

BOTSWANA

Daily

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Govt announces Top Achievers Sponsorship changes

Ministry of Higher Education Permanent Secretary, Professor Richard Tabulawa (left) and Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele during the Sponsorship Cycle 2026-27 launch in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Maele announced changes to the Top Achievers Sponsorship Programme. From the 2026/2027 financial year, government will sponsor qualifying beneficiaries for undergraduate studies only.

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More for You

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MORE SAVINGS.
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Mohwasa urges community to support schools

Chendzimu Manyepedza
SELEBI PHIKWE

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa has underscored the need for collaborative measures among various stakeholders towards addressing the different academic matters in schools.

Mr Mohwasa said this during a sponsored walk at Botshabelo Primary School, which aimed to raise funds for the school's 60th anniversary celebration and the annual prize-giving ceremony.

He urged stakeholders to adopt a comprehensive initiative that will enhance the overall learning environment in schools, saying such a measure would significantly contribute to the desired educational progress.

He said an investment in education not only benefited

individual learners but also strengthened the community, preparing future generations for the challenges ahead.

"Through partnerships and collective efforts, there is hope to create more conducive spaces for learning that support both students and educators alike," he said.

He said while government was committed to providing quality education to learners and making visible efforts to address infrastructure challenges and support vulnerable children, contributions from other stakeholders were equally important to complement government efforts.

Mr Mohwasa noted that partnerships between the government and the private sector were crucial, urging the need to adopt schools or classrooms as contributions to improving school infrastructure and creating

a conducive learning environment.

He stated that education remained the country's priority and an essential agent of national development and transformation. He there therefore stressed it was imperative for stakeholders to play a role in ensuring that every child had access to a conducive learning environment.

Following the sponsored walk, Mr Mohwasa later officiated at the donation event of more than 300 pairs of school shoes to needy pupils from Botshabelo, Boitshoko, Boitumelo and Tlhabologo primary schools in Selebi Phikwe.

The donation, courtesy of Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust in collaboration with Botswana Bikers Week, aimed to bridge the gap for disadvantaged learners and ensure that no child was denied the opportunity to attend school with dignity due to their background.

Mr Mohwasa emphasised that the donation would not only restore confidence among learners but also

motivate them to focus and excel in their academic pursuits. He commended Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust and Botswana Bikers Week for responding to the needs of vulnerable children with a practical solution.

Meanwhile, the school head of Botshabelo Primary School, Ms Naledi Ditsile, expressed appreciation for the gesture, which will benefit 42 students from her school. She noted that this initiative would positively enhance the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) results. She said the 2025 PSLE results stood at 94.2 per cent.

At Boitshoko Primary School, 142 pupils benefited from the donation, and in appreciation, the school head Ms Mavis Molodi remarked that despite the social challenges faced by some families, particularly due to job losses following the closure of the BCL mine, the pupils were performing well.

Since 2021, the school has

maintained an exceptional pass rate with figures of 91.55 per cent in 2021, 92.75 per cent in 2022 and 92.45 per cent in 2023.

Additionally, Tlhabologo and Boitumelo primary schools received 45 and 95 pairs of shoes, respectively. These schools have also performed well in the PSLE, with Tlhabologo achieving a pass rate of 86 per cent and Boitumelo attaining 100 per cent.

Chairperson of Botswana Bikers Week, Mr Benjamin Seema explained one of the organisation's key initiatives: educating the public about the pervasive issues of gender-based violence (GBV) and substance abuse.

Mr Seema said that the issues not only harmed individuals but also had far-reaching consequences for society, particularly affecting vulnerable populations like young children, and highlighted the need for increased awareness and proactive measures to address the issues. **BOPA**

Department records surge in measles cases

Portia Keetile
KASANE

Department of Veterinary Services has raised concern following a spike in cases of beef measles detected in cattle arriving at the abattoir for slaughter in Chobe District.

In an interview, Principal Veterinary Officer for Chobe District Dr Tichaona Aaron warned that a sudden surge in measles cases was an indication of a breakdown in sanitation and hygiene standards in the district.

He revealed that Chobe District used to record no cases of measles, however six cases were detected at the slaughter facility between March to May in cattle from Mabele and Satau.

He said out of the 76 cattle slaughtered in May, six had measles while nine out of the 84 killed in April were infected and one of the 60 slaughtered in March had measles. Dr Aaron further said in January and February there were no cases.

The officer explained that the parasitic disease was found in cattle that ingested tapeworm eggs from human faeces in the environment.

"An infected person with tapeworm would shed those tapeworms unto the pasture and each tapeworm proglottid or a segment of a tapeworm body would contain 10 000 to 50 000 eggs which all have a potential of hatching to a lava," he said.

Dr Aaron alluded that an animal would feed on a

pasture with an infected lava hence that lava develop in that animal and migrate to the muscles to form a cyst.

He warned that beef measles was asymptomatic in cattle because cattle exhibited no outward signs of the illness.

This he said made the illness a silent threat because it could only be detected through carcass post mortem after it was slaughtered.

The officer stated that during inspections the meat scientists would make cuts in the muscles, tongue, and heart triceps in order to check for cysts.

Dr Aaron informed that carcasses were graded based on cysts density, where severe cases exceeding the threshold would be condemned outright and disposed.

However, he noted that in incidences where the infection is mild with a few cysts the carcass would be treated with heat or cold storage for a certain period before it qualified for human consumption.

He stressed that it was imperative that human beings went for deworming in order to break the cycle, advising that toilets must be built in every cattle post and farm.

He stated that due to the heavy rains received this season, it was possible that human waste was carried by floods and contaminated water sources leading to exposures on cattle herds.

Dr Aaron pointed out that when there were floods, some toilets spilled too hence waste got swept away into water sources where animals would drink. **BOPA**



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (fourth right), MP for Selebi Phikwe East, Mr Kgoberego Nkawana (fourth left), Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust member, Mr Ntibi Kedikilwe (left), Botswana Bikers Week chairperson, Mr Benjamin Seema (second left), Boitshoko Primary School deputy school head and other dignitaries during a donation of school shoes to the school recently. Since 2021, the school has maintained an exceptional pass rate with figures of 91.55 per cent in 2021, 92.75 per cent in 2022, 92.45 per cent in 2023 and 90.9 per cent and 84.5 per cent for 2024 and 2025 respectively. Photo: Courtesy of Selebi Phikwe Town Council

Natural resources engine of industrialisation

Chendzimu Manyepedza
TSETSEBJWE

Natural resources should not remain dormant while unemployment continued to grow, especially amongst the youth, says Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatious Moswaane.

Mr Moswaane underscored the need to harness Tsetsebjwe's abundant natural resources to drive village industrialisation, create employment and stimulate sustainable economic development in the village, turning it into a success.

He made this statement during a kgotla meeting in Tsetsebjwe, where he highlighted that the surrounding area possessed immense natural resources with the potential to transform the village into a thriving centre of economic activity through industrialisation.

He advocated for value addition and local processing of the available resources, which could unlock new industries and improve livelihoods.

Mr Moswaane stated that for the country's economic diversification to succeed, rural communities must also identify and maximise opportunities within their local environments. He encouraged the community to work together on initiatives that would benefit the village. Furthermore, he called on the community to protect natural resources and ensure that any exploitation was conducted responsibly to preserve the environment.

Meanwhile, Kgosi Mosetsanagape Busang of Tsetsebjwe, expressed concern over the declining interest in farming among locals, saying there was a gradual drifting away from agriculture, despite it having sustained generations.

She said while Tsetsebjwe had long been recognised as a farming community with many households relying on crop production and rearing of livestock for livelihoods, there was a significant decline in the practice, particularly in the growing of crops.

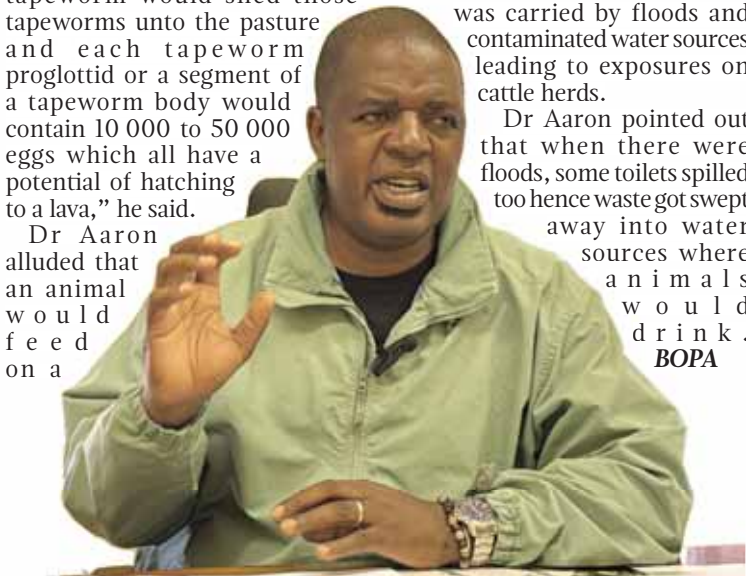
This, she said, had resulted

in some villagers remaining idle during the ploughing season despite government initiatives aimed at supporting crop production. Kgosi Busang said it was not only a source of food but also an important part of the village's identity and culture, saying abandoning fields could increase dependence on government.

Meanwhile, in an interview, some residents explained that their interest and love for farming was waning because of the proximity of wildlife, particularly baboons, to farming areas, saying this had emerged as one major obstacle to achieving bumper harvests.

Mr Abraham Manyeula said he continues to suffer heavy losses despite investing a lot in the fields, saying when the harvest season approached, baboons invaded crops, destroying maize and sorghum, leaving him with little harvest after months of hard work.

He said the problem had become more pronounced in recent years, and that the act of chasing away baboons was dangerous since some could turn aggressive. **BOPA**



Principal Veterinary Officer for Chobe District, Dr Tichaona Aaron, said the spike in measles infections indicated a breakdown in sanitation and hygiene standards and called for improved public health and livestock management practices to curb the spread of the disease. The Department of Veterinary Services has raised concern over an increase in cases of beef measles detected in cattle presented for slaughter at the abattoir. Photo: Portia Ikgopoleng

Govt announces changes to Top Achievers Sponsorship programme

Lorato Gaofise
GABORONE

Government has announced changes to the Top Achievers Sponsorship Programme. From the 2026/2027 financial year, government will sponsor qualifying beneficiaries for undergraduate studies only.

Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele, revealed this during the opening of the in 2026/2027 Gaborone on Monday.

“Sponsorship under the Top Achievers Programme will no longer extend to Master’s and Doctoral (PhD) studies as part of measures to ensure the programme remains financially sustainable,” Mr Maele said.

He noted the current model had become costly because government fully financed students at leading international institutions.

Going forward, beneficiaries will be required to select A-Level subject combinations aligned with government’s priority skills. Government will also determine countries and institutions of study based on programme quality, accreditation, relevance to national development and cost-effectiveness.

Furthermore, Mr Maele said

2026/2027, government had allocated more than P4.2 billion to tertiary education financing, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This represents 57.9 per cent of the ministry’s total budget.

“The allocation demonstrates government’s continued commitment to investing in human capital development through expanded access to higher education and improved student support,” the minister said

Additionally, Mr Maele said 12 250 students under the 2026/2027 Tertiary Education Sponsorship Application Cycle were eligible, with applications opening today and closing on August 7.

He said the intake would include 7 906 applicants with at least 36 points in the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) or equivalent, 1 200 applicants from marginalised and special-needs communities with a minimum of 31 points, 3 000 applicants who upgraded their results and 144 Top Achievers.

Despite more than 5 000 eligible former beneficiaries awaiting re-sponsorship, Mr Maele said government would not consider re-sponsorship and progression applications this year due to

financial constraints.

Mr Maele urged applicants to submit their own applications and not rely on third parties.

He also appealed for patience if the online system experiences congestion in the opening days due to high demand.

He encouraged parents and students to consider TVET as a first-choice pathway, saying the country’s future growth will depend on technically skilled graduates to support industrialisation, economic diversification, and

digital transformation.

The minister further called on graduates who previously benefited from sponsorship and are now employed to honour their student loan repayments. He said repayments would strengthen the revolving student financing fund for future Batswana.

Prospective students were also advised to make informed career choices based on the 2026 Human Resource Development Council Priority Skills Report, which identified high numbers of

unemployed graduates in Business Administration, Finance, and Building.

Applications will be processed through the Department of Tertiary Education Financing’s (DTEF) online Student Loan Management System which started Monday and will close August 7.

“The online system will automatically assess applicants against the approved sponsorship criteria and process applications within an average of 30 minutes,” Mr Maele said. **BOPA**

Speaker calls effective legislature

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe
GABORONE

Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse, has called on Members of Parliament to continuously strengthen their knowledge, skills and ethical leadership, saying an effective legislature is central to good governance and national development.

Officially opening a Parliamentary Capacity Building Seminar in Gaborone on Monday, Mr Keorapetse said the effectiveness of Parliament depended not only on the country’s legal framework, but also on the competence, integrity and commitment of those entrusted with making laws, scrutinising government action and representing the interests of citizens.

The seminar, held under the theme: Fostering dialogue among legislators to strengthen legal frameworks for a new Botswana, was described by various stakeholders as both timely and highly relevant to Botswana’s democratic journey.

They observed that Botswana had, over the years, earned

recognition for its commitment to democratic governance, peace and the rule of law, values that continue to provide a firm foundation for national stability and socio-economic development.

Echoing those sentiments, Mr Keorapetse said the 13th Parliament carried high expectations and must continue to strengthen its legislative and oversight functions through continuous learning and adaptation to emerging national and global challenges.

He said Parliament should embrace technological innovation, including artificial intelligence, to improve parliamentary research, legislative drafting, committee work, records management and public engagement, while safeguarding transparency, accountability, privacy and ethical governance.

He further stressed that Parliament could not operate in isolation, saying meaningful engagement with civil society, researchers, development partners and citizens enriched the legislative process and strengthened public confidence in democratic institutions.

Mr Keorapetse also urged legislators to prioritise inclusive law-making by advancing policies on gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, youth development and the fight against gender-based violence. He added that Parliament should continue strengthening its oversight on climate change and support sustainable development initiatives in line with Botswana’s national commitments.

He encouraged participants to actively engage in the seminar, saying the knowledge and experience gained should translate into stronger institutions, better legislation and improved governance for the benefit of the nation. **BOPA**



Vice President Ndaba Gaolatlhe (left) and Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse during the five day Parliament Pre-Winter meeting session seminar for members in Gaborone on Monday. Clerk of the National Assembly, Dr Gabriel Malebang said the seminar aimed to strengthen legislative capacity for upcoming meeting, understanding parliamentary order, etiquette and collaboration with civil society and that key focus areas included gender equality, human rights and climate commitments. Photos: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Blanket donation warms elders hearts

Chendzimu Manyepedza
SEFHOPHE

More than 300 elderly residents of Sefhophe and Selebi Phikwe have received a timely donation of blankets from Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust in collaboration with Botswana Bikers Week, a gesture they described as a true reflection of the country’s long-standing culture of compassion and unity.

The handover, that was officiated by the Minister for State President, Defence and Security Mr Moeti Mohwasa, brought smiles to many senior citizens, who expressed appreciation that the blankets would provide the much-needed warmth during the current winter season and beyond.

In Sefhophe, 80-year-old Ms Mantwa Ketukile expressed gratitude, saying the gesture was a shining example of the country’s enduring spirit of compassion and solidarity. She said from time immemorial, Batswana have always cared for one another, particularly the elderly and vulnerable members of society. She said such acts of kindness had strengthened communities for generations.

Another elder, a 79-year-old

Ms Tsapula Gaodupi was also over the moon about the gesture; she said the spirit of giving has been deeply rooted in the country’s tradition, where neighbours and communities rallied together to support those in need.

She stated that the donation from the Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust and the Bikers Week Association was a beacon of hope, demonstrating that the spirit of giving would always endure. She added that this also reaffirmed the values of love, respect, and selflessness, even in changing times.

Mr Kereemang Radipotsane, aged 76, said that the blanket would not only shield him from the harsh winter weather but would also serve as a reminder that his well-being was valued and remembered by others, not just by government.

“It is heart-warming to see that our Batswana children are taking on the responsibility of caring for one another, regardless of geographic location. The donation from the Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust and Botswana Bikers Week has demonstrated our unity. These individuals may not know us personally, but they are here out of love and a desire to appreciate

us elders,” he said.

In Selebi Phikwe, Ms Mavis Nkwe from Ikageng ward shared that the donation reflected the spirit of “botho,” which has always fostered unity and social cohesion across generations.

Officiating the donation, Minister Mohwasa highlighted the importance of collective efforts to improve the livelihoods of those in need. He emphasised that while government was working diligently to address issues facing vulnerable populations, it was crucial for stakeholders to also step forward and contribute, as such collaborations could make a significant difference.

Chairperson of Botswana Bikers Week, Mr Benjamin Seema explained that the donation was a collective effort from the group aimed at improving the lives of the needy, particularly the elderly and schoolchildren.

He mentioned that their focus extended to other pressing issues, including gender-based violence, drug and substance abuse, and road safety.

He said addressing those social concerns was vital, as neglecting them could have detrimental effects on society. **BOPA**

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Acting Ghanzi council chairperson, Mr Xukuri Xukuri (left) Botswana Cooperatives Society chair, Mr Pako Ntone (second left), Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe (centre), Member of Parliament for Ghanzi constituency also Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae (second right) and acting Charleshill Council chairperson Mr Biki Lebereki touring stalls during the commemoration of International Cooperative Day in Ghanzi on Saturday.
Photo: Malebogo Lekula

Cooperatives offer path to economic stability

Malebogo Lekula
GHANZI

In a rapidly changing global world due to technological disruptions and economic instability, cooperative model has been identified as an effective tool in fostering economic resilience and stability.

Officiating at the 104th edition of the International Cooperative Day in Ghanzi on Saturday, Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe said as the country was striving to reposition its economy, cooperatives were the most suited community-based enterprises.

He said they also contributed to peace by reducing poverty, promoting inclusion and ensuring grassroots development in a transparent, innovative and sustainable way.

Mr Mathoothe said the cooperative movement in Botswana traced its origins to the enactment of the Cooperative Societies Act in 1964 followed by the registration of Swaneng Consumers Cooperative on July 31, 1964 being the first registered cooperative in the country.

Since then, Mr Mathoothe said the movement had flourished to form a formidable force of over 40 registered cooperatives spanning diverse sectors.

...the cooperative movement had flourished to form a formidable force of over 40 registered cooperatives spanning diverse sectors...

He said the registered cooperatives included 106 savings and credit cooperatives and more than 300 in agriculture, retail, basketry, manufacturing and arts.

Furthermore, he said financial cooperatives served a membership of nearly 70 000 citizens, mobilising savings of approximately P1.8 billion extending to member loans worth P2.6 billion and building member equity through shares valued at P42.2 million.

“These figures are not statistics, they represent trust, solidarity and collective power of ordinary Motswana pooling resources for shared prosperity” he said.

Beyond financial strength, he said cooperatives had brought economic activities and essential services to both rural and urban communities, even extending to areas where foreign investment was scarce. He added that cooperatives still stood as a living proof of inclusivity and grassroots empowerment.

Mr Mathoothe said the cooperative movement had created more than 800 jobs and sustained livelihoods across the country.

Moreover, Mr Mathoothe implored communities to embrace the cooperative spirit as it was deeply rooted in Setswana practices in the likes of *letsema*, *mafisa* and *melaletsa*.

He however, said government recognised cooperatives as economic enablers therefore, calling for collective efforts to significantly assist government resuscitate and diversify the economy.

As the country was accelerating its economic transformation drive, he implored cooperatives to seize the opportunity by investing in value addition, manufacturing, tourism, creative industries, digital innovation and service provision to contribute meaningfully to the achievement of the programme.

Above all, he implored cooperative governing bodies, to ensure that cooperative movements uphold their principles to maintain their relevance in the changing world.

Chairperson of Botswana Cooperative Association (BOCA), Mr Pako Ntone said cooperatives were not solely focused on profit maximisation but fostered economic resilience, reduce inequality and drive localised innovation to uplift livelihoods.

Giving a history of cooperatives, one of Ghanzi Cooperatives’ pioneers, Kgosi Mbao Kahiko III of Charleshill, said the cooperative was built from humble beginnings.

He said the area was economically challenged with no modern infrastructures, as communities relied on cattle production as it was the region’s economic mainstay.

In 1989, the region witnessed the first two registered

cooperatives namely: Ghanzi and Kole-Ncojane cooperatives and with time, more cooperatives were registered at New Xade, West Hanahai, Bere, Grootlaage, Kacgae and New Xanagas.

Kgosi Kahiko said all these settlements operated their community stores from mud houses and in 2005 the cooperatives joined to form Ghanzi multipurpose cooperative.

He said they achieved most of the community projects through collaborative efforts, which earned them funds to procure a truck primarily for goods transportation across the vast region. He therefore, encouraged coopeatives to uphold their principles, be transparent and accountable bearing in mind the need to change livelihoods for the better.

For her part, Director of Cooperatives, Ms Moipedi Nkoane emphasised on cooperatives to focus on youth empowerment and other vulnerable groups in the society as they were faced with high unemployment.

Ms Nkoane implored the youth to embrace cooperative entrepreneurship by joining existing cooperatives or forming new cooperatives to explore opportunities in untapped sectors to transform into job creators and not job seekers.

Member of Parliament for Ghanzi Constituency, Mr Noah Salakae, applauded the cooperative movement for their dexterity to unite, empower and transformation to become engines of economic change. **BOPA**

BUSINESS SERVICES

China strengthens Africa trade links

TUNIS - The People’s Bank of China has recently authorised the Standard Bank of South Africa and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China to jointly serve as the RMB Clearing Bank for Africa, which will empower China-Africa trade cooperation, Tunisian newspaper Tunisie Tribune has said. Thanks to this authorisation, enterprises and financial institutions from 19 African countries will directly access China’s onshore financial system and tap into its domestic liquidity support for the first time, it said in a recently-published article. Long constrained by foreign exchange shortages, Tunisian financial institutions can now look to the new joint clearing bank to ease foreign exchange pressures and diversify payment channels, bolstering supply security through greater autonomy.
Xinhua

Ghana advances Eurobond repayment

ACCRA - Ghana’s Ministry of Finance said on Monday that the government had made an additional US\$700-million Eurobond repayment, bringing the total repayment to US\$2.1 billion in line with the terms of the Eurobond Debt Exchange Program under the country’s external debt exchange programme. The payment consisted of US\$525.2 million in principal repayments and US\$174.8 million in interest payments, according to the release. The payment, the release explained, was part of the government’s planned financing arrangements, designed to avoid putting undue pressure on the country’s foreign exchange reserves. “The settlement reduces Ghana’s outstanding Eurobond debt. **Xinhua**

Chery opens first South Africa manufacturing plant

PRETORIA - China automaker Chery on Friday officially launched its manufacturing plant in Rosslyn, marking its transition into a local manufacturer and deepening its long-term commitment to the South African market. Speaking at the launch, Chery Chairman Yin Tongyue said the investment reflected the company’s long-term commitment to South Africa. South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile said “Chery’s investment will pave the way for technology transfer, automation, digitalization and advanced manufacturing systems.” **Xinhua**

Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

Ipapatse Fa Leletsa

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

Mme Ranolang Boikhutso a re o itumeletse go tshela ga noka ya Okavango ka selekanyo se se kwa godimo ka e bile a kgona go dirisa metsi ao go nosetsa merogo ya gagwe. Senepe: Kedirebofe Pelontle

Molemi o itumelela go tshela ga noka



Kedirebofe Pelontle
GUMARE

Molemi mongwe wa masimo a Xhoko gaufi le Gumare,

Mme Ranolang Boikhutso, yo o dingwaga tse di masome a mane le boferabodi, a re o itumelela go tshela ga noka ya Okavango ka selekanyo se se kwa godimo. O supile fa la bofelo ba bona

noka e tshela ka selekanyo sa gompieno, e ne e le ka 2010. Mme Boikhutso, yoo santse a dirisa metsi a noka go nosetsa dijalo tsa gagwe di tshwana le mmidi, a re o ne a bona go

tshwanela gore a leme merogo gore a tle a kgone go dirisa metsi ao.

Mme Boikhutso a re e sale e rile ka Motsheganong a simolola go lema merogo, mme jaanong o rekisetsa balemi ba babotlana le batho ka bongwe ka bongwe.

Mme Boikhutso, yo o tswang kgakala ka go rata temo ya merogo go tswa kwa

bonyaneng jwa gagwe, o tlhalositse fa a na le dithuto tsa go lema merogo e bile a na le maikaelelo a go tswaledisa temo ya merogo le fa noka e ka kgala, ka masimo a gagwe a na le sediba se ka nako eno se nwetseng mo metsing.

A re kgwetlho mo nakong ya gompieno ke go swa ga sedirisiwa se se gogang metsi mo nokeng go nosetsa. **BOPA**



Ba le 71 ba bone tiro ya sennela ruri kwa Letlhakeng

Puseletso Kenyaditswe
DITSHHEGWANE

Puso e kgonne go hira ba le masome a supa le bongwe (71) mo tirong ya sennela ruri kwa kgaolong ya Letlhakeng.

Se, se builwe ke Mopalamente wa Takatokwane, Rre Jacob Kelebeng fa a buisa phuthegong kwa Ditshegwane ka Mosupologo.

A re puso e kgonne go hira ba le bane kwa Ditshegwane.

Rre Kelebeng, yo gape e leng, tona ya Metshameko le Ngwao, a re puso e kgonne go hira ba le 3 500 lefatshes ka bophara.

O tlhalositse gape gore puso e tlaa hira banana ba feta dikete tse di lesome.

Ka jalo, o kopile banni ba Ditshegwane go nna malala a

laotswe gore ha go hirwa ba bo ba ipaakantse.

Mo go tse dingwe, Rre Kelebeng o tlhalositse fa dijo tsa bana tsa Tsabana, di setse di gorogile kwa dikokelong.

A re puso e dumalane gore khamphani e ntseng e dira Tsabana, e tsewelele e di dira, mme go dumalanwe gore puso e tla Neela dikhamphani dingwe sebaka sa go dira Tsabana.

Mo go tse dingwe, Rre Kelebeng o tlhalositse fa seemo sa tlhaelo ya melemo se tla a bepa.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Kgosi Pako Morwaanare, o supile fa kgaolo ya Takatokwane a supa fa banni ba kgaolo eo ba beile mo pusong go ba thusa ka mananeo gore ba ithuse go hema tlaa.

O supile gape fa dikoloi tsa puso di eme, mme se se bo se emisa go

isa ditirelo kwa bathong, selo se se dirang gore seemo sa kgaolo se nne maswe.

A re gape motse wa Ditshegwane o tletse ka batho ba ba sa itseng go bala le go kwala, ka moo o kopile gore batho ba motse wa gagwe ba thusiwe.

Fa a lekodisa ka ditlhabololo tsa motse, modulasetilo wa ditlhabololo tsa motse, Mme Tsholano Kelebang, a re e rile ba tsena mo komiting eo, ba ne ba fitlhela matlo a komiti eo, a goketswe motlakase, mme a sa tshubiwa.

A re komiti e ne ya kgona go gore matlo ao a tshubiwe, mme e bile ya kgona go shafatsa a mangwe.

A re komiti eo, e lekile go agela go mongwe ntlo yoo neng a tlhoka boroko mme ba ise ba rulele, ka jalo ba kopa mopalamente go ba thusa go e fetsa. **BOPA**

Monna o athhotswe P2,000 go tlola molao

Aobakwe Molefhi
GOOD HOPE

Rre mongwe wa Motswana, yo o tshwerweng a leka go tlovisa ditlhogo tsa dikgomo kwa molelwane wa Ramatlabama bosheng, o athhotswe madi a a kanang ka dikete tse pedi tsa di Pula.

Nama, eo, e ne ya gapiwa, ya bo ya tshubiwa. Mo potsolotsong le BOPA, mogokaganyi wa ditirelo tsa matlhoko a leruo a itebagantse le twantsho bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo, Dr Odireleng Thololwane o tlhalositse fa monna yoo, a fitlhetswe ka ditlhogo tseo, mme a sena tseletso ya go tlola molelwane ka tsone.

O supile fa monna yoo a ne a tshwanetse go dira tseletso ya go isa nama eo kwa Aferika Borwa.

Mookamela mapodise a Ramatlabama Superintendent Mary Baanina a re mo godimo ga

gore koloi e a neng a e dirisa e ne e sena tseletso ya go tlovisetsa nama kwa Aferika Borwa, ba itemogetse gape gore e ne e se mo seemong se se siameng sago pega nama.

O supile fa go ya ka molao, nama e tshwanetse go phuthelwa sentle, le koloi ee e pegileng e bo e le ya setsidifatsi.

Dr Thololwane o kopile Batswana go obamela melao ya twantsho matlhoko a leruo ka go tlhoka go dira jalo, go tla a kgoreletsa maiteko a puso a go lwantsha bolwetse joo.

Bolwetsi jwa tlhako le molomo bo begilwe mo kgaolong ya Morolong ka kgwedi ya Moranang e simolola kwa polaseng ya puso ya Ramatlabama mme jwa anama le metse mengwe ya kgaolo eo.

Mo nakong ya gompieno, puso e tshwaragane lego aga terata e e laolang metsamao ya leruo e le nngwe ya maiteko ago laola bolwetsi jo. **BOPA**

China firm builds beyond infrastructure

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
GABORONE

On a dusty construction site somewhere between Botswana's sprawling villages and growing urban centres, a young Motswana is presented with a life changing moment.

A rare opportunity, where one arrives on site as an unskilled labourer looking for any form of job to put bread on the table, only to be equipped with a skill that they never envisioned.

Across Botswana, thousands of men and women have built careers, supported their families and acquired valuable technical expertise through projects undertaken by China Civil Engineering Construction (Botswana) (Pty) Ltd (CCECC Botswana).

It is common knowledge that the company is primarily associated with infrastructural works such as roads, bridges, and waterworks supplying communities with potable water among others.

However, for decades, the company's footprint in Botswana tells a broader story, one that is not primarily rooted in infrastructure development, as it also extends to nurturing friendship, skills transfer and community empowerment.

In an interview, the Managing Director of CCECC Botswana, Mr Alex Jin, said when the company first arrived in Botswana in 1985, it was predominantly focused on the country's development priorities centred on building critical infrastructure.

He says few could have predicted then that the relationship would evolve, diverting focus into other areas of concern that will ultimately result in a lasting legacy.

However, Mr Jin believes the company's most enduring legacy cannot be measured in kilometers of road or cubic meters of concrete, but can be found in people.

"Today, approximately 90 per cent of the company's workforce consists of Botswana citizens," says Mr Jin.

Over the years, Mr Jin says nearly 20 000 local jobs have been created through its operations, while more than 20 000 training opportunities have equipped workers with skills in engineering, construction management, machinery operation and technical trades.

"Some employees have spent more than two decades with the company," said Mr Jin, adding that they joined as young men and women seeking employment and have grown alongside the organisation.

He further states that in the process, they have become supervisors, technicians, managers and mentors to a new generation of workers.

For a country focused on citizen economic empowerment and skills development, such investment in human capital may prove as significant as any bridge, road or building.

As Botswana continues its development journey, the legacy of CCECC Botswana serves as a reminder that infrastructure is not only about concrete and steel.

It is also about creating opportunities, transferring skills

and building the capacity of people who will shape the country's future long after construction projects have been completed.

Mr Jin says today the company forms part of a global construction enterprise whose operations span more than 110 countries and regions. Despite its international reach, Botswana remains one of its longest-standing homes on the African continent.

He says motorists travelling between Palapye and Serule, residents benefiting from improved water systems and patients receiving care in modern healthcare facilities may not realise they are interacting daily with infrastructure delivered by CCECC Botswana.

He points out that in over four decades, the company has undertaken approximately 100 major projects across the country.

"From the Morwa-Mmapole Road and Notwane River Bridge to the Mosetse-Tutume Road and

from the National Psychiatric Hospital in Lobatse to the Botswana International University of Science and Technology campus, our projects have become part of Botswana's development story," Mr Jin quips.

In a semi-arid country where every drop matters, he says water infrastructure has been another defining chapter, saying projects such as the Mmamashia Water Treatment Works and Foresthill Reservoir Pipeline, water supply upgrades in Maun and the Boteti Southern and Central Cluster Villages Water Supply Project have helped strengthen access to one of Botswana's most precious resources. Although such projects may appear as engineering achievements on paper, he says for communities they often translate into something much modest; access to clean potable water, safer roads, better healthcare and improved access to education.

BOPA



Managing Director of China Civil Engineering Construction (Botswana) Mr Alex Jin.

Masole secures court intervention over police mistreatment

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

Shandulani Masole, who is awaiting trial after allegedly violating his bail conditions in a threat-to-kill case, on Monday successfully sought the intervention of the Maun Magistrate's Court to pursue a complaint against a police officer whom he accused of mistreating him.

Appearing before Magistrate Gofaone Mosweu for mention, Masole told the court that he had lodged a complaint against

the officer and wished to meet the acting station commander of Maun Police to follow up on the matter. He pleaded with the court to issue an order allowing prison authorities to escort him to the police station so that he could pursue the complaint.

"I have long made a complaint at Maun Police Station about a police officer who is mistreating me and it seems like my issue is not being taken seriously," he said.

Masole also informed the court that he was unwell and requested to be taken to hospital for medical

attention.

In her ruling, Magistrate Mosweu said the Botswana Prison Service has established procedures for inmates requiring medical treatment and advised Masole to seek healthcare through the prison authorities.

However, she granted his request to be escorted to the police station to meet the acting station commander regarding his complaint against the police officer. The court further postponed the matter to July 13 for a case management conference.

Meanwhile, Masole remains in custody after his bail was previously revoked following allegations that he stabbed the complainant in his pending threat to kill case while out on bail.

He has denied the allegations against him.

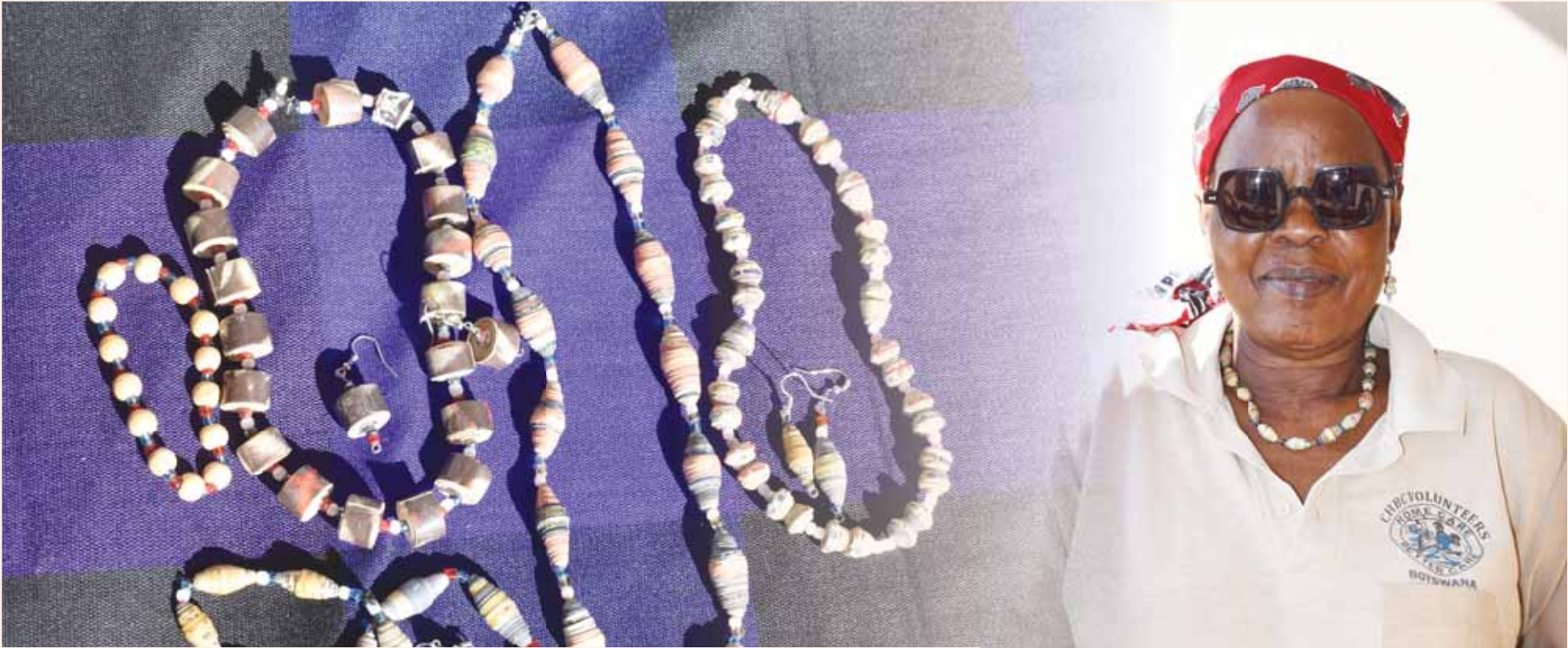
The 47-year-old Masole is facing three separate charges, including threat to kill and two counts of assault causing bodily harm. He is said to have committed the offences in Shashe ward, Maun, between August and September 2025. **BOPA**



Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi (right) and Ukraine ambassador, Dr Oleksiy Syvak (centre) enjoying a performance by Tse Ditona Ts Kalawa at Francistown Hospitality Expo on Friday. Dr Syvak said the embassy was ready to engage in capacity building to digitise Botswana's tourism, historical and cultural landmarks by professionally placing accurate, rich information on Google Maps through high-quality 360 photography and immersive content. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Arts & Culture

Kumako transforms paper into jewellery



From discarded sheets of paper to intricately crafted works of art, Loaitsanye Kumako transforms waste materials into delicate creations that reflect creativity, patience and environmental consciousness. Although her craft has been on hold due to shortage of material, she is determined to revive what once brought her income. Photos: Samantha Gabaeme.

Samantha Gabaeme
HUKUNTSI

In the hands of 64-year-old Loaitsanye Kumako, paper is more than a material destined for the refuse bin, it is the foundation of beauty.

Using discarded material such as calendars and posters, Kumako transforms waste into striking necklaces, earrings and bracelets, proving that creativity can give ordinary materials a second life.

Although her craft has been on hold for several years due to a shortage of resources, Kumako remains determined to revive what once brought her both pride and income.

Speaking in an interview with

BOPA, Kumako said her journey into paper jewellery making began in 2017 when she attended a craft training workshop organised by the Department of Social and Community Development at Tshane Hall.

The workshop brought together women from the community and was facilitated by two instructors from Tshane, who taught participants how to transform ordinary paper into decorative jewellery.

Kumako recalled that after completing her first jewellery set during the training, her work was judged the best among all participants.

Encouraged by the positive feedback, she began producing a variety of handmade necklaces, earrings and bracelets, turning her newly acquired skill into a creative venture that became a source of personal fulfilment.

Each piece, she explained, was carefully handcrafted in different shapes and designs to give it a unique appearance.

She mainly used sturdy paper from old calendars and posters because of its strength and durability. The paper was complemented with beads, fish line, glue, scissors and a ruler to create the finished products.

"Everything is measured, cut and assembled by hand," she said. "The beads add colour and beauty to the jewellery."

eventually came to a standstill after she struggled to obtain essential materials such as glue and fish line.

Kumako said that while she was still producing jewellery, she sometimes relied on those travelling to Gaborone to buy supplies on her behalf.

As access to the materials became increasingly difficult, she was forced to suspend production.

Despite the setback, Kumako has never lost her passion for the craft.

She said her dream was recently rekindled after attending an Ikageng Programme meeting, where participants were informed that the initiative would place greater emphasis on supporting people with practical and vocational skills.

The announcement reminded her of the talent she had once nurtured and the opportunities it had created.

Egypt opens heritage library at Grand Egyptian Museum

CAIRO

Egypt's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Sherif Fathy on Monday inaugurated a new heritage library at the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM).

The library houses around 17 000 books and references covering Egyptology, archaeology, museums, mythology, architecture, history and cultural heritage.

Speaking at the inauguration, Fathy said the library would strengthen the museum's scientific and cultural mission and support its development into a regional and international hub for research and knowledge.

Ahmed Ghoneim, chief executive officer of the GEM, described the library's opening as "an important milestone" in the museum's pursuit of becoming one of the world's foremost cultural and scientific institutions.

"The vision of the Grand Egyptian Museum has never been limited to preserving and displaying

the treasures of Ancient Egypt. It is also a place where heritage, science, education and innovation come together," Ghoneim said.

The library's collection includes rare publications transferred

from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo's Tahrir Square. Among its highlights is an Italian publication dating back to 1656 that traces the origins and early development of museums. **Xinhua**



GIZA - Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Egyptian Museum Ahmed Ghoneim (left), at the inauguration of a new heritage library at the museum in Egypt on Monday. Photo: Xinhua

"Everything is measured, cut and assembled by hand. The beads add colour and beauty to the jewellery."

Despite using simple materials, Kumako's patience and attention to detail enabled her to create attractive handmade accessories that quickly gained popularity in the community.

She said women and children were among her regular customers, and she often sold the jewellery from her home.

To attract more buyers, she displays the pieces at her tuckshop, to catch the attention of passers-by.

"People would always compliment my work and encourage me to keep making more," she said.

However, the business

"It made me realise that I can still make a living from my jewellery," she said.

Determined to revive her business, Kumako is now saving money to buy essential materials needed to resume production.

She hopes that once she restarts, her handmade paper jewellery will once again bring beauty from what others throw away while creating income for herself.

For Kumako, paper has never simply been waste, it has always represented possibility, creativity and the hope of a better future.

BOPA

DailySport

Mazottie
set sights on
championships
glory

Marvin Motlhabane
LOBATSE

Following a dominant campaign in the southern block playoffs over the weekend, Mazottie FC has qualified for the National DTCB Women's Football Championships semifinals scheduled for Gaborone on July 25-26.

The Gaborone Region side started the campaign on a high note on Saturday, thrashing Makufa Sporting Club 5-1, before edging out hosts, Maletamotse SC 1-0 in the afternoon fixture to seal top spot in the block.

Mazottie will join other qualifiers from the Western, Eastern and Northern blocks in the semifinals for the Diamond Trading Company Botswana (DTCB) backed tournament.

DTCB has once again demonstrated its strong commitment to this year's championships, marking a P200,000 increase from the previous year.

Speaking after their qualification, Mazottie FC head coach, Eric Bolotsang, expressed gratitude to the players and technical team for their commitment and hard work throughout the weekend.

"We are very happy with the results. The girls showed great character and discipline. We will now focus on our preparations as we head into the national semi-finals," said Bolotsang.

He said the girls did their best to win all the fixtures.

Besides a sloppy performance in the second fixtures, Bolotsang said he could not fault his players as they managed to collect maximum points.

Bolotsang said the best was yet to come, adding that Mazottie would be on a high going forward and was hoping for some positive result in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the weekend's proceedings were not without drama as the match between hosts, Maletamotse SC and Matebele FC, from Kgatleng Region was called off as Matebele FC failed to honour the match.

Reasons submitted by Matebele FC for failing to honour the fixture are still under review by the Southern Block organising committee.

Southern Block organising committee chairperson, Kabo Tiro confirmed that updates on the aborted fixture would be communicated in due course.
BOPA

Gabs Open grows bigger and better

GABORONE

Organisers of the annual Gabs Open International Karate Championships are working round the clock to deliver a tournament of the World Karate Federation (WKF) flagship championships.

Speaking on the sidelines of the two-day 16th edition of the tournament hosted at the University of Botswana Indoor Sport Arena, one of the organisers, Sensei Ofentse Bakwadi said the tournament had the potential to become one of the continent's premier karate competitions.

Sensei Bakwadi said the tournament, which had attracted over 600 youth, cadet and elite karatekas from the region and beyond, was

reinforcing its reputation to become the toast of the continent's WKF sanctioned championships.

He said after putting up a stellar show over the weekend, they received interest from some European nations, the United States and some North Africa karate powerhouses such as Morocco.

Bakwadi said of the over 600 entries were karatekas from local clubs, South Africa, Oman Republic, Zambia and Zimbabwe among others.

He said the tournament was established as a brand and had nurtured good relationships with other countries.

Therefore, Bakwadi was hopeful that the dream of taking the tournament to global standards would happen sooner than later.

Over the years, the championship has featured some of the sport's

most accomplished competitors, including international athletes in the likes of Hong Kong karate star Chris Tzman, South Africa's Morgan Moss and Botswana own karate icon, Bakwadi, building the tournament's reputation.

Meanwhile, national team karatekas across all age categories proved their mettle and ascertained that their selection to don national colours was no fluke.

In the senior female kumite category, national champion Lesika Motswagole repeated her impressive performance and scooped Gold.

In the closely contested junior female elite kata, Sandra Liu beat her closest rival Barona Cleo to the gold medal.

Chika James Chika scooped the male advanced kata ahead of Atang Rapulana, while the female category was won by

Lentle Kaunda.

In the male under 21 elite kata, Atang Motswakhumo beat Jackson Sebina to the first prize, while national champion, Zone VI champion and Africa bronze medallist, Centy Kgosikoma was unstoppable in the senior female individual kata with Lelelele Kaunda settling for silver.

In the senior male individual kata, Kutlo Thomas beat Chika to the first spot. Thomas scooped the second gold medal in the senior male team kata where he partnered with Thebe Duna and Thero Gasemodimo and perfected the anan kata to hand SSKB karate club gold.

BOPA



Zambia karatekas performing during 2026 Gaborone Open Karate Championship at University of Botswana Indoor Sports Centre recently. The event drew competitors across the region including South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia as well as Oman from the middle East. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

University of Botswana Indoor Sports Arena hosted a regional karate tournament that attracted more than 600 youth, cadet and elite karatekas from across Southern Africa and beyond. One of the organisers, Sensei Ofentse Bakwadi, said the growing participation and standard of competition were positioning the event to become one of Africa's premier World Karate Federation-sanctioned championships.