

BOTSWANA

Daily News

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Drug shortage eases



Acting President, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana (right) being taken on a tour of Extension II and Bontleng Clinics in Gaborone yesterday by Senior Pharmacist, Ms Makhotso Bakere (left) to appreciate the status of medicine supplies. Ms Bakere informed Mr Ramaotwana, who is also Minister of Justice and Correctional Services and Gaborone South MP, that while clinics were still experiencing sporadic shortages of certain pharmaceutical supplies, the overall supplies had improved. Mr Ramaotwana said the tour followed a recent Cabinet decision for Members of Parliament and Ministers to visit various health facilities nationwide to assess firsthand whether the availability of medication was improving. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu

Sefhophe by-election set for October 17

GABORONE

Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, has issued an election instrument setting the by-election for Sefhophe Polling District in Mmadinare Constituency on October 17.

The election instrument was issued on Tuesday in accordance with Section 154(2) of the Electoral Act (Cap. 02:09).

According to the media release, the returning officer for the polling district will receive nominations of candidates at Sefhophe Junior Secondary School in Sefhophe on September 23 from 9am to 1pm and from 2:30pm to 5pm.

The Sefhophe ward council seat is currently vacant following the death of Umbrella for Democratic Change councillor Christopher Motsholapheko in July. **BOPA**



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Youth crucial contributors to development

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs has called on stakeholders and development partners to place young people at the centre of conversations on peace, governance, economic development and regional cooperation.

This, according to Ms Lesego Chombo would reflect the reality that young leaders were crucial contributors to development of societies. “A young population can be a powerful driver of economic growth, innovation, entrepreneurship and social transformation when they have access to knowledge, skills, opportunities and institutions necessary to realise their potential.”

Ms Chombo was officiating at the Southern Africa Youth Peace and Economic Development Summit (SAYPED) in Gaborone on Saturday.

The Summit was organised by the Botswana chapter of the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYAN).

Minister Chombo further cited that Southern Africa continued to confront challenges relating to youth unemployment, under-employment, skills mismatches, limited access to finance and markets and inequality.

To address these challenges, she highlighted that Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs had been intentional in strengthening and rethinking some key interventions such as reviewing of the Botswana National Service Programme with a deliberate emphasis on tackling mismatch between the skills young people acquired and those demanded by the labour market, translating into meaningful economic pathways.

Delivering the keynote address, Minister for International Relations Dr Phenyio Butale, emphasised how international relations and diplomatic frameworks should directly serve and protect the youth.

He highlighted that sustainable regional development required opening doors for young entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders through cross-border cooperation, citing how framed youth involvement was essential for long term peace building and economic stability.

“Prosperity only becomes achieved when citizens have access to education, skills, employment, investment and meaningful economic participation,” he said.

Minister Butale further called for policy makers to go beyond just rhetoric, but build pathways that were firmly aligned with the broader continental and international development agenda.

He stated further that the African Union’s Agenda 2063

placed an empowered and engaged population at the centre of the continent’s transformation while at a regional level, SADC recognised youth development as important components of regional development and integration.

He encouraged young people to be prepared to participate within national and regional economies, ultimately building networks for global markets.

The SAYED Summit, held under the theme: Peace, Policy and Prosperity; Empowering Youth for a Secure and Inclusive Southern Africa, was hosted by the Botswana Representative, Mr Letsweletse Ngwako, who lobbied development partners to support economic transformation by bridging the gap between entrepreneurial potential and real financial prosperity to create youth led employment, sustainable green economies and cross border trade. **BOPA**



Minister for International Relations Dr Phenyio Butale (left), Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs Ms Lesego Chombo (second left), Southern Africa Youth Peace And Economic Development Summit (SAYPEDS) Ambassador Mr Letsweletse Ngwako (second right) and Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs Permanent Secretary Ms Natasha Rampa during SAYPEDS in Gaborone on Friday. Dr Butale urged youth to use the summit to strengthen cooperation, deepen dialogue and identify practical pathways through which young people could contribute to a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous Southern Africa. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu

Men account for 71 per cent of road crash deaths

MOLEPOLOLE

Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Kgosietsile Ngakaagae has expressed concern over the disproportionate number of men dying in road traffic accidents, saying statistics had shown that men accounted for more than seven out of every 10 road crash fatalities in Botswana.

Addressing participants at the Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund Men’s Road Safety Pitso at Ntsweng Heritage Site in Molepolole recently, Mr Ngakaagae said between 2021 and 2025, Botswana recorded 1 887 road traffic deaths, of which 1 349 were men, representing 71 per cent of all fatalities, while women accounted for 538 deaths or 29 per cent.

He said the statistics pointed to a worrying trend that required

urgent intervention.

“Road fatalities do not merely add to road accidents statistics, but a concerning loss to the nation as the victims represented fathers, husbands, sons, brothers, friends and breadwinners whose deaths left lasting emotional and economic consequences on families and communities,” he said.

He said findings from the MVA Fund’s 2024 Road User Risk Awareness Survey, indicated that 25.6 per cent of male drivers admitted driving after consuming alcohol compared to 17.7 per cent of female drivers, while 61 per cent of male drivers exceeded speed limits against 49.4 per cent of women.

He also noted that only 57.7 per cent of men observed during the 2026 Road User Behaviour Observational Study wore seatbelts compared to 78.5 per cent of women.

Mr Ngakaagae urged men to redefine masculinity by rejecting risky road behaviour, saying true courage was demonstrated through responsible choices such as refusing to drink and drive, wearing seatbelts, observing speed limits and protecting the lives of passengers.

He further highlighted the economic impact of road crashes, revealing that the MVA Fund spent about P300 million annually on claims related to road traffic injuries, excluding costs borne by government hospitals, emergency services, police investigations, insurance, vehicle repairs and lost productivity.

Mr Ngakaagae called on men to become role models in their homes and communities by promoting safe driving habits and holding one another accountable for irresponsible behaviour on the roads.

He further urged men to introspect, stop the needless deaths, reminding them that their lives were valuable to their loved ones.

He emphasised that fatigue, over speeding and drunken driving were the main contributors to road accidents and fatalities amongst others.

He said the Men’s Road Safety Pitso should serve as a turning point in changing attitudes and reducing preventable road deaths.

However, Mr Ngakaagae called for tougher actions against road traffic offenders, including targeting crime enablers or vehicles used in facilitating reckless driving.

He was of the notion that traffic laws be revisited, stating that impounding of motor vehicle should be considered rather than charging traffic offenders.

Kgosi Kgari Sechele III of Bakwena said most reckless drivers were mostly youngsters hence, he encouraged older and experienced men to mentor young drivers.

Moreover, during the Pitso there was also a panel of discussions where panelists centred on raising boys into responsible men.

One of the panelists, Kgosi Kgosikwena Sebele said the current generation had lost the culture as they no longer had interest in attending kgotla forums, where boys interacted with old men to learn responsible behaviour.

“They get law from beer halls. Every time when they are free they go to bars. During our times as young boys we find rejoice sitting around the fire at the kgotla getting life skills from old men.

“They taught us how to be great men both as family leaders as well as within the community,” said Kgosi Kgosikwena.

The acting General Manager of Corporate Services at MVA Fund, Mr Tshepiso Mmoloke said they faced challenges posed by road accidents. **BOPA**



Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Kgosietsile Ngakaagae said statistics pointed to a worrying trend that men accounted for more than seven out of every 10 road crash fatalities in Botswana.

Govt moves to develop National Data Policy

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Botswana is moving to develop its first comprehensive National Data Policy as government seeks to position data as a strategic asset for innovation, economic growth and inclusive development.

Assistant Minister of Communications and Innovation Mr Shawn Nthale said the policy would build on the country's Open Data Policy, while providing a broader framework for how data was managed, protected and leveraged for the benefit of citizens.

Mr Nthale was speaking at the opening of a data governance capacity building workshop in Gaborone on Monday, where Botswana was receiving technical assistance from the African Union Commission and the German Development Agency to support the development of a national data strategy.

He said data had become central to digital transformation and economic development.

"We all know that data governance is the pinnacle of digital transformation and has a direct impact on economic growth in the world today," he said.

He said the initiative would also contribute to a secure and trusted data ecosystem and facilitate regional cooperation through trusted cross-border data flows.

"By strengthening our capacity

in data governance, we are laying the foundation for a national data strategy that will guide how we manage, protect and leverage data for the benefit of all the citizens," he said.

Giving an update on the policy development process, Open Data Policy Committee representative, Dr Audrey Masizana said Botswana's efforts to improve data management had been ongoing for several years.

She said earlier assessments and initiatives had identified gaps in data management, policy, infrastructure and capacity, leading to the development of the Open Data Policy.

Dr Masizana said the initial policy focused on making data both legally and technically open, but the emergence of the African Union Data Policy Framework in 2023 necessitated a review.

A workshop held in July subsequently considered the transition from the open data policy to a broader national data policy.

"The Open Data Policy really was looking at opening as a principle, whilst in fact it was a national policy. So we had to revise that," she said.

The revised policy will cover the entire data life cycle, from creation and collection to processing, use, preservation and archiving.

It will also address technological, ethical and security considerations, review the national data governance

structure and clarify institutional responsibilities.

Dr Masizana said Botswana would align the policy with continental priorities under the AU framework and recognise data as an asset in the emerging data economy, while taking emerging technologies into account.

She stressed that the process

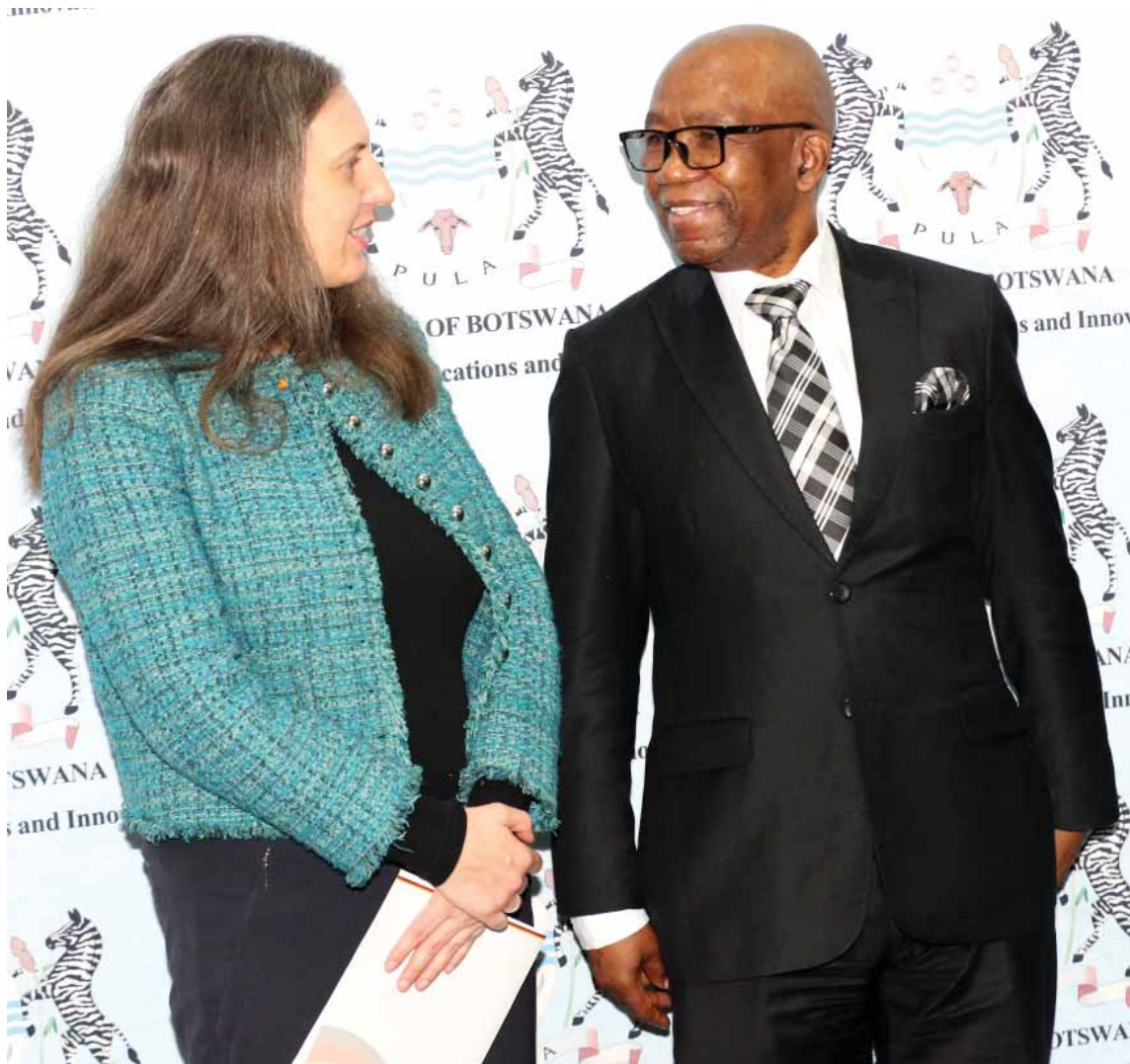
was aimed at consolidating and strengthening existing initiatives rather than replacing them.

"We are not saying in any way that Botswana has not been doing these things, but it is now about revising and revitalising a policy that recognises that Botswana has been doing all these things in various ways in terms of

infrastructure and regulatory frameworks," she said.

Dr Masizana said the draft policy was in progress and would undergo stakeholder validation and further consultations before completion.

She said the committee was hopeful that the draft would be submitted to the minister by November. **BOPA**



Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Communications and Innovation, Mr Shawn Nthale (left) and Head of Economic and Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Botswana, Ms Simone Gertz during the official opening of data governance capacity and stakeholder consultation on the development of the national data strategy in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Nthale said data governance was the pinnacle of digital transformation and had a direct impact on the economy and the world today. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Independence celebrations time for reflection

GABORONE

As Botswana approaches 60 years of independence, Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Ms Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti has urged Batswana to reflect on the country's milestones and appreciate the peace and stability they continue to enjoy.

Speaking at the launch of the National Month of Prayer in Gaborone, Ms Mophuting-Dikoloti said the 60th anniversary provided an opportunity for the nation to reflect on achievements made over the years while considering the country's prospects for future generations.

"We also give thanks as we celebrate Botswana's Golden

Jubilee, 60 years of independence, and pray for God's continued guidance and protection over our nation. We pray for wisdom and good judgment for those entrusted with the leadership of our country and the management of our economy," she said.

She emphasised that leadership required humility, noting that government had been entrusted with the responsibility of serving the people.

"We need God's guidance and we need the prayers of our people. So today, I stand with you not only as your Member of Parliament, but as one of you asking God to guide us, strengthen us and give us the wisdom to serve our people well," she said.

Ms Mophuting-Dikoloti also stressed the importance of recognising individual responsibilities and appreciating the contributions of others in building communities.

With the National Month of Prayer underway, she said Batswana should bring before God issues affecting citizens and the country, including the economy, leadership, non-communicable diseases, drug abuse, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, gender-based violence, the welfare of young people and the need for rain.

Government has designated September as the official National Month of Prayer, dedicated to community reflection, unity and seeking spiritual guidance.

This year's prayer sessions are held under the theme: Let There Be Life," focusing on purpose, dignity and health awareness. **BOPA**

Council records zero maternal deaths despite nurse shortage

Lindi Morwaeng
MOGODITSHANE

Mogoditshane-Thamaga District has recorded zero maternal deaths and surpassed national targets for HIV and tuberculosis suppression during the second quarter of the 2026/2027 financial year, despite staff shortages that leave 24-hour health facilities operating with as few as one nurse per shift.

This was revealed by Mogoditshane-Thamaga District Council chairperson, Mr Molatedi Selala, during a full council meeting on Monday.

"Staffing remains another concern, with 24-hour facilities frequently operating with only one or two nurses per shift," Mr Selala said, underscoring that the deficit posed a risk to patients, particularly during emergency referrals.

Mr Selala said together with the drop in maternal mortality, the district saw an increase in institutional deliveries and a decline in babies born before arrival at facilities.

He added that tuberculosis and

HIV performance remained robust due to complete linkage to care and full co-infection coverage.

However, he said critical gaps remained across child health services, with routine child immunisation having fallen significantly below target, while child nutrition and cancer screening rates continued to deteriorate due to declining ration availability.

He indicated that local health infrastructure was undergoing targeted upgrades to alleviate such operational pressures.

He said the minor theatre at Nkoyaphiri was scheduled to resume operations this month, while Lesirane laboratory was preparing to reopen.

Again, he said modernisation of district X-ray systems was also underway and plans for the LEEP clinic were progressing through partnerships with UNICEF, BUMMHI and the Botswana Public Service College.

On one hand, he said the district was scaling up its broader social safety nets to protect vulnerable households, adding a total of 547

beneficiaries had enrolled under the Child Support Grant, supported by newly established Village Child Protection Committees.

He further said compliance among local daycare centres also rose by 10 per cent, adding however that illegal facilities would face enforcement action.

"Bana letlotlo la rona," Mr Selala said, underscoring the importance of protecting children as the country continues to strengthen social protection measures.

He added that the council remained committed to empowerment initiatives, including local housing projects and graduations supported by donor contributions.

Meanwhile, Mr Selala told the meeting that preparations for the 60th Independence celebrations were underway across the district despite budget constraints and delayed responses from artists.

He said the regional programme would feature a market day, combined church service, primary school polka competitions and a cultural festival with an integrated football tournament. **BOPA**

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Untapped resources opportunity for aquaculture growth

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Botswana possess a diverse base of locally available feed resources that remain significantly underutilised.

Developing such into commercial feed formulation presents quite an economic opportunity.

Okavango Research Institute’s Dr Keotshephile Kashe, made the remarks during a panel discussion highlighting that feed costs for aquaculture remained the single biggest challenge to profitability but reducing import dependence through local formula could significantly improve farmers’ margins. He mentioned resources such as sorghum, sunflower cake, moringa leaves, lucerne meal, maize bran among others which could be successfully used as local, cost-effective ingredients to formulate fish feed in aquaculture.

Feed, accounts for 60 to 70 per cent of total costs, making it the dominant expense line for fish farmers while imported feeds are expensive and exposed to exchange rate fluctuations, eroding already the thin margins.

“Supply chain disruption delays and shortage can directly halt production. Fishmeal, a key protein source in conventional feeds is becoming increasingly expensive globally and reducing import dependence is essential for strengthening value-chain resilience and stabilising margins,” said Dr Kashe. He also called for proper infrastructure, technical skills and market since those were the foundational pillars of sustainable aquaculture.

Proper infrastructure, capacitation and market are key in ensuring long term environmental viability, economic profitability and social responsibility.

Dr Kashe explained that fish farming must be repositioned not as a water consumer but as a water recycling agricultural enterprise.

In Botswana, water efficiency is not optional, it is essential for sustainable aquaculture growth and Dr Kashe talked about recirculating aquaculture systems, pond water reuse for irrigation and integrated aquaculture as efficient systems that could reduce operational costs and environmental impact.

A member of Botswana Fish Farmers Association in Maun, Apostle Crossland Shama, concurred that lack of technical knowledge and poor market access were the most critical barriers preventing the growth of sustainable aquaculture sector. The industry, he said failed because farmers start production without studying the market.

He explained that the market was broad, and stated that smoked fish was in demand in the Democratic Republic of Congo while in other countries cat fish was highly sought after for its skin which was used to produce pharmaceutical products.

Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency, Maun branch manager, Mr Godfrey Phale, said that the agency could invest in any business by taking

ownership or equity position as well as joint venture where there was a partnership between a citizen

and non-citizens. The agency has identified special sectors for funding such as agriculture, manufacturing,

mining, tourism, creative industry and construction among others. **BOPA**



Okavango Research Institute lecturer, Dr Keotshephile Kashe said manufacturing of fish pellets for aquaculture was an unexplored avenue which presented an economic opportunity.

Council enhances local economy through investments

Phodiso Rankwe
TLOKWENG

Tlokweng District Council has demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to local economic development, fiscal discipline and community empowerment as the nation prepares to commemorate 60 years of Independence.

The district continues to build resilience and drive local prosperity through strategic investments, infrastructure upgrades and local enterprise support, council chairperson, Ms Ontiretse Bogatsu, stated during a full council session on Monday.

Highlighting the council’s strong financial management, Ms Bogatsu said the accounts reflected a surplus of over P14 million largely attributable to the suspension of procurement activities during the year as a result of cash-flow constraints.

She reported that own-source revenue collection for the 2025/2026 financial year reached over P5 million representing a 99 per cent achievement against the approved budget target.

Ms Bogatsu noted that the historical performance was a result of revenue enhancement strategies implemented during the period.

In a move to empower local businesses the council’s school Feeding Programme has directly benefited local entrepreneurs and Ms Bogatsu explained that since April, the council had engaged

44 local poultry farmers, five horticultural farmers, two bakeries and a local general dealer to supply primary schools with produce.

“Beyond providing meals to our learners, the programme continues to contribute meaningfully to Local Economic Development by creating opportunities for local businesses and farmers” she said.

On infrastructure development, Ms Bogatsu said progress was being registered across various, key projects.

She highlighted that road improvement works were progressing at various locations including Mmaseroka, Matlala, Peolwane, Letlapeng and Maratadiba.



Tlokweng District Council chairperson
Ms Ontiretse Bogatsu

“The 25-kilometre internal road project successfully completed its defects liability period on July 31, with an official opening set for September 18. Additionally, the council is finalising the evaluation for the management contract of the Tlokweng Recreational Park, expected to be awarded by the end of September,” Ms Bogatsu added.

She said to further boost business growth and investment, the council had completed the draft Tlokweng Local Economic Development Strategy 2026–2030, targeting key priority sectors such as agro-processing, green energy, real estate, manufacturing, and transport.

Ms Bogatsu said that a Business Pitso to officially launch the LED Strategy was slated for November 27 this year.

Updating on the establishment of the council-owned company, she said key steps towards its operationalisation were progressing well and that the caretaker CEO had been appointed.

“The process of appointing the board is also advancing, following the closure of applications on August 18, with the submissions currently at the assessment stage. Furthermore, the two councilors who will represent council on the board will be appointed during this Full Council session,” she added.

The move marks progress towards establishing a strong institutional structure to drive the council’s commercial and investment interests. **BOPA**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Uganda appoints Vitol to market crude oil ahead of planned exports

KAMPALA - Uganda has appointed global energy and commodities trader Vitol to market the country’s crude oil allocation ahead of planned exports early next year, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) said Monday. According to a statement issued by UNOC, Vitol will market the crude oil allocation belonging to the Uganda government and UNOC as the East African country enters the final commercial phase of its petroleum development. The appointment marks a major step toward Uganda’s entry into the international crude oil market, with Vitol expected to draw on its global trading, marketing and logistics expertise to connect Uganda’s crude with international buyers. President Yoweri Museveni officially named Uganda’s crude oil “Pearl Sweet” on September. **Xinhua**

Expert urges Africa to forge global partnerships

NAIROBI - Africa must strengthen strategic cooperation, especially with countries like China, to unlock investment in infrastructure, digital technology and access to new markets, analysts have noted. Onyango K’Onyango, a Kenyan expert on China-Africa relations, stressed that the continent urgently requires large-scale investment across transport networks, power systems, digital technology, manufacturing, and human capital. “These needs cannot be met through domestic resources alone. Africa, therefore, needs international partnerships that provide capital, technology, markets and expertise while supporting its own development priorities,” he observed. K’Onyango argued that China’s pragmatic approach drives meaningful economic cooperation in Africa. **Xinhua**

UNEP invests in climate action for economic prosperity

NAIROBI - Investments in climate action and air pollution control are key to driving economic prosperity and improving ecosystem and human health, according to a report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the Nairobi, Kenya on Monday. Compiled by UNEP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the report is the first comprehensive global economic assessment of integrated climate and clean-air action. The study demonstrates a significant return on investment, showing that every US\$1 allocated toward climate and air pollution solutions generates approximately US\$15 in economic returns, alongside substantial reductions in pollution-linked mortality and medical expenses. UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen underscored that carbon neutrality and air quality were foundational to global development, public health, energy and food security, and environmental stability. **Xinhua**

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Seretse o akgola Mothibi Foundation

Grace Sebape
LOBATSE

Kgosi Serogola Seretse wa kgotla ya Motswedi kwa Lobatse o akgotse ba Mothibi Foundation a re ba na le tebelopele ebile ba kgathala ka botsogo jwa Batswana.

Kgosi Serogola o buile jalo bosheng fa go simolodisiwa Mothibi Foundation, a bolela gore e tlaa thusa banni ba kgaolo ya Newlook/Maipei, kgatlhanong le dikgwetlho tsa go inaakanya le ditagi ga banana.

O tswelletse a re Mothibi Foundation e na le tebelopele ya motia ee thusang go ribolola talente mo bananeng ka go tshameka kgwele ya dinaoke ke basimane le basetsana go ba rotloetsa go ikgapa mo tirisong ya nnotagi.

Rre Emmanuel Motsemme o boletse fa maikaelelo a Mothibi Foundation e le go lwantsha tirisano nnotagi ee tlhokisang batho boikarabelo, atlatsa ka gore mathata ao a teng mo malwapeng, mo motseng le kwa dikolong.

A re go dira mmogo ga batsadi, maphata a puso le makalana a a ikemetseng go ka tlisa maduo.

A re go rekisa ditagi le majalwa a a sa letlelelweng go senya matshelo a bareki, barekisi le a batho ba Lobatse ka kakaretso.

O ne a re tshimologo ya malwapa ga ya nna sentle, batsadi ga ba na



boikarabelo ka bana ba bone, bana le bone ga bana boikarabelo ka matshelo a bone.

Rre Motsemme o kopile mongwe le mongwe go tsaa boikarabelo ka botshelo jwa gagwe, a ikemele ka dinao a ilhatlhobe,.

Mothusa ratoropo ya Lobatse ebile e le mokhanselara wa Newlook/Maipei Rre Legodile Mothibi o kiale fa Mothibi Foundation e tshametswe go itebaganya le dikgwetlho mo kgaolong ya Newlook/Maipei.

O tswelletse ka gore tirisano ya diritibatsi mo bananeng e kwa godimo thata ka jalo tiro ya go lwantsha diritibatsi le ditagi e tshwanetse ya kopanelwa.

Rre Mothibi a re bojalwa jwa ginger bo nowa thata mo kgaolong mme bo koafatsa boleng jwa matshelo a batho, atlatsa ka gore ba tla a tswa letsholo go tsena ntlo le ntlwana, go bua le barekisi ba majalwa kana beng ba dipoto, mme ga ba ka tswela morago ga go buiwa le bone ba tla a tselwa dikgato.

Ratoropo wa Lobatse Rre Aron Ganakgomo o boletse gore tshimolodiso ya Mothibi Foundation ga se tshimolodiso kgatlhanong le majalwa le ditagi tse di feditseng matshelo a batho fela , mme maikaelelo ke go nonotsha le go aga malwapa, a supa fa se



Kgosi Serogola Seretse wa kgotla ya Motswedi kwa Lobatse o akgotse ba Mothibi Foundation a re ba na le tebelopele e bile ba kgathala ka botsogo jwa Batswana.

ele tshimologo ya go tlisa kagiso, go aga setshaba se se sireletsegileng, se itekanetse mo mmeleng le mo tlhologanyong, a tlatsa ka gore ga gona yo o ka itekanelang gona le motho yo dirisang ditagi mo lwapeng.

O ne are Mothibi Foundation ga e ka ke ya kgonwa ntwale le nosi, a re ntwale ke ya botlhe. **BOPA**

Thapelo ke maatla

Cathrine Simane
TSABONG

Modulasetilo wa lekgotla la baruti mo Kgaolong ya Tsabong moruti Ruben Mosimenyane o gwetlhile diphuthago tsa dikereke ka go farologana go tshwaragana ka thapelo ka e le yone makgona tsoatlhe go ka fetola diemo, bogolo jang fa ba na le tshepo le tumelo mo go Ramasedi.

O buile jalo kwa tshimolodisong ya kgwedi ya merapelo ya Lwetse e e neng e tshwaretse kwa kgotleng ya Tsabong.

O boletse fa tshimolodiso e, e bulela merapelo e e tlaa tshwarwang mo diofising tsa puso le mo metseng ka go farologana mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi borwa le dikgaolo lefatsheng ka bophara, morago ga gore puso e seegele kwa thoko kgwedi eno e le ya merapelo.

Mo potsolosong o boletse fa diphuthago tsa dikereke ka go farologana di tlaa bua ka lentswe le le lengwe go kopa Ramasedi go fedisa diemo tsoatlhe tse di leng teng e bile di kgoleleletsa matshelo a batho, a tlatsa ka gore Modimo ke ene botshabelo.

Fa a bua maikaelelo a letsatsi leo Moruti Mosimenyane o ne a tshala fa e le go

buisana le setshaba ka bolwetsi jwa AIDS le mogare wa HIV le ditlamorago tsa jone.

O boletse fa morago go ne ga lemogwa fa go le bothokwa go akaretse malwetsi a a sa tshelanweng, dikotsi tsa tsela, tirisano botlaswa ya diritibatsi, kgokgontsho, go rapelela Pula ka e le yone botshelo, kagiso le matshwenyego a mangwe a a sa jeseng diwelang mo lefatsheng leno.

Moruti Mosimenyane o ne a tshala fa maikaelelo a mangwe e le go bopaganya dikereke ka thapelo ka e le maatla e bile di tsena tsoatlhe mo seatleng sa Morena.

Fa a tswa la gagwe Moruti Kabelo Mantaga wa UCCSA o ne a supa fa setlhogo sa ngwaga ono e le “A go nne le botshelo, John 10 verse 10,” a tshala fa gape pulo semmuso eo e ne e bulela baruti go tsena mo dikgorong tsa diofisi mo maphateng a a farologanyeng go rapelela tsoatlhe tse di tshwenyang mme a kopa boeteledipele jwa maphata go amogela ka tsoopedi barongwa bao.

O ne a gwetlha baruti go tswela ba kgothatsa diphuthago kwa dikerekeng ka masula otlhe a a sa ba robatseng le gone go ba sidila maikutlo ka le bone e le diphuthago, bangwe ba bone ba iphitlhela ba amega mo masuleng ao. **BOPA**

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Position: Director of Information Technology

About Us:
We are a leading FMCG company committed to delivering top-quality products to our customers while embracing technological advancements to enhance our operations. With a focus on innovation and efficiency, we strive to stay ahead in a competitive market.

Responsibilities:
As the Director of Information Technology, you will play a critical role in shaping our technology landscape. Your responsibilities will include:

- Leading and mentoring a team of internal software developers to deliver high-quality solutions that meet business needs and objectives.
- Overseeing the management and optimization of our email server, VPN, and Data Warehouse infrastructure to ensure seamless communication and data accessibility across the organization.
- Managing the operation and maintenance of SQL databases, websites, and mobile applications to provide an exceptional user experience for our customers and employees.
- Taking charge of hardware maintenance to ensure the reliability and performance of our technology assets.
- Implementing robust cybersecurity measures to safeguard our network infrastructure and sensitive data from potential threats.
- Continuously evaluating and integrating new technologies to enhance efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness.
- Collaborating with cross-functional teams to identify technology needs, develop strategic plans, and execute projects that drive business growth.
- Providing leadership and guidance on IT governance, policies, and compliance standards.

Qualifications:
To excel in this role, you should possess the following qualifications:

- Degree / Higher National Diploma in Information Technology, Computer Science, or a related field. Advanced degree preferred.
- Proven experience minimum of 10 years in a senior IT leadership role, preferably within the FMCG or related industry.
- Strong technical expertise in windows servers, email server management, VPN setup, Data Warehouse maintenance, SQL databases, website development, mobile app development, and hardware maintenance. Knowledge in Arch point of sale, Sage Pastel, VIP payroll will be an added advantage
- Extensive knowledge of cybersecurity principles and best practices, with a track record of implementing effective security measures.
- Strategic mindset with the ability to align technology initiatives with business goals and drive innovation.
- Excellent leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills, with the ability to influence and inspire teams.
- Proven track record of managing budgets, resources, and projects effectively.

Continuous learner with a passion for staying updated on emerging technologies and trends.

How to Apply:
If you are ready to take on this exciting opportunity and lead our Information Technology team to new heights, please email your resume and cover letter to contactus@fours.co.bw within 7 days.

Please include **“Director of Information Technology Application”** in the subject line.

‘Selaolo showed no visible injuries’

Bonang Masolotatse
GABORONE

Gaofengwe Selaolo, a 42-year-old woman accused of murdering her boyfriend’s son and burying him in a shallow grave on a hilltop in Mmankgodi, closed her defense on Friday by calling a police officer and a prison officer as witnesses.

Selaolo maintained throughout the trial that she was assaulted by the police to force her to admit to the crime and to lead a search team to the hill in Mmankgodi, where she allegedly buried the child.

To address the alleged assault, the defense called prison officer Kefilwe Ditlhong, who told the court that she first encountered the accused at Gaborone Women’s Prison on 15 March 2016.

Officer Ditlhong noted, however, that she did not recall escorting the accused on 17 April 2016, adding that prisoners were typically escorted when going for medical attention.

“Ms Ditlhong, do you confirm that on 17 April 2016 you did not have any interaction with the accused person?” prosecutor Motseoeme Taunyane asked, to which she responded in the affirmative.

The defense also called Inspector Onkemetse Modukanele of the Botswana Police Service.

She told the court that the accused showed no visible injuries on 21 April 2016, which was the same day Selaolo complained of torture.

Inspector Modukanele

relayed that she initially prosecuted the abduction case against the accused in 2016 before the matter was upgraded to murder.

“The magistrate ordered that the accused be taken for medical attention and to the police to report the alleged assault,” she said, adding that both instructions were carried out immediately.

According to Inspector Modukanele, Selaolo was referred to a psychiatric clinic directly after the medical examination.

“I did not see any physical injuries,” she told the court in response to questions from, defense attorney Lenah Jele.

The inspector added that she did

not follow up on the assault case registered at Gaborone Central Police Station, as it fell outside her duties as a prosecutor. The State, represented by Mr Motseoeme Taunyane has closed its case and the defense has now called its two witnesses.

Selaolo is charged with the murder of her boyfriend’s 11-year-old son, Clifford Mochochi in 2016.

The State alleges she buried him in a shallow grave on a hill in Mmankgodi after her relationship with the boy’s father soured.

Selaolo has pleaded not guilty. The matter will return to court on December 10 for oral submissions.

BOPA

Chairperson calls for stakeholders collaboration

Kefilwe Selotlegeng
MAHALAPYE

Mahalapye District Council Chairperson Mr Outule Segolame has emphasised the importance of the council maintaining and strengthening the partnership that were already bearing fruits for the council.

Opening the council meeting on Monday Mr Segolame further said it was also crucial to identify new opportunities for development and ensure that resources entrusted to the district council were used responsibly and effectively.

He said since the road ahead may not always be easy, through collective leadership, community participation and strategic partnerships the council and its stakeholders could build a more resilient, inclusive and prosperous district.

“We may not have achieved 100 per cent of what we set out to do, but I am encouraged by progress made and achievements that

demonstrate that we moving in the right direction,” he said.

Mr Segolame also encouraged the political and administration structures of the council to infuse team work, effective communication, discipline, and cooperation into their daily operations.

He added that as at 30 June Mahalapye District Council had collected an amount of P512, 209 against a target of P1,9 million.

He said the shortfall was partly attributed to challenges in the collection of staff housing rentals, with some income still being collected through the former headquarters at Serowe District Council.

He said that on expenditure, council spent P74.1 million against a projected P79.3 million, representing a 22 per cent budget utilisation.

He also said Mahalapye District Council had registered an investment company called MDC investment (PTY) Ltd.

He said the company had employed a temporary employee to help develop a business case, risk

management strategy and organisational structure, adding that an advert for non-executive directors of the company was floated on August 3. **BOPA**



Morapedi Modimoopele (left) and Bakang Tawana after appearing before Principal Magistrate, Mr Thapelo Buang in Francistown on Monday. Modimoopele who was given bail and his co-accused denied, are alleged to have broken into a furniture shop and stole some household goods amounting to P60,300. They will appear again on September 17. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

KGATLENG CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT PANEL

discussion

10 SEPTEMBER, 2026

1730HRS UNTIL 2000HRS

LINCHWE COMMUNITY JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOST
Hon Maribe M. Morolong
Kgatleng Central, Member of Parliament

78 124 922

|

74 561 524

Arts & Culture

60

☆ FASHION SHOW

Date: 26.09.2026

Venue: Independence Avenue (in front of Civic Center)

Time: 7PM

☆ INDEPENDENCE EVE

Date: 29.09.2026

Venue: National Stadium - Gaborone | Obed Itani Chilume Stadium - Francistown

Time: 3PM

Duo turns edu-tainment into livelihood

Marvin Motlhabane
KANYE

Turning cultural heritage into electrifying “edu-tainment” for poetic duo Edwin Moroka, alias Serurubele and Emmanuel Boefelo, known on stage as Mmasekgethu, has proven that carefully researched verse can captivate audiences and build a lucrative brand.

When the pair stepped up to perform “Pula and Thebe” during the recent Pula Day 50th anniversary celebrations in Kanye, their spoken word drew resounding ululations across the crowd.

In a single moment, a historical

overview of Botswana’s currency transformed into a vivid journey through national pride and identity.

That is the magic of well-crafted verse, it goes beyond presenting facts, it moves people. And when poetry resonates, it generates genuine market value that organisers, schools and corporate sponsors are eager to pay for.

During the festivities, the duo traced the central bank’s journey through decades of coin and note designs, detailing the fine craftsmanship woven into the nation’s money.

Speaking to **BOPA** after the showcase, they reflected on how they blend artistry with strategy to make a living.

Boefelo, is an unemployed graduate with over a decade of performance under his belt. He explained that their act relied on spontaneous composition backed by deep research rather than canned scripts.

He shared that they knitted the thunderous poetic flow for the anniversary in the early hours of the event and still managed to move the crowd, leaving many informed about the rich history leading to the 50th commemoration.

For Boefelo, exceptional delivery stems from understanding a host organisation’s mandate and mirroring its core values, noting that thorough preparation was key unless background

material was provided in advance.

Addressing financial sustainability, he highlighted how spoken word had shifted. Where poets once performed purely for applause without pay, he and Moroka treated their craft as a career with a clear price tag.

To run their art like a business, the pair relied on the Business Model Canvas to structure their marketing and value proposition, all while safeguarding the cultural soul of their work.

“We strive to become informed with current affairs and thorough research to remain relevant and attractive to the market,” Boefelo said, adding that poets must know how to generate business and referrals.

Such a professional strategy secured their livelihood, drove business growth and allowed them to scale their talent into a

sustainable brand.

High-quality performance remained their strongest marketing tool. Boefelo noted that their reward was bringing delight to a client’s face.

While baseline rates aligned with standard guidelines from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, their final fees account for factors like preparation time, event scale, client status and value added.

He added that reading the room was equally essential. By assessing an event’s tone, religious nuances and protocol beforehand, they ensured that their choice of Setswana phrasing respected tradition without causing offense.

Moroka emphasised that their mission was championing the Setswana language, especially at a time when many locals seemed to be losing touch with it.

With today’s educated public eager for substance, the duo stays sharp by tailoring every performance to the event at hand.

For Moroka, poetry remains a divine gift rooted in character. He cautioned that poets should never perform under the influence, as they represented the brand of the organisations hiring them.

While formal degrees are not required to recite poetry, he stressed that maintaining an untarnished reputation was what actually set artists apart.

To expand their reach beyond word-of-mouth, the duo actively leverages radio, Facebook and TikTok, sharing short educational clips and engaging with audience feedback online.

Moroka noted that poets had an elegant way of delivering message-heavy content that sticks. Their research agility and sharp delivery make their words quotable in classrooms, news outlets and public forums alike.

If the public fully recognised poetry’s dual power to teach and entertain, he said, the creative sector would flourish and open up the much-needed economic opportunities for young people across the country. **BOPA**



Poetic duo Edwin Moroka, alias Serurubele (left) and Emmanuel Boefelo, known on stage as Mmasekgethu. Boefelo said their act relied on spontaneous composition backed by deep research rather than canned scripts. Photo: Phenyo Ramatu



Morupule Coal Mine has raised P2.1 million through the 14th edition of the CEO's Annual Charity Cycle Challenge, with the bulk of the proceeds slated to fund a major healthcare infrastructure facelift. The event attracted 250 cyclists. Photo: Portia Rapitsenyane



Cycle challenge raises P2.1m for hospital upgrade

Portia Rapitsenyane
PALAPYE

Morupule Coal Mine (MCM) has raised P2.1 million through the 14th edition of the MCM CEO's Annual Charity Cycle Challenge, with the bulk of the proceeds slated to fund a major healthcare infrastructure facelift. Held under the theme: Wheels of Hope, Together We Go Further, the annual event attracted 250 cyclists. Speaking at the event in Palapye on Sunday, MCM chief executive officer, Edwin Elias emphasised that the initiative had grown beyond a sporting competition and had transformed into a powerful engine for local community development. Elias stated that this year's proceeds would fund a P1.8 million Corporate Social Investment (CSI) project to refurbish and upgrade the Accident and Emergency Area at Palapye Primary Hospital. He noted that the facelift reflected the mine's commitment to essential healthcare infrastructure and create a safer, more efficient environment for patients, healthcare workers and the broader community. The hospital upgrade adds to a growing

legacy of impact. Past projects include a P300,000 solar installation at the Cheshire Foundation Home in Palapye, as well as a major contribution toward a P560,000 home built under the Bonno Housing Programme. "The race may end at the finish line, but the impact of our ride must go much further, touching lives and strengthening our communities," Elias said, urging stakeholders to keep the momentum going. Stanbic Bank Botswana head of personal and private banking, Mosetsana Kapeko, highlighted the bank's 14-year sponsorship of the event, noting that the long-standing partnership reflected trust and shared vision. Kapeko added that the challenge aligned with Stanbic's CSI focus on health and community well-being. Citizen Economic Development Agency CEO, Khalala Mokefane, who participated as the event's guest rider, commended MCM for demonstrating strong corporate citizenship. Mokefane emphasised that economic empowerment required active private-sector collaboration to build lasting social value. **BOPA**

Briefs

Nhabe football body receives boost

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

After years of struggling to secure a sponsorship, Nhabe Regional Football Association (NRFA) has received a financial boost to the tune of P300, 000 from Terraworx company. The sponsorship will support division one men's league for three seasons, covering financial support, branding, awards, teams mobilisation and the overall promotion of the competition. Speaking at the sponsorship launch, Botswana Football Association vice president, Maokaneng Bontshetse appreciated the financial assistance noting that it was more than just a sponsorship agreement but a relationship that must be protected and nurtured. "We must recognise the significance of this commitment, particularly at a time when securing sponsorship is becoming increasingly difficult. We are operating in an economic environment where businesses are having to make difficult choices about where they put their resources, he said. Terraworx managing director, Andrian Van der Merwe said he believed in sports and community development. He appreciated that the region had the potential to produce unprecedented talent, deserving to be nurtured and developed. Van der Merwe further commended coaches and sports administrators for the good job and encouraged them to fully utilise the opportunity to build a league that everyone could be proud of. NRFA chairperson, Matshelo Setsile also appreciated the sponsorship, saying it would indeed help produce the next generation of football talent. **BOPA**

UB Marathon celebrates growth

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe
GABORONE

Botswana's journey into its seventh decade of independence will require the same qualities demanded of a marathon runner; endurance, resilience and determination to keep moving forward, Minister of Higher Education, Prince Maele has said. Speaking at the fifth University of Botswana (UB) marathon in Gaborone on Sunday, Maele said the country's 60th Independence anniversary should not be regarded as a finish line, but as an opportunity to reflect on the distance travelled and prepare for the road ahead. Drawing parallels between the marathon and nation building, Maele said success was not determined by how quickly one started, but by the ability to remain focused and persevere despite challenges. Against the backdrop, the marathon's growth reflects that broader role, given that since its inception in 2022, it has developed into a significant fixture on Botswana's sporting calendar. The Sunday event attracted more than 5 000 participants across the 42.2km, 21.1km, 10km and 5km races compared to last year's more than 3 600 participants, including 624 runners from South Africa. Amos Kemboi emerged victorious in the men's 42.2km in 2:20:30, with Gaone Bathoeng winning the women's race in 2:56:55. Philemon Koskey claimed the men's 21.1km title in 1:05:23, while Mosadikwena Gotswakgosi won the women's category in 1:16:36. In the 10km, Karabo Bosele took the men's title in 30:39, while Kefilwe Galeitsiwe won the women's race in 36:05. The marathon also extends its impact beyond sport by supporting the UB Foundation Graduate Scholarship Endowment Fund, which provides post-graduate scholarships to academically deserving students, while promoting sport and cultural tourism in Gaborone. **BOPA**