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Innovation essential to regulatory authority resilience

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President Advocate Duma Boko (right) being briefed on Secret Kalahari business operatives by founders, Mr Johannes Visagie (centre) and Ms Antonetta Visagie at the Global Expo Botswana yesterday. Secret Kalahari prides itself on a diverse range of products, from donkey milk cosmetics such as soaps, scrubs and moisturising creams, to edibles such as fresh donkey milk and indigenous capsule remedies made from powdered donkey milk and plant extracts indigenous from the Kalahari Desert. President Boko affirmed government’s commitment to building a competitive, inclusive and investor-friendly economy. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Investor Deal Book boon for govt

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - The Botswana Investor Deal Book showcases curated collection of high-impact and investor-ready projects from across the nation, says President Advocate Duma Boko. Unveiling the Investor Deal Book at the official opening of Global Expo Botswana in

Gaborone yesterday, President Boko said some projects, not necessarily in the book, came out through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) Lab Process. “With 66 projects, 52 from the private sector and 14 from the public sector, this Deal Book showcases fully developed projects spanning diverse sectors such as mining, agriculture,

health, infrastructure, tourism, financial services, ICT and manufacturing. These are not just ideas on paper, they are action-ready projects, designed to deliver measurable, transformative results,” he said. He further said the unveiling marked a pivotal moment in the efforts to catalyse sustainable economic growth and long-term partnerships.

Furthermore, the President commended Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) for curating a selection of 14 groundbreaking projects from the BETP Labs. These projects, he said would be presented to investors at the Africa Financial Services Investment Conference in London this month, thus providing an opportunity not

only to elevate Botswana’s profile on the global stage, but also to forge lasting partnerships that would drive the future growth of the economy. In addition, he noted that the Pula Investment Conference, under the flagship of the Global Expo Botswana, was also conceptualised to accelerate the BETP.

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Gaolathe expresses gratitude to Tsau residents

By **Thamani Shabani**

TSAU - Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe has expressed gratitude to residents of Tsau in the Ngami Constituency for playing a significant role in shaping his life during his time as a Tirelo Setshaba participant in 1992.

Addressing a kgotla meeting in Tsau on Monday, Mr Gaolathe said their love and peaceful nature, contributed in moulding him into the responsible leader he was today.

As a Tirelo Setshaba participant, he was tasked with various responsibilities among them a court clerk, teacher and social

worker.

His success, he said was a result of the support he got from Tsau residents and whom he regarded as his family.

He said the village was a melting pot of different tribes that included Baherero, Batawana, Bayeyi, Hambukushu and Basarwa who lived harmoniously together.

Mr Gaolathe was also thankful to them for embracing change and electing the Umbrella for Democratic Change, a party, whose government he assured was working tirelessly to address the challenges facing the country, including the decline in diamond sales. With that, he encouraged

the residents to explore alternative means of making a living, such as profitable and sustainable agriculture, to improve their livelihoods.

Kgosi Goletwang Letsholathebe of Tsau raised concerns about the acute shortage of drinking water in the village, impact of drought and elephant attacks on crops.

He appealed to the government to consider building new tribal offices in the village and assist in addressing the increasing rate of criminal activities among youth.

Representing Village Development Committee, Mr Calson Kenosi, raised concerns about the poor condition of the tarred road between Tsau and Sehithwa.

He explained that the Vice President’s visit provided an opportunity for the residents to raise their concerns and for the government to engage with the community on issues affecting the village.

Area Member of Parliament, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama, highlighted

the persistent drought situation in the Ngami District despite significant rainfall received during the previous ploughing season.

Mr Hikuama noted that although the government had declared 2025 not being a drought year, the Ngami District continued to grapple with drought conditions, a situation aggravated by human-wildlife conflicts, particularly with elephants. Another concern he said was the slow pace of compensation for damage to property caused by wild animals. **BOPA**

New Statistician General to strengthen governance

GABORONE - The newly appointed statistician general, Dr Khuafelo Lekobane is set to lead Statistics Botswana in strengthening statistical governance, enhancing data quality and accessibility and promoting evidence-based decision-making across all sectors of the economy.

This follows his recent appointment to the position by the Vice President, also Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe.

A press release from Statistics Botswana says Dr Lekobane’s leadership will drive planning and ensure that the organisation continues to serve as a trusted custodian of national data and an enabler of sustainable development.

The release says Dr Lekobane is an accomplished statistician, researcher and development policy expert whose career reflects deep commitment to harnessing the power of data for national transformation.

It says Dr Lekobane brings to the role, a wealth of experience spanning over a decade in statistical research and evidence-based policy analysis.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Development Studies from the University of Sussex’s Institute of Development Studies, as well as a Master’s Degree in Statistics and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Statistics and Economics, both obtained from the University of Botswana.

Prior to his appointment, Dr Lekobane served as a research fellow/statistician at the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis.

His expertise spans quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, with a strong focus on multi-dimensional poverty, social protection, welfare and inequality.

He has authored numerous peer-reviewed journals, working papers, policy briefs and has presented his work at various international conferences, cementing his role as a thought leader in development policy analysis.

Over the years, Dr Lekobane has also undertaken high-impact research and consultancy projects that have directly influenced national policy formulation. **BOPA**



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe (right) interacting with Tsau residents after a kgotla meeting on Monday. He expressed gratitude to Tsau for contributing in building a leader in him during his time as a Tirelo Setshaba participants in 1992. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Twantsho Bo Tsotsi fights cybercrime

By **Lindi Morwaeng**

MOGODITSHANE - Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr David Tshere, has sounded the alarm against the growing threat of cybercrime calling on Batswana to unite in defending the nation’s digital frontiers.

He made the call when launching the ‘Twantsho Botsotsi’ campaign

during the official opening of Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Mogoditshane on Monday.

Held under the theme: Building Cyber Resilience for Now and for the Future, the campaign seeks to equip citizens with knowledge and vigilance to stay safe online.

The ‘Twantsho Botsotsi’ initiative, he explained, was a joint effort between BoFiNet and Cybersmart Botswana aimed at raising awareness about digital safety.

He said teams from the two organisations would tour dikgotla across the country, educating communities especially the elderly on how to recognise and avoid online scams.

Mr Tshere said the rise in scams, fraud and cyber-attacks targeting individuals and institutions demanded a strong collective response.

“Cybersecurity is not a luxury but a necessity. As Botswana’s digital footprint grows, so too does our obligation to safeguard that space, protect our citizens and ensure opportunity in cyberspace is secure, inclusive and trustworthy,” he stressed.

The minister also emphasised government’s commitment to strengthening Botswana’s digital security framework through the recent enactment of the Cybersecurity Bill (2025), the Cybercrime and Computer Related Crime Act and the Data Protection Act.

He emphasised that cyber resilience was not a one-time achievement but a continuous journey of awareness, adaptation and action.

Cybersmart Botswana Programme coordinator, Mr David

Moepeng said the objective of the campaign was not only to raise awareness about cybercrime, but also to promote the positive use of technology.

He said their goal was to educate communities and teach Batswana especially the youth, how to access opportunities and employment online while at the same time protecting themselves from cyber threats.

Providing insights into the state of cybercrime in Botswana, Cybercrime and Digital Forensics Expert, Mr Douglas Sekgweng revealed that many Batswana had fallen victim to various forms of online fraud.

The most prevalent cases, he said included financial scams, online shopping fraud and online dating scams.

Therefore, he urged the public to remain vigilant and to report such cases immediately.

Mr Sekgweng added that his company had developed a scam detection platform where victims could report fraudulent incidents and received assistance in real time.

On the financial front, Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Head of Revenue Assurance and Fraud Manager, Mr Isaac Kajane, warned that major fraud schemes currently affecting citizens include SIM swaps, social engineering and bank-to-wallet scams.

He said they continued to see cases where people registered SIM cards for others, not realising they were enabling fraudsters.

He urged Batswana to never register SIM cards on behalf of anyone, because criminals used such tricks to swindle people of their hard-earned cash. **BOPA**



Former president, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (right), European Union (EU) Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Mr Johan Borgstam (centre) and EU Ambassador to Botswana and SADC, Ms Petra Pereyra during a courtesy call on the former president in Mokolodi on Monday. The meeting was held ahead of the High-Level Strategic Workshop on enhancing the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Regional Certification Mechanism, where Dr Masisi officiated. He was recently appointed as the East African Community and SADC peace facilitator in charge of economic integration and natural resources. Mr Borgstam, who was on a two-day visit to Botswana, also met with Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyi Butale to discuss peace and security developments in the Great Lakes region, as well as ongoing efforts by the EU and regional African bodies to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo



Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Maipelo Mophuting (right), Head of Delegation of Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Ms Elena Gjoreska (left) and Botswana Ambassador to Belgium, Ms Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba at the General Regional Training Course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for National Authorities and Relevant Stakeholders in Africa on Tuesday. Ms Mophuting reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to the fair, full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Botswana committed to convention

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE - Botswana remains committed to the fair, full, and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Maipelo Mophuting said at the General Regional Training Course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for National Authorities and Relevant Stakeholders in Africa on Tuesday.

Ms Mophuting noted that Botswana acceded to the Convention in August 1998, becoming a state party shortly thereafter.

She said since then, the country had made meaningful progress through the Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act of 2018 and the establishment of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Weapons Management Authority, as a competent body ensuring that the country lived up to its global responsibilities.

"We have continued to submit our annual declarations on schedule and fulfill our financial obligations, as a reflection of integrity and accountability," she said.

Ms Mophuting said the Chemical Weapons Convention was not just another international agreement but represented one of humanity's greatest triumphs against weapons of mass destruction.

She stressed that it was essential that the horrors of chemical warfare had no place

in the shared future, noting that the convention's goal was a world free of chemical weapons.

"And for Botswana, this is not merely a diplomatic commitment; it is a moral one. It is about safeguarding life, protecting creation, and preserving peace for generations yet to come," said Ms Mophuting.

Across Africa, she said there had been inspiring progress in advancing peace and security through collaboration and multilateralism.

Ms Mophuting further added that the training would strengthen not just technical capabilities but also the country's commitment to chemical safety and security.

"By hosting this course, we reaffirm that Africa has the capacity to build solutions for Africa by Africa.

We believe that every step we take in this journey contributes not just to regional security but to the global peace we all seek," she said.

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Weapons Management Authority deputy director, Dr Janes Mokgadi, said the training, attended by various African states, would encourage the sharing of best practices among participating member states.

Dr Mokgadi said it was the first time that the country hosted the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) event of such magnitude, which she said underscored the country's commitment to the war against chemical, radiological, and biological weapons and ensuring the safety and security of humanity.

She said through collaboration, compliance with the convention could be enforced, hence contributing to global and regional stability.

OPCW project manager and head of delegation, Ms Elena Gjoreska, said across the region, there had been improvements and stronger collaboration, but there were challenges that called for capacity building and collaboration.

The course would address capacity building and collaboration, adding that the training would deepen participants' understanding and facilitate the exchange of best practices for effective implementation, Ms Gjoreska.

The General Regional Training Course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for National Authorities and Relevant Stakeholders ends today. **BOPA**

Govt unveils Investor Deal Book

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Together, the Global Expo and the Pula Investment Conference, he said, embodied commitment to driving Botswana's economic diversification and creating an environment that fostered innovation, sustainability and long term prosperity.

"Today, Botswana stands on the cusp of a new era defined by bold investments, dynamic partnerships and transformative change," he said.

Through its laboratory process, President Boko said the BETP had refined and filtered the investment opportunities to ensure that only the most impactful and actionable projects took centre stage.

"We strive for a Botswana where every citizen have equal opportunity, meaningful work and empowerment to live a fulfilling livelihood. We envision a Botswana where every citizen has equal opportunities and a stable income. Our unwavering

commitment to this vision is reflected in our progress and resilience," he said.

He indicated that despite the challenges faced, the nation remained strong and looked to the future with renewed hope and focused on transformation drive.

"The mono-sectoral economy that we have been is severely challenged and over reliance on diamonds has placed us at the most precious circumstances and we have to find alternatives quickly," he said.

He said through carefully crafted policies and sector-specific incentives, government was fostering innovation, attracting investment and diversifying the economy beyond mining.

Similarly, President Boko highlighted that despite global economic uncertainties, Botswana had not only weathered the storm, but had emerged stronger, adding that the country had experienced

a remarkable surge in Foreign Direct Investment flows from US\$1.98 billion in 2023 to US\$4.67 billion in 2024, more than doubling year-on-year.

The growth, he said underscored the confidence that global investors continued to place in Botswana as a stable, competitive and forward-looking investment destination.

Therefore, he said there was need to make meaningful strides on the renewable energy sector and software technology with the aim to create jobs.

Additionally, President Boko also applauded the commencement of Global Expo Botswana, saying it marked the dawn of a new chapter in the country's economic transformation.

The expo, he said was a catalyst for collaborations that strengthened Botswana's position as a prime investment destination. **BOPA**

'Motshelo scheme transformative'

By Thamani Shabani

MAUN - The Motshelo Financial Scheme, a community-based savings group run largely by women across Botswana, has been lauded as a simple, inclusive and efficient form of organic financial governance.

Addressing the 48th SADC Committee of Insurance, Securities, and Non-Banking Financial Authorities (CISNA) meeting in Maun Tuesday, Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe said Motshelo was a shining example of community innovation in its purest, adding that these women contributed to a shared fund, managed transparently by a trusted treasurer.

"They lend to one another, applying rules that are clear, fair, and respected. They know

their clients, understand the risk, and practice due diligence instinctively. They do not merely circulate money, they circulate trust, opportunity, and dignity," said Mr Gaolathe.

He highlighted the transformative power of motshelo, giving examples of how the scheme had improved lives, enabled families to build homes, send children to school, and start small businesses through the initiative he described as not informal finance, but community innovation with the potential to drive economic growth and development.

Mr Gaolathe also used the opportunity to challenge regulators and policymakers to find ways to nurture, protect, and scale homegrown solutions

like motshelo. He said that took collective responsibility to develop inclusive financial products and regulatory frameworks that recognised and amplified such indigenous models.

"The challenge before us is to bridge the world of high finance with the world of community trust. To allow policy to learn from practice and innovation to grow from tradition, that, ultimately, is how we will make financial inclusion not just a goal, but a lived reality for every Botswana, and every citizen across our region," said Mr Gaolathe.

The Vice President also highlighted the importance of the non-banking financial sector in driving economic growth and development in Botswana,

saying that the sector had grown in recent years, with total assets of licensed Non-Banking Financial institutions (NBFIs) increasing from P35 billion in 2013 to P185 billion in 2024.

He urged CISNA to enhance member states' capacities to claim a greater market share of the NBFi sector, given its immense potential for growth and job creation.

He further acknowledged the efforts of the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) in promoting a sound, stable and well-regulated domestic non-bank financial institutions sector but also highlighted the threat of climate change to the sector, urging stakeholders to be creative in finding solutions to mitigate its impacts. **BOPA**

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Innovation essential to regulatory authority resilience

By **Thamani Shabani**

MAUN - It is important for regulatory bodies to coordinate and standardise their approaches to ensure that people were both protected and involved in the emerging financial market. Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) Board Chairperson, Mr Thabo Gaadingwe has said this at the meeting of the Committee of Insurance, Securities and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Authorities (CISNA) in Maun recently.

He said the rise of digital assets, decentralised finance, and other innovations continuously challenges regulatory agility.

“Yet, within this challenge lies our greatest opportunity to collaborate more deeply, harmonise our standards, and ensure that the citizens of the SADC region are not only protected, but are active participants in this new financial era,” said Mr Gaadingwe.

He urged members to build on this legacy and continue shaping a more coherent and responsive regulatory environment. At NBFIRA, Mr Gaadingwe said, they were committed to this mission of continuous improvement.

“The authority has taken bold steps to enhance its regulatory effectiveness, including achieving the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification. This milestone is a testament to their pursuit of operational excellence,” he added.

However, Mr Gaadingwe emphasised that excellence was not a destination but a continuous journey. To this end, he said NBFIRA was actively investing in technology solutions that would enhance its regulatory and supervisory solutions.

He said these investments were designed to enhance supervisory



Ministry of Finance deputy permanent secretary, Ms Boikanyo Mathipa (left) handing over P30,000 to Tshidilo Stimulation Centre chairperson, Mr Masebo Molapisi during NBFIRA donation in Maun on Tuesday. NBFIRA also donated P20,000 to Boseja Primary School.

Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

oversight, advance data analytics capabilities, and improve risk profiling. Mr Gaadingwe urged all member authorities to continue exploring similar innovations, and to work collectively to build a regional ecosystem where technology empowered rather than overwhelms critical regulatory mandates.

He also stressed the importance of financial integrity, and the need for vigilance against illicit activities.

In this regard, he said NBFIRA was working closely with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and other international partners to strengthen anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism frameworks.

The authority, he said, had enhanced reporting protocols, conducted comprehensive sector-wide risk assessments, and rolled out targeted training for market participants. Mr Gaadingwe

emphasised that financial crime recognised no borders, and that it was therefore imperative that they deepen cross-border intelligence sharing and harmonise enforcement mechanisms.

He stated that regulation was not just about institutions - it was also about people.

“It is about the pensioner entrusting their life savings, the entrepreneur seeking a micro-loan, and the family investing in an insurance policy for their future.

These are the lives their work touches and protects,” he said.

For this reason, Mr Gaadingwe said consumer protection and education was central to NBFIRA’s mission. He called on all CISNA members to collectively prioritise transparency, fairness, and accessibility, and to ensure that financial inclusion was not just a slogan, but a lived reality for every citizen they serve.

He expressed his sincere gratitude to the CISNA Secretariat, fellow regulators, and all stakeholders for their tireless work in advancing their shared vision. “The road ahead is undoubtedly challenging but together, it is entirely navigable,” said the chairperson.

He disclosed that the meeting would serve as a catalyst for renewed collaboration, deeper trust, and transformative impact for the SADC region. CISNA chairperson, Mr Kenneth Matomola said the authority had made strides in regional integration, paving way for sustainable growth.

“The Committee of Insurance, Securities and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Authorities has made

significant progress in regional integration, as evidenced by the recent approval of several loans.

This achievement is a demonstration of the organisation’s commitment to fostering cooperation and collaboration among its member states,” he added. However CISNA Board Chairperson noted that while significant progress had been made, there was still much work to be done.

“We have made strides in regional integration, but we must continue to address the challenges facing SADC member states. It is imperative that we strengthen our financial systems and work together to overcome the obstacles that hinder our growth,” he said.

The Chairperson emphasised the need for deeper collaboration and collective efforts to drive sustainable growth in the region. “There is a clear need for us to work together, share knowledge, and leverage each other’s strengths to achieve our goals.

By doing so, we can create a more stable and prosperous financial landscape for our member states,” he added. Mr Matomola further explained that as CISNA continued to drive regional integration and cooperation, its member states could look forward to a brighter future, characterised by stronger financial systems, increased economic growth, and improved living standards for their citizens.

He said the organisation remained committed to playing a leading role in shaping the financial landscape of the SADC region and promoting sustainable growth and development. **BOPA**

Govt refutes claims of Brazil cattle purchase

GABORONE - The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has dispelled reports claiming that the government has bought dairy cattle from Brazil, as misleading.

A press release from the ministry states that the country is not expecting any cattle, however, is interested if the opportunity arises.

It further states that the news of the rumoured cattle being remnants of any prior government cattle purchases from either Australia or the United States of America (USA), as untrue.

The release recounts a question posed by, a member of the Dairy Goats Association of Botswana, in the context of the Milk Afric initiative of years past, during the Agricultural Pitso, held in Sebele

this past Thursday to the Acting Minister, Mr Edwin Dikoloti, questioning what can be done to address the shortage of milk supplies in Botswana, seeing that the country is only able to meet 13 per cent of annual demand, which stands at 65 million liters.

The minister in response, advised that dairy production was a priority area for the ministry, more so that consideration was being given to meeting national needs.

In the process, and based on recent international trade talks, a Brazilian bred cow, called Girolando, which is a major milk producer had been mooted between the two countries, with the Brazilian private sector expressing

an interest to supply Botswana, states the release.

The release further states that on the basis of expressed interest, and assuming that Batswana citizens (individuals and corporates) may or would be interested in importing the cattle, the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) has gone ahead and started looking at facilitatory protocols.

It advises that if any entity wishes to import any such, the ministry will follow the necessary international protocols and facilitate as appropriate.

The ministry highlights its commitment to creating over 250 000 jobs during the National Development Plan (NDP) 12 period, within this sector. **BOPA**

Ba BCL ba tlaa thusiwa ka matlo

Ka Gaboselwe Olesitse

SELEBI PHIKWE - Babereki ba pele ba moepo wa BCL ba tlaa fiwa sebaka sa go reka matlo ka

thulaganyo ya Bonno Housing. Mo bokopanong le bogogi jwa Selebi Phikwe le badiri ba pele ba BCL ka Labobedi, Tona wa Ofisi ya ga Tautona, Rre Moeti

Mohwasa o tthalositse fa puso e rekile matlo a BCL a le 1 226 mme e tlaare morago ga dithulaganyo le dipuisano magareng ga ba-na-le seabe ka go farologana di se na

go wela, go dirwe thulaganyo e e maleba ya go aba matlo. A re tshwetso ya go rekisa ka matlo ka lenaneo la Bonno Housing Scheme ke go fa badiri

ba pele ba moepo wa BCL ba ba nang le keletso ya go a reka go dira jalo ka dithlotlha tsa lenaneo di le kwa tlase.

Rre Mohwasa o tthalositse fa go le botlhokwa gore badiri ba pele ba moepo wa BCL ba thusiwe ka bonno ka bontsi jwa bone ba sa tlhole ba na le dithata dipe tse ba ka tlholang ba ka ya go batla ditiro go ka ikagela.

Rre Mohwasa o tthalositse fa matlo a a rekilweng a ka seke a lekane batho botlhe ba ba neng ba bereka kwa moepong mme go tlaa dirwa dithulaganyo tse dingwe go thusa ba ba ka sekeng ba bone matlo.

O kopile badiri ba pele go nna pelotelele le go nna le tshepo mo go dipe dithuso tse puso e tla di ntshang.

Rre Joseph Tsimako go tswa kwa Botswana Mine Worker's Union o tthalositse fa ba lebogetse tshwetso e e tserweng ke puso ya go tla ka thulaganyo ya go reka matlo, gore badiri ba pele ba kgone go a reka ka dithlotlha tse di kwa tlase.

A re le fa ba itumelela tshwetso e e tserweng ke puso, go santse go na le dingwe tse di saletseng kwa morago, tse di tlhokang go tsibogelwa.

O tthalositse fa go na le badiri ba bangwe ba ba neng ba sa nne mo matlong a BCL fa bangwe ba ne ba nna mo di hostel kgang ke gore e re morago go sena go nna le kabo ya matlo go nne le thulaganyo ya go bona gore bo ne ba thusiwa jang.

Rre Tsimako gape o ne a tthalosa fa dithlotlha tsa matlo e tlaa nna ya dingwe tse ba tlaa di seka sekang morago ga kabo ya matlo.

Rre Olebogang Moremi yo e leng modiri wa pele wa BCL le ene o ne a tthalosa fa botsogo jwa mmereki bo tshwanetse go tsewa ka tlhoafalo, a tthalosa fa go ne ga seka ga dirwa dithulaganyo tsa go tthatlhoa badiri morago ga go tswalwa ga moepo. **BOPA**



Tona wa ofisi ya ga Tautona, Rre Moeti Mohwasa o tthaloseditse bogogi jwa Selebi Phikwe le badiri ba pele ba BCL ka Labobedi, fa puso e rekile matlo a BCL a le 1 226, mme e tlaa dira dithulaganyo le dipuisano magareng ga ba-na-le seabe ka go farologana go rekisa matlo ao. Senepe: Chendzimu Manyepedza

Ba supa fa madi a bagodi a fetotse matshelo

Ka Cathrine Simane

TSABONG - Bangwe bagodi ba galaletsa koketso ya madi a bagodi go tswa mo go P830 go ya kwa go P1 400 ka e fetotse matshelo a bone le go a tokafatsa. Mongwe wa bagodi mo kgaolong ya Tsabong Mme Mamase Ntau yo o dingwaga tse di masome a supa le bongwe (71) o buile a sa kgwe mathe ka fa madi a bagodi a fetotseng botshelo jwa gagwe ka teng fa e sale a simolola

go a amogela ngwaga ono ka kgwedi ya Moranang. Mme Ntau o tthalositse fa a ne a ipulela lenaneo la diphitlho kwa a duelelang kesi le letlapa gore a tle a kgone a ituelela tsa phitlho a sa ikaega ka bana fela. Mo godimo ga moo, Mme Ntau a re madi a bagodi a mo thusitse ka jaana o kgona go ikokotleletsa madi kwa lebentleleng la Builders Mart gore fa madi a setse a lekane a kgone go ntshafatsa ntlo ya gagwe.

O gwethhile bagodi ba bangwe go dirisa madi ka tsholetsa kelotlhoko gore ka moso e nne segopotso mo go bone b abo ba ipelafatse ka one. Mo potsolosong le Rre Motlhabeng Phiritshwane wa dingwaga tse di masome a ferabongwe le bone (94) o ne a phopotha legetla tautona wa Advocate Duma Boko ka koketso ya madi a bagodi a supa fa ene e le motho yo o ratang loruo ka jalo a rekile dipodi ka one, mme

maikaelelo e le go di tsadisa gore a tokafatse bonno jwa gagwe. Mme Lenah Coetzee (73) le Rre Isaac Coetzee (79) go tswa kwa kgotlaneng ya Matlhatlhagane kwa Tsabong ba ne ba supa fa bone ba kgonne go bula bukana ya diphitlho , go gokela motlakase mo lwapeng le gone go ithekela dijo tsa dikeletso tsa bone go imolola bana. Ba re go ya pele ba ikaelela go oketsa loruo lwa bone. Fa a tswa la gagwe Kgosana wa Matlhatlhaganyane Piet Kaatzee a re le ntsa puso e leka ka bojotlhe go tlhabolola matshelo a bagodi sebe sa phiri ke gore bangwe bagodi madi a bone a tsena mo diatleng tse di sa siamang tsa batho ba ba amogelang madi a bone e ka tswa e le bana ba bana kana masika. Kgosana Kaatzee o ne a tthalosa fa ba setse ba amogetse dikgang dingwe le gore le bone e le boeteledipele ba itemogetse seo mme ba tlaa tswelela ba beile leitlho seemo gore bagodi ba kgone go akola madi a bone go sena boferefere go tswa kwa batlhokomeding ba bone. O ne a tlatsa ka go supa fa bangwe bagodi ba tlhoka dikgakololo ka madi a bone go a dirisa ka fa go tshwanetseng ka teng ka bangwe ba a nwa majalwa fela ka one selo se a supileng fa ba tlaa ema ka dinao e le boeteledipele go bitsa diphuthago mo dikgotlaneng tsa bone. **BOPA**



Bagolo bangwe ba galaletsa koketso ya madi a bagodi go tswa kwa go P830 go ya kwa go P1,400 ba re seo se tokafaditse matshelo a bone. Ba atlile tsholofetso ya puso ya gore fa seemo sa itsholelo se ka tokafala ba tlaa neelwa P1,800.

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Content Monetisation Hub on cards

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Government plans to establish a Content Monetisation Hub as part of a broader strategy for the sustainable development and growth of the creative industry.

This was said by Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng during an interaction meeting alongside Minister for State President, Moeti Mohwasa and the Creative Arts Associations executive committee members on Monday.

Kelebeng said the planned Content Monetisation Hub aimed to guide creators on how to profit from digital platforms and protect their intellectual property.

“This is part of the government’s efforts to transform the creative industry into a sustainable economic contributor.

He added that the ministry recently had virtual engagements with global digital platforms like Google and TikTok to address challenges faced by local content creators, particularly around monetisation.

He further stated that the ministry was also focused on creating an enabling environment to unlock new economic opportunities.

Addressing the creatives, Minister Mohwasa affirmed government’s commitment to developing, diversifying and



Minister for State President, Moeti Mohwasa (left) and Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng at the meeting for Creative Arts Association in Gaborone on Monday. Kelebeng said sport and arts ministry was focused on creating an enabling environment for artistes and content creators to thrive through policy reform, funding, infrastructure development and strategic partnerships. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

investing in the creative industry for sustainability.

Minister Mohwasa therefore urged creatives to regularly engage and collaborate with the private sector as well as government to facilitate economic growth within the sector.

Members of the Creative Art Associations had raised a number of issues and challenges,

including funding, creative welfare, capacity workshops, infrastructure facilities, subsidies and standardised rates.

They had appealed to government to formalise the creative sector to enable its growth.

In response, Minister Mohwasa assured members that some of their issues should be addressed by the end of this month.

He emphasised the need for collaboration between government and the private sector to elevate the industry.

For his part, Tonderai Tsari of the Business Botswana Creative Arts and Media Sector proposed several financial reforms to strengthen the industry.

Tsari challenged the Departments of broadcasting

and information services to commercialise, particularly by retaining and reinvesting their advertising revenues.

“According to budget estimates, DBS makes P27 million and Information Services makes P30 million, so I would ask minister to leave the money here and not put it to a consolidated fund,” Tsari said.

He argued that if such revenue stayed at both departments and was used exclusively for content acquisition, it would lead to increased value.

Furthermore, Tsari advocated for compelling streaming broadcast services such as Netflix to reinvest part of their revenues in content creation, a practice already adopted by some countries, following the endorsement of the National Creative Arts and Film Fund from Parliament and the digital trade, to help unlock the funding that everyone desperately needed.

“Can we have a five per cent levy imposed on Netflix and others that they have to reinvest in local content creation, and if they do not want to do that, it goes to government fund,” he said.

Tsari also called for reforms in how creative services were procured by government, arguing that there should be a new category that was not solely guided by the lowest cost to ensure quality and fair compensation for creators.

BOPA



Botswana animator seals disney, titmouse partnerships

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - Young animator Theo Silitshena has returned to Botswana with international deals that could transform local animation education, after completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders in the United

States.

The Learn Animation Botswana founder trained under Rutgers University’s business leadership track in New Jersey before heading to New York, where he struck a collaboration with Titmouse Animation Studio, the creators of Star Trek: Lower Decks, Legend of Vox Machina and Kiff. In San Francisco, he secured further partnerships with the Walt Disney Family Museum and freelance animators who have worked with Pixar on films such as Onward.

Silitshena plans to launch a free animation programme in government secondary schools, with international partners mentoring students and helping deliver lessons.

“We will run a three to six-month incubator where children submit art portfolios and an English composition. About 10 to 15 will be selected for training,” he said.

Within that period, he said participants would create a film and professional portfolios, which would be reviewed by Titmouse and the Disney Family Museum.

The film is expected to be distributed by the San Francisco Film Organisation, with plans to sell it and earn the children a portion of the remuneration of their work.

“This is still in development, and we are looking to secure funding by next year. Animation is a billion-dollar industry. If we want to restart our economy, storytelling and animation are the way forward.” **BOPA**

Learn Animation Botswana founder, Theo Silitshena returned to Botswana with international deals set to boost local animation education. He forged partnerships with Titmouse Animation Studio, the Walt Disney Family Museum, and Pixar-affiliated freelancers.



A total of 22 bowling teams from Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe are expected to take part in the third edition of the annual SRR Bowling Tournament in Jwaneng over the weekend. Jwaneng Bowling Club chairperson, Regent Reid said young and upcoming bowlers would also participate to gain exposure.

SRR Bowling Tournament returns

By Kehumile Moekejo

JWANENG - A total of 22 bowling teams from Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe are expected to participate in the third edition of the annual SRR Bowling Tournament in Jwaneng over the weekend.

In an interview, Jwaneng Bowling Club chairperson,

Regent Reid said one youth team had been added to the lineup as a way of giving exposure to the young and upcoming bowlers.

Reid also noted that the initiative was also intended to support grassroots development, which was pioneered in Jwaneng.

“As the hub of the Re Ba Bona Ha initiative, we want to use the opportunity to give mileage and

exposure for our young bowlers.

Since it is an open tournament, we will have bowlers from different clubs across the country making the youth team which will compete with the rest of the teams and we are confident that they will give us competition,” he said. Reid appreciated SRR for its contribution toward transforming Jwaneng into a sporting hub,

particularly growing Bowling over the past three years.

He noted that the sport continued to grow in Jwaneng and its surrounds, as evidenced by the number of young people they continued to attract every year. “Bowling is growing significantly in Jwaneng as shown by the increasing number of young bowlers. We are

expecting to have under 16s and 17s competing in this year’s tournament,” he noted.

This year, the champions will walk away with P12,000 prize money, while the silver and bronze medallists will get P8,000 and P6,000 respectively.

Position four will cash P4,000 and all other participating teams will also be rewarded. **BOPA**

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