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Decent work crucial



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (second left), Institute for Labour and Employment Studies CEO, Mr Shandukani Hlabano (left), Botswana Public Employees Union president, Ms Masego Mogwera (second right) and Babereki Insurance Brokers official, Mr Baleseng Ntsiane at the college's inaugural labour conference in Gaborone yesterday. President Masisi said enhancing citizens' access to job opportunities was a crucial priority in formulating development policies. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

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Zimbabwean appears for Tlotso's murder

By Jeremiah Sejabosigo

LOBATSE - The suspect in the case of the disappearance of Lobatse's Peleng East boy, Tlotso Karema appeared before Lobatse Magistrate Court on one count of murder yesterday.

The Zimbabwe national, Lovemore Sithole, was the seven-year-old Tlotso's stepfather.

Botswana Police Service public relations officer, Senior Superintendent Near Bagali, in an interview yesterday, said the suspect was remanded in custody and would appear again in court next week Tuesday.

Earlier, he had confirmed the arrest of the 37-year-old man to help the police with investigations of a murder case.

The police spokesperson, however, would not reveal whether the suspect was linked to the mobile phone numbers that were used to alert the police about some human bones that are alleged to be of Tlotso.

He further declined to comment on allegations that the suspect had shown the police where he had buried the body along the Lobatse-Molapowabojang road.

"I cannot discuss extensive details of the investigations.

But we are following all the leads on anything that will help

the investigators to connect the dots.

The investigations will determine what really transpired," said Mr Bagali.

Tlotso was reported missing on March 18 and his disappearance had remained a mystery to the community of Lobatse.

In a recent Kgotla meeting in Peleng, deputy police commissioner, Mr Cornelius Lesola promised the community that the police would leave no stone unturned in investigating the matter and finding the truth.

The Botswana police' divisional commander south, Mr Harrison Digobe said, at the same meeting, that an extensive search party was carried out to look for the boy.

He said the police then received a tip off of some human bones and clothes found near Lobatse, which the family of the boy identified as their son's.

He said they then involved the police forensic officers, who took samples from the mother and conducted a DNA test.

He said the DNA test results matched, which indicated that the bones could be that of the missing child.

That is when the police opened investigations on a case of murder, he said. **BOPA**



Vice President and BDP chairman Mr Slumber Tsogwane (right) and Mr Mogomotsi Kaboeamodimo at a memorial service for the latter's father in Kanye yesterday. Speakers described the late Mr Ketumile Kaboeamodimo as a hard working and resilient nation builder whose legacy was worth celebrating. He will be laid to rest tomorrow. Photo: Kehumile Moekejo

Butale, Ntuane not DIS informers

GABORONE - The Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) has noted circulating social media posts falsely alleging that certain prominent persons, namely Mr Botsalo Ntuane and Dr Phenyio Butale as well as some journalists are its paid sources.

Yesterday's media statement from DIS says the allegations are not only false in how they are purported, but are also unjustly calculated to scandalise the named individuals.

Furthermore, the intelligence agency says it is clear that the

allegations are part of a now well-established practice in which the Directorate is routinely placed in controversy to cause unnecessary public discontent.

The release says Mr Ntuane, Dr Butale and the named journalists have never been paid sources of the Directorate.

"This notwithstanding, the Directorate finds it highly regrettable that a narrative is being entrenched that it is necessarily wrong, scandalous or unscrupulous for citizens to interact with it or its services."

The DIS says the fact is that it

was established through an Act of Parliament and this makes it a legitimate public body which plays a lawfully established strategic function.

To that end, it is not only highly malicious, but misleading and unpatriotic to build the narrative that citizens who deal with the Directorate are necessarily unscrupulous.

The release further says citizens of Botswana across the social divide are and will continue to be legitimate stakeholders of the Directorate. **BOPA**

Boteti residents want third constituency

By Kabo Keaketswe

RAKOPS - The Delimitation Commission has learnt, during yesterday's consultative meeting in Rakops, that there is need for the formation of a third constituency in Boteti.

Boteti constituency is currently divided into two, Boteti East and Boteti West.

The people of Boteti now want another constituency named Boteti Central, given the vastness of the region.

Presenting before the commission, Mr Babone Mosesane of Rakops said the community would want the new constituency to comprise

villages such as Orapa, Mosu, Mmatshumo, Makgaba, Mokubilo and Mmea.

Advancing his reasons, Mr Mosesane said residents of Mmea, Mokubilo and Makgaba were mostly Basarwa, adding that such people were the ones who needed services the most, saying having their own constituency would mean more developments, resulting in access to more services.

He also suggested that Mokubilo and Mmea be brought back to Boteti from Tati East because originally, they were under Boteti and still accessed services in Boteti.

As for Boteti West, Mr

Mosesane said they would want it to retain its villages except for Orapa that should be moved to form part of Boteti Central, given its large population.

He said as residents of Boteti, they desired for Phuduhudu to be part of Boteti not Ngami because people of Phuduhudu were serviced by Boteti.

Mr Bugalo Manyoni concurred and added that Boteti was too broad for two constituencies.

He also noted that such villages as Moiyabana, Malatswai and Mogorosi were originally under Boteti, not Serowe, hence they should return.

Furthermore, Mr Manyoni

said sometimes tribal territories and administrative districts should inform delimitation, not the numbers.

One Ms Cecilia Njavera of Toromoja supported the idea of moving Orapa to the aspired Boteti Central because of its large population.

For his part, Mr Lawrence Nkisang suggested that Boteti East retain its villages except Mmatshumo, which should form part of the new constituency.

He added that factors such as vastness, language and culture should be among those that automatically determine the formation of a new constituency even when the stipulated

numbers were low.

Mr Bathusi Kutoro of Motopi was of the view that Boteti West be left as it was, except for Rakops, which he suggested should be moved to the aspired Boteti Central to add to the numbers.

One of the members of the Delimitation Commission, Ms Elizabeth Masire said Parliament was yet to reach a consensus whether there was need for the increase of Parliamentary constituencies or not.

She noted that population census was one of the major factors that had always informed the delimitation process. **BOPA**

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Decent work crucial for development - Masisi

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - Having a high number of the working age population gainfully employed in decent work is an important variable in the development process, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has said.

Delivering the keynote speech at an Institute of Labour and Employment Studies (ILES) conference in Gaborone yesterday, he said enhancing citizens' access to job opportunities was therefore a crucial priority in formulating development policies.

Work, he said, was central to people's livelihoods and should be harnessed to serve the purpose of holistic human development.

"Critical to human dignity and a sense of self-worth as a person is the capacity to provide for oneself or one's household, the means for daily survival and a modicum of a decent standard of living," said Dr Masisi.

The President said higher rates of decent employment increased access to sustainable livelihoods.

In addition to providing goods and services, Dr Masisi said economic growth was stimulated when individuals had sufficient disposable income to spend to meet their basic needs.

The President said government, in conjunction with trade unions and civic organisations, had therefore formulated and adopted the Decent Work Country Programme for Botswana (2020-2024).

"This undertaking is consistent with the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. In particular, SDG 8 which seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all," said Dr

Masisi.

Noting that ILES was the brainchild of Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU), he said the college provided the labour sector with relevant industry skills which contributed to the envisaged knowledge based economy.

"This conference is taking place at a time when our focus as a nation is on urgent actions to ensure that people are protected against the COVID-19 pandemic, and its devastating impact on the economy. We need to come up with policies that are robust

to withstand future crises," Dr Masisi said.

The President said as the world moved towards rebuilding economies post-COVID-19, government planned to focus on improving education and training, addressing skills gaps, shortages and mismatch as well as investing in economic value chains.

"We must harness our resources and produce leveraging on the abundance of talent that we have in order to derive more benefit.

We must also aim at unlocking

high productivity through digitalisation," Dr Masisi said.

He said efforts included implementation of the country's Fourth Industrial Revolution Digitalisation Strategy commonly known as SmartBots.

BOPEU president, Ms Masego Mogwera said in the aftermath of the 2011 public sector strike, the union conceptualised a labour training college for cutting edge research and training at a time of hostile labour relations.

Having adopted the idea in 2012, BOPEU formally launched ILES in 2017 which

currently offered 21 Botswana Qualifications Authority accredited courses, she said.

The college's CEO Mr Shandukani Hlabano said the conference's purpose was to bring together various stakeholders to address pertinent industrial relations issues and produce solutions to improve the work environment.

Held under the theme, Building Back Better Post The COVID-19 Pandemic: Decent Work and Inclusive Social Protection Systems, the conference ends today. **BOPA**



Assistant Minister of Agriculture, Mr Molebatsi Molebatsi (left), Botswana's envoys to Germany and the US, Ms Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba (second left), Mr Kitso Mokaila (second right) respectively and University of Botswana vice chancellor, Prof. David Norris sharing a light moment at the International Summit on Constitutionalism and Democratic Consolidation in Africa held in Gaborone on Wednesday. Photo: Yobe Shonga

Delegates decry democracy reversal in Africa

By Tebagano Ntshole

GABORONE- Delegates to an international summit on constitutionalism and democratic consolidation in Africa have lamented that the continent had reverted to military coups and dictatorships.

Speaking during the summit held in Gaborone Wednesday, they said the wave of change which saw a number of countries embracing democracy had vanished.

Concurring that democracy in the continent had dropped, different speakers sought to explain the current state of affairs in Africa.

In a statement read on her behalf, former Malawian president Ms Joyce Banda said the dearth of democracy was

mainly attributable to economic failure and ethnicity.

Ms Banda, whose country celebrated its independence and 28 years of democracy on Wednesday, said democratic governance collapsed due to poverty. She said 'democracy and poverty cannot go hand in hand' because people expected their livelihoods to improve under democratic regimes.

"When people's lives are not improved, they become frustrated and this leads people to lose faith in the regime," she said.

Another factor blamed for the demise of democracy was ethnicity. Rwanda, where tribalism led to a genocide in 1994, being a case in point.

Democracy and ethnicity were incompatible, Ms Banda

said.

She said democracy in Africa was externally driven by the West and as such did not have a strong foundation.

African regimes embraced democracy because it was a prerequisite for receiving aid from developed countries, said the former Malawian leader.

In addition, she said democracy in Africa was based on weak institutions coupled with an opposition incapable of challenging ruling parties.

Ms Banda said colonialism paved the way for transition into one-party states masquerading as democracy.

Elections in Africa had been controversial, marred by violence, intimidation and manipulation of voters' rolls, she said. Ms Banda said time had

come for Africa to interrogate itself on whether democracy had ever existed in the continent.

She called for the empowerment of young people and inculcation of democratic culture in them.

Ms Banda echoed President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi's sentiments that democracy needed strong institutions rather than strong men and women.

Another speaker, Mr Siphosami Malunga of Zimbabwe, stated that Africa had never experienced democracy saying even the transition from colonialism was not democratic.

Colonial governments were not democratic and only came to Africa to extract natural resources and when Africans took over, they inherited colonial institutions, he said.

According to Mr Malunga, the majority of Africa's ruling parties were pre-independence liberation movements.

Those ruling parties knew they could never lose elections as they controlled everything, he said adding, 'this is not democracy'.

Mr Malunga said in Africa, it was known that a government could not lose elections it organised.

He said democracy in Africa had been imposed by international donors.

African countries, he said, should develop at their own pace measuring their progress against fellow Africans instead of benchmarking against the West.

Mr Malunga advised that while emulating others, African countries should only copy the good. **BOPA**

Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Review of the Constitution

Day 98 Gaborone

‘Tlathobelang batho ditagi mo di tseleng’

Ka Mooketsi Mojalemotho

GABORONE - Go botlhokwa gore ditlathobelo tsa ditagi e nne nngwe ya ditlathobelo tse di dirwang mo dikganeding tsa



Mme Mokgadi



Moruti Siele



Mme Healy

tsela. Se se builwe ke Mme Prisca Mokgadi wa Botswana Substance Abuse and Support Network (BOSASNET) fa a ne a neela lekoko le le romilweng ke Tautona go phutha megopolo mo setshabeng ka tshekatsheko ya molao-motheo megopolo ya lekalana la gagwe kwa Gaborone Central ka Labone.

A re go lwantsha ditagi tse segolobogolo di gateletseng banana go tshwanetse ga atolosiwa ka go dirisa dilo di tswana le dintsa tse di dupang ga mmogo le maranyane a di kapa ditshwanstsho tsa mo phefong.

Molao-motheo go ya ka Mme Mokgadi o tshwanetse wa tlama gore batho ba ba tshwarwang ka molato wa tiriso ya ditagi gore ba sidilwe maikutlo morago ga go wetsa lebaka la kgolegelo.

“Se se tla a dira gore batho ba go nna jaana ba seka ba boelela ditagi, ba latlhegelwa ke ditiro kgotsa dikolo ka ntata ya go tupa mo ditaging,” ga bua Mme Mokgadi.

Rre Frederick Kololo wa Botswana Association for the Deaf ene o ne a tlhalosetsa lekoko fa nako e gorogile gore thuto di tswana le ya go bala ka batlhokapono le go buwa o dirisa diatla ga batlhokapuo di a rutiwa ebile dipatelediwa mo dikolong.

A re go tlhoka molao o o tlamang go rutiwa le tiriso ya metlhale ya go buisana, e baya batlhokapuo le batlhokapono ka fa mosing mme ba felelwe ba runtshwa ditshwanelo tsa bone tsa go neelwa ditirelo fela jaaka Batswana ba bangwe.

“A makoko ape fela a sepolotiki a a eletsang gore tsatsi lengwe a tseye puso a etelele lefatshe pele a tlamege go nna le mananeo a a feletseng a a tlhalosang gore baya go thusa jang ba-na-le bogole,”a tlhalosa

Mme Tiny Healy wa Skillshare International o ne a re molao-motheo wa lefatshe la Botswana o na le ditlhaelo dingwe jaaka tshwanelo ya thuto, ya itsholelo le ya ngwao, dilo tse a reng di tshwanetse tsa tsennngwa mo molaong go tlama puso go di neela Batswana.

“Go ya dikolong ga bana e tshwanetse ya nna tshwanelo e e kwadilweng ka fa molaong e seng seemo sa nako eno se ka sone o ka

reng puso e tlhomogela Batswana pelo,” o ne a bua jaana a tlhalosa fa go kwala ga ditshwanelo mo molao-motheong go tla kgontsha Batswana go ya kwa makgotla tshekelo go itsheka fa ditshwanelo tsa bone di gatakwa.

Moruti Pulafela Siele ene o ne a kopa gore go papamale mo molao-motheong gore lefatshe la Botswana ke la sekeresete.

Fa a tswelela, Moruti Siele a re o dumela gore tshenyo boimana

epe e e ka dirwang e tshwanetse ya bo ele e e maleba ebile e letleletswe ke ba botsogo.

Molao-motheo gape go ya ka ene o tshwanetse wa papamala mme wa letla gore bakeresete ba obama ka phuthulogo ka dinako tsotlhe.

“A serudomo sa lenyalo se sirelediwe fela thata ke molao-motheo o re o sekasekang o, mme ebile lenyalo go tlhalosege fa ele la rre le mme.**BOPA**



Mopalamente wa Gaborone legare, Rre Tumisang Healy (molemeng) le leloko la lekoko le le romilweng ke Tautona go phutha megopolo mo setshabeng ka tshekatsheko ya molao-motheo, Rre Matthews Letsholo kwa phuthegong ya kgotla mo Gaborone maabane. Senepe: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata



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Botswana's staple magazine is back.



Khoemacau Copper Mining Zone 5 Ore body entrance to the underground mining operations. The mine CEO, Mr Johan Ferreira told the media during a tour of the mine that Khoemacau Copper Mining had an expansion plan underway following the exploration of Mango, Zone 5 North and Zeta North-East ore plants, which were in close proximity to Zone 5 ore plant. He said the three ore plants would produce a total of 160 kilo tonnes of copper concentrate per annum, which would be a surge from 60-65 kilo tonnes of a singular source. Mr Ferreira said the mine had experienced growth following its first production of copper and silver concentrate from its Boseto Plant in June 2021, despite COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: Portia Ikgopoleng

New ministry on course to advance Botswana

By Onkarabile Moeng

MAHALAPYE - Entrepreneurship remains an important driver of job creation, economic growth and also key in the development of a vibrant formal small and medium sized business sector.

Minister of Entrepreneurship, Mr Karabo Gare said this at the ministry's inaugural Strategic Development Plan for the period 2022 – 2025 retreat in Mahalapye recently.

He said government had put in place policy initiatives that promoted entrepreneurship.

This, he said placed his ministry as a critical player in contributing to the collective aspiration and vision by ensuring that it specifically contributes to mindset change, value chain development and economic inclusion.

Regarding the ministry's strategic plan, Mr Gare said it called for convergence of ideas to deliver onto this common vision and it should bind everyone and allow everyone to move forward collectively and successfully as a ministry.

"A Strategic Plan allows us to lay down the Ministry's goals and strategies for the next three-years, based-on a sound evidence-based analysis of our internal and external environment and trends," stated Minister Gare.

He urged participants to openly deliberate issues and not lose sight of the most important vision of growing entrepreneurship in a sustainable manner, to ensure that it contributed effectively to the key areas outlined.

Permanent secretary, Mr Joel Ramaphoi said entrepreneurship



Mr Gare

ministry was a reflective of the reset process, a pathway to change. He said the outcome of the past policy interventions raised a critical question of why they failed to yield substantive changes to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development.

Mr Rmaphoi said they would work within three pillars being strategic approach, strategic dynamism and strategic implementation.

Special projects, Mr Ronnie Phuthogo when presenting the strategy framework said the mandate of the ministry was to provide leadership and overall policy direction, strategy and standards on business development.

He said the proposed vision statement sought to advance a prosperous and knowledge based society through innovation, entrepreneurship and business development mechanisms. **BOPA**

African countries begin cross-trading of listed securities

NAIROBI - Ten African countries are expected to begin cross-trading in listed securities in October, an official said on Wednesday.

Geoffrey Odundo, CEO of the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) told journalists in Nairobi, Kenya, that the 10 African stock exchanges have joined the digital platform that enabled the purchasing and sales of listed equities and debt instruments.

"At the moment, the stockbrokers in the different African countries

are currently testing the system to ensure they can trade amongst themselves," Odundo said during the launch of the NSE quarterly barometer which offers details on market performance for the period ended June 30 as well as insights on market outlook.

He said that some of the countries that will participate in the cross-trading include Egypt, Ghana, Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria and Morocco.

He revealed that the overall objective of cross-trading was

to promote liquidity of stock exchanges in the continent as the region would be seen as a single market.

"Investors will now be able to buy and sell listed securities from across the continent using their local stockbrokers," Odundo added.

According to Odundo, all settlements will happen in the local currencies in order to reduce costs associated with conversion of funds into foreign currency. **Xinhua**

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Handicrafts shine at pottery festival

CAIRO - The large gate of Fustat Pottery Village looked like an entrance to a unique world of traditional handicraft, where dozens of highly artistic items were displayed during the largest pottery festival in Egypt's capital Cairo.

Entitled *Clay Jewellers*, the three-day festival, which concluded on Tuesday, exhibited a variety of pottery and ceramic works, such as handmade pots, mugs, teacups, bowls and vases, for both actual home use and decoration.

"I have been working in pottery for 60 years since I was a boy. I do both clay shaping and clay mold designs," Youssef Mohamed Taha told *Xinhua*.

"I am happy to see many visitors during the festival," the 75-year-old veteran pottery maker said.

Located south of Cairo, the village has been famous for handmade pottery production for decades.

It was developed into the new Fustat Pottery Village in late 2021 as a tourist attraction as part of the government's development plan for Cairo's old districts and strategy to support handicraft.

"The development of the pottery village is a leap for us as craftsmen. It's great to feel that the village is getting the government's attention and care," Taha told *Xinhua*.

The renovated village, home to more than 150 pottery workshops, is considered Egypt's center for traditional pottery making.

The basic material these workshops use for pottery making is clay from Upper Egypt's Aswan and natural colors.

"I inherited the profession from my father and I further studied pottery and its history," said Mohamed Khalil Mandour, a 29-year-old pottery maker, adding the festival helps promote the village and its products.

As one of the oldest handicrafts dating back to the predynastic times of ancient Egypt, the pottery also passes on ancient history as wall carvings do, said Mandour.

Apart from displaying pottery items, the festival also provided fun experiences for visitors, who can make and color pottery items themselves.

Nader Mahrous, a pottery workshop owner, had dozens of children learning pottery making at his booth as part of the activities of the festival.

"This is an initiative to promote

the craft among new generations.

We have divided it into two parts: one for clay shaping and the other for coloring," Mahrous explained, noting a free training course will be provided for children who have talents.

"The government's development of the village, the establishment of a pottery school and this festival itself are signs of

a hopeful renaissance here," said the pottery workshop owner.

Marilyn Musaad, a young woman who visited the village with her friends, had a great time at the festival.

"I made this ashtray. I liked the experience but it is really so difficult," she said with a laugh.

Ahmed el-Rouby, a 26-year-old visitor, said he felt so excited

about all the handmade works in the village as he "really" likes them.

"I have seen those exhibited items and the actual process of making them during the festival. It was also nice to see them teaching children and adults who are interested in pottery making," the young man told *Xinhua*.



CAIRO - A craftsman displaying pottery wares during a pottery exhibition at Fustat Pottery Village in Egypt on Monday. Photo: Xinhua

Namibia to see more mines amid rising prices

WINDHOEK - Namibia will see more mines reopening amid rising prices of uranium, the fuel used to produce nuclear energy.

The Chamber of Mines of Namibia (CoM), which is responsible for the stewardship of mining and exploration in the

country, has said that the country 'must be clear and unequivocal in its quest to promote Namibia as a preferred source and producer of uranium'.

"In its newsletter availed Tuesday, the chamber also emphasised integrating uranium into Namibia's green hydrogen plans. "Uranium has long been neglected despite its relevance in a carbon-free or green energy future.

Green hydrogen has been exclusively singled out as a national strategy on energy transition but the conversation should be expanded to include the exploitation of uranium which is a significant clean energy source," said the member-based organisation.

The Chamber of Mines further

highlighted the need to adopt a policy that would fast-track the exploitation of the resource to attract foreign direct investment and create much-needed jobs in the mining industry.

Namibia is the second-largest producer of uranium but also holds the seventh largest resource of Uranium.

Its Rossing Uranium and Swakop Uranium are the main producers in Namibia and have accounted for 6 784 tonnes of uranium production in 2021. Up to four mines, however, have been placed on care and maintenance due to low uranium prices.

Langer Heinrich Uranium, for instance, was placed on care and maintenance in 2018.

At its peak, Langer Heinrich employed around 500 permanent

employees and produced 2 000 tonnes of uranium a year.

"Due to improved uranium prices, Paladin Energy has now secured funding to restart Langer Heinrich by 2023, with an LoM (Life of Mine) of 17 years," the Chamber of Mines said.

Another earmarked project is the Bannerman Resources' Etango project, which could potentially become the second biggest uranium mine after Swakop Uranium due to its large shallow resource base, according to the CoM.

Bannerman will complete the bankable feasibility of its scaled-down Etango-8 project in September 2022 and could signal the construction and start of the mine, the CoM concluded.

Xinhua

Mozambique govt to subsidise public transporters

MAPUTO - The Mozambican government announced Tuesday it would subsidise minibus operators who serve as the public transport providers in the city and province of Maputo, following a strike by the minibus drivers on Monday demanding an increase in their fares in response to the latest fuel price hikes.

The decision was announced by the Metropolitan Transport Agency of Maputo City (AMTM) which said the subsidy policy will last six months and assured that there will be no change in the current transport fares.

"The government's concern is the passenger, it's the citizen.

Right now, US\$40 million is already available to cover the costs," said AMTM Director Antonio Matos to the press.

In the latest price adjustment announced by the National Energy Regulatory Authority last Friday, petrol price rose from 83.30 meticaïs (about US\$1.32 per liter to 86.97 meticaïs and diesel price rose from 78.97 meticaïs to 87.97 meticaïs.

The cooking gas price was also up by almost 20 per cent. *Xinhua*

Air Tanzania plans flights to Namibia

WINDHOEK - Namibia and Tanzania could soon conclude a bilateral air service agreement which will see Air Tanzania introduce flights to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, local media reported.

Namibia's public broadcaster NBC revealed earlier this week the latest development in an interview with Lebibus Tobias,

Namibian High Commissioner to Tanzania.

"Namibia's team of negotiators led by the Ministry of Works and Transport has submitted a draft document to their Tanzanian counterpart for confirmation.

They have already received and they are just doing final checking," NBC quoted Tobias as saying.

"Air Tanzania will start flying to Windhoek.

We are hard at work to make sure that will be realised," Tobias said in the interview.

Namibia is scheduled to host a joint cooperation meeting of the two countries in September to discuss and review a number of agreements aimed at advancing their economies. *Xinhua*

Over 59 000 await plots in Tlokweng

By Baleseng Batlotleng

TLOKWENG - Due to limited land for expansion and close proximity to the capital city, Tlokweng Land Board is struggling to meet the demand for land.

The waiting list currently stands at 59 164.

This was disclosed by Tlokweng Land Board chairperson, Mr Elijah Katse during the allocation of 104 residential plots at Maratanang ward.

“The current waiting list is at 59 164.

However, the land board continues to ‘clean’ this list since it is not everyone in it that is eligible for allocation.

The land board has an obligation to avail land to Batswana in line with the RESET Agenda and for socio-economic development,” he said.

Mr Katse said the plots allocated were part of the 470 previously identified within the village and were intended to facilitate densification of developments as prescribed by the revised Tlokweng Development Plan 2001-2030.

He said the plots were identified through consultation with the Sub-district Council physical planning office.

He further noted that the land board would continue to allocate all readily available pieces of land through relevant policies and processes.

“The revised Tlokweng



Mr Katse (left) addressing residents who were on Wednesday allocated plots by Tlokweng Land Board. He said the board had allocated 189 of the 470 plots they had demarcated. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

Development Plan which has been approved, proposes settlement expansion into the

Maratadiba and Sefoke areas.

More residential plot allocations are therefore expected going forward,” he added.

Mr Katse said the land delivery process had started to be realised through the Land Information Systems (LIS), the end product of which was the new Secure Land Title (SLT).

He said Secure Land Title would, therefore, be registered

with the Deeds Registry and issued to allottees, who were expected to have submitted all relevant documents to facilitate registration.

For his part, deputy paramount chief of Batlokwa, Kgosi Michael Gaborone pleaded with those allocated land not to sell it.

He said it was disheartening to see Batlokwa landless while outsiders owned chunks of land

in Tlokweng.

He urged allottees to make necessary developments and consider themselves fortunate to have been awarded so scarce a resource.

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the population of Tlokweng is 55 508, while the Batlokwa tribal territory covers an area of about 22 000 hectares. **BOPA**

DHMT relocates maternity services to Donga

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - The Greater Francistown District Health Management Team has relocated maternity services from Itsekeng Clinic in Area W to Donga Clinic in Donga in order to serve customers efficiently.

“We wanted to take maternity services closer to the people who can access them easily.

Donga Clinic will also relieve Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital, which caters for the whole northern region in maternity services,” Francistown DHMT head, Dr Keorapetse Moalefhe said during a briefing to update the media on the latest developments on Wednesday.

He said all maternity services, especially pre-natal, would now be offered at Donga Clinic instead of Area W Clinic on a 24-hour basis including weekends and holidays.

Area W Clinic will, however, remain a 24-hour facility for general conditions.

Dr Moalefhe explained that the decision to relocate all maternity services to Donga Clinic was prompted by the fact

that the new clinic was spacious and strategically located to serve everyone from all corners of the city.

He also stated that the bedding capacity at Donga Clinic was enough to accommodate many expectant mothers for delivery.

Speaking at the same event, Principal nursing officer, Ms Portia Ngadla told journalists that the clinic was a 22-bed facility while Area W had 14 beds.

Ms Ngadla also explained that Donga Clinic now had 13 midwives, adding that since the relocation, the clinic made a breakthrough of 28 admissions and 24 deliveries.

Meanwhile, the Head of Department; Technical Services at Greater Francistown District Health Management Team, Mr Sechele Thebe commended the cordial working relationship between the Ministry of Health and the media.

He explained that the media played a critical role in disseminating health information to the general public and that it remained a significant stakeholder in the health sector. **BOPA**

Police launch manhunt for murder suspects

By Lindi Morwaeng

MOLEPOLOLE - Molepolole police have launched a manhunt for a man suspected to have murdered another 31-year-old man of the village’s Garanta ward in the wee hours of Tuesday morning.

In an interview, Molepolole station commander, Superintendent Benedict Matlho said the deceased allegedly visited the 27-year-old suspect at his home, still at Garanta on Monday, where he found him and his brother basking at the evening fire.

It is alleged that the elder brother retired to bed, leaving the suspect in the company of the deceased.

After a while it is alleged that an argument ensued and the suspect’s elder brother, who had gone to sleep, heard a loud noise and dashed outside, only to find the deceased’s motionless body lying on the ground beside the

fire with visible wounds on the back of the head.

At that time the suspect had already fled the scene.

It is suspected a sharp object was used to hit him.

Supt Matlho said the matter was reported to police, whom upon arrival took the victim to Scottish Livingston Hospital where he was certified dead upon arrival.

He appealed to the public to come forward with information that could assist police arrest the suspect.

On another case, police are appealing to the public to help them identify the body of a woman currently lying at Scottish Livingston mortuary.

The woman is suspected to be the victim of a hit and run incident that happened at Magokotswane ward in Molepolole on July 2.

Meanwhile, police are still looking for the murder suspect of a 19-year-old woman of Goo Ntloedibe ward in Molepolole,

who was killed at Ntsweng location on June 26.

After the victim’s body had been lying at Scottish Livingstone Hospital mortuary for some time, Superintendent Matlho said, her relatives finally managed to identify her and a postmortem was done last week with preliminary investigations suggesting that she was murdered.

The police have since launched a manhunt for her boyfriend, who is allegedly on the run.

Supt Matlho has expressed concern over escalating murder incidents in Molepolole and surrounding areas.

He made an observation that in many instances people committed the horrendous crimes for failure to control their emotions whenever an altercation ensued.

He, therefore, appealed to public members to resort to seeking help whenever they had conflicts. **BOPA**

UCCSA donates shoes to three primary schools

By Kehumile Moekejo

TSONYANE - The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA), Jwaneng's Teemane Branch on Wednesday donated 82 pairs of school shoes to Tsonyane, Seherelela and Betesankwe primary schools.

Speaking at the donation handover ceremony, Pastor Cosmos Ngoreng said as a missional church, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa had an obligation to improve the quality of life and take care of people's welfare.

Pastor Ngoreng said the church also had to uphold its reputation and tradition as one which had been contributing positively to the education sector since time immemorial.

He said the donation was not only a loving gesture, but was also intended to motivate learners to improve their academic results.

He said the declining academic results were a concern to the church, hence the decision to be part of the solution.

The pastor acknowledged the existence of a myriad of challenges that schools faced, saying the shoes were intended to promote equality among learners.

He also emphasised the church's commitment towards addressing other challenges affecting learners such as indiscipline.

"Our work is not only within the confines of the church structures, so we have a duty to be a part of the solution to challenges facing the society, such as indiscipline among our children," Pastor Ngoreng stressed.

Tsonyane Primary School head, Ms Matshidiso Dikuelo commended United Congregational Church of Southern Africa congregants for the donation, adding, 'these shoes will protect their dignity and also make all of the pupils feel equal'.

Further, Ms Dikuelo said that the donation would motivate the pupils to improve their performance, thereby enhancing the overall performance of their schools.

She urged parents and guardians to assist in taking proper care of the shoes.

For his part, Kgosi Seane Gopane said the church's gesture should challenge other stakeholders to play a role in improving the education sector.

He also urged the three primary schools to have a performance competition to motivate learners to improve results. **BOPA**



Pastor Ngoreng (left) handing over school shoes to Betesankwe Primary School senior teacher - guidance, Ms Gertrude Gombani in Tsonyane on Wednesday. The church donated 82 pairs of shoes to Tsonyane, Seherelela and Betesankwe primary schools. Photo: Kehumile Moekejo

Johnson resigns after mass resignations

LONDON - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has resigned as Conservative leader yesterday, but will continue as prime minister until autumn, British media outlets including the BBC have reported.

A Conservative leadership race will take place this summer and a new prime minister will be in place in time for the Tory party conference in October, reports said.

Johnson's exit comes amid an avalanche of ministerial resignations over his scandal-hit leadership.

The number of resignations from his government exceeded 50 by yesterday morning, according to a tally by British media.

On Tuesday, Sajid Javid and Rishi Sunak resigned from their posts as health secretary and chancellor of the exchequer, respectively.

Leader of the main opposition Labour Party Keir Starmer said Johnson's resignation is 'good news for the country', adding 'We need a fresh start for Britain'.

The prime minister has been dogged by a seemingly endless string of scandals for months, and the Tories worry the party's future

in the next general elections in 2024 is on the line.

Johnson became the first serving British prime minister in history to break the law after receiving a fine from the police for attending a party in 2020 during the country's COVID-19 lockdown.

Though he survived a no-confidence vote recently within his Conservative Party over the so-called Partygate scandal, over 40 per cent of his own party voted against him and the forces that want him to go have been gaining momentum following more untoward revelations. **Xinhua**

Take advantage of consular exercise - ambassador

By Portia Rapitsenyane

SEROWE - Zimbabwean nationals staying in Botswana have been urged to take advantage of the mobile consular exercise to regularise their documents.

Ambassador Mukonoweshuro made the plea in an interview during his visit to the Serowe District Commissioner's office to assess consular exercise's progress, on Tuesday.

Services provided include processing of passport forms, birth certificate applications, issuance of Temporary Travel Documents (TTDs) and

verification of Zimbabwe issued public documents such as birth certificates, National ID, death certificates, passports, drivers' licence, professional and academic certificates.

The consular exercise, which is the initiative of the Zimbabwean Embassy, started in Serowe and will go to Letlhakane then move to Maun from July 8-10 and Francistown, July 11-12.

Ambassador Mukonoweshuro said during the first phase of the exercise, whose aim was to document all Zimbabweans in every corner of Botswana and to close the gap created by the COVID-19 pandemic, they

went to Francistown, Serowe, Selebi Phikwe, Palapye and Mahalapye.

The ambassador said they wanted to ensure that Zimbabwean nationals in Botswana and those born in Botswana applied for their birth certificates, adding that a good number of Zimbabweans had responded to the services, but expressed hope that more could come forth, as the team moved around the country.

Mr Mukonoweshuro appreciated the assistance provided by the government of Botswana such as the office space at the district commissioner's

offices, publicity as well as all amenities. He said he was hopeful that the two governments would make it possible for their people to be documented and co-exist peacefully.

The exercise has been seen as an immense benefit to Zimbabwean nationals, who want to acquire different services, with some expressing hope that the mobile consular service could be regular to enable those who had not heard about it to get help.

One Zimbabwean national, who went to the district commissioner's offices in Serowe to acquire some services,

Ms Nokuthaba Moyo expressed gratitude to the embassy for bringing the much needed mobile consular services to their door step.

She said the initiative would save them money and time, saying it was costly, inconvenient and difficult for them to travel.

Another Zimbabwean national, Mr Molondo Muchela said the initiative would help them greatly, adding that it was difficult for them to go home to Zimbabwe with undocumented children.

He encouraged his compatriots to make an effort to access the services. **BOPA**

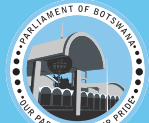


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Ambassador Mukonoweshuro

ITINERARY OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FOR
THE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF BOTSWANA

Wednesday	06.07.22	1000	Gaborone North	Gaborone North Kgotla	Courtesy call with leadership	Gaborone North
		1030-1130			Kgotla meeting	
		1400-1600			Meeting with interest groups	
Thursday	07.07.22	0830	Gaborone Central	Gaborone Central Kgotla	Courtesy call with leadership	
		0900-1130			Kgotla meeting	
		1400-1600			Meeting with interest groups	
Friday	08.07.22	0830	Gaborone Bonnigton North	Courtesy call with leadership		
		0900-1130		Kgotla meeting		
		1400-1600		Meeting with interest groups		
Monday	11.07.22	0830	Gaborone Bonnington South	Gaborone Bonnington South Kgotla	Courtesy call with leadership	Gaborone Central
		0900-1130			Kgotla meeting	
		1400-1600			Meeting with interest groups	
Tuesday	12.07.22	0830	Gaborone South	Gaborone South Kgotla	Courtesy call with leadership	Gaborone South
		0900-1130			Kgotla meeting	
		1400-1600			Meeting with interest groups	
Wednesday	13.07.22	0830	Gaborone Bonnington South	Gaborone Bonnington South Kgotla	Courtesy call with leadership	Gaborone Bonnington South
		0900-1130			Kgotla meeting	
		1400-1600			Meeting with interest groups	
Thursday	14.07.22	0830	Gaborone Bonnigton North	Gaborone Bonnington North Kgotla	Courtesy call with leadership	Gaborone Bonnington North
		0900-1130			Kgotla meeting	
		1400-1600			Meeting with interest groups	

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MINISTRY OF YOUTH, GENDER, SPORT AND CULTURE

NATIONAL ARTS Festival 2022



FINAL COMPETITIONS

CATEGORY	DATE	VENUE	TIME
Dikhwaere and Choral	02 July 2022	Gaborone - Maitisong	1600hrs
Fashion Show Grand Finale-Dressmaking, Modeling and Hairdressing	09 July 2022	Francistown - Blue Jacket Street	1630hrs
Traditional Instruments, Comedy, Theatre/Drama, Poetry and Mogolokwane	09 July 2022	Palapye - BIUST	0900hrs
Polka Dance and Namastap	09 July 2022	Ghanzi Senior Secondary School	0900hrs
Contemporary Music and DJ	09 July 2022	Maun Sports Complex	0900hrs
Traditional Song & Dance - Setapa, Tsutsube, Hosanna, Phathisi, Seperu, Diware and Sebirwa	09 July 2022	Gaborone - UB Indoor Sports Arena	0900hrs
Church Service	10 July 2022	Boipuso Hall	1000hrs
National Art, Basket and Craft Exhibition	12 July 2022	Gaborone - National Art Gallery (Museum)	1800hrs
Awards Ceremony	18 July 2022	Gaborone - UB Indoor Sports Arena	1400hrs



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TWO FARM WORKERS wanted. Contact M. Tsetsengwa. Closing date 16.07.2022. 76028330.

URGENTLY WANTED FARM worker at Magapatona,, in Tutume, apply to Ian Makgabane P O Box 70310 Gaborone tel: 73133526

ONE HERDBOY WANTED (Mathangwane) Box136 Unangoni Mafundu Mathangwane 77130150

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NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNERS OF PLOT no : 182 located in Gaborone, main mall would like to change land use from single residential to commercial. Any objections contact GCC physical planning office within 14 days after publication.

THE OWNER OF plot 2937-Gaborone would like to change land use from single residential to multi-residential. Any objections should be forwarded to Gaborone city council physical planning office (3657400) in writing within 14 days of the publication of the notice.

OWNER OF PLOT 8243 Letsibogo, Letlhakane seeks consent from owners of plots 8242 and 8244 for change of land use from residential to multi residential. Forward objections to Boteti Sub Council Physical Planning Department on 2978298, or call 74799081 to view the drawings.

THE OWNER OF plot Lot 13617, Tawana in Letlhakane, wants to change land-use from residential to multi-family units. All owners of neighbouring plots are asked to contact 71443239 or Boteti Sub District Council on 2909300 for any comments.

OWNER OF PLOT 4114 Mafitlhakgosi, Tlokwenweng seeks consent from owners of plots 4113 and 4132 for construction of boundary wall. Forward objections to Tlokwenweng sub council physical planning department on 3695040, or call 76397889 to view the drawings.

PROPERTIES

FOR RENT. WAREHOUSE & Office space available for rent in: G- West Industrial- 750 M2, Block 3 Industrial- 350 M2, Phakalane, Maun- Natalee Centre, Francistown & Kanye. Contact 71395535.

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed number FT279/2003 dated 09/06/2003 made in favor of MESHINGO MATHANGWANE in respect of:

CERTAIN: Piece of land being LOT 9981FRANCISTOWN
MEASURING : 420m2(four hundred and twenty square metres)
SITUATE: IN FRANCISTOWN, EXTENTION 16
HELD UNDER: FT279/2003

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the REGISTRER OF DEEDS FRANCISTOWN within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

DATED 06/07/2022 ADDRESS Box 1 Mathangwane

NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's reference: ESHGB 000074/ 21
IN THE ESTATE of the late **Galenkgathe Moeng** who died at Ga Monyemana ward Kang Hukuntsi district, BOTSWANA on the 16th day of May 2015.
NOTICE IS HWEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.
DATED at on this **06TH day of JULY 2022.**
The Executor
Gorometswe Moeng
P O Box 170
KANG CELL: 75273763 / 71393090

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Masters Reference: ESHGB 000246/20
IN THE ESTATE of the Late POUL RINGSTED NORKJAER who died at Sir Ketumile Masire Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District on the **26th of July 2020.**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.
Dated at Gaborone on this **8th Day of July 2022**
The Executrix
Miriam Norkjaer
P O Box 47006
Phakalane
Gaborone
Tel: 71628650

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS Master's Reference: ESHGB 000081/21

IN THE ESTATE of the late PATRICIA SHEILA KABELO who died at Lenmed Bokamoso Private Hospital, Mmopane, Kweneng District, Botswana on the 10th September 2020.

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

DATED aton thisday of2022

The Executor
Christopher Bashi Khupe
P O Box 2276 Serowe
TEL: 73067300 / 72608990/4630409

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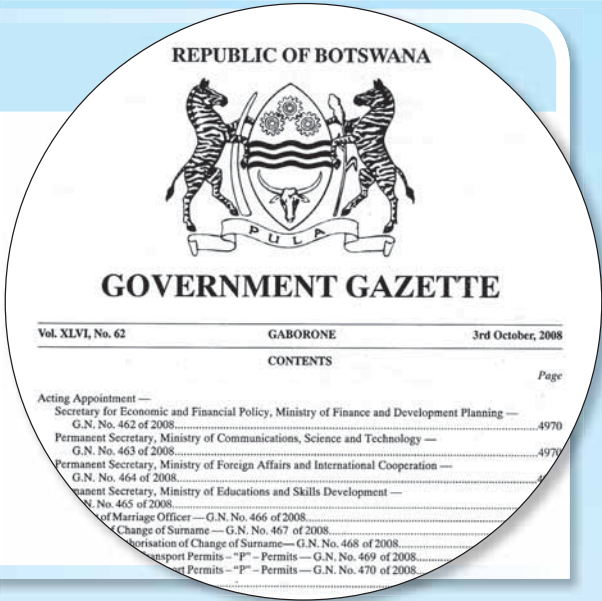
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DPF
DEBSWANA - PENSION - FUND

FIRST AND FINAL CALL FOR BENEFICIARIES - DEATH BENEFITS CLAIMS

Mmila Fund Administrators has received notifications regarding pension Death Benefits for Debswana Pension Fund members listed below. Investigations of these notifications are ongoing with the known family members. In order to ensure that all possible dependents and/or beneficiaries are accounted for; Mmila Fund Administrators wishes to give NOTICE to any unknown potential dependents and/or beneficiaries of the deceased members. Family members who have been contacted should ignore this notice.

Respondents are required to contact Mmila Fund Administrators no later than 14 days from date of publication of this notice.

DECEASED'S NAME	MEMBER STATUS	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF RESIDENCE
Moemedi Lekuni	Pensioner	16.03.2021	Jwaneng /Gamokoto / Goodhope/ Francistown / Tonota / Serowe
Donnic Leburu	Pensioner	11.10.2021	Lobatse / Gabrone
Gaoduelwe Owageng	Pensioner	10.12.2021	Jwaneng / Sese / Malaka
Magare Tshekiso	Active - Jwaneng	20.03.2022	Lorwana / Jwaneng
Rupert Monametsi Lekgotla	Deferred	07.07.1999	Moshupa / Gaborone
Marumo Makuku	Deferred	12.03.2022	Palapye / Gaborone
Ndebo Joseph	Pensioner	12.05.2022	Rakops / Orapa / Letlhakane
Alex Olebogeng Magonono	Deferred	07.02.2008	Charleshill / Jwaneng
Bokang Tiisetso Motlhagodi	Deferred	26.07.2021	Mochudi / Letlhakane
Ignatius Meshack Nfana	Active - Orapa	03.11.2021	Gaborone / Orapa / Letlhakane / Francistown
Shingane Bobeng	Pensioner	04.07.2021	Gweta / Letlhakane / Maun
Ompoye Gababolokwe	Active - Jwaneng	28.07.2021	Palapye / Serowe / Jwaneng
Mmatsela Molefe	Pensioner	03.07.2021	Mochudi / Gaborone
Gothusaone Rasekgwana	Active - Jwaneng	30.05.2021	Moshaweng / Jwaneng
Selebatso Boyce Semokona	Active - Jwaneng	28.05.2021	Pitseng / Jwaneng
Phemo Oagile	Active - DCC	10.03.2021	Orapa / Jwaneng / Letlhakane / Gaborone

Contact:
Mmila Member Relations Office: Gaborone: +267 373 5257 | Jwaneng: +267 588 4849 | Orapa: +267 290 2323
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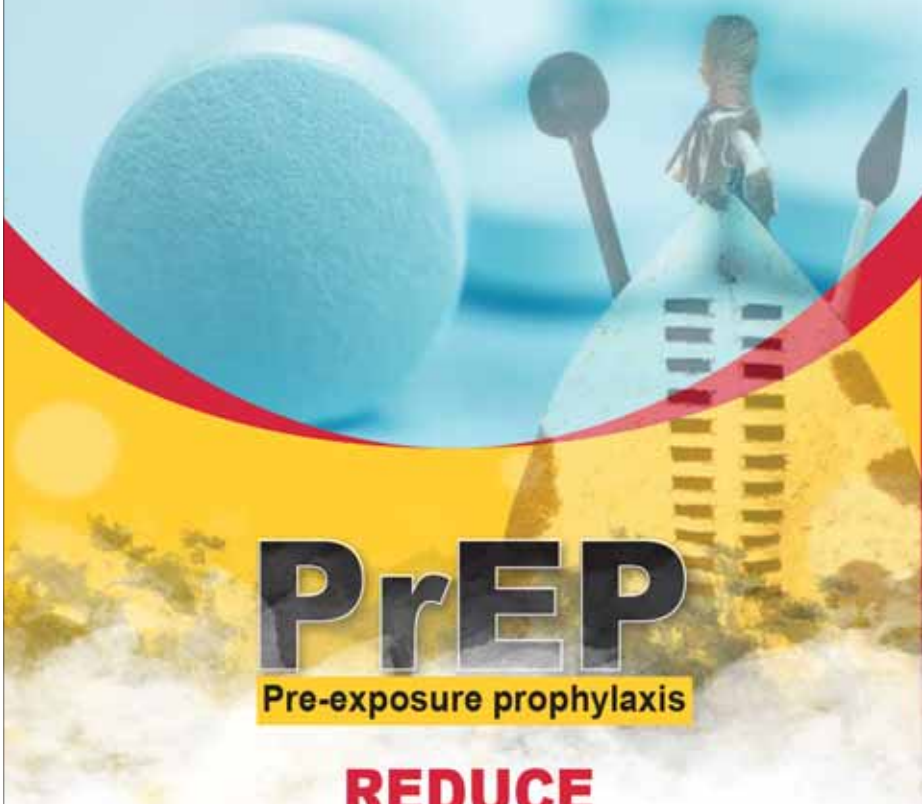
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06 JULY 2022	LETLHAKANE (In front of Zola Enterprise)	MAUN (Bus Rank)	SEROWE (Bus Rank)	GHANZI (In Front of Shoppers)	TAKATOKW-ANE (In front Fours)
07 JULY 2022	RAKOPS		PALAPYE (Engen Mall)	HUKUNTSI (In Front of Sefalana)	LETLHAKENG (Choppies Mall)
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Forum calls for global efforts in quality education

NEW YORK - Academics, experts, government officials and representatives of educational organisations on Wednesday called for efforts and actions to improve the quality of education

Small abacus supports young woman's dream in education startup

ABUJA - One afternoon in mid-June, Shirley Ben stood by the stage in the auditorium of an elementary school in the southern Nigerian city of Port Harcourt, where she dictated a series of numbers to several children on stage.

The children's pen-holding hands made a few strokes in the air, quickly wrote numbers on the sketchpad held in the other hands, and raised them to show the audience, causing a burst of applause.

This is the final of an abacus and mental math competition held by a local abacus and mental arithmetic training school.

On that day, 300 pupils experienced a preliminary contest, while eventually, 15 winners stood out to participate in the final.

"We have trained these children over a period of time and they are using the abacus right now to show the skills that they have gained from using it.

So with this competition, parents and everybody are able to see how fast their children can calculate using the abacus as a tool," said Ben, 35, the principal of this abacus and mental arithmetic training school, while addressing the media at the scene of the competition. According to Ben, her training school offers three levels of training courses, with each level requiring a study period of four months.

And the 300 contestants were chosen from about 3 000 pupils currently in abacus and mental arithmetic training in Port Harcourt after an evaluation test held in May.

Four years ago, at the recommendation of a relative studying in China, Ben went to east China's Shandong Province to better understand the 'magic' brain-stimulating skills for children.

Abacus and mental math originated from the Chinese Zhusuan, a time-honored traditional method of performing mathematical calculations with an abacus. Zhusuan was listed as an intangible cultural heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2013.

"I saw how the Chinese children were using the abacus to do the calculation, I was very interested in this, and decided to bring this knowledge here in Nigeria," the former stock manager told *Xinhua*.

After six months of training in the abacus in China in 2018, Ben returned to Port Harcourt to set up a training school and led her team to promote the abacus-based mental math courses in

local primary schools.

Because the mental training skill works well to improve children's counting ability, the courses they offer were quickly accepted by teachers, students and parents.

Today, Ben's training school has two direct teaching centers in Port Harcourt, with 10 professional teachers, and more than 40 partner schools.

In an interview with reporters at the scene of the competition, Kike David, a mother whose two children attended the abacus and mental arithmetic training class and the competition, said her children have developed self-confidence and love for mathematics since they started studying the abacus.

"We want to encourage the government to buy into this program and take it to our public schools," David said. Roberta Ide, a private primary school principal who watched the competition, told *Xinhua* she was really impressed by the children's outstanding performance and expects more schools to sign up abacus in the Nigerian curriculum system.

"I used to think the abacus was only used for counting but with what I have witnessed here today, (I now understand) the abacus skill is a brain-stimulating process and it is highly beneficial for learning especially in young kids," she said. In a video interview with *Xinhua*, Li Mianjun, the founder of China Shenmo Education, believed to be the pioneer and leader of abacus and mental arithmetic training, said abacus and mental math is a technique that originates from the abacus.

This technique, he explained, encourages the learner to depict the abacus's plate, beads and grade in the mind, and complete the counting process without using the physical abacus.

This technique has been effective in improving children's cognitive function and attention, Li said.

And now, with the growing global influence of Chinese culture, the abacus has spread to more countries.

According to him, since 2018, Shenmo Education has funded the establishment of abacus and mental math training schools in more than ten countries including Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

The Chinese-inspired Ben now has an even bigger wish to expand the abacus training business to other cities in Nigeria in the coming years and promote the establishment of abacus training and certification standards in Nigeria. *Xinhua*

across the world and place student needs at the heart of global sustainable development.

They made the appeal at the annual UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) from Tuesday to Thursday, and from July 11 to 15, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. Their call came as statistics showed that temporary school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic have left about 1.6 billion children, or 91 per cent of students worldwide, unable to learn.

Of them, nearly 369 million relied on school meals for daily nutrition.

During the three panel discussions throughout Wednesday, Madeleine Zuniga, vice president and founding member of Peru's Foro Educativo, a non-profit association committed to the transformation and development of the country's education, called for more investment in high-quality

teacher training.

Investment cannot simply be viewed in terms of GDP, she said.

Panelist Charles North, acting chief executive officer of the Global Partnership for Education, a partnership and funding platform focused on providing quality education to children in lower-income countries, urged leaders to show greater political will to finance education.

Education is not a privilege, nor is it an opportunity, North said, defining it as 'a human right.' Finnish Minister of Education Li Andersson expressed support for investment in green and digital transitions so all can learn, re-skill and up-skill throughout their lives.

The HLPF is the main UN platform on sustainable development, and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level.

In his speech, Leonardo

Garnier, UN secretary-general's special adviser for 2022 Transforming Education Summit, which is scheduled for September, said that even before the pandemic the world was 'not even close' to realising quality education.

He called for shifting away from "doing things a little faster" to aiming higher, by transforming education into a passionate path for self-discovery and development.

In order to reach such heights, schools must be safe, healthy, and stimulating places for learning, he added.

On the theme; Building Back Better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," this year's forum is scheduled to review in-depth Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 14 on life below water and Goal 15 on life on land as well as Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals. *Xinhua*



ANKARA - Presidents Erdogan (right) and Mohamud at a joint press conference in Turkey, on Wednesday. President Erdogan met with his visiting Somalian counterpart to discuss regional security and humanitarian aid to the African country. Photo: Xinhua

Turkish, Somali presidents discuss regional security, humanitarian aid

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Erdogan met on Wednesday with his visiting Somalian counterpart Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in the capital Ankara to discuss regional security and humanitarian aid to the African country.

In a joint press conference after their meeting, the Turkish president stressed the importance of Somalia's stability and security for the whole African horn, noting Turkey will continue to stand

with Somalia in the international arena.

Turkey's humanitarian and development aid to Somalia over the last decade totals more than US\$1 billion Erdogan said, adding the trade between Turkey and Somalia has grown quickly in the past years.

For his part, the Somalian president told the press conference that he discussed with Erdogan the humanitarian situation in his country caused by severe drought.

"I would like to take this opportunity to call upon our Turkish brothers to support us and do what they can, as they did before.

Your solidarity and support will save the lives of the Somali people and will never be forgotten," he said.

Mohamud, who served as the president of Somalia between 2012 and 2017, made his first official visit to Turkey after he was re-elected in May. *Xinhua*

Young Chinese in Tanzania turn to Kiswahili

DAR ES SALAAM - If you have never met Tang Jingyu, a 29-year-old Chinese born in east China's Fujian Province, you never will realise that he is from China when talking with him on the phone in Kiswahili.

The Chinese national, with the local Tanzanian name Juma Suluhu Sharobaro, speaks fluent Kiswahili and is now working in Tanzania as a marketing officer with StarTimes.

At his residence along the Indian Ocean beach in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam, he said he had learned Kiswahili for three years beginning in 2011 at the Tianjin Foreign Studies University based in north China.

"I also participated in students exchange program between China and Tanzania during which I sharpened my Kiswahili speaking at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) for eight months," said Tang in an interview with Xinhua ahead of the World Kiswahili Language Day that falls on July 7.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) last year declared July 7 as the World Kiswahili Language Day. Tang said he's very excited because Kiswahili is his second language after Chinese.

Kiswahili is now spoken by more than 200 million people across the world, especially in the East African countries of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, said Tang.

"Kiswahili is helping me in my work and in my life in Tanzania," said the marketing officer of StarTimes, also trading as Star Media (Tanzania) Limited, a Chinese firm that provides digital TV solutions.

"I am encouraging my fellow Chinese to learn Kiswahili to strengthen their good cooperation with their Tanzanian friends," Tang said in a message to his fellow Chinese in Tanzania as the World Kiswahili Language Day approaches.

William Anangisye, the vice-chancellor of UDSM, said during the 21st "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition 2022 held at the Confucius Institute at UDSM last month that there are more than 10,000 Chinese people in Tanzania and at least 500 small and large Chinese-managed enterprises.

Tang recalled that in 2017, then Vice President and now President Samia Suluhu Hassan, one of the champions and ambassadors of Kiswahili across the world, gave him the name Suluhu at a ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone for the construction of Palm Village apartments in Dar es Salaam.

"The president gave me her second name after she was impressed with my translation of a Chinese statement into fluent Kiswahili," said Tang who has lived in Tanzania for eight years.

Tang said as an employee of StarTimes, he has been able to participate in a number of events that had been conducted in Kiswahili, including Bongo Star Search in 2018 when he sang a song called Malaika, translated into English as Angels.

Bongo Star Search is a Tanzanian music reality-singing competition show.

"The Bongo Star Search helped me to build a bridge of cooperation between China and Tanzania. And it made me famous to Tanzanians. I can state with confidence that most of them like me," he said.

"I also composed a Kiswahili song called Cha Upepo. Most people love the song. The song is about my early experience in Tanzania," he said.

Tang believes that the China-Tanzania cultural cooperation is growing from strength to strength.

He said Chinese dramas translated into Kiswahili are gaining popularity in Tanzania, citing a drama called Doudou na Mama Wakwe Zake as one of the most-watched dramas on state-run Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation.

Doudou na Mama Wakwe Zake is loosely translated into English as Doudou and Her Mothers-In-law. He said that he also used to participate in organizing a China-Tanzania film exhibition that was welcomed by both Chinese and Tanzanian officials.

UNESCO declared July 7 of each year as World Kiswahili Language Day during its 41st session in the French capital Paris in 2021.

UNESCO in a statement said that Kiswahili is one of the most widely used languages of the African family and the most widely spoken in sub-Saharan Africa. *Xinhua*



MBUTO - A teenage mother in Mozambique. A third of women in developing countries begin childbearing at age 19 and younger. Nearly half of first births to adolescents are to children or girls aged 17 and younger, reveals research released by UNFPA. Photo: Xinhua

One third of women become mothers during adolescence

NEW YORK - Nearly a third of all women in developing countries begin childbearing at age 19 and younger, said UNFPA, the UN sexual and reproductive health agency, in a report released on Tuesday.

"And nearly half of first births to adolescents are to children, or girls aged 17 and younger," according to the report. While total fertility across the globe has fallen, the UNFPA report shows that women who began childbearing in adolescence had almost five births by the time they reached age 40 between 2015 and 2019.

"When nearly a third of all women in developing countries are becoming mothers during adolescence, it is clear the world is failing adolescent girls," said UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem.

"The repeat pregnancies we see among adolescent mothers are a glaring signpost that they desperately need sexual and reproductive health information

and services."

After having their first child, additional childbearing in adolescence is common for child mothers.

Among girls with a first birth at age 14 or younger, nearly three quarters also have a second birth in adolescence, and 40 per cent of those with two births progress to a third birth before exiting adolescence.

According to the report, complications from giving birth are a leading cause of death and injury for adolescent girls.

But being an adolescent mother can also lead to other grave violations of their human rights and serious social consequences, including child marriage, intimate-partner violence and mental health issues. The youngest child mothers face the highest risks.

Across the globe, there are 'encouraging signs' of declining levels of motherhood in childhood and adolescence. But the pace of decline has been alarmingly

slow -- often by only about three percentage points per decade, according to UNFPA.

"Governments need to invest in adolescent girls and help expand their opportunities, resources, and skillsets, thereby helping avoid early and unintended pregnancies," said Kanem.

"When girls can meaningfully chart their own life course, motherhood in childhood will grow increasingly rare."

The report lays out recommendations for policymakers, including the need to provide girls with comprehensive sexuality education, mentorship, social support, and quality health services.

It also suggests providing families with economic support and engaging local organizations within a supportive policy and legal framework that recognizes the rights, capacities and needs of adolescents, particularly marginalised adolescent girls. *Xinhua*



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Mozambique launches new polio vaccination campaign

MAPUTO - Mozambique's health ministry has launched their third round of the vaccination campaign against polio on Wednesday.

The campaign will target children under 5 years of age in the country.

According to the Minister of Health Armando Tiago who spoke at the launch of the campaign in Maputo, the exercise will take place from Thursday to Sunday.

"The realization of this campaign on a national scale aims to ensure that all children in our country are immunized against the most recent case of wild poliovirus detected in the province of Tete and the previous one detected in neighboring Malawi," said Tiago.

The minister was referring to

the case of the wild poliovirus type 1 disease identified in Tete during the previous rounds of vaccination campaigns.

The case was the first of its kind registered in almost 30 years in the country and led to the ministry declaring a public health emergency in May.

The new round of campaign will take place door-to-door as a primary vaccination strategy, said Tiago, as well as in daycare centers, markets, churches, hospitals, and other crowded areas.

"We have a duty to successfully implement the campaign, so we have done a great mobilization of the population to accept without reservation, to receive our teams in their homes or go to the nearest health units to get the vaccine," said the minister. *Xinhua*



MAPUTO - Mozambique's health ministry launched Wednesday the country's third round of the vaccination campaign against polio targeted at children under five. Photo: Xinhua

Gunmen attack Nigerian president's advance team

ABUJA, - Two persons in the convoy of cars carrying the advance team of Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari were injured in an ambush by gunmen in the country's north region on Tuesday, the presidency said.

The shooting incident occurred near Dustinma, a town in the northern state of Katsina, when the advance team of security guards, protocol, and media officers were going ahead of Buhari's trip to his country home in Daura for the forthcoming Eid-el-Kabir celebration, senior presidential spokesman Garba Shehu said in a statement late Tuesday.

"Two persons in the convoy are receiving treatment for the minor injuries they suffered. All the other personnel, staff and vehicles made it safely to

Daura," he said.

The attackers opened fire on the convoy from ambush positions but were repelled by the military, police and secret police personnel accompanying the convoy, Shehu said. *Xinhua*



Buhari

Eskom, trade unions agrees on wage talks

JOHANNESBURG - After a two-week crippling wage strike that plunged South Africa into power outages, trade unions representing Eskom workers on Tuesday accepted a wage offer from the national power utility and the strike is expected to end.

Eskom has reached an agreement with the three recognized labor unions, and this "brings the Central Bargaining Council talks, the damaging,

disruptive and costly wage dispute to an end, paving the way for a full return to work of all employees," the company said in a statement.

Eskom had to implement prolonged power outages as a result of the strike, including high-level Stage 6 load shedding or power cut since a week ago.

The workers will receive a seven percent increase in wage as well as an increase in housing allowances, which will cost

Eskom an extra more than R1 billion over the one-year period, it said.

The main union at Eskom, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), told Xinhua that their members have signed the wage offer and "are happy" with it.

The union said it would inform its members to return to work, according to William Mabapa, NUM's acting general secretary. *Xinhua*

Drought kills seven million livestock across Horn of Africa countries

ADDIS ABABA - At least seven million livestock have died across drought-affected Horn of Africa (HOA) countries, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has disclosed. "At least seven million livestock, which pastoralist families rely upon for sustenance and livelihoods, have died across the region," the UNOCHA said in its latest humanitarian update for the Horn of Africa issued recently.

As the impact of the ongoing drought on the region's livestock numbers mounted with the worsening emergency situation, more than 1.5 million livestock in Kenya, between 2.1 million and 2.5 million in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, as well as 3 million more in Somalia have died, according to figures from the UNOCHA.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had recently warned that the drought-induced livestock deaths were consequently affecting children's development as they have less access to milk, eventually negatively affecting their nutrition. It said malnutrition rates are rising across the three affected countries, in which more than 7.1 million children are currently acutely malnourished, including about 2 million children who are severely acutely malnourished.

The UNOCHA also warned that the situation could further deteriorate as forecasts indicate that the October-December 2022 rainy season could also fail, leading to "an unprecedented and catastrophic situation, the likes

of which has not been witnessed in the Horn of Africa in recent history."

Amid the continued drought conditions, communities in the region are facing the threat of starvation following four consecutive failed rainy seasons in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia -- a climatic event not seen in at least 40 years.

The UNOCHA said at least 18.6 million people are already experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity and rising malnutrition across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. This figure could increase to 20 million by September.

Amid the worsening drought, more than 11.6 million people cannot access enough water for drinking, cooking and cleaning across the region, including 4.4 million in Ethiopia, 3.9 million in Somalia, and 3.3 million in Kenya, according to the UNOCHA.

While resilience-building efforts across the region have made important progress, the UNOCHA stressed that the frequency and severity of droughts in recent years, combined with the exceptionally prolonged nature of the 2020-2022 drought, have made it harder for families to recover between shocks.

The existing water deficits have been exacerbated by very high temperatures, which are forecasted to continue from June to September 2022. *Xinhua*

Ramaphosa warns citizens against under-age drinking

CAPE TOWN - South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday warned citizens against under-age drinking, saying the country is losing its future generation to this "scourge."

He said this, at the mass funeral for 21 young victims of last week's tavern tragedy in East London, Eastern Cape Province.

The youngest victim who died in this tragedy was 13 years old, and the country is still waiting for the result of toxicology. Legal drinking in South Africa is 18 years old.

Ramaphosa recalled major alcohol-related incidents that killed young women and children in the past, blaming under-age drinking for alcohol related violence, road accidents, driving drunk and unprotected sex. "Alcohol is highly addictive.

It is something to be consumed in moderation and responsibly, and only by those who are of the legal age to do so, and mature enough to handle its effects," he said. The president said South Africa has extensive laws to address and combat alcohol

abuse, but has to strengthen implementation, calling on all mayors to appoint Local Drug Action Committees in every ward and to give them the necessary support from the municipality.

He also called on the Eastern Cape government and all of provincial government to step up implementation of their provincial drug master plans, with a renewed focus on outreach and public awareness raising. *Xinhua*



Ramaphosa

Inmates escape after armed attack on jail

ABUJA - At least 300 inmates were on the run while one inmate died and three others were injured during an attack on Tuesday by unidentified gunmen on a prison in Abuja, a senior official has said on Wednesday.

The attackers stormed the custodial cen in Kuja area, southwest of Abuja on Tuesday night, freeing about 600 inmates but half the number of fleeing inmates have been re-arrested so far, said Shuaibu Begore, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Interior.

Begore told reporters during a visit to the facility on Wednesday that one inmate was killed and three others injured during the attack, suspected to be carried out by militants of the extremist group Boko Haram.

A total of 994 inmates, including convicted Boko Haram conspirators and high-profile public officers standing trial or already convicted, were at the facility before the late Tuesday attack, he said.

“We understand they are

Boko Haram terrorists and came specifically for their conspirators. Many of them are returned, some were retrieved from the bushes they were hiding.

We have retrieved about 300 out of about 600 that got out of the jail,” the official said.

All Boko Haram suspects, numbering about 64, were among inmates who escaped, Nigeria’s defense minister Bashir Magashi said.

Magashi said although everything was under control now, the government believed those responsible for the attack ‘belong to a particular group’.

“Most likely, they are Boko Haram members because we have a sizeable number of Boko Haram suspects in detention, and presently we cannot locate any of them.

I think they are about 64 in the prison and none of them is available now, they have all escaped,” Magashi said.

According to the defense minister, the attack started with heavy gunfire and explosions, with the attackers gaining entry into the prison and releasing some of the

inmates.

In a statement, Abubakar Umar, national spokesperson for

the Nigeria Correctional Service said the attack was successfully repelled by security agencies.

“Calm has been restored to the facility, and the situation is under control,” Umar said. *Xinhua*



ABUJA - Damaged vehicles at the site of an attack on a prison in Nigeria on Thursday. A senior official said at least 300 inmates were on the run while one died and three others were injured during an attack on Tuesday by unidentified gunmen on a prison in Abuja. Photo: Xinhua

Nigerian president reshuffles cabinet

ABUJA - Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari on Wednesday reshuffled cabinet, charging newly appointed ministers to serve diligently and maintain unalloyed loyalty to the country.

Buhari, while speaking at the swearing-in ceremony which preceded the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting in Abuja, said the reshuffling was aimed at reinvigorating certain sectors where the government desired to accomplish improved results.

He said as his administration was now on the home stretch of its second term, more work still needed to be done in diverse areas of the economy and national life.

Seven new ministers were added to the cabinet to fill the gap created by some ministers who resigned their positions to pursue various political ambitions ahead of next year’s general elections.

Buhari urged the newest members of his cabinet to consult and collaborate with older cabinet colleagues and focus on driving key programs already initiated by his administration.

He also warned all members of the cabinet against corrupt practices, reiterating that public officers must be above board and those caught in corrupt practices would face the full wrath of the law. *Xinhua*

Researchers make breakthrough in Alzheimer’s

CANBERRA - Australian researchers have discovered how a protein that drives the development of Alzheimer’s disease turns into a disease state, offering hopes of a treatment.

In a study published on Thursday, the team from Flinders University revealed how a protein called tau transforms to have toxic effects on brain cells.

Alzheimer’s disease is the most common form of dementia, contributing to up to 70 per cent of cases, and has no cure or effective therapy.

In the course of developing Alzheimer’s, tau accumulates inside brain cells and progressively modifies into a disease state. “Alongside a small peptide called amyloid-beta, the tau protein is a central factor in Alzheimer’s disease.

Tau is necessary for the toxic effects on brain cells that then result in impaired memory function,” Arne Ittner, a senior

research fellow in Neuroscience in the Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute and senior author of Thursday’s study, said. By conducting a large experiment that included up to 20 changes in Tau, Ittner’s team discovered ‘master sites’ in tau that govern modifications at most other sites.

“By modifying these master sites, we were able to drive modification at multiple other spots within tau, leading to a similar state seen in the brains of Alzheimer’s patients,” Ittner said.

They found that mice that had a version of tau lacking one of the master sites were less likely to develop Alzheimer’s disease than those with the usual version of the protein.

Researchers will next shift their focus to translating their findings into treatments for Alzheimer’s disease.

“We have shown that this new concept has therapeutic

potential, but future work is needed to understand the role of these master sites in health and disease,” said Kristie Stefanoska, research fellow in Dementia at Flinders University. “Tau

modification in Alzheimer’s disease is a complicated process. Ours is the first study to link an initial change in tau with multi-site modification along the entire protein.” *Xinhua*

Stray elephants attack villagers, president consoles

DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzania President Samia Hassan on Wednesday consoled villagers who have been attacked by stray elephants and other wild animals.

A statement by the Prime Minister’s Office said the president’s consolation was

delivered by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on a visit to one of the affected villages in southern Tanzania.

Majaliwa said President Hassan was aware of the devastation caused to farm crops by the elephants and assured them that the government would provide them with food in case they faced shortages.

Majaliwa said most of the elephants had been forced to stray from protected areas, including national parks and game reserves after their natural habitats were encroached by livestock keepers.

The premier directed the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Mashimba Ndaki, to meet with livestock keepers and ask them to stop grazing their animals in protected areas.

He further said President Hassan had authorised the recruitment of 6 000 new game rangers that would be deployed in villages located adjacent to protected areas to drive away the destructive wild animals. *Xinhua*

DRC, Rwanda agree to de-escalate tensions

KINSHASA - President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame, on Wednesday agreed on a de-escalation process after the resurgence of a rebel group had fuelled tensions between the two countries.

The consensus was reached after a tripartite meeting brought together the two leaders and Angola’s President Joao Lourenco as a mediator in Luanda, which was convened at the request of the African Union.

The meeting was aimed at helping restore confidence between Kinshasa and Kigali. Since the end of March, the March 23 Movement (M23) has been on the offensive in the eastern DRC province of North Kivu, causing thousands of civilians to be displaced.

The DRC authorities accused Rwanda of secretly supporting the rebels to destabilise the east part of the country, while Rwanda has denied the allegation.

At a press briefing on Wednesday, the leaders

confirmed that the Rwanda-DRC Joint Permanent Commission, which had not met for several years, would be revived, as part of the de-escalation process they had agreed upon.

The commission will hold a meeting on Tuesday in Luanda over such issues as the normalisation of DRC-Rwanda diplomatic relations, an immediate cessation of hostilities and an unconditional withdrawal of the M23 rebels from the DRC, said the statement of the DRC presidency. *Xinhua*

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Dancer lands international film role

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Mophato Dance Theatre's Lone Motsomi has captivating dance moves that have landed her a role in the film; *The Woman King*.

The role is a game changer for the young performer known as Lone_loh.

She will be among female warriors or amazons in a Hollywood movie, which was inspired by events that happened in The Kingdom of Dahomey, one of the most powerful states of Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, *The Woman King* tells the story of the agoji, a real-life army of women warriors who defended the powerful West African kingdom of Dahomey in present-day Benin during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Filmed in South Africa last year November and due for release this September, the movie has a accomplished female cast such as America's Viola Davis, Lashana Lynch, Sheila Atim and some of South Africa's actresses Thuso Mbedu, Sivuyile Ngesi and also making her film debut is former Miss Universe Zozibini Tunzi as well as many other talented actors and actresses.

Lone_loh said in an interview that last year August her best friend who resides in South Africa reached out to her about the movie's audition.

"I sent through my audition video and resume and I got shortlisted," Lone_loh said.

She said prior to sending her audition video, she undertook intensive training as they had specifically informed applicants of what was needed.

"I thought I was going to be a stunt tee because of the description



Lone_loh has landed a role in the film, *The Woman King*.

of what I will be doing in the film," she explained.

But, she later learnt after being shortlisted that she will be one of the agoji.

"The female warriors who are seen at the beginning of the movie and throughout as they do all the fighting scenes in the film."

She said being from a stunt to actually appearing on the film was a big thing for her because stunts do not have any appearance

on the movie.

Working alongside Hollywood's talented and most skilled women in the film industry has been an honour for Lone_loh.

"It is a beautiful thing to see women coming together and telling a true story of how powerful and fearless women were back in the day, and even now," Lone_loh said.

She said the highlight of being among these women was the connection they had, which

showed unity and admiration of each other.

"We had such a casual beautiful experience when off-set, where we would talk about anything from the weather and how tired we were," Lone_loh said.

She said sharing the set with Davis and Mbedu was a testimony that dreams are possible.

"Viola is a big person in the film industry and sharing the movie set with her was just phenomenal and mind-blowing with butterflies every single moment when we met" Lone_loh said.

After shooting *The Woman King*, Lone_loh went to the United States to pursue her goals.

"I have so much that I want to do," said Lone_loh adding she has a mentor who is helping her understand film and being a stunt woman.

"Stunt work was my first job and I need someone who is best placed to walk with me as I am yet to face more stunt jobs and what a better way to do it in the US," she said.

She noted that her mentor also worked in *The Woman King*, and Lone_loh said she ceased the moment and grabbed the opportunity then.

However, she said though her relocation to the US was not permanent it was long term, but not ruling out the possibility for a permanent move.

Asked of her plans with Mophato Dance Theatre, she said

the group was a foundation where all her dreams were established, cultivated and where she believed that everything was possible.

"Once I started at Mophato, I felt like I was home and that everything is possible. They understood what I was about, after all the group is about performing, exploring dance and travelling the world," she said.

Lone_loh said she would work with Mophato Dance Theatre in future.

"It will always be that company that is in my heart, it will always be a place I call home for me," she said.

She said even though she was seeking growth in different platforms and spreading her wings on her own, she would gladly stage a piece with them and even give workshops with the dance group.

The budding entertainer advised fellow Batswana in the artistic space to never give up on their dreams and goals no matter how many times they were blown away into negativity.

She acknowledged that it was hard to make it in this industry, especially for a young enthusiastic artistes in Botswana, especially now with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You will never know where and when you will end up with or work with in future, you will never know when that big opportunity and that moment will happen," she said. **BOPA**



Sky is the limit for Lone_loh. Photos: Courtesy of Lone Motsomi

Kudos to Kimberley Matheakgomo

By Marvin Motlhabane

GABORONE - Knowledge-based economy does not only speak to PhD and Degree holders, but to everyone with reputable skill including modelling.

Minister of Education and Skills Development Dr Douglas Letsholathebe said this during a courtesy call by Miss Little Junior Idol World, Kimberley Matheakgomo in Gaborone yesterday.

Dr Letsholathebe said economic diversification remained resolute agenda for the nation and sectors including arts were crucial in setting up businesses and career paths.

Therefore, the minister

congratulated Kimberly for scooping Miss Junior Idol in Thailand in June and urged her to consider earning a living out of a modelling career.

He wished Kimberly a sterling modelling career and advised her to believe in herself first saying she should not allow anyone to ever render her a failure.

Moreover, the minister said he recognised that Kimberly had won her first pageant at the age of five and has held charitable events. He thus urged her to help disseminate information about the importance of enrolling in early childhood education.

The nine-year-old standard four pupil at Mogoditshane Adventist Primary School said

her journey with modelling started when she was five in 2018 after she was inspired by her big sister Katlego.

Kimberly said her personal life attributes resonated with being charismatic citing that a beautiful princess builds herself through talent, intelligence, confidence, and boldness.

"She charms in reflection and inspires devotion through her action. The importance of school is they teach you what to do and what not to do, so to balance both my school work and my talents I go for tutoring so that I become a queen with brains," she said.

In addition, she said, 'be more, don't let anyone make you less important. Care more, start

caring about people around you. Learn more, always start with your education because it's the way to succeed."

Over the years Kimberly earned great achievements in the modelling space which include but are not limited to being crowned Little Miss Diamond Botswana in 2019 and setting up a dance academy named KatKim Delight Dance in 2020.

She told the minister that her ambition was to become a medical doctor.

She has already donated to, among others, the new African Baptist Apostolic in Molapowabojang, Two Little Steps Pre-School in Mochudi and SOS Tlokweng twice. **BOPA**

Bowls team ready for Commonwealth Games

By Baleseng Batlotleng

RAMOTSWA - The senior national women’s bowling team coach admits they will face a daunting task against lawn bowls powerhouses at this year’s Commonwealth Games.

The team will, on Sunday, travel to Birmingham, United Kingdom for the games.

In an interview this week, team mentor, Gasegarona Pabalelo, said following a string of good performances and intensive games, she had high hopes.

“We are in our last preparatory camp in Gaborone and all the preparations started last year. We have been doing weekly assessments and finally had a national championship in Orapa. I can see their strength, despite the challenge we shall face ahead, I foresee a medal, failing which a top eight spot,” she said.

Pabalelo, who was appointed national team coach last year, will face her first stern test at the global showpiece in Birmingham.

Botswana has assembled a strong team of four women; Marea Modutlwa, Boikhutso Mooketsi, Tshenolo Moshokgo and Lesego Motladiile. The four will take part in women’s triples and women’s fours beginning the 29th of this month.

Speaking on the sidelines of the training camp, Modutlwa said they were impressed by the level of expertise they gained from former Proteas national bowls coach, Theuns Fraser, at a recent training camp in South Africa.

“We are grateful of the experience and we believe that

what we learnt there will help us a lot in our games in Birmingham,” she said.

Modutlwa is no stranger to competition at the highest level having represented the country at the same games in Gold Coast in 2018. She comes across as the most decorated of the four having taken part in prestigious tournaments such as world indoor bowls championships, Atlantic championships among others.

Moshokgo is this year’s national championships with a healthy medal tally from the just ended national bowls championships, where she was crowned champion in singles, fours and pairs. She was eventually named player of the tournament.

Moshokgo brings a wealth of experience to the team, having participated in the 2006 international pairs in Zimbabwe and the 2008 XIth world bowling championships in New Zealand.

Mooketsi was also exceptional during the national champions and had also participated in big tournaments such as Peter Richards Invitational pairs tournament and the Quadrangular tournament.

The toast of the team is 24-year-old youthful sensation Lesego Motladiile, who has been a youth champions for the past six years. Despite her age, she remains one of the finest crop of bowlers locally and has represented Botswana at the 2017 Youth championships in Australia. Lesego, who started playing bowling at the tender age of 10, is the daughter of reputable bowler Oabona Motladiile.

BOPA



Moshokgo (right) playing against Jwaneng club’s Boikhutso Mooketsi in the women single at the 45th National Bowling Championship in Orapa. The national senior women’s bowling team will on Sunday travel to Birmingham to take part in this year’s Commonwealth Games.

Nhabe football association empowers regional coaches

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Nhabe Regional Football Association is drilling 21 coaches in an intermediate course (B license) to enhance their coaching knowledge and ability.

The Maun-held training is the second to be conducted in Botswana.

Speaking during official opening of the training, technical officer from Botswana Football Association (BFA), Dr Ricardo Marape said the association had programmes meant to develop football.

He said BFA had a programme geared at empowering and developing coaches in its 17 regions.

Dr Marape appreciated Nhabe region for identifying their need.

He said it was important for coaches to acquire qualifications

to progress in their coaching journey.

He said Confederation of African Football (CAF) Coaching Convention had raised standards for coaches such as having appropriate coaching licenses, adding the BFA B license was equivalent to CAF’s B license.

He said CAF wanted to professionalise coaching so that coaches could gain consideration in the football ecosystem.

Dr Marape said the training was in line with the club licensing system.

Nhabe Women Football chairperson, Dorcas Setlhoko, urged participants to take the training seriously as it would take them to greater heights.

Coaching, she said, required particular set of skills in order to bring the best results, adding coaching qualification was a must if they wanted to turn their

dreams o into a reality.

“You are lucky to be empowered as nowadays football needs professional coaches who are knowledgeable in football related issues and eager to help players reach their full potential. Coaches who can help people develop and achieve their goals,” she added.

Setlhoko described a coach as a well-rounded person expected to lead, motivate, advice, teach, counsel and provide guidance for players in life and in their sporting career.

Participants were also urged to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner and love their job as coaching was rewarding.

At the end of the training, Setlhoko urged coaches to create powerful teams from the grassroots level.

She also expressed concern that men were dominating into the art of coaching and urged women to come forth and participate in sports.

“I don’t want to see men coaching women football teams because I believe women are equally capable to coach,” she said.

Nhabe Regional Grassroots Development Officer, Tobokani King thanked local coaches for attending the course noting that as a region, they were eager to see them learning, acquiring appropriate licenses, reaching high professional standards and also being able to coach at various levels of football.

He said football was evolving and moving fast hence it was critical that they run at the same pace.

“Such courses do not come easily and we should appreciate that BFA is taking them seriously and we believe you will utilize the teachings and grow football,” he added.

King further urged participants to love what they do, be inspired to grow in football and be seen as competitors in the market. **BOPA**

Nadal fights hard to reach semifinals at Wimbledon

LONDON - Rafael Nadal refused to surrender to his injury and hung on to hold off American Taylor Fritz in five sets, reaching the men’s singles semifinals at the Wimbledon Championships on

Wednesday.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion lost the opening set 3-6 and asked for a medical timeout while leading 4-3 in the second set. “The body in general is fine

but of course in the abdominal, something is not going well, to be honest,” said Nadal after the match and admitted that for a lot of moment, he thought he would not be able to finish the match.

But the 36-year-old Spaniard didn’t let the crowd down as he returned to the court and picked up his racket. Wild cheering accompanied him since then whenever he got a point.

Nadal broke in the 11th game to take the second set 7-5, but Fritz dominated the following set with huge serves and big forehands.

The 24-year-old American put himself ahead with another 6-3, but Nadal always with a never-say-die attitude, came back again by winning the fourth set 7-5.

In the deciding set, both were tied until 6-6.

Nadal sensationally started the tiebreak with a 5-0 lead before wrapping it up 10-4. “I just wanted to give myself a chance. Not easy to leave the tournament.

Not easy to leave Wimbledon, even if the pain was hard,” said Nadal.

Nadal’s next opponent is Nick Kyrgios as the Australian beat Cristian Garin from Chile 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(5) to reach the semifinals of a Grand Slam for the first time.

But the Spaniard said he could not guarantee that he would play the semifinals on Friday as he would go for some tests on Thursday.

In the women’s quarterfinals, former champion Simona Halep needed only one hour and three minutes to crush American Amanda Anisimova 6-2, 6-4. The Romanian 16th seed has won all of her five matches in the tournament so far in straight sets.

She will fight for a semifinal place against Elena Rybakina on Thursday as the 17th seed from Kazakhstan came from behind to overtake Australian Ajla Tomljanovic 4-6, 6-2 and 6-3. **Xinhua**



LONDON - Nadal lost the opening set 3-6 and asked for a medical timeout while leading Fritz 4-3 in the second set. Photo: Xinhua



Team Botswana manager, Tshepo Kelaotswe (left) and Morule during the team's sendoff ceremony to the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Oregon. Morule said BAA performance in international meets required the services of full time coaches. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana Athletics Association's (BAA) performance in international meets requires the services of full time coaches.

Given the amount of talent in athletics, Botswana needs robust coaches to be able to produce more elite athletes, said Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) chairperson, Marumo Morule, during the sendoff

ceremony for Team Botswana heading to the 2022 World Athletics Championships penciled for Eugene, Oregon July 15 - 24.

"What we are seeing and celebrating is just the tip of an iceberg. Should we be having full time coaches at the BAA as well as part time coaches across the country, we will with no doubt produce top class talent across many disciplines of athletics. As such, there is a need for us to hasten the process of securing

coaches in athletics; including full time national coaches," added Morule.

BNSC CEO, Tuelo Serufho, said in an interview that work had started to provide technical capacity to BAA.

He said they had worked with the association to define a suitable structure for them, hence the support to hire two coaches, one at each of the Good Hope and Mogoditshane senior secondary schools' centres of sport

excellence.

Serufho said the intention was to engage more coaches in other parts of the country and most significantly, to start populating the national level structure.

He said key positions they desired to fill were those of technical director and head coach.

They were also considering possible secondment of staff to such positions.

He said BNSC had benefited immensely from the services

of Justice Dipeba, who is an employee of the University of Botswana (UB).

"We would want to look at the possibility of convincing UB to second a resource such as Dipeba, in addition to hiring where we can and we will be doing our best to help up-skill coaches at the BAA," he said.

BAA has won medals at the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. **BOPA**

How to complete the KYC process online

- Visit the WUC website (www.wuc.bw)
- Under the Self-Service Options, click on 'KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER'
- Fill in the form and attach required documents

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