

DailyNews

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A he
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#BwMindsetChange

Financial crimes a threat



Financial Intelligence Agency Director General, Ms Bopelokgale Soko (left), presenting a token of appreciation to Chief Justice, Mr Terrence Rannowane during a colloquium in Gaborone yesterday. The colloquium focused on enhancing judicial officers’ understanding of their role in combating illicit financial flows according to Financial Action Task Force Standards. Chief Justice Rannowane emphasised that money laundering undermined the rule of law by allowing criminals to conceal the origins of illegal proceeds and use them without detection. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

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SADC strengthens disaster response capabilities

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The Director of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Humanitarian and Emergency Operation Centre in Mozambique, Mr Anderson Banda has expressed enthusiasm for the induction course of the emergency response team.

Mr Banda said the initiative would play a pivotal role in achieving the objectives set by the centre.

He said the training programme, which saw 30 participants from SADC member states, focuses on disaster risk management, strengthening simulation systems, and training courses.

He lauded the training as a significant milestone for the SADC secretariat, emphasising the importance of preparedness.

Speaking at the training session in Maun recently, Mr Banda highlighted the centre’s primary goal of coordinating regional disaster preparedness, response, and early recovery efforts to support member states impacted by disasters.

Additionally, he said the centre managed the supply chain of essential equipment and supplies crucial for SADC responders during humanitarian deployments to member states.

Mr Banda emphasised the necessity of a multi-sectoral approach to disaster management, emphasising the involvement of various partners and stakeholders.

He underscored that disasters transcend borders, warranting collaboration among member states to effectively respond to such crises.

Recalling the training’s origins, Mr Banda noted that the process commenced in 2014 with discussions among member states and stakeholders during a SADC meeting in Pretoria.

These discussions emphasised the urgent need for a robust mechanism to enhance disaster risk management across the region, culminating in the ongoing training session.

“The SADC emergency response team is therefore to be a component of the centre established by the SADC council of ministers decision of August 2019,” he said

The team would operate from a regional presence and ensure effective support for the SADC secretariat and member states.

For his part, North West District Commissioner, Mr Thabang Waloka, thanked government and the organisers of the induction for choosing Maun as the host. Ngamiland region is vulnerable to a range of natural disasters.

He mentioned disasters ranging from floods, drought and disease out-break, which he said posed a threat to the development of the community and emphasised that a regional approach to managing the risk was appropriate and necessary.

Governments and partners in the SADC region needed to ensure the community safety and protection of economic assets.

Mr Waloka acknowledged that the training would help with relevant information to augment existing efforts on how communities could be empowered to cushion themselves against the adverse effects of the disaster occurrences.

“Community safety and resilience is fundamental for sustainable development and I thank our government for hosting such an important training in Maun which attracted participants from the 16 SADC member states,” he added.

The inaugural induction course for the SADC Emergency Response Team (ERT) had the following key objectives; develop and set up an integrated ERT management system with a database, with alert and deployment management functions for the ERT based at the SADC house in Gaborone.

The team would also conduct simulation exercises to test effectiveness of their response mechanism. **BOPA**



Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng (centre) with North West leadership and SADC member states representatives during the inaugural disaster risk management training in Maun on Saturday. Mr Banda said the induction course of the emergency response team was a welcome move that would ensure that the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operation Centre objectives were achieved. Photo: Esther Mmolai

Residents seek govt assistance

By Esther Mmolai

KARENG - Residents of Kareng in the North West District have called on government to consider assisting them with a relief borehole in concession NG 5 to mitigate the effects of severe drought experienced in the district.

The residents said the severe impact of drought was leaving them poor because they were losing their livestock, which was their source of life.

They expressed their concerns during a meeting addressed by the district leadership to appreciate challenges and solicit ideas on how best they could be served.

Further, the residents said the drought impact was driving them out of farming as there was no grazing land and relief water sources during hard times such as the drought.

They are hopeful that a relief borehole could be a solution to the current problem stating that the district had experienced erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells that had resulted in weather conditions not supportive to agricultural activities.

“The situation is unbearable in our area and we cannot let our animals die because of thirst hence we are appealing for a relief borehole so that our livestock can drink during grazing,” said one of the residents, Mr Simon Matundu.

Droughts, he said, had become increasingly frequent and severe, citing that it affected the agricultural production and had a significant economic and social impact.

Failure to come with some

intervention to mitigate the drought, he said, would leave many farmers impoverished. The need for effective solutions was becoming urgent.

Mr Matundu called for orientation for farmers committee so that they execute their mandate as expected. Some committees were failing farmers as they served their interests over their members.

Farmers committees, he said, should be seen advocating for fellow smallholder farmers, uniting farmers and working with agricultural officials to help them to adapt and adopt climate smart agriculture.

He said farmers were contributing money to assist on the running affairs of the committees but there was no accountability, which might result in the collapse of such committees.

Responding to the comments, Fodder Production Officer, Mr Omogae Ntsie, from Department of Animal Production (DAP) concurred that Kareng extension area was hard hit by the drought as per the District Drought Assessment Report.

Mr Ntsie said he appreciated the fact that drought was the leading driver of production risk in agriculture, farmers were advised to use what they had to reduce the effects of drought. Recently, he said, the DAP drilled 120 farmers on interventions they could apply to mitigate the effects of drought.

He encouraged farmers to effectively use their ploughing fields to plough drought tolerant plants such as lablab to sustain their animals instead of migrating to other areas with better grazing.

Mr Ntsie advised farmers to establish nutritional blocks to feed their animals during drought season. “This should be a wake-up call to you farmers to embrace change and start ploughing crops with high nutritional value which cope well with the weather condition,” he added.

Mr Ntsie said he appreciated that some farmers were farming for commercialisation but expressed concern that they were killing the concept of commercialisation by overstocking, which killed the grass.

Mismanaging grazing land by overstocking, he said, could lead to soil erosion, drying up of springs and low animals productivity noting that they should protect land by increasing off-take.

The Deputy District Commissioner, Mr Ramogaupi Gaborekwe, said that the district was experiencing a severe drought but revealed that assessment had been conducted so that the government could come up with approaches to cushion the farmers to cope with the difficulties posed by the drought.

He cited a recent savingram, which declared the year 2023/24 an extreme agricultural drought year saying as a result, the government had resolved to make provision for 30 per cent livestock feed subsidy for roughage, concentrates, mineral supplements, botulism vaccine and vitamin supplements for beef cattle and small stock.

There is also provision of 30 per cent for production feed for smaller holder farmers in non-traditional commodities among others. **BOPA**

Hirschfeld drills women on financial literacy

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

NOKANENG - Women have been urged to exercise proper money management in their businesses and personal lives.

Speaking at the Ngami women’s financial literacy workshop on Friday at Nokaneng, Ms Zenzele Hirschfeld of the Women of Works organisation emphasised the importance of separating business expenses from personal finances. She stressed the

need for setting aside profits to sustain business operations during financial challenges. Ms Hirschfeld observed that women faced the mammoth task of caring for their children and families and failed to draw the line between business and personal money. Ms Hirschfeld further said that the women in Ngamilad had great talents in dressmaking, beadwork, and basketry, which she said should be turned into businesses. The facilitator, Ms

Koketso Mphotho, a business development consultant in retail from Liberty Botswana, reiterated the significance of financial prudence. She advised establishing a personal salary from business profits to avoid overspending. She said that it was important for people to draw a budget at all times, regardless of their financial bracket. Ms Mphotho said that financial discipline starts at a personal level and encouraged entrepreneurs

to conduct record-keeping and acquire relevant, affordable, easy-to-maintain equipment to avoid unnecessary expenses.

In an interview, one of the attendants, Ms Kesego Mochine of Etsha 1, who runs a decor company funded through the Poverty Eradication programme, appreciated the workshop and said she learnt a lot about proper money spending and the importance of saving part of the profit. Another attendant,

Ms Gabohithwe Tumedisso, who operates a mobile toilet business in Gumare, said she gained a lot of knowledge about the significance of budgeting. Ms Mavis Morwalela appreciated learning about record-keeping and prudent spending strategies.

In her welcome remarks earlier, Kgosi Bahuri Segano of Nokaneng encouraged women to support one another in businesses and those eyeing leadership or political positions. **BOPA**

Colloquium capacitates officers on illicit financial flows

By **Marvin Motlhabane**

GABORONE - The Administration of Justice, Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) and University of Botswana (UB) held a colloquium to enhance judicial officers' understanding of their role in illicit financial flows value chain in line with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards.

The meeting, which started yesterday and will take three days, follows recommendation 2 (National cooperation and coordination) of the FATF.

For his keynote address, the Chief Justice Terrence Rannowane said an effective criminal justice system was a key aspect of rule of law as it constituted a mechanism to redress grievances and bring action against individuals for offences against society, which contributed to the maintenance

of peace and tranquillity within the country.

Therefore, he said money laundering undermined the rule of law as it enabled criminals to disguise the illicit origin of the proceeds of crime and enjoyed them without being exposed.

Furthermore, Justice Rannowane said money laundering underpinned and enabled most forms of serious crimes such as corruption, illegal wildlife trade, drug trafficking, cybercrime, tax evasion and obtaining by false pretences (fraud) amongst others.

These offences are generally committed for the purpose of private gain and the proceeds are often laundered so that they can be enjoyed without fear of detection or confiscation, he said.

Similarly, the Chief Justice said terrorism financing was the lifeline for terrorists and terrorist organisations as they needed

money to sustain themselves and carryout terrorist acts, adding that the money could come from legitimate sources, for example from business profits and charitable donations, or from illegal activities such as trafficking in weapons, drugs or people.

Justice Rannowane said money laundering and terrorism financing thrive in exploiting different national laws and jurisdictional limits, making them attractive as transnational offences.

Added to that, the chief justice said globalisation, digitisation and other advances in technology such as virtual assets presented challenges in investigating and prosecuting money laundering and terrorism financing as the underlying criminal conduct may take place across national borders.

"The FATF Standards are

important tools in the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing as they support the detection, tracing, prosecution, confiscation of illicit proceeds and promote international cooperation. Accordingly, this colloquium presents an opportunity for the judiciary to appreciate these standards," he said.

He said the programme also presented an opportunity for us to reflect on the key findings of the 2017 Mutual Evaluation Report in relation to the role of the judiciary in curbing financial crime and how we have evolved since then, he said.

From a statistics perspective, Justice Rannowane said Botswana appeared stagnant on prosecutions of money laundering.

He said in the 2017 report, Botswana had two convictions on money laundering and between

2019 and 2023, Botswana has two other convictions for money laundering.

However, he said, there appeared to be some improvement on removing profit from crime, adding that in 2017, there were three cases before the courts on asset forfeiture.

Between 2019 and 2023, he said the courts issued 61 restraining orders under the Proceeds and Instruments of Crime Act and five final confiscation orders restraining about P78.3 million and confiscating about P6.4 million respectively.

For her remarks, FIA director general, Ms Bopelokgale Soko said Botswana's next FATF Mutual Evaluation was expected in January 2027 and for it to start in 2027, Questionnaire pertaining to the ME was normally sent six months before the actual onsite assessment, and in the case of Botswana, this will be in June, 2026.

Ms Soko said this meant that Botswana only had two years to prepare for the next mutual evaluation.

She said the FATF through the ME process, tested the effectiveness of the judicial system in achieving this important mandate through a number of variables, chief among them, the time taken to close the case and the strength of sanctions imposed on these crimes, particularly if the sanctions adequately reflect the nature and gravity of the crime and their ability to deter future crimes.

She said judges were influencers in shaping the future and setting the tone of the AML/CFT Framework of Botswana as their decisions could set precedent on how future cases would be handled.

"We acknowledge that prevailing on ML cases is not always easy as criminals continue to invent new methods of committing the crime and avoiding detection and continue to perfect the ways of avoiding conviction, thus rendering the AML/CFT framework ineffective," she said.

She said the colloquium provided an opportunity for judicial officers to come together and collectively assess the effectiveness of their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing efforts.

In addition, she said it was an opportunity for peer learning, exchange of ideas and a safer platform to challenge their thinking, tackle the pain points, and discuss the way forward.

Ms Soko said it was for that reason that they had invited Justice Redson Kapindu of the High Court of Malawi to this Colloquium as he sat at the Financial Crimes Court of the High court of Malawi and therefore frequently dealt directly with issues of money laundering. **BOPA**



Southern African Universities Debate Championships (SAUDC) convener, Mr Tshiamo Badubi (left), Ms Seretse (centre) and deputy vice chancellor, teaching and learning, Prof. Richard Tabulawa at the opening ceremony of SAUDC in Gaborone yesterday. Ms Seretse said a total of 300 students from Southern Africa would be participating in the debate under the theme: Ko Marakanelong.
Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Seretse calls for revival of debate spirit

By **Bakang Wren**

GABORONE - Students from various SADC countries have been encouraged to revive the spirit of debate, which could help Africa realise its full potential.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Southern African Universities Debate Championship (SAUDC) yesterday at the University of Botswana (UB), Chancellor Ms Tebelelo Seretse emphasised the importance of respectful and tolerant debate tournament,

citing the legacies of Sir Seretse Khama, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Nelson Mandela as exemplary embodiment of such values.

She welcomed students from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and other nations, expressing delight at engaging with great minds whose debating skills could foster a culture of intellectual exchange. Ms Seretse highlighted Botswana's Kgotla system as a model for inclusive and participatory governance, which has been adopted beyond Africa.

She advised students to prepare for an Africa admired by other continents.

She said debates could help address corruption through topics discussed during the competition. "Through your brilliant minds show the world that civilization was born and bred in Africa," she said. She also said Africa was fortunate to have youthful, intelligent individuals and urged them to believe in their opinions, regardless of opposition, and to avoid drugs and alcohol. SAUDC Convenor

Mr Tshiamo Badubi expressed excitement about the tournament, themed "Ko marakanelong," loosely translated to mean "where great minds meet."

He highlighted the benefits of debate, including public speaking, regional cooperation, friendship, and networking.

Mr Badubi noted that the week-long tournament would help cultivate a strong debate culture within the SADC region.

Twenty three universities are participating in the championship. **BOPA**

BDF Private Intake 81 donates to school

By Portia Ikopoleng

PANDAMATENGA - Botswana Defence Force Private Basic Military training Course Intake 81 of 2024 has gifted a poultry house and heavy duty photocopier to Pandamatenga Primary School.

Handing over the projects to the school on Friday, commandant, military college, Brigadier Benjamin Masunga explained that they were a brainchild of the Intake 81 who were currently undergoing military training at Pandamatenga base camp.

He said the recruits achieved this by raising funds amounting to P89 000 from their contributions which were channeled to building a poultry house and buying 100 layers chickens, feeds and a three in one photocopying machine.

He said the project demonstrated that BDF personnel cared for communities where their training camps were based.

“Our pillar is to serve and protect the nation and this can be achieved through acts of kindness to uplift Batswana wherever they are,” he said.

Brigadier Masunga said the poultry house would help learners acquire business skills as they would be taking care of the chickens and selling the eggs.

School head, Ms Olatse Tautona thanked BDF for choosing their school as a beneficiary of their corporate social responsibility outreach.

She said the school had an

enrollment of 528 learners inclusive of a reception class and special education unit.

She indicated that the school performance had been average over the past three years obtaining 67.8 per cent in 2021, 73.1 in 2022 and drastically dropped to 47 per cent in 2023.

This, she attributed to indiscipline from learners and lack of resources like printing material and visual aids.

Ms Tautona said in order to address indiscipline the school in partnership with BDF held a boot camp for inductions and training on discipline and social awareness.

She said BDF had been a valuable partner to the school having donated 10 computers to the school in 2014.

For his part Chobe District Deputy Council Secretary, Mr Ogoditsemang Seleme lauded intake 81 for spreading the spirit of giving at a young age.

He said the council would buy eggs from the school poultry as part of the feeding scheme hence ensuring sustainability of the project.

Furthermore, he said council would service the three in one photocopier, printer, and scanner and supply the school with printing papers for running tests for assessments.

He urged the school management to take good care of these gifts so that they propelled Pandamatenga Primary School to a high achieving school. **BOPA**



Kgosi David Mafikizolo of Pandamatenga (left) and Brigadier Masunga at the handing over of the poultry house and heavy duty photocopier to Pandamatenga Primary School. Photo: Portia Okgopoleng

Matter of fact

The DailyNews team would like to apologise for an error in the article titled, No Need for Social Workers in Schools, that was published in the issue of Thursday July 4, 2024 No:123.

It has come to our attention that the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Operations in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ms Mamikie Kamanakao, was misquoted in the article, leading to misinformation and a failure to accurately convey

the points made.

The article suggested that social workers are not needed to address children's issues in collaboration with educators and NGOs. The fact of the matter is that the Ministry's position emphasises a holistic and multi-sectoral approach to addressing children's issues, particularly focusing on protection, which falls under the Ministry's jurisdiction.

According to a correspondence from the

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, the Deputy Permanent Secretary consistently advocates against suspension and expulsion of children from schools without first engaging the Social Workers and getting their input.

We, therefore, apologise for any confusion among social work professionals, ministry stakeholders, partners, and customers that was caused by the article.

Mokwena: Brahman farmer of note

By Keith Ketl

KGAGODI - Neatly tucked in the thicket of bushes in Seruruma, near Mmaphashalala, sprawls a white Brahman breeding facility that is known for producing high quality cattle.

The facility belongs to Ms Boikhutso Mokwena, who boasts 30 herds of high quality white Brahman.

She told BOPA in an interview that she developed passion for farming at a tender age because it was in the family.

She said naturally she loves white colours hence her preference over other breeds and that white Brahman's nutrients conversion rate is very high, therefore needs less food, which translates into less costs of production.

Ms Mokwena said a Brahman was used for herd improvement, adding that it transformed other breeds quicker in cross-breeding programmes and also grew fast hence cost of maintenance was low.

She said the taste of Brahman meat was very good and that was why it was used in many cross breeds, arguing that the base of cross breeding was in Brahman.

Ms Mokwena sells for meat and to other breeders to improve their breeds.

However, said Brahman faced threats from other breeds citing Simmental, Limousine and

Charolais that by appearance were big in size and had more meat.

She opined that the Brahman had the same weight as other breeds and also had both a competitive and comparable advantage because of its low maintenance.

She was of the view that the Brahman was in the market to stay given its resilience prowess, weight and grows fast, and very productive, noting that at least every year the breed should calve.

As for the turnover, a Brahman breeder can get at least P300 000 a year from 50 animals.

Ms Mokwena also has small stock under her belt.

Having started with only six Tswana goats in 2009, her farming venture grew exponentially to 70 goats in 2014 and currently have 50 because they were in high demand.

She said that in 2014 she went to benchmark in South Africa at Clinton and Asunet Cillers at Swartruggens with a view to increase and improve herd quality, which paid dividends.

Following the benchmarking exercise, Ms Mokwena developed interest in boer goats and bought three.

She also visited PW Botha in South Africa and saw beautiful goats, which enticed her to buy 20 in batches and that's when her business turned around.

For small stock sub-sector to

hit optimum levels of production, she said, it needed dedication and passion from farmers.

Meanwhile, at the Kgagodi Future Genetics Show, Tholo Holdings breeders stole the show scooping numerous awards; a dual purpose breed and Simmental under their brand in the female grand champion category scooped position two in heifer zero tooth class while position one went to Leadwood breeders through their Limousine heifer breed.

In the bull grand champion category, Tholo Holdings scooped position one and two under bull zero tooth and bull four tooth classifications, respectively, with their dual purpose and Simmental breeds.

Leadwood breeders got position one in grand champion of the yard category under grand champion female classifications with their Bos Taurus and Limousine breeds while in the grand champion male, Tholo Holdings got position two with their dual purpose and Simmental breeds.

In the progeny champion best breed group category, Tholo Holdings scooped position one with their Simmental breed while Leadwood breeders got position two with a Limousine breed.

In the calve category, position one went to 4TS breeders through their Simmental breed while Leadwood got position two through their Limousine breed. **BOPA**

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Morupisi pleads with court to grant withdrawal

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE - Former Permanent Secretary to the President, Carter Morupisi says

his financial status does not allow him to proceed with his appeal against conviction on corruption and fraud. Morupisi's lawyers, Mr Busang

Manewe made the averment before the Court of Appeal panel on Friday, as he pleaded that his client be granted leave to withdraw the appeal.

"As early as February this year, he has been of the firm view that he is no longer interested in pursuing this appeal," he said

He said when the case started at the High Court years back, his client, who is now a pensioner, was employed in the public service. He said his client could no longer afford the legal costs.

Also, Mr Manewe said the rules allowed the appellant to withdraw an application before arguments were made, hence the Court of Appeal was entitled to deal with the matter.

He said in a democratic society, it was important for people to act on free will, adding it would be tragic for the court to force the appellant to proceed with the appeal.

Also, he said there would be no prejudice suffered by the state if the leave to withdraw was allowed.

Asked why his client could not seek legal assistance even from Legal Aid Botswana, Mr Manewe said Legal Aid had stringent qualification requirements which would exclude his client.

Furthermore, he said the application for leave to withdraw the appeal was different from the previous notice to withdraw, which was struck out by the court.

However, the state attorney, Ms Kentse Molome said the appellant had no prospects of success as the matter was settled when the court struck out the notice to withdraw.

She said in its judgment, the court ordered that the appeal

proceed on the grounds as filed, hence the current application was closed out by operation of law and by case law.

She said when the court ruled that the appeal against conviction shall proceed on grounds filed, it closed the door for any opening for the appellant.

Also, she said the appellant instituted the notice to withdraw, which the court refused, after the state and appellant were asked to address the court on whether the court had powers to enhance the High Court sentence against Morupisi.

Therefore she said the court had indicated its interest in varying the sentence imposed on the appellant.

The application for leave to withdraw, which is before Judge President, Justice Tebogo Tau and Justices Basetsana Nkabinde and Singh Walia is heard by the same panel that recently struck out a notice of withdrawal by the appellant.

The former PSPs legal fight originates from the 2022 High Court sentence by Justice Chris Gabanagae, who handed him a wholly suspended two-year jail term and a cumulative fine of P130 000 for two counts of corruption and money laundering.

The state on the matter is represented by Ms Molome, Ms Pricilla Israel and Mr Moagi Ndlovu.

The Court of Appeal will deliver the judgment on July 26. **BOPA**



Komana/Toteng Coucillor Mr Zico Maoveka (left), Komana Primary School head Ms Sophie Mogalakwe (second left), MMG-Khoemacau director for external affairs Mr Boikobo Paya (second right) and PTA chairperson, Mr Bannabakae Sebopiwa celebrating after the school was awarded the best overall in the 2023 PSLE result by MMG Khoemacau Mine on Friday. Photo: Esther Mmolai

Official hails Khoemacau Mine for schools' support

By Esther Mmolai

KOMANA - MMG-Khoemacau Mine management has been urged to formalise their relationship with the seven schools within their area of operations and further expand their support to the entire Ngamiland region.

The regional director-education, Ms Veronica Mochotli appreciated that the mine adopted all the schools in their area of operation to foster academic excellence and support them with the necessary resources to enhance teaching and learning.

She made the remarks during the mine's fourth annual schools prize giving ceremony at Komana recently.

"The region appreciates your footprint and feel your presence. We appreciate your invaluable support through your academic excellence awards programme in which performing individual schools, learners and teachers are rewarded for demonstrating commitment, perseverance and hard work in their work. As the ministry we request you to formalise this beautiful relationship and consider extending it to other schools in the region," she said.

The awards categories were: most improved primary school, best overall performing primary school, standard seven teachers of the most improved school and school heads for most improved school.

Ms Mochotli said since the implementation of the programme, they noticed a lot of improvement in the schools citing that four out of the seven schools added value in their education

while Komana Primary School reached the national target of 80 per cent pass rate in the 2023 Primary school Leaving examination (PSLE).

Komana School scored 81.3 per cent and the regional director stressed the need for MMG Khoemacau to spread the wings saying the partnership had the potential to turn around the education system.

She acknowledged that the mine donated computers and photocopying machines among others to performing schools.

Education, she said required collective effort citing that learners could acquire quality education of all stakeholders played their role.

She appealed to school heads to seriously take advantage of the opportunity offered by Khoemacau to turn around their performance.

Country head for Macmillan Botswana, Mr Bernard Sechele appreciated Khoemacau for investing in education saying what the mine was doing was igniting a spark that would pass across generations.

Education, he said was an equalizer as it does not care about someone's background, and all what learners had to do was to read and take studies seriously.

"Education can take you out of poverty to greater heights if you apply yourself and work hard and I encourage parents to ensure children enjoy their right to education," he added.

Mr Sechele added that Macmillan, also promoted a culture of reading citing that they had donated over a million books to the region to be distributed in schools' libraries.

The company, he said also had online courses in the compass and invited all rewarded learners, teachers and the organizers of the event to enrol with them as their donation.

Khoemacau chief executive officer, Mr Johan Ferreira said the mine was delivering on its promise of fostering academic excellence in schools.

He said they believed in grass root development hence they were catching them young to educate a workforce for the future.

He praised Komana School for performing exceptionally well citing that the result was testament to dedication of teachers and parents towards education.

Setting target and achieving it, he said was important and noted that as the mine they would continue to build a legacy and urged other stakeholders to inspire learners to do their best.

"We have laid a foundation in education which needs passionate teachers and supportive parents to thrive and I challenge stakeholders to come on board and invest in education, learners who are the future of tomorrow," he added.

Komana School head, Ms Sophie Mogalakwe said their school outclassed other schools and attained 81.3 per cent with 37 per cent rate of quality pass in As in the 2023 PSLE results with support from the mine.

She said the school enjoyed support of resources such as Internet connectivity, computers and photocopying machine among others.

She promised to do more this year and exceed the national target. **BOPA**

Greater Gaborone prone to road accidents

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - The Greater Gaborone area continues to be the hotspot for road accidents due to the congestion of both people and vehicles.

This was revealed by Botswana Police Service deputy director of traffic division, Assistant Commissioner Christopher Ndlovu during the 2024 MVA Fund Safe Mobility Cycling Campaign in Gaborone on Saturday.

He said areas of most concern were Mogoditshane, Ramotswa and Gaborone followed by outer Gaborone areas such as Kanye and Molepolole.

He also noted that the country had so far recorded 142 fatalities this year, 47 of which involved pedestrians.

"Most fatalities occur as a result of personal attitudes and poor relationships between motorists and pedestrians," he said.

He said it was concerning that the fatalities occurred before busy periods such as the long July holidays as well as the festive season.

"These periods naturally register high rates of fatalities because of high traffic, both

human and vehicles," he said

Furthermore, Mr Ndlovu also said they had observed that most accidents occurred at weekends in areas adjacent to entertainment centres such as bars and that young adults were the most involved.

He advised parents to instill road safety awareness into their children at an early age.

For her part, BIHL group executive for human capital and culture, Ms Neo Ndwapi said BotswanaLife spent millions per month in death claims from road accidents.

She added that motor vehicle accidents were among the top seven causes of death.

In her welcome remarks, MVA Fund board chairperson, Dr Boitumelo Mokgatla urged pedestrians and cyclists to adhere to basic safety precautions such as using the correct side of the road for walking and cycling and wearing reflective clothing, especially at night.

She said the cycling campaign targeted awareness among cyclists and pedestrians as they formed a high number of road traffic fatalities.

The campaign was under the theme: Be Seen, Be Safe, Your Life Matters. **BOPA**

Govt to pay 85% for farmers' loans

By Thandy Tebogo

MMATSHUMO - Government will pay 85 per cent of the seasonal loans for rainfed arable farmers who received loans from Citizen Enterprise Development Agency (CEDA) and National Development Bank (NDB) through Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme facility (ACGS) as a drought relief measure.

Boteti East MP, Mr Sethomo Lelatisitswe told residents of Mmatshumo on Thursday that the drought relief mitigation measures would be implemented with effect from July 1.

He noted that President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi had declared 2023/24 season an extreme agricultural drought year.

He said the declaration followed the recently concluded drought and household food security vulnerability assessment and analysis exercise.

He stated that the Ministry of Agriculture would provide 30 percent livestock feed subsidy for roughage, concentrates, mineral supplements, botulism vaccine and vitamin supplements with effect from July 1 to January 31, 2025.

He disclosed that subsidies would also be provided for non-traditional commodities such as dairy, piggery, aquaculture, apiculture and poultry at 30 per cent for smallholder farmers, also effective from July 1 to January 31, 2025.

Mr Lelatisitswe stated that the ministry would also provide subsidies for acaricides and anti-biotics at 50 per cent for the control and treatment of animals and would also equip boreholes and reticulate water for livestock in unused government or community boreholes in communal areas that have serious water shortage with priority given to hotspot areas effective July 1 to January 31, 2025.

He indicated that the Ministry of Entrepreneurship would source grains through Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board to restock the strategic grain reserve to cover cereal deficit and continue to monitor the situation.

He pointed out that satellite stores would be set up through BAMB to improve access to drought relief feeds, drugs and vaccines in far to reach areas with effect from July 1 to January 31, 2025. He further stated that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism would provide feed subsidies for farmers keeping wild animals in small game farms at 30 per cent effective from July 1 to January 31, 2025.

The ministry would review the compensation schedule and market rates to include all wild

animals that caused damages to all crops, livestock and property, he said.

He explained that the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development would

continue with blanket coverage of supplementary feeding for children aged six to 59 months with double ration to moderately and severely underweight children.

Mr Lelatisitswe stated that provision of two meals at primary schools would continue and three meals for recognised settlements at Remote Area Communities adding that Ipelegeng slots would

increase by an additional 30 000 slots to cater for high number of beneficiaries on the waiting lists as a result of limited seasonal jobs in the arable agricultural sector.
BOPA



Mr Gadifele during Mabutsane District Show on Saturday. He said modern technologies offered transformative opportunities across the entire agricultural value chain. Photo: Kehumile Moekejo

'Technology enhances productivity'

By Kehumile Moekejo

MABUTSANE - Adopting modern technologies in the agricultural sector could be useful in harnessing opportunities in the value chain and contributing towards Botswana's aspiration of food security.

Speaking at the inaugural Mabutsane District Show on Saturday, held under the theme "Adopting Modern Technologies to Enhance Value Chain Development in the Agricultural Sector", Jwaneng Mine Acting General Manager, Mr Goitseone Gadifele noted that such technologies could go a long way in enhancing productivity, quality as well as efficiency of the agricultural processes and practices.

"Modern technologies offer transformative opportunities across the entire agricultural value chain, from production and processing to distribution and marketing," he said.

He noted that embracing new technologies would not only promote sustainable agricultural practices, but would also create new job opportunities, hence more economic growth. He underscored the need to build a robust and resilient sector which could contribute more to the country's GDP and national development goals.

Mr Gadifele applauded stakeholders who conceptualised and contributed to the execution of Mabutsane District Show, which he said was aligned with the government's goal of improving the agricultural sector through programmes such as Temo Letlotlo and Thuo Letlotlo.

"These initiatives are designed to enhance productivity and elevate the quality of agricultural produce. It is therefore incumbent upon us, as responsible citizens, to commit ourselves to achieving these goals and enabling the agricultural sector to make

substantial contributions to our nation's GDP," he noted.

He underscored the need for stakeholders to work together to reposition agriculture as an important economic pillar.

He noted that concerted efforts would ensure that the sector sustained the economy of the country even beyond the lifespan of diamonds.

He said through the 'From Diamonds to Mutton' initiative, Debswana was committed to transforming the region into a food security hub through increased small stock production.

Mr Gadifele said through the initiative, the company intended to facilitate farmers in the region to increase production as a way of establishing sustainable economic activities that would carry on beyond diamond production.

He regretted that the livestock population in the country had been experiencing a decline over the years, something which he

said needed attention.

"The time has come for us to be deliberate about our aspirations and actions. The agricultural sector, contributing 2 percent of Botswana's GDP, with livestock alone contributing about 80 percent, underscores its critical importance. However, we have observed a decline in livestock population. This decline necessitates our participation in initiatives like this one aimed at reversing this trend," he said.

He further called on communities to encourage young people to take agriculture seriously and use modern innovations to improve productivity and efficiency.

Meanwhile, Mr Gadifele also handed over the P3 million Mabutsane Expo Centre project to Mabutsane District. The expo centre comprises perimeter fencing, power supply and reticulation, exhibition kraals, exhibition stalls and ablution facilities. **BOPA**





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FirstPreneur launches inaugural SME cohort

By Marvin Motlhabane

GABORONE - In the journey towards entrepreneurship development, FirstPreneur programme has launched 150 businesses to be enrolled in its inaugural cohort.

The programme, which is a partnership between First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) and TheNeoHub, is aimed at nurturing Botswana's entrepreneurial spirit through mentorship and access to funding interventions, among others.

Speaking during the launch in Gaborone recently, the Minister of Entrepreneurship, Mr Karabo Gare said the programme was a pioneering initiative that marked a significant leap towards reinforcing growth and innovation with Botswana's SME sector.

Mr Gare said entrepreneurs were pivotal drivers to the economy that substantially contributes to the GDP, adding that they were instrumental in creating jobs and strengthening value chains in critical sectors.

To this end, Mr Gare said government had found it befitting to establish robust support systems for entrepreneurs, including access to funding, mentorship and training.

He said the FirstPreneur Development programme exemplified such a framework, designed to empower entrepreneurs, saying such

institutions as FNBB and innovation centres like TheNeoHub played a critical role in providing entrepreneurs with guidance, resources, and collaborative environments necessary for success.

The minister said it was essential to sustain and expand these kinds of initiatives to promote a vibrant entrepreneurial network that would link entrepreneurs with international counterparts.

Meanwhile, FNBB Chief Executive Officer, Mr Steven Bogatsu said their collaboration with TheNeoHub represented a powerful synergy - a union of vision and purpose.

Mr Bogatsu said FNBB had always believed in the transformative power of partnerships and by partnering with a dynamic, locally owned entity like TheNeoHub, they were not only pooling their resources and expertise, but also aligning their efforts to drive impactful change in the SME sector.

He said together with TheNeoHub they had crafted The FirstPreneur as a comprehensive two-year programme designed to support and accelerate entrepreneurs in building sustainable businesses.

Furthermore, Mr Bogatsu said the initiative leveraged the strengths of both organisations to create a synergistic force, one that would accelerate the development of SMMEs across

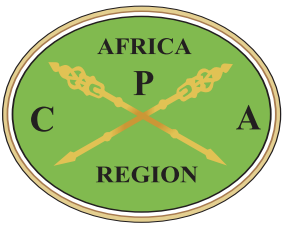


Minister Gare (right), Mr Bogatsu (left) and TheNeoHub founder, Ms Zinzi Letsididi at the launch of FNBB and TheNeoHub FirstPreneur 2024 Cohort in Phakalane recently. Mr Gare encouraged the beneficiaries of the programme to persevere and invest in the opportunity. Photo: Felicity Male

Botswana in today's dynamic and ever-changing competitive economy. He said one of the unique and defining features of the programme was the availability of a dedicated banking relationship manager for each participant. This personalised support, according to Mr Bogatsu, was not merely a service, but the first of its kind in Botswana, aimed exclusively at 100 per cent citizen-owned entities that have been in operation for at least two years. **BOPA**



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Mahotshwane woman embraces turning waste to value concept

By Kehumile Moekejo

MAHOTSHWANE - As the world embraces new strategies towards climate change adaptation and mitigation, turning waste to value for socio-economic and environmental gain has been identified as one way of reducing greenhouse emissions to the atmosphere.

Through the reduce, recycle and repurpose, otherwise known as RRR, core values, countries are challenged to reduce and effectively manage the waste they produce.

The turning waste to value concept has been found to not only contribute towards protecting the environment, but also creating employment opportunities, especially in rural communities.

In Mahotshwane, a rural village lying about 70km on the north-western side of Jwaneng, 54-year-old Ms Kegaisamang Dithobane of Mothobi ward has taken a deliberate decision to use her creativity to exploit an income-generating opportunity through the use of waste plastic and paper.

To her, what started off as a hobby has over the years developed into an economic enterprise, considering the availability of single-use plastic waste in her area.

"I started off just passing time, but as time went by I was advised to participate in waste management competitions in my district. My products are mainly made of plastic and paper waste and they are for decoration purposes," she said in an interview.

Hers is a simple task since her raw materials are readily available everywhere and she can easily collect them while continuing with her daily normal life.

Sometimes she collects bulk waste from government organisations, after which she separates the usable waste from garbage.

After realising that her hobby was capable of sustaining her family, the mother of five from Mothobi ward then worked on improving her skill, which she clarifies is self-taught.

With encouragement from health officials and other village leaders, she has had the opportunity to showcase her products at various platforms across Mabutsane District.

She has also been invited to motivate and exchange skills with learners at the local primary school.

Even though she is able to provide her family with the basic needs, her wish is to reach a wider market since she has the capacity to produce more, owing to the abundance of waste she can tap onto.

She has since expanded the business concept to include colourful floor mats.

In the midst of rising unemployment, Ms Dithobane laments that young people do not

show interest in her business.

"I am always willing to teach them so that they can also eke a living out of waste, especially that young people can travel to different areas for a better market, but they never show interest.

This is sad because we cannot have all people queuing for Ipelegeng, while some could be using their hands to generate income," she said.

Her ultimate goal is to grow the business and be popular across the country, not only as a

champion of waste management, but also as an exemplary citizen that people have something to offer their nation even in old age.

"I aspire to grow and travel across the country sharing this useful information with other communities because this is not only good for the environment, but also helps to sustain families, especially in low-income households like ours. I am also soliciting for support and sponsorship from any Samaritan who appreciates what I do," she said. **BOPA**



Ms Dithobane showcasing some of the decorative products she makes from waste material such as plastic and paper.
Photo: Kehumile Moekejo



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Emisang go ganyaola diphologolo - mogolwane

Ka Cathrine Simane

TSABONG - Motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong, Assistant Superintendent Monnathebe Mphela o kgadile dilalome tse di ganyaolang diphologolo tsa naga ka di nale seabe se setona mo itsholelong ya lefatshe leno.

Assistant Superintendent Mphela o buile jalo mo puisanyong le BOPA ka Labone morago ga go tshwara banna ba le bane ba dingwaga tse di magareng ga masome a mararo go ya kwa go tse di masome a mararo le bosupa bosheng.

O ne a tlhalosa fa mapodisi a ne a tshwara banna bao ka koloi e e neng e pegile nama e go belaesegang e le ya kukama gaufi le lefelo la diphologolo la KD15 le KD20.

O boletse fa banna ba bararo ba ba neng ba tswa Gaborone le a le mongwe yo o tlhologang mo Tsabong ba ne ba palelwa ke go tlhalosetsa mapodisi gore ba tsaya kae nama eo.

Assistant Superintendent Mphela o ne a tlhalosa fa e tlaa re mo bogaofing banna bao ba isiwe fa pele ga lekgotla la ga mmakaseterata go arabela molato wa bogodu jwa diphologolo tsa naga fa ditlhotlhomiso tsone di santse di tswetsetse.

O boletse fa gape mapodisi a tlhotlhomisa kang e mo go yone ditonki di le thataro di fitlhetsweng

bosheng di phuagantswe ka dinama tse go belaesegang e le tsa bogodu jwa diphologolo tsa naga gaufi le lefelo la diphologolo la Mabuasehube.

O supile fa go belaesega fa beng ba ditonki tseo ba ne ba inaya naga morago ga go utlwa modumo wa koloi ya batlhokomedi ba diphologolo jaaka ba ne ba le mo mosepeleng wa bone ba dikologa ba ntse ba etse seemo tlhoko.

Assistant Superintendent Mphela o boletse fa go lemosega fa jaanong magodu a diphologolo a oketsegile le gone go ipopa ditlhophi tsa letsomo la diphologolo tsa naga ka beng-gae le ba ba tswang kwa ntle e bile ba dira e le kgwebo.

O boletse fa mapodisi a tshwenngwa ke bogodu jwa diphologolo tsa naga jo bo ileng magoletsa ka ba gatisitse dikgang tsa bogodu jwa diphologolo tsa naga di ferabobedi ngwaga o o fetileng fa mo ngwageng ono go fitlha mo nakong ya gompieno ba setse ba gatisitse di le nne.

A re go ya ka maitemogelo le ditlhotlhomiso tsa mapodisi, diphologolo tse gantsi di bolawang ke magodu ke dikukama.

Assistant Superintendent Mphela o ikuetse mo setshabeng go tshwaragana le mapodisi go emisa bogodu jwa diphologolo tsa naga , go hema go nyelela ga letlotlo leo. O kaile fa diphologolo tsa naga di le botlhokwa mo itsholelong ya Botswana ka e le tsone di okelang bajanala mo lefatsheng leno. **BOPA**



Assistant Superintendent Mphela o kgadile dilalome tse di ganyaolang diphologolo tsa naga, a re diphologolo tseo di na le seabe se setona mo itsholelong ya lefatshe leno. Mapodisi a tshwere banna ba le bane ka koloi e e neng e pegile nama e go belaesegang e le ya kukama gaufi le lefelo la diphologolo la KD15 le KD20.

Modukanele o thusa dikole ka dibala makgolo

Ka Gaboselwe Olesitse

KGAGODI - Mothusa tona wa tlhabololo magae le selegae, Rre Setlhabelo Modukanele o abetse dikolo tse di potlana tsa Mogapi le sa Kgagodi dibuka le dibala makgolo di le nne sengwe le sengwe tsa tsone.

O tlhalositse fa maikaelelo a go dira jalo e le go diragatsa tebelopele ya 2036 le go sala morago maitlamo a ga tautona a go nna tshaba e e nang le kitso ka tsa maranyane le dipatisiso.

Rre Modukanele, yo gape e leng mopalamente wa Lerala/ Maunatlala, o tlhalositse fa tiriso ya maranyane le boitseanape e ka fetola itsholelo ya lefatshe le go le baya mo maemong a mantle. A re ke sone a boneng go le botlhokwa go abela dikolo di dirisiwa tse di ka thusang gore maitlamo ao a diragale.

O tlhalositse fa puso e beile thuto kwa pele ka jalo go tlhoka gore banaleseabe botlhe ba tsenye letsogo mo thutong ya bana gore go seka ga nna le ope yoo salelang

kwa morago mo go tsa maranyane. O ne a re go netefatsa seo, puso e tsentse maranyane a mahala mo mafelong othe a setshaba se kgonang go a dirisa kwa ntle ga di tshenyegelogo dipe.

A re go nna le kitso ka maranyane go botlhokwa thata mo kgolong ya itsholelo ya lefatshe, bogolo jang fa bana ba ka simololwa go rutwa ka yone ba santse ba le ba botlana.

Rre Modukanele a re tsholofelo ya gagwe ke gore maduo mo dikolong a tla tokafala ka barutabana ba tswetsetse ka go thusiwa ka tse di ba kgontshang go ruta le ntswa go santse go nale dikgang tse di tlhokang gore di baakanngwe jaaka letlhoko la boroko.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, mogokgo wa sekolo se se botlana sa Kgagodi, Mme Gaamangwe Mfaladi o tlhalositse fa sekolo se nale baithuti ba le makgolo a mabedi masome a mararo le bosupa mme matlo a borutelo o ne a le lesome le bone, a bolelela fa matlo a borutelo a lekane bana botlhe mme e bile go sena tlhaelo.

A re mathata a a santseng a tshwenya ke gore sekolo se segologolo mme se tlhoka go baakanngwa gore se nne mo seemong se se kgathisang.

O ne gape a supa fa go nale tlhaelo ya ditilo le ditafole, mme a tlhalosa fa tsholofelo e sa tlabise ditlhong ka khansela e itse ka seemo sa teng.

O ne a re le ntswa ba nale matshwenyego, sekolo sa Kgagodi se dira botoka thata mo go tsa thuto, a tlhalosa fa e ne ya re mo maduog a ditlhatlhobo tsa ngogola, ba ne ba nna le bana ba ba tsereng letshwao la A ba le lesome le boraro, se a kaileng e le ditso.

Mme Mfaladi o ne a phophotha ba-na-le-seabe ba tshwana le boeteledipele jwa motse, komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse le ya barutabana a tlhalosa fa ba tsentse letsogo thata mo go tsa thuto.

O ne a tlhalosa fa maduo a mantle a tile ka gore sekolo se ne sa ipeela melawana e ba e salang morago go tlhomamisa gore ga gona ngwana yoo salelang kwa morago.

O ne a tlhalosa fa ba dirisa letsatsi la Matlhatso go ruta bana ,se ele boithaopo jo bo dirwang ke barutabana kwa ntle ga dituelo dipe.

A re thulaganyo ya go neela dimpho ba ba dirileng sentle mo ditlhatlhobong tsa bone tsa kgwedi le kgwedi go dira gore ba ba ntseng ba saletse kwa morafe ba iteke.

O lebogetse dimpho a tlhalosa fa di tile go ba direla tiro motlhofo ka ba ne ba ntse ba nale letlhoko le le kwa godimo la dibala makgolo.

Kgosi Mogomotsi Mareko o ne a lebogela dimpho go tswa mo go mothusa tona, a tlhalosa fa di tile go tlhofofaletsa barutabana tiro ya go ruta.

O ne a tlhalosa fa jaanong go saletse bone go tokafatsa maduo a sekolo go gaisa jaaka ba ntse ba dira , a tlhalosa fa dikgwetlho tse ba kopanang natso di sa tshwanela go ba kgoba marapo. **BOPA**

Autlwetse o kopa ba Mmutlane go kopanela morero

Ka Chendzimu Themba

MMUTLANE - Tona wa Dikgaolo le Tlhabololo Magae, Rre Kgotla Autlwetse, o kopile morafe wa Mmutlane go kopanela morero wa gore ke mang yo o tshwanetseng go nna kgosi ya bone.

Tona Autlwetse o buile jalo ka Laboraro fa a ba lekodisa ka taelo e e neng e tswa kwa kgotleng kgolo ya ditshenko e supa gore bangwe ba le masome matlhano le bobedi ba ne ba ikuela kgatlhano le leina le ba neng ba le isitse ba ngongoregela gore morero ga o a dirwa mme kgotla kgolo ya ditsheko ya dumalana le bone gore

kgang e e boele kwa morafeng gore go rerisanngwe.

Tona o ne a ba kopa gore fa morero o simologa, ba tsee kang ka matsetseleko le tshisibalo ka e le kgang e e masisi thata.

A re morafe wa Batalaote ke one o itseng gore ka segabone kgosi e tlhlongwa jang a ba a ba fa sekai ka mafoko a Tautona wa ntlha wa Botswana a re morafe o o senang ngwao o abo o latlhagile.

O ne a tswelela a ba tsibosa gore bogosi le jone ke sefalana sa ngwao.

Tona Autlwetse a re morero wa bogosi o tshwanetse go simolola kwa ntlung ya bogosi, fa ba sena go dumalana ba bo ba boela kwa

morafeng ba o bolelela gore ba bone mang yo o ka nnang kgosi.

A re mme morafe le one o tlaa bo o lebelela leina leo, fa o sa dumalane kgotsa o dumela o tlaa ntsha mabaka.

O bile a ba kopa gore fa ba tsena mo morerong o ba seka ba tsenya sepolotiki ka gore se ka senya serodumo sa bogosi.

Tona o ne a ba bolelela gore bogosi bo methale mabedi; go nale jwa letsalo le jwa ditlhopho, ka jalo bone ke bone ba itseng gore jwa bone ke jwa mohuta mang.

Tona o ne a ba kopa gore ba sale ba dira morero wa bone mo dibekeng tse pedi ba bo ba mo

fa phetolo ka gore go setse go le lobaka kgotla e sena kgosi mme go tura ka jaana fa go nale tshenko go tla kgosi e tswa kwa Shoshong kgotsa Mahalapye.

E rile morafe o ntsha la one wa supa fa o tlaa sala o buisana.

Mopalamente wa Shoshong, Rre Aubrey Lesaso o ne a ba lemotsha gore katlholo ya kgotla kgolo ke ya bofelo e bile ga go na yo o ka e ganetsang, ka jalo a ba kopa gore ba kopanele kgang e gore e wele sentle ba kgone go nna le kgosi ka gore mo ditsong tsa bone ga go ise go lwelwe bogosi, mme e le batho ba ba ntseng ba dira dilo ka thulaganyo. **BOPA**

Tsutsuga squatters to identify place for relocation

By Thandy Tebogo

LETLHAKANE - Squatters at Tsutsuga cattlepost have been advised to identify a village to relocate to.

Kgosi Phillip Kopano of Mosu made the call and pleaded with them to embrace change and consider relocating during a meeting addressed by Member of Parliament for Boteti East, Mr Sethomo Lelatisitswe recently.

Kgosi Kopano advised the squatters to choose between Mosu and Letlhakane villages for relocation.

For his part, Kgosi Barontshi

Kegapetswe however said it was crucial to devise a working strategy that would not infringe on anyone's rights in efforts to address the issue.

Kgosi Kegapetswe said the rights of the squatters deserved to be respected and protected, adding some of the land policies were developed to protect the cattleposts and segregate land use.

He indicated that some people settled temporarily at Tsutsuga cattlepost years back when Francistown-Letlhakane road was being constructed hence there were some licensed stores in the area.

"There were some cattleposts years back where burials were

carried out but the law had since changed prohibiting such," he said in response to Mr Monkgori Bareemetse's concern about being prohibited to conduct burials in their graveyard located at Tsutsuga.

Kgosi Kegapetswe, however expressed concern that chiefs did not generally address kgotla meetings in cattleposts, but only when the issue of land arose.

The area MP, Mr Lelatisitswe said Landboard Act, established in 1980, had since changed and the Constitution required that all Batswana respected it.

He told Tsutsuga settlers that every Motswana had the right to

apply for land irrespective of their tribes.

That was in response to a concern raised by one Mr Rebuiseng Thakanyamolemo who had alleged that Basarwa were discriminated and denied the right to land.

Mr Thakanyamolemo had also asked why polling stations were set up in Tsutsuga if the area was a cattlepost.

However, in response, Mr Lelatisitswe said polling stations set up everywhere across the country were requested by Batswana who wanted to participate in the general elections and formation of government.

"Failure to participate in some of the programmes and activities is in a way denying yourself opportunities," he said.

Some settlers also wanted to know if they would be allocated land if they decided to relocate from Tsutsuga to Mosu or Letlhakane.

They also requested for an update on allocation of their farm ranch.

In response the landboard chairperson, Mr Kerebotswe Kethanyegile said the Tsutsuga farm ranch issue was yet to be addressed.

Mr Kethanyegile also told them that they would be required to apply for land after relocation. **BOPA**



Pupils viewing small stock during the Future Genetics Breeders Show in Kgagodi on Friday. President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi said there must be an inspirational path between farmers and pupils studying agriculture, stressing that farmers should inspire the next generation to succeed in the field. Photo: Yobe Shonga

Four SA soldiers die in suspected carbon monoxide poisoning

JOHANNESBURG - The South African National Defense Force (SANDF) says the police have launched an inquest after four SANDF soldiers were found dead Saturday in Orkney, North West Province, where they were on duty in an operation to tackle illegal mining.

The soldiers were deployed on a 24-hour shift at Shaft 3, a dormant mining shaft situated in Orkney and were found dead Saturday morning inside a container structure that was used as a guard house for those on duty, the

SANDF said.

Preliminary findings showed that the deaths of the soldiers could have been caused by carbon monoxide poisoning from a possible fire they had made during the cold night inside the container structure.

The police have confirmed that the soldiers' rifles were on them and their items were still with them, according to the SANDF.

The SANDF said the bodies of the deceased were transported to the Klerksdorp state mortuary for further investigation. **Xinhua**

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AM LOOKING FOR farm worker at Matshelagabedi. Contact 75566429. Shimane Motsamai. P O Box 10889, Tatisiding, Francistown.

WANTED FARM WORKER at Tonota, Contact Bontle Masedi. P O Box 568 Tonota cell no 71540473.

2 FARM WORKERS wanted at Medie. Apply –Box 2239 Gaborone. Intergraded farming project.77748685

FARM WORKER WANTED in Shashemooke P O Box 30246 Francistown. Kethamile Aaron.71670598.

HERD BOY WANTED at Mogobane Box 1655. Call Kagiso Vinoliah Mokgaotsane 71641454.

FARM WORKER URGENTLY required at Dikabeya Fields. Apply to Bonyana Letsididi P O Box 387 Palapye 71847764

TWO FARM WORKERS urgently wanted. Contact Moitamo Marata in Palapye. The advert will be open until the post is filled. 74025312/76290113

MALE FARM WORKER WANTED at Makoro, Palapye. Contact 76409194

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNERS OF BAMANGWATO Tribal Territory Lot CA447 at Lerala would like to express their intention to change land use from Agricultural to mixed use (Industrial and Agriculture). Any objections may be forwarded to the Palapye District Council, Physical Planning Office within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this notice.

IBALASHIKI MBAAKANYI of plot 8426 Francistown Kgaphamadi will like to do change of land use of my plot from residential to multi residential, any objection contact Francistown physical planning at 2411806.

OWNER OF PLOT 1494 TONOTA WEST, TONOTA WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE LAND USE FROM SINGLE FAMILY TO MULTI FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. ANY OBJECTIONS CONTACT TONOTA DISTRICT COUNCIL 2484248 WITHIN 14 DAYS OF PUBLICATION.

OWNER OF PLOT 13299 at Tawana Ward, Letlhakane wishes to change landuse of their plot from multi residential to commercial guesthouse. Any objections should be forwarded to Boteti District Council Physical Planning on 2978331/0.

PROPERTIES

3 BEDROOMED NOT fitted house for sale in Kgwatlheng ward Kanye. Contact 77608641/ 72465542.

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WAAWY INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD is looking for a Fashion Designer, free hand cutting of all patterns ie African, European, Asian. Five (5) years experience. Apply to P O Box 10698 Palapye. Cell 74233520

PERENIAL IMPRESSIONS (PTY) LTD is looking for Precision Machinist CLASS 1. Forward your CV to mothusintesang@yahoo.com or contact 72252185.

NEIGHBOURS OF PLOT 16553, Maratadiba,Tlokweng. Owner wishes to build boundary wall. Contact council on 3695096 for any objection

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF LANDUSE

I, **Maria Radibe** would like to change landuse from commercial to civic and community at **Plot No: 819, Extension 2, Gaborone**
Anybody who would like to view plan can do so or any objection can be forward to **Gaborone City Council** at telephone no. 365 7400 or call 71 843 031, or in writing, within 14 days of this publication of this notice



POSITIVE PERFORMANCE

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Starting salary is BWP30 000 (including benefits)

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The post will be based in Gaborone, Botswana

If you meet the requirements of the above position, please send your CV with certified academic records and a copy of your ID to: info@positiveperformance.co.bw Enquiries: refilwe@positiveperformance.co.bw

Deadline: 24th July 2024

Only successful applicants will be contacted for interview.

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NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late **ITHUSENG JACK BAROMA** who died at RIVERSIDE HOSPITAL, FRANCISTOWN DISTRICT, REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA ON THE **26TH October 2014.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors of the above mentioned Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within (30) days after the publication hereof. Creditors are advised to deliver proof of their claims against the Estate to the Executor / Executrix prior to the date of the meeting.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17 DAY OF JUNE 2024

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

Notice is hereby given that undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Deed of Fixed Period Grant No. 786/2004 dated 22nd April, 2004 made in favour of PRISCA GOTHATAMANG BASELE in respect of the below mentioned property namely;

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 36231, GABORONE;
SITUATED : In Gaborone West Extension 37;
MEASURING : 417m²(Four Hundred and Seventeen Square Metres);
HELD : under Title Deed No.786/2004 dated 22th April 2004 made in favour of PRISCA GOTHATAMANG BASELE.

SUBJECT TO : the terms and conditions as are contained in the aforesaid deed.

All person objecting to the issuance of such copy are hereby requested to lodge such objection in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020 Gaborone within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 27th DAY OF JUNE 2024

SENAMELA SEKGA ATTORNEYS, APPLICANT’S ATTORNEY PLOT 2859 EXTENSION 10, CHURCH ROAD P.O.BOX 1551 GABORONE.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Ngându Law Chambers invites applications from suitably qualified persons for the position below.

ATTORNEY-COMMERCIAL LAW

REPORTS TO: Managing Partner

JOB PURPOSE: Ngându Law Chambers has a Commercial Law function to cater for its clients in the financial and general corporate services sector.

The **Attorney-Commercial Law** will be responsible for Commercial Litigations, provision of Corporate Governance and Tax Consultancy, general practice management and overseeing compliance matters within the firm.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Client Consultations on Commercial Law, Taxation, Corporate Governance and other matters.
- Commercial Law Litigations
- Provision of Outsourced Governance Services including; Company Registration, de-registration and related services
- Practice Management including Staff supervision
- Stakeholders engagement for sustainable business development and growth

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. Currently Enrolled and Admitted to Practice in Botswana

2. A Holder of a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB).
3. A Master’s Degree in Commercial Law will be an added advantage.
4. A Graduate, Associate or Fellow Member of the Chartered Governance Institute of Southern Africa (CGISA)
5. Qualification(s) in Taxation and Accounting will be an added advantage.
6. At least 3 years working experience in an Accounting firm, Financial Institution or any other commercial environment involving taxation and company registration services.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

- Knowledge of CIPA regulations, Botswana Companies Act [Cap 42.01] and Botswana Tax Law
- Strong Leadership, Analytical and Evaluation skills

Interested Candidates who meet the above requirements must submit their applications and CV together with certified copies of certificates, **not later than Tuesday 23 July 2024**, to ngandulawchambers@gmail.com or post to:

The Managing Partner
Ngându Law Chambers
P. O. Box 404116 Gaborone

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETING

ESTATE LATE MASEGO GAONTEBALE - ESHGB-000299-24

IN PURSUANCE of **Section 31** of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap 31:01), the heirs and Next of Kin of the deceased persons specified below are hereby invited to attend meetings at the Office of the Master located at **Gaborone High Court** on **Thursday** the **10th day of October 2024** at **1100 hours**.

All respective meetings, the next of kin are to recommend person(s) to be appointed Executor(s) Executrices Dative, identify beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to the estate of their deceased relative.

For more information concerning the deceased person’s estate, please contact the Masters Office at **3718083, 3718343 or Switchboard 3718000.**

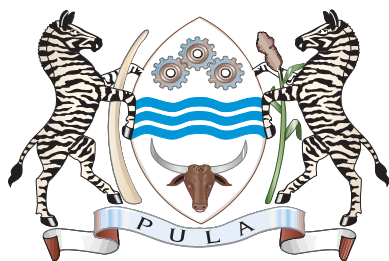
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS MASTER’S REFERENCE: NO-ESHGB-000384/21

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ELIZABETH DINARE MAMAPILO, WHO DIED AT BAMALETE LUTHERN HOSPITAL, RAMOTSWA, BOTSWANA ON THE 18TH DAY OF APRIL 2023.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that creditors and debtors in the above Estate are hereby required to file their claims and/or pay their debts to the undersigned within **thirty (30) days** from the date of the last publication hereof.

Dated at Gaborone on this the 2024

Segametsi Kesego Pule
The Executor Testamentary
P. O. Box 1348, Gaborone, Botswana



Republic of Botswana

DEPARTMENT OF BROADCASTING SERVICES

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR INCLUSION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BROADCASTING SERVICES SUPPLIER DATABASE

Department of Broadcasting Services is creating a supplier Database that will be used for two years (2024/2025 -2026/2027) for procurement of services, goods, and works below tendering threshold, therefore invites vendors providing the following products or services to express interest to be included in the database.

1.

Kids Shows

2.

Family Shows

3.

Documentaries

4.

Comedies

5.

Entertainment (Films, video and music)

6.

Series

7.

Other shows

8.

Film and Video Production

9.

Audio Engineering

10.

Transmitters

11.

Advertising and Branding

12.

Catering Services

13.

Cleaning chemicals & detergents

14.

Conferencing, Accommodation & Hospitality

15.

Events management & Deco Services

16.

Fire products & services

17.

Florists

18.

First Aid Equipment

19.

Fumigation & Pest Control

20.

Furniture & Fitting

21.

Hardware Materials and tools

22.

News papers

23.

Landscaping and Gardening Services

24.

IT Hardware & Software Solutions

25.

Office Equipment & Services

26.

Skip Rental, refuse collection & disposal

27.

Sports & Recreation Equipment

28.

Stationery, Office Equipment & Consumables

29.

Uniform & Protective clothing

30.

Waste disposal services (General and Clinical)

31.

Wellness services

32.

Works (Building Repairs & General maintenance)

33.

Services, repairs and maintenance of standby diesel Generators

34.

Supply, delivery and assembly of furniture

35.

Repair and Maintenance of lift

36.

Services, repairs and maintenance of photocopying machines

37.

Supply and delivery of cartridges and toners

38.

Repairs, Maintenance of Solar Systems

39.

Repairs and maintenance of small plant and equipment

40.

Services, Repair and maintenance of air conditioners

41.

Provision of construction and hardware materials

42.

Services, Repair and Maintenance of transmitters (routine and corrective:)
- Harris - Radio FM

- Ampigon - radio FM

• Hitachi - TV digital

• R.V.R - radio FM and TV

• Eurotel - radio FM

• Notel - Radio FM

43.

Maintenance of antennas and associated accessories

44.

Monitoring of both radio and television signals to maintain acceptable quality

45.

Maintenance of UPS and battery banks for transmitter sites

46.

De-bushing of shrubs and cutting of grass at transmitter sites

47.

Maintenance of transmitter shelters.

48.

Service, Repair and Maintenance of Broadcasting Equipment

49.

Service, Repair and Maintenance of Satellite Transmission Systems

50.

Supply of Spares for Broadcasting Equipment

51.

Supply of Accessories for Audio Visual Equipment

52.

Service and Maintenance of Studio Lighting

53.

Supply of Studio Lighting Equipment

EOI submission will be checked for completeness and compliance with the requirements of this invitation for Expression of interest. The selection will be made based on the following:

1. Cover letter detailing type of service/products the company is applying for.

2. A copy of tax clearance certificate. Notice of VAT registration letter of Exemption where applicable.

3. A copy of the PPRA registration certificate of the relevant codes.

4. Company profile with address and bank details.

5. Brief CV of key staff and their contact details.

6. Certificate of share certificates for company shareholders or equivalent.

7. Shareholders' and Directors' information including certified copies of identification documents.

8. Certified copy of EDD certificate (where applicable)

9. Any certificate for entitlement under Government preservation and preference schemes (Where applicable)

NOTE: All suppliers/vendors who have registered with DBS in
- the past database are not exempted from this process. Failure to register will exclude unregistered vendors/suppliers from invitation to quote or opportunity to quote as and when DBS requires the services, works and goods indicated above. Documents that will be found in the tender but not registered will be automatically disqualified.

The Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) is building a supplier database and as such, this exercise does not guarantee that the institution will solicit the services, works and goods from the list above.

Respondents are also advised that all costs associated with this Expression of Interest are solely at their expense and DBS will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred.

NOTE: Registration will start on 04/07/2024.

CLOSING DATE: The date, time and location for opening of the expression of interest is:

Time: 1000 hours on 18/07/2024

Location: Procurement Unit Lobby, Mass Media Complex, Gaborone, Botswana

The vendor/supplier will be required to register their submission in a register before slotting it in the tender box and the DBS clock watch shall be used at the reception for purpose of closing time.

Late submissions will not be accepted. Telegraphic, faxed or email submissions shall not be accepted.

Response to advert should be clearly marked: "EOI: Inclusion in the (DBS) Supplier database" on the outside of the envelope and should be addressed to: The Director, Department of Broadcasting Services, P O Box 0060, Gaborone Tel: (+267) 365 3000

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Ms. Maureen Hirschfeld, Mr. Manake M. R. Matula

Raymond Tshoko



Koolatotse is the third runner-up in the Miss Teen International competition. She was crowned Sunday night during the grand finale in India, where Miss Cambodia won the Miss Teen International title.

Koolatotse Miss Teen International third runner-up

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE - Miss Teen Botswana, Onkatlile Koolatotse, is the third runner-up in the Miss Teen International competition.

The 17-year-old was crowned Sunday night during the grand finale in India, where Miss Cambodia won the Miss Teen International title, followed by the first Runner up from Cuba, the second Runner Up from Namibia, and the fourth Runner Up from Mexico.

Following her crowning, Koolatotse recorded a video

thanking Batswana, expressing that it was through their faith and love that she achieved the third runner-up position.

In addition to her success, Koolatotse won the Best National Costume and Miss Popularity awards. According to the Miss Teen Botswana social media page, Botswana's national costume drew profound inspiration from the Mowana tree, also known as the Baobab Tree, making it stand out.

The national costume symbolised the nation's strength, resilience, and enduring spirit.

The Mowana tree, an integral part of Botswana's cultural heritage

and natural landscape, is often referred to as the 'Tree of Life' due to its myriad uses and symbolic significance.

Koolatotse is also the founder of Smile the Little Flower Foundation, an organisation she established after visiting Betesankwe in 2020.

The foundation advocates for children who cannot speak up about the issues confronting them and it gives a voice to those who have been silenced or go unnoticed.

The foundation focuses on three main goals; inclusion, opportunity, and mental health, while continuing to help teens realise and advance their dreams. **BOPA**

Youth ministry increases prize money

By Lindi Morwaeng

MOGODITSHANE - The Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport, and Culture has increased prizes for the top four winners in each category of the National Arts Competitions.

Revealing the details during the Choral and Clap and Tap grand finale in Mogoditshane recently, Minister Tumiso Rakgare said first place winners would now receive an impressive P50 000, a significant increase from the previous P30 000.

The runner-up prize has also been elevated to P42 000, with P38 000 and P33 000 awarded to the third and fourth positions, respectively.

Rakgare also noted inclusion of Clap and Tap category in the competitions. "I am thrilled to announce that Clap and Tap has finally found its rightful place in our national arts showcase. We realised that without this vital component, our competitions will not be complete," he said adding that the vibrant rhythm of this art form has been an integral part of the country's cultural tapestry for generations.

With the excitement surrounding the new Clap and Tap category, the competition was heated, and Ebenezer Gospel Choir from Serowe emerged the champions, closely followed by Kobamelo Choir from Ghanzi in second place while Salvation Choir from Maun came third, and Soul Redeemers from Gaborone emerged in fourth position.

The vibrant competition saw each choir showcase their unique style, with the passionate performances captivating the audience and judges alike. Choirs in the Clap and Tap category were given freedom to showcase their unique style, presenting songs of their own choice rather than adhering to a standard tune.

The Choral category, split into two sections – Standard (30-48 choristers) and Large (49-60 choristers) – saw four choirs compete in the Standard section. The competing choirs were tasked with performing two songs: *Botaki le Bodiragatsi*, a composition by David Segatlhe, and a *Lerabi* song, both of which tested their musical skills and cultural understanding.

After a spellbinding display of musical talent and cultural understanding, Palapye Voices emerged as the victors of the Standard Choral category, scoring an impressive 158 points. They were closely followed by CreativeArts Chorus from

Gaborone with 157 points in second place, Maun Choral Choir securing 152 points for third place, and Camel Choir from Tsabong garnering 144 points to take fourth place.

The standard section of the Choral category proved to be a fierce competition, with every point hard-fought and the placing separated by narrowest of margins. The Large section Choral category was a captivating display of skill and showmanship, with nine choirs squaring off against each other to prove their musical prowess. The competitors were presented with two formidable song choices that demanded not only technical precision but also a deep understanding of vastly different musical traditions.

First up was *Nie Weir Ich Deine*, a classical opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, presenting a complex musical puzzle that tested the choirs' choral prowess and discipline.

Following this, the choirs were then tasked with delivering a stirring rendition of *Thari ya Sechaba*, a traditional Botswana song composed by Tlokweneng native Boatametse Bolokwe. The complex rhythms and intricate harmonies of this piece pushed the choirs to their limits, requiring a masterful blend of power and finesse.

In a gripping contest of musical skill and determination, Andante Chorus from Ramotswa triumphed in the Large Choral category with an astonishing 169 points, securing their second consecutive victory in the competition. Maikano Serenaders from Gaborone were hot on their heels in second place with 159 points.

Gaborone Philharmonic Voices, representing the capital city, managed to secure a commendable third position with 155 points, while the talented KTM Choir came in a close fourth with 154 points.

Remarking on the competitions, Deputy Permanent Secretary Library, Archives, Arts and Culture Tebogo Matebesi expounded on the deeper significance of the National Arts Competitions, highlighting its role in uniting the country.

"The festival is not merely a competition but a celebration of the power of music to transcend barriers and unite us as one community and one nation. It is a testament to the joy and connections that music can foster," he proclaimed.

The National Arts Competitions award ceremony will be held in Gaborone on July 15. **BOPA**



Molefe



Marobela



Molefe



Nawa



Saleshando



Seetso



Tsiang

Tennis team readies for Davis Cup

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - The Botswana national tennis men's team has reported for camp to prepare for the upcoming Tennis World Cup (Davis Cup) Africa Group V event that will be held in Gaborone from July 17 to 20.

The team is made up of US-based Tsholofelo Tsiang, Denzel Seetso, Batsomi Marobela and locally-based players, Mark Nawa, Esi Molefe and Seabo Saleshando.

Team captain, Petrus Molefe said in an interview that preparations were going well and he was happy with the support they got from the Botswana Tennis Association (BTA). He said the players' performance at the recent Botswana Open Tennis Championship proved that they were ready for the Davis Cup.

Having played in the Davis Cup before, Molefe said he knew what was expected; hence he would impart some of the tips on his players.

"In the Davis Cup tie, a match against one country is made up of three matches and we have to balance our best singles and our best doubles," he said.

Molefe said in the tie they would play two singles and one double match, adding that the camp would assist him come up with a good mix as to which players would play doubles. He said the camp would also help to judge as to who was more consistent in singles, adding that they were also preparing for any country they would play against. Botswana is in Group V with the following countries; Ethiopia, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Congo, Gabon, Seychelles, Mauritania, Lesotho, Djibouti, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and Libya.

The countries will be competing for two slots for promotion to Africa Group IV. **BOPA**

Botswana in tricky group

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 qualifiers draw conducted in Johannesburg, South Africa on Thursday, has placed Botswana in a tricky Group C. However, coach Didier Da Rosa welcomed the draw, which placed Botswana with Egypt, Cape Verde and Mauritania. He said Egypt was one of the best teams in Africa, with one of the best players in the world, Mohamed Salah.

He said Egypt was very good in offensive compartment and were the group favourite, adding that the football was unpredictable and that the Zebras would have to put their best foot forward. He said Cape Verde was equally a good side, with dynamic players, with a lot of technical skills, adding that he managed to watch them at the last AFCON where they displayed quality football. Da Rosa said Mauritania played the last three AFCON, adding that they were very consistent and some of their players ply their trade in Europe.

"The draw is tough but we have to be very ambitious and reach our target and to be honest I trust my players," he said. Botswana Television, sport presenter, Tumo Mpatane said the Zebras were in a difficult group, adding that Egypt was always at every AFCON.

"They have won AFCON seven times, and that is the highest wins by any nation and there is no doubt that they want number eight," he said.

Egypt, he said had a strong team, which would qualify at any given time, hence it would not be easy for the Zebras. He said it was important that Botswana Football Association (BFA) planned well for the qualifiers.

"The BFA and the league needs to put necessary logistics in place so that the national team assignment and the league games are seamless," he said. He further said BFA must plan for the Mauritania game saying reaching the country was problematic as there were no direct flights to the country.

"Which means it is going to be two days of travel, and it is going to be exhausting on the players, so BFA now need to start planning as early as possible to at least charter a flight," he said.

Also, that there was only one stadium with artificial grass and accomodation challenges, he said that might give the Zebras a tough time. **BOPA**

New rugby coach to lead team in qualifiers

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - The newly appointed Men's 15s national team coach, Andrew Paxinos is set to lead the squad in the regional qualifiers for the African Championship penciled for November.

Paxinos ascends to the helm to lead the Men's 15s team on a two-year contract effective June until June 2026, taking over from Sean Irish, who was appointed temporarily during and post the COVID-19 era.

In an interview, Botswana Rugby Union (BRU) vice president-technical, Elijah Kokoro said competing in the regional qualifying games would enhance the team's rankings in the rugby Africa calendar.

Kokoro said Paxinos' appointment was a positive move by the rugby union owing to his experience and contribution in the development of the sport in Botswana.

"We are extremely excited with Paxinos' appointment and his credentials speak for themselves and we know his contributions are only going to improve our rugby across the board.

His appointment is yet another step in the right direction as we endeavour to take this brand into a new era. We wish him well in his new role," he said.

He added that Paxinos' knowledge and understanding of the local rugby scene was a boost in advancing the national team's fortunes. "Apart from leading the team in the fight for a qualification spot in the African championships, which will obviously improve our rankings, we are hopeful that Paxinos will assist in nurturing talent given his wealth of knowledge with grassroot development," Kokoro said.

He indicated that the Men's 15s team had remained inactive since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The national Men's 15s team has been inactive since the COVID-19 due to its low raking status compared to the 7's team, having played only one friendly game against eSwatini, thus the head coach position has since been vacant," he said.

Kokoro further said the rugby union was enthusiastic about resuscitating youth development structures which would be a feeder the national team and therefore Paxinos was the right candidate for such a project owing to his previous engagements with development teams.

"The absence of school sports has left a huge gap in our development structures and the union has tasked the new coach to work with local teams and coaches in the development of grassroots talent," he added.

Meanwhile, Paxinos holds a diploma in sports management, world rugby level three coaching certificate as well as a strength and conditioning certificate. **BOPA**

Luza hails UB boxing tournament

Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - The organising chairperson of the Univeristy of Botswana Boxing Open Tournament has hailed it as the right medicine to help local boxing improve. UB held a three-day open tournament, over the weekend, a first in the country. Lechedzani ‘Master’ Luza said in an interview that the objective of the tournament was to get boxing to be one of the best sporting codes in the country, a status which he said they used to command. “This was a very successful tournament, considering the fact that it was the first of its kind. The attendance was very impressive as we had 17 clubs and a total of 80 boxers participating,” he said. Luza said the good thing about the tournament was that it gave boxers the exposure of fighting continuously over three days, which he said was always the norm during international competitions.

“At such competitions, you have to go through about five or so bouts to win a medal, so this tournament was a step in the right direction as boxers went through three fights each for a podium finish,” he said. Luza said the open tournament was even better than national championships because the latter gave boxers a chance to rest as they were played over successive weekends, therefore lacked the intensity of an international competition. Luza therefore said it was their hope that other clubs would also emulate the UB Boxing Club and organise similar open tournaments. He also indicated that the Botswana Boxing Association (BoBA) had also adopted the arrangement that competitions should not be played anything less than two days. His sentiments were echoed by some of the boxers. The winner in the bantam weight category, George Molwantwa, said his international exposure helped him win his fight and appreciated the UB Boxing

Club for the tournament. “During international competitions there is hardly any rest, so to get tournaments that are in the same mould as often as possible will ensure that when we get to those international tournaments, we are used to the intensity,” he said. Molwantwa also said if local boxers could get such tournament about three or five times a year, then it would work well in boosting the performance of local boxers internationally. He said such open tournaments would also help fill in the gap where the association could not send boxers to international training camps. Molwantwa also said fighting over three days reflected on preparations as one was forced to train more intensely. “During interclubs you only get one bout, and that would mean a week of training is sufficient, but a tournament like this one where you get many bouts, forces you to prepare for about three weeks to a month. Now imagine if you get such open tournaments often, it means you keep fit

throughout the year,” he said. Kago Raokgwatlhile, who slightly lost to Molwantwa, similarly indicated that despite his loss, he was happy for the exposure. “Without taking anything from interclub tournaments, this open tournament was more competitive and challenging because it pushed us harder. Internationally, you can even get two fights in a day, so this is the experience we need,” he said. Coach of the tournament, Bond Ngubula, who is better known for organising professional fights, said the open tournament was a good way of nurturing boxers for professional boxing. Ngubula also admitted that there was a challenge of getting more women boxers, which he urged clubs to work on. Apart from individual medals, 1-2-5 Boxing Club emerged the best club, followed by Francistown Boxing Club while the hosts, UB Boxing Club settled for position three. Prisons Boxing Club wrapped the honours at position four. **BOPA**



Francistown Boxing Club’s Keobabe Phillip (left) battling it out with Otsile Sewela of Sir Seretse Khama Barracks Boxing Club during UB Boxing Open Tournament in Gaborone on Sunday. Phillip won through Referee Stops Contest decision. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse