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Ministry and transport association commit to dialogue

GABORONE

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, together with the Botswana Transport Association, are committed to constructive dialogue and finding solutions that serve the interests of commuters, operators and the broader transport sector, says a joint press statement from the two parties.

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Commuters at Gaborone Bus Rank leaving for their respective destinations on Thursday. The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and Botswana Transport Association have expressed gratitude to the public for their patience and continued support as ongoing engagements between the two continue, aimed at improving service delivery and sustainability in the transport sector for the benefit of both operators and the travelling public. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu

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Ministry admits reforms affected teaching and learning

Lorato Gaofise
GABORONE

The Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education acknowledges that the ongoing education reforms affected teaching and learning for candidates who sat for the examinations in 2025.

Announcing the 2025 Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) results in Gaborone recently, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka said the 2025 cohort experienced challenges linked to the transition to Outcome-Based Education (OBE), which affected classroom teaching and learning.

“The implication is that the acquisition of knowledge and skills by the cohort was likely to be negatively affected by circumstances

beyond their control,” she said.

Ms Kgafela-Mokoka also explained that government implemented a post-examination adjustment procedure to ensure fairness for all candidates, noting that such measures were consistent with international best practices in assessment.

She said the 2025 examination cycle also marked a major shift in Botswana’s education system, with candidates assessed under both legacy BGCSE syllabuses and the new Botswana Senior Secondary Education (BSSE) framework.

“Out of the 46 syllabuses offered, 21 were legacy BGCSE subjects while 25 fell under the BSSE framework, with 21 of those assessed for the first time. This represents a significant change in the assessment structure, and as

such comparison with previous cohorts is not applicable,” she added.

The 2025 BGCSE results have shown that 95.65 per cent of candidates attained grade G or better, 78.68 per cent achieved grade E or better, while a total of 37.07 per cent obtained grade C or better and only 3.01 per cent of candidates attained grade A or better.

Minister Kgafela-Mokoka said a total of 35 366 candidates sat for the 2025 BGCSE from public and private schools, the Botswana Open University (BOU) and among private candidates.

Of these 35 366 candidates, she said a total of 22 930 or 59.18 per cent were female, while 14 436 or 40.82 per cent were male.

Furthermore, Ms Kgafela-

Mokoka explained that outstanding performance in the 2025 examinations was defined as achieving at least six A grades, adding that 11 candidates from seven examination centres met the benchmark.

From a total of 11 subjects, she said the best-performing candidate achieved seven A* grades, two A grades and two C grades.

Ms Kgafela-Mokoka said BGCSE remained a syllabus-based qualification in which each subject was graded independently on a scale ranging from A* to G.

Therefore, she said candidates who failed to reach the minimum requirement, awarded a U grade, while those who did not meet grading requirements, due to special circumstances such as absence, received an X.

BEC board chairperson, Dr Olefile Molwane commended the 2025 BGCSE cohort for their achievements, adding that the results represented the true capabilities of the candidates.

Dr Molwane said the results were approved by the BEC on March 26, 2026, following thorough verification processes to ensure their credibility.

Despite the examinations having been conducted according to established procedures, he expressed concern that there were a few incidents of examination malpractice that were recorded.

He assured the nation that administrative and legal action had been taken against offenders and the ministry would intensify engagement with stakeholders to prevent future violations. **BOPA**

Govt grants motorists temporary relief for expired permits

Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

Owing to challenges with the Department of Road Transport Services (DRTS) online system, government has declared a seven-day grace period to use vehicles with expired licences and permits.

This was revealed by President Advocate Duma Boko during his Easter Holiday address to the nation in Gaborone on Thursday.

President Boko revealed that the one week moratorium on charging motorists with expired vehicle licenses and permits was informed by the DRTS system being currently slow and overburdened, which has caused long queues and delays in the payment of fines and renewing documentation.

Given that Batswana are entering a period where some normally travel for holidays, family visits and religious pilgrimage, President Boko said government would permit a one week grace period where flagged vehicles and those with expired permits could temporarily be on the road. However, President Boko encouraged travelling motorists who would benefit from the seven day grace period to ensure that upon their return they clear their fines, renew permits and licences.

Furthermore, President Boko encouraged motorists to drive safely over the Easter Holidays, and advised that the police, DRTS transport inspectorate officers and other government stakeholders would collaborate to ensure orderly travel, urging the public to cooperate with on duty offer officials. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko revealed during his Easter Holiday address to the nation that government had taken the decision to grant a seven-day grace period for the use of vehicles with expired licences and permits, citing delays and long queues caused by challenges within the Department of Road Transport Services system.

Minister Mokgware condemns church factions

Chenzimu Manyepedza
SELEBI PHIKWE

The Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware, has expressed concerns regarding the prevalence of fac-

tionalism within various church communities.

Mr Mokgware said during the commemoration of Easter at Seven Rainbow Church of God in Selebi-Phikwe that divisions within the church were often driven by greed

and the desire to exploit churches for personal gain.

He thus condemned the divisive trend, explaining its detrimental impact on the unity and harmony that should characterise religious organisations, and called for

collective action among church leaders and congregants to address internal conflicts.

Major General Mokgware called for reconciliation during church conflicts to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for all members.

“Greed-driven factionalism did not only undermine the core values of faith but also crippled the essential purpose of our religious organisations,” Mokgware stressed, adding that churches should be sanctuaries of hope and unity, not battlegrounds for personal ambition. Also, Maj. Gen. Mokgware encouraged the church to develop mentorship programmes to raise and guide young leaders, ensuring they uphold the values of integrity and humility.

The church, he stated further, must continuously take proactive steps in addressing social issues, including anger, violence, and gender-based violence that continue to affect communities.

Mr Mokgware acknowledged the various challenges that church leaders encountered, particularly welfare issues, which affected the operations of the church.

He explained the need to address these difficulties by exploring alternative income-generating strategies rather than relying on

offerings collected during services.

Meanwhile, at the Seven White Angels Church in Zion, the Minister of State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa stated that the church served as a sanctuary for healing and a space where individuals can uplift one another.

He shared reflections about his own experiences, explaining how he has come to understand that God was always capable of providing hope and strength, even in the most challenging times.

Mr Mohwasa reassured the congregants that trusting in God’s timing is crucial, particularly when one finds themselves at their lowest.

His message resonated deeply, reminding everyone of the power of faith and the comfort that can be found in relying on a higher purpose. **BOPA**



Minister of Labour and Home Affairs
Major General Pius Mokgware

13th

PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA
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05 APRIL 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
BEREAVEMENT

FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CHOBE,
HONOURABLE RONALD MACHANA SHAMUKUNI



The National Assembly of Botswana announces with deep sorrow and a profound sense of loss the passing on of the former Member of Parliament for Chobe and former Minister of Justice, Honourable Ronald Machana Shamukuni, on 3rd April 2026 at Nyangagwe Referral Hospital. Honourable Shamukuni served the people of Botswana with dedication and distinction as Member of Parliament for Chobe during the 11th and 12th Parliaments (2014–2024). During his tenure, he also held the esteemed position of Minister of Justice, where he undoubtedly contributed to the strengthening of the country’s legal and governance systems. The National Assembly acknowledges and honours his unwavering commitment to public service and his valuable contribution to the democratic development of Botswana.

The National Assembly extends its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, the people of Chobe and Batswana during this difficult time of mourning.

May his soul rest in eternal peace and rise in glory.

Hon. Dithapelo Lefoko Keorapetse, MP
Speaker of the National Assembly
of the Republic of Botswana

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Govt cushions citizens against fuel prices



Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

The government has taken a decision to introduce measures to cushion citizens from the rise in the cost of fuel caused by external factors, primarily the Middle East conflict.

Addressing the nation on Thursday, President Advocate Duma Boko said government understood that Batswana were concerned about the recent fuel and transportation price increase and the likelihood of food costs also rising as a consequence.

President Boko announced that fuel as well as security of supply

levies were suspended for six months.

“These levies, charged at 245.5 thebe per litre for petrol and 239.5 thebe per litre for diesel, are suspended to cushion motorists and consumers from the rising fuel costs.”

The government has also decided to reduce work trips undertaken in

the civil service for a duration of three months, apart from essential services.

Furthermore, President Boko said government would monitor retailers to ensure that they did not increase the prices of essential goods in a manner disproportionate to the rise in fuel costs.

Therefore, he urged the nation

to be united in this period where the country faced the challenge of an economic downturn induced by reduced diamond sales in the global market as well as rising fuel costs caused by the Middle East crisis.

BOPA

President undertakes working visits to France and Spain

GABORONE

President Advocate Duma Boko has departed for France and Spain to attend the One Health Summit on April 7, which coincides with World Health Day. The summit, hosted by the France, will bring together global leaders, scientists, and stakeholders to discuss human, animal, plant, and ecosystem health, focusing on shared health threats.

The One Health Summit aims to promote action-oriented multilateralism, accelerate One Health commitments, and develop solutions to strengthen health and surveillance systems.

Key topics include zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, sustainable food systems, and pollution exposure. In addition, President Boko will engage on bilateral talks with his counterpart, President Emmanuel Macron of France, and engage business leaders on trade and investment opportunities in Botswana.

The President will proceed to Spain on April 9, where he will advance Botswana's economic diplomacy drive and further enhance bilateral cooperation between Botswana and Spain. President Boko will also hold talks with Spain Prime Minister Mr Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon.

President Boko is accompanied by Ministers Dr Pheny Butale, Dr Stephen Modise, and Dr Edwin Dikoloti, among other senior government officials. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko (left) being seen off to France and Spain by Botswana Defence Force Deputy Commander, Lt Gen. Joseph Seelo at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport yesterday. President Boko will today participate at the One Health Summit, which coincides with World Health Day. The summit is hosted by the French Government as part of the flagship events of the G7 French Presidency and is expected to bring together Heads of State and Government, representatives of international organisations, scientists, private sector, youth and civil society, to deliberate on human, animal, plant and ecosystem health and consider coordinating approaches to shared health threats. Photo: Pheny Ramatu

Ministry and transport association commit to dialogue

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According to the press statement, both the ministry and the association engaged in ongoing negotiations, which have been marked by mutual respect and a shared determination to develop strong recommendations that will improve service delivery and sustainability.

The ministry and association expressed gratitude to the public for their patience and continued support as they work together toward outcomes that benefit the public and strengthen the transport industry. This comes after disputed transport fares that Botswana Bus Operators Association (BOBOA) did not agree with.

The tussle headed to court where the Gaborone High Court dismissed with cost, the BOBOA urgent application on Saturday, which challenged the government's reversal of the previously announced increase of public transport fares, ruling that the government acted within its powers.

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure confirmed through a press statement that the high court of Botswana has dismissed an application brought by the association challenging the recent fare adjustment published in Government Gazette Notice No. 309 of 2026.

As a result, the release says shared taxi will be P10 per passenger per trip, special taxi: P36 per trip while the mini-bus (local transport) will be charged P9 per trip. According to the release long distance (bitumen road) will be charged 0.38 thebe per km and long distance (gravel/sandy road) is charged 0.41 thebe per km. **BOPA**

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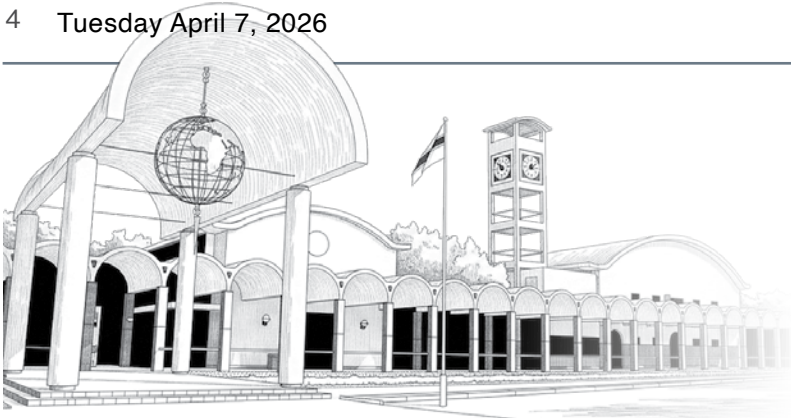
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PARLIAMENT 2026

Sese qualifies for tribal status upgrade

GABORONE

Sese in the Jwaneng-Mabutsane constituency qualifies for upgrading from headman of records status, with implementation scheduled for the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year.

Answering a question in Parliament recently, Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane explained that the decision was guided by the Revised National Settlement Policy of 2004 and population data from the 2022 National Housing and Population Census.

“Sese village, with a population of 7 119 inclusive of its associated localities, has been identified as qualifying for upgrading.

This determination is informed by its notable population growth, which necessitates enhanced administrative and governance structures,” Mr Moswaane said. He added that the ministry had already taken a formal decision to upgrade the village.

However, he said implementation of the upgrade, which would see the Sese Kgotla elevated from headman of records to Moemela Kgosi status, had been deferred due to current budgetary constraints. “Funds

permitting, the upgrading of Sese Kgotla from headman of records status to Moemela Kgosi will be done during the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year,” the assistant minister said.

He told Parliament that such development was expected to strengthen local governance and service delivery in Sese as the village continued to expand.

Member of Parliament for Jwaneng-Mabutsane, Mr Omphemetse Kwapa had asked the minister whether there were plans to upgrade Sese headman of records, given the growing population and size of the village. **BOPA**



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane (second right), Kgosi Justice Motlhalane of Sese (left) and other officials during a visit to Sese last year. Mr Moswaane has told Parliament that the village qualified for upgrading from headman of records status, with implementation scheduled for the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year.

Ntsima outlines govt strategy to attract FDI



Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship
Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima

GABORONE

Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima, has outlined government’s comprehensive strategy to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Botswana.

Responding to a parliamentary question recently, Minister Ntsima detailed the policies, inter-ministerial coordination, socio-economic integration and the returns on the country’s investment promotion efforts.

He informed Parliament that the ministry had put in place key legal frameworks and strategies to create an enabling environment for FDI, which included the Industrial Development Policy, Trade Policy, National Investment Strategy and the Export Strategy.

The minister said ongoing Doing Business Reforms were being implemented to eliminate regulatory barriers and make Botswana more attractive to investors and such frameworks were regularly reviewed in line with reform recommendations. Key supporting institutions, he said, included the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA), Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) and the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC).

“Botswana does not currently have a single dedicated investment law. Instead, investor-related provisions are contained across various statutes and institutions,” he said.

Mr Ntsima further highlighted several recent legislative and policy initiatives, including the VAT Amendment Act 2025, which he said modernised the tax regime

by introducing taxation on digital and remote services provided by foreign suppliers to promote a level playing field. He indicated that the Data Protection Act of 2024, which came into force in January 2025, strengthened regulation of the digital economy and built confidence in the e-commerce sector.

Mr Ntsima said the Employment and Labour Relations Act of 2026 introduced updated workplace rules with a strong emphasis on workers’ rights and protections while the National Productivity and Competitiveness Policy and Strategy aimed at enhancing private sector performance by removing structural barriers and reducing regulatory burdens on businesses. He stressed that policy development in Botswana was rooted in broad nationwide stakeholder consultations.

He noted that institutions such as BITC actively promoted Botswana’s trainable workforce, adherence to minimum wage standards and local employment initiatives when engaging potential investors.

On the financial side, the minister revealed that the total cost of investment promotion initiatives by BITC from 2018 to 2024 amounted to P20 226 953 (over P20 million) while BITC facilitated investments worth P27.187 billion, created 26 904 jobs and generated export earnings of P23.331 billion. He further told Parliament that government was committed to continuously enhance the investment climate through evidence-based reforms and effective cross-ministerial collaboration.

Member of Parliament for Chobe, Mr Simasiku Mapulanga, had asked the minister to state the ministry’s policies and strategies for creating a conducive environment for FDI as well as the inter-ministerial and inter-departmental policies and strategies supporting FDI promotion.

The MP also wanted to know how Botswana’s wider socio-economic environment had been understood, considered and integrated into those policies and strategies. He further asked the minister to state the total cost of international travels associated with attracting foreign investors from April 2018 to April 2024, together with an assessment of whether the expenditure was cost-effective and sustainable. **BOPA**

Govt maintains neutral stance on homosexuality

GABORONE

Government has not adopted an official position in regard to homosexuality. Answering a parliamentary question recently, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware, said the Court of Appeal in 2021, however, upheld the High Court’s decision on the decriminalisation of same sex relationships.

“In a nutshell, the court declared section 164 and 165 of the Penal Code unconstitutional in that

these provisions proscribed same sex intimacy which was deemed to be against the order of nature.

These provisions were deemed to be unconstitutional as they violated the constitutional right to privacy, liberty and dignity,” he said, further reiterating that consensual same-sex intimacy was therefore not proscribed.

Minister Mokgware noted that challenges had mainly arisen from differing interpretations of what the court judgment meant.

He explained that the ruling affirmed that individuals who

engaged in such relationships were not committing an offence. He further pointed out that the Marriage Act (Cap 29:01) currently provided for solemnisation of marriage between a man and a woman only.

However, he said the ministry was reviewing the Marriage Act in line with the Constitution of Botswana and consultations on related matters would be conducted with various stakeholders.

“The ministry does not keep records of individuals’ sexual orientation and therefore has

no statistics on the number of people across different sexual orientations,” he added.

Meanwhile, Minister Mokgware said sensitising the public about the existence and acceptance of LGBTQ individuals in Botswana was a cross-cutting issue that required dialogue, consultation and broader understanding across society and therefore called for collective input from all the relevant stakeholders.

Member of Parliament for Serowe South, Mr Leapetswe Lesedi had asked the minister to

state government’s position on homosexuality.

MP Lesedi had also inquired whether government intended to legalise same-sex marriages in the near future.

He further requested statistics showing the number of homosexuals, heterosexuals, bisexuals, transgender and asexual in Botswana and furthermore wanted to know what was being done to sensitise the public about the existence and acceptance of LGBTQ people in the country. **BOPA**



Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi has informed Parliament that 31 projects had been budgeted for under various components of the Bonno National Housing Programme in the Ngami Constituency.

Ngami to receive 31 projects under Bonno housing programme

GABORONE

Parliament has been informed that 31 projects have been budgeted for under various components of the Bonno National Housing Programme (BNHP) in the Ngami Constituency.

Responding to a parliamentary question from Member of Parliament for Ngami Mr Phillimon Aaron, recently, Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi, said the allocation of the housing units was distributed per seven housing units under the Bonno Ordinary Turnkey Development Housing Loan Scheme, with two units reserved for Nxau-Nxau, one unit each for Etsha 6 and Nokaneng as well as three for Gumare.

The minister added that four housing units under the Bonno D4 scale and below or equivalent Housing Loan Scheme (Turnkey), would be distributed by allocating one unit for Nokaneng and three for Gumare.

He said 10 housing units under the Ordinary Home Improvement Housing Loan Scheme were initially budgeted, however, only three applications were received from Gumare.

He added that 10 housing units were budgeted for under the Bonno D4 scale and below or Equivalent Housing Loan Scheme (Home Improvement Scheme), but no applications were received from the constituency.

He further said at least 240 housing units would be delivered by investors in Ngami under the investor-led component of the programme and the actual number of housing units to be delivered on the site would depend on the design approach adopted by the investor.

The minister revealed that the investors allocated land in Ngami was Hsecured Holdings Pty Ltd and was allocated 50 plots in

Etsha, while Farmcraft Pty Ltd received 50 plots in Gumare and Moreproperty 70 plots in Gumare.

Regarding the number of projects already in progress and their location, Mr Ramogapi said all the outlined projects were scheduled to commence in the next financial year, as preparatory processes were currently underway.

He explained that the criteria used to equitably distribute the

housing allocation nationwide was a first-come, first-served basis per constituency, subject to the availability of plots and applicants meeting the eligibility requirements of the programme.

MP Aaron had asked the minister to state the total number of houses budgeted or planned for the Ngami constituency under the Bonno National Housing Programme along with a breakdown on how many would be built per village. **BOPA**

Ministry recalls TB medicines after spike in treatment failures

GABORONE

Tuberculosis-related deaths have remained relatively high over the two years under review, with a mortality rate of 7.5 per cent in 2025 compared to eight per cent in 2024.

Responding to a question in Parliament recently on behalf of the Minister of Health, Assistant Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Augustine Nyatanga, indicated that the majority of TB deaths occurred among those co-infected with TB/HIV.

Mr Nyatanga, however told Parliament that the health ministry remained committed to rigorous surveillance, patient safety and the provision of effective and quality-assured TB treatment. He also acknowledged the subsequent withdrawal of a batch of TB medicines that had been supplied and administered starting around mid-2025.

However, he stated that there was currently no evidence of direct causal link between the affected medication and the TB-

related mortality rates.

He noted that 1 201 out of 2 868 patients or 42 per cent, received the affected medication during the period in question.

“Through routine surveillance and treatment outcome monitoring, the National TB Programme recorded a marked increase in treatment failure rates,” Mr Nyatanga said.

He added that to date, 1 113 patients or about 93 per cent, had been reassessed and contact screening had been undertaken and patients requiring treatment had been re-initiated on correct regimens.

“Upon identification of concerns regarding the efficacy of the medicines, government instituted immediate corrective measures.

These included the withdrawal of the affected medicines from all health facilities, the nationwide distribution of WHO-prequalified medicines, the recall of affected patients for clinical reassessment and a review of individual treatment histories to guide management based on

No private security for President locally - Mohwasa

GABORONE

The Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) holds the primary mandate for coordinating the State President's security, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, has said.

Minister refutes dog allowance allegations

GABORONE

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa says there is no dog allowance for ministers and assistant ministers.

Minister Mohwasa said this in response to a parliamentary question recently. The minister told Parliament that Cabinet had not at any time during the current and previous administration enjoyed the alleged dog allowance.

Minister Mohwasa was responding to a question from Member of Parliament for Thamaga/Kumakwane, Mr Palelo Motaosane. Mr Motaosane had asked the minister to clarify the alleged P8 500 dog allowance for ministers and assistant ministers. **BOPA**

Responding to a parliamentary question recently, Minister Mohwasa explained that the protection of the President and designated principals was enshrined under Section 5(1)(g) and Section 9(1) of the Intelligence and Security Service Act of 2008.

Regarding local operations, the minister indicated that the DIS had not engaged any local private security companies to provide personal protection for the President.

He added that while the Directorate retained lead responsibility, it was not uncommon to engage private entities for specific auxiliary components such as transportation, particularly for various dignitaries.

He further explained that private security engagement occurred when the President was travelling abroad.

“These arrangements often arise when host countries do not provide the necessary security infrastructure. In such circumstances, the DIS works closely with its counterparts in the host country to identify suitable providers.

This is done only after thorough security checks, assessments and due diligence processes are completed to ensure that required standards and international best practices are met,” he said.

He added that such cooperation ensured appropriate security arrangements in line with international best practices and the security requirements of the Office of the President.

Due to security considerations, Mr Mohwasa said he was not at liberty to disclose the specific companies that might be engaged externally to provide certain security services.

However, he noted that such information would be presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence and Security.

Member of Parliament for Maun North, Mr Dumelang Saleshando, had asked the minister to confirm whether the Office of the President had ever engaged a private security company to provide for the security needs of the President alongside state security agencies.

MP Saleshando also requested for details on what prompted such engagements and how the companies were identified.

He further sought information on the names of the companies involved, their directors or shareholders, the duration of their engagement and the amounts paid for their services. **BOPA**

exposure duration,” he explained.

Again, he said special arrangements were currently in place, including intensified clinical follow-up, enhanced laboratory monitoring, continued specimen collection for drug-resistance testing and prioritised management for any patients diagnosed with Drug-Resistant TB (DR-TB).

“Should any patient be confirmed to have DR-TB, they will be promptly commenced on the appropriate second-line treatment regimen in accordance with national policy and World Health Organisation guidelines,” he said.

MP for Tati East, Mr Tlhabologo Furniture, had asked the minister if he was aware of the TB patients administered medication with suspected reduced efficacy from mid-2025 until its withdrawal in late November 2025.

Mr Furniture also requested for the number of patients affected and inquired whether any patients had lost their lives during the period the medication was in circulation. **BOPA**

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Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi told Parliament that the tourism levy could not be used to maintain or develop infrastructure in national parks and game reserves. He said the fund was reserved for tourism development, community beneficiation, research, publicity, service improvement and heritage preservation.

'Tourism levy not for park maintenance'

GABORONE

The tourism levy cannot be used to maintain or develop infrastructure in national parks and game reserves, despite ongoing public frustration over their poor condition.

This was said by Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi in response to a parliamentary question recently. Minister Mmolotsi told Parliament that in the 2024/25 financial year, about P19, 334, 200 was collected from the tourism (bed) levy and the money was paid directly into the Tourism Development Fund in line with paragraph 7 of the Public Finance Management (Tourism Development) Fund Order of 2022.

The minister explained that the Fund was strictly for purposes such as tourism development, community beneficiation, research, publicity, service improvement and heritage preservation and not for maintenance of protected areas. He added that infrastructure in national parks and reserves was funded through the ministry's separate Recurrent and Development budgets.

However, he acknowledged that capital expenditure had been very low for the past decade, with only about P20 million spent annually on protected area infrastructure and facilities, an amount he described as inadequate given the scale of investment required.

"Some of the infrastructure, most of which gate houses and staff housing, were constructed some 20 years back, requires urgent maintenance as they have aged," he said.

He cited recent small-scale interventions, including the rethatching of Linyanti and Ihaha entrance gates and the start of new office and staff accommodation developments in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve under the Refurbishment of Wildlife Camps project.

"These works will be rolled out in a phased approach across other protected areas," he added. On why infrastructure remained severely dilapidated despite consistent levy collections, Mr Mmolotsi bemoaned delays in project execution and weak



Minister of Environment and Tourism Mr Wynter Mmolotsi

institutional capacity.

He indicated that the current state of parks and reserves undermined visitors' experiences, compromised conservation objectives and affected working conditions for staff.

"To tackle the problem, the ministry, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative, has developed the Protected Areas Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Partnerships Plan in 2025.

The plan is now in its initial stages of implementation," he said. Key measures, he said,

included the establishment of a Resource Mobilisation Unit to coordinate fundraising and improve access to both government and international grants, decentralisation of protected area budget management and greater involvement of the private sector to speed up infrastructure improvements and leverage its agility.

Mr Mmolotsi emphasised that the strategy aimed to diversify funding sources, modernise financial systems and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure more sustainable investment in Botswana's protected areas.

The minister told Parliament that government was committed to addressing infrastructure challenges in the country's national parks and reserves.

Member of Parliament for Okavango East, Mr Gabatsholwe Disho, had asked the minister to state the annual tourism levy revenue versus parks infrastructure expenditure, why parks remained dilapidated despite levy collections, harming visitors, conservation and staff and whether the ministry acknowledged that park conditions did not reflect levy revenue and concrete plans and timelines to reinvest funds in parks infrastructure. **BOPA**

Govt commits to maintenance of roads in Jwaneng/Mabutsane

GABORONE

Government, through the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, remains committed to ensure that the country's road infrastructure is maintained in a serviceable condition to support mobility, safety and economic activity within the Mabutsane district.

Responding to a question in Parliament recently, Assistant Minister, Mr Keoagile Atamelang said to that end, the ministry was planning to undertake routine maintenance of the Kokong-A2 Junction, Kanaku-Mabutsane, Mahotshwane-

Sekoma, Mosepele-Lefoko, Jwaneng-Maokane, Mokhomma-Maokane-Jwaneng, Mokhomma-Thankane, Khakhea-Kutuku-Mabutsane, Kokong-Khakhea, Khakhea-Itholoke and Keng-Mabutsane roads.

Mr Atamelang explained that the roads would be maintained through dry grading, which would be carried out on a quarterly basis.

He said the intervention was intended to preserve road surfaces, improve riding quality and prevent further deterioration.

He added that in addition to dry grading and subject to the availability of funds, the ministry would implement spot improvements on critical sections

Workforce Planning Unit aims to tackle job security

GABORONE

Government is planning to regularise the employment status of long-serving temporary and fixed-term workers to address concerns over job security and labour standards.

Responding to a question in Parliament recently, acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti said while economic constraints forced reliance on temporary staff, government was now implementing reforms, including the establishment of a dedicated Workforce Planning Unit, to transition eligible employees into permanent and budgeted positions.

Dr Dikoloti however, admitted that the prolonged reliance on such an approach raised concerns regarding job security, conditions of service and the broader principles of decent work and human dignity.

Despite the challenges, the minister assured Parliament that the engagement of such workers conformed to the Employment Act

Part XIX (175), Public Service Act Part VI (3) and General Orders 8.3.1.3.

To ensure continued compliance, Dr Dikoloti noted that the ministry continued to seek guidance from the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) to keep employment practices aligned with national labour standards and to preserve workers' rights.

"One key initiative is the establishment of the of a workforce planning unit to ensure that staffing levels are aligned with operational efficiency. The unit is tasked with ongoing rationalisation of positions and prioritisation of critical is being done through staff deployment exercises to manage staffing shortages while at the same time complying to Public Service recruitment processes," he said.

The minister was responding to a question from Member of Parliament for Okavango East, Mr Gabatsholwe Disho, who had asked about the ministry's prolonged use of temporary staff for roles that were essentially continuous in nature. **BOPA**

Marâtswane remains part of Malwelwe - Moswaane

GABORONE

Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane, says Marâtswane will not be granted independent village status and will continue to operate as a ward within the larger Malwelwe in the Letlhakeng constituency.

Responding to a parliamentary question recently, Mr Moswaane said according to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, Marâtswane was officially recognised as a settlement with a population of 441 inhabitants.

The settlement, he said was approximately six kilometres from the main village of Malwelwe. Mr Moswaane explained that Marâtswane was also formally incorporated into Malwelwe as a ward through Presidential Directive CAB 1B (SP) 2013, dated 18 July, 2013.

The assistant minister explained that according to the Revised National Settlement Policy of

2004 (paragraph 4.2.6.5), for any settlement to be recognised and gazetted as a full village, it must meet two key criteria including a minimum population of 500 people and a distance of more than 15 kilometres from the periphery of the parent or main village.

He added that Marâtswane fell short on both counts owing to its population, which was below the threshold and was only six kilometres from Malwelwe.

He however assured Parliament that notwithstanding its current status, residents of Marâtswane ward would continue to receive essential services and infrastructure development. "This will be provided in line with its existing classification as a ward," he added.

Brigadier Domcaza Mokgwathi, MP for Letlhakeng, had asked the minister to appraise Parliament on the current status of Marâtswane in Letlhakeng with regard to the gazetting of the then settlement into a village status. **BOPA**

of the road network that had been identified as requiring urgent attention.

The roads, he said included the Kokong-A2 Junction, Sekoma-Mahotshwane-A2 Junction, Jwaneng-Maokane, Mokhomma-Maokane-Jwaneng road and Mokhomma-Thankane road.

He further said the planned spot improvements would focus on addressing localised defects such as potholes, erosion, poor drainage and other structural weaknesses that compromised road safety and accessibility.

"By prioritising these interventions, the ministry aims to enhance connectivity between communities, facilitate the

movement of goods and services and support socio-economic development in these areas," he said.

He also told Parliament that the ministry would continue to monitor the condition of such roads and adjust its maintenance strategies as necessary, within the constraints of the available budget, to ensure optimal service delivery to the public.

Jwaneng/Mabutsane MP, Mr Omphemetse Kwapa had asked the minister to indicate government's plans to maintain the roads since they were the only access roads linking villages in Mabutsane District and they were not tarred. **BOPA**



DailyBusiness

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Libya oil output hits highest level in over decade

TRIPOLI

Libya's oil production has risen to about 1.43 million barrels per day, the highest level recorded in over a decade, Chairman of Libya's National Oil Corporation Masoud Suleiman announced on Sunday. Suleiman said during a meeting that oil sales revenue for February exceeded US\$2 billion and was fully transferred to the state treasury without any deductions, a first in years. He also noted that domestic fuel supplies remained stable despite global crises, and that maintenance work on the Al-Sharara oilfield's export pipeline has been completed, with production back to normal levels. Suleiman stressed that maintaining and increasing output depended on power grid stability and improved production efficiency. *Xinhua*

Fico urges EU to engage Russia and lift energy sanctions

BRATISLAVA

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico on Saturday called on the European Union (EU) to resume dialogue with Russia and lift sanctions on Russian energy raw materials, after holding a phone call with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, local media STVR reported. "The EU, and especially the European Commission, should immediately resume dialogue with Russia and ensure such a political and legal environment that individual member states and the EU as a whole replenish the missing gas and oil reserves and enable the supply of these strategic raw materials from all possible sources and directions, including Russia," Fico said in a post on social media. He urged the banning of gas and oil imports from Russia to be lifted, and called for decisive steps to resume the operation of the Druzhba pipeline. According to Fico, the phone call with Orban confirmed that the huge energy crisis cannot be tackled only at the national level. *Xinhua*

Ethiopia bets big on e-mobility

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia government institutions are spearheading a state-driven push for electric mobility through large-scale investments in electric vehicle (EV) charging station networks, especially amid a fuel crisis caused by conflicts in the Middle East. The state-run operator Ethio Telecom commissioned its fourth public Super-Fast Smart EV Charging Station in Adama on Friday marking the company's first regional expansion outside the country's capital, Addis Ababa. The station features 12 super-fast chargers, raising the company's total national capacity to serve 60 vehicles simultaneously across four high-tech locations. Since commencing operations in February last year, Ethio Telecom's network has served more than 284,000 EVs, dispensing over 7.15 million kilowatt-hours of energy. *Xinhua*

'Informal sector growth hinges on financial inclusion'

Thamani Shabani
FRANCISTOWN

Financial providers should begin to see informal sector entrepreneurs not as high risk clients, but as emerging partners in economic growth. Speaking at a one day Francistown informal sector workshop in Francistown recently, Special Elected Councillor, Mr Marios Muzawazi, who is also the chairperson of the Local Enterprise Development Committee, said through financial inclusion, training and mentorship, banks could unlock the full potential of the sector.

Mr Muzawazi said many challenges faced the informal sector which included, limited access to finance and credit, lack of formal business training, inadequate infrastructure and trading spaces, regulatory barriers and lack of formal recognition, as well as access to market.

"These challenges cannot be solved in isolation and that is why this collaboration is key and I encourage the informal sector players to liaise with financial institutions and support agencies such as Local Enterprise Authority (LEA)," he said.

Mr Muzawazi further indicated that the informal sector was not a marginal part of the economy but a vital engine of growth. "It consists of small, often unregistered businesses that include street vendors, hawkers, artisans, home based enterprises, and service providers, who operate outside formal regulatory frameworks, yet contribute significantly to livelihoods, employment creation and poverty eradication," said Mr Muzawazi. In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 1, which seeks to end poverty in all forms, Mr Muzawazi said government recognised that empowering the informal sector was not optional, but essential.

He said the Botswana National Informal Sector Recovery plan provided a framework for rebuilding and strengthening the sector, especially in the wake of economic disruptions. "It emphasises access to finance, capacity building, formalisation pathways, and market access. Equally important is our National Development Plan, which places inclusive economic growth at the centre of Botswana's future. It calls for diversification beyond traditional sectors and highlights the role of entrepreneurship and innovation," he added. He said the informal sector stood as a bridge, connecting grassroots enterprise with national economic ambitions.

In Francistown guided by the Francistown City Vision 2022, Mr Muzawazi said it envisioned a vibrant, economically inclusive city where opportunities were accessible to all. "This vision aligns seemingly with Local Economic Development (LED) strategies, which prioritise community driven growth, job creation, and sustainable livelihoods. The informal sector is at the core of LED.

It is where economic participation begins for many of our citizens," said Mr Muzawazi. The deputy mayor of the City of Francistown, Mr Uyapo Nyeku said the city

council had started implementing the Francistown Informal Sector Strategy adopted in 2022 to align it with the transformation agenda. Meanwhile, Bye Law Enforcement Officer with the City of Francistown, Ms Kabo Fidzani highlighted the need to review the outdated bye law enforcement act, citing the P200 fine for contravening the act was ineffective on repeated offenders. She said

the review aimed to create a more conducive regulatory environment, supporting vendors while ensuring compliance and public safety. However, she noted that many vendors continued to operate without licenses, occupying spaces like parking bays and walkways. She said when caught, they were fined P200 or have their good confiscated, perishable disposed of, while non-perishable were

auctioned. Senior Environmental Health Officer, Ms Mercy Mosi warned that food items like dairy products, meat, fish and perishables sold at the busy Francistown Bus and Taxi rank were often not safe for consumption.

She said vendors store them in cooler boxes with ice, risking food poisoning and potential deaths due to improper temperature control. **BOPA**



Local Enterprise Development Committee chairperson, Mr Marios Muzawazi said banks could unlock the full potential of the informal sector through financial inclusion, training and mentorship. He was speaking at a one-day informal sector workshop in Francistown, where he urged financial institutions to view the sector as an emerging partner in economic growth rather than high-risk clients.

Suspension of fare hikes to ease cost of living

Marvin Motlhabane
GABORONE

Commuters across the country can breathe a sigh of relief after government suspended, with immediate effect, the transport fare hikes published recently. Citing the daily realities of struggling households and students, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae halted the increases in favour of a structured dialogue aimed at finding a more sustainable and socially responsible pricing framework.

Addressing Parliament on Wednesday, Minister Salakae explained that the proposed increases for combis, shared taxis and long-distance services had triggered widespread public concern and peaceful protests. The minister noted that the anxiety was particularly acute among students and young people, whose economic vulnerability remained a primary concern for the administration. With the suspension effective immediately, the fare structure would revert to the rates established in December

2025 and prices remain in force until further notice and shared taxi (per passenger) is P10, special hire remains at P36, mini-bus local transport at P9, long distance (bitumen) at P0.38 per kilometre and long distance (gravel or sandy) at P0.41 per kilometre. Minister Salakae stressed that the policy reversal was not a sign of weakness, but rather a reflection of the responsive leadership championed by President Advocate Duma Boko. He credited the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) manifesto's commitment to public engagement as the driving force behind the move.

"Governance does not end with a Government Gazette. Governance lives in the daily realities of our people. This response has been loud, clear and heard."

While providing immediate relief to citizens, the minister, however, acknowledged the significant pressure facing the transport sector, including rising operational costs. To find a balance between the financial viability of operators and the needs of the public, he said government would now embark on

an intensive consultation process.

As such, the minister is scheduled to meet with representatives from the taxi and combi industry next week on April 9, a meeting that is set to mark the beginning of a broader dialogue involving transport operators and associations, consumer representative bodies, student organisations as well as relevant government agencies. Conversely, Minister Salakae commended citizens and students who expressed their grievances peacefully, calling their actions the essence of living democracy. "This government chooses counsel over haste, listening over imposition and the collective wisdom of our people over unilateral decree. Government must not only act, it must listen. We have listened. We have acted. We will continue to engage," he said. By choosing counsel over haste, he said, government aimed to develop a long-term solution that would ensure safe and reliable transport, without compromising the livelihoods of ordinary Batswana. **BOPA**



Addendum

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) ARRANGEMENTS**

EOI Reference No: CAT/EOI/2026/01
Date of Issue: 25th March 2026
Closing Date: 7 May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Catalyst Real Estate Proprietary Limited (“Catalyst” or “the Company”) is a Government of Botswana-owned Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established under the Companies Act (Cap 42:01) with a mandate to professionalise, optimise, and monetise a portfolio of state-owned real estate assets. Operating under the portfolio of the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security, Catalyst is structured as a bankruptcy-remote, limited-purpose entity designed to:

- Convert latent real estate value into predictable, investment-grade cash flows
- Execute securitisation transactions on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE)
- Structure and implement Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for strategic assets
- Professionalise facilities management across the government portfolio
- Mobilise private sector capital and expertise for public asset optimisation

The Company is governed by an independent Board of Directors and operates in alignment with Botswana's national priorities, including the Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) and Citizen Economic Empowerment (CEE) policies.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THIS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Catalyst invites suitably qualified and experienced firms, consortia, and joint ventures to submit Expressions of Interest for the provision of services and strategic partnerships across the following categories:

CATEGORY A: TRANSACTION ADVISORY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

- Lead Arranger / Transaction Advisor for asset-backed securitisation (ABS) issuances on the Botswana Stock Exchange
- Credit Rating Agency services for inaugural and ongoing ABS ratings
- Trustee and Security Agent services for bondholder representation
- Listing Sponsor services for BSE listings

CATEGORY B: LEGAL SERVICES

- Securitisation Counsel – specialist legal expertise in structured finance, ABS transactions, and capital markets
- Conveyancing and Property Law – title due diligence, property transfers, and registration
- PPP and Project Finance – legal advisory for complex PPP structuring
- General Corporate and Commercial – ongoing corporate advisory
- Letter of good standing from the Law Society of Botswana
- Certified copies of all valid Practising certificates, Conveyancing and Notary Public and Fidelity Certificates
- Professional Indemnity

CATEGORY C: PROPERTY AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- Tier 1 Integrated Facilities Management (IFM) Master Integrators – comprehensive facilities management services for government portfolios
- Property Valuation Services – REIB-certified or equivalent valuation firms
- Condition Assessment and Technical Due Diligence – engineering and technical assessment services
- Space Optimisation and Utilisation Studies
- Letter of good standing from REIB

CATEGORY D: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP)

- Development Partners for complex real estate projects (mixed-use, commercial, hospitality)
- Concession Operators for specialised assets
- Infrastructure Development Partners for social infrastructure (health, education)
- DBOOT / Concession Arrangements – Design, Build, Own, Operate, Transfer proposals

CATEGORY E: FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- External Audit Services – IFRS-compliant audit firms
- Internal Audit Services – outsourced internal audit function
- Tax Advisory Services – corporate tax, VAT, transfer pricing, and transaction tax structuring
- Actuarial and Risk Advisory Services – complex financial modelling, covenant analysis
- ESG and Sustainability Advisory – green bond readiness, ESG reporting frameworks
- **Financial Institutions** – banking, development finance institutions, and institutional investors for capital mobilisation and funding partnerships
- **Insurance Services** – underwriting, risk transfer solutions, and insurance advisory for asset portfolios and structured transactions

CATEGORY F: TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEMS

- ERP / Asset Management System Providers – integrated platforms for asset and financial management
- Facilities Management (CAFM or IWMS) Solutions – technology platforms for FM oversight
- Cybersecurity and IT Managed Services
- Data Analytics and PropTech Solutions

CATEGORY G: SPECIALIST CONTRACTORS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Citizen-owned Enterprises (Tier 3) – routine maintenance, cleaning, landscaping, minor works (in alignment with CEE policy)

3. ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

3.1 General Requirements

All applicants must demonstrate:

- 1. Legal Status:** Registration as a legal entity in Botswana or eligibility to register and operate in Botswana
- 2. Experience:** Minimum 5-10 years relevant experience (depending on category) with verifiable track record
- 3. Financial Capacity:** Sound financial position with ability to undertake scope of work
- 4. Professional Indemnity:** Appropriate professional indemnity insurance (where applicable)
- 5. Regulatory Compliance:** Valid licenses and registrations with relevant regulatory bodies (e.g., PPRA registration for construction-related services, BICA for audit firms, relevant professional bodies)
- 6. Fit and Proper:** Key personnel must meet fit-and-proper requirements
- 7. Conflict of Interest:** Disclosure of any actual or potential conflicts

3.2 Specific Category Requirements

Category	Specific Requirements
Transaction Advisory	Proven track record in Asset Backed Securities (ABS), securitisation, or bond issuance in Africa/emerging markets
Financial Institutions	Demonstrated experience in infrastructure finance, real estate funding, or securitisation transactions
Insurance Services	Relevant registration with Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) and experience in large-scale asset or transaction insurance

4. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested firms must submit the following:

4.1 Mandatory Documents

1. Cover Letter – clearly indicating the Category/Categories applied for
2. Company Profile – including ownership structure, year established, core business
3. Registration Documents – Certificate of Incorporation, VAT registration, relevant licenses
4. 4.Tax Clearance Certificate – valid (not older than 6 months)
5. 5.Financial Statements – last 3 years
6. 6.Key Personnel CVs – qualifications and relevant experience
7. 7.Track Record – detailed experience in relevant category, including:
 - Description of similar assignments
 - Client references (minimum 3)
 - Contact details for reference checks
 - Value and scale of projects
8. Quality Assurance / Accreditation – relevant certifications (ISO, etc.)
9. CEE Status – where applicable
10. Professional Indemnity as required

4.2 Technical Proposal (max 10 pages)

- Understanding of Catalyst's mandate
- Proposed approach / methodology
- Differentiators and value proposition
- Proposed team structure
- Examples of relevant work

4.3 Financial Proposal (Separate File/Envelope)

- Proposed fee structure (where applicable for panel appointments)
- Rate cards for different personnel categories
- Volume discount proposals (if any)

NOTE: For transaction-specific roles (Arranger, Rating Agency), financial proposals may be submitted at RFP stage.

5. PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND EVALUATION

5.1 Process Overview

Stage	Activity
1	Publication of EOI
2	EOI submission deadline
3	Evaluation of EOIs
4	Shortlisting and notification
5	Issuance of RFP to shortlisted firms
6	RFP responses
7	Evaluation and negotiations
8	Award and contract signing

5.2 Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weight
Relevant Experience and Track Record	40%
Technical Capacity and Expertise	30%
Key Personnel Qualifications	15%
Financial Capacity	10%
Local Presence / CEE Status	5%
Total	100%

6. PPP AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS - SPECIAL NOTE

For Category D (PPP and Strategic Partnerships), Catalyst is seeking partners with capacity for:

- Long-term concession arrangements
- Design, Build, Own, Operate, Transfer (DBOOT) structures
- Significant capital investment
- Operational expertise in relevant sectors

The Government of Botswana is advancing its PPP legal framework, with a draft bill expected during 2025/2026. Catalyst is positioned as a key implementing vehicle for real estate-related PPPs.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 Confidentiality

All information provided in response to this EOI will be treated as confidential.

7.2 Conflict of Interest

Applicants must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including:

- Relationships with Catalyst Board members, management, or Shareholder
- Existing contracts with Government of Botswana that may conflict

- Relationships with competitors or potential consortium partners

8. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

8.1 Submission Deadline

Cut-off date for clarifications: 30 April 2026

Closing Date: 07 May 2026

Closing Time: 12:00 noon (Botswana Time)

Late submissions will not be considered.

8.2 Submission

Electronic Submission:

procurement@catalystrealestate.co.bw by sending a link to the repository of your bid.

Note: Electronic submissions must be in PDF format, password-protected (password to be provided separately upon request), and must not exceed 20MB.

8.3 Envelope/File Labelling

All submissions must be clearly marked with:

“EOI REF: CAT/EOI/2026/01 - [CATEGORY APPLIED FOR]”

9. ENQUIRIES

All enquiries related to this EOI must be directed in writing to:

The Procurement Officer

Catalyst Real Estate Proprietary Limited

Email: procurement@catalystrealestate.co.bw

Cut-off date for clarifications: 30 April 2026

No telephone enquiries will be accepted.

10. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1. Right to Accept/Reject:** Catalyst reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI, and to annul the procurement process at any time, without incurring any liability.
- 2. Cost of Participation:** Applicants bear all costs associated with EOI preparation and submission.
- 3. Shortlisting:** Submission of an EOI does not guarantee shortlisting or invitation to RFP.
- 4. Joint Ventures/Consortia:** Joint ventures are welcome. Lead partner must be clearly identified, and JV agreement must be submitted.
- 5. Multiple Categories:** Applicants may apply for multiple categories but must submit separate EOIs for each.
- 6. Validity Period:** EOIs must remain valid for 120 days from submission deadline.
- 7. Verification:** Catalyst reserves the right to verify any information provided and to conduct site visits or interviews.
- 8. Language:** All submissions must be in English.
- 9. Currency:** All financial information must be in Botswana Pula (BWP).
- 10. Governing Law:** This procurement is governed by the laws of the Republic of Botswana.

11. ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ETHICS

Catalyst Real Estate is committed to the highest standards of ethics and transparency. Any attempt to:

- Offer bribes or improper inducements
- Engage in collusive practices
- Provide false information
- Influence the evaluation process improperly

will result in immediate disqualification and may be reported to the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC).

ISSUED BY:

Board of Directors

Catalyst Real Estate Proprietary Limited

This EOI is issued in alignment with the principles of the Public Procurement Act and reflects Catalyst's commitment to transparency, value for money, and citizen economic empowerment.

Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

IPAPATSE FA



LELE TSA

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261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500

Ba Tobane ba dumelana le tshwetso ya puso

Chenzimu Manyepedza
TOBANE

Banni ba Tobane mo kgaolong ya Bobirwa ba dumalane ka bongwefela jwa pelo le tshwetso ya gore Rre Rupert Motlhasedi e nne Kgosi ya motse wa bone.

Tshwetso e, e tserwe ke puso morago ga tumalano e e dirilweng

ke morafe le boo-rra Motlhasedi ya gore Rre Rupert Motlhasedi a tihongwe mo setilong sa bogosi jwa motse wa Tobane.

Tumalano e dirilwe morago ga loso la ga rre-rraagwe, ebong Kgosi Victor Motlhasedi ngwaga o o fetileng ka kgwedi ya Phatwe.

Fa a rola tshwetso eo, Tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le merero ya ngwao, Rre Ketlhalefile

Motshegwa o akgotse boo-rra Motlhasedi, masika a a amegang mo bogosing jwa motse wa Tobane ga mmogo le morafe go bo ba ithulagantse mme ba tla ka tshwetso e e amogelwang ke botlhe.

A re go a itumedisa go bona botlhe ba ba amegang ba nnile le morero o o tlhamaletseng oo neng o sa tlogele ope kwa ntle.

Rre Motshegwa a re le fa diphapang di ka nna teng, se se bothokwa ke go batla tsela e e maleba go di rabolola, a re seo se lere tlotla e bile se tlaa tsewedisa ditiro tsa Bogosi mo motseng.

Kgosi ya tetanyo, Kgosi Boniface Obuseng, o amogetse tshwetso e, a supa fa seo se tlaa fedisa ketsaetsego ee ntseng e apere dikgang tsa Bogosi jwa motse oo.

Kgosi Obuseng a re go bothokwa gore morafe ga mmogo le magosi a mangwe mo motseng ba eme tshwetso e nokeng, ba bereke le Kgosi Motlhasedi ba mmontshe tse di maleba tse di ka godisang motse.

Mme Badika Mosweu o supile fa amogela tshwetso e, e bile a re e tlaa kitlanya morafe le go tsisa kutlwano mo motseng. **BOPA**

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Arts & Culture

Women find strength in fashion

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

Women have long been known for their love of dressing up, a trait often dismissed as vanity but increasingly recognised as a quiet expression of strength.

Through colour, fabric and style, women communicate who they are before they even speak and what may seem like a simple daily routine for many, women take it as a deliberate act of self-definition.

Getting dressed becomes a way of preparing not just for the day, but for the many roles women are expected to fulfil.

It is within this context that the recent dress-up campaign by the Department of Gender Affairs finds meaning beyond its two-day run.

While positioned as a celebration of confidence, the campaign also highlighted how personal style can shape how women see themselves and how they are seen by others.

Gender Affairs Officer at the Department of Gender Affairs in Maun, Abaleng Khombani, said the initiative was aimed at recognising an important aspect of women's lives.

"The idea of a dress-up campaign was brought up as a way of highlighting the one aspect in women's lives that sets them apart," she said.

She added that fashion should not be reduced to appearance alone, but understood as part of how women expressed confidence and individuality.

Khombani said dressing was increasingly becoming less about meeting expectations and more about taking control of one's image.

For Ditiro Mathula, dressing up has become a personal source of confidence rather than pressure.

"I used to worry about being overdressed or underdressed, but now I dress for myself, and it gives me confidence to face the day," she said.

She said balancing work and family responsibilities required mental preparation, and dressing well had become part of that process. Beyond style, however, women's strength continues to be measured in the roles they carry each day. Kgosi Catherine Matlhare of Old Disana said women must rise above societal expectations and embrace their role as pillars of their families and communities.

"Women must walk with their heads held high, not just in how they look, but in how they stand up for their children," she said.

She called on women to remain vigilant and protect the next generation, particularly in the face of increasing cases of substance abuse among young people.

Kgosi Matlhare said the responsibility to guide and protect children rests strongly within families and communities.

Across society, women continue to carry multiple roles as mothers, sisters, wives and providers and in these roles, fashion

“Women must walk with their heads held high, not just in how they look, but in how they stand up for their children.”



Women during a dress-up campaign organised by the Department of Gender Affairs in Maun recently. The initiative celebrates how fashion serves as a form of self-expression, strength and empowerment in women's daily lives. Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

becomes more than style, it becomes part of how women prepare themselves to meet the demands of daily life.

Director at Women Against Rape (WAR), Peggy Ramaphane said women played a central role in shaping communities and guiding future generations.

She said although women faced different challenges, they continued to lead with resilience and influence the direction of society.

Ramaphane emphasised the importance of recognising women as equal contributors and key drivers of development.

In a world that often focuses on how women look, their true strength lies in what they carry and how they show up each day.

In that balance between style and substance, many women are proving that dressing up is not just about looking good, but about standing strong. **BOPA**

Motshegwa emphasises role of church in nation building

Manowe Motsaathebe
TSETSEBJWE

The church has a role in drawing up a moral code for the society in the wake of moral decay, murders and gender-based violence amongst other societal challenges.

And therefore, the church should strive to build a peaceful nation living together in harmony, said Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethlalefile Motshegwa.

Speaking during the official opening of Eloyi Christian Church's (ECC) Easter commemorations, Minister Motshegwa rallied churches to play a significant role in ensuring that society's moral fiber remained intact and admirable.

Amongst other things, Motshegwa said, the church should be involved in humanitarian efforts.

He therefore challenged the ECC leadership to consider, inter alia, play a visible role in education in multiple ways like building a school or hosting educational programme in the church.

He said organised churches like ECC had the ability to discharge their role in nation building, adding that the success of any organisation rested on leadership and organisational structure.

For the church to fully discharge its role, Minister Motshegwa said government would continually assist the church in securing plots to establish house of worship.

In fact, the minister promised to support ECC in their quest to be allocated a plot for expansion, from their current location which was reportedly too small to accommodate the bulging numbers of the church's membership.

He said government believed in the role of the church in the lives of the people and in governance, hence it was easy for the government to scrape of some requirements

in the registrar of societies that hampered their registration.

For his part, Member of Parliament for Bobirwa, Taolo Lucas called on government to consider a special dispensation for allocation of civic plots to churches.

He said some churches, especially African Churches, felt stretched to follow the exhausting process of securing plots.

Lucas also called for African churches to be exempted from paying lease agreements, arguing that such churches were not profit making entities to necessitate them to pay such a fee.

While applauding government for backtracking on requiring pastors to hold Diploma certificates, Lucas called on church members to be exemplary and lead lives laden with love.

He said that while praying against social ills, members should not be party to issues like gender-based violence.

"Pray for the leaders to focus on your interest rather than theirs, and also pray that they do not get tempted to dip from the public coffers for their own benefit," said the Bobirwa legislator.

Commenting on the Moitshephi Funeral Cover for the church members, as introduced by the ECC's supreme leader, His Holiness Dr Sekai Jakoba, Lucas warned against fighting for insurance money meant for their burials.

"Your numbers are mouthwatering to any insurer... run this insurance with openness and diligence," said Lucas. **BOPA**



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs
Kethlalefile Motshegwa

DailySport

Athletes pull off showstopper performance

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

When the country's elite athletes are on track, the clock does not stand a chance. This emerged during the three day Orange Botswana Athletics National Championships where athletes pushed boundaries of human endurance and speed to clock new record.

The championships, held at the National Stadium had been so far the highlight of the local athletics calendar.

The 400 meters world champion, Collen Kebinatshipi was among the exceptional performers, producing a World Lead of 9.89 seconds in 100 meters, which was also a Stadium Record. Another highlight was in the 110 hurdles, where Kemorena Tisang clocked a new National Record of 13.81 seconds.

An icing on the cake was when two U20 athletes, Same Mhutsiwa clocked 24.29 seconds and Jack Newman recorded of 21.16 seconds in 200 meters, both qualifying for the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships scheduled for August 5 to 9 at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon, United States.

Even though Botswana is well known for its strength and dominance in the 400 meters, the 2026 championships has demystified the notion after a brilliance performance in the 200 meters senior men. Prince Selepe won a closely contested event in by 20.08 seconds, closely followed by Justice Oratile and Kevin Lobatlamang with 20.22 seconds, and 20.40 seconds respectively.

Coach Chilume Ntshwarang of

Jwaneng Athletics and national team said the nationals were extra ordinary as athletes gave their all. "We have also seen good times in the 400 meters women final with more than three athletes recording Personal Best Times, and I am very happy with my team's performance," he said.

Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone 26 national team coach, Mogomotsi Otsetswe also commended athletes for doing well across all the events. "We have athletes who can now compete in the 4x100, 4x100 mixed and 4x400 meters in both men and women categories. I know the world will be focusing on our 4x400 men's relays but we have a clear message for them, we have solid teams," he said.

The event title sponsor, Orange Botswana was equally happy with overall standard of the event. Public Relations and Communications manager, Tebogo Nadisah said Orange Botswana was proud to stand behind the event as the title sponsor.

Nadisah said their role went beyond branding, as it was about supporting platforms that brought people together, celebrated talent and created opportunities.

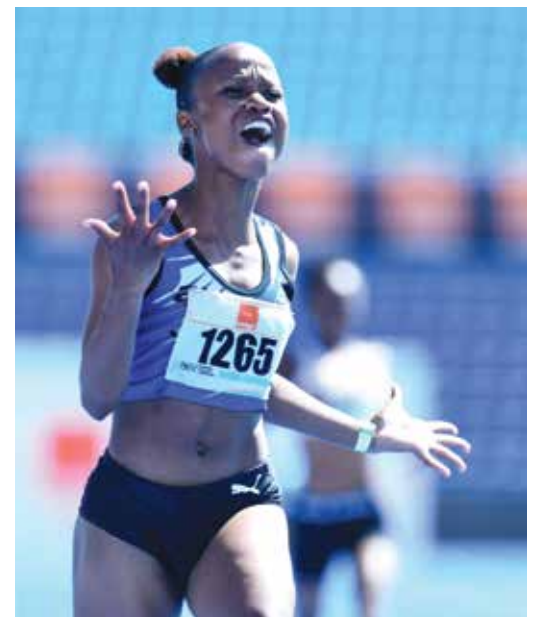
"Orange is no stranger to the world of sport. Over the years, our brand has consistently backed platforms and talent that reflect the country's spirit of excellence and ambition. This includes its partnership with Olympic Gold medalist Letsile Tebogo, whose achievements on the global stage continue to inspire new generations of athletes," she said.. **BOPA**



Kemorena Tisang clocked a new National Record of 13.81 seconds in the 110m hurdles during the three-day Orange Botswana Athletics National Championships at the National Stadium over the weekend.



Prince Selepe



Same Mhutsiwa



The 400 metres world champion, Collen Kebinatshipi produced a World Lead of 9.89 seconds in 100 metres. Photos: Phenyto Ramatu and Phenyto Moalosi

Tshepo 'Talk Talk' Motlhabankwe passes on

GABORONE

Tributes from former teammates and fans have started to pour in for former Zebras defender Tshepo 'Talk Talk' Motlhabankwe who has passed on at the age of 46.

One of Botswana's football legend, Motlhabankwe, enjoyed play at both club and national level.

With a career spanning nearly two decades, his career can be traced from, Extension Gunners, Mochudi Centre Chiefs and Township Rollers. He was also a coach, respected for his mentorship skills.

Motlhabankwe's efforts were also instrumental in qualifying the national team for the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations.

A tribute from Township Rollers highlights Motlhabankwe's distinct leadership and dedication, which made him one of the greatest players Botswana has ever produced.

"On and off the pitch, he inspired teammates, fans and the next generations."

Joel Mogorosi also paid tribute to one of the country's football heroes.

"Tiago mortar my broe, the best right back defender and

midfielder of all the time for our generation..." he said on his Facebook page.

Botswana Football Association president, Tariq Babitseng also extended condolences to the Motlhabankwe family and the football community.

In a press release, he noted that Motlhabankwe's contribution to the game would remain etched in the history of Botswana football.

"In honour of his legacy, we kindly request that all matches played across the country observe a moment of silence prior to kick-off, Babitseng said in a press statement. **BOPA**

