

BOTSWANA Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES



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Harvard health partnership role significant



President Advocate Duma Boko (left), Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise (second left) and Botswana Harvard Health Partnership (BHP) officials during a courtesy call by the latter at the Office of the President in Gaborone yesterday. President Boko congratulated BHP on their significant role especially on breakthrough research on HIV prevention and the discovery of the Omicron COVID variant of SARS-CoV-2 in 2021, which was monumental in the pandemic response. Explaining BHP role, the executive director, Dr Gaerolwe Masheto said they had contributed to Botswana's public health milestones particularly in HIV prevention treatment, care and policy development. Also, he said their researchers had participated in landmark studies that had shaped local and international HIV treatment guidelines and prevention strategies. Photo: Phenyoy Moalosi

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Labour agreement to strengthen workplace harmony

Chenzimu Manyepedza
SELEBI PHIKWE

The Botswana Public Private and Parastatal Workers Union and the management of the Selebi Phikwe Citrus Project on Friday signed the Collective Labour Agreement, which strives to create

constructive labour relationships and improve workplace harmony.

The agreement is set to define working conditions for over 900 employees at the Selebi Phikwe Citrus Project and over 150 employees who have already subscribed to the union.

Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware encouraged both Citrus project employees and management to internalise the

Collective Labour Agreement so as to create a conducive working environment in which grievances could be addressed amicably and legally.

As such, he urged them to adhere to labour laws to promote harmony and peacefully resolve workplace disputes.

He highlighted the importance of workers' rights and responsibilities and employers' obligations, to prevent unnecessary workplace conflicts.

He encouraged a culture of open communication to enhance industrial relations and foster collaboration among all

stakeholders, saying it was essential to boost overall productivity, ensure workplace stability, and achieve sustainable development in a work environment.

Also, he acknowledged previous allegations made by some employees against the Citrus Project management and assured that the matters were appropriately addressed through the relevant channels.

Chief Executive Officer of the Selebi Phikwe Citrus Project, Dr Pieter Scholtz, expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication of all employees involved in the Citrus project.

He acknowledged the importance of fostering positive and collaborative relationships with all relevant stakeholders and believes that such cooperation is essential for the project's long-term success and sustainability.

He reiterated his commitment to open communication and teamwork.

For his part, Industrial Relations Manager at Citrus Project, Mr Malvin Ndlovu, said the signing of the Collective Labour Agreement was the culmination of extensive

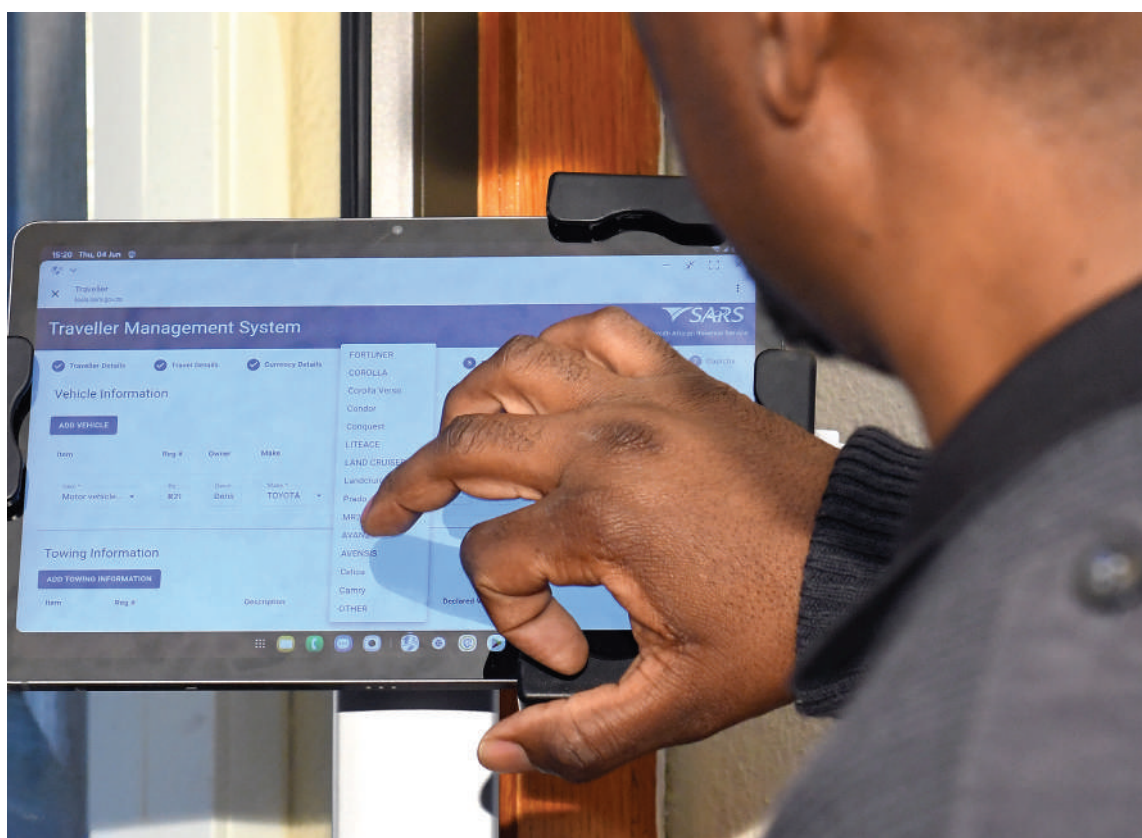
consultations, negotiations and engagements between the management and the union.

The agreement, he said, demonstrated that when the two parties approached negotiations with goodwill, patience, and commitment to finding a common ground, positive outcomes could be achieved.

He further said the success of the agreement lied on its implementation, as it would strengthen relationships, improve the welfare of employees, and support the success of the project that contributed to the broader development of the country.

Botswana Public Private and Parastatal Workers Union president, Mr Donald Mogwe, reiterated the role of labour unions in the workplace, saying they should not be perceived as entities that made employees difficult.

He said their primary objective was to cultivate positive and constructive working relationships among all parties involved, in order to enhance the overall workplace productivity, leading to the retention of job opportunities. **BOPA**



South African Revenue Service (SARS) has introduced a mandatory registration of foreign-registered vehicles as part of efforts to strengthen risk detection, enhance border modernisation and improve customer experience through digitalisation. SARS Senior Operations Manager, Ms Memory Ndou, warned travellers to remain vigilant against fraudsters, who posed as registration agents.

Photo: Felicity Male

SARS cautions foreign motorists against scammers

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

On June 1, South African Revenue Service (SARS) rolled out the mandatory Temporary Import Permit (TIP) for all foreign-registered vehicles entering or leaving South Africa.

The process forms part of efforts to strengthen risk detection, enhance border modernisation and improve customer experience through digitalisation.

The new requirement, which affects all foreign vehicles, including those from the Southern African Customs Union region, entails online declaration and pre-registration through the SARS Travel Management System (TMS) before travel.

The process generates a Temporary Import Permit valid for six months, allowing multiple entries during that period without renewal.

Following the rollout, SARS Senior Operations Manager, Ms Memory Ndou, warned travellers to remain vigilant against fraudsters, who posed as registration agents.

"Registration of vehicles on the system is a free service. Scammers are now approaching motorists, masquerading as SARS registration agents and demanding fees of up to R2,000. We therefore warn the public to exercise caution when processing their vehicle registration and enquire directly as SARS offices," she advised in a telephone interview.

The rollout, which is being implemented in phases, is currently at the customer education stage.

SARS is focusing on building awareness to ensure motorists understand and comply with the new requirements before stricter enforcement measures are introduced.

"We encourage travellers to embrace the change, as we have mapped out an effortless transition plan to support them during this phase. Dedicated officials have been deployed at all ports of entry to guide travellers throughout the process," said Ms Ndou.

Ms Ndou emphasised that while pre-declaration helped reduce waiting times, it did not replace existing border control procedures, adding that travellers were still required to comply with customs

verification and inspection processes where necessary.

She encouraged foreign motorists to familiarise themselves with the new procedures to facilitate smooth border management and to rely only on official SARS platforms for accurate information and guidance. Meanwhile, the new system has received mixed reactions from Botswana travellers.

Cross-border trader, Mr Zet Babar described the process as smooth, noting that prior knowledge of the changes helped minimise delays.

"I was aware of the change before my trip, so I proactively registered my car on the TMS before leaving Botswana. This significantly reduced my processing time at the border," he said.

However, another traveller, Mr Joel Basimane, said he encountered difficulties because he had not been informed about the new requirements before travelling.

"I did not bring any of the required documents because I was unaware of this change. I have since been guided on the necessary requirements and will ensure that I am prepared for future travels," he said. **BOPA**

Motsamai hails Werda for role in FMD fight

Naomi Leepile
WERDA

Assistant Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Mr Motsamai has praised Werda residents for repairing Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) containment fences in their area.

Addressing a kgotla meeting in Werda on Monday, Mr Motsamai applauded their hard work, describing it as a prime example of the collective effort needed across the nation.

"This is exemplary work. The government cannot help alone. It is upon us as Batswana to join hands and fight this disease."

The assistant minister also pointed out that the primary goal right now was strictly containment, to ensure that the highly contagious virus did not spread beyond its current borders.

"The aim is to fight the virus so that it does not spread further. At the very least, let it remain where it is right now instead of spreading to clean zones," he said.

Mr Motsamai painted a sombre picture of how FMD had devastated the socio-economic fabric of Botswana, saying cattle rearing was central to the culture and economy of Batswana.

"FMD has severely affected the livelihoods of our people. The crisis has also triggered a harsh ripple effect through the agricultural labour sector. Farm workers are facing growing hardship, with many losing their jobs entirely while others go without their monthly wages as cattle owners struggle financially, he added.

On a macro level, he said the entire country was feeling the economic sting.

Botswana's lucrative beef export industry has taken a massive hit, particularly following the closure of European Union market.

While the government has already intervened by rolling out targeted cattle vaccination

campaigns, Mr Motsamai warned that human behaviour could compromise these efforts.

Therefore, he called for an immediate tightening of stock theft laws, noting that the illegal and unregulated movement of stolen animals was a major catalyst for spreading the virus.

Furthermore, Mr Motsamai condemned the panic-driven movement of livestock by farmers trying to evade the disease zones.

"We have realised that some people are moving animals to other areas, thinking they are running away from the disease. In reality, this dangerous practice only carries the virus to new, uninfected areas."

Reinforcing the government's aggressive stance on the ground, Director of the Department of Veterinary Services, Dr Kobedi Segale, detailed the ongoing clinical interventions aimed at halting the virus.

Dr Segale revealed that field teams had already vaccinated over 20 000 animals across the affected ranches and surrounding areas, noting that veterinary officers were working to complete the vaccination process.

He stressed that completely eradicating FMD was the country's only path back to economic stability, warning that international trade would remain paralysed as long as the virus lingered.

The director also called for absolute cooperation from livestock owners, noting that veterinary efforts are entirely dependent on public cooperation.

"Let us comply and cooperate. If you are told to bring your animals for inspection or vaccination, please do that. We can only achieve this through strict compliance."

In a major shift regarding cross-border biosecurity, Dr Segale warned that traditional, casual interactions along the border needed to change to safeguard the national herd. **BOPA**

Hirschfeld laid to rest

Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

As the mortal remains of Simon Hirschfeld were laid to rest at Phomolong Memorial Park in Phakalane, Gaborone, a traditional police funeral three-volley gun salute rang out, symbolising duty, honour and country.

The tribute was fitting for a man who dedicated 39 years of service to national law enforcement, became Botswana's first Motswana Police Commissioner and spent a record 24 years at the helm of the Botswana Police Service (BPS).

"We are paying our final respects to a pioneering patriot, a man who did not merely witness Botswana's history, but actively shaped it. Hirschfeld's name is permanently engraved into the foundation of our country," Minister for State President, Defence and Security Mr Moeti Mohwasa said in his eulogy, addressing mourners who braved the winter morning chill to gather at the Hirschfeld residence in Mogoditshane.

He said Hirschfeld oversaw the transformation of the national police service from a colonial-era institution into a modern and professional organisation respected both locally and internationally.

"Having served both in the pre and post-independence era, in the process holding the police fort for 24 years, there is no doubt that Hirschfeld laid a firm foundation for the security sector and the Botswana Police Service we know today," Mr Mohwasa said.

He highlighted the late commissioner's achievements in building a police service anchored on integrity and service to the people.

"Among his most significant contributions was the full localisation of the police leadership and the historic introduction of women into the service. He oversaw enlistment of the first pioneering cohort of eight women police officers in 1971. Today, women serve with distinction across every branch of policing and we have registered the first woman police commissioner, a

living testament to his vision," Mr Mohwasa said.

He noted that even after retirement, Hirschfeld continued serving the nation through civic leadership roles, including as chairperson of the Public Service Commission and of the Citizenship Committee, while also serving as a valuable source of knowledge and guidance to future generations.

Current Police Commissioner, Ms Dinah Marathe also extolled Hirschfeld's virtues, saying he demonstrated foresight in guiding the Police Mobile Unit (PMU), the paramilitary unit that later contributed to the establishment of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF).

He also pioneered community policing initiatives, including the Twantsho Burukutlhi crime prevention committees and police choirs.

As part of efforts to strengthen public engagement, Hirschfeld introduced the Sepodisi Gompino (Police Today) radio programme, which laid the foundation for the current police Public Relations Unit, Ms Marathe said.

She further noted that, recognising the transnational nature of crime, Hirschfeld played an instrumental role in the formation of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation in 1995, which was later adopted by the Southern African Development Community as a subcommittee.

Former Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources, Mr Charles Tibone said from the vantage point as a Permanent Secretary from 1975, he had to work with Mr Hirschfeld and witnessed his dedication to public service.

He detailed how Hirschfeld navigated offering logistical support to liberation movements and people fleeing from persecution in apartheid South Africa and white minority ruled Rhodesia, balancing the need for the country to not be seen to be visibly doing so, in order to minimise the threat of the Botswana being attacked by her neighbours.

He said following the June 16, 1976 Soweto Uprising, an influx of political refugees entered Botswana from South Africa, adding that Hirschfeld played a key role in facilitating their safe passage into exile in countries further north through an airstrip in Molepolole.

While a refugee camp was proposed at Mosetsanamontle in the Kweneng District as a resettlement for displaced people from other states, Mr Tibone, then Permanent

Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, said together with Hirschfeld, they proposed integration of the young exiles into Botswana society, and secondary

schools such as Moshupa and Lotsane were established and accommodated the former South African students.

He further noted that although

the Botswana Police Service was one of the country's oldest institutions, it had not initially been structured to prepare citizens for leadership roles. **BOPA**



Members of Botswana Police Service carrying the late former police commissioner, Simon Hirschfeld's body to his final resting place at Phomolong Memorial Park in Phakalane. Hirschfeld, who died on June 3, aged 91, was the first Motswana Police Commissioner and is credited with opening the door for women in policing by admitting the first cohort of female police officers in 1971.

Photo: Washa Bofelwang

Government to review civil litigation practices

Bonang Masolotatse
GABORONE

Government will review its approach to handling civil litigation, including the outsourcing of cases to private legal practitioners, amid concerns about delays, costs and the management of cases before the courts.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services, Ms Naledi Moroka, told the Standing Committee on Government Assurances Committee on Monday that the review would assess whether it was prudent for government to continue defending cases where it had weak prospects of success.

Ms Moroka said the review would also examine concerns surrounding the outsourcing of civil litigation to private law firms and determine whether existing arrangements remained effective and cost-efficient.

She told the committee that the Attorney General's Chambers was handling a large number of civil cases and that the ministry was considering reforms to improve the management of litigation.

Ms Moroka acknowledged concerns that prolonged litigation could place financial strain on litigants.

"The litigant eventually runs out of resources and gives up, even though they have a strong case," she said.

She further noted that some private practitioners had raised concerns about the outsourcing framework, saying it lacked clarity on how cases were allocated.

In addition, she said supervising private practitioners engaged by government was challenging due to staff shortages and that outsourced services often attracted higher costs.

Earlier, Registrar of the High Court, Mr Mompoti Taolo, told

the committee that several factors contributed to delays in the disposal of cases before the courts.

He said some matters were registered before investigations had been completed, resulting in cases proceeding concurrently with ongoing investigations and pro-longing the judicial process.

Mr Taolo also said the Administration of Justice had expanded court services across the country to improve access to justice, a development that required significant financial and human resources.

He noted that the ministry had, on occasion, engaged temporary judges and magistrates to help reduce case backlogs.

However, he said such appointments required additional resources, including the provision of vehicles, accommodation and security, similar to arrangements made for permanent judicial officers. **BOPA**

Venture into untapped opportunities - Mohwasa

Chendzimu Manyepedza
SELEBI PHIKWE

The fields of Security Risk and Loss Management continue to emerge as a tangible employment opportunity with diverse professionals to play a critical role in protecting businesses, institutions, and communities from losses, crime and operational risks.

This was said by the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, during the youth empowerment and skills development training programme in the fields of Security Risk and Loss management, courtesy of Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust in collaboration with Emirates Consultancy firm, in

Selebi Phikwe on Monday.

Mr Mohwasa said Security Risk and Loss Management had evolved into a comprehensive profession that encompassed a wide range of responsibilities and expertise.

As such, he urged participants to embrace the intricacies of Security Risk and Loss Management, emphasising that far too many people still limit their perception of this critical field to mere premises guarding.

He elaborated that as the economy continued to expand and businesses grow increasingly sophisticated; there was a pressing need for highly skilled professionals and these individuals played a crucial role in safeguarding valuable assets, managing potential risks and fostering a safe environment.

Mr Mohwasa acknowledged the global challenges faced today, underscoring the need for a modern approach to security that transcended traditional methods.

He further acknowledged the efforts of Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust in providing the youth with empowerment training programs, stating that such initiatives will significantly contribute to developing skilled and capable individuals who can help build a productive country.

Recognising the ongoing challenges faced by many young people, he explained that the government placed significant emphasis on capital development and skills training, not merely as policies, but as essential investments in the country's future

prosperity.

He encouraged them to take pride in the lessons learned and ensure their conduct reflected the values of professionalism and a responsibility to use their skills to improve their lives.

Kgosi Ishmael Legwaila of Botshabelo Customary Court encouraged other stakeholders to follow the example set by Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust Fund, saying their efforts would make a lasting difference in the lives of unemployed youth in Selebi Phikwe.

Tebo ya Bokamoso Trust chairperson, Mr Oarabile Molefe, explained that the certificate accorded the participants an opportunity to take steps toward improving their lives. **BOPA**

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DailyBusiness

Botswana bids for anti-money laundering academy

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

Botswana is positioning itself as a regional leader in the fight against financial crime with a bid to host the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Regional Training Academy in Gaborone.

The proposed academy is intended to serve as a centre of excellence for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CTF) training across Eastern and Southern Africa, strengthening the capacity of investigators, regulators and financial sector professionals to combat illicit financial flows.

Through the Institute for Combating Illicit Flow of Funds (ICIFF), Botswana is seeking to reinforce efforts aimed at safeguarding economic development and national security by enhancing policies and expertise in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

Addressing a media briefing in Gaborone yesterday, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at the University of Botswana, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, said securing the academy would significantly boost Botswana's standing in the global fight against financial crime.

"Being home to the academy will enhance Botswana's global credibility in financial crime security as the center will be the

Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at the University of Botswana, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, (left) and Institute for Combating Illicit Flow of Funds director, Dr Baoki Ditau during a media conference in Gaborone recently. Professor Ramogola-Masire said Botswana was positioning itself as a regional leader in the fight against financial crime with a bid to host the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group Regional Training Academy in Gaborone.

Photo: Washa Bofelwang



hub for specialised, expert-level training to maintain economic stability in the African region."

Prof. Ramogola-Masire noted that the academy would serve as a regional hub for specialised, expert-level training, contributing to economic stability and stronger financial systems across Africa.

The academy is expected to offer centralised and localised training programmes designed to improve the proficiency of investigators, regulators and other professionals involved in combating illicit financial flows. Botswana's bid builds on reforms undertaken

following its grey-listing by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in 2018. The country implemented a comprehensive action plan to address identified AML/CTF deficiencies, leading to its removal from the grey list in 2021.

ICIFF Director, Dr. Baoki Ditau VI, said Botswana remained confident of retaining its favourable standing during the next international assessment scheduled for 2027.

As part of efforts to demonstrate the country's progress and commitment to combating illicit financial flows, ICIFF will host

a National Dialogue on June 17, 2026.

The forum is expected to bring together local stakeholders and international experts to discuss emerging trends, share best practices and strengthen the resilience of financial institutions.

Botswana is competing against Kenya and Mauritius for the opportunity to host the academy. Authorities believe the country's strong reform record, political commitment and enhanced financial intelligence framework place it in a favourable position to secure the bid. **BOPA**

New city signals bold economic ambitions

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

The groundbreaking of the highly anticipated New Botswana City underscores Botswana's intent to compete and participate meaningfully in the evolving global economy.

This was said by the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeane Ntsima during the project ground breaking ceremony recently.

Mr Ntsima indicated that government was fully committed to advance economic diversification, industrialisation, export development, citizen economic

empowerment and private sector growth.

"We recognise that sustainable economic growth requires strategic partnerships, investor confidence, infrastructure readiness and an enabling environment that allows enterprises to flourish," he said.

Mr Ntsima thus noted that the New Botswana City was therefore a statement that Botswana was open for business and ready to compete.

He further highlighted that Botswana Development Cooperation continued to play a pivotal role as government's main investment arm through driving major investments that contributed meaningfully to national developments, industrial

growth and economic resilience.

To this end, he said the New Botswana City project came at an important point in the national journey for economic transformation and was in alignment with the national vision 2036 and Economic Transformation Programme.

"Across the world, countries that have successfully transformed their economy have done so by deliberately investing in trade enabling infrastructure, enterprise ecosystem logistic platforms and globally competitive commercial hubs," he said.

He said the New Botswana City hence represented far more than physical infrastructure as it

was a strategic economic platform designed to unlock economic growth and facilitate trade as well as attract direct foreign investment and strength Botswana's role within the regional and global value chain.

Similarly, BDC Board Chairman, Mr Rizwan Desai, hailed the groundbreaking of New Botswana City as statement of confidence in Botswana's future and a demonstration of what was possible when vision, partnership and commitment come together in pursuit of a common purpose.

He said the New Botswana City represented the next chapter in the country's transformational journey; one that seeks to position Botswana more prominently within regional and global trade, investment and enterprise networks.

"What makes this project particularly significant is not only its scale, but its potential impact.

Its success will ultimately be measured by the opportunities it creates, the investment it attracts, and the value it delivers to Botswana for generations to come," he said.

He noted that the onus was on all stakeholders to translate vision into delivery, partnership into progress and ambition into tangible economic outcomes. **BOPA**



The groundbreaking of the multi-million Pula New Botswana City in Gaborone recently. The New Botswana City is a strategic economic platform designed to unlock economic growth and facilitate trade as well as attract direct foreign investment. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Zimbabwe Emerges key energy hub in Southern Africa

HARARE - Zimbabwe continues to cement its position as a strategic player in energy sector in the region, serving as a critical electricity trading hub and transmission corridor within the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). The Minister of Energy and Power Development, July Moyo said this on the sidelines of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) 2026, an annual gathering often described as the "Russian Davos." In a statement on the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) X handle, the government said Moyo underscored the growing importance of Zimbabwe in facilitating the movement of electricity across the region, a role that is assisting to strengthen regional energy integration and cooperation. Moyo said the central geographical location of the country placed it at the heart of the regional power transmission network, enabling it to connect electricity systems between the northern and southern parts of the region. He said the strategic positioning has made Zimbabwe a crucial transit route for cross-border electricity trade among SAPP member states. **NEW ZIANA**

Chery launches three hybrid car models in Tunisia

TUNIS - Chinese carmaker Chery launched three new hybrid vehicle models in Tunisia on Monday, the carmaker and its official dealer STA said in a statement. The models, Tiggo 9 PHEV, Tiggo 4 HEV and Arrizo 8 PHEV, enabled the introduction of six new models during six months. By 2025, Chery had become one of the top three passenger car brands in Tunisia, posting 70 per cent growth over 2024, according to the statement. Chinese manufacturers have significantly strengthened their presence in Tunisia's new-car market, reaching a 22.5 per cent market share in the first quarter of 2026, local media La Presse reported. **Xinhua**

Morocco GDP up 4.9 per cent in 2025

RABAT - Morocco's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.9 per cent in 2025, up from 4.4 per cent in 2024, the official High Commission for Planning said Monday. The growth was driven mainly by the dynamism of domestic demand and was achieved in a context marked by controlled inflation and a widening financing requirement for the national economy, the commission said. The commission noted that growth was strongly supported by the primary sector, which expanded by 7.1 per cent in 2025, following a 5.1 per cent contraction in 2024, according to Morocco World News. Meanwhile, domestic demand grew by 6.1 per cent in 2025, down from 6.7 per cent in 2024, contributing 6.6 percentage points to GDP growth, according to the report. **Xinhua**

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Ba rapela kgatlhanong le borukutlhi

Kedirebofe Pelontle
GUMARE

Badiragatsi kwa Gumare ba ne ba bona go tshwanela go tswaragana ka thapelo go rapelela mathata aa apereng motse wa bone a tshwana dipolaano, go ikgapela botshelo le dintsho tsa tshoganetso.

Merapelo e ne e rulagantswe ka tshwaragano le lephata la metshameko le bodiragatsi kwa Gumare ka Labothano.

E rile a bua kwa letsatsing leo, mogolwane wa mapodisi a Gumare Superintendent Chenamo Orateng o ne a akgola barulaganyi ba merapelo, a re go botlhokwa go tshwaragana kgatlhanong le dikgetsi tsa borukhutlhi tse di tseletseng ka go golela pele.

A re Gumare o aperwe ke borukhutlhi bo akaretsa thubetso, tlhakanelo dikobo le

bana ba dingwaga tse di kwa tlase le go ikgapela matshelo. A tlatsa ka gore dintsho tsa tholego tsa tshoganyetso le tsone di dintsi, ka jalo a re go botlhokwa go bo rulagantswe merapelo go kopa thuso kwa go ramasedi.

Supt Orateng o ne a tlhalosa fa mo ngwageng o o fetileng, go gatisitswe dikgetsi di le masome mabedi tsa thubetso, di le lesome tsa tlhakanelo dikobo le bana, le tse tlhano tsa go ikgapela botshelo, fa mo ngwageng ono go simolola ka Hirikgong go fitlha fano go gatisitswe dikgetsi di le lesome tsa thubetso, di le lesome tsa tlhakanelo dikobo le bana, le tse nne tsa go ikgapela botshelo.

Fa a ala moonno wa letsatsi, mogokaganyi wa ditirelo kwa lephateng la metshameko le bodiragatsi kwa Gumare, Mme Mpho Mpho-Oagile one a supa fa ofisi ya bone le badiragatsi ba tshwentswe ke diemo tse di diragalang mo Gumare le Botswana ka kakaretso.

Mme Mpho-Oagile o ne a re ba tshwenyegile ka go bo dintsho ka bontsi di ama bone badiragatsi ba eleng banana ka dipalo tse di ko godimo. **BOPA**



Bangwe ba maloko a dikereke ba ba neng ba le karolo ya letsatsi la merapelo kwa Gumare bosheng. Merapelo e ne e rulagantswe ka tshwaragano ke badiragatsi le lephata la metshameko le bodiragatsi kwa Gumare, maikaelelo e le go rapela kgatlhanong le borokutlhi. Senepe: Lephata la Metshameko le Bodiragatsi

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Tlokweng council lauds water supply progress

Baleseng Batlotleng
TLOKWENG

Water supply situation in Tlokweng has improved and areas that were previously affected by intermittent supply including Masetlheng Block 4, Selokwana, Lenganeng, Mmaratanang and Letlapeng were now experiencing a more reliable water supply.

Briefing a full council session on Monday, Tlokweng District Council chairperson Ms Ontiretse Bogatsu said despite progress made in supply, Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) continued to face challenges related to frequent pipe bursts particularly

in Metlhabeng and Masetlheng wards, mainly attributed to ageing infrastructure and pressure fluctuations within the network.

She said to address the challenge, maintenance teams were working closely with the non-revenue water office to monitor and maintain pressure reducing valves thereby improving network stability and reducing water losses.

"I am also pleased to inform the house that the smart prepaid metering project is nearing completion, with a high installation rate reflecting the positive cooperation of customers.

The corporation therefore

encourages all customers with outstanding post-paid water accounts to settle their balances promptly to avoid service disconnections. We remain committed to improving service delivery and appreciate the continued patience and support of the community," said Ms Bogatsu.

She said the council had invested over P10 million towards waste management operations, supporting waste collection services for households and institutions, clinical waste collection, skip services and other environmental health activities.

She added that the investment had also created over 100

employment opportunities through outsourced waste management programmes and related services.

"While council continues to invest significantly in waste management, we acknowledge the challenges currently being experienced in waste collection services across some areas of the district. Performance by some service providers has not met the standards expected by council and our communities, resulting in delayed collections and public dissatisfaction," she said.

She noted that council had engaged contractors to address the shortcomings

through strengthened contract management, regular performance monitoring and the implementation of corrective action plans.

On land allocation, she said the Tlokweng Land Board was actively engaging relevant stakeholders on the possible redesign of a 10-hectare plot located at Metlhabeng, with the objective of increasing the number of residential plots available for future allocation.

Ms Bogatsu said for the 2025/2026 financial year, no residential plots were allocated due to the unavailability of serviced plots in Tlokweng. **BOPA**

Church to take elders for a treat

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Jews Fest Tabernacles Church will hold a special appreciation luncheon for community members aged 50 and above on June 12 at its premises in Garanta Ward, Molepolole.

The event recognises the contributions of senior citizens and the guidance they continue to provide to younger generations.

Organisers said national leaders, local authorities and community elders were expected to attend the gathering, which would feature fellowship, entertainment and recognition.

One of the organisers, Mr Linky Baleseng, said the initiative was part of ongoing efforts to acknowledge senior citizens.

"The luncheon is open to all elders aged 50 years and above. We encourage families and community members to assist elderly relatives in attending the event," Mr Baleseng said.

Church founder, Prophet Robert Jeremiah Phuthego, said the programme began in 2019 and has become one of the church's

flagship outreach initiatives.

"We usually assist about 250 elderly people. Besides hosting the luncheon, we distribute food hampers containing rice, maize meal, cooking oil, sauces and macaroni. Last year alone, we donated 100 food hampers to residents aged 90 years and above in and around Molepolole," Prophet Phuthego said.

The church's outreach extends beyond support for the elderly. It has donated chairs to local dikgotla and provided assistance to widows, widowers, orphans, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

"We have also supported institutions such as St Annetine School for the Disabled and partnered with community structures to uplift those in need," he said. Prophet Phuthego said the work was inspired by biblical teachings on respect, compassion and service.

"The Bible teaches us to honour our fathers and mothers and to care for one another. Through these initiatives, we seek to put those teachings into practice," he said. Previous luncheons have drawn dikgosi, Village Development



Jews Fest Tabernacles Church will host an event on Friday to celebrate and honour elders for their service to society and the guidance they continue to provide to younger generations.

Committee members, home-based care representatives and other community leaders.

The events led to the establishment of the Good Samaritan Group, a church-based outreach serving communities across Kweneng District and neighbouring areas.

"The objective is to demonstrate the love of God through acts of kindness and service. Our assistance is not based on tribe, religion or social status. We welcome and support everyone," Prophet Phuthego said.

Prophet Phuthego said the luncheon would also feature performances by local musicians, poets and entertainers.

He said the activities supported the emotional well-being of elders, particularly those living with chronic conditions such as

hypertension and diabetes.

"These gatherings provide an opportunity for elders to socialise, reconnect with old friends, make new acquaintances and find encouragement and peace," he said. Community outreach remains a monthly activity for the church.

During Botswana's 59th Independence Day celebrations, members worked with social workers to distribute food hampers to elderly and underprivileged residents at Bakwena Main Kgotla.

The church is also involved in youth development programmes aimed at discouraging alcohol and drug abuse. Young people are encouraged to join church activities

through talent showcases and other positive engagements.

"We want young people to understand that they can find purpose, enjoyment and support within the church. Our dream is to contribute towards making Molepolole a safer place by addressing challenges such as crime, robbery, gender-based violence and substance abuse," Prophet Phuthego said.

Representatives from the Botswana Police Service, Botswana Defence Force, Botswana Prisons Service, dikgosi, councillors and Members of Parliament are expected at the upcoming luncheon. **BOPA**

Beitbridge centre of regional return wave

BEITBRIDGE

As anti-migrant tensions continue to unsettle parts of South Africa, Beitbridge Border Post is once again witnessing the return of citizens seeking safety and a fresh start back home.

Seventy-four Zimbabweans arrived through the border post on Sunday after being repatriated from Mossel Bay in South Africa's Western Cape Province, where recent attacks and protests targeting foreign nationals have left many migrants feeling vulnerable.

Their arrival comes amid a broader regional movement of displaced migrants. Malawi is facilitating the return of 150 citizens from South Africa, while Mozambique authorities have also been assisting

nationals affected by the unrest. According to South Africa's Border Management Authority, 168 Mozambican nationals were repatriated through the Lebombo Port of Entry on June 7 after being transported from Mossel Bay by the Mozambique Embassy.

The border management Commissioner, Dr Michael Masiapato said the operation highlighted the value of cooperation between neighbouring countries in responding to migration-related challenges. The Zimbabwean returnees were received by government officials and border authorities before arrangements were made for social support and onward travel to their respective destinations.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe's

Embassy in South Africa has urged citizens to remain alert, avoid areas experiencing unrest and ensure they carry valid identification documents at all times. For Beitbridge, the latest arrivals are another reminder of the town's strategic role as Zimbabwe's gateway to the region. Whenever tensions spill over into migrant communities in South Africa, the border town often becomes the first point of return for those forced to leave behind jobs, businesses and livelihoods.

As governments across Southern Africa work to assist affected citizens, the recent repatriations reflect not only a migration challenge but also the need for continued regional cooperation in protecting vulnerable communities. **NEW ZIANA**



Prophet Jeremiah Phuthego of Jews Fest Tabernacles Church (left) handing over hampers to an elderly during the church's previous event. He said honouring parents was a biblical commandment enshrined in the Decalogue. Photos: Courtesy of Jews Fest Tabernacles Church

Arts & Culture

Malope names new regiment Maisantwa III

Marvin Motlhabane
KANYE

Kgosi Malope II of Bangwaketse has officially bestowed the prestigious name Maisantwa III on the 1996-2000 Mophato cohort during a welcome ceremony at the Kanye Main Kgotla on Sunday.

He described Maisantwa as a highly prominent and sacred name among the Bangwaketse, urging the young men to guard and uphold it with pride and responsibility.

Kgosi Malope II thanked the Mophato organising committee and all stakeholders for the successful initiation and induction of the new regiment.

Bangwaketse Deputy Paramount Chief, Kgosi Kebapetse Telekelo, said the initiates had been equipped with essential life skills and received thorough education on the dangers of social ills, particularly gender-based violence, alcohol and drug

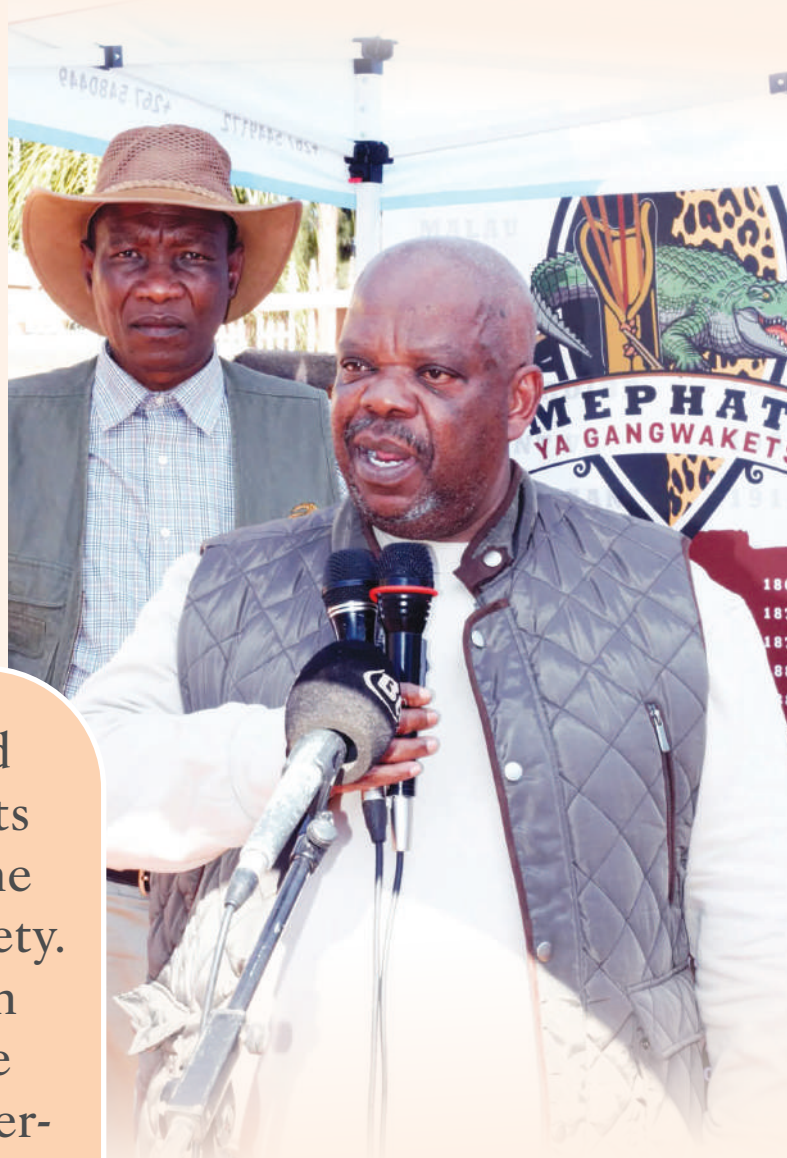
“We have gained invaluable insights on how to become better men in society. The teachings on life skills and the fight against gender-based violence and substance abuse have truly empowered us.”

abuse.

“We expect these young men to become exemplary citizens who will positively influence their peers

and steer clear of wayward behaviour,” Kgosi Telekelo said.

Maisantwa III deputy chairperson, Mr Larona Bome, expressed gratitude for the transformative experience.



Kgosi Malope II of Bangwaketse officially bestowing the name Maisantwa III on the 1996-2000 regiment during a welcome ceremony in Kanye on Sunday.



Members of Maisantwa III at a welcome ceremony in Kanye on Sunday. Kgosi Malope II urged Maisantwa III to uphold their legacy with pride and responsibility. Photos: Courtesy of Kanye Bulletin

China and Kenya strengthen cultural ties

NAIROBI

A delegation from China's central Hunan Province on Monday visited the University of Nairobi to explore cooperation in film and television production, highlighting growing cultural exchanges between China and Kenya.

The visit was part of the Hunan Film Week Africa in Kenya and aimed to promote dialogue, as well as the sharing of knowledge and experience, among senior officials, scholars and industry experts on future avenues for collaboration in the creative economy.

Luo Zhengmao, deputy director of the Information Office of the People's Government of Hunan Province, said the performing arts, particularly film and television, were at the center of cooperation between Hunan and Kenya, with the goal of achieving mutually beneficial outcomes.

“Together, we will explore how streaming services, social media and short-video platforms can create new opportunities for co-productions, copyright cooperation and innovative content distribution between Hunan and African creators, especially young filmmakers,” Luo said.

Jack Odhiambo, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Nairobi, said cooperation with Hunan Province has provided a platform for mentoring and upskilling emerging television and film producers.

He noted that the partnership also led to the successful launch of the first season of the musical talent show: Sing for Africa in late 2025.

The programme seeks to identify, nurture and promote young local singers while strengthening cultural exchanges between China and Africa, he said.

The University of Nairobi is keen to deepen its partnership with Hunan Province in innovation and capacity building for filmmakers, television producers and performing artists, Odhiambo added. **Xinhua**

“We have gained invaluable insights on how to become better men in society. The teachings on life skills and the fight against GBV and substance abuse have truly empowered us,” he said.

The ceremony also provided a platform for a national appeal on agriculture and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) control. Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, urged Bangwaketse regiments, particularly the newly inducted Maisantwa III, to volunteer in constructing a critical 37-kilometre fence along the Tswane-Sekhutlane outline in the FMD containment zone.

Dr Dikoloti stressed the urgency of completing the fence to strengthen biosecurity measures. He called on the regiment to prioritise the fight against FMD and to use social media effectively in combating misinformation about the disease.

The Minister reminded farmers and citizens of their shared responsibility to restrict cattle movement along the fence line, noting that every individual has a role to play in preventing further spread of the disease.

The event beautifully blended cultural preservation with national development priorities, highlighting the continued relevance of traditional regiments in both safeguarding Bangwaketse heritage and addressing contemporary challenges facing the nation. **BOPA**

DailySport



“We are honoured that Botswana has once again been entrusted with the responsibility of hosting this prestigious regional event. It is a testament to the confidence that Africa Aquatics and our regional partners have in Botswana’s ability to organise and deliver world-class sporting events.”

Africa Aquatics technical delegate, Mathew Gibson (left), Botswana National Sport Commission sport development director, Peaceful Seleka (centre) and Botswana Swimming Sport Association president, Kgaotsang Matthews during a media briefing on the upcoming Africa Aquatics Zone IV Championships in Gaborone recently. Botswana will host Africa Aquatics Championships from September 2 to 5, 2026, marking another significant milestone in the country’s growing reputation as a leading destination for international sport. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu

Africa Aquatics zone IV championships comes to Botswana

Benita Magopane
GABORONE

Botswana will host the Africa Aquatics Zone IV Championships from September 2 to 5, 2026, further cementing its growing reputation as a destination for international sporting events.

The championships will bring together some of Southern Africa’s most talented young aquatic athletes, coaches, technical officials, administrators and supporters for four days of high-level competition and regional sporting exchange.

Addressing the media during a press conference, Botswana Swimming Sport Association (BSSA) president, Kgaotsang Matthews, said the event

represented a significant milestone for Botswana sport.

“We are honoured that Botswana has once again been entrusted with the responsibility of hosting this prestigious regional event. It is a testament to the confidence that Africa Aquatics and our regional partners have in Botswana’s ability to organise and deliver world-class sporting events,” she said.

Matthews revealed that four Botswana swimmers, Benco Van Rooyen, Aahana Sohoni, Muela Mutinda and Hanna Jobe, had travelled to Mauritius with coach Colter Carmen to participate in the Zone IV Open Water Swimming Championships.

She said beyond the competition, the championships would provide an opportunity to showcase Botswana’s hospitality, sporting

infrastructure and commitment to youth and sports development. The event would also offer local swimmers a chance to compete against some of the region’s best athletes on home soil.

Matthews acknowledged that while preparations were progressing well, significant work remained ahead of the event.

She announced that several partners had already committed support, including Inum Properties with P75 000, Knockout Cash & Carry with P70 000, Emergency 911 through medical coverage assistance valued at P95 000, Leap Frog through the provision of LED screens, ITIQ with IT services valued at P160 000 and Air Botswana as the official airline carrier. “We remain committed to ensuring that every athlete,

official and visitor experiences an event that reflects the highest standards of organisation and professionalism,” she said.

For his part, Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) Director of Sport Development, Peace Seleka, described swimming as one of Botswana’s most inspiring sporting success stories, following the award of swimming as a Sporting Code of the Year at the BNSC Sports Awards earlier this year, while rising swimming star Melodi Saleshando was recognised as Junior Sportsperson of the Year.

“Swimming has consistently demonstrated excellence, resilience, sound governance and a commitment to athlete development. The Zone IV Championships therefore present another opportunity to showcase

this excellence to the region,” said Seleka.

He said the event was expected to stimulate economic activity through increased demand for accommodation, transport, hospitality, tourism and related services as Botswana welcomes more visitors from across Southern Africa. Seleka further noted that the championships aligned with Botswana’s growing sports tourism ambitions following the successful hosting of the World Athletics Relays earlier this year.

“The Zone IV Aquatics Championships allow us to build on that momentum while reinforcing sport’s role as a catalyst for economic growth, youth empowerment, tourism development and national pride,” he said. **BOPA**

Botswana tops SACA games medal tally

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Despite the absence of school sports, Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) and its coaches continue to successfully identify raw talent, and their efforts have culminated in a first-place finish for Botswana out of the 12 countries that participated at the Southern African Confederation of Athletics (SACA) championships held in Mauritius on June 6 and 7.

Botswana raked in 20 medals, consisting of 10 gold, three silver and seven bronze.

Some of the outstanding

performances were through Botswana’s rising sprint queen Same Mhutsiwa who won two gold medals in the U20 categories.

She won 100 metres with a time of 11.84 seconds while in 200 metres she stopped the clock in 24.30 seconds.

In the Men’s U20 200m, Junior Phatsima stopped the clock in 20.97 seconds, and won another gold in the 400m with a personal best of 46.31 seconds, winning a double for Botswana.

Other gold medals were won by Ludo Mbekwa in the Women’s U20 Long Jump with a leap of 5.51m, and Game Onneile in the

Women’s U18 200m, recording 25.65 seconds.

Reiniours Geza won the Men’s U18 400m with a time of 49.11 seconds, while Bokang Isang won in the U18 category with a time of 21.14 seconds.

The Mixed 4x100m Relay team, made up of Wazha Matakule, Oarabile Hines, Jack Newman, and Mhutsiwa, won with a time of 45.24 seconds.

The Men’s U20 4x100m comprising Phatsima, Newman, Lucky Chivero, and Matakule won with 41.66 seconds.

Silver medals were delivered by Jayden Mathambo in the Men’s U20 110m Hurdles with a time of

14:75 and by Lebogang Mugagu in the Men’s U20 1500m, who clocked 4:03.59.

The U20 Mixed 4x400m Relay team comprising Wedu Matiwe, Tsaone Dintwa, Hines, and Warona Mokgosi won with a time of 3:40.91.

Bronze medals were won by Mathambo in the Men’s U20 400m Hurdles after clocking 55:59 seconds, Mugagu clocked 1:56.55 in the Men’s U20 800m, whereas Agang Magang recorded 1.95m in the Men’s U20 High Jump.

Bokang Isang won in the Men’s U18 100m with 10.84 seconds and in the Women’s U18 100m

Game Onneile also won bronze. Dintwa won the 400m with a personal best of 48.18 while Matakule won in the Men’s U20 100m with 10.49, also punching a ticket to the World Athletics U20 Championships Oregon 2026, clocking 10.49.

BAA CEO Mabua Mabua said they were happy with their coaching staff for nurturing talent through open track meets.

He said there was significant improvement in female participation and success, adding that the association’s open-door selection policy ensured every athlete had an equal opportunity to compete and be scouted. **BOPA**