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'Remain united'



Acting President Slumber Tsogwane (centre) after delivering a message of condolences during a mass funeral service of the 45 victims of Mamatlakala Bridge bus accident at Molepolole Sports Complex on Saturday. He urged the nation to remain united in order to face future challenges together. He thanked the bereaved families for their patience, as due to the nature of the accident, it took long for the bodies to be repatriated for burial and he also called upon them to take solace in the Word of God, saying since the matter had been brought to finality, it was now time for the families to start the healing process. Forty-four of the victims were buried at Garanta cemetery in Molepolole, while the other was laid to rest in Thamaga. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

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President Masisi attends US-Africa summit

By Mooketsi Mojalemotho

DALLAS, TEXAS - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi is expected to be among other heads of state that will attend the 16th US-Africa Business Summit scheduled to take place in Dallas, USA from May 6 to 9.

A strong contingent of officials and parastatals as well as Botswana companies led by President Masisi will have its presence felt during the four days of this year's summit.

Doing Business in Botswana forum, which will be led by President Masisi, will be the highlight of the summit.

Presentation on investment opportunities in Botswana will form the core of the forum and will also be addressed by the Minister of Trade, Mr Mmusi Kgafela among other speakers.

This year's edition comes right on the heels of the Gaborone summit that attracted about 1 300 delegates and held under the theme: Enhancing Africa's Value in Global Value Chains. During the Gaborone edition of the event last year, leaders called for the renewal of the long-standing Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), a trade deal they argued gave some African countries preferential and tax-free access for exports to the huge US market. President Masisi supported the stance and led the pleas to have Washington renew the agreement, which will expire in 2025.

However, this year's meeting is expected to bring more than 1 500 US and Africa public and private

sector executives including heads of state, international investors, US and African officials and other stakeholders under one roof.

The primary objective is to enable leaders to connect with government and private sector decision-makers to drive sustainable business partnerships.

The premier event by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) is an important platform for deepening US-Africa business ties across key sectors such as Agriculture, Trade, ICT, Finance and many others.

US-Africa Business Summit has over its 30 years of existence forged partnerships, explored new business frontiers and shaped policies that promoted robust trade between the United States of America and Africa.

The Dallas summit will be held under the theme: US-Africa Business: Partnering for Sustainable Success. **BOPA**



NEW YORK - President Masisi (right), Mr Davis (centre) and Forbes chief content officer, Mr Randall Lane during a panel discussion at the Global Citizen Now 2024 summit in USA on Thursday. President Masisi said existential challenges that included climate change, called for deepened collaborations between nation-states and companies alike to find a lasting solutions for the benefit of the people. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

Botswana, The Bahamas reaffirm commitment to MoU

By Mooketsi Mojalemotho

BOSTON - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed last year by Botswana and The Bahamas intended to foster economic development and ensure mutual benefit.

President Masisi said this when conversing with The

Bahamas Prime Minister, Mr Philip Davis during the Global Citizen Now summit in New York on Thursday.

Among others, the MoU commits the two countries to cooperate on areas of economic development, cultural relations, environment, tourism, agriculture and financial services.

He stated that Botswana and The Bahamas had a lot of

similarities such as peace and democracy, vibrant economies and robust tourism sectors that could be leveraged to scale up development.

He further said existential challenges that included climate change called for deepened collaborations between nation-states and companies alike to find lasting solutions that benefit people. Mr Davis pointed out that the MoU presented opportunities

for citizens of both The Bahamas and Botswana.

The Global Citizen Now summit follows right after the Legatum Centre Conference at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts where President Masisi expressed government's wish to forge synergies to leverage research and technology to hasten Botswana's development path. **BOPA**

'Media role critical on issues of environment'

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - The role of media is critical in shining a light on environmental issues, Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Boitumelo Gofhamodimo, has said.

Ms Gofhamodimo was speaking at the World Press

Freedom Day commemoration in Gaborone on Friday.

She said journalists served as the watchdogs of society, exposing wrongdoing and holding those in power accountable for their actions.

She added that the media also bridged the gap between scientific knowledge and public

understanding, translating complex environmental issues into accessible narratives that resonated with audiences worldwide.

She indicated that this year's theme; A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis, resonated deeply with the challenges faced

by the global community.

"This day holds profound significance, not just for journalists but for societies around the globe that cherish the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability," she said.

She said the signs of environmental degradation were all too apparent with rising temperatures and extreme weather events to biodiversity loss and pollution.

Further, she said as the crucial role of journalism was celebrated in safeguarding the planet, threats and challenges that journalists faced in fulfilling their duty should be acknowledged.

"Journalists around the world risk their lives and livelihoods to bring the stories that matter, experiencing censorship and harassment to violence and imprisonment.

Therefore, this day is about paying tribute to their courage, resilience and unwavering commitment to the truth," she said.

She urged all to reaffirm their collective commitment to defending press freedom and protecting the rights of journalists everywhere, as they reflected on the significance of

World Press Freedom Day.

In order for MISA to play its role well of advocating for media freedom, pluralism, diversity, and independence, they need our support as governments, civil society and other key stakeholders including the society they serve," she said, adding funding played a pivotal role in MISA's success.

She applauded MISA-Botswana for their vigilant monitoring and responding to violations of media freedom, saying the institution had also been active in capacity building enhancing the skills and knowledge of journalists, media practitioners, and key stakeholders across the nation through various training and capacity-building initiatives.

Among their training endeavours, she said were sessions on Digital Rights and Safety conducted in collaboration with community leaders and Dikgosi in Palapye, as well as workshops focused on Data Protection, Digital Surveillance, Gender and Election Reporting.

In addition, Ms Gofhamodimo said it was critical for MISA to conduct research on media-related issues in the region. **BOPA**



MISA Botswana chairperson, Mr Thomas Nkhoma (left), Ms Gofhamodimo (second left), SADC acting executive secretary Dr Judith Kateera (second right) and UNESCO regional director, Ms Nisha during the launch of the State of Press Freedom in Southern Africa 2023 report at World Press Freedom Day commemoration in Gaborone on Friday. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

'African media must leverage on influence'

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - This year's International Press Freedom Day serves as both a beacon of hope and a call to action for African media, says President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi.

Addressing the media virtually on World Press Freedom Day, Saturday, Dr Masisi said the day also compelled the African media to leverage on its influence to raise awareness and reshape narratives about the continent to foster collective efforts toward

environmental conservation and sustainability.

"This means, more than ever before, that you also have responsibility to sell the African story from the African perspective, highlighting our success stories and challenges applicable to our continent," he said.

President Masisi urged media professionals to frame the African narrative with a sense of social responsibility, understanding that alongside media freedom they were corresponding obligations of responsible journalism.

"Continue to adhere to professional codes of ethics and standards that ensure that your work contributes to fostering a well-informed and democratic society while avoiding harm or exploitation," said President Masisi.

The theme: A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis, President Masisi said was timely as the world confronted increasing complex environmental issues each day as it highlighted the critical role that journalism played

in addressing such challenges.

He said the theme encouraged the media to actively engage on environmental issues, reporting on them accurately and ethically to raise awareness and facilitate informed public discourse.

"It urges journalists to report on environmental issues accurately and comprehensively by providing the public with necessary information and context to understand the complexities of environmental challenges and explore viable solutions thereof," he said.

He said the theme underscored the importance of journalists and media organisations in advocating for environmental protection, sustainability and meaningful action to mitigate the impact of environmental degradation.

The world is at the threshold of a final decade of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015 as a universal call to action, to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all enjoyed peace and prosperity by 2030, President Masisi said. He said the final decade leading up to 2030 represented a critical period for accelerated action and collaboration to achieve the ambitious goals during which UN member states must strive to fulfil their commitment to the future of the planet.

Therefore, he said World Press Freedom Day theme was a call to re-centre and reaffirm the role of African media particularly in the region, to mainstream reporting on SADC programmes, on the environment.

He said a pressing challenge facing Botswana was the growing elephant population, which currently stood at approximately 130 000. "This is a topical subject lately and has been making headlines across media houses worldwide," he said.

President Masisi said it was regrettable that some in the Western media had been wanting when it came to providing accurate information on environmental crises and human-wildlife conflict in Botswana, especially incidents involving elephant-caused fatalities.

"Reports indicate that 67 people were killed by elephants between 2009 and 2019, the highest number of victims caused by wild animals in Botswana. This is a story that has failed to grab headlines in the Western media. Most notably absent is coverage of environmental issues caused by elephants, including land degradation, deforestation, and biodiversity loss, which could degenerate into an ecological crisis particularly in our drought-prone Botswana," said President Masisi.

He further urged the media to recognise the importance that countries in the SADC region attached to sustainable use and management of the environment in the fight against poverty and food insecurity.

He said the commitment was enshrined in the SADC Treaty that established the organisation in 1992 and demonstrated by active participation in negotiations and ratification of major multilateral environmental agreements.

"In that breadth, SADC has put in place environment and climate change programmes that seek to facilitate implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, Africa Agenda 2063 and SDGs," he said. **BOPA**



President Masisi addressing the media virtually on World Press Freedom Day on Saturday. He said the day compelled the African media to leverage on its influence to raise awareness and reshape narratives about the continent to foster collective efforts toward environmental conservation and sustainability. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Bus accident tragedy unites nation

By Tebagano Ntshole

MOLEPOLOLE - March 28, 2024 will forever be entrenched in the memories of Batswana, together with the painful memories of the tragedy that befell the nation that fateful day.

It was on this date that 44 members of St Engenas Zion Christian Church and their driver perished when the bus they were riding fell some 50 metres from Mmamatlakala Bridge in the Limpopo province of South Africa while embarking on an Easter pilgrimage to Moria, the church headquarters.

Following that tragedy, the worst in the history of Botswana, different churches, bereaved families and indeed Batswana and government joined hands in an effort to repatriate the bodies from South Africa to Botswana. The nation remained united through to the final day, the funeral and burial of the bus accident victims.

While 44 St Engenas Zion

Christian Church members were buried at Garanta cemetery in Molepolole, the bus driver was laid to rest in Thamaga.

Acting President Slumber Tsogwane as such urged the nation to remain united in order to face future challenges together.

Speaking during the funeral service for the 45 members held in Molepolole on Saturday, Mr Tsogwane said other than unity between Batswana, the country should also strengthen its relationship with South Africa. He paid tribute to President Mr Cyril Ramaphosa for having assisted Botswana during the most difficult time.

"Fifing go tshwaranwa ka dikobo," he said, generally meaning a friend in need was a friend indeed.

He said President Ramaphosa constantly updated President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi and the two eventually visited the accident scene.

Mr Tsogwane thanked the

bereaved families for their patience, as due to the state of the accident, it took long for the bodies to be repatriated for burial.

The Acting President further said the police, health officials and scientists, who conducted DNA tests to identify the deceased persons, were nothing short of diligent.

Mr Tsogwane further thanked the South African authorities, especially Limpopo MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba for providing psycho-social support to the lone survivor, an eight-year-old girl.

He called upon the bereaved families to take solace in the Word of God, saying since the matter had been brought to finality, it was now time for them to start the healing process.

For his part, Molepolole South MP, who is also Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng echoed the sentiments, saying government and different churches joined St Engenas in

comforting bereaved families and assisting with repatriations and funeral preparations.

He said the incident was the most challenging, but thanked President Masisi's the leadership for providing full support during the time of need.

For his part, MP Oabile Regoeng of Molepolole North said the day he received the news about the accident was perhaps the saddest, saying it brought uncertainty and anxiety, especially as the passengers had swapped vehicles between the bus and passenger cars after crossing the border.

He expressed relief now that the matter had been brought to close and urged the members to remain strong in their faith.

The poet, Moroka Moreri wrote; 'Ba laetse, le re lela, bone tota ba laetse, ka setho ga re a ba utlwa sentle. Ba rile re ya lefatsheng le le, ra ithoma ba raya lele, mme tota ba raya lele' meaning they bid farewell; it is only that we misunderstood. **BOPA**

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Proposal caters for diverse representation

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - The Constitutional amendments proposing that members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi be elected along district demarcations rather than

tribal territories was meant to cater for diverse representation in the house.

This was said by Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng during the Ntlo ya Dikgosi debate on the

Constitutional Amendment Bill on Thursday.

The minister said the proposal, now part of Constitutional amendments was brought about by Batswana during the Commission of Enquiry into the

Review of the Constitution.

Mr Morwaeng indicated that the proposal was also meant to facilitate increase of representatives in the house.

"The proposal is that there will be two representatives from each district, and those will be supplemented by the 10 that will be specially elected by the President, which will take the representatives of the house from the current 33 to 66," he said.

Mr Morwaeng also allayed dikgosi's fears that the 10 specially elected ones will be political appointees since they will be chosen by the President, and that Members of Parliament will take decisions without engaging them.

"The President is well aware of the functions of this house, so he cannot appoint anyone to it who does not perform or does not know the functions of Bogosi.

Even though Parliament is the final decision-making body in terms of making the laws, they are a responsible lot and will not take any decisions that affect Magosi without consulting them," he said.

Mr Morwaeng also said existing norms and practices, although not written, could be used to determine district representatives.

Mr Morwaeng also said it would be a difficult task to have each and every tribe represented in the house since the number of tribes in Botswana was still uncertain, hence rendering the proposed districts representation the best criteria available.

He was responding after some dikgosi raised concerns that the proposed practice of selecting members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi will dilute the status of the house and the purity of Bogosi. **BOPA**

BCP launches Mahalapye East prospective candidate

By Kgotsotalang Botsang

MAHALAPYE - The Mahalapye East community has been urged to vote for the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) prospective parliamentary candidate, Ms Ethel Gampone in the coming general elections.

Launching the prospective candidate at Xhosa 1 Ward in Mahalapye on Saturday, BCP leader, Mr Dumelang Saleshando presented Ms Gampone as hardworking, capable and a renowned business woman who had the interests of Mahalapye East community at heart.

He said the Mahalapye East constituents could bear testimony to the capabilities of women as the constituency had been led by a capable woman before.

Mr Saleshando added that BCP was committed to empowering women particularly those with a vision to bring developments to the constituency and positive impact on Batswana.

Mr Saleshando further said the party was the only one that was ready for elections, as it had already conducted its primary elections and was currently launching its prospective candidates.

He said some political parties were still trailing behind even though the general elections were to be held in five months.

For her part, Ms Gampone pleaded with Mahalapye East constituents to vote for her in the coming general elections.

She described herself as someone who was not new to the constituency, therefore, in full understanding of their challenges, adding that her party was the only political organ which could address the challenges they were facing.

Ms Gampone said Mahalapye East was lagging behind in developments citing the dilapidated state of infrastructure at boarding schools, health posts and road network.

She said Mahalapye East was a big constituency with a high population hence ought to have clinics as opposed to health posts.

Ms Gampone said the constituency needed a leader who will drive the development agenda.

"Decide your future, your future is in your hands," she said.

The BCP Women's League leader Ms Tshimologo Dingake pleaded with the people of Mahalapye East to rally behind the BCP by voting for Ms Gampone.

Ms Dingake said the party trusted Ms Gampone to deliver.

She said the BCP was blessed with educated, capable women who had the potential to turn the lives of Batswana around and Ms Gampone was one of them.

She urged the people of Mahalapye East to also vote for

council candidates namely Mr George Andreck, Mr Oreneetswe Rabosotho, Mr Ishmael Mashaba, Mr Tshepiso Molwantwa, Mr

Caiphus Letsweletse, Ms Mmapula Sekgwathe and Ms Ofentse Rantutu, who were eyeing the seven council wards in the constituency. **BOPA**

IEC disqualifies 188 voters over duplicate registration

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - A total of 188 voters have been disqualified from voting in the upcoming October general elections due to duplicate registration in Francistown's three constituencies while four were rejected for other reasons.

Francistown-based Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Principal Elections Officer, Ms Itumeleng Gabaake said during a Party Liaison Committee (PLC) meeting recently that the recent voter registration exercises in Francistown uncovered 188 cases of duplicate registration or people who registered more than once across the three city's constituencies.

Ms Gabaake said Francistown South registered 53 cases of rejection, Francistown East 28, whilst Francistown West registered 107 of such cases, bringing the number to 188.

She informed the meeting that the 188 people would not be eligible to vote in the upcoming general election, as the IEC strictly enforces a 'one-person, one-vote' policy.

"The electoral law states that each individual is only permitted to register once and vote at one polling station," she said.

Ms Gabaake explained that the duplication was either done across the constituencies/polling district or within the polling district/constituencies.

In addition to the disqualification of 188 voters for duplicate registration, Ms Gabaake also said four voters were rejected due to other reasons in Francistown East and West.

She explained that the additional rejections stemmed from instances of ineligibility of voters such as one individual from Francistown East who was underage and three from Francistown West on account of non-existent national identity cards.

Ms Gabaake said she hoped that the situation would improve in the



Mr Aupa Mosinyi of the Alliance for Progressives (left) and Mr Smarts Shabani of Botswana Congress Party at the Party Liaison Committee meeting in Francistown recently. Ms Gabaake informed the meeting that 188 voters had been disqualified from voting in the upcoming general elections due to duplicate registration in Francistown's three constituencies, while four were rejected for other reasons.
Photo: Thamani Shabani

upcoming second supplementary voter registration scheduled for May 20 to May 31.

She appealed to those who would be registering in the second supplementary voter registration not to repeat the same mistakes because it disadvantaged them from exercising their constitutional rights to choose their preferred government.

Ms Gabaake also informed the meeting that the general voter registration conducted from January 5 to February 3 was successful, given the fact that 26 212 Batswana registered in Francistown.

She said from this figure, 7 266 registered in the Francistown East constituency, 8 926 in the Francistown South constituency, and 10 020 in the Francistown West constituency.

On a similar note, Ms Gabaake said the first supplementary voter registration, which was carried from February 26 to March 15, managed to register 3 214 people

in Francistown. Francistown East registered 1 397, Francistown South 811 and Francistown West managed 1 006 people.

This brings the total number of people who have already registered in Francistown East constituency to 8 663 while 9 737 is for Francistown South constituency, and Francistown West has the highest number of 11 026.

She explained that though the general voter registration was a success, there were challenges such as the exercise being carried out when schools were opened, which contributed immensely to the shortage of working space and furniture.

Another challenge was the non-favourable weather conditions, which to some extent led to some polling stations flooding, though temporarily.

However, she said the general voter registration offered some opportunities of employment creation and that a total of

303 personnel was engaged in different capacities.

Ms Gabaake said 98 non-civil servants were engaged as registration clerks and 66 civil servants served as such.

She informed the meeting that preparations for the second supplementary voter registration exercise, which was scheduled for this month were on the right track.

All the stakeholders have been notified of the exercise and clearing of polling stations has commenced.

She said submissions of clerks' names for gazetting would be done soon.

Recruitment for other personnel such as a temporary tent caretakers would be conducted at customary courts.

"An exercise of this nature also brings opportunity for local business empowerment since private companies are roped in to provide services such as portable toilets. **BOPA**

Radisigo calls for increased budget

By **Thamani Shabani**

FRANCISTOWN - The Mayor of Francistown, Mr Godisang Radisigo has called for an increased council budget for Botswana's second city.

Addressing a press conference to update the media on the end of the financial year and various government projects in the city, Mr Radisigo called for a significant increase in the city's budget, arguing that as the second largest city in the country, Francistown served not only its own residents but also a considerable number of people from the surrounding areas.

He said the population of Francistown and surrounding areas had put a significant strain on the city's infrastructure and services.

"We must ensure that our budget reflects this reality and that we receive the necessary resources to provide our citizens with the quality of life they deserve," he added.

Mr Radisigo pointed out that Francistown's role as the service centre for the northern part of Botswana added to the city's need for a larger budget.

"With villages spread out across vast distances, many people rely on the city for essential services such as healthcare, education, and commerce. We must not overlook the fact that Francistown is a critical hub for thousands of people who depend on our services," he stated.

On other issues, Mr Radisigo informed the media that Tati River would be rehabilitated by the Ward Development Committees, which had been funded by the National Environmental Fund to implement a Tati River Revitalisation initiative of removing weeds in the water channel.

He explained that 40 people would be engaged in the project for an initial three months' period. He explained that the weeds from the river would be added value and packaged into animal feed as a response to government's value chain development call.

"In addition, an amount of P659 223.77 has been availed under the same fund for landscaping of the Blue Jacket Street. It entails planting of trees from the BMC traffic lights to Dumela and hard landscaping of the interchange grounds," he said.

Mr Radisigo said the project would also commence this month and will run for a period of 10 months, employing a total number of 17 people.

The mayor also informed the press of the upgrading of the Francistown-Nata road, which entails a dual carriage way from Francistown to Mathangwane.

He said after its completion, the road was expected to facilitate trade and connectivity, higher efficiency and road safety.

"The project is currently at the preliminary design stage and it is also implemented through the Development Manager model," he added.

Further, Mr Radisigo said another similar project to be undertaken in the next financial is the construction of Aerodrome

link road and Phase IV Industrial Infrastructure project.

He explained that the project would ease traffic flow between Gerald and the city centre as well as facilitate development of the industrial area.

"The consultant is currently on site conducting the Environmental Management Plan, which shall be followed by tendering for construction," he said.

For his part, the Town Clerk of Francistown City Council, Mr Stephan Motlogelwa, revealed the city's plans to drill boreholes around Francistown to support the redevelopment of the city's parks. This move aims to address the current poor state of the public spaces.

"Our parks have suffered from neglect and a lack of resources, and we are determined to revitalise them for the enjoyment of our residents," Mr Motlogelwa said. Mr Motlogelwa highlighted the importance of green spaces in defining urban landscapes and lamented the current state of parks in Francistown.

"Green spaces are essential to creating a vibrant and a livable city but unfortunately, our parks in Francistown do not currently reflect that vision. With this initiative, we hope to reclaim



Nyangabgwe Recreational Square, popularly known as Mammies is one of the projects that the media toured in Francistown recently. Mr Radisigo called for a significant increase in the city's budget.

Photo: Thamani Shabani

these spaces and transform them into thriving hubs of community life," he said.

Mr Motlogelwa emphasised that the city council's primary responsibility was to provide essential services to its residents.

He added that this required continuous evaluation and planning to address the challenges faced by the city.

"As a city, we have been entrusted with the responsibility to serve the people. But this

cannot be done without reflecting on our past, recognising our accomplishments, acknowledging our challenges, and charting a course for the future," said Mr Motlogelwa. **BOPA**

Chanoga water channel dries up

By **Esther Mmolai**

MAUN- Chanoga water channel which forms part of Boteti River has dried up leaving some wild animals, livestock and the farming community in limbo.

The channel, which used to have abundant water, was also a hive for tourism and recreational activities with crowds thronging the area on weekends and public holidays, for entertainment and leisure activities such as boat cruising and fishing among others.

Boat operators from Maun and surroundings also relocated to the area when water levels in other sources were low.

The area has now turned into a sad story as the channel is dry rendering the tourist destination unattractive.

The situation has shocked residents as the channel was a source of income for many including small businesses.

The channel depended mostly on spill over from Thamalakane River which is fed by inflows from the Okavango Delta that receives water from the Okavango River which has its origin in the highlands of Angola.

"Drought has taken a cruel toll on our area because our channel has never dried for many years and the water was critical to the locals, supporting fishing, livestock farming and tourism. But currently the channel has shifted from being a significant water source with high productivity to being dry grassland," said Kgosi Oateng Setlhodi of Chanoga in an interview.

The drying of the channel, he said, had halted activities and shortened the season for outdoor recreation.

He said farmers who operated successful horticulture projects along the channel were despondent and pastoralists were experiencing livestock mortality as the animals were trapped in the mud while in search of water.

In addition, he said, scores of wildlife species particularly hippos faced a dire situation due to the drying up of the channel and the situation gave the village leadership sleepless nights.

Kgosi Setlhodi called for government intervention to save the animals particularly the hippos and livestock which had been trapped in the mud.

Elephants, he said were also drinking from the channel and

since its drying, they were now causing damage in horticulture farms along the channel and also intruding into people's habitats in search of water.

He proposed that government consider drilling more boreholes to help address the situation, saying failure to do so would result in a disaster.

He appreciated that some individuals from the private sector had offered water from their boreholes to assist the farming community particularly to water livestock.

He said previously they drilled boreholes through the Constituency Community Funding (CCP) programme but it was unfortunate that the funds had been diverted to improving internal roads.

He cited that they had managed to drill and equip boreholes in Chanoga, Tatamoga, Mawana and Xobe among others through CCP funding and wished the government could secure a budget to continue drilling boreholes in the remaining areas to arrest shortage of water and reduce the impact of severe drought on communities.

The current situation calls for a special dispensation to reduce incidents of human-wildlife conflict, he said.

Kgosi Setlhodi further noted that it was disheartening as endangered species were in a compromised situation.

"As leadership we have been running around to lure the private sector to come on board and save the animals and some business owners have agreed to supply farmers with water from their boreholes," he added. **BOPA**



Chanoga water channel, which forms part of Boteti River has dried up leaving some wild animals, livestock and the farming community in limbo. Photo: Esther Mmolai



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Khawa hosts small stock auction sale

By Keonee Majoto

KHAWA - In its third year running, the smallstock auction sale that forms part of activities of the Khawa Dune Challenge and Cultural Festival is yet to generate interest.

The auction got off to a good start in 2022, with farmers and buyers turning up in numbers, but the second year saw the numbers dropping.

In an interview after the auction on Saturday, Department of Animal Production scientific officer, Ms Lebogang Lotshwao said the number of buyers who graced the auction sale this year was fairly good.

Ms Lotshwao said they still hoped to get more farmers to participate in future editions of the auction sale, saying the 13 farmers who turned up for the auction this year were a far-cry from the numbers that could come.

She was generally content with the effort that farmers

had invested in preparing their animals for auction to ensure they were of good quality.

She said a total of 91 animals comprising 45 goats and 46 sheep were brought for auction.

She explained that 28 of the 45 goats were bought during auction.

Ms Lotshwao encouraged women and youth to venture into smallstock farming, which she said was something they could easily manage.

She said government's commitment to grow the smallstock sector should encourage them, noting that programmes such as LIMID

and the recently introduced Thuo Letlotlo were testament of government's resolve to draw Batswana's attention to the sub-sector and ensure that they succeeded at it.

Plying his trade in Struizendam, 28-year-old Mr Archie Titus hailed the auction saying it provided a networking opportunity.

A first-time auction participant, he said though not all his 12 animals were bought, he was happy to have established connections with potential buyers.

Mr Titus said the quality

of animals that his fellow farmers brought for auction was impressive and gave him assurance that smallstock farming was headed in the right direction.

Mr Lesego Motseosi aged 40, who farms in the Mahalapye area was participating for the first time as a buyer in an auction set-up.

Mr Titus said he was happy with the quality of animals, and added that the reserve prices were also not a deterrent for budding farmers like himself to participate in the auction.

"The auction was okay with

good quality animals going for quite reasonable prices. I bought myself two Boer goats, and would have bought more had my budget allowed me to" he said.

The smallstock auction affirmed the Acting President Mr Slumber Tsogwane's statement at the official opening of the event on Friday that the introduction of additional activities was a sign of its continued growth.

Mr Tsogwane had thus encouraged attendants to contribute to such growth by supporting the different activities staged during the two-day event.

BOPA

Clicks Botswana lists local brands

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE - Clicks Botswana store has recently listed local brands Earth Vitamins, a company that specialises in natural foods and O3 Beverages, a bottled water manufacturing company.

The development is a collaboration between the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) and Clicks Stores. Clicks Stores' Area Manager for Inland South, Ms Lebopo Bulayani expressed delight in supporting the #PushaBW campaign.

"We are committed to having more local products in our stores and supporting the #PushaBW campaign.

If Batswana support us, we can reciprocate by providing more shelf space for local products," said Ms Bulayani.

She also mentioned that Clicks Botswana would be relaunching its largest store, Clicks Airport Junction on May 7 as part of their expansion plans.

"We are proud to have created over 350 jobs, with more to come as we plan to open our 20th and 21st stores soon," she said. **BOPA**



Ms Lotshwao (left) and Mr Motseosi (second left) during the small stock auction sale at Khawa Dune Challenge and Cultural Festival on Saturday. Ms Lotshwao said the number of buyers who graced the auction this year was fairly good. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

BIUST celebrates innovation, creativity

By Portia Rapitsenyane

PALAPYE - The Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) has been urged to focus on undertaking, promoting and facilitating research and scholarly investigations in a bid to achieve its mandate.

Botswana Oil Limited general manager operations Mr Otto Keitumetse applauded the institution for its unwavering dedication to foster innovation and excellence in engineering education.

He was speaking at the university's 2024 Mechanical Energy and Industrial Degree show in Palapye on Friday.

The show was held under the theme: Promoting market

ready graduates through manufacturing innovation and technology for economic development.

It celebrated the innovative and creative achievements of the graduating students from the school of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

He said the projects presented were not merely academic achievements but rather real-world solutions to industrial and economic challenges.

Mr Keitumetse said the show marked the culmination of five years of rigorous education and relentless dedication from the students.

"Their work does more than fulfilling academic requirements, it pushes boundaries, solves practical

problems, and sets a foundation for continuous innovation," he said.

He said the event bridged the gap between academia and industry, serving as a platform to introduce new talent to potential employers and investors.

For his part, BIUST Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Professor Elisha Shemang said the exhibition was a remarkable showcase of the students' ingenuity, determination and technical proficiency.

Prof. Shemang said BIUST was committed to creating an environment that nurtured inventiveness and originality in alignment with Botswana's National Vision 2036 and the Millennium Development Goals.

He said the aim was to demonstrate that engineering can be a potent tool in servicing communities with potential to even solve global problems.

The 2024 MEI Degree Show chairperson Dr Badzili Nthubu said the vision of the show was to create a platform where students' academic achievements could intersect seamlessly with the industry's and community's needs.

He said the goal was to showcase what the students have learnt and applied towards solving real world challenges.

"They showcase potential innovations that could one day revolutionise and disrupt how we interact with technology, energy and the very fabric of our daily lives," he said. **BOPA**

Restore order in schools - Letsholathebe

By **Thamani Shabani**

FRANCISTOWN - Minister of Education and Skills Development, Dr Douglas Letsholathebe says action must be taken to address the challenging environment and restore order in schools.

Addressing St John Apostolic Church of Botswana congregation life changing dinner in Francistown on Saturday, Dr Letsholathebe said the classroom was increasingly becoming a volatile location.

"If we do not take steps to address the underlying issues, we may soon find ourselves facing a situation where the classroom becomes a battleground between teachers and students."

He said a cordial relationship must prevail between teachers and students.

"We cannot afford to let this happen. We must work together as a community to ensure that our schools remain safe and nurturing environments for our children," said Dr Letsholathebe.

Also, he said church was not a gathering of Christian fellowship but was a pillar of the community that played a crucial role in the social and moral development of the youth.

Labour Day: Time to introspect

By **Goweditse Kome**

MASUNGA - Employees have been advised against treating Labour Day as a public holiday for running own errands.

Speaking during the commemoration of Labour Day in Masunga, Botswana Teacher's Union (BTU) regional organiser-Tshesebe Region, Mr Thuso Mosupi indicated that some employees had a tendency of not participating in the events of the day and engaged in personal activities.

He said the objective of the day was to meet as workers, share ideas and concerns with colleagues from different departments and come up with solutions to the problems they were faced with.

Mr Mosupi said the day was also meant for workers to introspect, come up with ways to improve celebrating the day, get together and enjoy the day as workers.

He encouraged workers to shun gender based violence, not engage in politics, office relationships, misuse of government property, abuse as well as use of abusive or offensive language. **BOPA**

"You must provide guidance, support and direction for children, help them grow into responsible and compassionate adults," he added.

Dr Letsholathebe indicated that churches also provided a sense of belonging and unity that was essential for fostering peace and harmony within the community.

He said the critical role played by faith-based organisations such as the St John Apostolic Church in building a responsible nation was recognised by government.

He added that they contributed to the growth and development of the society.

"Churches play a vital role in shaping our communities and fostering a sense of compassion, love, and unity that is essential for a strong and prosperous nation.

"We must work hand-in-hand with these institutions to ensure that our children grow up in a society that values morality, peace, and respect for others," he said. He also urged the congregation to make full use of the various government programmes and policies designed to improve their lives.

"The government is here to support you and your families and I urge you to take advantage of the opportunities available to you through these programmes," he added.

Dr Letsholathebe also encouraged those who had not yet registered to vote to take advantage of the coming supplementary voter registration to be eligible to vote in the coming General Elections.

Bishop Toteng Matenge said the church would continue to serve the community of Francistown and surrounding areas with dignity and distinction to change their lives for the better.

Bishop Matenge said the church would continue to do its work and offer its support to government in addressing social ills, especially among the youth.

Assistant District Commissioner, Mr Patrick Isaac hailed the church for promoting the spirit of self-reliance and community building.

"It is truly heartening to see a congregation that takes such pride in their ability to provide for themselves and their neighbours," he said. **BOPA**



Children at the St John Apostolic Church of Botswana life changing dinner in Francistown on Saturday. Minister Letsholathebe sounded a warning bell that the situation in the classroom was becoming increasingly volatile. Photo: Thamani Shabani

Official praises media for reporting on environmental issues

By **Idah Basimane**

GABORONE - Through in-depth reporting and analysis, the media helps explain complex environmental issues, scientific findings and policy debates in a way that is accessible to the general public.

Such empowers individuals to make more informed decisions and take action to protect the environment, Ministry of Environment and Tourism acting permanent secretary, Ms Chandapiwa Sebeela said in her address in a panel discussion during World Press Freedom Day celebration at UB Conference Centre.

Ms Sebeela perceived the media as a tool that had the power to shape public opinion on environmental issues by framing stories and representing different perspectives.

By promoting a greater understanding of environmental challenges, the media can help build public support for environmental protection measures.

She said the theme: A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis, was more befitting for this year's celebration because over the years, the media had been critical in disseminating information of the environment.

She emphasised, continued efforts and collaboration between government, private sector, media, civil society and communities as essential to ensure sustainable development and conservation of the country's natural resources.

"There are still challenges however, such as water scarcity, land degradation, human/wildlife conflict, environmental pollution and climate change impacts," Ms Sebeela said.

Botswana, she said, had made efforts to promote conservation, sustainable natural resource management and build climate resilience.

She singled out anti-poaching, saying government had strengthened measures to combat illegal wildlife trade, to protect endangered species.

Also, she said government had deployed anti-poaching units, invested in wildlife monitoring technologies and collaborated with international partners to address poaching threats.

University of Botswana's Director of Public Affairs, Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo said World Press Freedom day sought to highlight the importance of journalism on environmental issues.

She said the theme challenged the media to a collective action to approach environmental challenges from a multispectral tactic.

She also perceived the panel discussion as a critical aspect that navigated the complexities of environmental reporting and press freedom in a rapidly changing world.

Ministry for State President, deputy permanent secretary-media, Mr Oshinka Tsiang said government was the largest player in training journalists and a major stakeholder with regard to regulation and policy making. **BOPA**

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Ministry raises awareness on human trafficking

By Kgotsotalang Botsang

SELEBI PHIKWE - The Ministry of Justice held a workshop to raise awareness on human trafficking and the necessity for collective action to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

The workshop, attended by Selebi Phikwe town councillors in Selebi Phikwe recently raised awareness on the gravity of human trafficking and the necessity for collective action to combat human trafficking, educate communities about the indicators of trafficking and how to identify and report suspected cases and provide information.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary - Human Rights and Equity in the ministry, Ms Thobo Letlhage said the town council was an important stakeholder that could join hands with her ministry to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrant workers.

Ms Letlhage said human trafficking was a global issue that affected millions of people worldwide and generated billions of money in profits for traffickers each year, explaining that human trafficking was a crime that involved the exploitation of people through force, fraud or coercion for various purposes such as forced labour, sexual exploitation or involuntary servitude.

She said the 2023 statistics showed that the Botswana Police Service recorded a total of five cases of human trafficking, three of which were sex trafficking, one case for labour exploitation while one was of unspecified exploitation.

Ms Letlhage informed them about the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, which Botswana is party to, affirming its commitment to combatting transnational organised crime and promoting international cooperation in addressing these complex challenges.

She touched on Anti-Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2024 that introduced stiff penalties against those found guilty of the crime.

She said combating human trafficking called for collaborative efforts of various stakeholders including the town council, urging them to disseminate information to various communities they were representing.

The councillors were also informed about migrant smuggling, defined as the procurement in order to obtain directly or indirectly, a financial or other material of illegal entry of a person into a state party of which that person is not a national or permanent resident.

Ms Masedi Mosa-Sebele, a representative from the International Organisation for Migration, said in most smuggling cases, the intending irregular migrants seek and initiate the

contact with smugglers themselves to realise their objective of crossing the border into a third country illegally.

Ms Mosa-Sebele emphasised on the need to differentiate between human trafficking and migrant smuggling, adding that migrant smuggling involved irregular border crossing and entry into another State while human trafficking did not necessarily involve crossing a border. She said smuggled migrants generally consented to being smuggled while victims of human trafficking never consented.

Mr Lucas Modimana, the mayor of Selebi Phikwe, thanked the Ministry of Justice for sharing such crucial information with councillors.

He said councillors, as part of the district leadership, were in a better position to disseminate information to their respective communities, adding that the workshop helped them understand issues of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. **BOPA**



Member of Parliament for Ramotswa, Mr Lefoko Moagi (right) and Mr Rannogo Mphafe of Botswana Manual Workers Union (left) with BOFEPUSU and BFTU members during celebrations of International Labour Day in Ramotswa recently. Mr Moagi urged workers to unite and assured them that government considered their interests and requests. Photo: Baleseng Batlotleng

Official urges farmers to adopt smart farming practices

By Portia Rapitsenyane

MMABOTHUBELA FARM - Batswana have been advised to adapt to changing climate conditions in order to maximise resource utilisation to guarantee food security.

The words of encouragement were given by Selebi Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit (SPEDU) Chief Executive Officer, Ms Lesedi Kgotlele during the fourth commemoration of Mmabothubela Farmers Day at Gouse Farm, near Maunatlala on Saturday.

She said it was important for farmers to embrace smart

farming methods given the rate at which climate change was taking place, adding that agriculture was becoming more and more significant as it provided creative ways to adopt and lessen the effects of climate change.

While selecting agricultural technologies, she said consideration must be given to unique agro-ecological characteristics of the country having semi-arid to dry temperatures, scarce water resources and diverse soil types.

Ms Kgotlele said smart technologies which farmers could easily adopt and use to sustain crops in the emerging climatic conditions could include drip

irrigation system.

Given the scarcity of water in many parts of Botswana, drip irrigation can be highly efficient in delivering water directly to plant roots because the technology helps conserve water and is particularly effective for crops like vegetables and fruits, said Ms Kgotlele.

She said Botswana experienced seasonal rainfall therefore, rainwater harvesting system should be used to collect and store rainwater for agricultural use during dry period hence spoke of the need to promote and plant drought resistant crop varieties as they were tolerant to higher temperatures and also used less

water.

Given Botswana's abundant sunlight, Ms Kgotlele said solar power technologies should be adopted for irrigation systems and livestock watering.

She said it was important to deploy methods as contour ploughing and terracing, to preserve soil moisture, lessen soil erosion and also construct dams to preserve water.

Communities engaged in agriculture in Botswana can also gain a great deal by networking among themselves, for cooperation and information exchange, Ms Kgotlele said.

She also encouraged farmers to form savings and credit groups or cooperatives where they could collectively save, borrow and invest in joint ventures and make use of digital financial tools and mobile banking solutions which could help them manage finances more efficiently and access financial services remotely.

Mmabothubela Farmers Day chairperson, Mr Gosego Letsatsi said seasons were changing so farmers needed to come up with coping mechanisms.

He also encouraged them to take advantage of farmers day events, network with other farmers and exchange ideas.

Member of Parliament for Lerala/Maunatlala constituency, Mr Setlhabelo Modukanele commended organisers of Mmabothubela Farmers Day for their efforts.

He said government introduced agricultural programmes and Batswana should respond to them in large numbers to advance their lives. **BOPA**



Ms Kgotlele (left) touring Mpatlise.com stall during Mmabothubela Farmers Day on Saturday. Mr Mothathedi Gaboalapswe (right) of Mpatlise.com explained how their livestock and crops e-commerce application worked in facilitating farmers to sell their produce. Photo: Portia Rapitsenyane

'Superior court ideal for labour matters'

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - A lawyer in private practice, Mr Carter Joseph, has called for the establishment of a superior court to deal with labour matters.

While he appreciated the existence of the Industrial Court and its mandate in settling trade disputes and securing and maintaining good industrial relations, he said it was overwhelmed hence the need to have another proper structure, which could attend to labour matters at an appropriate time.

He made the remarks during May Day celebration in Maun recently, noting that as legal practitioners, they desperately need the structure to timely execute labour cases noting that in some other countries, there was a Supreme Court responsible for labour matters.

He said workers jobs were not protected indicating some were dismissed from work without negotiations and replaced within a short period of time while they

were still in the process to pursue cases before court and believed that the superior court could help to conduct cases effectively and efficiently.

"It is a constitutional fundamental right that workers are protected from slavery," he added.

"Long periods of uncertainty without legal redress place a heavy burden on dismissed employees hence we want a superior court."

Mr Joseph also called on trade unions to work in unison when negotiating over working conditions such as wages and other labour related issues.

He advised that working in isolation was not effective but as a team, their voice could be heard by the employer. Currently, he said, some workers were exploited, as they were not compensated for what they do.

He urged unions to engage the employer on pending issues they agreed upon during the collective bargaining, but were never implemented.

"You should engage the employer to take you serious and come up with reforms that promote workers collective power. Strong unions should be able to set industry standards for wages and benefits," he said.

At the same event, representatives of some political parties and different unions shared their solidarity messages.

The Member of Parliament for Maun East, Mr Goretse Kekgoneng, thanked the unions for teaming up in celebrating their achievements and encouraged them to motivate their members to take Labour Day seriously.

He urged the unions to organise vigorously and speak with one voice on national issues.

He also urged them to strive for the formation of private sector unions and help the rest of the civil society to speak out over labour issues.

Mr Thato Elias from the

Botswana Democratic Party acknowledged the importance of trade unions saying they were good for the economy when constituted correctly and having a model that realistically suits their country of operation.

Mr Elias said: "I will like to believe that this is the case with our current trade unions.

Of course, the neoclassical orthodox economist will tell you that unions are bad because they pressure wages above the market clearing level hence leading to unemployment and high prices for goods and services," he said.

He said the reality on the ground was not so simple as it was the unions that helped in ending unsafe practices in the workplace as well as lifting labour, which in turn builds up a strong middle class economy where the majority of the middle class are concentrated.

He said he appreciated that unions helped to make people's

lives better as they created broadly shared prosperity, as well as making sure that jobs were safe.

The deputy president of the Botswana Mine Workers Union, Mr Phetogo Pogiso said the theme: Decent jobs, just transition, was a call that resonated deeply in the heart of every worker seeking fairness, security and prosperity in an ever changing world.

He said the theme spoke to the need for transformation in industries, especially in mining to adapt to new economic realities while ensuring that no worker was left behind.

"As we reflect on the term 'decent job', we are talking about employment that respects the fundamental rights of the human being, the environment and the community.

A decent job is one where workers are safe, where wages are fair and rights are respected," he said. **BOPA**

Rehabilitation programme drives change

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The implementation of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme at Tshidilo Stimulation Centre led to a change in community's attitudes towards people with disabilities.

The Maun-based centre offers preschool and stimulation services to persons with disabilities through physiotherapy, orthopedic technology, occupational therapy, counselling and social welfare services.

It also offers vocational training to help persons with disabilities to be active and acquire skills that would help them decide on their choice of career.

The centre provides services to Maun, the rest of Ngamiland and neighbouring districts such as Chobe and Ghanzi.

One of the physiotherapists at the centre, Mr Daniel Dibebe said in an interview that since they started implementing the CBR programme, they noticed a difference in attitudes towards people with disabilities.

He noted that in the past some people perceived people with disabilities as a burden, which perpetuated stigma attached to disability.

He said the CBR programme helped many to see things differently and play a part towards improving the quality of life of people living with disability.

"This is an outreach programme whereby we go out as a team comprising staff from different professions such as physiotherapy, social work, psychology, medical health and orthopaedic into villages including rural areas to educate communities about disability and how they can cope with the situations," he said.

He said they make follow-

ups on clients and check-ups in their natural environment to see how they are coping as well as conducting assessments to see who could be enrolled.

We have a mobile clinic which offers services, he added.

Mr Dibebe explained that when they identified challenges, they referred clients to relevant officers to treat or make recommendations.

The team, he said embarked on an outreach once a year citing that this year, they covered Qangwa, Nokaneng, Habu, Xaixai in the Okavango District while in North West, they reached areas of Toteng, Sehithwa, Bothatogo and Bodibeng to raise awareness on the rights of children with disabilities and help parents to cope with the situation.

The programme, he said, was producing positive results.

He expressed happiness that those who used to hide or lock away children because of disability were now coming forth to ensure the children received services and support.

Some people, who lost their legs had been assisted with prosthetic appliances while those who could not walk had been trained on mobility and were now able to walk without support.

Mr Dibebe appealed to the public to continue taking advantage of services offered by the centre to benefit people with disability citing that early detection was important so that the situation could be attended to timely.

Delaying to seek assistance, he said may exacerbate the situation, especially on children.

Meanwhile, in a bid to raise the funds to run the centre, the management has introduced some income generating projects such as leather production, fashion design and a tuck shop among others. **BOPA**



Workers celebrating May Day in Maun recently. Mr Joseph called for the establishment of a superior court to deal with labour matters. Photo: Esther Mmolai

Regoeng appeals for excellent service

By Tebagano Ntshole

MOLEPOLOLE - A highly productive public service would help the country attain its dream of economic diversification and high income status.

Speaking at the Labour Day celebrations hosted by Botswana Federation of Public Service Unions (BOFEPUSU) in Molepolole recently, the MP for Molepolole North, Mr Oabile Regoeng said it was imperative for officers to ensure they offer excellent service to the public.

He said a high income status would enable the government to improve the officers' welfare and offer them ideal salary increments.

Mr Regoeng, who was responding to earlier comments by Union members for salary increments, said the onus was upon each officer to ensure they offer eight hours of quality service.

"Some of you have complained about the time it takes to receive your leave concessions and implementation of court orders. The ball is in your court as all these are in the hands of officers,"

he said.

He said negotiations over salaries were taking long to be concluded due to low productivity levels.

He said Botswana have been complaining about poor service delivery, adding the Government Accounting system had now become an excuse.

The MP said while Unions were agitating for salary increment as the economy had registered slight growth, they should remember that should there be a decline, they could be held accountable.

He urged the public officers to remain committed and patriotic to drive the country forward.

Mr Regoeng said it was, however, imperative for Union members to constantly engage government over their welfare, adding that government was committed to a fair labour environment, as a member of the International Labour Organisation.

He said the employees should work in a conducive environment with salaries that were in line with the demands of the modern economy.

Mr Regoeng encouraged them to

work and negotiate as a unit.

He said even after promotion, members should not forget the struggle their fellow employees were going through and should continue to use their positions to address their challenges.

He said issues raised by Botswana Nurses Union were being addressed, saying government was aware that centralisation of clinics had disadvantaged nurses who were under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

Talking about teacher's accommodation, he said government encouraged Botswana to build houses that could be leased out to house public officers.

"Construct houses so the government could accommodate public officers," he said.

On double shifts at schools, he said it was introduced during COVID-19 but was to be phased out.

The MP said government was aware of the low salaries paid to public officers, adding it was not proper for issues to be addressed at courts. **BOPA**



Rre Tadubana (fa gare) kwa phuthengong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke Mopalamente Rre Kablay (molemeng) kwa Moshaweng bosheng. Rre Tadubana o rotloeditse barui go kentela dibokwana segolo jang ka nako ya leuba. Senepe: Mothusi Galekhutle

Ba rotloediswa go kentela dibokwana

Mothusi Galekhutle

MOSHAWENG - Mo dipakeng tsa leuba jaaka mono ngwaga, leruo le tshabelwa ke dibokwana tsa mala.

Seemo se gakadiwa ke gore seruiwa se felela se fula dirite tsa bojang ka ntata ya go tlhoka phulo.

Go tsibogela seemo se, barui ba rotloeditswe go kentela leruo dibokwana ka nako e bile ba setse mokgwa o o siameng morago.

Thotloetso e, e dirilwe ke mogokaganyi wa ditirelo tsa temothuo mo kgaolong ya Letlhakeng, Rre Thomas Tadubana mo phuthengong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke Mopalamente wa Letlhakeng/Lephepe, Rre Liakat Kablay kwa Moshaweng.

Rre Tadubana o kaile fa go le botlhokwa go sala tsamaiso ya go kentela dibokwana morago go kgaupetsa go ata ga tsone.

Mo godimo ga moo, a re

barui ba tshwanetse go kentela dibokwana ka dithota go fitlhelela maduo a bonala.

A re fa morui a kenta a le esi, dikgomo tse dingwe mo thoteng tse di nang le dibokwana di tlaa tswelela ka go di anamisa, ka jalo dikgomo tsa gagwe le tsone di amane le dibokwana mo mafulong.

Rre Tadubana o ne gape a rotloeditse barui go ntsha marole mo dikgomong ka bonako ka nako ya leuba go thusa gore bommaatso ba itshetlele.

A re dikgomo di ka amusa marole dikgwedi di ka nna tharo go ya kwa go tse nne mme morago a kgwisiwe.

O ne a supa fa go jesa leruo ka dinako tsa leuba go le botlhokwa ka go thusa go fa leruo dikotla tse bojang jo bo omileng bo senang natso.

O ne a kgothatsa barui go inakanya le lenaneo la Thuo Letlotlo le le rotsweeng bosheng.

Ka lenaneo le, a re puso e ikemiseditse go thusa barui ka tse ba di tlhokang gore e nne bagwebi ba popota ka dipoelo tse di rileng.

Mo godimo ga moo, a re puso e rotloeditse bagwebi ba ikemetseng go nna le seabe mo thuong.

A re dikarolwana tsa Thuo Letlotlo di akaretsa thuo ya ditlhapi, dikolobe, bomantshe le tlhabololo ya dipoo le tse dingwe fela jalo.

Mopalamente Kablay le ene o ne a rotloeditse morafe go dirisa mananeo a tshwana le la Temo Letlotlo, Thuo Letlotlo le go adima madi a letlole la Chema Chema, ga mmogo le go dirisa lenaneo la go gokelelwa motlakase mahala.

A re mananeo a diretswe go tlhabolola matshelo Batswana.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o kopile ba ba eletsang go tsaya madi mo letloleng la Chema Chema go itekanya sekoloto gore ba kgone go busa madi ao. **BOPA**

Ditshewane o ipelela botshelo jwa ga Setshwantsho

Ka Puseletso Kenyaditswe

DITSHEGWANE - Banni ba Ditshewane le metse e e mabapi gammogo le badirelapuso, ba ne ba tsene tirelo ya segopotso sa ga Mme Kakanyo Setshwantsho, yo e neng e le mongwe wa ba tlhokafetseng mo kotsing e e diragaletseng kwa borogong jwa Mamatlakala kwa Afrika Borwa pele ga malatsi a paseka.

E rile a bua ka booki jwa ga kgaitradie, Rre Extra

Setshwantsho, a tshala fa ba ne ba le masome a mane le borataro ka palo mme ga falola ngwana a le mongwefela.

Moagisanyi wa ga Mme Setshwantsho, Mme Lobopo Maikano o mo kaile fa a ne a na le botho e bile a rata batho. Moemedi go tswa kwa tirong, Mme Botshelo Motoane, o tshalositse fa Mme Setshwantsho a ne a thapiwa ke ba Department of Social Protection kwa Gaborone ka 2021.

O tshalositse fa e rile ngogola

a ne a fudusediswa kwa Ikago Rehabilitation Centre kwa Molepolole kwa a re tlogelang a direla teng. Mme Motoane o ne a supa fa mme Setshwantsho a ne a le ditshewane, a supa fa boora Setshwantsho ba sa latlhegelwa ba le bosi. Mme Kakanyo Setshwantsho e ne e le ngwana wa bosupa e bile e le gofejane wa ga Rre Bagodi Phihadu le Mme Gakebasole Phihadu kwa kgotleng ya Tlhaping kwa Ditshewane.

O tshotswe ka 1985 kwa

Badirelapuso ba gopola Mhlanga

Ka Puseletso Kenyaditswe

LETLHAKENG - Badirelapuso ba ne ba ipelela botshelo jwa mogaka, Mme Kelebogile Mhlanga yo e neng e le moeteledipele wa lephata la Boipelego kwa Letlhakeng.

Segopotso sa ga Mme Mhlanga se ne se tshwaretswe kwa Letlhakeng ka Labone, kwa a tlhokafetseng beke e e fetileng a direla teng.

E rile a bua ka botshelo jwa moswi, mogolwane go tswa kwa lephateng la Boipelego, Mme Segone Molapisi, a supa fa Mme Mhlanga a simolotse go berekela kwa khanseleng ya Letlhakeng ngogola ka Lwetse, mme a ne a tswa kwa kgaolong ya Chobe.

Mme Molapisi o tshalositse gore le ntsa Mme Mhlanga a berekile lebaka le lekhutshwane le bone, o ne a setse a itshupile gore ke senatla ka a ne a batla go kgarametsa mokoa wa tiro e e neng e saletse kwa morago.

Mogolwane o supile gape fa moswi a ne a rata go ba rotloeditse go ntsha maduo mo tirong, a bo a supa fa a ne a batla go fetola selebego sa boipelego, a supa fa lephata leo batho ba le nyaditse thata ba re ke la go aba dijo fela.

O tshalositse fa gape a ne a rotloeditse badiri ka ene go dira tiro ka tsepamo le ka tlhamalalo, gape a ne a le setswerere a batla tiro e e phepa.

Mme Molapisi o ne a tshala fa boora Mhlanga ba sa latlhegelwa ba le bosi, mme go latlhegetswe le khansela le lefatshe la Botswana.

Moemedi go tswa kwa lapeng, Mme Mmatlala Mphinyane, o ne a supa fa Mme Mhlanga e ne e le motho yo o bonolo, a sa itse go rumolana, a supa gore fa mongwe a ne a ka mo rumola o ne a ka mpa a lela.

O tshalositse gape fa e ne e se motho wa menatenyana, a ne a itse Modimo. O tshalositse fa go le botlhoko mo go bone ka ntsha ya tatlhegelo ya morwadiabone.

Moemedi go tswa kwa khanseleng ya Letlhakeng mo

lephateng la phiro, Mme Lucy Ramokgaane o tshalositse fa Mme Mhlanga a simolotse tiro ka 1999 kwa khanseleng ya Kgatleng, a tloga a berekela kwa dikhanseleng tse di farologanyeng jaaka ya Mahalapye, Ghanzi le Chobe.

O tshalositse fa moswi a ne a santse a ithuta kgaolo, e bile a ne a santse a tsaya maikutlo mo badiring ka ene, gore ba ka bereka jang go ntsha maduo mo tirong.

Gape o ne a setse a supile fa a ne a tshwenngwa ke go diega ga ditshekatsheko, a boa a supa gore o ne a batla gore fa ba sena go buisanya ka tiro, e dirwe ka bofefo.

O tshalositse fa moswi a ne a batla go tswala phatlha e a neng a bona e bulegile, mme maikaelelo a gagwe a ne a kgorelediwa ke letlhoko la dikoloi.

E ne e rile a amogela baeng kwa segopotso seo, mokwaledi wa khansela ya Letlhakeng, Rre Tsholofelo Molaodi, a supa gore le ntsa a berekile le moswi dikgwedi tse nne fela, o ne setse a itshupile fa a ka nowa moro.

Rre Molaodi o tshalositse fa moswi a ne a filwe tiro ya go tsamaisa tiro ka Mosupologo wa beke e a tlhokafetse ka yone, mme e rile ka Laboraro mo mosong ba bo ba mo latolelwa.

Mokgothatsi go tswa kwa kerekeng ya Seventh Day Adventist, Moruti Richard Ngakantsi o ne a bala lekwalo la Dipesalema 37:23 e e reng; Dikgato tsa mosiami di laolwa ke Jehofa, mme a natefelelwa ke tsela ya gagwe.

Moruti o ne a kgothatsa Bakeresete ba ba kgelogileng go boela kwa go Jehofa, a supa fa ba tshwarisitswe bothata ke mowa wa lesa mo lefatsheng leno.

O supile gape fa batho ba Letlhakeng ba le mo letshogong ba ipotsa gore a ba babalesegile.

Mokhanselara wa Khudumelapye/Sesung, Rre Osupile Metseebapile o ne a supa fa khansela e latlhegetswe ke mogaka yo o itshupileng lebaka le le khutshwane.

O tshalositse fa lephata la Boipelego le le botlhokwa ka le thusa batho ba ba dikobo dikhutshwane ka dijo le boroko. Mme Mhlanga yo o fitlhetsweng a tlhokafetse kwa ntlong ya gagwe beke e e fetileng mme mapodisi a belaela fa a bolailwe, o bolokilwe mo Gaborone ka Matlhatso. **BOPA**

The fallen faithful laid to rest Saturday

By Lindi Morwaeng

MOLEPOLOLE - In the verdant, hilly expanse of our motherland a silence heavier than the sun-baked soil envelopes the nation.

On this sombre day, a nation said goodbye to 44 St Engenas Zion Christian Church (ZCC) members and their bus driver, extinguished far too soon by a single, horrific moment.

The date, March 28, 2024, has been etched into this country's collection of memories, a solemn reminder of the day fate stole 44 parishioners of the St Engenas ZCC Molepolole Branch and their bus driver during a pilgrimage to the holy city of Moria in South Africa.

In the aftermath of the crash, the survival of an eight-year-old girl captured the hearts and imaginations of people around the world.

As the media clamoured for answers, experts and eyewitnesses searched for clues to explain this seemingly impossible miracle. But even as they pieced together the details of her escape, the truth seemed to lie somewhere beyond rational explanation.

For many, the little girl had become a symbol of hope amidst the tragedy, a living reminder that even in the darkest moments, a spark of light can flicker and illuminate the way.

As the fallen faithful were finally laid to rest, their shared legacy is a testament to the enduring power of faith, and to many, the date of May 4, 2024, will be marked as a day of remembrance to the fallen heroes.

On the day of the funeral on Saturday morning, as 45 hearses, each carrying a dark, wooden oak-like casket, arrived in a military-like formation at the Molepolole Sports Complex, escorted by sirens and police blue lights, an eerie hush descended upon the crowd.

One by one, the caskets emerged, draped in the same solemn shade of brown, each bearing a number from 1 to 45, a silent reminder of the lives that were no more.

As the caskets were arranged in lines, the mourners fell silent, their breath caught in their throats, their eyes welling with tears. It was a stark, almost unbearable display of finality, a piercing reminder that these 45 once-living souls had been torn away from the world far too soon.

Grief, like a dark veil, descended upon the crowd, compounding with each casket that was placed on the grassy field, with each number increasing the magnitude of the feeling of loss.

In that heart-wrenching moment, the fragility of life became all too evident. Where once there had been vibrant smiles, hearty laughter, and lively debates, now there were only cold caskets and heavy hearts.

And as the 45 caskets lay before the mourners like an army of brown ghosts, their spirits could almost be felt, lingering in the air, mourning not just the loss of their own lives, but the loss of all that was yet to come; birthdays, weddings, graduations, milestones now erased from the pages of history.

As the morning sun shone down upon the caskets, bathing them in a gentle, golden light, casting shimmering reflections that danced along the polished wood, a chilling stillness descended upon the mourners.

The sadness in the air was



Multitudes thronged Thamaga on Saturday to pay their last respects to Mr Ogaufi Noonyane, who perished in Mamatlakala bus accident in Limpopo along with 44 St Engenas Zion Christian Church members, on their way to Moria for Easter service. His uncle, Mr Shima Mmannonna described him as a hard working and intelligent individual, highlighting that he had a bright future ahead of him, considering the way he conducted his life. Mr Mmannonna said his nephew was still young and they expected a lot from him. "He left a huge gap in the family and we pray to God to help us heal and fill the gap he left," he added. He thanked government for unlimited support, since March 28 when the accident happened until the burial date, as well as all those who supported them during the difficult time. Mr Noonyane is survived by parents, two brothers, three sisters and a son. Photo: Thato Modiakgotla

palpable, heavy with grief, punctuated by the soulful music of the St Engenas church choir, and the occasional sob, raw and unguarded.

A solemn congregation of family members, donning predominantly black, stood as one, united by the shared pain and sorrow that rippled through them like an unending wave.

After the names of the fallen had been read aloud by Deputy Permanent for Information and Broadcasting Services, Mr Oshinka Tsiang, the mourners were invited to pay their final respects by walking among the caskets.

Some took photos to memorialise the bitter moment, while others simply stood in silent tribute.

The air was thick with emotion, a mixture of sorrow, love, and longing for the lives that once were.

One woman, her heart visibly heavy, clutched a photo of her departed mother, tears blurring the image as she bent over her mother's casket, a testament to the raw power

of grief.

As the mourners gathered to pay their final respects, a procession of speakers delivered heartfelt condolences.

Among them, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, Member of Executive Council for Health in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

Her words poignant and sincere. Dr Ramathuba had tirelessly worked alongside the South African authorities to ensure the dignified repatriation of the victims and took great care of the sole survivor while in South Africa.

Dr Ramathuba said, "In times like these, words feel so inadequate. But I would ask you to find comfort in the Lord, who is our ultimate solace in times of grief."

Her tribute was met with a wave of applause, from a community that had been ravaged by grief, but still had the capacity to show gratitude in the face of tragedy.

As the service progressed, the air became thick with the weight of loss and the whispers of grief.

But there was also a sense of strength and resilience, a quiet determination to honour the lives lost and to move forward together, bound by tragedy and united in grief.

The ripple effect of this tragedy extended far beyond the families of the victims, reaching into the very heart of the community.

For many, the funeral was a chance to grieve not only for those they had lost, but for the wider sense of connection and humanity that had been shaken to its core.

One community member, Mr Phillip Tumagole said their presence was not just a duty, but a heartfelt compulsion.

"The tragedy has left its indelible mark, not just on the families, but on the hearts of all who felt a kinship with these 45 lost souls, whether they were schoolmates, neighbours, or friends," he said.

For her part, Ms Catherine Mosutlhane, a resident of Lekgwapheng ward in Molepolole, where nine victims resided said "In

Molepolole, we are all connected. This tragedy has left our hearts bleeding."

"This kind of tragedy is unprecedented. We have never seen anything like it," she added, her voice choked with emotion.

She further stated that they may not be related by blood, but were united by their shared grief.

As the service drew to a close, a gentle breeze stirred the air, as if the spirits of the departed were whispering a final farewell. The pallbearers, members of the Botswana Defence Force carried each coffin to its final resting place, their steps solemn and purposeful.

In the final moments of the funeral service, as the caskets were lowered into the earth, the mourners' grief spilled out in a torrent of wails and sobs, cascading like a violent storm over the solemn scene. Some family members collapsed in agony, their anguish too much to bear, their voices echoing the heartbreak of a community shattered by loss.

Amid the chaos, the health response teams rushed to provide aid to those overcome by emotion, taking them to a nearby mobile clinic to provide comfort and support in their moment of greatest need.

As the final moments drew to a close, the sound of soil falling upon the wooden boxes echoed through the air, a stark reminder of the finality of death.

The mourners looked on in silence, the magnitude of their loss etched in the lines of their faces.

At the end, as the day began to fade, the crowd began to disperse, each individual taking with them a piece of the sorrow and a sliver of the hope that had been kindled in the shadow of tragedy.

As the sun set over the cemetery, casting long shadows across the freshly turned earth, the grief of those left behind lingered like a heavy cloak.

In the weeks and months to follow, the tragedy of the Limpopo bus crash will surely continue to linger on as families and friends grapple with the unyielding reality of life without their loved ones. **BOPA**



Some family members could not control their emotions as they paid their last respects to their loved ones at Garanta graveyard. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Botswana bids farewell



Acting President Tsogwane (second left) and wife Magdeline (second right) arriving for the funeral service at Molepolole Sport Complex.



Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng (left), wife Phondy (centre) and Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Mr Thulagano Segokgo were among those who attended the funeral.



Forty-five FSG hearses arriving at Molepolole sport complex.



Batswana braved the cold weather to come and bid farewell to their fellow countrymen.



A difficult moment for some family members as they bid them farewell.



Members of the bereaved families.



St Engenas ZCC choir.

Well to crash victims



and Minister of
ong the guests



Limpopo Health MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba and South African High Commissioner to Botswana, Ms Thaninga Shope-Soumah.

Forty-four members of the St. Engenas Zion Christian Church and their driver who died at Mamatlakala bridge in the Limpopo Province, South Africa when the bus they were travelling in crashed on March 28, were buried in Molepolole and Thamaga respectively on Saturday.

Prior to their burial, a funeral service was held in their honour at Molepolole Sports Complex. Acting President Slumber Tsogwane urged the nation to remain united in order to face future challenges together. He paid tribute to President Cyril Ramaphosa for having assisted Botswana during the difficult time.

Photos: Pheny Moalosi



and bid farewell to



The 45 coffins with the remains of the victims lying-in-state during funeral proceedings.



Members of Eloyi Church escorting the body of Mr Ogaufi Noonyane for burial in Thamaga.



rs of the victims as



Members of the community bidding farewell to the 44 victims at Garanta cemetery.



Psalm 34:18 says "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit".

Ramathuba pays last respects to crash victims

By Booster Mogapi

MOLEPOLOLE - The cordial relations between Botswana and South Africa have been hailed as a beacon of unity that prove that the two nations are actually one people.

Speaking during the funeral service for the 45 bus accident victims at Molepolole Sports Complex on Saturday, Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Health in Limpopo Province, South Africa, Dr Phophi Ramathuba said the relationship her country had with Botswana had made it possible for the South African government to act swiftly and attend to the accident.

She relayed President Cyril Ramaphosa's condolences, stating that the people of South Africa had also been affected by the loss of lives in the tragic accident.

Quoting the Setswana adage 'matlo go sha mapabi,' Dr Ramathuba said as neighbours, the two countries had to comfort one another during such hard times as the tragedy that befell Botswana.

She said upon learning about the incident, the families, relatives and the country at large were left devastated, adding that the vivid memories of the accident left a deep scar in their hearts.

She noted that on April 12, Presidents, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi and Mr Cyril Ramaphosa visited the site of the accident to appreciate the veracity of the tragedy.

The visit further strengthened

the collaborative efforts that made identification of accident victims possible, she said, expressing gratitude for the guidance and support by both presidents.

Dr Ramathuba said the sole survivor of the accident being an eight-year-old girl, was taken care of.

She further thanked the governments of Botswana and South Africa for working tirelessly together to speed up the completion of all the processes from DNA identification until the mortal remains were brought back home.

She said South Africa would forever be indebted to the generosity of Botswana during the time of struggle.

For her part, the Botswana's High Commissioner to South Africa, Dr Sanji Monageng said when they received the call reporting the accident, officers were immediately dispatched to the scene to get first-hand information.

She thanked the South African Police for their prompt response.

She said President Ramaphosa was supportive, leading to the process being carried out with utmost diligence.

Dr Monageng commended all teams for the speed at which they operated.

She likened South Africa to a true friend who stands with you during the good and the bad times, showering South African team with accolades for a sterling job.

She said when she first heard of

the tragic accident, her heart sank and she could not even find the strength to visit the accident scene on the day, but was glad that after a month of waiting, the families could now bury their loved ones and begin the healing process.

Dr Monageng urged the families to remain strong and trust in God as he was the only one who could give them strength.

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Kgari III of Bakwena expressed gladness that after waiting for more than a month, the families would now be able to bury their loved ones.

He appreciated the reasons for the delay, in view of the nature of the accident and the processes involved.

Kgosi Kgari III thanked the South African government for its assistance, adding that all the plans were made possible by the good relations Botswana had with South Africa.

He said he was happy that 'today we are closing the chapter, and the families will begin to find closure'.

He prayed for the families and relatives to be comforted and strengthened by the Lord and for the souls of the departed to rest in eternal peace.

The forty-four members of the St Engenas ZCC and bus driver who died at Mmamatlakala Bridge on their way to Moria, South Africa for the Easter church services, were buried at Garanta ward in Molepolole and Thamaga on Saturday. **BOPA**



Acting President Slumber Tsogwane (right), wife Magdeline (centre) and Dr Ramathuba at Garanta graveyard. Dr Ramathuba said the cordial relationship Botswana and South Africa had, made it possible for the South African government to act swiftly and attend to the accident immediately.

St Engenas sends condolences to bereaved families

By Booster Mogapi

MOLEPOLOLE - St Engenas Zion Christian Church has encouraged the families of the Limpopo bus accident victims to look to God for comfort during this trying time.

When delivering the message of condolences from the church headquarters in South Africa during the funeral service at Molepolole Sports Complex on Saturday, Minister Peter Manthata said Christians met a lot of challenges in the journey with God, but they should never doubt His love for them.

He said God was faithful and

would never turn his face away from them, adding that He was always aware of what happens in their lives, offering them guidance on how to deal with all issues of life.

Minister Manthata encouraged the families to never lose hope and faith when confronted with challenges, but should strive to use calamities to renew their commitment to God, who gave peace of mind and healing.

He said they should always assess and examine all areas of life to see if the things they did were pleasing to God, adding that it was never too late to reconcile with God.

He added that the St Engenas Church remained forever grateful for the spirit of encouragement and comfort that existed from the time the tragedy happened until burial.

"This is a true demonstration of humanity and kindness," said Minister Manthata, adding that it was a confirmation that God created people with the natural ability to embrace one another as his beloved children.

He also delivered a message from the Bishop of St Engenas ZCC, Dr Engenas Lekganyane, who extended his gratitude to President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi.

He said his church was humbled by the compassionate

and exemplary leadership he had shown despite the many national commitments that required his attention.

Minister Manthata reported that Dr Lekganyane said he also recognised the critical role played by the government of South Africa and had observed with much appreciation the sensitivity, caring and dignified manner through which corpse identification was processed through to the repatriation.

He thanked all those who came to the aid of the eight-year-old girl who survived the accident and reunited her with the family.

He added that the two presidents had displayed acts of genuine love and brought hope to many.

Minister Manthata said Dr

Lekganyane and the church were thankful to both leaders and asked for the prosperity and good health to prevail in both countries.

He said the cooperation would serve as a standing example to nations of the world that success was achievable when unity and mutual respect existed.

He said they would continue to keep the bereaved families in their prayers that God may give them strength to move on with their lives.

Forty-four members of the St Engenas ZCC, who died tragically at Mmamatlakala on their way to Moria, South Africa for the Easter holidays, were buried at Garanta ward in Molepolole while one, the bus driver, was buried in his home village of Thamaga on Saturday. **BOPA**



Grave site of the 44 victims of Mamatlakala bridge bus accident that were buried at Garanta cemetery in Molepolole on Saturday.



Minister Manthata delivering a message of condolences from the church headquarters. He encouraged the bereaved families to look up to God for comfort. Photos: Pheny Moalosi



MICHOACAN - Partially dried-up lake bed of Patzcuaro Lake, a traditional fishing place and tourist resort in Mexico recently. Drought has hit several regions in Mexico due to rising temperature and lack of rainfall. Photo: Xinhua

Togo's ruling party wins majority in election

LOME - Togo's ruling party, the Union for the Republic, won a majority in the legislative elections, the country's Independent National Electoral Commission has said Saturday.

According to the provisional results, the Union for the Republic won 108 out of 113 seats in the new National Assembly, while four opposition parties took the other five seats.

There were approximately 4.2 million registered voters, while the participation rate in the election was about 61 per cent, according to the electoral commission president Dago Yabre.

Togo kicked off legislative elections on Monday, with over 2 300 candidates vying for 113 seats in the National Assembly and its first-ever regional elections.

On April 19, Togo's National Assembly passed the second reading of a new constitution, switching the country from a presidential to a parliamentary system.

Under the new constitution, the president of Togo will henceforth be elected by the parliament in a largely ceremonial role for a four-year term, renewable once.

Additionally, the new constitution introduced the position of president of the council of ministers, which will be assumed by the leader of the political party or coalition winning the majority of seats in legislative elections, with a mandate of six years and considerable power in the management of government affairs. *Xinhua*

Tanzania battles devastating floods

DAR ES SALAAM - Fikirini Mohamed, a father of three children, is spending sleepless nights thinking how to look after his family after his house was damaged by floods.

"I am now counting losses after my five hectares of maize and paddy were wiped out by the floods," said Mohamed, a 49-year-old farmer in Rufiji, a district in Tanzania's Coast region.

Like Mohamed, hundreds of thousands of Tanzanians are reeling from weeks of devastating flash floods triggered by El Nino-influenced torrential rains across the country.

Tanzanians, including motorists, fishermen and farmers, who were not used to acquainting themselves with daily weather forecasts, are now closely following updates released by the state-run Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).

According to the latest official statistics, 161 people have been killed by flash floods since August

last year, when the TMA warned of above-normal to normal El-Nino influenced rainfall through May 2024.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told parliament recently that flash floods had been reported in 14 out of 26 mainland Tanzania regions, affecting 200 000 people and damaging over 10 000 houses.

School infrastructure, farm crops, roads, bridges, health facilities and livestock have also been impacted by the floods, he said.

"The government has taken steps aimed at preventing further catastrophic situations, like ordering the closure of schools in areas severely affected by the floods," Majaliwa said.

On April 19, Deputy Minister of Finance Hamad Chande told lawmakers that government had set aside about US\$52.6 million for the renovation of infrastructure, including roads and bridges, damaged by the ongoing heavy rains.

The Tanzania National Roads Agency, the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency and the Tanzania Railways Corporation were ordered to undertake an urgent assessment of damaged roads and railways for immediate renovation. "The government is continuing to carry out a nationwide assessment to determine the extent of damage to roads and bridges caused by the rains," Chande said.

The floods have forced more than 8 000 pupils in Rufiji and Kibiti districts, in the Coast region in eastern Tanzania, to miss school after their schools were submerged.

The aftermath of the devastating floods is now being compounded by the onslaught of tropical storm Hidaya.

According to the latest TMA update, Hidaya has lost its strength after it landed on Mafia Island on Saturday.

Clouds associated with Hidaya spread over most of the southern part of the country, including Lindi, Mtwara, Coast regions and nearby areas, resulting in heavy rains in some areas, the TMA said in a statement. *Xinhua*

Zim seeks to attract more foreign investors

HARARE - Zimbabwe has reaffirmed its commitment to boosting foreign investment, following the recent partial lifting of United States sanctions on the country.

Speaking at a two-day Zimbabwe Investment Summit that concluded in Johannesburg, South Africa on Friday, several Zimbabwean government ministers reiterated the readiness to welcome new, increased foreign investment into the country, taking advantage of the partial lifting of the sanctions as well as investor-friendly policies and incentives that are being offered by the government.

Zimbabwe is seeking to attract foreign investment in all sectors of the economy so that the country can transform into an upper-middle income economy by 2030, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said while officially opening the summit.

"The main objective of this summit is to drive investment in all sectors of the economy as well as to position Zimbabwe as a profitable investment destination," Ncube said.

He said Zimbabwe's economic recovery after the COVID-19

pandemic had been strong and was continuing on a positive trajectory.

"Zimbabwe has been growing strongly, and it probably has been the fastest-growing economy in southern Africa over the past three years," Ncube said.

"Compared to where the global economy is, you can see that Zimbabwe is bucking the trend."

Zimbabwe possesses vast investment opportunities in mining, agriculture, especially in the horticulture sub-sector, energy, transport, tourism, health, environment, telecommunications, and the financial services sector, he said.

The minister said Zimbabwe's financial services sector, now dominated by commercial and microfinance banking, needed to be strengthened by attracting more investment in investment banking.

"The market is open to all investors, issuers, market intermediaries, foreign and domestic, including Zimbabweans in the diaspora."

Deputy Minister of Mines and Mining Development Polite Kambamura highlighted the vast mineral resources in the country waiting to be fully exploited,

including the recently discovered oil and gas deposits.

He said ease-of-doing-business reforms had been implemented to attract and retain investment in the sector.

"Zimbabwe is an awakening giant. The best time to come and put your money in Zimbabwe is now, not tomorrow," Kambamura said. Elias Magosi, executive secretary of the Southern African Community (SADC), said the regional economic grouping continued to call for the total, unconditional removal of sanctions on Zimbabwe so that it could realise its full economic potential.

"You can label them and say they are partial sanctions, but they remain sanctions regardless, even if there is only one person sanctioned," he said.

"Investors outside, especially those from the developed world, the moment they see or hear the word sanctions, they do not care how it is disaggregated," Magosi said.

"This is why SADC's consistent message has been the total, unconditional removal of sanctions so that Zimbabwe can then attract investment and

join meaningful activation of economic development like all the other 15 SADC member states."

On March 4, the US terminated a sanctions programme that had been in force since 2003.

However, new sanctions were imposed on 11 individuals, including Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, as well as three entities, over alleged involvement in corruption and human rights abuses.

The SADC has been pushing for the total removal of these sanctions since 2019, when the regional bloc adopted a resolution declaring October 25 of every year as the anti-sanctions day, in solidarity with Zimbabwe.

Magosi said the SADC would be unrelenting in its call for the total removal of the sanctions.

"We want the sanctions to be removed on the head of state who is bringing in all these changes and needs partnerships. Those who are placing the sanctions have their own reasons, but we are saying you need to remove the sanctions so that you open doors for business people and investors to come into Zimbabwe," Magosi said. *Xinhua*

Aircraft crash kills three in Namibia

WINDHOEK - Tragedy struck in Windhoek when an aircraft crashed in the residential area of Pioneers Park on Friday night killing three people.

Elifas Kuwinga, chief inspector of the Namibian Police Force, said the aircraft, carrying two pilots and a mechanic for a maintenance test flight, crashed into the residential premises, and all three occupants were killed on impact.

"A comprehensive report will be issued once the investigation is complete. Currently, all relevant stakeholders are present at the scene" Kuwinga said.

The aircraft involved belonged to Westair Aviation, a private operator offering scheduled passenger services. *Xinhua*

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NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNER OF PLOT number 8832, Bakgatla area in Oodi informs neighbors concerning boundary wall development. For more information visit Mochudi Physical Planning office or call 577 7411 or 72 936 664.

BOIKANYO O. KEREEMANG owner of plot no 2688 at Shashemooke, propose change of land use from single family residential to commercial. For any objection, contact Tonota District Council Physical Planning office within fourteen (14) days of publication of this advert.

OWNER OF PLOT 24197 Gaborone wants to change land use to self catering apartments. Contact 3657400 physical planning office within 14 days for any objections.

NICE TOUCH INVESTMENTS (Pty) Ltd, owners of lot 5194 at Shashemooke, propose change of land use from civic and community to mixed use (civic and community and commercial). For any objection contact Tonota District Council, Physical Planning office within fourteen (14) days of publication of this advert.

TEBOGO KGAMANYANE, OWNER of plot 705 in Tati siding propose change of land use from single-family residential to multi-family residential. Any objections contact North East District Council, Physical Planning office within fourteen (14) days of publication of this advert.

VACANCIES

SALON MANAGER MUST have diploma in hairdressing, be able to do caucasian hair. Have at least three years experience. Apply to P.O.Box 404468, Gaborone.

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS

Administration of Estates Act [Cap.31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap.31:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purpose of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as **Executor/Executrix** Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	TIME	MASTER
MOTHUSI KEDIKILWE	ESHFT-000245-23	23-09-2024	0900	RAMPHA

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS DAY OF APRIL 2024

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

VACANCY

A well-established church in Botswana is looking for a resident **Pastor / Missionary** to be based in Gaborone and also acting as National Head for its existing nine (9) branches in nine (9) towns within Botswana. The required candidate must:

- Be able to develop and build the church spiritually and physically.
- Must have experience in managing a church independently for at least Eight (8) years, and can positively attest that he carried himself with diligence and commitment.
- Have a keen oversight and passion for the welfare matters of the membership.

DESIRED COMPETENCIES

- Ability to work under pressure, to manage teams and be culturally sensitive.
- Computer literacy.
- Project management proficiency.

Applicant must have at least Masters Degree in Theology or Divinity with additional qualification in project management. Must have proven leadership skills and emotional intelligence. Suitable candidates meeting the above requirements are to apply with documents, CV and at least 3 references to:

The Secretary | P. O. Box 80479 | Plot 17559, Broadhurst | Gaborone | Tel: 72111605

The closing date for receiving applications is the 23rd May 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED AGGREGATE QUARRY AT DITLHAKANE, KWENENG DISTRICT

In fulfillment of Section 7, Subsection 2 of the Environmental Assessment Act, Cap 65:07, notice is hereby given for the intent to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment Study with respect to the extraction of aggregate (Granite & Dolomite) quarry from the area of Dithakane by Brand Construction (Pty) Ltd.

The area is about 10.80km². It is estimated that a total volume of 236,000,000m³ will be extracted from the area. The project is for commercial purposes.

The anticipated possible impacts include the following:

Anticipated Possible Impacts	Adverse Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of aggregate Minerals for commercial purposes Creation of employment opportunities during Extraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise and air pollution during extraction phase Waste generation during extraction Phase

This notice serves to invite the public and all interested and affected parties to a Consultative Meeting to be held at the following:

Place	Date	Time
Gabane Kgotla	15 May 2024	09:00 hrs

The purpose of the meeting is to inform and solicit the views and concerns of the community and all other interested and affected parties on the implementation of the intended project to be undertaken by Brand Construction (Pty) Ltd.

Any comments and queries regarding the proposed project may be addressed to the addresses below;

Brand Construction (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 404775
Gaborone
Cell: 72333163

OR

Deepcat Investments (Pty) Ltd
The EA Section
P O Box 939
Mogoditshane
Cell: 72195041

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: ESHGB-000769-23

IN THE ESTATE of the late **NEO KEDIMOTSE** who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the **23rd October 2023**.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within **thirty (30) days** after the publication hereof.

DATED at _____ on this _____ Day of _____ 2024

The Executor | Joase Kedimotse
Private Bag 008 GABORONE | TEL: 76 599 643

NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: ESHGB-000299/23

IN THE ESTATE of the late **ANGELOS LAMBROU** who died at CAPE TOWN in the Republic of South Africa on the 18TH day of FEBRUARY 2023.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned Estate and are hereby required to pay their debt and file their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 29TH day of APRIL 2024

THE EXECUTOR
Madhu Menon Kalathil
C/O Mazars
P O Box 401805
Gaborone
3957466

The EXECUTRIX
Maria Androulla Lambrou
C/O Mazars
P O Box 401805
Gaborone
3957466

PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A CONTROLLED TRANSACTION

(IN TERMS OF SECTION 34(1) OF THE TRIBAL LAND ACT NO.1 2018)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Aziza Enterprises Proprietary Limited** has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with **Star War Proprietary Limited** in respect of the below mentioned property:

CERTAIN: piece of land being Tribal **Lot 8434** Mogoditshane;
SITUATE: at Mogoditshane in the Bakwena Tribal Territory;
MEASURING: **1017m²** (One Thousand and Seventeen Square Metres);
HELD: under Notarial Deed of Cession **No. MA341/2010** dated **8th day of July 2010** made in favour of **AZIZA ENTEPRRISES PROPRIETARY LIMITED**

For the consideration amount of **P1,200,000.00 (One Million Two Hundred Thousand Pula)** excluding any VAT/transfer duty consequential to the transaction.

Notwithstanding the transaction, priority is hereby given to any citizen of Botswana interested in entering into a similar transaction in respect of the property.

All persons objecting to the transaction are hereby requested to lodge such objections with reasons, in writing with **Kweneng Land Board, Private Bag 006, Molepolole** within **thirty (30) days** from publication of this notice.

RAHIM KHAN & COMPANY

Applicant's Attorneys

Office#1, Plot 50362

Showgrounds Office Park

P.O. Box 1884, Gaborone

info@rahimkhan.co.bw

Tel: 3 188988/9 Fax: 3 188951/3188990

KITSISO SECHABA

TSHEKATSHEKO YA SEEMO SA TIKOLOGO MABAPI LE GO EPIWA GA MANTSWE MO DITLHAKANE MO KGAOLONG YA KWENENG KE BA BRAND CONSTRUCTION (PTY) LTD

Ka maikaelelo a go diragatsa molao wa Tshekatsheko Tikologo wa (Caps 65:07), karolo ya masome a marataro le botlhano (65), karolwana ya bosupa (6), kitsiso e e ntshiwa jaana e le go itsise sechaba ka maikaelelo a go dira tshekatsheko ya seemo sa tikologo mabapi le go epiwa ga mantswe mo Dithakane, mo kgaolong ya Kweneng ke ba kompone ya Brand Construction (Pty) Ltd.

Tiro ya go epa mantswe e ya go dirwa mo lefatsheng la selekanyo sa (10.80km²) mme selekanyo sa 236,000,000m³ sa mantswe a dolerite le granite se tla tswa mo go lone lefelo le. Mantswe a tla bo a epiwa go rekisetsa baba agang le ba ditiro tse dingwe tsa kgwebo.

Ditlamorago tse di molemo	Ditlamorago tse di bosula
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go nna teng ga majwe go ka dirisiwa mo go tsa kago Tlhamo ya ditiro ka nako ya go epiwa mantswe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Koketsego ya lerole le modumo ka nako ya go epiwa mantswe Kgotlelesego ya tikologo ka nako ya go epiwa mantswe

Botlhokwa jwa kitsiso e ke go itsise sechaba le botlhe ba ba amegang go tla phuthegong ya kgotla kwa lefelong le le latelang:

Place	Date	Time
Gabane Kgotla	15 Motsheganong 2024	09:00 hrs

Dikakgelo le dipotso mabapi le tiro e, le tse ba tsa tikologo ba tshwanetseng go di itse, di ka romelwa kwa atereseng tse di fa godimo.

BUY THIS SPACE CALL: KANYE 544 1945 LOBATSE 533 0379 JWANENG 588 0380 GHANZI 659 6315 KASANE 625 0353 TSABONG 654 0323

NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS MEETING

ESHMN-000081-23

IN THE ESTATE of the late Gaebonwe Goipatwabotho and Keronang Goipatwabotho who died on at Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital, Maun on the **9th day March 2020** and **1st July 2023** respectively.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all Debtors and Creditors of the above mentioned Estate that a Debtors and Creditors Meeting shall be held on the **21st June 2024** at 1100 hours at Maun High Court Buildings.

Creditors are advised to deliver proof of their claim against the Estate to the Co-Executors prior to the date of the meeting.

DATED at Maun this 30th day of April 2024.

The Executors

Keabina Dikatholo
71 112 304

and

Balebi Setlolo
71 804 909

Responsible Pharmacist

Mega-Health Pharmacy, Modimo ward, Letlhakeng, Kweneng District, Botswana, is seeking a dedicated and experienced Pharmacist to join our team. The ideal candidate should possess a degree in Pharmacy, be fully registered with the Botswana Health Professional Council and possess a minimum of 3 years of practical experience in the field.

Responsibilities:

- Dispensing prescription medications
- Advising patients on proper medication usage and potential side effects
- Collaborating with healthcare professionals to optimize patient care
- Maintaining accurate records of medications

Please submit your application to megahealthpharmacy1@gmail.com, or post to P.O Box 601296, Gaborone. For further details, please contact Ratanang Ajibola on 78056547.

The closing date for applications is May 14, 2024.

Final Liquidation and Distribution Account

Master's Reference. ESHF-000263/23

IN THE ESTATE of the late **Merriam Mogorosi** who died at **Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital**, Francistown District, Botswana on the **25th September 2021**.

FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT in the Estate will be open for inspection of the offices of the Master of the High Court at Francistown for period of **Twenty-one (21) days** from the date of publication hereof

Any objection to the Estate Account may be lodged with the Master within **twenty-one (21) days** stated above.

ISAAC MOGOROSI,
The Executrix,
Private Bag 52, Sebina.
Cellphone no: 76042642

Wanted TECHNICAL MANAGER (Projects)

LEOAL HOLDINGS PTY LTD is looking for a dynamic individual to work anywhere within Botswana on construction sites with a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering / Building Technology / Construction management and having worked in a residential Gated Estate projects with 20 years' experience covering but not limited to Preparation of Master BoQ & BoM, Preparation of Macro and Micro work schedule and Resources Schedule; Review and report Progress along with Earned Value; Preparation of MIS report; Handling of multiple Contractors and Subcontractors; Delegations of work to Project Team; Implementing, Monitoring and Controlling Quality Standards at all projects; Work without supervision; Conduct site progress meetings; Interviewing and Recruiting Site Personnel; Preparation/ Scrutinizing monthly works valuations of all Contractors and Subcontractors; Accountable to Project works and Report to Board of Directors, Annual Remuneration is P500,000/- Master in Engineering will be an added Advantage.

Applicants who meet the above criteria should send in their application letters, CVs and employment references before **24th May 2024**, to **P O Box 240 ABG Sebele Mall Gaborone** or email to: financemanager@eman.in or Drop the same at our office at **Plot No 57669 Block 10, Gaborone. Telephone 3186157**

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Kutlwano
 Magazine

Kutlwano Magazine is Botswana's oldest Magazine with the widest readership and highest circulation and has been revitalized to reach a broader readership.
 Circulation: 2, 500 copies, monthly

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FUYANG - Passengers lining up to board a train at Fuyang West Railway Station, east of China's Anhui Province yesterday. China witnessed an increase of passenger trips on the last day of the five-day May Day holiday. Photo: Xinhua

Malawi launches soybean exports to China

LILONGWE - Malawi's soya industry has made a breakthrough into Chinese market as the southern African country seeks to increase agricultural exports to boost the economy.

Malawi Investment and Trade Center Chief Executive Officer, Paul Kwengwere, confirmed to local media Friday that a 240 metric tonnes trial consignment by Paramount Holdings Limited, a local company, was successfully exported and approved by Chinese authorities.

He further said this was a culmination of efforts by various stakeholders, including government agencies, private enterprises, and Chinese representatives.

Paramount Holdings Limited Managing Director Mahesh Ghedhia told the media that his company emerged successful out of the companies that went through accreditation process by the Chinese authorities to ascertain quality of the produce before it was shipped to China. He further said the successful trial would lead to exportation of 20 000 metric tonnes of soybeans by his company.

"This shipment opens a door for Malawian exporters and we plan to increase our volumes because the Chinese market is looking for 100 000 metric tonnes of soya.

We signed a 20 000 metric tonnes contract," said Ghedhia. According to Ghedhia, the exports were subject to waivers that the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture would give to exporters as the produce was under export restrictions.

Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Sosten Gwengwe told the local media that the export deal with China was a government to government agreement and so far they had signed protocols on soybeans, macadamia nuts, dry chillies and negotiations were on going to sign protocols on tobacco, tea and ornamental fish.

He further said the Chinese authorities were doing their own accreditation of individual exporters of all the accredited commodities to ensure they meet standards. "Those exporters that have been accredited will be given waivers on the export restrictions because they ought to fulfill contracts they signed with the Chinese importers," said Gwengwe.

He described the deal as a game changer to transform the export base currently dominated by tobacco. Total exports for soybean in 2023 was US\$6.9 million according to the country's 2024 annual economic report. *Xinhua*

Kenya gears up for UN civil society summit

NAIROBI - Kenya will next week host the United Nations Civil Society Conference in the capital, Nairobi, to be attended by over 2 000 participants from government, multilateral institutions, industry, academia and think tanks.

The May 9-10 event will be the first UN Civil Society Conference to be held in the Global South, which also serves as a lead-up to the September 22-23 Summit of the Future at the UN headquarters in New York.

Kenya President William Ruto and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres are among the dignitaries expected at the meeting that will

be held under the theme: Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress, said a statement from the United Nations Office in Nairobi released on Saturday.

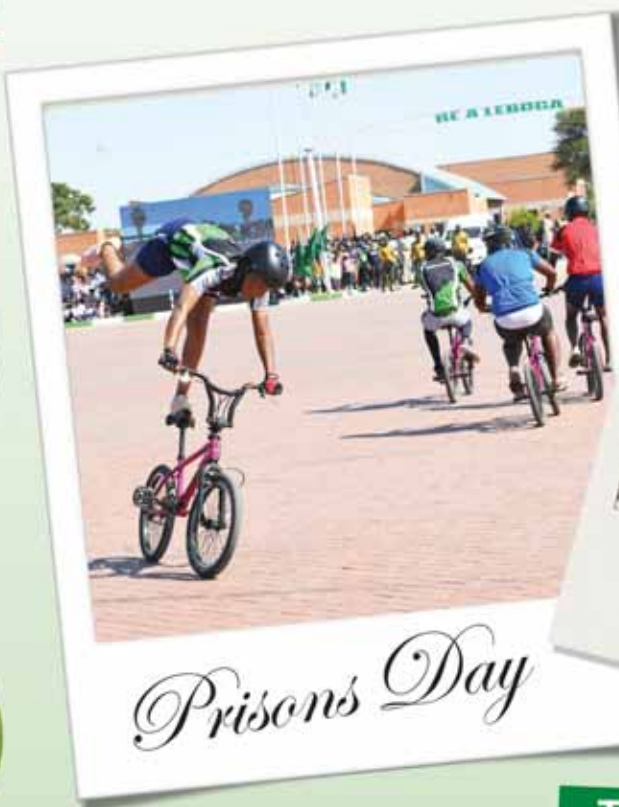
"The Nairobi conference aims to promote civil society's insights and initiatives to bolster the Member State-led Summit of the Future process and its outcome document, the Pact for the Future, alongside a Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations," the UN office said.

The conference in Nairobi is expected to generate momentum and influence discussions about the Pact for the Future, which will be

endorsed at the September Summit of the Future, it said.

Delegates are expected to rally behind the objectives of the September summit, which aims to unite a diverse range of stakeholders toward restoring trust and fostering multilateralism.

Other themes expected at the Nairobi conference include accelerating progress toward attaining sustainable development goals, financing for development, fostering global peace and security, science, technology, innovation, digital cooperation and transforming global governance, the statement said. *Xinhua*



Prisons Day



Celebrations



PRISON STAFF COLLEGE, MAHALAPYE



**0600HRS
11TH MAY 2024**

THEME

Building a High Performance Culture: Repositioning, Realigning and Re-engineering the Prison Service to achieve its mandate

Kenya moves to mitigate effects of flooding

NAIROBI - Kenya has ramped up measures to mitigate effects of floods as torrential rains continue to cause havoc across the country.

The Ministry of Interior and National Administration said Saturday the number of people killed in raging floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains since March has risen to 219.

“More caution is advised as the weather outlook continues to predict heavy to very heavy rainfall and thunderstorms over 33 counties, with floods expected in low-lying areas, riparian areas, and

urban areas,” the ministry said in a statement.

There has been an increase in landslides and mudslides in West Pokot, Embu, Machakos, Makeni, and Nakuru counties, the statement said. Areas prone to landslides and mudslides in various counties have been identified as high-risk areas and neighbouring settlements are being evacuated, with the sites for temporary shelter for displaced persons coordinated by county security committees.

According to the ministry, the security committees are also coordinating the evacuation and relocation of people residing within a 30-metre riparian corridor of rivers and other water courses across the country.

“Approximately 206 240 people have been displaced with the government setting up 115 camps across 19 counties currently hosting 27 856 people,” the statement said.

The measures came amid warnings that a tropical cyclone was set to worsen the situation by bringing yet heavier rainfall to the worst affected countries, including Kenya and neighbouring Tanzania.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned on Friday that the torrential rains could worsen with the arrival of tropical cyclone Hidaya.

“The tropical cyclone is the first of its kind to develop in eastern Africa and is due to have a very big impact,” WMO spokesperson Clare Nullis said.

Across Kenya, 164 people were injured and 72 others were missing, while 194 305 people have been displaced and nearly 205 000 people have been affected by heavy rains and flooding, according to the ministry.

At least 8 565 livestock have been lost, 36 344 acres of croplands and 46 roads have been damaged, while 608 small businesses, 39 schools, and 13 health facilities were affected as of Thursday, according to the Kenya Red Cross Society.

On Friday, President William Ruto, outlined a series of measures to deal with the emergency, including evacuations and urgent health provisions, vowing a ‘whole-of-government approach’.

“The current unprecedented

crisis of floods that our country is experiencing... is a direct consequence of our failure to protect our environment, resulting in the painful effects of climate change,” he said.

“Our country will remain in this cyclical crisis for a long time unless and until we confront the existential threat of climate change.”

Heavy rains are expected to continue over several parts of the country in the coming weeks, with flooding expected in low-lying areas, according to the weather forecasts. Authorities and charity organisations said access to some of the affected areas may be constrained as more and more roads are either damaged or closed as a precaution. *Xinhua*

South Sudan exempts UN from tax on imported goods

JUBA - South Sudan has announced that United Nations agencies and diplomatic missions will be exempted from paying taxes on imported goods, but contracted companies remain obligated to do so.

In an order issued Friday in Juba, Minister of Finance and Planning Awow Daniel Chuang said UN-contracted companies were profit-making entities and should be subjected to applicable taxes related to services provided as per the provisions of the Status of Forces Agreement signed with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) after the country gained independence in 2011.

“All UNMISS-contracted companies to render services internally shall not be part of this exemption of taxes, charges and fees levied on goods,” Chuang said.

“Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2 of this order, exempted entities shall comply with policies and procedures related to e-cargo tracking note, e-petroleum accreditation and dipping, marking and testing of fuels entering the country aimed at monitoring and regulating goods entering the country free of charge,” the minister said.

The UN system in South Sudan recently protested the tax measures imposed on UN-contracted trucks carrying fuel and other valuable deliveries, saying the measures would hamper critical humanitarian deliveries to millions of internally displaced people and more than 650 000 returnees and refugees fleeing conflict in Sudan.

UN Humanitarian Coordinator and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in South Sudan Anita Kiki Gbeho said the new tax measures contradict section 7 of the Status of Forces Agreement, which was signed by individual UN agencies with the government.

UN agencies are exempt from taxes and duties on imports of supplies for their use under section 7 of the Status of Forces Agreement, which is part of the UN convention on privileges and immunities.

According to the UN official, food assistance costs would rise if the new measures are kept in place. *Xinhua*



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS,
KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2024

INNOVATION AWARDS

THEME

INNOVATION AND MINDSET CHANGE:
CELEBRATING STRIDES TOWARDS A KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY



To access the awards portal

Go to: <https://form.jotform.com/240521305545043>

Application Open Date: 27th March 2024

Application Deadline: 8th May 2024

Online Submission Deadline: 8th May 2024
@2300hrs, CAT

Join us on an exciting journey of Innovation and win your share of P1 200 000.00!



For more information contact: 3960226



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS,
KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY-
BOTSWANA





Are you a highflyer? There is an opportunity!!!

SAC Commercial Parts – Branch Manager (Francistown)

The core purpose of the Branch Manager is to effectively manage the operations and employees of the branch as to ensure excellent customer service internally and externally is delivered.

The incumbent must be able to analyze dashboards and statistics to translate into daily action plans in line with sales, financial control and operational requirements of the branch. Ensure that theft to stock and damages are minimal to the branch operation, with zero health and safety issues.

Ensure the excellent running of the branch which will translate into the desired targets of the overall business strategy. Maintain excellent customer service levels at the branch, ensuring that the desired client base is achieved and maintained.

KEY DELIVERABLES AND OUTPUTS

Operational Management

- Ensure that the branch operations are well organized, runs smoothly as to offer excellent internal and external customer service.
- Stock and parts are well-maintained with no additional damage or theft.
- Manage the stock and parts of the branch and ensure that all checklists with detailed information required are accurately completed.
- Ensure that all stock and parts received has accompanying images completed on the 360 visual application system, allocated parts are removed and safely secured, and that all requirements match the completed checklist
- All stock is accurately captured into the Parts System accurately and correctly.
- Stock is correctly placed in the designated areas

Strategic Implementation

- Through the investigation and understanding of Business Information, via dashboards and reports, properly analyse this information as to implement action plans in line with meeting the agreed upon strategy from within the Business.
- Analyse data from some of the below mentioned reports to manage and implement action plans accordingly.

- o Outstanding 360 visual transactions
- o Parts and stock movement
- o Inter-warehouse movements
- o Checklists completed

Sales Management

- Prepares and administers an annual operating budget for the parts department.
- Analyzes sales, expenses and inventory monthly to maintain profit goals. Supervises stock order procedures.
- Sets and enforces a policy on the special ordering of parts. Ensures that stock orders represent at least (established %) percent of all orders.
- Analyzes sales, expenses and inventory monthly to maintain profit goals.
- Develops and administers an aggressive wholesale parts program to produce profit.

People Management

- Manage the employee workforce of the branch by ensuring optimal delivery of performance, attendance, internal customer service and engagement of the Branch.
- Work with the Human Capital Department in ensuring all "people" related areas are effectively managed and supported.
- Ensure all employees are optimally trained and are performing at above average performance levels.
- Lead in accordance with the SAC Code of Conduct and Value Proposition
- Able to manage and adapt management style when required to accommodate a multi-faceted group of employees.

Compliance

- Ensure that compliance (Health and Safety) measures are always maintained within the branch.
- Ensure that all incidents of theft / missing parts of the stock and additional damages is immediately reported and investigated.
- Oversee all activities at the branch and report irregular behaviour immediately.

Skills and Personal Attributes Essential:

- Effective leadership and management skills.
- Ability to reduce business plan into operational plan.
- Ability to command respect and to create a sense of community amongst his team.
- Good knowledge of techniques for planning, monitoring and controlling programmes.
- Sound business case development and approval skills.
- Good understanding of SAC Process and procedures.
- Lead by example- To have a people First and Customer first approach.
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Good knowledge of financial planning, budgeting and resources allocation.
- Excellent sales, customer and interpersonal skills.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to prioritize tasks and delegating when appropriate.

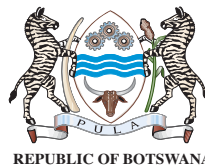
Work experience Essential:

- Minimum of 5yrs' supervisory experience.
- Proven track record of driving vehicle parts sales.
- Operations oversight experience.
- Experience pulling diverse teams together to reach business goals.
- Parts and Sales industry experience Advantageous.
- Proven track record of working within cross-functional teams.
- Sales/New business development.
- Computer skills (Microsoft Office).
- Ability to reduce business plan into operational plan.
- Ability to interpret numerical information.

ALL CANDIDATES MUST INCLUDE THEIR CURRENT CERTIFIED COPIES OD ACADEMICS CREDENTIALS AND IDENTITY COPY

CLOSING DATE: 25 May 2024

Application should send their to natascha@sactrucks.co.za referenced "Branch Manager"



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 3 OF 2024

The Ministry of Defence and Security invites applications from talented, decisive, self-driven and qualified citizens of Botswana to fill the position of

DIRECTOR – MILITARY VETERANS

SALARY SCALE:E1 (P 487,752 – 507,480 per annum)

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB

To coordinate development and facilitate implementation of policies, strategies and programmes in line with the Military Veterans Act.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

1. Provides professional expertise and support in the development and review of Military Veterans' policies and strategies.
2. Facilitates implementation of Military Veterans' policies, strategies and programmes.
3. Facilitates development, review and implementation of reintegration programmes and interventions.
4. Oversees assessment of Military Veterans to determine their needs for appropriate interventions.
5. Coordinates administration of Military Veterans' benefits.
6. Provides technical and secretarial support to Military Veterans Appeals Board and monitors implementation of resolutions.
7. Coordinates management and maintenance of Military Veterans' fund.
8. Monitors establishment of structures and programmes for enhancement of stakeholder participation.
9. Collaborates with stakeholders and partners on Military Veterans' matters.
10. Integrates and facilitates implementation of plans

and programmes emanating from Military Veterans Act.

11. Monitors implementation of resolutions from Military Veterans Appeals Board.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS PROFILE

To be considered for this position, candidates must have at least Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration or Management or Business Administration or related field, complemented by sixteen (16) years post qualification experience of which two (2) years should have been served at Deputy Director level or equivalent. Master's Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies will be an added advantage.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Deciding and Initiating Action
- Leading and Supervising
- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Analyzing
- Formulating Strategies and Concepts
- Planning and Organizing
- Delivering Results and Meeting Customer Expectation
- Adapting and Responding to Change

BENEFITS

- a) Leave of 30 working days per annum
- (b) Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and employee 50%).
- (c) Contributory Pension Scheme (Government pays

15% and employee 5%).

(d) Officer on contract appointment are entitled to 30% gratuity.

IMPORTANT

Applicants should quote the number of this vacancy circular and provide the following details:

- (a) Detailed Curriculum Vitae.
- (b) Certified copies of certificates and at least three recent work-related references confirming the required experience.
- (c) In case of serving Public Officers, applications must be routed through their Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered.
- (d) In addition, applicants are required to submit an electronic summary of their CV. Please e-mail bpodile@gov.bw and dmkobe@gov.bw to request for the required CV format.

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Monday May 6, 2024 No. 083



Western ByPass from Motokwe won the 2400m grand prize during Khawa Horse Race on Saturday.



Tsogwane (second right) and Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Annah Mokgethi participating in Polka dance with Khawa Primary School pupils at the opening of the Khawa Dune Challenge and Cultural Festival on Saturday. The Acting President said such events were meant to improve livelihoods. Photos: Thompson Keobaletswe

Attaining sustainable livelihoods key

By Keonee Majoto

KHAWA - The nation has been encouraged to celebrate the growth of cultural festivals that positively impact the lives of ordinary community members.

Officiating at the 2024 edition of the Khawa Dune Challenge and Cultural Festival Friday night, Acting President Slumber Tsogwane said the success and growth of such events could be reasonably measured by the positive difference they brought upon the lives of the people on the ground.

Tsogwane said sustainable livelihoods for rural communities especially in previously marginalised areas could be attained by ensuring that events of the magnitude of the Khawa Dune Challenge hosted in their localities left an indelible social

and economic imprint.

“Our development processes have from independence advanced the need to develop rural communities as shown by our National Development Plan in which this was highlighted,” he said.

He said the annual Khawa Dune challenge and other similar festivals should thus be a vehicle to help bring about practical solutions to pressing issues such as unemployment and poverty.

“We cannot define our level of development as a sign of economic growth when poverty, unemployment and social and economic inequalities still exist in our communities,” he said, urging patrons of the events to individually play a role in helping communities attain sustainable livelihoods.

Turning his focus specifically

to the Khawa Dune challenge, the Acting President said the event continued to usher in new developments to the Khawa community, which ought to bring changes in the livelihoods of the people around.

He said one of the critical milestones in that regard was the newly-established entrance gate to the Kalahari Trans-frontier Park, a move that he said was expected to add flavour to the cultural tourism linked to the Khawa cultural festival.

Tsogwane said the dune challenge and cultural festival had the potential of growing bigger and bringing economic benefits to the community through value chain development, a concept that he said was borne out of government’s pursuit of citizen economic empowerment, job creation and import substitution.

The Acting President said Botswana tourism policy of 2021 provided for tourism product diversification and investment growth, adding that the expectation therefore, was for the Khawa Dune challenge to lead to the development of several value chains.

He said the dune challenge and cultural festival was a living example of a combination of cultural and sport tourism that featured not only the opportunity for leisure and recreation but one that also provided for engaging in income-generating activities.

He said the event was thus an opportunity to achieve economic prosperity for all as espoused in Vision 2036.

Minister Dumezweni Mthimkhulu of Environment, and Tourism shared in the assertion that the Khawa Dune Challenge

and Cultural Festival grew year on year. He attributed this to government and President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi’s relentless drive to have Botswana participate in and enjoy the rich tourism potential of their country and thereby have a hand in the economic growth of their country.

Mthimkhulu implored Botswana to fully embrace the tourist attractions in their country instead of giving preference to those in other countries and noted that this way, they would be playing an active role in helping grow and diversify local economy.

The Khawa event that spanned two days featured a rich line-up of activities that included a cultural music festival, sporting activities such as motorsport and quad biking, camel rides, a horse race and a smallstock auction. **BOPA**

Over 500 karatekas for Gabs open championship

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Over 500 karate athletes from 32 clubs in Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia have participated at the Gaborone Open International Karate Championship held at the University of Botswana Indoor Sports Arena on Saturday.

A member of the tournament Local Organising Committee, Ofentse Bakwadi said some clubs from other countries could not make it as they were stranded at

ports of entry after being denied entry due to failure to produce parents consent letters.

He said their intention was to have a reasonable number of clubs at the championship to give the local athletes the much needed exposure and experience.

Despite other countries failing to make it to the championship, Bakwadi has hailed the championship as a success as it had displayed high level of competitiveness from the athletes.

To date, he said the country

had hosted 14 editions of the championship.

Bakwadi said it was a challenge for local karatekas to travel to other countries for such competitions due to financial constraints in other countries, therefore hosting was an important milestone for them to harness their talent.

Meanwhile, Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, Dr Kefentse Mzwini, who officiated at the event, said true victory was not only winning medals but also about upholding the values of respect and fair play.

Therefore, Dr Mzwini urged athletes to always compete in honour, integrity and great

sportsmanship.

“As a psychologist, I am aware of emotional resilience and physiological well-being in terms of athlete’s performance, therefore, I encourage all athletes to focus on their mental health and well-being as they thrive for success both on and off the match,” he said. **BOPA**

Minister Mokgethi commends association

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Botswana Diamond Manufacturers Association (BDMA) has been commended for supporting government’s efforts of aiding the informal sector.

This was said by the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Anna Mokgethi at the culmination of the association’s soccer tournament on Saturday in Gaborone.

Mokgethi, who is also area Member of Parliament, indicated that government had increased support for the informal sector as evidenced by the recently launched Chema Chema Fund.

She therefore, said it was a good thing that the private sector was also coming on board to similarly assist.

“In the last budget speech, it was revealed that the informal sector contributed 3.2 per cent to the economy, so I want to commend BDMA for also recognising the importance of this sector, and for supporting government’s efforts to develop the sector,” she said.

Mokgethi said for a number of years, the diamond sector had not been contributing meaningfully to job creation because of lack of value chain development in the sector locally.

She said it was now promising as most companies in the industry had started investing in Botswana, to tap on the value chain development.

“Diamond manufacturing companies currently employ about 4 400 people, which is

commendable, but I want to implore you to employ more because we want to see more of our people benefiting from our diamonds,” she said and commended BDMA for realising the important of developing grassroots sport.

Mokgethi further indicated that although the tournament was in the form of social soccer, it meant a lot in bringing people together.

“Sport, especially football is the number one sport in bringing people together, and it is also a good form of building teamwork, which is a vital cog of productivity at work,” she said.

Mokgethi indicated that for productivity to be achieved, workers needed to work together just like they did in the field of play to reach a goal.

“We cannot succeed in the work place unless we have team work,” she said.

For his part, BDMA chairperson, Siddharth Gothi appreciated the sponsors for ensuring the success of the tournament.

He said their annual sport tournaments assisted a great deal in giving employees the confidence needed in developing their personalities and character.

Meanwhile, Tache were crowned champions after edging out Fine Stars through penalties, and in the losers final, Pluznic claimed a bronze after defeating KGK.

The next tournament by BDMA will be netball followed by cricket. **BOPA**



Florence Musa (right) blocking a kick from Poloko Ntswelebe during Gaborone Open Karate Championship in Gaborone on Saturday. Musa won gold while Ntswelebe got silver in the girls Under 11 Kumite. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Gaborone United on brink of championship win

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Gaborone United (GU) women’s team is on the brink of realising their dream of winning the Gaborone Region Women Football Division 1 league following their Saturday 2-1 victory over archrivals, Double Action.

Victory for GU moved them a step closer to ending Double Action’s persistent dominance in the elite women’s league.

The team scored through Keitumetse Ben-Ten Dithebe and an own goal from Laone Moloji while Segakolodi Didukanyane scored Double Action’s consolation goal from a penalty

kick. The league is a two horse race between GU and Double Action as the the teams have been on equal points since the beginning of the season.

Even though the two came into the match having accumulated 31 points each, Double Action was at the summit of the log having scored the most goals.

The Saturday result has now placed GU at the top with 34 points relegating Double Action to second position.

GU coach Kakale Mabechu said their last league match would be against bottom of the log, Big Sisters.

Mabechu said with their real threat brushed aside, their focus

was now on Big Sisters as it was the stumbling block toward winning the league.

He said their focus was to collect maximum points against Big Sisters.

Double Action coach William Monene said despite playing well, luck was not on his side.

Monene added that he was disappointed to lose against GU at a time when his team was about to cross the finish line.

Their last opponent of the season will be FC Ambassadors.

“In football anything is possible, but honestly I believe in finishing the game without relying on the opposition to do the work for us,” he said. **BOPA**



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Makwala (left), Scotch (second left), Tebogo (second right) and Ndori after finishing first in heat four with a time of 2:59.73 beating South Africa who finished second with 2:59.76 at the World Athletics Relays in The Bahamas on Sunday. They booked themselves a ticket to Paris 2024 Olympics. Photo: Sergio Mateo/World Athletics

Men's team qualifies for Olympics

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana's 4x400 men's relay team has on Sunday booked a ticket to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games after finishing in first position at the World Athletics Relays held in Nassau, The Bahamas.

The relay team, comprising Isaac Makwala, Letsile Tebogo, Leungo Scotch and Bayapo Ndori finished first in heat four of the competition with a time of 2:59.73 beating South Africa who finished second with 2:59.76.

The quartet demonstrated its prowess when Tebogo, who was running second leg, received a baton from veteran Makwala

who was in position seven handed to Letsile who then sprinted to position one and handed to Scotch who maintained the position, guarding South Africa's Wayde van Niekerk and handed to Ndori who then fought to the finish line past Lythe Pilliay of South Africa.

Makwala recorded a split of 47.67 and Tebogo recorded 43.49. Scotch split 44.62 while Ndori dropped the split to 43.95, and that resulted in Botswana recording the fastest time in the 4x400m heats.

In an interview, coach Justice Dipeba said he was happy with the team's fighting spirit and applauded Tebogo for the brilliant

second leg.

Dipeba said he had always been confident in the men's team and with the caliber of the athletes, Botswana could compete with the world.

"Qualifying for the Olympics by a small country like Botswana is a good development. We have seen big countries struggling to make it to the Olympic but had to wait for the second chance to qualify. We are excited with our special and talented team," he said.

He added that it was important for Botswana to look after the athletes, give them support and ensure that they were happy all through.

According to Dipeba, it was also important that as the relay team prepared for the Olympics, athletes stayed in competition and active.

"We need to keep them in competition mode and the most important thing is to keep them in that phase, but not burn them, until to get to the Olympics," he said.

He was however happy that some of them had been invited for the Diamond Leagues, saying that alone would keep them in shape.

Dipeba emphasised the need to invest in athletes if Botswana desired to win a better medal than the bronze the relay team won in Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games,

which were held in 2021.

"Winning a medal does not come cheap. Now this is not about Botswana Athletics Association, but the country at large," he said.

He added that at the team prepared for the Olympics it was predominantly important for all the stakeholders to engage and plan in order for the team to get to the Olympics in good shape and challenge the colour of the medal they won at the last Olympics.

"Remember, there is not much time left and as it is, they must support with finding competitions for athletes and giving them the right personnel who would make sure that they stay healthy and fit," Dipeba said. **BOPA**

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