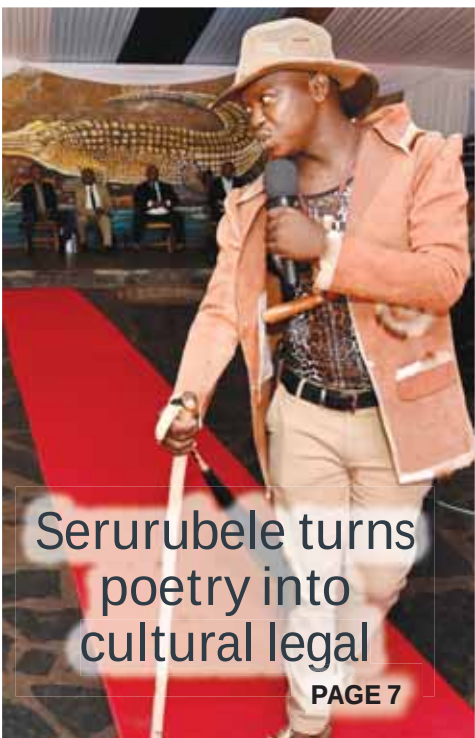


BOTSWANA

Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES

A woman in a light orange jacket and a tan hat is performing poetry into a microphone on a stage. A large red letter 'N' is visible in the background.

Serurubele turns poetry into cultural legal

PAGE 7

Youri eyes golden glory in Angola

A tennis player in a light blue shirt and dark shorts is captured mid-swing on a tennis court.

PAGE 8

NEWS

Sikwane church: A legacy built on faith

Page 2

NEWS

PSLE commences with at least 52 337 entrants

Page 3

DIKGANG

E a re go tlogelwa tsatsing...

Page 5

NEWS

BPP: Party that birthed nation

Page 6

President Advocate Duma Boko, the Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard, and Duchess Birgitte are shaking hands in front of the Botswana coat of arms.

President Advocate Duma Boko (right), Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard (centre) and Duchess Birgitte during a courtesy call at the Office of the President yesterday. President Boko commended the royal couple for the visit, saying it symbolised Botswana's place within the Commonwealth family and that it would further strengthen relations between Botswana and the United Kingdom. Photo: Phenyio Moalosi

Boko hails Royal visit

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

President Advocate Duma Boko has commended the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester for their visit to Botswana, hailing it as a powerful symbol of the nation's status within the Commonwealth family.

Cont... page 3

Sikwane church: A legacy built on faith, education and service

For generations, the Dutch Reformed Church in Sikwane was more than a place of Sunday worship. Its doors opened to children seeking education, women learning sewing and homecraft, boys acquiring woodwork and other practical skills, and adults who had missed formal schooling being taught to read and write. For families facing bereavement, it offered something less tangible but equally important, a comforting presence at the doorstep and a prayer in times of grief.

STORY PAGE 2

SPAR

Rewards

More for You

A SPAR Rewards Card with a large 'R' logo and the text 'Rewards' and 'More for You'.

SPAR Rewards

More for You

SIGN UP NOW
SHOP MORE
SAVE MORE
GET REWARDED!

REMEMBER TO SWIPE YOUR
SPAR Rewards CARD
EVERY TIME YOU SHOP, DON'T MISS OUT!

Sikwane church: A legacy built on faith, education and service

Lindi Morwaeng
SIKWANE

Long before Botswana raised its national flag as an independent nation, communities such as Sikwane were already laying foundations that would shape generations. At the heart of that community stood a church.

For generations, the Dutch Reformed Church in Sikwane was more than a place of Sunday worship. Its doors opened to children seeking education, women learning sewing and homecraft, boys acquiring woodwork and other practical skills, and adults who had missed formal schooling being taught to read and write.

For families facing bereavement, it offered something less tangible but equally important, a comforting presence at the doorstep and a prayer in times of grief.

The church was also part of a wider mission that helped bring medical care closer to communities at a time when health services were limited.

As the Sikwane congregation celebrated 70 years on September 26, associated with its present church building, it is reflecting on a history deeply intertwined with that of the community it has served.

The story of the Sikwane Dutch Reformed Church branch offers a reminder that Botswana's development did not begin in 1966. Long before independence, communities, traditional institutions, churches and other organisations were already contributing to education, healthcare and social development.

The Dutch Reformed Church's presence among the Bakgatla dates back to the 19th century. Historical records place the establishment of the Sikwane congregation in 1885, following the establishment of a mission outpost there in 1882.

But beyond the dates and buildings is a story of people and of generations whose lives were shaped by the church and its activities.

In his historical account, Reverend Moses Bogatsu traces the growth of the Dutch Reformed Church in Kgatlang alongside the reign of Dikgosi tsa Sekgatla, whose influence extended beyond traditional leadership.

According to Rev Bogatsu, when the Dutch Reformed was introduced among the Bakgatla, Kgosi Kgamanyane was the reigning chief and had married several wives.

That historical relationship between the church, traditional leadership and the community would become part of the wider story of the church's presence in Kgatlang.

Seventy years on, the Sikwane church building stands not simply as a place of worship, but as a physical reminder of a period when education, skills development, healthcare, faith and community life often converged under one roof.

Its story is therefore not only about the survival of a congregation.

It is about a community that, long before independence, was already investing in its people, one lesson, one skill, one prayer and one helping hand at a time.

His successor, Kgosi Linchwe I, would later become an important figure in the history of the church and its relationship with Bogosi.

When Linchwe I became



interested in Christianity, he went through a period of personal seclusion before eventually accepting the new faith, Rev Bogatsu said.

Church historical accounts record that Linchwe I broke with traditional religious practices and was baptised on February 28, 1892.

His influence, however, extended beyond his personal conversion.

Rev Bogatsu said Linchwe I later played a significant role in mobilising mephato, or regiments, to provide labour towards the construction of the church.

The building therefore became a community undertaking, bringing together traditional leadership, ordinary residents and resources.

Women made mud bricks from a mixture of mud, cow dung and water, while also gathering and bundling thatching grass. Men cut poles, prepared bark for binding the roof structure and transported materials using sledges and ox wagons.

Piece by piece, the community was building more than a church.

It was creating a centre around which aspects of community life would eventually revolve.

The building doubled as a school, bringing literacy and numeracy to residents. Children were initially taught under trees before lessons moved into the church building.

The historical account further records that the land on which Sikwane Primary School now stands was originally associated with the church. The church later acquired another site to allow the school to continue serving the community.

In this way, the story of the church became inseparable from the story of education in Sikwane.

Its walls carried prayers, but they also carried lessons.

Its grounds brought together worshippers, learners, families and community members.

And its construction, remembered through the labour of men and women who made bricks, gathered grass, cut poles and transported materials, reflected a simple principle that has endured across generations, that a community could build its future with what it had and with the strength of its people. Seventy years after the present church building became part of Sikwane's landscape, its significance lies not only in its age, but in the generations that passed through its doors.

Its story is ultimately a story of faith, education, skills, service and community and of a Botswana whose development was already underway long before independence.

The church's reach extended far



Reverend Moses Bogatsu



Reverend Charles Methaleng of Sikwane congregation

such as Matswere during periods of prayer, meeting farmers on their lands so that distance from the village would not also mean distance from the church.

The church, in this sense, followed its people. Women form another important thread in the history of the Sikwane congregation.

Rev Bogatsu's historical account records that in 1944, during Reverend Murray's leadership, a conference was held in Sikwane, leading to the introduction of a Mothers' Union following engagement with a Mothers' Union from Mafikeng. The group reportedly travelled to Sikwane by ox wagon.

"Mma moruti Anna Phiri later played an important role in establishing Mothers' Union branches in 1950, while a youth union was also formed around the same period," he recalls.

Over the years, generations of women helped sustain the congregation through concerts, singing and fundraising.

Their contribution becomes even more striking when viewed against the social structures of the time.

Rev Bogatsu said women were for many years excluded from the main church structures, with men traditionally being the only ones allowed to serve on the church council.

"Yet women were simultaneously carrying significant responsibility for the life and sustainability of the congregation," he said.

Their influence was therefore often felt not through formal positions, but through the practical work that kept the congregation active and connected to the community.

The church itself also bore the marks of the society in which it operated.

According to Rev Bogatsu's historical account, between 1960 and 1966, white members from the mission hospital attended services in increasing numbers.

Inside the church, the seating arrangement reflected the racial and social hierarchy of the time.

Separate portions were designated for white and black congregants, while the chief occupied a special chair near the pulpit.

It was a physical arrangement that reflected a society still divided

along racial and social lines, even as the church continued to provide education, spiritual support and other services to the wider community.

"It is an uncomfortable part of the church's history, but an important one," he stressed.

For today's congregation, these memories form part of a much larger story, one that includes faith and service, but also the social realities through which the church and its people lived.

Seventy years on, the Sikwane church building stands as a witness not only to the passage of time, but to the generations who built, worshiped, learned, served and found comfort within its walls.

The story of Sikwane, Rev Bogatsu said, therefore cannot be told only as a story of development. It must also be understood within the inequalities that characterised the pre-independence era.

Yet from that complex history emerged a congregation that became a foundation for the church's wider presence in Kgatlang, eventually giving rise to four additional branches in Mmathubudukwane, Mabalane, Malolwane and Ramonaka.

Assistant Minister of Basic Education and Child Welfare, Mr Justin Hunyepa, said the 70th anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on where communities came from, the heritage embedded in the church and how its legacy could be used to improve people's lives.

He said the church had historically played a critical role in communities, particularly in education, health, skills development and social welfare, long before some of those responsibilities were fully assumed by government.

Mr Hunyepa also commended the Dutch Reformed Church for its role during the apartheid era, saying it provided refuge and protection to black people who faced racism and discrimination.

He said the church's history should serve as a reminder to governments of the importance of respecting the dignity and human rights of every individual, regardless of race.

"Faith is evidenced by works," Mr Hunyepa said, noting that the church had demonstrated its faith through tangible interventions that improved people's lives.

He said the church had been instrumental in providing education in various forms before government-established schools became widespread.

In the health sector, Mr Hunyepa highlighted the establishment of Deborah Retief Hospital in Mochudi, saying the church helped bring health services closer to communities at a time when government hospitals were not yet widely available.

He said the Dutch Reformed Church had made significant contributions to the development of Kgatlang and beyond, including its continued involvement in institutions serving people with disabilities.

The church's historical records show that the Dutch Reformed Church in Botswana was formally constituted as an autonomous church on November 20, 1979, after decades of mission work connected to the Dutch Reformed Church structures outside Botswana. **BOPA**

Envoy pledges continued support for Botswana

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
GABORONE

Outgoing High Commissioner of India to Botswana, Mr Bharath Kumar-Kuthati, has pledged to remain an advocate and spokesperson for Botswana wherever his next assignment takes him, saying his three years and three months in the country have left a lasting impression.

Mr Kumar-Kuthati said this during a courtesy visit to President Duma Boko in Gaborone yesterday, as he prepares to conclude his tour

of duty in Botswana.

“Botswana will remain in my heart and I will be a spokesperson of Botswana wherever I go,” he said.

He expressed gratitude for the hospitality and support he received from the people and Government of Botswana, saying the experience would “remain forever.”

Mr Kumar-Kuthati also said he planned to liaise with the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago to Botswana to establish a stronger diaspora bridge aimed at fostering partnerships and cultural exchanges.

“Botswana will remain in my heart and I will be a spokesperson of Botswana wherever I go”

Reflecting on his tenure, he highlighted the successful relocation of cheetahs from Botswana to India and the historic visit of the Indian

President to Botswana as some of the key milestones.

He expressed appreciation for the strong and enduring relations between Botswana and India, which he said had continued to flourish during his tenure.

For his part, President Boko acknowledged Mr Kumar-Kuthati’s contribution to strengthening relations between the two countries.

He said Botswana-India cooperation covered several critical sectors, including education, defence and environmental conservation.

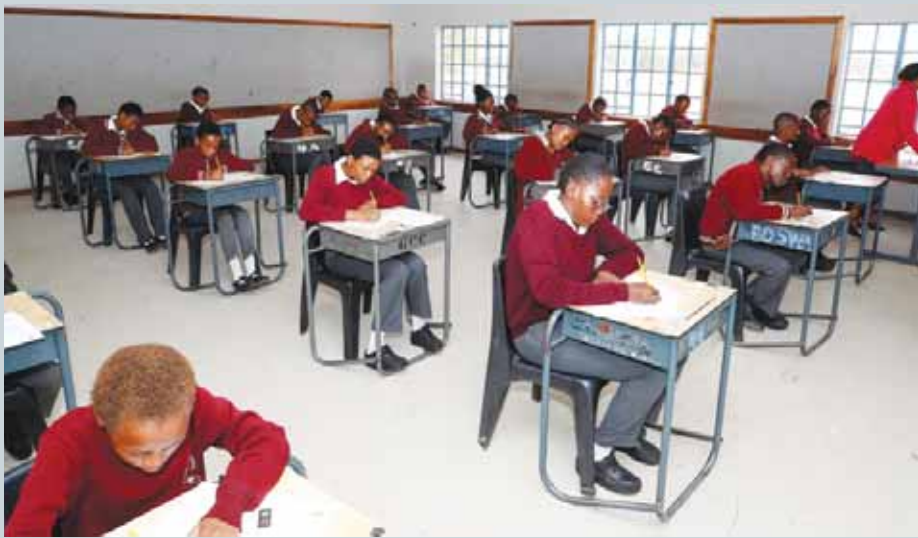
President Boko also thanked the outgoing High Commissioner for facilitating initiatives and engagements that contributed to deepening bilateral relations.

He expressed appreciation for India’s recent donation of antiretroviral medicines to Botswana, describing the support as an important contribution to the country’s health sector.

President Boko encouraged Mr Kumar-Kuthati to continue advocating for Botswana wherever he went and to carry the spirit of the country with him. **BOPA**

PSLE commences

At least 52 337 learners commenced their Primary School Leaving Examination yesterday



Boswa Primary School Standard Seven pupils sitting for the Setswana Paper 1 examination in the Primary School Leaving Examinations in Gaborone yesterday. School head, Ms Kapaletswe Zikhale said 138 pupils wrote the Setswana paper, while two foreign pupils were exempted. She said 17 pupils with special educational needs also sat for the examination. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu



Ikhutseng Primary School pupils and school head, Mr Raymond Mulale unsealing the Setswana examination pack in Francistown yesterday, during the first day of the Primary School Leaving Examination, written across the country. Mr Mulale said 116 pupils sat for the examination, three of whom had access arrangements, allowing them to dictate their answers to scribes. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Boko hails Royal visit

...from page 1

President Boko made the remarks yesterday during a courtesy call by Their Royal Highnesses, who are undertaking a four-day official visit representing King Charles III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

“We are grateful that you have been able to come and join us and further cement the good

relations between ourselves and the United Kingdom as part of the Commonwealth family,” President Boko said.

The visit coincides with commemorating 60 years of Botswana’s independence as well as six decades of diplomatic relations between the country and the United Kingdom.

While in the country, the royal couple will participate in a programme showcasing Botswana’s achievements, rich culture and pioneering leadership across various fields, ranging from technological innovation to wildlife conservation.

British High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr Giles Enticknap, stated that the visit reflected the close and enduring relationship shared by the two nations.

Mr Enticknap emphasised that the visit underscored mutual commitment to expanding opportunities for young people, promoting sustainable development and deepening the institutional ties that had defined the partnership over the past six decades.

Meanwhile, Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, is a working member of the British royal family and a first cousin of the late Queen Elizabeth II. **BOPA**

Access to sign language critical

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
GABORONE

Access to sign language is a fundamental human right, yet it remains inconsistent and often inaccessible in Botswana, according to sign language interpreter and inclusion advocate, Mr Lesley Baleseng.

In an interview on the state of sign language services, Mr Baleseng highlighted the systemic gaps that continued to marginalise individuals with hearing impairment across the country.

“Access to communication is a right, not a privilege, but right now, that right is not fully realised,” he said.

Addressing a common misconception that sign language is universal or informal, he explained that in reality, sign language was a fully developed linguistic system with its own grammar, structure and cultural context.

“Sign language is the first language of deaf people, it follows all the rules of language, grammar, linguistics and everything, the difference is that it is visual,” he said.

He further said like spoken languages, sign languages varied across countries and even within regions, adding that cultural influences shaped how signs were expressed, leading to dialects and variations.

“For example, South African Sign

Language has regional differences influenced by local cultures and spoken languages, language and culture go hand in hand,” he said.

Despite the existence of sign language in Botswana, Mr Baleseng said access to it, particularly in essential services, remained limited.

He pointed out that many service providers lacked proficiency or awareness of sign language, creating daily communication barriers for individuals with hearing impairment.

“There is no consistent system in place, sometimes there’s no interpreter at all and even when there is, the quality may not be sufficient,” he said.

He explained that those challenges were particularly evident in critical sectors such as education, healthcare and public services, where effective communication was essential.

He said without proper access, individuals with hearing impairment were often excluded from information and opportunities that hearing individuals took for granted.

To illustrate the issue, Mr Baleseng compared the experience of individuals with hearing impairment to that of a person placed in a foreign country without understanding the language.

“Imagine living in a world where everything is communicated in a language you do not understand, that is the reality for many deaf

people in a hearing dominated society,” he said.

He stressed that lack of access was not due to the absence of sign language itself, but rather the failure to integrate it into national systems and policies.

He therefore highlighted the importance of early exposure to sign language, particularly for children with hearing impairment, saying without early language stimulation, cognitive and social development can be affected.

“In an ideal situation, deaf children would be exposed to sign language from an early age, that allows them to develop language naturally, just like hearing children do with spoken language,” he added.

He noted that hearing impairment can occur at different stages, whether congenital or later in life and that language needs may vary accordingly, however saying access to sign language remained crucial across all cases.

He further said while interpreters existed in Botswana, access to them was often informal and inconsistent.

He therefore called for stronger systems, better training and formal recognition of sign language as an essential service.

“Sign language is still treated as optional, but it is essential communication,” he said, insisting that access to communication must be recognised and implemented as a basic human right for all. **BOPA**

DailyNews

Published by: Department of Information Services
37795 Wellie Seboni Drive
Private Bag BR 139 Gaborone

Printed by: Government Printing and Publishing Services

Online Edition: <https://dailynews.gov.bw>
email: bopa@gov.bw email: dailynews@gov.bw

Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

Editors

Ms Masego Pilane
Tel: 365 3569
Email: mkipilane@gov.bw

Mr Sefhako Sefhako
Tel: 365 3589
Email: ssefhako@gov.bw

Ms Sereki Mpitse
Tel: 365 3595
Email: smpitse@gov.bw

Head of Photography

Head of Marketing

Head of Graphics

Mr Yobe Shonga
Tel: 365 3604
Email: yshonga@gov.bw

Ms Lucretia Chima
Tel: 365 3574
Email: lchima@gov.bw

Mr Edward Matlala
Tel: 365 3557
Email: ematlala@gov.bw

Call: 365 3591 / 3592 / 3593 / 3599 To Advertise

DailyBusiness

Namibia eyes emerging space economy to spur development

WINDHOEK

Namibia has called for the use of satellite technology, legislative reform, and international partnerships to enhance its emerging space economy and promote socio-economic development.

Lisho Mundia, deputy executive director in the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture, highlighted Namibia’s strategic ambitions to build a robust domestic space industry while addressing students, scientists, and international delegates at the opening of World Space Week 2026 in Windhoek Monday.

“Space science and technology is an expanding field of opportunity for research, innovation, education, entrepreneurship and national development,” Mundia said, noting that it presented an opportunity to build capabilities

and ensure that the youth were prepared to participate in and benefit from the space economy.

According to Mundia, after adopting its inaugural Space Science and Technology Policy in 2021, the Namibian cabinet directed the drafting of a comprehensive Space Science and Technology Bill in 2025.

“The proposed law will establish a legal and institutional framework for the development and regulation of space science and technology activities in Namibia,” he said, noting that the legislation aims to promote research, facilitate capacity-building, and attract foreign investment to create local employment.

Furthermore, he highlighted that Namibia had expanded its technical infrastructure through international collaboration.

Mundia said the recent commissioning of a satellite ground data receiving station would enhance Namibia’s capacity to receive and process satellite data for application across various government sectors and support evidence-based planning and decision-making.

According to Mundia, Namibia’s favorable geographical location makes it a prime destination for major global astronomical projects like the High Energy Stereoscopic System and the Africa Millimeter Telescope. *Xinhua*



HEFEI - A robot making popcorn at a store in Tunxi District of Huangshan, east China’s Anhui Province, recently. Embodied AI robots of various functions rolled out in commercial and cultural blocks have been a major attraction for tourists. Through smart interactions, they have diversified tourism offerings and experiences. Photo: Xinhua

Afreximbank and EABC partner to expand digital trade access for East African businesses

NAIROBI

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the East African Business Council (EABC), the region’s apex private sector body, have signed the Africa Trade Gateway (ATG) Agency Agreement to accelerate regional trade, the two institutions said in a statement on Monday. The agreement, which was inked in Nairobi, connects regional enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises and major exporters, to the 300-million-strong East African Community Common Market and the broader African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) market of 1.3 billion consumers through

digital trade, according to the statement. Haytham El Maayergi, executive vice-president of global trade bank at Afreximbank, noted in the statement that while trade is built on connections, identifying trusted partners and accessing essential cross-border trade services remained a major challenge for many businesses.

El Maayergi noted that the ATG is designed to bridge this gap by connecting businesses with trusted buyers, suppliers, financial institutions, and essential trade services to convert opportunities into completed transactions.

“Our collaboration with EABC is helping more businesses within East Africa access new markets

with greater confidence.

By leveraging the trusted networks and digital services available through the Africa Trade Gateway, businesses can build meaningful connections, unlock new opportunities and participate more actively in Africa’s growing digital economy,” he said.

The ATG is Afreximbank’s flagship digital trade ecosystem, connecting businesses, financial institutions, and trade partners across Africa and beyond.

Serving as a single integrated platform, it links enterprises to verified counterparties and essential trade-enabling services, including trade finance, payments, compliance, logistics, and market

intelligence, to streamline cross-border transactions.

Ahmed Farah, executive director of the EABC, said that it empowers regional enterprises by providing insights on AfCFTA market opportunities, rules of origin, tariff concessions, customs procedures, and export requirements, backed by tailored advisory support for market entry and export readiness.

“As a trade corridor partner for the Afreximbank ATG, EABC is connecting enterprises to the ecosystem, enabling access to business-to-business matchmaking and trade finance solutions that can facilitate intra-African trade under the AfCFTA,” Farah added. *Xinhua*

BUSINESS BRIEFS

South Africa faces steep fuel prices hike

JOHANNESBURG - South African motorists and consumers face another economic blow this week as the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources announced major monthly fuel price increases on Monday, set to take effect this Wednesday. Driven by ongoing conflict in the Middle East and rising global crude costs, with Brent crude climbing above US\$100 a barrel during September, the department confirmed that petrol prices will increase by between R3.12 (about US\$0.19) and R3.33 rand per liter, while diesel will rise by R2.84 to R3.24 per liter. In its statement, the department highlighted that average Brent crude oil prices rose from US\$87.89 to US\$101.00 per barrel over September as US-Iran tensions escalated and threatened oil transit through the Strait of Hormuz. The exchange rate provided minimal relief, as the rand appreciated slightly against the dollar, averaging 16.21 in September. *Xinhua*

Bangladesh to shift from IMF loans to market-based financing

DHAKA - Bangladeshi Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury has said that the country must move beyond reliance on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by tapping global and domestic markets for capital. “We cannot depend on the IMF,” the minister said as the chief guest at a programme in Dhaka on Sunday. Noting that Bangladesh’s financial architecture was changing, he urged stakeholders to target a trillion-dollar economy by 2034. The Bangladeshi government recently decided to exit the existing US\$5.5-billion loan programme with the IMF after some of the Washington-based lender’s conditions were reported to be no longer suitable for the country’s current circumstances. *Xinhua*

Rising inflation weigh on Europe growth

BRUSSELS - Costly energy, rising inflation and higher borrowing costs together threaten to weaken Europe’s economic recovery by squeezing household spending and business investment. The euro area economy has proved more resilient than expected, prompting the European Central Bank (ECB) to raise its 2026 and 2027 growth forecasts in September. Emergency fuel releases may ease the immediate supply strain, but reliance on imports leaves Europe exposed to further disruptions. Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) recently agreed to release 100 million barrels of oil and diesel over four months through the International Energy Agency, including substantial diesel supplies within the first 20 days. They also pledged to avoid export restrictions among member countries and called for coordinated refinery maintenance and higher utilisation rates where feasible. The agreement followed US pressure on European governments to release emergency diesel stocks. *Xinhua*

Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

Ipapatse Fa Leletsa

659 6315 | 625 0353 | 533 0379 | 297 8237
261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500





Banni ba Gaborone North ba dirile maiteko a go baakanya tsela mo kgaolong ya bone, tiro e e kgonagetseng ka P200 wa koleke ya malwapa.

E a re go tlogelwa tsatsing...

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

Mopalamente wa Gaborone North, Rre Shawn Ntlhaile, a re go baakanngwa ga sekgele sa khilomethara ya tsela kwa kgaolong eo, ke sesupo sa tshwaragano le bokgoni jwa banni.

Fa a simolodisa tiro e e kgonagetseng ka P200 wa koleke ya malwapa a kgaolo, Rre Ntlhaile o supile fa banni ba tshwenngwa ke ditsela tse di emang metsi ka paka ya pula, fa nako e pula e seyong go nne lorole, mme se, se dire mosepele thata.

O ne a leboga maiteko a Baipelegi Road Development Committee, are ba supile bothlokwa jwa tshwaragano le go sa ipona tsapa go kopa dithuso mo go ba ba ikemetseng.

A re ga ba a emela ope gore a tle go ba thusa go baakanya dikgwetlho tsa bone, mme ga rena mowa wa boipelego o o supilweng ke mogwanto o o duelelwang, o ka

one maikaelelo e neng ele go dira madi a go baakanyo ditsela.

“Gompiano re bona maduo a maiteko a banni ka tshwaragano le Consortium Trito, ba ba ntshitseng dithuso go baakanya sekgele sa khilomethara ka tiriso ya motswako o o bopaganyang mmu gore o seka wa amiwa ke metsi mme wa nna lorole,” Rre Ntlhaile a gatelela.

A re ditiro tse di tshwanang le tse, ga se go rola puso boikarabelo jwa ditlhabololo tsa sennelaururi, a tlhalosa fa puso e itse dikgwetlho tsa ditsela mo kgaolong ya Gaborone North, bogolo tsa lefatshe le e seng la puso.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o ne a rotloetsa baagi go tswelela ba bopagane, go tsweladisa mowa wa bodiramogole go tselela ka tsela e e dirwang go ba solegela molemo.

Rre Ntlhaile o ne a leboga Khato Civils e e golotseng didirisiwa go tswelela e thusa baagi ba Gaborone North.

Modulasetilo wa komiti ya Baipelegi, Rre Mpho Sekokoane o supile fa ba dirisitse P100,000 go reka motswako o o bopaganyang mmu, mme ba dirisa P4,800 go gorosa motswako o o mo Gaborone go tswa South Africa.

A re ba rekile mmu wa lokgarapana ka bontlha bongwe jwa madi a ba neng ba a dirile ka mogwanto le fa khansela ya Gaborone e ne ya ntsha seabe ka go tsisa mmu wa lokgarapana.

Rre Sekokoane o ne a re Khato

Civils e thusitse kwa ntle ga tuelo fa baitseanape ba tlhalositse gore motswako wa ditanka tse thataro o tlaa lekana tiro eo.

Rre Abraham wa kgaolo ya Sebele e e akaretsang Gaborone North, a re ditsela tse di fa gare ga motse, ke tsa Gaborone City

Council mme tsone ke sekgele sa dikhilomethara dile lesome le bothlano.

A re mo go sone sekgele seo, tiro ya tsela e tlogelela khansela dikhilomethara di le lesome le bone. O ne a rotloetsa baagi ba ba saletseng kwa morago go llna le

seabe mo tironng e.

“Khilomithara e le nngwe hela ga e a lekana fa o lebelela sekgele se se salang sa tsela. Re kopa bagwebi go tla ka dithuso gore ditsela tsa Gaborone North, di tshwane le tse dingwe tse di mo Gaborone,” Rre Abraham a kopa.**BOPA**



Mopalamente wa Gaborone North, Rre Shawn Nthaila a simolodisa paakanyo ya tsela ya sekgele sa khilomethara kwa Gaborone North ka Mosupologo. O tlhalositse fa paakanyo ya tsela e supa se se ka kgonegang fa banni, dikgwebo le baeteledipele ba dira mmogo go rarabolola dikgwetlho.

Dinepe: Pheny Ramatu



Leader of Opposition, Mr Philip Matante (fifth right) Bechuanaland Prime Minister, Dr Seretse Khama (third right), Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Quett Masire (fourth right), Kgosi Bathoen II (second right) and the Queen's Commissioner, Sir Hugh Norman-Walker (right) at the opening of Independence Conference at Marlborough House in London on February 14, 1966.

Seretse Khama, became the ideal leading figure because his pragmatism and moderate narrative offered stability without alarming the colonial establishment,” he said.

Mr Garechaba said Matante was embedded in global socialist and Pan-African networks, maintaining direct ties with Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. “Nkrumah actively supported the BPP, even sponsoring vehicles that served the broader liberation struggle to dislodge British colonial rule from Bechuanaland and counter the Apartheid regime in South Africa. However, this Pan-African axis placed the BPP directly in the cross hairs of global superpowers,” he said.

He said the Apartheid government had successfully branded the ANC a terrorist organisation, and the United States was deeply hostile toward Nkrumah’s socialist leanings.

He explained that operating at the height of the Cold War, Matante and the BPP became high-priority targets for British and American intelligence. “Pan-Africanism and socialism were viewed as existential threats to Western free-market hegemony, making the BPP geopolitical collateral damage in a much larger global ideological war,” he said.

On ideological dilution and the path to the new government, Mr Garechaba said the remarkable survival of the BPP, culminating in its inclusion in Botswana’s current government, is a story of long-term ideological adaptation.

He said over the decades, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War fundamentally altered global politics while the rigid ideological divide dissolved, forcing radical Pan-Africanist and socialist movements across the continent to neutralise their rhetoric into general, pragmatic politics.

“Today, even if parties retain socialist identities, they must govern within nations deeply integrated into global free-market capitalism.

By adapting to this shifting landscape and participating in strategic opposition coalitions, the BPP preserved its institutional survival, transitioning from a historical liberation movement into a key player in Botswana’s modern governance,” he added.

What better time than at 60 to remember that independence was not handed to Batswana, but fought for? And that the first to fight for it was BPP.

Before there was a republic, there was a demand. Before there was a flag, there was an anthem. And before there was a government, there were three men Motsete, Matante and Mpho, who said, “Fatshe leno la rona.” **BOPA**

BPP: Party that birthed nation

Thamani Shabani
FRANCISTOWN

Behind the freedom that Botswana enjoys today is a story that is often glossed over, the story of the men who first dared to ask Britain to let go. That story belongs to the Botswana People’s Party (BPP).

According to the current leader of the BPP, Mr Motlatsi Molapisi, the last man standing who witnessed both the birth of independence and the end of 58 years of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) rule, the BPP was not formed in 1965 as many textbooks claim. It was formed way back in 1960 by three towering figures of the nationalist struggle.

At the helm was Kgalemgang Motsete, a gifted writer and composer who gave Botswana its soul through the national anthem Fatshe Leno La Rona.

He was deputised by the fiery orator, Phillip Matante, while the secretary general was Motsamai Mpho, who would later break away to form the Botswana Independence Party (BIP).

After the demise of Motsete, leadership fell to Matante, a man Mr Molapisi describes as a visionary ahead of his time.

“In fact, BPP did not participate in the attainment of independence, but it was the first party to ask Britain to grant Botswana its independence,” Mr Molapisi explained.

He said it was Phillip Matante who became the first Motswana to go to the United Nations to lobby Queen Elizabeth to grant Botswana self-rule.

He said the late Matante knocked on doors in London and New York at a time when many thought Bechuanaland was not ready to govern itself, arguing that Batswana were ready and ultimately, Britain agreed.

“These facts are never said, but are put in a way that BPP is just a small party, which was not instrumental in Botswana’s



Mr Motlatsi Molapisi

independence,” said Mr Molapisi, who said history had now been coined.

Yet history shows otherwise. When the first pre-independence general elections were held in 1965, BPP, then under Matante, won the Francistown constituency, becoming the official opposition.

Matante would go on to be Leader of the Opposition in Parliament from 1965 to 1979, a fearless voice for the common man, until he lost the seat to Patrick Balopi of the BDP.

Mr Molapisi claims the loss had its own story. “Mr Balopi took advantage of winning the constituency because Matante was hospitalised at Jubilee Hospital and could not fully campaign to retain his seat,” he said.

For 58 years, BPP remained in opposition, watching from the sidelines as the BDP ruled. Molapisi explained that BPP was branded a small northern party, but it never died. And in 2024, history came full circle.

“As a key partner in the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) coalition, BPP finally

returned to government, ending the BDP’s long reign. “We now pride ourselves with five Members of Parliament, all ministers and about 42 councillors across the country,” he said. Mr Molapisi, therefore, is more than a party president. He is a bridge. He saw the beginning, endured the middle, and witnessed the end of an era.

For Mr Molapisi, leading the BPP today is more than politics as it is custodianship of history. He carries the mantle of Phillip Matante into a Botswana that is now 60, a Botswana that is looking to re-examine the Constitution and is seeking to build a second republic that is more inclusive. Sharing a historical perspective, former journalist, Mr Kabo Garechaba, said the BPP emerged as the primary political catalyst in Bechuanaland following its

It was Phillip Matante who became the first Motswana to go to the United Nations to lobby Queen Elizabeth to grant Botswana self-rule

founding in 1960.

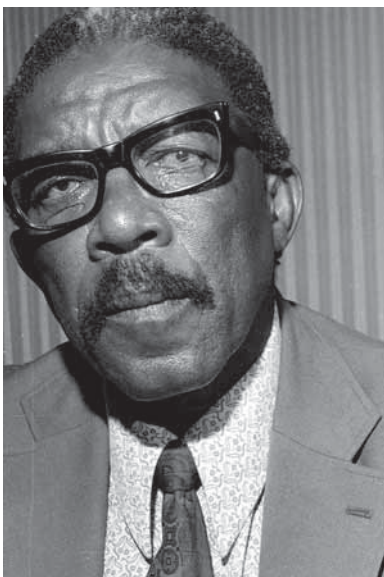
He said its radical leftist and Pan-Africanist platform deeply unsettled colonial authorities. He said at the time, British intelligence heavily monitored the Southern African sub-region to protect colonial interests. Because white colonial administrators and the domestic business community feared the BPP’s radical nationalistic politics, a strategic counterweight became necessary.

“Historical events strongly suggest that colonial elements, including figures within the London Missionary Society (LMS) and the white business community may have actively favoured and facilitated the creation of the Bechuanaland Democratic Party (BDP) specifically to neutralise the BPP’s radical momentum,” Mr Garechaba shared.

“The founding president, Sir



Mr Motsamai Mpho



Mr Phillip Matante



Mr Kgalemgang Motsete



Serurubele turns poetry into cultural legacy

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

For Edwin Moroka, popularly known as Serurubele, poetry is more than entertainment; it is a calling and a vehicle for preserving Setswana language and culture.

The Kanye-born poet has carved a niche for himself through captivating performances that often leave audiences swaying to the rhythm of his words and movements.

His stage name, Serurubele, was given to him by listeners of Duma FM during one of his appearances on the Radio station.

“While I was reciting a poem on Duma FM, I kept using the word ‘Serurubele’ during my pauses. I would say ‘Serurubele! Seru!’ and it amused many people who were listening,” he said. Moroka, who holds a Bachelor’s degree in Public Health, a Diploma in Healthcare Management, a Certificate in Special Education and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education, said his academic pursuits have never diminished his passion for poetry. “I developed interest in poetry while I was still in junior school and took it to another level at tertiary level.

At first, it was just a hobby, but people later encouraged me to take the gift seriously,” he said. Besides poetry, Serurubele is an author of Setswana books, including Marope a Puo, an indigenous knowledge book, Legalleng, a

poetry and folktale collection.

He describes himself as a 21st-century poet and cultural custodian determined to keep the Setswana language and its rich linguistic expressions alive.

“I do not want to part ways with the rich Setswana language. I have decided to also add an element of research to my poetry,” he said.

Moroka said his passion for poetry was nurtured by his grandfather, who was also a poet. He recalls how his grandfather would recite poems while driving oxen during the ploughing season, praising the animals and encouraging them as they pulled the plough.

“That is where some of my inspiration comes from.

I grew up in an extended family setting rich in culture and traditional knowledge,” he said. Serurubele said his poetry services extend to corporate events, weddings, parties, promotions, graduations and birthday celebrations.

He said his stage performances are largely spontaneous rather than memorised. “I do not rehearse or write poems to recite. My poetry is spiritual. I do not write before I recite. “Despite being a book writer, when it comes to stage poetry, I just flow with the words,” he said. **BOPA**



Kanye-born poet, Edwin Moroka popularly known as Serurubele has carved a niche for himself through captivating performances. For him, poetry is far more than mere entertainment, it is a profound calling and a powerful vehicle for preserving Setswana language and culture.

Traces of Justice leads China box office

BEIJING

Crime drama Traces of Justice led China’s box office on Thursday, the first day of the weeklong National Day holiday, emerging as the early front-runner in a release calendar short on traditional blockbuster fare.

According to ticketing platform Maoyan, China’s box office totaled 180 million yuan (about US\$26.73 million) on October 1.

Traces of Justice generated 71-million-yuan, accounting for 39 per cent of total ticket sales. The film was followed by comedy Mr. &

Mrs. Pardon, which earned 48 million yuan. Together, the two titles accounted for nearly 66 per cent of opening-day revenue.

Directed and co-written by Chen Sicheng, Traces of Justice is based on the life and work of Cui Daozhi, a renowned trace-evidence expert. The film stars Zhang Yi as Cui Xun, a trace-evidence specialist, alongside Ma Li as a forensic pathologist and Chen Minghao as a veteran detective. Rather than focusing on action-driven police work, the film centres on forensic science and evidence analysis.

Drawing inspiration from a series of real

criminal cases dating back to the 1970s, it follows investigators solving seemingly unsolvable crimes through bite marks, fingerprints, fibers, firearms evidence and other overlooked clues.

The story traces the development of Chinese forensic techniques over several decades. The film’s strong opening suggests audiences may be responding to a genre mix that differs from the patriotic epics and effects-heavy spectacles that have often dominated China’s National Day holiday in recent years.

Maoyan analyst Lai Li noted that this year’s National Day lineup offers a broad range of genres but lacks a clear tentpole release capable of driving the market on its own.

That dynamic may have worked in favor of Traces of Justice, which entered the holiday with recognizable creative talent and a distinctive crime-investigation premise.

The film kicked off its nationwide roadshow Thursday in Harbin, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, where Cui spent much of his professional life and where portions of the story are set.

Cui joined the provincial public security department in 1955 and has spent more than six decades working in criminal forensic science, participating in over 1,200 major cases and examining thousands of pieces of evidence. Director Chen said Cui’s life story offered a unique lens through which to examine the evolution of Chinese criminal investigation.

Star Zhang Yi described the film as not only a portrait of one investigator but also a tribute to generations of police officers whose work has largely remained out of public view. Whether Traces of Justice can maintain its lead over the remainder of the seven-day break remains an open question. **Xinhua**



Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard (left) and Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebenshi (right) being taken on a tour of the Botswana @60 exhibition by a consultant, Stephen Mogotsi at the National Museum and Monument in Gaborone yesterday. Prince Richard and the Duchess Birgitte are in the country on a four-day official visit. The visit coincides with Botswana’s 60 years of independence commemoration, as well as six decades of diplomatic relations between the country and the United Kingdom. Photo: Phenyo Ramatu



Youri eyes golden glory in Angola

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Botswana tennis player, Ekua Youri will compete in the WTA \$125K Angola Ladies Open from November 2 to 8.

The tournament will feature 32 singles players, who will compete on the outdoor hard courts at the Kikuxi Tennis Academy in Luanda, Angola.

According to the Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) president, Oaitse Thipe, Youri would be the first local tennis player given the wildcard to compete at that level.

This, Thipe said demonstrated the good working relationship between the BTA and other international tennis federations.

Therefore, he said the association welcomed the development as the player would compete in the high-profile tournament.

Performing well in Angola, he said

would provide Youri with an opportunity accumulate WTA ranking points, adding that augmented by next year's All-Africa Games, that would keep her on the qualification path for the Olympics.

Thipe said they were confident that the player would do well given that she was currently on top form.

In addition, he said at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), Youri was earlier this year, voted the most outstanding player in Southern California.

Besides dominating collegiate tennis, he said Youri also did well at the Futures Tournament in Durban, and she was equally instrumental in the Billie Jean King Cup where the country was promoted to Europe/Africa Group II. **BOPA**

Botswana's Ekua Youri will compete in the WTA \$125K Angola Ladies Open, scheduled for November 2 to 8 at the Kikuxi Tennis Academy in Luanda, alongside 31 other players.

