President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (centre) yesterday gifted eight farmers with bulls at his Mmatseta Farm near Kopong. He said when the bull donation initiative started, it did not target urban farmers but after numerous pleas from their legislators, he included them. The President also donated 12 horses and a bull towards the Botswana Police Service. With him are Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Ms Annah Mokgethi (left), Minister of Defence and Security, Mr Kagiso Mmusi (second left), Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Dumezweni Mthimkhulu (second right) as well as Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Mr Tumiso Rakgare. Photos: Thompson Keobaletswe
Police day celebrations remain relevant

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi was among those who graced the annual Botswana Police Day celebrations in Gaborone on Saturday.

The 34th celebration was held under the theme: Towards Safer and Secure Communities by 2036 and had remained relevant as a platform that showcases Botswana police’s success stories.

The event has also proved to be as popular as ever as it saw close to full capacity of the 25 000 seater national stadium. An array of activities were lined up such as the K9 display, which demonstrated working relations between man and dog, horse displays, calisthenics, air display as well as the motorcycle display, which proved to be one of the people’s favourites.

Deputy Commissioner, Mr Diphetogo Motube in an interview post the celebrations, said the activities also marked 140 years of existence of Botswana Police Service.

He said some of the notable successes was the BPS’s embrace of digitalisation, which would soon see the BPS offering some of its services online.

"Everybody has moved on to the digital world and so have we. Come September, some of our services such as the firearms permits, motor vehicle clearance permits and others will be accessible online," he said.

Mr Motube said by embracing digitalisation, their annual celebrations were able to be viewed by other Batswana across the country who could not physically come to Gaborone. He said other notable projects such as Safer City, which would be extended to Greater Gaberone, were also realised as a result of digitalisation.

"The day also gives us a platform to reflect on our successes in terms of human and capital resources, such as transport, communications and skills we have acquired," he said, comparing yesteryears where horses were the major mode of transport to the current era where they had aircrafts.

Meanwhile on Friday, President Masisi inspected Botswana Police Meritorious Service Medal (BPM), Botswana Police Distinguished Service Order Medal (DSO), Botswana Police Jubilee Service Medal (JSM) and Botswana Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (LSGCM) awards on more than 1 400 Botswana Police Services officers.

The awards ceremony was meant to recognise and thank deserving members of the BPS, of different ranks, for their outstanding services and conduct in police duties.

The LSGCM is awarded to police officers who have served as a member of the BPS for a continuous period of 18 years and by conduct and character shown worthiness for such turpitude, not been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude and not been frequently guilty of minor disciplinary offences.

The LSGCM is also awarded to an officer who has, in the opinion of the commissioner, set a good example by general conduct, not been convicted of any offence of a nature deemed to bring the name of BPS into disrepute and not incurred more than six convictions against discipline during the last 16 years of service.

The JSM is awarded to officers who have served at least 25 years in the BPS and has shown by his or her conduct and character that he or she is worthy of the honour.

The DSO is awarded to members of the BPS who have distinguished themselves by their devotion to duty. It is attained after 30 years of service, while the BPM is awarded to members of the BPS for service of meritorious nature, who have served for 12 years with high duty. It is attained after 30 years of service, while the BPM is awarded to members of the BPS for service of meritorious nature, who have served for 12 years with high duty.

President Masisi bestowed Botswana Police Jubilee Service Order Medal (JSM) and Botswana Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (LSGCM) awards on more than 1 400 Botswana Police Services officers.

President Masisi (right) joined multitudes who thronged the National Stadium for the Botswana Police Day celebrations in Gaborone on Saturday. This year, the police celebrated 140 years of existence.

Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

First Lady celebrates with Motlaagana

By Keith Keti

SEROWE - First Lady, Ms Neo Masisi has landed Motlaagana wa Banana Society for playing an active role in developing socio-economic status of the youth, girl-child and women to become a better version of themselves.

Speaking during the society’s 10th anniversary celebrations in Serowe on Friday, Ms Masisi said the organisation’s efforts were in line with her aspirations and deserved applause.

"By creating a platform for graduates to utilise their skills and transform their lives, she said the organisation somehow augmented government’s efforts.

"Given that unemployment remains a challenge, vocational training is important at this point in time to counteract joblessness," she said.

"The First Lady said in a world where every child deserved an equal chance to thrive and succeed, empowering the girl child became a crucial mission, adding that investing in their education, health, and well-being was not just a moral imperative but a strategic step towards building a more equitable and prosperous society.

"She said the power of education was a cornerstone of empowerment for girls because they gained knowledge, skills and confidence to pursue their dreams, in the end, breaking free from cycles of poverty that made them vulnerable to abuse. Affirming the importance of education, Ms Masisi said 'the good thing about education is that it is something that no one can take away from you'.

"Motlaagana wa Banana Society is a non-profit making organisation formed in 2009 by a retired teacher, Ms Rebecca Motswetla. It opened doors to the public in 2014 with focus on empowering out of school youth with skills such as textile, bakery and catering among others.

"Project coordinator, Ms Motswetla said her mission was to take youth out of the streets by engaging them in productive outcomes. She said her initiative was preserving talent for posterity through imparting life skills.

"She said if optimally harnessed, talent and skills had the potential to change the economic landscape of Serowe District.

The graduates spoke fondly about the organisation, noting that it had transformed their lives for the better.

They said young people with decent lives would be accelerators of peace and sustainable development within communities.

They were of the view that skills acquired would elevate them to greater heights if put to good use.

The graduates included Mr Wedu Makoba who studied textile, Ms Melise Sethause bakery, Ms Emily Botshelo textile and Ms Gomhaletse Ratari pottery.

BotsowanaPost - Foundation assisted the organisation with industrial machines to kick-start textile projects while Orapa, Lethlakane and Dumthsha mines sponsored with industrial bakery equipment.

Themed: Pillar of Sustainable Youth and Skills Development Mindset Change and Future Innovation, the anniversary celebrations also aimed to promote the organisation and create social awareness."
Botswana to enroll 105 Bahamian students

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Botswana has offered to enroll 105 graduate students from The Bahamas during the 2024/25 academic year.

The offer follows the recent announcement of 10 postgraduate scholarships to Bahamian students who are in the field of natural sciences and engineering at the University of Botswana and the other institutions of higher learning, including students and teachers.

In the quest to strengthen cooperation in the education sector, BUAN and The Bahamas Institute of Agriculture and Marine Science have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March 2024 to enhance collaboration in animal science and production, agronomy and crop science.

Yesterday, Geoffrey Chihana, Mmamosudi Gobopang, Direo Tsalala, Goitseone Keitsope, Batfuhi Kamela, Mosimanepe Pluti each received a white Brahman bull, while Thomas Morebudi and Ogomoditswe Lonedi each received a Red bull and a Simbra bull respectively.

President Masisi gifted one bull to the Botswana Police Service and an additional 10 heifers were pledged in their favour.

He thanked BPS for their tireless service to the nation especially their flagship KgomoKhumo initiative.

Dr Masisi also donated 12 horses towards the BPS Adopt-A-Police initiative.

He said the target was to donate about 100 horses to assist in daily operations of the police.

For her part, BPS Commissioner, Ms Dinah Marathe thanked President Masisi for being a torch bearer in efforts to protect the nation.

She said the nation and business community had been taking a leading role in equipping the police who had been resource challenged.

The two nations established diplomatic relations in May 2006 and they continue to enjoy cordial relations in many sectors.

BOPA

By Baleseng Baditleng

MMATSETA - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi yesterday gifted eight Brahman bulls to his Mmatseta farm near Kopong.

President Masisi said the bulls brought to over 100; the number of livestock donated since the bull donation initiative started in April 2022.

The initiative is aimed at improving quality and increasing the national herd.

It is also in line with the goal of transforming Botswana from a middle-income to a high-income economy.

President Masisi said the cattle industry had great potential for economic growth and as such it was critical to support those with interest in farming.

Thus, he implored more successful farmers to participate in the bull donation drive to be able to collectively achieve the target of increasing the national herd.

President Masisi assured farmers that the bull donation drive would continue and more farmers would benefit from the initiative.

He said when the initiative started, it did not target urban farmers but after numerous pleas from their legislators, the farmers were now included.

Dr Masisi said his desire was to see more Botswana becoming wealthy and have sustainable livelihoods.

He also said the idea of gifting was one of the pillars of nation building and implored Batswana to resuscitate that spirit.

Maun East, West, Ngami and Okavango have benefited 10 bulls each in the past due to natural disaster that had befallen farmers in the area, President Masisi said.

“Once signed, the MoU will pave the way for more cooperation in this sector. The Bahamas has a lot of experience in this sector and Botswana stands ready to learn best practices in this regard,” he said.

He further said Botswana was also exploring the possibility of exporting beef to The Bahamas by using its port to access both Caribbean and the United States of America markets.

He underscored the importance of people-to-people interaction as a catalyst for improving cooperation between Botswana and The Bahamas.

The two nations established diplomatic relations in May 2006 and they continue to enjoy cordial relations in many sectors.

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - The Governor General of The Bahamas Dame Cynthia Alexandra Pratt was quoted as saying, “There are unique things about Botswana and the potential and its potential to contribute to this growth is promising.”

The first female Governor General of the Bahamas was in Botswana for the first time to attend the Sixth Session of the Botswana-Dominica Bilateral Commission on Friday.

She said the story of the country’s economic growth and as such it had great potential for economic growth and as such it was critical to support those with interest in farming.

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He said the target was to donate about 100 horses to assist in daily operations of the police.

For her part, BPS Commissioner, Ms Dinah Marathe thanked President Masisi for being a torch bearer in efforts to protect the nation.

She urged farmers to make use of the good quality breeds of livestock and be given to produce more quality.

Ms Chengeta pleaded with farmers and aspiring ones to take up government packages which were meant to support the agricultural sector such as Temo Letšologo and Thuo Letšologo.

BOPA

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She said the nation and business community had been taking a leading role in equipping the police who had been resource challenged.

Ms Chengeta said government had offered a farm for BPS in Ramatlabama which would be put to good use.

Ministry of Agriculture permanent secretary, Ms Nancy Chengeta said over the years, the livestock herd had been dwindling.

She urged farmers to make use of the good quality breeds of livestock and be given to produce more quality.

Ms Chengeta pleaded with farmers and aspiring ones to take up government packages which were meant to support the agricultural sector such as Temo Letšologo and Thuo Letšologo.

BOPA
By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Botswana fully embraces the critical role played by elections in fostering the competitive and participatory democracy, acting permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Lorato Plaatjie has said.

Addressing diplomats on preparations for the October general elections, Ms Plaatjie said Botswana subscribed to advancing constitutionalism, the rule of law and a culture of democracy that ushered holding of inclusive elections.

She said Botswana, as Africa’s longest and uninterrupted democracy, was also committed to championing democratic principles and promoting an environment that continually advanced holding free, fair, transparent, peaceful and credible elections.

“Democracy is part and parcel of our national story as it is a value enshrined in our identity as a nation, as well as in our cultural norms and systems such as the kgotla system and our spirit of Bophuthatswana (humility) and Tlhaganyo (consultations),” she said.

She said diplomatic corps were key stakeholders in the country’s democratic process, thus the need to update them on Botswana’s state of preparedness for this year’s general elections.

“Indeed, a briefing such as this one, is pertinent given the significant impact that the holding of regular elections has in the promotion of democratic practices, values and principles,” she said.

She highlighted that facilitation for observation of the country’s elections was in line with the legal framework governing the general elections and the SADC principles and guidelines among other frameworks.

Accordingly, Ms Plaatjie said various regional and international election observer groups would be invited to observe the elections.

For her part, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Angola to Botswana, Dr Beatzir Antonio Manuel De Morais commended the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for availing a platform for diplomats to appreciate and partake in Botswana’s democratic process.

Dr Morais also commended the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) for nurturing transparency in the election process through inviting both the SADC and AU election observers.

She said Botswana was renowned for championing democracy and rule of law because the country had conducted free, transparent and fair elections since its independence.

“Botswana has conducted free elections every five years while ensuring that the Presidential terms are strictly observed, thus the diplomatic corps are confident on Botswana’s approach towards delivering credible general elections this year,” she said.

IEC Secretary, Mr Jefferson Siamisang said the commission was at a critical stage of the electoral cycle and was working round the clock to put in place all measures required to conduct transparent, fair and credible election process.

Mr Siamisang said a total of 1 037 684 eligible voters had registered to vote which was 80 per cent of the 1.3 million target set against the 1.7 million county’s voting population.

He added that while other measures ranging from age eligibility to supplementary registration, 197 021 voters comprising 54 per cent women and 46 per cent men had registered to vote.

He said 5 520 registrations were rejected due to various reasons ranging from age eligibility to national identity cards related matters.

IEC chairperson, Dr Barnabas Nyamadzabo (left) and Mr Siamisang addressing diplomats on the country’s preparedness for the October general elections. Mr Siamisang said a total of 1 037 684 eligible voters had registered to vote which was 80 per cent of the 1.3 million target set against the 1.7 million county’s voting population. Photo: Phyno Moalosi

By Manowe Motsaathbe

SELEBI PHIKWE - Botswana Congress Party (BCP) intends to revert Selebi Phikwe town to its glory days where better employment and pay plus decent accommodation were superior comparatively.

Speaking at the launch of the party’s prospective parliamentary candidate for Selebi Phikwe West Mr Reuben Kaizer and councillors said the town had regressed in many aspects.

The party leader, Mr Dumelang Saleshando said the town that used to be a beacon of hope for many men and their families across the country had become barren and therefore, presenting a bleak future for the inhabitants.

“This Selebi Phikwe is not representative of the town it was 45-years ago.”

I am talking about a town that beckoned many, Mmiiwra, Mokalaka or Moyei to come and hone their hopes of a better life which indeed they attained,” said Mr Saleshando.

The BCP leader, who is also Member of Parliament for Maun West, said Selebi Phikwe was the only place where opposition parties garnered an MP and councillors in the then Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) dominated Central District.

“For an uninterrupted 15 years, Selebi Phikwe voted BCP MP in this constituency and no opposition party has ever achieved that feat,” he said and urged the prospective candidates to work tirelessly in order to win the constituency in the coming elections.

He called upon Selebi Phikwe residents to vote for all BCP candidates for all Selebi Phikwe constituencies and wards saying they possessed the artillery to turn back the hands of time.

Mr Saleshando prided his party of conducting fair and transparent primary elections.

Speaking about Mr Kaizer, the Selebi Phikwe West prospective candidate, Mr Saleshando said he was a trusted party cadre incapable of being a turncoat.

He added that while other people were capable of shooting at the party with the very guns they possessed the artillery to turn back the hands of time.

Weighing in on Mr Saleshando’s remarks, deputy leader, Mr Taolo Lucas appealed to voters to cast their ballots in favour of the candidates which would in turn favour his party to stand a good chance of assuming leadership of the country.

Mr Lucas said his greatest appeal was to the unemployed, underemployed and those earning below P3 000 a month to liberate themselves by voting for the BCP candidates in large numbers.

“I appeal to you to relay this plea to your family members that BCP is their only hope,” said Mr Lucas, who is also MP for Bobonong.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Kaizer said together with his team, they intend to drive the economy of the town to new heights awash with opportunities.

“I have a team of men and women who are committed to facing the challenges in this town head-on,” he said before promising that the BCP would continue reining at Selebi Phikwe West. BOPA

By Tlhabologang Mmopachaleng

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STATEMENT BY
HONOURABLE KABO N. S MORWAENG
MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT
ON WITHDRAWAL OF THREE GOVERNMENT BILLS
03 AUGUST, 2024

KE A LO DUMEDISA BATSWANA-BETSHO!

1. Fellow citizens, I have come before the nation to make a Statement regarding some Government Bills in the agenda of what is normally called the winter Parliament, which is primarily dedicated to processing Bills, besides other legislative actions.

The statement to be made concerns the following three Bills:

(a) Presidents (Pensions and Retirement Benefits) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 12 of 2024);
(b) Former Vice-Presidents (Pensions and Retirement Benefits) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 13 of 2024); and
(c) Ministers and National Assembly Gratuities and Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 14 of 2024).

2. However, I wish to start by making some important preliminary remarks to set the context for appreciating the kind of action that I will be sharing with you as a nation, concerning the aforementioned Bills, and in the light of the views expressed by some Batswana on the airwaves, in print and social media spaces.

3. The basic premise underpinning my Statement is that we all know that Botswana is a democratic country. Accordingly, the conduct of our national affairs as a sovereign state, has always been, and continues to be, gauged, assessed, critiqued and validated by invoking democratic principles, amongst them, being broad-based participation and consultation in decision-making on issues of national concern, and in the public interest.

4. Our exercise of participatory democracy, of course, happens at different levels and public spaces of engagement, including civil society. Over the years, we have, indeed, learned and become aware of what democracy means and entails, both for our individual and collective actions, regarding issues in the public interest. In turn, Government’s response to issues in the public interest is enjoined to embrace democracy.

5. Moreover, our beautiful country is built on diverse cultures, yet largely interconnected on several aspects, to produce unity in diversity, especially revolving around “Botho”, as a social and moral value. Botho as a foundation of our collective being and national identity as Botswana has several principles flowing from it. I wish to mention just two of these principles. Firstly, Botho demands that a person acknowledges and has regard for the humanness of others and mutual respect.

6. Secondly, Botho demands of each and every individual to consider what others think, ‘morero’ or consultation, which makes our everyday lives. The consultation process is core to our democratic principles. Indeed, the much-revered “Kgatlana” system that this country is built on, and still practices, is centered on morero or therisanyo at its core. These same principles are what has built this country; they are a foundation, motheo wa kago ya lefatshe la rona, our beautiful Botswana. It is the same ethos and values on which our Constitution is built on.

7. Section 1 of the Constitution declares this country as a Republic. It is crucial to pause here and recognise what this means. It was vital to lay this out at the very first section of the Constitution, that this country will be governed in a way where the people of this country will hold the power to determine the affairs of this country. The Constitution demonstrates this in several ways:

• That is why it is you, the people of this Republic, who decide who to elect as your representatives;
• That is why, the same Constitution, gives Parliament, a body made up of your elected representatives, the power to make laws for the peace, order and good governance of Botswana, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

8. Batswana-betsho, the phrase “subject to the provisions of this Constitution” is critical and allow me to demonstrate why this is important. For example, section 87(6) of the Constitution of Botswana provides that “no law made by Parliament shall come into operation until it has been published in the Gazette”. This is a significant and prescriptive consultative step because the publication is meant to afford the citizens of this country the opportunity to internalise the proposed legislation before Parliament passes it.

9. Additionally, the Standing Orders of Parliament, in this instance, Standing Order 72.3 prescribe that “no Bill (other than an Appropriation Bill) shall be read a second time earlier than 30 days after the day on which it was read a first time or, if in the case of a Bill presented by a Minister a draft thereof was published in the Gazette before it was presented, 30 days after such publication”. (paraphrased).

10. The direction signaled by this provision is crucial because at the Second Reading the general merits and principles of a Bill are debated and it, therefore, important for members to debate it reflecting the views of their constituents, that is, you the citizens of this country. Parliament recognises the need to listen and take heed of your concerns.

11. These are the things which demonstrate our commitment to the Rule of Law – we have not flouted these and do not intend to do so at anytime.

On the 12th of July 2024, through the Extraordinary Gazette Volume 62 (LXII), Number 93, the following Bills were published:

(a) Presidents (Pensions and Retirement Benefits) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 12 of 2024);
(b) Former Vice-Presidents (Pensions and Retirement Benefits) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 13 of 2024); and
(c) Ministers and National Assembly Gratuities and Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 14 of 2024).

12. Batswana-betsho, I will not go into the details of these Bills as those are clearly set out in the Memoranda of each of the Bills. There have been a lot of comments, remarks and a general dissatisfaction about these Bills. The common sentiment is that this is not the time to bring such Bills. We have heard your opinions; we have listened to your views, and it is clear that you the people of this country, the Republic of Botswana, are not ready for a review of the law relating to the improvement of the retirement benefits of former leaders of this country.

13. In appreciation of your views, the people of Botswana, as a consultative and listening government, I am here to declare to the nation that, we will withdraw the three Bills from Parliament pending further consultation.

Thank you, ke a leboga Batswana-betsho.
‘Storage silos for all farmers’

By Esther Mmolai

PANDAMATENGAPANDAMATENGA

Minister of Agriculture, Mr Fidelis Molao, says the newly opened sets of modern grain storage silos at Pandamatenga are not only meant to benefit Chobe farmers but the farming community across the country.

He said the storage silos were constructed at Pandamatenga as the area was earmarked for the Special Economic Zone for agriculture, taking into account issues of the soil fertility and climatic conditions. He noted that they should appreciate that the silos were meant to ensure their fruits of labour, reached the markets efficiently and sustainably.

He therefore appealed to the farming community countrywide to make use of the infrastructure, which he said was meant to enhance food security by keeping harvested crops safely as they could safeguard the grain quality ensuring future use and meeting market demand.

He expressed gratitude that the infrastructure used advanced technology that could track harvest time, temperature, moisture levels and grain quality in real time noting that the technology not only improved efficiency but also reduced waste and ensured quality of the stored harvest.

“He therefore appealed to the farming community countrywide to make use of the infrastructure, which he said was meant to enhance food security by keeping harvested crops safely as they could safeguard the grain quality ensuring future use and meeting market demand.

He expressed gratitude that the infrastructure used advanced technology that could track harvest time, temperature, moisture levels and grain quality in real time noting that the technology not only improved efficiency but also reduced waste and ensured quality of the stored harvest.

“Whether you are at Bobonong, Phihshane Molopo, Southern region or any corner of the country, you are entitled to utilise the silos because the key purpose is to preserve harvested crops in optimal conditions until they are needed for consumption or further processing,” he added.

Mr Molao further explained that the infrastructure preservation capability was crucial in preventing significant post-harvest losses, which could affect food security and economic stability.

Beyond preservation, he said, silos played a pivotal role in the logistic chain of agriculture as farmers could store their crops in silos immediately after harvest, allowing them to manage the timing of sales based on market conditions rather than selling at harvest time when prices may be lower.

He, however, appealed to Batswana at large to take advantage of the Temo Letlotlo programme to produce bumper yields that could fill up the silos.

He acknowledged that the programme aimed at improving food security at both households and national level.

Mr Molao further highlighted that there was a clause in the programme document, which stated that Motswana tlaatsa dihalana and he called upon farmers to fill up the Pandamatenga silos.

He appreciated that in the previous years when harvest was good, some farmers kept theirs at home because of lack of capacity of the old silos hence government found it fit to augment the limited capacity. The minister said the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) was ready to assist farmers, adding that one of their roles was to visit farms to appreciate produce and assess if it could be brought to the silos for proper storage.

“They would also educate farmers on the necessary requirements to bring their harvests explaining issues of moisture content and other best options for storage to maintain the highest quality. BAMB provides a market for all locally produced crops, stores and sells produce and inputs,” he said. Mr Molao was optimistic that Batswana would be encouraged to take agriculture seriously and commercialise it to gain more benefits.

Mr Molao said the newly opened sets of modern grain storage silos at Pandamatenga were not meant to benefit Chobe farmers only, but the farming community across the country.

Agriculture critical sector to economic diversification

By Portia Ikgopoleng

PANDAMATENGA

Agriculture remains one of the most impactful and identified sectors to diversify the economy of Botswana, says the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Fidelis Molao.

Speaking at the Chobe Agricultural Show in Pandamatenga on Thursday, Mr Molao said the ministry was committed to work with farmers in order to feed the nation, create wealth through various availed government programmes to improve socio-economic status and sustain the livelihoods of Botswana.

He said Pandamatenga was essential in production of crops contributing 47 per cent of Botswana’s crop production.

Mr Molao said the total land under production in Pandamatenga had risen from 25 000 hectares to 45 000 hectares over the years while the number of individual farms had increased from 50 to 75.

He said Pandamatenga Commercial Farms continued to expand and evolve, attracting investment and implementing innovative agricultural practices hence contributing to the development of the agricultural sector in Botswana.

For his part, Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association chairperson, Mr Jaco Strachan said Pandamatenga like other regions experienced the worst drought in 40 years hence only ploughed 40 per cent of fields.

“As farmers, we are resilient in adversity because we want to produce food for Botswana through the support of government,” Mr Strachan thanked government for the new grain silos and assured that Pandamatenga farmers would work hard to fill the 90 000 tonnes total capacity on a good year with adequate rain. He asked President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi to open doors to discuss more opportunities like adequate electricity supply, water irrigation systems and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) seedlings.

Furthermore, Mr Strachan emphasised the need for collaboration between farmers, government, funders and private sector so as to feed Botswana.

MP for Chobe, Mr Machana Shamukuni said the agricultural show offered a platform for farmers in Chobe to share experiences and knowledge and opportunities to learn from others.

Mr Molao said the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) was ready to assist farmers, adding that one of their roles was to visit farms to appreciate produce and assess if it could be brought to the silos for proper storage.

“They would also educate farmers on the necessary requirements to bring their harvests explaining issues of moisture content and other best options for storage to maintain the highest quality. BAMB provides a market for all locally produced crops, stores and sells produce and inputs,” he said. Mr Molao was optimistic that Batswana would be encouraged to take agriculture seriously and commercialise it to gain more benefits.

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He said Pandamatenga was essential in production of crops contributing 47 per cent of Botswana’s crop production.

Mr Molao said the total land under production in Pandamatenga had risen from 25 000 hectares to 45 000 hectares over the years while the number of individual farms had increased from 50 to 75.

He said Pandamatenga Commercial Farms continued to expand and evolve, attracting investment and implementing innovative agricultural practices hence contributing to the development of the agricultural sector in Botswana.

For his part, Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association chairperson, Mr Jaco Strachan said Pandamatenga like other regions experienced the worst drought in 40 years hence only ploughed 40 per cent of fields.

“As farmers, we are resilient in adversity because we want to produce food for Botswana through the support of government,” Mr Strachan thanked government for the new grain silos and assured that Pandamatenga farmers would work hard to fill the 90 000 tonnes total capacity on a good year with adequate rain. He asked President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi to open doors to discuss more opportunities like adequate electricity supply, water irrigation systems and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) seedlings.

Furthermore, Mr Strachan emphasised the need for collaboration between farmers, government, funders and private sector so as to feed Botswana.

MP for Chobe, Mr Machana Shamukuni said the agricultural show offered a platform for farmers in Chobe to share experiences and knowledge and opportunities to learn from others.
Councillors adopt DDP9 proposals

By Tshiamo Moselha

SEROWE - Serowe District councillors have endorsed the District Development Plan (DDP9) proposals. All projects in the plan are expected to cost more than P6 billion for the 2025/26 financial year.

Many councillors appreciated proposals in the plan though some complained of poor implementation during the special full council meeting in Serowe on Wednesday.

Councillor Namaotse Senku of Pajo/Mabalepapedi Ward said poor implementation of projects was a concern adding that technical services teams should identify gaps that hindered service delivery.

“These challenges have nothing to do with funding or availability of resources but rather incompetence on the part of the implementers, leading to delays and substandard projects,” he said.

Cllr Senku said Botswana had excellent ideas that some countries had adopted to develop their nations, but the country was lagging behind in terms of project implementation.

The reason we are at this stage of development is because we are slow to implement,” he added.

Nominated councillor, Lesedi Phathego said hostels in some schools in the Serowe region were congested adding that more were needed.

Also, he said hostels were in a bad state as they had no windows or doors hence putting the lives of learners in danger.

He also said the school fence was dilapidated and there was free movement of domestic animals, a situation which could negatively affect the pupils’ learning process.

Cllr Phathego said schools needed to be fully refurbished because classrooms were not conducive for learning.

Councillor Elipa Masedi of Dimajwe Ward said the Mmashoro-Dimajwe road should be given top priority as it was impossible to use, mostly during rainy season.

Councillor Atamelang Thaga of Serowe South Central Ward advised council to distribute projects equitably.

He said roads leading to the ploughing areas should also be taken care of.

Councillor Keneilwe Monageng, the chairperson of the Serowe District Council, thanked those who contributed to the plan.

He also thanked all the councillors for their contribution to the council saying the session was the last one before the general elections.

He also gave a pat on the back to the councillors who had lost during their political parties primary elections saying they should take solace in the fact that they did well during their term.

Meanwhile, the council’s principal economist, Ms Ethel Mosojane said villages in the Serowe District appreciated key issues in the development plan.

She said after consultations with communities in the Serowe District, the District Development Committee submitted issues of concern, came up with mitigation plans and development projects to be considered for implementation.

BOPA

Entrepreneurs pitch ideas for mindset change

By Sekhona Muchado

MOGODITSHANE - Nine groups from Mogoditshe/Thamaga District have pitched business ideas in Mogoditshe on Thursday.

The winner is set to receive funding as part of Mindset Change celebrations.

The Mogoditshe-Thamaga District Commissioner Ms Bernice Berman-Mosime said in an interview during the pitch demonstrations that the entrepreneurs illustrated their capacity to bring change and improve the business sector.

She said the groups showed passion to compete and that they were eager to showcase their ideas.

“As this is a competition, ideas pitched will not be taken lightly. Businesses will be assisted using the funding programmes offered by government to help them grow,” said Ms Berman-Mosime.

One of the participants, Ms Nthume Keabile from Thamaga, who makes traditional pots, said she offered teachings on how to make the pots, especially to young people. She said this would help instill in them a sense of culture and belonging.

Ms Keabile believed that making pots had helped her to relieve stress and at the same time keeping culture alive.

Mr Galele Shebreck from Kamakwane also had an opportunity to pitch his cultural leather products including clothes, bags and shoes which are all hand made.

Mr Shebreck said he ventured into leather business to create employment for himself and others, adding that he was trained through Nyleletso Lehuma programme.

“As entrepreneurs we wish to see our businesses grow internationally and be able to take part in Global expos, and to also teach our young generation to do business and create employment,” he said.

He said that leather skin was expensive and sometimes hard to find.

The National Business Ideas Thon will be held in Seronga on August 14.

BOPA

PRESS RELEASE

DECLARATION OF FINAL INTEREST RATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Board of Trustees of Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) wishes to inform Members that it has declared final interest rates for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 as follows:

- ACTIVE AND DEFERRED MEMBERS
  The final interest rate declared is 3.16%.

- PRE-RETIREMENT SWITCH
  The final interest rate declared is 7.33%.

- WITH-PROFIT PENSIONERS
  The final interest rate declared is 10.67%.

MOROKOTSO WA NGWAGA WA 2023/2024

BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND (BPOPF) ETISHE MALOKO FA GO TSENTSWE MOROKOTSO O O LATELANG WA NGWAGA O O PEDILENG KA 31 MOPITLO 2024;

- MALOKO BA BA SANTSENG BA LE MO TIRONG LE BA BA TLOGETSENG
Morokots o o tsentsweng ke 16.16%.

- MALOKO A A MO PRE-RETIREMENT SWITCH
Morokots o o tsentsweng ke 7.73%.

- BACODI BA BA AMOCELANG KA MOFUTA WA KOKETSEGO
Morokots o o tsentsweng ke 10.67%.

Maloko fa a batia go botsa kana go itse go feta fa, ba ka leletsa mogala wa mahala wa 0800 600 177

Mr. Moemedi Malindah
Chief Executive Officer / Principal Officer

Head office: Private Bag 00195, Unit 3, Second Floor, Peelo Place
Plot 54566, Central Business District, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: +267 391 1465/ 361 7000 / 315 8422 Fax:+267 391 2066
Polling districts increase to 609 after demarcation

By Olekante Nsamomoe

GABORONE - In a simple majority vote, Members of Parliament rejected the Electoral Amendment Bill, which its object was to amend the Electoral Act of 1997.

The Bill, presented by Dr Molebatsi Molebatsi, sought to amend the Electoral Act to allow counting of ballots for both parliamentary and council elections at polling districts.

Nineteen MPs voted against the amendment, 17 supported it while one abstained.

Contributing to the debate before the voting, Vice President Slumber Tsogwane highlighted the need to ensure availability of adequate ballots at polling stations.

The MP also wanted to know which international organisations had every thing in place before deciding to support the Bill, and suggested that it be honour ed.

The Bill was first brought to Parliament in 1997, the Electoral Act was amended to lower the voting age and allow Batswana in the diaspora to vote were taken despite existing guidelines or shifting blame to these copy countries that may be more unreasonable.

Ghanzi South legislator, Mr Motsamai Motsamai said it was not true that rural polling stations had no resources, adding however, that if that was the case, it indicated failure by government to develop those areas.

Responding to the Bill, Mr Molebatsi said that it was an opportunity to go back to the drawing board and correct or shift blame to these copy countries that may be more unreasonable.

The MP also wanted to know how soon the matter would be resolved. BOPA

Parliament has rejected Electoral Amendment Bill which sought to allow counting of ballots for both parliamentary and council elections at polling districts.

Protracted land dispute before Land Tribunal

By Mphatso Kafula

GABORONE - A case of the protracted dispute between Kweneng Land Board and a certain individual over a piece of land designated for tribal cemetery at Magokotswane in Molepolole was heard before the courts of law for six years.

He, however, said that he was not in a position to state when the matter would be resolved as the land board awaited advice from each time the Bill was brought before Parliament.

In February 2021 when the Bill was first brought before Parliament, the ruling party, the Democratic Party of South Africa, was hurried were not true as the it was first brought to Parliament in 2021.

Again, he said arguments by the ruling party that counting at polling districts would violate guidelines were not true.

“Standards are not set because something is wrong, but because you want the best practice,” he said.

The Bill was first brought to Parliament in 1997, the Electoral Act was amended to lower the voting age and allow Batswana in the diaspora to vote were taken despite existing guidelines or shifting blame to these copy countries that may be more unreasonable.

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MPs reject Electoral Amendment Bill

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Morwaeng to present three urgent Bills

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Minister for State President, Mr Morwaeng is expected to present three Bills to the National Assembly under certificate of urgency.

The Bills include that of political party funding, which seeks to provide for the regulation and funding of all political parties as well as access to information and data protection.

Mr Morwaeng requested Parliament recently that the Bill on political party funding be heard urgently considering that one of the recommendations of the commission on the review of the Constitution was that political party funding was fundamental.

“This Bill gives effect to the recommendation,” he said adding that it recognised the role that political parties played in the democratic society and therefore, their funding should be provided for,” he said.

He said for many years, there had been calls for political party funding therefore, the Bill was critical and should be dealt with before the dissolution of Parliament.

Minister Morwaeng said the Bill on access to information sought to provide for the right of members of the public to access information in possession of public authorities.

He said although the Bill had not matured, it was an important piece of legislation that the country had been waiting for.

“It is long overdue as it is critical to advance the freedom of expression in a democratic country like Botswana,” he said.

He said the Bill advocated that no person would be hindered to enjoy or express themselves freely and would further be free to receive ideas and information without interference.

The other Bill on data protection is expected to provide for continuation of the information and Data Protection Commission as well as to regulate protection of personal data and ensure that the privacy of individuals in relation to their personal data was maintained.

Emphasising its importance, Mr Morwaeng said the Bill was expected to protect fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons in so far as they related to privacy of personal data.

He said the Bill was important to be discussed arguing that delaying it to the last week of Parliament would curtail its debate.”This Bill affects all the citizens of this country as it seeks to regulate the protection of their personal data and ensures that their privacy in relation to their private matter is maintained,” he said, adding therefore it was important that it be debated before the dissolution of Parliament.

Mr Morwaeng further said the Bill was critical piece of legislation in so far relates to anti-money laundering, counter financing of terrorism and counter proliferation financing.”

Meanwhile, Parliament agreed to the minister’s request that the three Bills be heard under certificate of urgency.

The three Bills were published in the Government Gazette on July 26 this year.

Keorapetse advocates use of other documents to vote

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Debate on the proposed Bill which seeks to amend the Electoral Act to provide for a more transparent and corruption free electoral process continue in Parliament this week.

Presented by Member of Parliament for Selebi Phikwe West, Mr Thapelo Keorapetse last week, the Bill intends to also have the Act safeguard integrity of the elections and thus enhancing public participation and confidence in the electoral process.

MP Keorapetse, who is also Leader of Opposition in Parliament, said the proposed amendment was in line with the Independence Electoral Commission (IEC) stakeholders’ report, international observers, SACD principles and guidelines for democratic elections, SACD model law on elections, AU, Commonwealth and EU standards.

He called for the introduction of the use of a driving license and passport for registration and voting.

Mr Keorapetse was at the vigilance of the confidence of the public or without a voter’s registration card but appeared on the voters roll, Mr Keorapetse argued that provided they had an identity card, drivers’ license or passport they were also allowed to vote provided they had registered to vote.

Also supporting the Bill was Selebi Phikwe East MP, Mr Kgoberego Nkawana who argued that it was time ballot papers were counted at polling stations where voting took place.

Similarly, Mr Nkawana said the fact that vehicles had to run up and down, especially at night to take ballot boxes to a different place was endangering people’s lives.

Gaborone Bonnington North MP, Ms Anna Mokgethi, however said secondary identification documents should not be used as primary document.

“Omag is the primary document that is allowed therefore the others documents like drivers’ license and passport are secondary,” she said, arguing against the Bill.

Letsholo calls for enhancement of integrated farming

By Olekantse Sennamole

GABORONE - Member of Parliament for Kanye North, Mr Thapelo Letsholo says more can still be done to enhance integrated farming on agricultural land.

Mr Letsholo said this when closing debate on a motion he had table before Parliament, through which he requested government to adopt a more flexible land use for agricultural land by permitting the establishment of diverse business ventures on agricultural land such as maximo, meraka, ranches and integrated farms.

That, he said should be done without necessitating a formal change of land use while additional ventures should include among others, restaurants, filling stations, guest cottages, camping sites and recreational facilities.

Appreciating legislators for support, Mr Letsholo said although government allowed partial use of agricultural land for other activities since 2019, the guidelines were that those additional activities should be related to agriculture.

“I appreciate the move by government, but my motion seeks to add other ventures that are not related to agriculture, such as craft shops, filling stations guest cottages and camping sites among others,” he said.

He said by enabling additional and diverse activities, Botswana would derive more value from their land as they would now be able to explore a wide range of business ventures.

He added such a move would be a good vision by government especially that some ploughing fields and cattle posts were located near good roads, which he said farmers could take advantage of.

He also indicated that the Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, Dr Kefentse Mzwinila had, in supporting the motion, indicated that it would be handy for his ministry as it would help reduce waiting lists across land boards.

“He indicated in his contributions that at the moment, the waiting list was long partly due to the fact that people have to apply for land for various business ventures, and that allowing a wide array of businesses to operate from one piece of land without applying for a change of land use will help reduce their workload,” he said.

Mr Letsholo also appreciated Dr Mzwinila for his noble promise that should Parliament pass the motion, he would ensure that it was implemented as a matter of urgency.

Earlier, the Vice President, Mpho Tsogwane had indicated that what the MP was requesting was already being done as government now allowed integrated farming on agricultural land.

“What the motion is calling for is already being practically done, and it is actually what government encourages. Allowing integrated farming was to allow farmers to explore the value chain of their products,” Mr Tsogwane said.

The motion was agreed by majority votes.
Kgosi o akgolela morafe boitshwaro

Ka Mmoinieng Motsemaii

MOCHUDI - Mathshwitiwitsi a Bakgatla ba bolokile mokhanasela wa Boseja Bokone wa le kwa Mochudi, Rre Peter Mogwera ya lo tshiwetso bosheng le a di tselele a kgana le tlogetse tiro e e tshwetso e e tserweng go boela morago, "Ga morago," a digela.

A re lebogo le le a tselothelele lehotho mo motse go dikgwelo tsa maroko de di di ne di tselele, la bontlesepaki le bo boli lele ka kgana le go kera na kgana le be le be le boletse fa la kwa bafatso ya go bori ya kgana le le tloletse se le tselele.

A leboga le a tseletso a le tshwaretsego e a le e tshwareng a le tshwanetse go bewa Palamente, "Bokiting e e le tseletsego ya diphenshene," a digela.

A re lebogo le le a tselothelelele a le tselothelele ka bontloppitsi lesa tle a tseletso tlogetse, ka a bontloppitsi le a tseletso tlogetse tiro, "Re le tshwanetse ra nna mmogo e e tserweng go boela morago," a digela.

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Thamane, commended the church on behalf of CEDA CEO, Mr Thabo Moribame, saying it was meant to allow the church to reflect on its journey, and empower them to be independent and confident. Mr Akay said the equipment was worth over P285 000. Photo: Gasetsebo Moeukgomo

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

In order to ensure and safeguard Botswana’s food security, and enhance Farmers benefits, the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and African Agriculture (AA), in collaboration with some Chinese rice research institutions, have been conducting some rice plot experiments in Water saving and Drought tolerant Rice (WDR) in Botswana since the 2020/2021 summer season. We are therefore openly recruiting farmers for this project.

The research trials are still ongoing, and to this end, the research team has decided to commence commercial production trials with willing Farmers starting this 2024/2025 summer season. We are therefore openly recruiting farmers for this project.

The AA team with assistance from BUAN, will provide technical support to eligible Farmers. Additionally, AA will assist and guide farmers applying for financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Development Bank (NDB).

Furthermore, we encourage the youth and women farmers to participate in this food security programme.

Farmers who meet the following conditions are invited to submit their information for review and consideration:

1. Farms near rivers, Dams, or any other water bodies with sufficient irrigation water.
2. Farms with boreholes used as the source of underground water.
3. Possession of necessary irrigation equipment and infrastructure.
4. Easy farm accessibility to allow research staff and interested stakeholders, field access to monitor crops and collect useful data.
5. Availability of farming machinery or intention to purchase farm machinery and implements to use for the project.

Farmers who meet the above criterion and are interested in participating are encouraged to register with African Agriculture located in G West Industrial, Plot 22120, Gaborene, telephone number +267 3653003 providing them with the following information:

- Farm Name
- Contact person and phone numbers.
- Exact farm location and district.
- Farm GPS coordinates.
- Irrigation water source.
- Borehole yield.
- Previous Crops done.
- Current farm land use.
- A list of available farming machinery and implements.

NB: We encourage farmers to start with half a hectare of rice, as a starting point to full commercialization, then increase area in the coming seasons.
President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi officially launched a new set of grain silos in Pandamatenga and officiated at the 12th Chobe Agricultural Show on Wednesday and Thursday respectively. The new state-of-the-art silos built through Special Economic Zones funds boast 12 steel silos with a total capacity of 60 000 metric tonnes, complementing an existing storage capacity of 30 000 metric tonnes. President Masisi said the silos would enhance food security and promote innovation in agricultural sector.

PHOTOS: Thompson Keobaletswe

President Masisi giving an address at the opening of the silos.

The silos are a government initiative in collaboration with Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) as the financier.

Kgosi Rebecca Banika (right) with Master of Ceremony Mr Bogie Mmo Somarela Ngwao entertaining guests.

Residents of Pandamatenga at the event.

Somarela Ngwao entertaining guests.

Dr Masisi (centre) and Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Mmusi Kgafela (right) launching the silos. With them is SEZA chief executive officer, Mr Lonely Mogara.
Pandamatenga Silos attends agriculture show

President Masisi (second left) after a demonstration by the Chobe Equestrian team at the show.

President Masisi arriving at the Chobe Agricultural Show.

Dr Masisi (centre), Professor Emongor (right), Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary, Ms Nancy Chengeta (left) and Pandamatenga Safflower Growers representative, Mr Solomon Tshenyo during a visit to a Safflower farm.

President Masisi (left), Minister of Agriculture, Mr Fidelis Molao (second left) briefed by Professor Vallentino Emongor a Professor of Horticulture at Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources about the concerns of Pandamatenga Safflower Growers.

Dr Masisi (right) and Minister of Justice and MP for Chobe, Mr Machana Shamukuni at the show.
NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

MADURA ENTERPRISES, owner of an industrial Plot 2190, located at Mahalapye intends to change land use of their industrial plot to mixed use (industrial and commercial), for any objection, contact Mahalapye Physical Planning Office at telephone no. (+267) 471 8600.

NEIGHBORES OF MAVIS BALUUE’s farm in Makobo are informed of change of land use from Agriculture to mixed-use commercial (Agriculture-Commercial). For enquirers contact Tonota District Council on 248 4248 or physical planner on 73 341 814.

OWNER OF PLOT 1506 at Extension 3 Madiba ward, Palapye wishes to change land use from single residential to commercial/hotel facility. Any objections should be forwarded to Palapye District Council Physical Planning or contact 493 0880.

OWNER PLOT 23212, Madiba ward Palapye would like to erect a boundary wall. For any objections please contact Palapye District council Physical Planning Office 492 1092.

OWNER OF PLOT 18727 at Madiba ward, Palapye wishes to change land use from single Residential to Multi residential. Any objection should be forwarded to Palapye District Council Physical Planning or contact 493 0880.

OWNER OF LOT 7631, Bokaa, intends to change land use from commercial to residential. For objections contact Tonota District Council physical planning. Tel. 5773512.

OWNER OF PLOT 43229 RAKUHWA wishes to change land use from single family to multi-family residential.Any objection contact Goodhope district council physical planning office no. 540 4183/347.

VACANCIES

PHARMACY PHARMACIST required BPharm 3 years post internships community Pharmacy self starter customer focused time management with high ethical standard. PPL will be added advantage. Apply to State Pharmacy 41 Gabo Bag, F15 Francistown 241 9098.

AUTO- ELECTRICIAN. UNIVERSAL Builders Botswana Pty Ltd, urgently looking for Senior Auto Electrician, diploma holder more than 10 years experience. Dutie- Upgrading software on earthmoving machine.- Able to use diagnostic machine.- Repair heavy duty industrial generators and detronics go starting systems. Apply to P.O. BOX 1883 Gabone, contact 71 364 294.

A reputable company is looking for a HEAD-CREDIT RISK ANALYST

Heads up! A reputable company is looking for a HEAD-CREDIT RISK ANALYST

To head the independent risk oversight department that defines:

1. To supervise the implementation of framework around monitoring and reporting on credit risks according to set policy.

2. Setting Process Management system, monitor key processes to achieve successful business results, and audit commercial department.

3. To oversee and ensure functional and operational requirements are adhered to.

4. To address all other business requirements.

5. To oversee and ensure high quality business processes in line with compliance procedures.

6. To communicate with clients regarding financial transactions, payment terms and credit limits.

7. To oversee in cooing of risk management reports.

8. To oversee the calculation of risk of financial decision using analytical software.

Qualification:

Higher National Diploma in Credit Risk Analysis. As an advantage the candidate should have Degree in Accounting, BICA registered will be an advantage with 7 to 10 years working experience in the controlling transactions.

Apply to: Human Resources Manager, Shellhause (Pty) Ltd, P.O. Box 1001, Gabone Closing date: 24/10/2024

JOB ADVERTISEMENT: SUPERVISOR / TRAINER

A Diamond cutting & polishing company is recruiting a competent and committed candidate for the position of Supervisor/Trainer.

Position: Supervisor/Trainer - Laser Operator Supervisor

Requirements:

• BGCSE Holder.

• 5 years of total experience in Sawing, diamond cutting and polishing.

• Out Of This Minimum 10 years of experience in training new artisans in Laser Sawing operations.

• Specilized experience in Laser Sawing.

• Should be able to Check Sanne planning (Galaxy, Manual) and able to Find Direction and Deepness in Inclusions and Thereafter should be able to Laser Sawing, High Tension stones, Pie Sawing, Pique stone etc.

• Specifically, must be familiar with Quazer Machines and its preventive Maintenance Procedures. Knowledge in Bettonville, Laser 49, Fusion, and Lakshmi Machines would be an advantage

• Proven supervisory and leadership skills focusing on operational efficiency and productivity.

• Fluent in spoken and written English.

Closing Date: 15th August 2024

Application Instructions: Interested applicants should submit:

• Application letter

• CV

• References from relevant Experiences

• Copies of Gomang and relevant certificates (certified)

Address For Applications: Hand Delivery: Tetsabhisal Bros Diamonds Media Factory Shells Behind Formula One Motors Gabone

A8O BATLA GO DIRA MADI ?

Reka KUTLWANO ka thwatlhwaa ee kwa tlae go e rekisa.

Go isetho fefa le, leletsa: 365 3592 | 365 3587 | 365 3620

365 3591 | 365 3593 | 365 3599 |
241 3403
Botswana Defence Force is pleased to announce to the general public that limited vacancies exist for OFFICER CADETS Post.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
a. Botswana citizens both male and female.
b. Should be in possession of a valid National ID card (Omang).
c. Aged between 18-28 years.
d. Be physically and mentally fit.
e. No adverse criminal records.
f. Minimum height of 160cm for males and 155cm for females.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION
Aspiring candidates should have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, and should indicate their preferred Career field and Code of interest in line with their qualifications. Candidates are ONLY allowed to apply for one (1) career field, however, the Commander has the prerogative to deploy candidates where he deems fit.

OFFICER CADETS
INVITATION TO JOIN THE BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE

RECRUITMENT DETAILS

a. Physical Fitness Assessment (2.4km Run, Push-Ups and Sit-Ups).
b. Comprehensive Medical Examination in accordance with BDF Recruitment Medical Standards.

MANDATORY TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT:
Successful candidates shall undergo a 12 months Basic Military Training. Upon completion of training, officers must be ready to serve in various geographic locations and environmental conditions.

Certified copies of National Identity Card (Omang), relevant educational certificates/documents, transcripts, CV and references must be attached.

ALL APPLICANTS ARE TO APPLY ONLINE USING THE LINK BELOW:
https://online.bdf.org.bw

ONLY THOSE WITH CONSTRAINTS IN USING THE LINK SHALL BE ALLOWED TO SEND THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:
The Commander
Botswana Defence Force
Private Bag X06 Gaborone
Reference: O/CDT: VAC 1/24

Closing date: 09 August 2024

MULTIPLE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS (i.e. ONLINE AND POSTAL MAIL SUBMISSION) AND HAND DELIVERIES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

Only successful candidates will be shortlisted for recruitment and selection.

For Enquiries call:
366 2135 / 71 373 483 / 74 735 532.
Innovation key to economic transformation - Segokgo

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - Attaining a knowledge-based economy and the development of the manufacturing and service sectors as prototyped designs are first generation of the manufacturing and service sectors as the ministry's mandate of setting innovation and creativity they were ready to take to greater heights and increase its contribution to the GDP.

The minister said government was addressing issues of pollution and waste management, because landfills were a challenge to manage and had become a source of pollution. He said they could learn from the Great Recovery Project of the United Kingdom of 2012 to 2016 which looked at the challenges of waste and opportunities of a secular economy through the lens of design.

"There is literally gold in waste. Creative minds should translate this waste into design," he said. He said as a university minds should translate this waste into design.

He said they had products coming out of their laboratories, from staff and students, which were ready for mass production and commercialisation. Prof. Norris said the university's innovation centre was doing extremely well and was open to all, adding that the level of activity at the centre was remarkable.

He said it was important that they formed an economic ecosystem of innovation in the country; where government, industry, civil society and institutions of higher learning partnered and came together to form the innovation ecosystem.

"We are going to do what we call Blue Sky research, basic research, applied research, product development, product development, prototype development, all the way to commercialisation of our products," he said.

Mr Segokgo said, coupled with the ministry’s mandate of setting policy and standards, communication, knowledge utilization, research, science and technology in Botswana, he was confident to say the event could be a future innovation forum for potential innovators seeking partnerships in Botswana for solutions which could solve both local and international needs.

Speaking about the show which is in its fourth year, University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris said the university, other institutions and many others might have failed to create a conducive environment to nurture and tap on to power of talent that could have transformed the economy of the country.

He said UB had taken a deliberate course in its strategic direction to be involved in the value chain of research and innovation.

"We are acting on what we call Blue Sky research, basic research, applied research, product development, product development, prototype development, all the way to commercialisation of our products," he said.

Industrial design student Reginald Itiseng (right) showcasing push assist pro, a motorised device attached to a trolley at the Design Degree Show 2024 in Gaborone recently.

By Goweditswe Kome

MASUNGA - The Agricultural Resources Conservation (Utilisation of Veld Products) Regulations allow harvesting of one tonne of dry firewood for domestic use. Addressing the North East District full council meeting recently, Principal Forestry Officer II, Ms Gloria Komanyane said cutting of living plants for firewood was against the law, adding that the wood could be confiscated, and the offender fined a minimum of P1,000 or both.

This, she said, would be done in the presence of the police officer as the Forestry Department Officers were not empowered to execute fines on offenders. “Our responsibility is to monitor and ensure that people abide by the regulations to safeguard the environment,” she said.

Ms Komanyane said if the harvester intended to exceed one tonne of load, the harvesting would be regarded as doing business and a permit costing P5 should be obtained followed by dealer’s permit at P10.

At that stage, the kgosi would have issued a letter that allowed harvesting of firewood by the harvester, said Ms Komanyane adding that Dikgosi and the Village Development Committees (VDC) assisted the department to ascertain that harvesting was done properly without destroying the environment.

She said dikgosi, VDCs and community members assisted in monitoring that harvesting of firewood and untreated poles was done lawfully.

Regarding harvesting of untreated poles, the law states that a person can collect less than 500 poles without a permit. Ms Komanyane stated that the law allowed harvesting of 500 untreated poles per household each year. Farmers who want to fence their farms so that they benefit from Temo Letlotlo are sometimes given a waiver having the letter from Kgosi that allows harvesting.

Upon receiving a letter from kgosi, she said, the forestry department officers would conduct an assessment before issuing a permit.

As a way of monitoring, she said they would take a list of those registered with Temo Letlotlo at Ministry of Agriculture as the list would help in verifying the collection and could be assisted accordingly.

Noting that there were rivers in the North East region, Ms Komanyane said there was need to protect the riverine system as gullies were forming everywhere.

She advised that harvesting on the proximity of rivers was against the law and as such, they should harvest more than 10 metres away from the river.

However, she advised on selective harvesting, indicating that firewood was considered dry trees not living ones.

She urged those using big chainsaws to avoid cutting big trees, which helped to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. BOPA
NOTIFICATION

Notice issued in terms of Section 10 (2) of the Environmental Assessment Act, (CAP 65:07)
NOTIFICATION FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SELSIIFAH, SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE Map U: (Urban & Landscapes Design) and LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The major finding of a Strategic, Environmental Assessment (SEA) study undertaken for the proposed development of Selsiifah, Special Economic Zone Map U: (Urban & Landscapes Design) is as summarised hereunder:

a. Description of the Project

Gabara Architectural Consortium was awarded a service contract for the development of Selsiifah, Special Economic Zone Map U: (Urban & Landscapes Design) and to prepare a turnkey Business Case that will unlock investments.

Selhiifah SEZ is earmarked for mining and base metal industrial benefit zone with support up-grading, tourism, textile and garment, pharmaceutical and logistics hub sections. The zone will be an attractive local and international investment location, contributing to the economic growth of the Town and Nation, if it will be integrated within the growth dynamics of Selhiifah.

b. Location of the Project/Development

Selhiifah SEZ is located on the southern outskirts of Selhiifah Township. The site occurs within two jurisdictions i.e., Selhiifah, Special Economic Zone and Urban & Landscapes Design and is geographically located at a distance and to the co-ordinated boundary of the two jurisdictions.

c. The anticipated environmental impacts of the project and the proposed mitigation measures to respond to both negative and positive environmental impacts.

The following anticipated impacts are likely to occur during the construction, operation, and decommissioning stages.

- **Air Quality and Climatic Factors (Increase in air quality)**

  - Shift and reduce coal-based power production to reduce air emissions.
  - Clean development Mechanism (CDM): Increase in renewable energy Mix (Solar & CBR).

- **Landscape and visual amenities**

  - De-bushing and ground leveling can hinder land aesthetics.

- **Acoustic and visual quality**

  - Increase in ambient noise levels due to construction and operational activities.

- **Waste Disposal**

  - Risk of solid waste disposal.
  - Risk of recycling, reuse and energy recovery.

- **Surface and Groundwater Impacts**

  - Runoff and rain water collection.
  - Groundwater level measurement.

- **Archaeology and Culture**

  - Increased instances of HIV/AIDS and STIs infections.

- **Traffic Congestion**

  - Increased number of road traffic accidents.

- **Socio-economic and Cultural Heritage**

  - Increased short- and long-term employment opportunities within the Selhiifah Phare area.

- **Regional economic development**

  - Utilise the existing local business database to identify local SME’s.
  - Establish linkages with other key stakeholders in the area involved in skills and SME development.

- **Skills transfer and development**

  - Professional foreign workers transfer their skills to local workforce.

- **Development and implementation of the HVMDE, STB, and TB Policy. Partnership with DMH.

The project will have a range of positive environmental impacts.

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- **Positive environmental impacts.**

  - Development and implementation of the HVMDE, STB, and TB Policy Partnership with DMH.

The project is expected to contribute to the socio-economic development of the region in various ways, including:

- **Improved access to basic services**

  - Access to electricity, water, and sanitation.

- **Enhanced economic opportunities**

  - Creation of local jobs and businesses.

- **Improved infrastructure**

  - Construction of roads and other public facilities.

The project is expected to create employment opportunities for local residents, especially in the construction and operational phases. It is also anticipated that the project will contribute to the economic development of the region by attracting new investments and stimulating local businesses.

Overall, the project is expected to have a positive impact on the socio-economic development of Selhiifah and its surrounding areas.
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Farmers call for fencing of grazing areas

By Thuso Kgakatsi

HUKUNTSI - Farmers in Hukuntsi have requested government to consider fencing communal grazing areas as a mitigation strategy to address human-wildlife conflict in the district.

Farmers stated during a meeting addressed by the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) officials engaged by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, through the Department of Wildlife and National Parks to develop a National Human Wildlife Conflict Strategy and Action Plan.

They said if implemented effectively, the strategy would help in protecting livestock from predators, noting that wild-dogs were the biggest nuisance in the area.

Farmers stated that habitat disturbance and destruction by predators led to the animals being killed by the community.

They suggested fencing grazing and communal areas as a lasting solution that would promote peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife. Once such was achieved, they said, government would assist to formulate rules and regulations that would ensure equal benefit by the community. They said mitigation measures should protect crops and farm animals equally.

The farmers also complained of being alienated from wildlife related enterprises.

ORI representative, Dr Gaseitsewe Masunga stated that they were conducting an exercise that entailed extensive consultations with different stakeholders, including the community, in order to develop a national human-wildlife conflict strategy and action plan.

He said the aim of the meeting was to inform and get views and inputs from the public on the direction and development of the strategy and plan.

Dr Masunga said government deemed it imperative to assess human-wildlife conflict within local communities that lived adjacent to wildlife.

He noted that such detailed investigations were needed in order to identify the causes of conflicts and adverse consequences with a view to mitigating challenges through consultation with affected communities.

Dr Masunga highlighted that government was steadfast in addressing finding effective solutions to the conflict in respective communities.

He indicated that the plan was to ensure that the strategy empowered communities to understand causes of human-wildlife conflicts and the role that they could play to reduce it as that would assist in addressing the current challenges identified in compensation rates for damages caused by wild animals to livestock, crops and other property.

Through consultations, Dr Masunga said, government also sought to identify views on how local communities could best benefit from the value chain developments that came with wildlife which lived amongst them.

He said government was working towards solutions that maximised conservation success and for that it was necessary to include positive interaction, coexistence and attitudes of tolerance towards wildlife.

Part of the strategy, he said, included mapping human-wildlife hotspots and establishing ways to reduce incidents of human-wildlife deaths as well as crop destruction by wildlife.

For his part, Kgosi Merapelo Tshweneyagae of Hukuntsi commended government’s efforts to address human-wildlife conflicts in the district.

Kgos Tshweneyagae stated that as human population increased, demand for grazing land also increased.

Riverine Hospital is excited and proud to announce the opening of a Vascular surgery clinical offering led by Expert Vascular Surgeons originating from Johannesburg, South Africa. The Vascular Services to be offered at Riverine Hospital, popularly known as Riverside Hospital at 424 Baines Avenue in Francistown Botswana, will be home to certified vascular surgeons.

A Vascular Surgeon possesses specialized knowledge in diagnosing and treating disorders affecting the arterial, venous, and lymphatic systems, excluding vessels of the brain and heart. Our certified vascular surgeons offer extensive expertise in delivering holistic care to patients with various vascular conditions, including diagnosis, medical management, reconstructive vascular surgery, and endovascular procedures. Typical interventions undertaken by Vascular Surgeons include the restoration of blocked arteries, enhancement of circulation through vein repair, management of aneurysms (bulges) in the aorta and other blood vessels, and addressing vascular injuries.

Through the support of these Vascular Surgery Specialists, Riverside Hospital will be shaping the future of Vascular Surgery in the Northern Region of Botswana as well as neighboring countries. This will benefit not only kidney dialysis patients but all patients requiring this super-specialist clinical intervention as these doctors specialize in treating a wide range of vascular conditions, committed to providing top-tier, modern vascular care in Botswana for government supported, medical aid supported and private patients. The hospital prides itself with state-of-the-art equipment as well as competent friendly nursing care to support both the doctors and patients in providing the best clinical outcomes.

On 25th of July 2024, the hospital proudly operated 12 patients these being the first group of patients to receive this super specialized service in Francistown and the larger Northern Region of Botswana. The hospital is excited that more patients will benefit monthly from this Vascular Surgery intervention. “Vascular Surgery is evolving with new advances, we aim and commit to providing cutting-edge treatment to the community,” Dr. Le Roux explained.

Dr M Rampiti, head Physician and founding Director of Riverside Hospital emphasizes the quality and expertise of the team: “We care deeply about our patients, striving to deliver modern, quality care in a supportive environment.” He commented. “A patient is like a member of my own family, a successful day is one where we have helped our community in achieving good health outcomes” he concluded.

Riverside Hospital offers comprehensive vascular services. For more information, visit www.riversidehospital.co.bw

Nandi Munabulela
Hospital Manager
+267 73 661 485 / nandim@riversidehospital.co.bw

PRESS RELEASE: VASCULAR SERVICES OFFERED AT RIVERSIDE HOSPITAL IN FRANCISTOWN
Shinkie shuts down Maitsong theatre

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Maitsong theatre was on Friday alive with praise and worship courtesy of Shinkie Keitshokile and friends who delighted Gospel fans with soothing sounds during the Mmina Thoko fiesta.

The show was in two parts, with Botshelo Tlhahwe and Esther Grace taking to the stage in the first part while Shinkie closed the session.

The last part comprised fast-tempo hymns with Khaya Sibayoni, Omega Khunou and Shinkie as well as Xoli Mncwango whose spirit filled songs had fans singing along. Singers showed spontaneity, with Shinkie and Khaya sharing the stage to a thunderous applause from the audience with an impressive performance, and Omega who at some point shared the stage with Shinkie.

Shinkie shut down the hall when he sang Moya Wosu, closing off the night after a much deserved dynamic display.

Mmina Thoko fiesta proved to be more than a show, but a praise and worship showcase that left the audience eager for more.

Esther Grace taking to the stage in the first part while Shinkie and Khaya sharing the stage to a thunderous applause from the audience with an impressive performance, and Omega who at some point shared the stage with Shinkie.

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Mmina Thoko fiesta proved to be more than a show, but a praise and worship showcase that left the audience eager for more.

Shinkie (left) performing with Omega Khunou during Mmina Thoko fiesta at Maitsong Theatre in Gaborone on Friday. They also performed alongside Xolly Mncwango. Photo: Phemyo Moulosi

National Treasure unveils cultural relics

BEIJING - China’s popular cultural relics exploration TV show, National Treasure, concluded its fourth season on Saturday.


It featured Beijing’s Palace Museum as a regular participant across all four seasons. In addition, eight other major museums at the provincial level, as well as famous municipal or themed museums across China, such as the Emperor Qinshihuang’s Mausoleum Site Museum, have also been involved.

In each episode, the nine institutions each nominated three of their most representative collections. Through performances led by celebrated actors and actresses, the legendary past of these national treasures was brought to life.

Following this, professionals connected to these treasures took the stage to share their insights and delve into the enduring relevance of these cultural relics in today’s society.

Each season concluded with the National Treasure Gala, where the heads of these institutions revealed one artifact of their collections that has been selected for National Treasure’s Chinese Civilisation Mark.

Over seven years and four seasons, National Treasure has showcased a total of 108 cultural relics, each shining brightly within the splendid Chinese civilisation.

The fourth season continued to deliver constant surprises and emotional moments to the audience.

The casting guest ding, nominated by Anhui Museum and weighing about 400 kilograms, is China’s second heaviest ancient ding found to date. A ding is a type of ancient Chinese cauldron symbolising state power and prosperity, and this particular one was cast for the king of Chu on the eve of Qinshihuang’s unification of China.

Chu was the second largest state after Qin and was at a critical juncture of survival at that time. Yue Yueli, a senior Chinese actor who in his 60s, played the role of the casting guest who, with tears in his eyes, tried to save the state of Chu during its final days.

In a more recent story, a ding dedicated to China’s first National Memorial Day for Nanjing massacre victims, modelled after this ancient treasure, once again stirred deep emotions with its embodiment of patriotic aspirations for peace and prosperity.

Standing over 4 meters tall, and embroidered with scenes of an ancient Chinese fairy and a patriotic general celebrating longevity, the Ping Shan Tang Clan’s birthday banner, nominated by the Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department, is closely related to the ‘Six-Day War’ in 1899, when Hong Kong’s New Territories residents, led by the clan, bravely resisted British colonisers.

This banner caused a sensation – drawing over 100 million online views."

The most touching aspect of cultural relics is the human spirit they represent.

Each artifact featured in National Treasure should present the profundity of Chinese civilisation from different angles, illustrating dreams and accomplishments of the Chinese nation over thousands of years,” said Bi Bo, chief director of National Treasure.

He added that the essence of the fourth season was in conveying the spiritual power embedded in Chinese civilisation, which unites and inspires.

Revolutionary relics made their debut on National Treasure during the fourth season. Such relics included the poignant letter To My Wife by Lin Juemin, written before the 1911 Huanghuagang Uprising, which evoked shared memories among compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

For the first time, this season introduced foreign guest performers in the past legends segment. Xinhua

CANGZHOU - Visitors experiencing the ‘means-like-type printing’ at China Grand Canal Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition Hall in north China’s Hebei Province recently. With a total construction area of 31 000m2 and a total exhibition area of 15 885m2, China Grand Canal Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition Hall showcases the essence of the intangible cultural heritage of eight provinces and municipalities alongside the Grand Canal, making it a popular place among citizens and visitors. Photo: Xinhua

Since 1962
**GM Soccer Fiesta transformative**

By Kehumile Moekejo

**Jwaneng** - Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Tumiso Rakgare has hailed Jwaneng Mine General Manager’s Soccer Fiesta as a key factor in transforming Jwaneng into a sporting and tourism hub.

Speaking at the official opening of the third edition of the annual Jwaneng Soccer Fiesta on Friday, the minister said the event not only resonated with national aspirations of creating a prosperous, innovative and inclusive society, but further contributed towards economic growth for the district and beyond.

“Through events like these, we are positioning Jwaneng as a destination where sports and tourism intersect. This does not only boost our local economy, but also enhances our community’s profile on a national and global scale,” he said and applauded Debswana for its commitment towards sport development which contributes towards sustainable and diversified economic growth.

In particular, he mentioned the company’s contribution toward the growth of regional teams such as Botswana Premier League and Orange FA Cup champion, Jwaneng Galaxy, as well as the Jwaneng Galaxy Ladies football and netball teams.

He said success of these teams were a reflection of the support they received from Debswana.

Rakgare called on other businesses to emulate such a gesture, to ensure that stakeholders collectively contribute towards creating opportunities that could drive economic growth.

“Let us continue to support our local teams, celebrate the success of our young entrepreneurs and engage in more sustainable community partnerships,” he said.

Together, we will drive forward the vision of transforming Jwaneng into a beacon of sports tourism and a testament to our national ambition,” he said.

Jwaneng Mine acting general manager, Gosiame Gadefele said that even though proceeds from the three-day tournament would be used to develop sports from grassroots, the overall objective was to create a positive socio-economic impact on the local communities.

He said the initiative was a unifying factor that formed the basis for success, within and outside sport.

“Today, we gather not only to celebrate our shared love for the beautiful game but also to reinforce the spirit of teamwork, friendship and a community that defines us. As we enjoy the excitement of soccer, let us remember the values of dedication, resilience and unity that drive our success both on and off the field,” he said.

He appreciated that the initiative was also a boost to the local business community, particularly those in hospitality, entertainment and the informal sector, among others, an indication that the company was contributing beyond the mandate of diamond mining, as espoused in their branding.

“This reflects our challenge to ourselves as Debswana employees to explore what more we can contribute beyond just mining diamonds,” he noted. BOPA

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**MMopane** - Local motocross bikers are shaping up ahead of the closely contested FIM Motocross of African Nations (MMOAN) to be held in Morocco in October.

Speaking on the sidelines of the third and fourth round of the Botswana Motocross (BMS) national championships at the MMopane motocross track on Saturday, chairperson of the host club, Bontleng Motorclub Sport, Motlapalee Majama said they were warming up perfectly to take to the rough terrains of the North African state.

Some of the countries expected to give local riders a run for their money are Angola, Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa, among others.

Majama announced that Botswana had made a request to the motorsport governing body to bid to host the MMOAN 2026 edition after successfully hosting the event in 2017.

Meanwhile, the combined third and fourth round of the BMS championship attracted a disappointing number of riders to the MMopane track over the weekend. Majama said most clubs cited different reasons for lack of showing up at the weekend’s event.

High riding motocross sensation, Kosmas Mamaloukos grabbed 50 points to finish ahead of his closest rival, Euan Harmse and Tabrez Tafa in the MX2 high class category.

In the lower 50cc division, Luke Van Zyl scooped 50 points ahead of Athena Mamaloukos on 44 points. Radiolino Licwiche scooped first position in the 85cc class, BOPA.

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**MMOAN Championships October**

By Baleseng Battilefong

Botswana’s highest finish at the competition was a fourth best finish and local leading rider Ross Branch remains the only rider to win the title in 2015 and 2016 before losing it on home soil in 2017.

Since then, local riders had struggled to secure a podium finish at any MMOAN championship.

Majama said they were hopeful that riders that to take part at the event were warming up perfectly to take to the rough terrains of the North African state.

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**Local bikers prepare for MMOAN Championships October**

By Anastasia Sibanda

**Gaborone** - The Princess Charlene Foundation is intending to build a swimming pool in the Chobe area.

The Princess Charlene Foundation to build pool in Chobe area.

By Kehumile Moekejo

Minister Rakgare officially opening the third edition of the annual Jwaneng Mine GM Soccer Fiesta on Friday. He said the event not only resonated with national aspirations of creating a prosperous, innovative and inclusive society, but further contributed towards economic growth for the district and beyond.

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By Anastacia Sibanda

Botswana’s only female athlete in athletics at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games has bowed out of the competition after finishing fifth in 800m with a time of 2:03.29 in a repechage heat on Saturday.

Oralite Nowe finished in position six clocking a time of 2:03.00 on Friday and competed in a repechage, a new system that World Athletics has introduced to give athletes another opportunity to qualify. She looked sharp in the repechage, and did not allow herself to be boxed like she did in the heat.

Some pundits held the view that Nowe had a bright future and considering that she qualified by ranking, saying if she continued to work hard, she would be the one to watch in the next Olympics to be held in Los Angeles in 2028.

Botswana head coach, Chilume Ntshwarang said Nowe ran well in the repechage, unlike in the heat.

“Ntshwarang said Nowe ran well in the repechage, unlike in the heat. In the last lap in the 250 metres mark, she tried to position properly and it was difficult for her to come from behind,” he said.

Ntshwarang said the athlete would be held in Los Angeles in 2028.

Meanwhile Botswana’s 400m hurdler, Victor Ntweng will be in action today and he is the second Botswana athlete to represent the country at the Olympics in the hurdles.

Boiling water in the pan will continue to compete, he said.

Botswana Athletics Association (BAA), vice president technical, Kenneth Kikwe said the association was happy with Nowe’s performance.

“She has learnt a lot from the Olympics and now knows when and how to attack,” he said and noted that Nowe had more to offer.

He said the intention was to make sure that more girls participated in athletics.

For BAA to develop a girl child, Kikwe said the athlete would need guidance from veteran and experienced female athletes but noted that the implementation of Matlhagolaletsela programme would identify more female athletes.

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“She has learnt a lot from the Olympics and now knows when and how to attack,” he said and noted that Nowe had more to offer.

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