaching the final, which it lost 2-1 to South African side, Mamelodi Sundowns.

Radiakanyo, who previously played for Double Action and Gaborone United, said the move presented an opportunity to showcase her abilities beyond the national stage while representing her country abroad.

"I am happy for this opportunity to showcase my skills on more than a national platform," she said.

Already in Zambia, Radiakanyo believed the move would also benefit the national team by exposing her to better training facilities and more challenging players.

She said greater international exposure for Botswana's women footballers could strengthen the national side, adding that having half of the Mares squad playing abroad would benefit the country.

"I believe that if more the Mares players were to play internationally, it would benefit the country, as we would get a chance to see how other teams in different countries play," she said.

Radiakanyo also viewed her move as a sign that other countries were beginning to recognise the abilities of Botswana's footballers.

She encouraged aspiring women footballers to remain committed to their development and believe that opportunities to play abroad were possible.

"I hope the other girls can keep working hard and believe that it is possible," she said. ***BOPA***

Botswana and Namibia sign sport cooperation pact

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and Namibia National Olympic Committee (NNOC) have signed a revamped Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering closer sports cooperation, resource sharing and high-performance synergies.

Speaking following the signing ceremony on Monday, BNOC president, Tshepo Sitale said they found it fit to collaborate with Namibia because of the deep rooted cultural and socio-economic similarities that bind the two neighboring nations.

He described the agreement as a strategic step toward mutual athletic advancement

Sitale said Namibia and Botswana shared the same people, same population size and the same economic outlook, which made it fitting to renew and refocus a standing agreement to target areas of mutual strength.

Under the refocused partnership, Sitale said both Olympic committees would leverage each other's specialised sporting codes to build international competitive depth.

He said Namibia aimed to tap into Botswana's world-class track and sprint expertise, while Botswana looked to reclaim its historical dominance in volleyball through technical exchanges.

Furthermore, he said Botswana intended to learn from Namibia's well-established lawn bowls structures and their rapidly rising powerhouse status in aquatic sports.

Furthermore, the BNOC plans to diversify Botswana's sporting frontier by introducing non-traditional codes where Namibia already boasts active pathways, such as canoeing, yachting, shooting, and equestrian sports.

Sitale cited the recent junior African equestrian champion from Angola as an inspiration for expanding into such disciplines.

Sitale also said the geographic proximity between the two countries created a sustainable and cost-effective development model as both nations prepared their elite athletes for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

"The current situation is that when a Namibian team comes here, they do not pay for their accommodation. We cover for that, when our teams go there, they do the same. So, we can easily reach Namibia by road without using a flight, therefore reducing the cost," he said. ***BOPA***