

BOTSWANA

# Daily News

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# Elephant quota sales boost five villages



The five villages of Gumare, Tubu, Danega, Nokaneng and Habu will each receive P450,000 from the sales of the recently awarded nine-elephants quota. Okavango District commissioner, Mr William Keareng made the announcement during a kgotla meeting in Gumare and urged residents to revive farmers' committees and an umbrella farmers' association so that they could benefit from the agricultural hunting quota, which was designed to mitigate human-wildlife conflict challenges.

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**SPAR**

# Molapowabojang: Grounded in history and culture

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe

## MOLAPOWABOJANG

Nestled along the banks of a quiet river, Molapowabojang stands as a place where history, culture and resilience meet.

Its name, meaning 'a river of grass' reflects a landscape once rich with lush *motshikhiri* grass that lined the riverbanks, an image that continues to define the village's identity.

The story of this village stretches

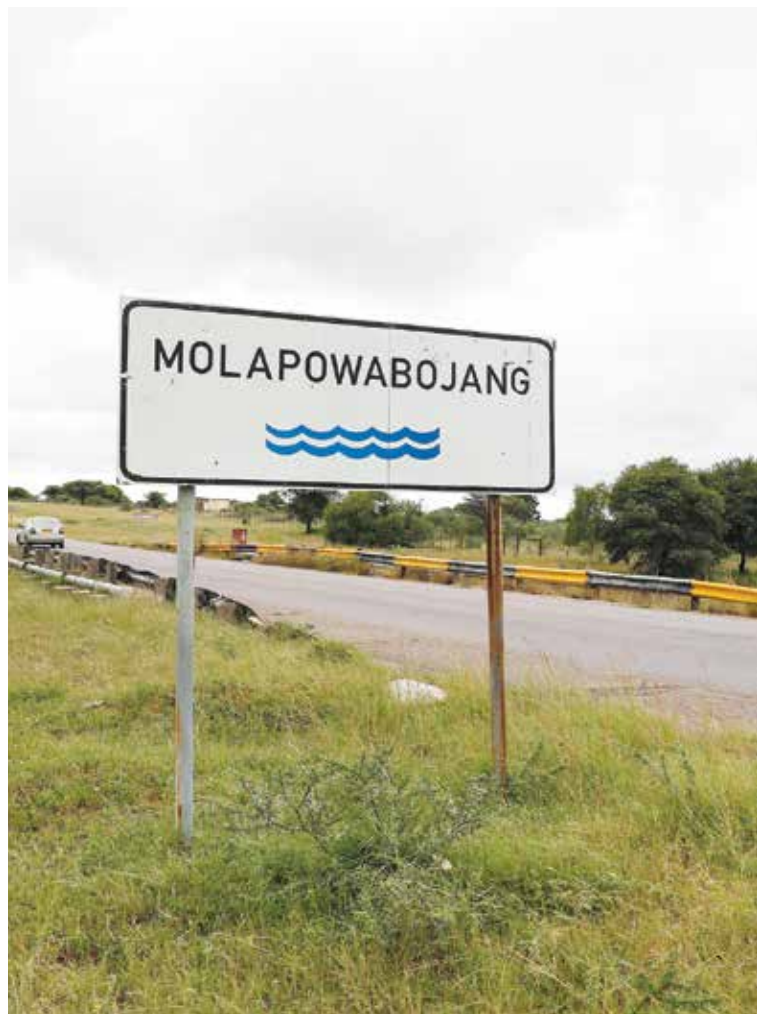
back over a century, with its origins dating to 1914, when it was first established by the Letshabo family from Kanye.

According to Kgosi Kadirile Letshabo of Molapowabojang, the village came into being when Kgosi Seepapitso III sent a delegation led by Pitso Letshabo to oversee the border between Lobatse and Gangwaketse, marking the beginning of what would become a vibrant community.

Letshabo was accompanied by his young son, Mpapalela, as age had begun to take its toll on him.



*Kgosi Kadirile Letshabo of Molapowabojang during an interview recently. He said the village came into being when Kgosi Seepapitso III sent a delegation led by Pitso Letshabo to oversee the border between Lobatse and gaNgwaketse, marking the beginning of what would become a vibrant community.*



*The story of Molapowabojang stretches back over a century, with its origins dating back to 1914, when it was first established by the Letshabo family from Kanye.*

A small group, including Pitsonyane, Ratsoma, Kekopakgomo, and Kebakuile, joined the initial party, each contributing to the foundation of this emerging settlement. Mpapalela and Kebakuile would later retrace their steps to Kanye.

The village was later officially gazetted in 1950 by Kgosi Bathoen II, marking a key milestone in its development.

Today, Molapowabojang is home to about 8 772 residents, with the population rising to over 10 000 when surrounding settlements are included.

At the centre of village life remains the kgotla, a symbol of tradition and community dialogue.

Over the years, the village has seen significant progress.

It boasts two primary schools, a junior secondary school, a clinic, a police post, and social and community development office,

key institutions that support daily life.

However, beneath these achievements lies a growing call for development.

Kgosi Letshabo highlighted mounting pressure on infrastructure due to the increasing population.

He stressed the urgent need to upgrade the local clinic into a fully equipped maternity facility to better serve expectant mothers.

He also raised concern over rising petty crime, including burglaries and purse snatching, linking the trend to youth unemployment and limited opportunities for those who struggle academically.

He emphasised the need to upgrade the police post to improve security.

Another challenge, he noted, is the shifting of constituencies, from Mmathethe/Molapowabojang to Kanye East, which he likened to a 'game of jump rope'.

This instability, he said, has slowed development efforts and made it difficult for the village to receive consistent support.

Despite these challenges, Molapowabojang remains a village rich in cultural heritage.

It once hosted the iconic Splash Music Festival, an event that drew crowds from across the country and cemented its place in Botswana's entertainment history.

The village is also remembered for figures such as Mma Enoch, a renowned traditional paediatrician whose services in the 1980s attracted people nationwide.

As Molapowabojang marks over 112 years of existence, its story is one of endurance and hope. While development gaps remain, the community continues to look ahead with determination, calling for the investment and support needed to unlock its full potential.

**BOPA**



*The village is built along the river, hence the name Molapowabojang. Photos: Pheny Ramatu*

# Elephant quota sales boost five villages

**Kedirebofe Pelontle**  
**GUMARE**

The five villages of Gumare, Tubu, Danega, Nokaneng and Habu will each receive P450,000 from the sale of the recently awarded nine-elephants quota.

Okavango District commissioner, Mr William Keareng made the announcement when addressing residents of Gumare during a recent kgotla meeting.

To this end, Mr Keareng has called on residents of the five villages to revive farmers' committees and an umbrella farmers' association so that they benefit from the agricultural hunting quota, which was designed to mitigate human-wildlife conflict challenges.

Also, Mr Keareng advised the communities to devise suitable projects that would reduce human-wildlife conflict and also benefit the communities economically.

In the past, he said, the quota was coordinated by community trusts, which were not aligned with the quota's core purpose, which promoted farmers' associations' close collaboration with farmers' committees in each village to ensure proper coordination.

Meanwhile, Gumare residents welcomed the quota, saying it would benefit the communities while reducing human-wildlife conflict.

Some residents called for the establishment and electrification of a communal farm for growing fruits and vegetables and their value chains

to supply supermarkets, which they said would promote agriculture while benefiting communities.

Others suggested drilling of

boreholes in wildlife management areas to water elephants and maintenance of buffalo fences to curb human-wildlife conflict.

They also suggested that part of the funds should be channeled toward addressing challenges such as animal diseases in the area. **BOPA**



Okavango District Commissioner, Mr William Keareng addressing Gumare residents about the Agricultural Hunting Quota recently. He said five villages of Gumare, Tubu, Danega, Nokaneng and Habu would each receive P450,000 from elephants quota sales. Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle

## Kgatlang registers 349 for child support grant

**Mmoniemang Motsamai**  
**MOCHUDI**

Kgatlang District Council has to date registered 349 child support grant beneficiaries.

The programme qualifies children who have not reached 12 months by April, must be a citizen of Botswana and possess a registered birth certificate and the primary giver must have resided in the district for at least six months prior to application.

Addressing a full council meeting recently, council chairperson, Mr Thabo Komane said the child grant was expected to commence payment this month, following a registration exercise that began on February 18.

Mr Komane said payment would be facilitated through the Social Benefits Payment and Reconciliation System.

"This is a transformative development for vulnerable families across our district" he said.

On other issues, Mr Komane told meeting that council's effort to ramp

up income streams was bearing fruit.

In that regard, he said trade licence collections, revenue officer deployments, and the October 2025 auction generated P78,100 as well as ongoing commercialisation of market stalls that contribute to a stronger own-source revenue base.

Furthermore, he said council's Public-Private Partnership framework continued to attract investment citing that the P1 million pledge from Business Botswana through the Private Sector Disaster Response Fund.

He said the funds earmarked for sewage line connections for 50 households along the Notwane Riverfront in Mochudi was a compelling example of what partnership could achieve.

He said financial evaluation of tenders had been completed, and 16 of the 50 target households had already been identified.

Furthermore, he said council had been informed that the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure had secured funds for the reconstruction of the Mmamashia-Modipane Road, currently at pre-contract stage with tender documents under final vetting.

"Construction is anticipated to commence in the next financial year and will stimulate economic diversification, improve connectivity to South Africa via Tlokweng and Sikwane Border Posts, and create significant employment opportunities for our people," he said.

Mr Komane also said the Modipane-Mabalane Road construction had been delayed by a court order.

"We are urgently engaging the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to provide short-term solutions while the legal process is being resolved," he said.

In the agriculture space, he said for the 2025/2026 ploughing season, 5 505 farmers were registered compared to 5 148 in the previous season, and that 1 617.28 hectares were planted under the Lemang Dijo Programme.

However he said, the long dry spell from January to February affected standing crops.

"Consequently, this may result in a decline in production this season. Our thoughts remain with the farming families who are impacted," he said. **BOPA**

## 'Nip workplace bullying in the bud'

**Lindi Morwaeng**  
**MOLEPOLOLE**

Lawyer and Managing Attorney at Ndadi Law Firm, Mr Uyapo Ndadi, has raised concern over the

growing prevalence of workplace bullying, describing it as persistent behaviour that belittles individuals, diminishes their value and creates hostile working environments.

Speaking during a workshop organised by Kweneng Regional Operations staff in Molepolole on Thursday, Mr Ndadi said workplace bullying remained a serious but often underreported issue that required urgent attention.

He explained that bullying was not a new phenomenon, noting that it often began early in life, at school, at home and even within institutions such as churches, before extending into the workplace in various forms.

"Bullying is a repeated pattern of behaviour aimed at undermining a person's worth. It can take many forms, including verbal abuse, intimidation, exclusion, manipulation, spreading rumours and abuse of authority," he said.

Mr Ndadi revealed that the impact of workplace bullying could be severe, with some employees nearly resigning due to pressure, while others were forced to seek professional help from psychologists

and psychiatrists because of emotional and mental strain.

He added that bullying also affected workplace productivity and often spilled over into employees' personal lives, disrupting peace within families and homes.

According to Mr Ndadi, perpetrators were often driven by insecurity, unresolved personal issues, arrogance and, in some cases, jealousy.

He further warned that power imbalances in workplaces discouraged victims from reporting incidents, as they feared victimisation or retaliation.

He added that some perpetrators were highly manipulative and could portray themselves as victims when confronted.

"There is currently no specific law that directly addresses workplace bullying in the Public Service Act or Employment Act, but existing legal frameworks can be applied to deal with such cases," he said.

Mr Ndadi emphasised the need for stringent measures against perpetrators and called on government to develop clear

policies that define workplace bullying and make it clear that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

Participants at the workshop confirmed that bullying was common in workplaces and could be perpetrated by both supervisors and subordinates.

Kweneng Regional Operations Wellness Coordinator, Ms Anastacia Mokgware, said the workshop aimed to promote a positive work culture rooted in openness, respect and inclusivity.

She noted that workplace bullying contributed to challenges such as absenteeism, abuse of sick leave, low morale, reduced productivity and poor teamwork.

Ms Mokgware added that the initiative sought to foster safe and peaceful working environments where employees feel valued and protected.

"We want to cultivate a culture where both supervisors and subordinates treat each other with respect and where workplaces are safe spaces for everyone," she said.

**BOPA**

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# EASTER HOLIDAYS WRAP



Gatalamotho Softball Club men are the National Easter Softball Tournament champions after defeating Wells International 15-6 in the finals at National Diamond Ground in Gaborone on Sunday. Gatalamotho won gold medals, a trophy and P45,000 while Wells took silver medals and P30,000.



Police IX women celebrating after emerging champions of the National Easter Softball Tournament finals in Gaborone on Sunday. They defeated Titans 3-2 to claim gold medals, a trophy and P45,000, while Titans finished second, taking silver medals and P30,000. Photos: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

## Police IX and Gatalamotho NEST 26 champions

Thato Mosinyi  
GABORONE

Police IX women and Gatalamotho softball club men's team emerged victorious in

the Nest National Easter softball tournament finals held at the National Diamond ground in Gaborone on Sunday.

In the women's category, Police IX edged out Titans 3-2 to claim the top spot, walking away

with gold medals, a trophy and P45,000.

Titans settled for second place, taking home silver medals and P30,000. The men's final was a Jwaneng derby showdown between Gatalamotho softball club

and Wells International softball club. Gatalamotho dominated the match, winning 15-6 and claiming the championship title.

They pocketed P45,000, gold medals and a trophy, while Wells took home P30,000 and silver

medals.

Sixteen teams, evenly split between men's and women's categories, participated in the tournament, which was sponsored by Nest to the tune of P362,000. **BOPA**

## Kelebeg appreciates Namibia support

Esther Mmolai  
SAMEDUPI

The third edition of MaSa Easter Cup held at Masa Racing Park, Samedupi on Saturday drew crowds from all walks of life for Easter of celebration and unity.

The event has proven to be a family affair as the excitement swept all, showing how deeply horse racing is woven into the fabric of everyday life. The thrilling event attracted diverse crowd from high profile celebrities to local fans cheering from their comfortable corners of the track.

Themed "Hoofprints Never Fade – Honouring the Brave Horses Who Ran Before Us," the event saw Botswana and Namibia horses battling out in a highly classic, vibrant and competitive race with top horses in the likes of the locally prominent, Western Bypass, Silver Sky, Prince and After Shock among others.

Amongst the multitudes, was the Minister of Sports and Arts, Jacob Kelebeg who acknowledged that horse racing occupies a unique and cherished place in the society as it connects generations, sustains livelihoods, and unites people across communities and borders.

The remarkable event, he said not only celebrates the thrilling sport of horse racing, but also showcases the strength of the communities, the richness of their culture and the growing economic opportunities within the nation.

He also appreciated the Namibian participation saying their presence strengthens regional cooperation and affirms the unifying power of sport within the Southern African Development Community family. While appreciating efforts made so far in terms purchasing of starting

**"This is an investment project that can generate more revenue for locals even for government and private sector as there is betting. It also positively impacts on livelihoods of the locals."**

gates, he said a lot needs to be done recognising the industry as a potential driver of economic growth and diversification as well as rural development.

"This is an investment project that can generate more revenue for locals even for government and private sector as there is betting. It also positively impacts on livelihoods of the locals," he said.

Western Bypass horse from Motokwe did not disappoint its fans as it retained its title as the MaSa Easter Cup champion in the 2 400 meters grand race winning P20,000 followed by Pee Jay from Namibia and After Shock in position two and three, pocketing P15,000 and P10,000 respectively.

In the 2 000 meters thoroughbred category, Action Time from Namibia scooped position one while Botswana's Diamond Dust and Red Summit took position two and three respectively.

In the 1 600 meters thoroughbred, Whisper from Namibia clinched first price, cashing P10,000 while local horses After Shock and Silver continued their impressive form taking position two and three worth P8,000 and P6,000 in that order. **BOPA**



Botswana and Namibia horses battling it out in a competitive MaSa Easter Cup at Samedupi on Saturday. Western Bypass, alongside top contenders such as Silver Sky, Pee Jay and After Shock competed for the 2026 championship title, with Western Bypass once again emerging victorious to retain the crown.



Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeg (right), MP for Maun North, also Leader of Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando (second right), MP for Maun West, Caterpillar Hikuama (left) and Kgosi Mokadi Masedi of Habu during the third edition of MaSa Easter Cup at MaSa Racing Park in Samedupi on Saturday. Photo: Esther Mmolai

# EASTER HOLIDAYS WRAP



A youth from St Bernadette Roman Catholic Church, Motheo Jameson playing Jesus Christ character during the Domus Maria Kgale in Gaborone on Good Friday. The church, in conjunction with Kriste Lefika and St Joseph's Parish youth, dramatised the Passion of Christ at the start of the Easter holidays, depicting his trial, persecution and crucifixion. The re-enactment serves as a reminder of faith, devotion and the meaning of Easter.



The Passion of Christ drama depicts Jesus' trial, persecution and crucifixion. Father Luka Sitima said the event was important because through Jesus' atonement and teachings, people found hope and peace, guiding them to change their lives for the better. Photos: Washa Bofelwang

## Molome urges St Paul Apostolic Faith Mission Church to spread gospel

Tshiamiso Moseitha

**SEROWE**

The Christian community has been persuaded to carry out their biblical mandate of spreading the message of faith, they must encourage more people to join the Christina movement.

Speaking at St Paul Apostolic Mission Church Easter Holiday Feast Ceremony at Modikwana ward in Serowe on Saturday, president of Botswana National Front (BNF) women's wing, Monica Molome urged Christian leaders to encourage church members to engage in outreach and recruitment activities to expand their congregations and share their faith.

Ms Molome said recruitment was designed to increase church membership and strengthen the community of believers through personal invitation and outreach activities.

Molome noted that the church has been established to partner with government in addressing society on good governance.

She said church leaders must lead with integrity, compassion and humility, highlighting the importance of building a community rooted in peace, unity and mutual respect.

Therefore, Ms Molome urged churches to be cooperative and serve the nation as a united force.

She said the government recognises churches as critical development partners in combating poverty, reducing crime and moulding good societal moral behaviours.

"While acting in an advisory role, churches are expected to

comply with the laws of the country," she said.

Member of Parliament for Serowe West, Onalepelo Kedikilwe said churches were recognised for their role in national guidance, a function meant to operate within a framework of legal compliance and respect for democratic boundaries.

Kedikilwe said though church administrators perform their roles voluntarily, it was important to ensure that churches adhered to regulations and rule of law.

He said leaders must ensure that all was in order and more importantly, submit annual returns on time, further noting that some churches were still struggling to submit returns.

Kedikilwe also emphasised that it was important for churches to adhere to constitutions, which were guiding tools in the running of their affairs.

Businessman, Botshelo Nthaga, said in a society where the church must play a guiding role, it was concerning to note increasing gender based violence (GBV) cases. He said religious groups such as Christians must empower the community and be at the forefront of campaigns fighting violence and promoting healthy relationships. Archbishop Kgotlaetsile Kgare has thanked government for recognising churches.

He said the church was appealing to good Samaritans to assist in constructing recreational centre in the church adding that the church has adopted an annual culture of donating to SOS children's home in Serowe.

Ms Molome's family donated P10 000 to the church, while Nthaga contributed P1 000 **BOPA**

## Matsheng farmers Easter Tournament aims to tackle stock theft

**SOJWE**

What began as an Easter football tournament promoting unity and youth development in the quiet village of Sojwe in the Matsheng region has evolved into an innovative community driven campaign to combat stock theft.

Member of Parliament for Lentsweletau/Lephephe, Tshenolo Bogatsu, has on Sunday, applauded the Matsheng Farmers Committee for what he described as a forward-thinking initiative to procure a drone aimed at monitoring livestock and curbing stock theft.

Addressing attendees during the tournament official opening

ceremony, Mr Bogatsu said the proposed drone, expected to cover a radius of up to 50 kilometers, will enable farmers to monitor their cattle remotely and with greater efficiency.

"Technology is the way to go. This initiative is not only innovative but necessary in protecting farmers' livelihoods," he said.

He further noted that with the current outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), the Ministry of Agriculture was utilising drone technology to patrol cordon fences from a command centre in Gaborone.

Bogatsu encouraged the committee to undertake a

benchmarking visit to the facility.

Also addressing the gathering, Officer Commanding for District Number 11, Senior Superintendent Kitso Lemogang, underscored the importance of collaboration between the police and the community in addressing crime.

Senior Supt Lemogang said the tournament served multiple purposes beyond entertainment, including reducing social ills by keeping young people engaged during the Easter holidays.

"This initiative has taken young people off the streets and given them purpose," he said.

He added that the tournament brought together communities

from Lentsweletau, Boatlaname, Sojwe, Shadishadi and Lephephe, collectively known as LEBOSOSHALE, strengthening unity while also stimulating local economic activity.

"The ripple effects are felt across the local economy, from small informal traders to established businesses," he said.

Lemogang revealed that the envisioned drone would be AI-powered and equipped with night vision capabilities, enhancing surveillance efforts.

Providing insight into the initiative, Matsheng Farmers Football Tournament chairperson, Olefile Molomo said the primary

objective of the tournament was to raise funds for the drone project.

He highlighted the strong community support, noting that several farmers have already made contributions towards the cause.

"We have seen overwhelming support from farmers. Some have donated cattle, including Shaw Kgathi who donated a bull valued at P25 000," he said.

The three-day event featured football matches among four local teams, followed by a club management workshop facilitated by Ashford Mamelodi. The final day marked the official opening ceremony and the tournament's final match. **BOPA**



# DailyBusiness



*Standard Chartered Bank of Botswana CEO, Mr Mpho Masuge during the 2025 Full Year Financial Results media presentation in Gaborone recently. He said the race to acquire the bank was intensifying, with more bidders entering the fray amid expectations that a preferred buyer could emerge within a few months. Mr Masuge also announced the bank's 2025 full-year financial results, highlighting a resilient performance despite a challenging economic environment. The bank exceeded its 2025 Return on Tangible Equity target of 25 per cent, achieving 26 per cent.*

Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Brazil central bank defends domestic pay system

#### RIO DE JANEIRO

A senior official at Brazil's central bank on Monday defended the country's instant payment system Pix, saying that recent criticism comes from sectors linked to the US payments industry, whose interests could be threatened by Brazil's expansion of low-cost, real-time transfer systems. Paulo Picchetti, director of international affairs and corporate risk management at the Central Bank of Brazil, said the rapid growth of Pix may challenge traditional payment models dominated by foreign players. "Those who criticise Pix have interests that are not those of the Brazilian population," Picchetti said after attending an event in Rio de Janeiro. He said the domestic instant payment platform helped reduce costs, increase competition and expand access to financial services, adding that such changes may challenge more traditional business models. *Xinhua*

### AU warns Middle East conflict risk Africa economy

#### ADDIS ABABA

The African Union (AU) and its partners have warned that the ongoing Middle East conflict poses a "serious risk" to African economies. In a joint policy brief issued Saturday, the AU, the United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, and the UN Development Programme warned that the longer the conflict lasted and the more severe the disruption on shipping routes, energy, and fertiliser supplies, the greater the risk of a significant growth slowdown across Africa. With most African countries still growing at rates below the pre-COVID time, the brief projected a loss in output growth of 0.2 percentage points on Africa's gross domestic product for 2026 if the conflict exceeds six months. The organisations stressed that the conflict, which had already triggered a trade shock, could quickly become "a cost-of-living crisis" through higher fuel and food prices. *Xinhua*

### China delivers food assistance project to Togo

#### LOME

China-aided emergency food assistance project was delivered to Togo on Thursday. During a handover ceremony in Lome-Togo, Afo Salifou Ousmane, secretary-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad of Togo, expressed sincere gratitude for China's valuable support on behalf of the Togolese government. He said that Togo was currently facing persistent challenges in food security and China's food assistance had effectively alleviated the urgent needs of the most vulnerable groups. China has become an important strategic partner in helping Togo achieve its development priorities, which range from infrastructure development and support for the healthcare system to cooperation in security and agriculture, Ousmane said. *Xinhua*

## Chinese firms eye bigger EU footprint

#### BRUSSELS

**Chinese companies are planning to deepen their presence in the European Union (EU) market despite concerns over regulation and policy uncertainty, according to a report released this week at a forum in Luxembourg.**

Released at the 2026 New Quality Productive Forces and Cross-Border Finance Forum in Luxembourg, the report was based on surveys and in-depth interviews with around 100 Chinese enterprises operating across Europe.

It was jointly published by the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU, China Economic Information Service Shanghai Headquarters, and Xinhua News Agency's Europe Regional Bureau. Nearly 80 per cent of surveyed Chinese firms said they planned to expand investment in the bloc over the next three years, with around 15 per cent saying they would increase investment significantly, the report showed, underscoring Europe's central place in their long-term global strategies.

"Chinese investment in Europe has become increasingly diversified in recent years, spanning 18 industrial sectors," it said.

New energy vehicle and auto-parts makers accounted for more

than a quarter of the surveyed firms, followed by IT and software services companies and renewable energy businesses.

Speaking at the forum, Suo Peng, minister for trade and economy at the Chinese Mission to the EU, said sectors such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, artificial intelligence and biotechnology were becoming new frontiers for bilateral cooperation.

He called on European financial institutions to provide more long-term capital for technological innovation and urged Brussels to foster an environment conducive to long-term technological breakthroughs and broader sharing of innovation gains.

Suo also called on the EU to seize opportunities in the Chinese market as the country embarked on its 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), with a commitment to advancing high-standard opening up and fostering a new development paradigm marked by greater market access, a better business environment and enhanced institutional openness.

"China's commitment to green development and digital transformation aligns closely with Europe's strengths, creating fertile ground for long-term, win-win cooperation," Suo said.

The report also showed that Chinese firms are increasingly localising their operations in

**"Chinese investment in Europe has become increasingly diversified in recent years, spanning 18 industrial sectors,"**

Europe, shifting from exporting to Europe to pursuing an "in Europe, for Europe" strategy.

That shift reflects a maturing approach to the European market, said

Luigi Gambardella, president of the Brussels-based international digital association ChinaEU. He said at the forum that Chinese firms

now needed to strengthen not only their industrial footprint but also their institutional engagement in Europe.

As companies move into higher value-added industries, they face more complex regulatory, political and social scrutiny, he noted, adding that investment in public affairs, branding and local communication had become increasingly important.

The survey also highlighted the pressures faced by Chinese firms in the EU.

More than half of respondents cited policy uncertainty as their top concern, ahead of geopolitical risk, market access barriers and cultural differences.

More than 72 per cent identified greater policy stability and predictability as the most needed improvement.

Among the EU rules and measures seen as having the greatest operational impact were the General Data Protection Regulation, the Foreign Subsidies Regulation, anti-subsidy measures targeting Chinese electric vehicles, and the bloc's batteries regulation. Jacques Bortuzzo, president of the China-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, described the uncertainties created by EU policies as unfortunate.

He called for a more cooperative policy orientation from the EU, so both sides could address shared challenges together, and urged European stakeholders to engage more directly with China to build mutual understanding.

Gambardella said Europe had every right to safeguard its economic security, but warned against a drift toward protectionism. In key sectors, he said, regulated cooperation with Chinese firms could support innovation, competitiveness and the resilience of European value chains. Suo also pointed to the growing protectionist tendencies in Europe in recent years, citing a range of acts and instruments that have imposed restrictions in

# Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

## IPAPATSE FA



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# Seemo sa temo se a nametsa

Cathrine Simane  
**TSABONG**

**Temo ya monongwaga mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi e a solofetsa ka pula e ne e le ntsi fa go tshwantshannngwa le digwaga tse di fetileng.**

Se se builwe ke mogolwane go tswa kwa lephateng la lefatshe le temo-thuo, Mme Gloria Komanyana bosheng fa a ne a buisana le ba BOPA mo potsolotsong.

Mme Komanyana o ne a tlhalosa fa lenaneo la Lemang dijo le simolodisitswe mo ngwageng wa madi wa 2025/2026 mme le farologana le la ISPAAD le Temo Letlotlo ka jaana lone le itebagantse le go thusa balemi ba ba botlana ka ekere e le nngwe go tswa mo go tse tlhano.

A re mo mananeong aa fetileng balemi ba ne ba sa thusiwe ka botlhole jo bo bolayang diji mme mo lenaneon le lesa la Lemang Dijo ba thusiwa.

A re mo nakong eno, e puso e sa ntseng e lebanwe ke lethoko la madi le le kwa godimo le kwelo tlase ya itsholelo, lenaneo la Lemang Dijo le ka ba thusa go ntsha dijo tse ba ka fepang ba malwapa a bone le go rekisa bontlha bongwe go tokafatsa matshelo a bone.

O ne a tlhalosa fa balemi ba ba ikwadisitseng mo lenaneong la lemang dijo mo ngwageng wa madi wa 2025/2026 ba le makgolo a le boherabongwe masome a supa le bone (974) mo pakeng eno ya temo.

Mme Komanyana o ne a supa fa dipalo tsa balemi ba ba kwadisitseng ka maranyane mo kgaolong di le kwa tlase, mme lefa go ntse jalo badiri ba lephata ba ne ba seka ba ipona tsapa go ba ruta le go ba kaela ka fa maranyane a berekang ka teng.

O supile fa balemi ba le bantsi ba sa ntse ba dirisa mogala oo sa tseneng mo maranyane le gore mo gongwe maranyane ga a kgone go goroga kwa ba leng teng.

O ne a supa fa gape bontsi jwa balemi ba tokafaditse temo ya bone go tswa mo go lemeng ba gasa ka jaanong ba tswetse ka go lema ka ditselana mo kgaolong ya kgalagadi Borwa.

O ne a gakolola balemi go lema peo ya OPV ka e kgona go itshegetsatsa mo seemong sa mogote oo feteletseng le gore ba kgona go e baa go e dirisa mo nakong ee tlang ya temo.

Mme Komanyana o ne a tlatsa ka go supa fa mo ngwageng tse tlhano tse di tlang tsholofelo ele gore lenaneo la Lemang dijo le bo le tokafaditse thata seemo sa dijo mo malwapeng le itsholelo ka thekiso ya di tswa masimo mo lefatsheng leno.

Mogolwane go tswa mo lephateng la tepo loapi, Mme Nomsa Mothusi

o ne a supa fa seemo sa paka ya pula ee neleng monongwaga se tokafetse fa se tshwantshannngwa le ngwaga oo fetileng.

O boletse fa seo se ne sa tliša tsholofelo mo baleming ka thobo ee nametsang le ntswa pula e simologile e le boutsana mme ya tokafala ka kgwedi ya Ngwanaatsele go fitlha Sedimonthole.

Mme Bathusi o ne a tswelela ka go tlhalosa fa paka ya pula e

simologa ka kgwedi ya Phalane go fitlha ya Mopitlo mme mo nakong eno ba santse ba solofetse pula go fitlha kgwedi ya Moranang.

A re go ya ka fa ba gatisitseng pula ka teng e le ba Tepo Loapi motse wa Kokotsha, Werda le Omaweneno pula e nele botoka go gaisa metse e mengwe mo kgaolong eo. Molemisi go tswa kwa kgaolwaneng ya Werda le Makopong Mme Silvia Podisi o ne a tlhalosa fa mo lenaneong la

Lemang Dijo balemi ba ne tlhophi go lema mmidi kana dinawa mo ekereng e ba neng ba e lemelwa ke puso mme bangwe ba ne ba ikokeletsa ka go itemela tse nne go dira tse tlhano.

A re dingwe tsa dikgwetlho mo temong ya mo nakong eno ke gore balemi ba tshwenngwa ke diji mo masimong le magotswana aa tsenang mo ditshimong ba utswa dijo mme ebile mo gongwe ba roba

mmidi oo seng mo seemong ya go jewa. Mabapi le seemo seo, Mme Podisi a re balemi ba itshwaragantse le boeteledipele le ba sepodisi go ba thusa go ela seemo tlhoko.

Mongwe wa balemi ba masimo a Omaweneno Rre Mosimanayana Osenoneng o boletse BOPA gore ngwaga le ngwaga o lema temo ya ditselana mme thobo e nne botoka ka jalo a kgone go rekisa, bogolo jang magapu. **BOPA**



Tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, Rre Kethalefile Motshegwa (bobedi molemeng), Kgosi Esau Molehele (molemeng) le bagolwane go tswa kwa lephateng ba le kwa phutheng ya kgotla kwa Ghanzi bosheng. Rre Motshegwa o ne a rolela morafe fa bogosi jwa Ghanzi bo tlaa busediwa kwa tsamaisong ya bogosi jwa Setswana, mme ka jalo, kgosi e tlaa tswa kwa morafeng wa Basarwa, fa mothusa kgosi a tlaa tswa kwa morafeng wa Bakgalagadi, fa maemo a kgosana one a tlaa tlhophelwa go tswa mo merafeng e e mo tikokogong. Senepe: Malebogo Lekula

## Bogosi pinagare ya setshaba - Motshegwa

Malebogo Lekula  
**GHANZI**

Go tswa gooLowe, bogosi ke pinagare ya setshaba ka jaana le motheo wa go tsamaisa lefatshe o agetse mo go jone, ka jalo, bo tshwanetse go tlotliwa, mme ebile go sa kgoreletse ditsamaiso tsa ditlhabololo tsa sesha.

Seo, se builwe ke tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, Rre Kethalefile Motshegwa, jaaka a ne a buisa phuthego ya kgotla mo Ghanzi bosheng, mabapi le seemo sa bogosi jwa motse oo, se se ntseng se sa robalelwa ke ditlhokwa.

Tona Motshegwa o ne a tlhalosa fa bogosi jwa Ghanzi bo tlhologile e le jwa Setswana mme morago jwa fetolelwa kwa go jwa sekgoa ka fa tlase ga tsamaiso ya boeteledipele jwa setoropo.

A re mabaka a bone a ne a ikaegile ka go sireletsa ngwao ya setswana mo motseng wa bone, e ba neng ba dumela e nyelela ka monokela.

O ne a tlhalosa fa goromenete a ikemeseditse go sireletsa ditshwanelo tsa batho gammogo le go rotoetsa therisanyo.

Rre Motshegwa a re ba ne ba ntsha lekoko la magosi a le mararo le le neng la filwe boikarabelo jwa go buisana le morafe ka kgang ya bogosi le gore ba eletsa e ka nna jwa sebopego se se ntseng jang.

A re tiro e, e tsamaile ka bonokopila le manontlhotlho le mororo go seke go tlhokafala dilabe.

Rre Motshegwa o ne akgola lekoko leo, le le neng le akaretsa, Mothusi Kgosi wa Bakwena, Kgosi Lawrence Mhaladi, Kgosi Thabo Mathiba wa Mmathethe, Kgosana wa Otse Omphitlhethse Mphaphi, ba tshwaragane le ba lekgotla la Ditshwanelo.

A re therisanyo eo, e ne ya simolola kgwedi ya Tlhakole e tlhola malatsi a ferabongwe go ema e le malatsi a le lesome le boraro

monongwaga.

Rre Motshegwa o ne a iteela kobo moroko mafoko a lekoko leo, ka go gatelela tshwetso ya gore boeteledipele jwa bogosi jwa Ghanzi bo tla nna jwa Setswana, ka fa tlase ga boeteledipele jwa lwapa loora Thamae, e le ba letso la Basarwa, mme bathusi ba bone e tla nna boora Setima e le ba letso la Bakgalagadi, e le maemo a tla jewang boswa otlhe. A re maemo a kgosana one, a tla nna a a tlhophelwang go tswa mo merafeng e mengwe e mo motseng.

Rre Motshegwa o ne a ikuela mo morafeng, go fokotsa dikubetsano tsa maemo a bogosi, ka jalo, a ba gwetlha go kwala ditso tsa merafe gammogo le dikgotla tsa bone mme di bo di rurifadiwa mo lekgotleng morago ga go buisana le morafe ka kakaretso.

A re seo, se tlaa thusa go menagane go itsa ketsaetsego ya tatelano ya maemo a bogosi mo isagong.

Mo mafokong a gagwe a kamogelo, Moemedi kwa ntlong ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Esau Molehele, o ne

a amogela tshwetso ya tharabololo ya kgang ya bogosi mo sebakeng sa kgwedi tse tharo, tshwetso e a supileng e sa bolo go goga dingwaga go sena nko e tswang lemina.

A re morafe o ne o le kgatlanong bogosi jwa setoropo jaaka ba ne ba dumela gore bo a ba patika go tsosolosa le go somarela ngwao ya bone, a supa fa ba na le tshaimaelo jananong ya go tsosolosa serodumo sa dingwao tsa bone ka tshosologo.

Morafe o ne wa itela legofi tshwetso e e tserweng mme ba rurifaletsa tona fa ba tla tshwaraganela go bopa le go dibela se ba sa bolong go se eletsatsa.

Mo mafokong a gagwe a malebo, Modulasetilo wa kgaolo ya Ghanzi, Rre Thabiso Kebabale, o ne a iteela legofi tshwetso a re e tlaa nonotsha kagiso le ledula mo motseng wa bone. O ne a gwetlha morafe go nna seopo sengwe, ba kgaphele kwa thoko dipharologanyo tsa semorafe mme ba amogele tshwetso ya puso ba dibeke bogosi jwa bone jwa Setswana mme gape ba tshwaragane le makgotla a mangwe a tsamaisang puso. **BOPA**

# Walk A Child to School gives hopes to pupils

Thokozani Matiha  
NKOYAPHIRI

Aimed at making a significant change in education, the Walk a Child to School campaign, an initiative by Avani Gaborone Resort and Casino donated new and pre-loved school shoes to Tsogang Trust in Nkoyaphiri recently.

As part of the pledge, Tsogang Trust received school shoes, food hampers, toiletries and pre-loved clothing to the value of P30 000.

Avani Gaborone Resort and Casino Gaming Manager, Mr Mmoloki Mokgosi stated that for students who walked kilometers without proper footwear, a pair of shoes was not just luxury but a life changing necessity.

“Across our country there are many children who walk long distances to school without proper footwear, something as simple as a pair of shoes, something many of us may take for granted can make a profound difference.

“It can restore dignity, boost confidence, and most importantly, allow a child to focus on what truly matters: their education and their future,” he said.

Mr Mokgosi pointed out that at Avani Resort and Casino, hospitality goes beyond welcoming guests, but it extended to communities they served, and the lives they could touch, uplift and empower, a philosophy reflected in their initiative.

The founder and director of Tsogang Trust, Ms Gosata Chabe said the trust supported 76 children, 13 of whom lived in the facility while 63 stayed off campus. Ms Chabe said the trust

encouraged children from less privileged families to live normal lives.

She said the donation would boost the dignity of children. Additionally, Avani Gaborone

Resort & Casino Public Relations & Marketing Manager, Ms Samantha Bogopa said since adopting the trust, they have consistently contributed to Tsogang Trust’s well-being by

covering the children’s school transportation.

She appealed to members of the public and stakeholders to join hands in supporting the children. **BOPA**

## Egypt steps up talks with US and regional states to ease tensions

CAIRO

Egypt’s Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty held talks over the phone on Saturday evening with US, regional and international officials to discuss efforts to de-escalate rising tensions in the Middle East, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

During the phone calls, Abdelatty spoke separately with US president’s special envoy Steve Witkoff, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Türkiye, and Pakistan, as well as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi.

He stressed the need to prioritise wisdom ‘to defuse tensions and avoid further escalation and destruction,’ urging dialogue and diplomacy to preserve regional security and stability and serve the

common interest.

Abdelatty warned that the current escalation could lead to an ‘unprecedented explosion’ in the region with serious economic and geopolitical fallout.

The talks affirmed the necessity of continued consultation, coordination, and intensified diplomatic efforts in the coming period to defuse the crisis and avoid severe consequences for food and energy security, as well as for regional and international peace and security.

Tensions have heightened in the Middle East since the United States and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran starting February 28, with Tehran responding with attacks on Israeli and US interests across the region.

Trump on Saturday issued a 48-hour ultimatum demanding Iran reopen the Strait of Hormuz - a key route for global oil trade by April 6, a demand Iran’s military swiftly rejected. **Xinhua**



CAIRO - People visiting a vintage car exhibition in Egypt. Dozens of rare vintage automobiles rolled through downtown Cairo, turning historic streets into a living museum and offering a nostalgic tribute to the golden age of automotive design. Photo: Xinhua



# PANEL DISCUSSION

Venue: Boitekanelo College Tlokweng campus

Time: 1800hrs

Date: 09/04/2026

Theme: **KGOTLA YA MOLAO MOTHEO :  
BATLOKWA IN DIALOGUE ON THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT**

# Arts & Culture

## DJ Laninah Benz defies industry stereotypes

Keetile Bontsibokae  
MOLEPOLOLE

The quest to satisfy personal ambitions has driven Ndaboka Bengani, to without fear or favour join the wagon of rising young women who are determined to shatter the stereotype by entering into the male-dominated Disc-Jockey (DJ) industry.

Better known by her stage name DJ Laninah Benz, the Nkange native, developed her passion for music, at Madiba Senior Secondary School in Mahalapye, where she first experimented with disc jockeying.

Her love for playing, mixing and curating recorded music to the amusement of the crowds gained its peak during her tertiary education years.

"I was inspired by my love of music, not necessarily by a person. I wanted to be at the centre of curating what people listen to in gatherings," she explained.

Despite entering a male-dominated industry, DJ Laninah credits her family for unwavering support.

Her parents even funded her DJ classes while she balanced it with tertiary studies.

Today, she hosts the Music Box Show on Duma FM and has released seven singles in the dance and afro-house genres, including *Se mo tsere senatla*, *Ndaboka*, and *Come Closer*. Many of her tracks carry gospel-inspired messages.

Currently, she is collaborating on a joint EP titled *I'm Perfect* with South African producer Trademark DJs, known for the hit *Shumaya*.

DJ Laninah emphasises that her success stems from hard work, networking, and faith.

She recalls advice from a fellow DJ saying, "Never allow being a woman to limit you, see it as power." This mindset helped her embrace her uniqueness as strength.

Her stage name, Laninah Benz, originated in secondary school Geography class. "La Niña is a natural disaster that leaves destruction in its path. That is me behind the decks. Benz is short for Bengani, with a twist for flavour," she revealed.

Though her rise was not overnight, she remains grateful for the journey and determined to reach greater heights.

"I worked hard to be where I am. I am not even halfway to where I want to be, but when I get there, it will sound like breaking news," she said.

Beyond music, Laninah lives a disciplined lifestyle, advocating for healthy eating, taking a walk and Taebo workouts, and abstaining from alcohol or substance abuse solely for health and wellness.

She is deeply spiritual, describing herself as prayerful and resilient, with faith sustaining her through challenges.

Her advice to young women: "Stay in your lane and rock it. Your uniqueness is your superpower."

Respect the game, respect everyone in it, and you will be fine." She believes Botswana's music scene is rapidly gaining global recognition, with local sounds being embraced by international giants like Black Coffee and DJ Shimza.

"We should be proud of ourselves. Very soon, the world will look at us not just for athletics and diamonds, but also for our music," she affirmed.

For Laninah, the vision is clear: to become a global brand while uplifting Botswana's creative industry. **BOPA**



DJ Laninah Benz credits her family for unwavering support. Her parents funded her DJ classes while she balanced it with tertiary studies.

## Taiwan films debut in mainland China

BEIJING

As spring unfolds, a new wave of Taiwan films is lighting up cinemas across the Chinese mainland, marking a fresh chapter in cross-Strait cultural exchange rooted in shared heritage.

Where *the River Flows* premiered on the mainland last Saturday and will be followed in April by three more titles spanning genres from female-focused drama to action and suspense.

Their clustered release has sparked renewed interaction in cross-Strait cinema, reflecting what observers describe as a deep cultural resonance grounded in common traditions.

One viewer wrote on social media after attending the premiere that the film featured a gripping storyline and profound emotions, calling it a "work with warmth, strength and depth."

The film meticulously recreates Taiwan society in the 1960s. One notable feature is its use of dialects from across the mainland, including those from Sichuan and Shanghai. This linguistic diversity reflects the historical backdrop of the Kuomintang's retreat to Taiwan after its defeat in the civil war of 1949, which brought with it migrants from various parts of the mainland. "Dialects are

the voice of one's hometown and also the road home," said Lai Chun-yu, director of the movie. According to Zhi Feina, a professor at the Chinese National Academy of Arts, policy support facilitated such exchanges.

Under the early harvest program of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement signed in June 2010, the mainland lifted quotas on Taiwan films starting in 2011, a move later reaffirmed by 2013 regulations on cross-Strait film cooperation.

"The mainland film industry is embracing Taiwan filmmakers with an open attitude," Zhi said, noting that the vast and diverse mainland market provided ample space for high-quality productions and continues to generate returns for outstanding Taiwan films.

In 2024, the Taiwan film *The Pig, the Snake and the Pigeon* grossed about US\$ 86.9 million on the mainland, achieving both commercial success and widespread acclaim.

Commenting on the film's popularity, Chen Binhua, spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said such demonstrated that people on both sides of the Strait shared a common language and cultural roots, making empathy and resonance come naturally. Liu Xing-ren, an associate professor at Chinese Culture

University in Taipei, said the strong box office performance of Taiwan films showed that they were gradually building a stable audience on the mainland.

"The release of four Taiwan films this spring reflects respect for Taiwan's cultural narratives and the unifying power of Chinese culture," he added. Shared cultural roots serve as a "natural passport" for Taiwan films in the mainland market, while stylistic diversity enhances their appeal, said Chiu Ching-ling, a producer from Taiwan, adding that deeper collaboration fosters mutual understanding and created favorable conditions for the film industries on both sides.

In recent years, cross-Strait film exchange has increasingly become a two-way process. In 2025, the mainland animated film *Chang'an* was screened in Taiwan with a Minnan-dialect version.

Although the animated feature *Ne Zha 2* has not had a formal theatrical release in Taiwan, it generated strong interest, with some young viewers traveling to the mainland to watch it and visit cultural heritage sites linked to the film.

Zhi said cross-Strait film cooperation has evolved from capital-driven partnerships to deeper integration in creativity, talent and resources. **Xinhua**

# DailySport

Shashemooke  
Motofest  
sparks hope  
for growth

Thamani Shabani  
**SHASHEMOOKE**

Despite the low turnout, the inaugural Shashemooke Motofest Championship was a thrilling event, showcasing skills and bravery.

Eighteen-year-old Elang Chibana, a Form 4 pupil at Mogoditshane Senior Secondary School, stole the show as the only female rider among the four competitors.

Riding her bike nicknamed '101', Chibana zoomed through the 96km terrain, navigating rocks, uphill and sandy terrain with ease.

"It was a great experience, and I am glad I could finish the race. I want to encourage more girls to participate in motor sports, it is a sport for both males and females," Chibana said.

She took home P1 000 and vowed to work harder to increase her presence in the sport.

Kosmas Mamaloukos dominated the male category, showcasing his skill and confidence on his motorbike. He also received P1 000 in cash while Ndiye Chakalisa suffered an injury.

A motor sport enthusiast, Tumza Modise, praised the organisers for bringing the event to the northern side of the country.

"Events like this are usually associated with areas like Khawa, but it is commendable that they are starting to consider areas in the north," he said.

Gomolemo Chibana, Elang's father and vice president of Botswana Motor Sport, called for support from government noting that the event had the potential to create employment.

With more support and sponsorship, the Shashemooke Motofest could become a major attraction in Botswana's motor sport calendar.

The event concluded with a mouthwatering performance by local artiste Magdeline 'Charma Gal' Lesolebe. **BOPA**



## Chain Reaction hosts maiden cycling race

Ketshepile More  
**GABORONE**

A cycling company, Chain Reaction will host its maiden cycling race dubbed the Kgatleng Mountain Bike (MTB) challenge.

The event scheduled for April 11 in the Kgatleng District will serve as a catalyst to the local cycling scene, which had shown low activity following the COVID pandemic.

"After working closely with the cycling community through our tours and rentals, we felt a responsibility to step into the race organising space and provide a platform for riders to compete, connect and grow," said

Ofentse Gaesi of Chain Reaction.

Gaes said the Kgatleng MTB challenge race was more than just a race, but a celebration of the rugged beauty of the Kgatleng District as well as promotion of cycling culture and healthy lifestyle across the country.

With their knowledge and expertise of local and regional race standards, Chain Reaction promises to deliver an expertly curated route starting from Rasesa, weaving through Rasesa and Pilane before crossing under the A1 Road to Tshele Hills and back to finish point.

The race with route distances of 60km,

40km as well as 30km is inclusive of elites, weekend warriors and beginners categories.

"Our move into event management marks a major milestone, from humble beginning as a rental company," said Gaesi adding that the company remained open to strategic partnerships with organisations looking to support health, wellness and local sports development.

Registration for the Kgatleng MTB Challenge race is available online at [www.ticketline.co.bw](http://www.ticketline.co.bw) as well as at BK Cycles and D&G Cycles.

Registration fee is P100 across all route distances. **BOPA**