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# People-centric approach key

Assistant Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr Shawn Ntlhaile (left) and Botswana Information Technology Society (BITS) chairperson, Mr Tshepo Bathai during the launch of BITS logo and National ICT Summit and Awards in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Ntlhaile said Botswana's asset was not its mineral resources but its people, particularly the youth and women whose talents and innovation would shape the country's digital future.

Photo: Pheny Ramatu



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YVES SAINT LAURENT, GUCCI, VERSACE, paco rabanne, ANTONIO BANDERAS

# WUC proposes connection to Pandamatenga

By Portia Ikgopoleng

KASANE - Water Utilities Corporation has proposed the connection of Pandamatenga to Kasane Water Treatment Plant infrastructure.

Speaking during a stakeholder meeting in Kasane on Tuesday WUC head of business centre, Mr Mothusi Lebala stated that the treatment plant which supplied Kasane, Kazungula, Lesoma and all villages in Chobe Enclave proved to have adequate

water to expand reticulation to Pandamatenga.

He said the plant which extracted four million litres a day from Chobe River with a storage capacity of 32 mega litres clearwater tank of which only eight mega litres was utilised on a daily basis.

This he said was an indication that the plant processed surplus water for the villages connected to the infrastructure adding that the excess was sufficient to feed Pandamatenga. Mr Lebala stated

that approval of the proposal to connect Pandamatenga to the water network would entail a 100 kilometre pipeline construction from Kasane to Pandamatenga.

He said currently Pandamatenga was supplied by two boreholes with a combined production of 196.5 cubic metres a day against 280 cubic metres demand.

He pointed out that plans were underway to equip a third borehole that was acquired from Water Affairs to augment the insufficient supply. Moreover

he said there is a case under litigation where a contractor failed to deliver on contractual obligations to equip another borehole in Pandamatenga.

He highlighted that WUC intended to be part of the economic development in the Chobe District as a tourist hub adding that this could be achieved through stakeholder engagement.

Chobe District Council Chairperson Mr Johane Chenjekwa gave a nod to the proposal to expand water reticulation to Pandamatenga.

He said that bowing water for Pandamatenga to augment supply was not viable and also expensive

for WUC.

Mr Chenjekwa underscored that council backed the proposal for the water network expansion because Pandamatenga was the only village in Chobe District without water.

Moreover he stated that Pandamatenga as an agronomy hub contributing 47 per cent to the national annual crop production had a potential to stimulate more agricultural supply chain, storage and processing facilities.

This he said could be achieved through a sustainable water supply to ensure larger scale of productions complimented by adequate water supply. **BOPA**



RIO DE JANEIRO - *Russia president Vladimir Putin taking part in the main plenary session of the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in Brazil. During the session, dedicated to peace, security, and global governance reforms, participants discussed prospects of further cooperation between the BRICS states in politics, trade, the economy, culture and humanitarian affairs, as well as the international agenda. After the BRICS Summit, the final declaration, BRICS Leaders’ statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence and Leaders’ Framework Declaration on Climate Finance, was adopted.*

## Putin challenges BRICS countries to deepen cooperation

RIO DE JANEIRO - It is important that the BRICS countries continue to deepen their cooperation across key sectors in politics, security, economy and finance, cultural and humanitarian contacts.

This was said by Russia president, Mr Vladimir Putin at the plenary session of the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

He said the group, which had significantly grown and now included leading states in Eurasia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, possessed a vast political, economic, scientific, technological and human potential.

“The BRICS countries account for not only a third of the earth’s landmass and almost half the planet’s population, but also for 40 per cent of the global economy, while their combined GDP at purchasing power parity stands at US\$77 trillion. This is the 2025 data according to the IMF. By the way, BRICS is substantially ahead of other groups in this parameter, including G7 with US\$57 trillion.”

Year after year, he said the group’s global authority and influence continued to grow.

“BRICS has rightfully established itself as one of the key centres of global governance, with our collective voice in support of the global majority’s vital interests resonating ever more powerfully across the

international stage.”

Putin further said the BRICS countries represented different development models, religions, authentic civilisations and cultures, while unanimously upholding equality and neighbourliness.

He said they prioritised traditional values, the high ideals of friendship and accord, strived to contribute to global stability and security, the prosperity and success of all nations.

“We all see that the world is experiencing tectonic shifts. The unipolar system of international relations that once served the interests of the so-called golden billion is losing its relevance, replaced by a more just multi-polar world. Global economic patterns are changing faster. Everything indicates that the liberal globalisation model is becoming obsolete while the centre of business activity is gravitating toward developing markets, launching a powerful growth wave, including in the BRICS countries. To maximise the emerging prospects, it is important to intensify cooperation within the group, primarily in technology, effective resource development, logistics, insurance, trade and finance.”

The president also said it was important to continue expanding the use of national currencies in mutual payments.

“It is believed that creating an independent payment

and monetary system within BRICS will expedite currency transactions while also ensuring their effectiveness and security,” he said.

Furthermore, he said using national currencies in trade within BRICS was steadily growing.

“In 2024, the share of Russia’s national currency, the ruble, and the currencies of our friendly states in transactions with Russia and other BRICS countries reached 90 per cent.”

He said multiplying mutual capital investment by the BRICS countries, including through BRICS mechanisms, primarily, the New Development Bank, appeared to be an important goal.

To this end, he noted that Russia proposed creating a whole new BRICS investment platform adding that the idea behind it was to jointly develop coordinated instruments to support and to bring in the funds from the economies of BRICS countries and from the Global South and Global East countries.

In addition, he said in September, Moscow will host Intervision, a popular international television song contest, which got the attention of numerous performers from BRICS and BRICS partner countries, who confirmed their willingness to participate in it.

“A humanitarian project of that magnitude is designed to promote universal, cultural, family, and spiritual values shared by our countries,” he said. **BOPA**

## Experts collaborate on Cubango-Okavango River Basin

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - A team of specialists from the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) and international partners convened in Maun for a landmark three-day workshop aimed at advancing the understanding and sustainable management of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin.

The workshop, involving collaborators from the Plus Alliance, comprising the Universities of Arizona, New South Wales, and King’s College London as well as the Eyre River Basin and private sector partners, focused on assessing ecosystems across the basin using the global ecosystem typology.

The primary goal of the gathering was to assemble and interpret comprehensive maps of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems within the basin.

Participants aimed to identify large-scale data sets, recognise data gaps, and develop capacity among young scientists from Angola, Namibia, and Botswana. Community engagement and education also formed key components of the initiative.

A significant aspect of the workshop was the exchange of knowledge regarding the twin river basin program, which links the Okavango Basin with Australia’s Lake Eyre Basin—one of the largest inland drainage systems in the world.

In an interview conducted during the event, ORI Director Dr Casper Bonyongo highlighted the importance of establishing baseline data.

“The Okavango River Basin remains relatively undisturbed,” he said, “but increasing pressure from population growth and development plans especially with Angola’s recent stability necessitate urgent assessment and management.”

The basin, shared by Angola, Namibia, and Botswana, is managed cooperatively through the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM). Dr Bonyongo emphasised that understanding the current status of the basin

was vital for detecting changes over time and making informed decisions.

“Without reliable data showing the current state of the basin, measuring future changes becomes difficult,” he added.

The workshop also facilitated discussions on establishing clear indicators for monitoring the ecosystem.

“We aim to develop specific variables at the basin level,” Dr Bonyongo explained, to produce accurate reports on the health and status of the basin.”

Collaboration with global organisations and government agencies was another priority. “Partnerships with Australian groups, ORI, OKACOM, and others are crucial because we share the common goal of understanding the river system and making informed management decisions,” Bonyongo said.

In a broader scope, ORI’s focus is expanding from the Okavango Delta to encompass the entire basin through partnerships with universities in Angola and Namibia. “This collective knowledge-sharing approach enriches our understanding and enhances our ability to respond to environmental challenges,” he added.

River ecologist and conservation biologist Professor Richard Kingsford underscored the importance of establishing a new framework for ecosystem management and reporting. “We need to scrutinize existing data and identify gaps,” he said. “Standardising data across Angola, Namibia, and Botswana will help us understand where the basin is heading and what threats it faces - such as deforestation and irrigation developments in Angola - and how these impact water flow and ecosystem health.”

Professor Kingsford emphasized that selecting appropriate indicators for different ecosystems is fundamental to fostering effective collaboration among the basin’s riparian countries, ultimately supporting sustainable ecosystem management. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko said transformation of the cattle industry remained paramount through identifying and eliminating bottlenecks for continuous improvement. He said the country's herd had dwindled from three million to 1.1 million.

# Decline in national herd calls for urgent intervention

By Keith Ketl

PALAPYE - Botswana cattle industry is experiencing a decline, prompting calls for immediate and targeted interventions to boost production and stabilise the herd.

Speaking at the launch of the Bonno National Housing Programme Target 61 000 constituency housing units in Palapye on Tuesday, President Advocate Duma Boko said it was therefore critical to transform the cattle industry to address the alarming decrease in cattle numbers.

He said the country's cattle population, once estimated at three million, had plummeted to an estimated 1.1 million.

"This situation is a crisis that has reached an alarming level. If the decline continues over the next three years, Botswana risks increasing its reliance on imported beef, which will further inflate the already heavy import bill for agricultural produce," President Boko said.

The President stressed the need for intensified, tailor-made interventions to reverse the trend and called for a collaborative effort among experts to combat the dwindling cattle herd.

He expressed optimism that the industry could recover swiftly, aiming to see the herd increase to at least five million.

President Boko also discussed broader national development strategies. He announced plans to transition from the traditional National Development Plan (NDP) to a more comprehensive National Transformation Programme.

"My mission is transformational change that genuinely reflects the daily lives of our people. This new approach will demystify solutions, make challenges easier to address, and ensure that development is

inclusive and effective."

He announced that the launch of the National Transformation Programme would feature a diverse team of both local and international experts.

The initiative aims to revolutionise key sectors including housing, education, agriculture, infrastructure, the economy, and livelihoods, ultimately

transforming Botswana into a vibrant, thriving nation.

"We want all Batswana to partake in this transformative journey to elevate our country to new heights," President Boko said.

Despite budget constraints, President Boko assured the nation that the government was committed to deploying all necessary resources. **BOPA**

# Official welcomes partners support

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ms Abigail Khumoyame has acknowledged the invaluable support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) towards addressing the financial challenges confronting protected area management in Botswana.

Giving a keynote address at the ongoing second training workshop on the Botswana Protected Areas Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Partnerships Plan, she said the partnership continued to strengthen collective efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable financing.

Ms Khumoyame acknowledged that once the document on the plan was finalised, it would enhance the capacity of the institutions and stakeholders to plan, mobilise and manage financial resources effectively.

The document she said, would also enable them to pilot and scale finance solutions that could be replicated across other protected areas.

"Our protected areas are not only ecological treasures but also vital contributors to our tourism economy, rural livelihoods, and national identity. Yet, they face increasing financial pressures that threaten their ability to deliver on their conservation and socio-economic mandates," she added

The platform, she said came at an opportune moment considering the current financial situation of the country, adding that it was thus imperative as it called for innovative ways of ensuring that the tourism sector was properly positioned for it to help propel the economy forward.

She acknowledged that the workshop would deepen their understanding of the financial needs and challenges facing protected area management in Botswana as well as allow them to seek ways of refining and prioritising resource mobilisation options that were both innovative and contextually appropriate.

She said it would also afford them the opportunity to validate the findings of an ongoing consultancy and build consensus around a finance solution to be piloted as well as strengthen institutional coordination and stakeholder

# 'People-centric approach key in digital future'

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Assistant Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr Shawn Ntlhaile says Botswana's greatest asset is not its mineral resources but its people, particularly the youth and women, whose talents and innovation will shape the country's digital future.

Speaking at the launch of the national Information and Communication Technology (ICT) summit and awards, organised by the Botswana Information Technology Society (BITS), Mr Ntlhaile highlighted the importance of empowering these groups through mentorship, education, and increased access to technological opportunities.

"We must empower them through mentorship, education, and access to innovation opportunities. We need more women leading tech start-ups and more young people building Apps that solve Botswana's challenges," he stated.

The government commits to fostering inclusivity through initiatives such as the BITS Women in ICT Chapter, TechWomen Google Developer Group, enterprise incubators, and digital entrepreneurship boot camps.

These efforts are part of broader

plans to enhance digital literacy across schools, tertiary institutions, and communities along with investments in broadband infrastructure.

Furthermore, Mr Ntlhaile underscored the importance of creating supportive policies and incentives for digital entrepreneurship alongside safeguarding cyberspace with robust data protection and cybersecurity frameworks.

He also emphasised the need for regional cooperation in securing Botswana's digital landscape.

However, he acknowledged that government alone could not achieve the nation's ICT ambitions.

"We need public-private partnerships, academic research, international collaboration, and a vibrant civil society," he said.

The private sector was urged to innovate and scale digital solutions, while academia was called upon to conduct research, develop digital skills, and bridge the gap between theory and practice.

He stressed the importance of continuous policy refinement to encourage investment and responsible innovation that aligned with global digital standards.

"Our policies must not only keep pace with technology; they must help shape the future. And we need our young people, not just as consumers of technology, but as creators, disruptors, and leaders of the digital age," Mr Ntlhaile added.

The upcoming summit and awards aim to recognise excellence, innovation, and impact in ICT across diverse sectors, genders, and generations.

Mr Ntlhaile urged stakeholders to leverage the event as a platform for knowledge sharing, partnership building, and capacity development.

He encouraged bold collaboration, intentional action, and solutions focused on tangible impacts.

"Let us reflect on how we can align our national ICT strategies with regional and global frameworks such as the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy, SADC Vision 2050, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," he implored.

In his welcoming remarks, BITS Vice President Mr Vish Sethi highlighted the society's mission to foster a vibrant community of IT professionals, promote digital literacy, and support a knowledge-based economy through advocacy and strategic partnerships.

He described the national ICT summit and awards as a premier platform to showcase Botswana's home-grown technologies and digital talent, and to foster dialogue among government, industry, academia, and innovators.

"To lead in an era where technology is transforming economies and societies, Botswana must not only keep pace but also set the pace. Platforms like this summit build the bridges that turn ideas into action and innovation into impact," Mr. Sethi stated.

The ICT summit and awards are scheduled to take place in Gaborone on November 14 and 15. **BOPA**

DailyNews

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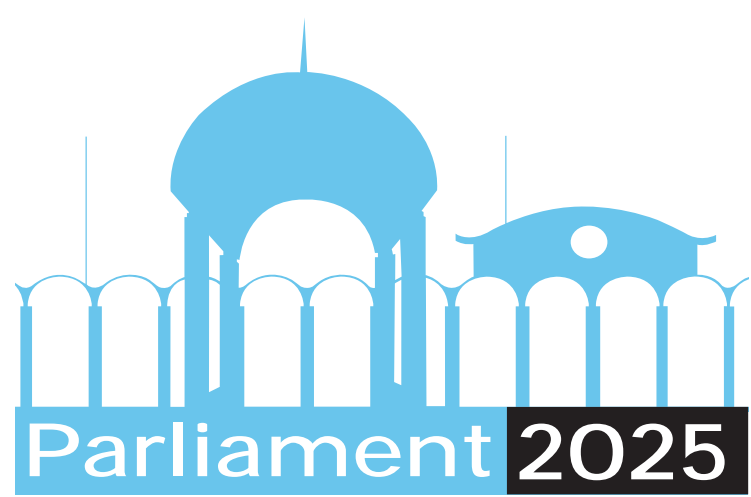
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## Dewet Drilling Matsieng Air Show sole organiser

GABORONE - The Matsieng Air Show is a privately organised event and exclusively managed by Dewet Drilling Company while the Ministry of Environment and Tourism participated as a sponsor through the Botswana Tourism Organisation.

This was revealed by the acting Minister of Environment and Tourism, Major General Pius Mokgware to Parliament on Tuesday.

Answering a parliamentary question, he said since the

## Ministry secures funds for road project

GABORONE - The Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima has said the ministry has secured through SPEDU, funding from European Union, to construct a connecting road between Platjan and Mathathane, which will link the Platjan Border Post to Selebi Phikwe through Bobonong.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, he said this was in its endeavour to provide infrastructure for ease of doing business.

Mr Ntsima said several milestones had been achieved and that included detailed designs, development of the concept and EIA.

He said the final report on the land expropriation had been finalised and the compensation process had commenced.

The minister also revealed that a tender on the construction of the road was undergoing evaluation and expected to conclude during the second quarter, while the construction was estimated to take 24 months.

He was answering a question from MP for Selebi Phikwe East, Mr Kgoberego Nkawana who had asked the minister to state his ministry's plans on the construction of a road that would link the Platjan Border Post with Selebi Phikwe. **BOPA**

## Mmopane plots allocations set for September

GABORONE - Plans are underway to allocate the first batch of the residential plots of the Mmopane layout by the end of September, with the survey record for the area currently at examination stage.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, the acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti noted that the delays in the approval of the survey diagrams were a result of certain hindrances encountered during the examination of the survey records.

He said such challenges included the existence of ploughing fields affecting approximately 18 hectares of the layout, which had not been expropriated, but were already surveyed and had registered leases.

As a result, he said another consultation had to be undertaken in December last year.

However, Dr Dikoloti noted that the consultation did not yield the needed results, hence a decision was taken in April to subtract the encumbered portions from the layout while the consultations continued. He said this reduced the number of plots from the initial 1 679 to a number to be determined by the examination or re-survey of the area. Additionally, the acting minister said the suspect in an

illegal plot allocation case in Mmopane Block 1 involving 29 plots, which occurred around 2021, was taken to court and a conviction obtained. He further noted that Mogoditshane Sub-Land Board was in possession of over 50 fraudulent certificates of residential plots in Mmopane Block 1, which were seized from the purported allottees, while the matter was being handled by the investigating agencies.

The MP for Mmopane/Metsimotlhabe, Ms Helen Manyeneng had asked if the minister was aware of illegal plot allocations at Mmopane Block 1 and when allocation of plots was to be done at Mmopane. **BOPA**

## Train suspension affected Blue Mark Service operations - Atamelang

GABORONE - The Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang has said the suspension of the passenger train in March 2020 negatively affected the Blue Mark Service efficiency, resulting in the review of the schedule, which now operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, Mr Atamelang noted that the Blue

Mark Service, which is operational in Botswana Railways (BR) stations in Lobatse, Gaborone, Mahalapye, Palapye, Selebi Phikwe and Francistown, was originally supported by the passenger train and offered a daily overnight door-to-door service until the latter was suspended. He noted BR continued to provide the service internally and currently controlled the service charges as the sole operator.

The assistant minister however noted that the fees would be determined by two entities once a partnership was secured. He was responding to Selebi Phikwe West MP, Mr Reuben Kaizer, who had asked on the status of the Blue Mark Service offered by BR and if the service was still offered in-house by BR or outsourced. Mr Reuben had also asked if BR controlled the courier service charges for the service. **BOPA**



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa said Mogoditshane's rapid growth and increased economic activities had led to waste management challenge.

## 'Waste management challenge in Mogoditshane'

GABORONE - Rapid population growth and increased economic activities besieging Mogoditshane district has led to increased waste management challenge.

The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa revealed this when answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday.

He highlighted that Mogoditshane/Thamaga District transitioned from a sub-district to a fully-fledged district in 2023.

The minister said the development was intended to enhance service delivery, hence resource constraints had posed a negative impact on delivery of services, waste management

included.

Mr Motshegwa said Mogoditshane was one of the most densely populated peri-urban areas with a population of about 88 098 and due to that and increased economic activities, there was high concentration of waste. He attributed illegal dumping, public space littering and delayed house hold waste collection to waste management challenges in Mogoditshane.

Mr Motshegwa mentioned that there was a devised mitigation plan as the ministry had released funds amounting to P14 720 000 specifically for outsourcing household waste collection services.

He added that, out of 32 wards in Mogoditshane, 78 per cent

currently received outsourced waste collection services while the remaining 22 per cent were serviced in-house.

The collection of household waste at Ledumadumane, Mogoditshane Central and Tsolamosese commence yesterday as tenders had been awarded.

Moreover, Mr Motshegwa said the ministry disbursed the sum of P9 902 116 in June for the district to purchase more waste trucks.

He said it was anticipated that the district would be able to address the scourge in house waste collection services given the available resources.

On other issues, he said to curb illegal dumping and enhance law enforcement the district had recently acquired two supervisory vehicles for surveillance and monitoring.

He said by the end of June, the district had managed to install 37 street waste bins along the lay-bys as a way of promoting proper handling of waste generated by road users.

He emphasised that the ministry was committed to ensure improved waste management in the area through a combination of increased outsourcing, law enforcement, infrastructure development and public education.

He was responding to a question from Mogoditshane East MP, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang who had asked the minister if he was aware of the serious challenges of waste management collection in Mogoditshane. **BOPA**

# BQA re-engineers operations to enhance efficiency

GABORONE - Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) has re-engineered its approach to the processing of applications and delegated some decision-making functions to management. The Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele told Parliament on Tuesday that this was in an endeavour to close legislative gaps and improve turnaround times in processing applications.

He noted that prior to that, the BQA experienced legislative gaps, which often led to non-

compliance by the education and training providers (ETPs) as well as lengthy turnaround times in processing applications.

Subsequently, he said they delegated management to approve Certificate to Degree programmes while the board was tasked with approving Masters to PhD programmes, alongside registration and accreditation of institutions.

He noted that since the Board had not been operational, they had experienced a negative impact on the good progress

BQA had been making.

Mr Maele noted that the last approval process engaged the board, which represented a group of subject matter experts as well as professionals in various fields.

He said in the period under review, the BQA Board last met on June 24, 2024 to consider applications for registration of qualifications and accreditation of learning programmes and 51 applications were considered at that sitting.

The minister said from the total considered, 32 were approved for both registration and renewal of registration for qualifications on the National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF), while 18 were approved for accreditation

of learning programmes and one for relocation of site, which was rejected.

Nonetheless, he noted that as of June 27, the Board had approved 97 out of a total of 113 qualifications and accredited 76 out of 96 learning programmes.

He said out of the 35 learning programmes submitted from the University of Botswana (UB) on or before June 2024 and 13 were awaiting consideration and approval by the Board, nine awaiting evidence of endorsement by the relevant professional bodies since they were for regulated professions, adding that the remaining 13 applications were still being evaluated by the BQA.

Additionally, the minister said to date, 184 out 215 applications

for learning programmes at UB were approved by the Board on June 27.

He said of the 31 pending, 16 were awaiting endorsement and 15 were to be approved in the next Board sitting.

The minister was responding to a question by MP for Maun West, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama, who had asked about the state of the BQA and its operational efficiency and challenges.

He had further requested the minister to state when last the BQA Board met to approve programmes from tertiary institutions in Botswana, as well as the number of UB programmes that were submitted on or before June 24 that were still pending evaluation and approval by the BQA. **BOPA**

## MPs back Medical Aid bill to safeguard citizens

GABORONE - Members of Parliament have supported a bill aimed at regulating medical aid fund administrators, brokers, and managed care organisations in Botswana.

The proposed bill presented by Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe seeks to strengthen oversight in the medical aid sector to ensure the protection of fund members and improve the financial stability of health-related financial institutions.

The bill, that gained widespread backing across party lines, was presented to address long-standing concerns about rising healthcare costs, lack of transparency, and potential exploitation of members within the medical aid system as well as proposes mandatory medical insurance coverage for all citizens in an effort to improve the country's healthcare.

Several MPs hailed the bill as a timely intervention to restore public trust and improve governance in the medical insurance sector.

what medical aid meant, adding that the bill should be concerned about extending medical aid to all people.

MP for Tswapong North, Mr Prince Maele also lent his support but raised concerns over brokers involved in the medical insurance process.

He cautioned that without proper regulation, brokers might drive up costs and exploit the system.

"We must also regulate foreign medical aid providers to protect our citizens from unfair practices," he added.

Echoing similar sentiments, MP David Tshire of Mahalapye West highlighted the need to address the dual role of some medical aid providers who both administered policies and delivered services.

"There is often price manipulation where the same company manages the insurance and provides the treatment," he warned.

He said the bill should include clauses to prevent price manipulation, unethical practices, and conflicts of interest, particularly where entities administer and provide medical services under the same umbrella.

Kanye West MP, Mr Victor Phologolo commended the bill, stating that it has the potential to significantly improve access to quality healthcare.

Mr Phologolo emphasised that medical aid plays a crucial role in protecting citizens from exorbitant healthcare costs.

He nevertheless raised a concern that many people pay out of their pockets and then urged to claim expenses from medical aid, emphasising the need for a well-regulated sector that prioritised patient welfare over profit.

Maun West MP, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama also endorsed the bill, noting its importance in strengthening health services, especially for vulnerable populations.

"This bill aims to ensure mandatory medical insurance that will include the poor Batswana, many of whom still do not have access to adequate healthcare," he said.

He said the bill should cover even people who stayed at the fields and cattle posts who currently were not even aware of

While also in agreement with the bill, Kgatleng West MP, Dr Unity Dow said the broader health system needed urgent attention before a focus on insurance could be meaningful.

"There are no beds, no medicines, no blankets in our hospitals, we cannot talk about medical aid while the system is in crisis," she said.

She said there was need to fix public health system.

MP for Tlokeng, Mr Pheny Segokgo, another supporter, raised a point about equity and fairness within the medical aid framework.

"People are paying high premiums, yet some never use the services, there should be a mechanism to compensate such individuals," he said.

He called for cash back among those that found themselves paying, yet did no use medical aid. **BOPA**



*The Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe has said only 14 out of 45 reviewed State-Owned Enterprises are compliant with the King III Code of governance principles, which was adopted by the authority to fulfill compliance mandate.*

## Over 30 SOEs non-compliant - Gaolathe

GABORONE - The Vice President and Minister of Finance Mr Ndaba Gaolathe has said only 14 out of 45 reviewed State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) are compliant with the King III Code of governance principles, which was adopted by the authority to fulfill the mandate of compliance.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, he said furthermore, in an attempt to promote corporate governance amongst SOEs, PEEPA has developed corporate compliance framework to be implemented by all SOEs.

The minister said in the

meantime, the agency was exploring additional ways to engage with the SOEs to get the requested information, including follow-up outreach or alternative methods.

Mr Gaolathe also pointed out that the government had put in place measures to improve oversight of SOEs by establishing a Cabinet sub-committee to oversee their performance and governance, while efforts to finalise the SOEs ownership policy and corporate governance code are ongoing.

He said accounting officers referred the annual reports

of SOEs, including audited financial statements, to the committee on statutory bodies and state enterprises for scrutiny.

Molepolole North MP, Mr Arafat Khan had asked the minister to update the house on the status and compliance rate of SOEs on issues of corporate governance, backed by thorough audit processes.

He also wanted to know if there were any plans to provide a comprehensive report on the same, especially those that were mandated with management and disbursement of public funds in the form of loans. **BOPA**



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SPAR



# Bonno to enhance area profiles

The Bonno National Housing Programme is set to revolutionise access to affordable yet dignified housing for many deserving Batswana.

President Advocate Duma Boko's launch of the programme in Palapye on Tuesday coincided with smaller, yet equally significant launches at district level with the North East District performing its own.

In Tatisiding, **Thamani Shabani** reports that Kgosi Simon Nkgageng of Tatisiding acknowledged the positive impact that will come with the construction of 30 housing units in his village under the Bonno National Housing Programme, saying with the village gradually becoming a preferable residential area due to the increased demand for accommodation in nearby Francistown, it is set to transform the village into an emerging accommodation hub.

Kgosi Nkgageng said in addition to bringing a fresh look to the village once the housing units were completed, the project's implementation stage carried potential to attract investment and generate the much-needed employment opportunities for local residents.

Due to the growing housing shortage and lengthy waiting lists for residential plots, he was optimistic that the Bonno National Housing Programme would help alleviate the crisis and reduce waiting times for housing in the village.

North East District Council deputy chairperson, Mr Keoagile Gola said Tatisiding was selected due to its proximity to Francistown, making it an ideal spill-over location for the city.

Mr Gola urged the contractor to complete the project on time and within budget, whilst also calling on residents to actively participate in the monitoring and supervision of the construction process to ensure quality and durability, especially against

weather conditions.

In Maun, **Esther Mmolai** reports that Assistant Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Motsamai Motsamai said through the programme, government was laying a foundation for a future of dignity, prosperity and inclusion for every Motswana.

Speaking at the project site, where the Ohanja Estate, a 55-unit housing complex will be built, Mr Motsamai said the development represented dreams of families who will soon call the place home.

Located in Matlapana, the project aligned perfectly with government's commitment to providing safe and affordable housing.

"This is not just a housing project, it is a nation building initiative driven by our collective desire to ensure that no Motswana is left behind in the trudge towards housing development in Botswana. Our vision simple, yet powerful, is to enable every Motswana especially the low to middle income earners, ability to access and ultimately own a decent home," he emphasised.

Mr Motsamai said through the project, government was building safe havens where children would dream, elders would rest while families thrived.

He reiterated that the initiative will reduce the national housing backlog, which has burdened too many of people for too long, by providing quality, affordable and dignified homes that uplifted livelihoods.

Speaking in respect to the Tati Siding and Maun projects, Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) officials hailed the Bonno National Housing Programme.

In Tati Siding, project leader, Ms Samantha Chabata said the initiative represented a significant milestone in the national effort to provide descent shelter to Batswana.

She emphasised that housing was a basic human need that the



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane (third right) and other officials during the launch of the construction of 30 housing units in Tatisiding under the Bonno National Housing Programme. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

project will address.

According to Ms Chabata, the 30 units will comprise 15 two-bedroom houses and 15 three-bedroom houses.

The project she said, will be executed by Obakeng Construction, a 100 per cent citizen-owned company and will create approximately 50 direct jobs within the locality.

Ms Chabata added that the development was expected to stimulate local economic empowerment and growth and deliver sustainable housing solution for civil servants and ordinary citizens alike.

In Maun, head of facilities management Mr Benjamin Olebile said Ohanja Estate was an important milestone in the collective pursuit to provide inclusive, affordable and dignified shelter for all Batswana.

He said the project was a tangible response to the call to

action on the accelerated delivery of housing units in Botswana, a deliberate investment in housing and infrastructure development that supported livelihoods, stability and economic mobility.

To ensure optimal participation of citizen contractors, he said the 55 units have been unbundled into packages awarded to different citizen contractors.

"The contracts have been awarded to 100 per cent citizen-owned contractors with the requisite experience and expertise to carry out the works. The project is expected to create approximately 100 jobs in Maun," said Mr Olebile.

In Ghanzi, **Malebogo Lekula** reports that Morama Ward councillor, Mr Sergeant Lefoko, said that the programme addressed item 11 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which challenged governments to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

He said the 61 000 units launch was a starting point toward the attainment of 100 000 houses that government targeted in a period of two years.

Mr Lefoko therefore called for stakeholder collaboration for the initiative to achieve its intended purpose.

He said Ghanzi District would benefit from it as it promoted the socio-economic status of communities through employment opportunities.

Mr Lefoko implored community members to use the programme to uplift their livelihoods.

Kgosi Annah Rankho of Ghanzi encouraged residents to share the information with others so that many could benefit.

In Pitseng, **Marvin Motlhabane** reports that the community gathered at Ms Ntebogang Kokome's residence to celebrate the groundbreaking programme, where Moshupa District Council chairperson, Mr Peter Sethibe announced that Ms Kokome's

house was one of the six planned for construction during the 2025/26 financial year.

He explained that four additional houses would be constructed in Moshupa, while two would be built in Pitseng, completing the targeted six homes.

Mr Sethibe stated the programme's dual impact, stating that it would stimulate foreign direct investment and create employment opportunities, while facilitating skill transfer to the local populace.

He said the two main arrangements of the programme, a turnkey model, where the house was handed over to the owner upon completion, and a home improvement scheme intended to assist citizens in finishing their buildings hence encouraged residents to familiarise themselves with the eligibility criteria established for applicants.

Mr Sethibe advised Ms Kokome, as one of the first beneficiaries, to cherish the opportunity provided by government, urging her to not abandon the property as had been the trend with other government housing beneficiaries.

He suggested renting the house should she need to relocate.

Quoting Hebrews 3:4, Mr Sethibe remarked, "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything," reinforcing the notion that the Bonno National Housing Programme was a divine project worthy of appreciation and gratitude.

Ms Ntebogang Kokome expressed her heartfelt appreciation and stated that the house budgeted at P90 000 came with a monthly fee of P375, which was manageable even for those relying on casual jobs.

Moshupa District Council, principal technical officer, Mr Thatayaone Dintwe, shared the house design, which included a single bedroom, an open-plan kitchen, bathroom and a veranda.

**BOPA**



Ghanzi District Council chairperson, Mr Thabiso Keadile performing a groundbreaking at Molapo Ward for 1 000 Bonno Housing units earmarked for Ghanzi constituency on Tuesday. He implored communities to utilise the programme to uplift their livelihoods and emphasised that it was open to all citizens. Photo: Malebogo Lekula

# President Boko launches

## Bonno Target 61 000 Housing Programme

Botswana is making notable progress in aligning with the United Nations' recognition of adequate housing as a basic human right, focusing not only on shelter, but also on ensuring dignity and peace for its people. On Tuesday, President Advocate Duma Boko launched the 61 000 housing units programme that will see government deliver 1 000 houses in each of the 61 constituencies across the country over a period of two years. He said the Bonno National Housing Target 61 000 Programme, would help restore human dignity and help Botswana uphold the right to adequate housing as a fundamental right. President Boko said the project was designed to restore dignity and improve lives, while creating over 200 direct jobs, particularly targeting youth. The programme encompasses a variety of housing schemes, which include the Bonno Home Improvement Loan Scheme, Bonno Turnkey Development Loan Scheme and the Bonno D4 Scale and below or equivalent Housing Loan Scheme.



President Boko launching the housing programme in Palapye.  
**Photo: Phenyo Moalosi**



Gaborone Block 7 also celebrated the housing project launch. Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Maipelo Mophuting graced the event.  
**Photo: Tshepo Gombo**



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane (centre) at the housing programme launch in Tatisiding.  
**Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata**



A poet, Omphemetse Letamo (right) rendering a poem in Palapye.  
**Photo: Phenyo Moalosi**



Dignitaries among them, Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi attended the groundbreaking of the first of the 1 000 houses that would be built in the Palapye constituency.  
**Photo: Phenyo Moalosi**



Assistant Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Motsamai Motsamai at the launch of the project in Maun. Looking on are Kgosi Tawana II (left) and other dignitaries.  
**Photo: Esther Mmolai**



Palapye residents graced the launch.  
**Photo: Phenyo Moalosi**



Setlhopha sa setshaba sa bomme sa kgwele ya dinao, The Mares, se itomile molomo wa tlase go dira ka natla mo motshamekong wa TotalEnergies CAF Women’s Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) kgatlhanong le Nigeria, bosigo jwa gompiano ka nako ya boferabongwe.

# The Mares e itsolopantse

GABORONE - Setlhopha sa setshaba sa bomme sa kgwele ya dinao, The Mares, se itomile molomo wa tlase go dira ka natla mo motshamekong wa TotalEnergies CAF Women’s Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) kgatlhanong le Nigeria, bosigo jwa gompiano ka nako ya boferabongwe.

The Mares ba latlhegetswe 1-0 mo motshamekong wa bone wa ntlha kgatlhanong le Algeria ka Tshipi. Seo se ba beile mo maemong a boraro mo Group B, e mo bogompienong Nigeria e ithlomileng kwa setlhoeng sa yone. The Mares ba supile fa ba tlhaloganya botlhokwa jwa go fenyha Nigeria, ba supa fa ba sa itumelela tatlhegelo ya bone fa ba ne ba tshameka le Algeria.

Nancy Baeletsi wa The Mares, a

re motshameko wa bone le Nigeria o tlhoka gore batshameki ba bo ba itsolopantse gore go seka ga nna le diphoso dipe.

A re ba santse ba na le sebaka sa go lwa, gore ba fetele kwa legatong le le latelang la metshameko. Motshameki yo mongwe, Laone ‘Lotta’ Moloi o supile fa go le botlhokwa gore ba dirise sebaka sengwe le sengwe se ba se bonang go tsenya ntlha.

A re go bo ba latlhegetswe ke motshameko wa ntlha, ga go reye gore go fedile ka The Mares.

Moloi a re ba itse fa Batswana ba na le tsholofelo e ntsi mo go bone mme ebile ba na le maikaelelo a go fitlha kwa seka-makgaolagannyeng.

Metshameko e, e tshwaretse kwa Casablanca, Morocco. **BOPA**

# Monna o fitlhetswe a tlhokafetse kwa Tsabong

Ka Cathrine Simane

TSABONG - Monna mongwe wa Tsabong, yo mapodisi bantseng ba le mo letsholong la go mmatla morago ga go amogela pego ya gore ga a bonwe o fitlhetswe a tlhokafetse. Mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong Senior Superintendent Christopher Tlhapi-David o boletse mo potsolotsong le **BOPA** fa ba ne ba begelwa kgwedi eno e

tlhola gane fa go nale mongwe yo o nyeletseng.

Senior Superintendent Tlhapi-David o tlhalositse fa mapodisi ba ne ba tsibogela pego eo ba simolola go batla monna yoo.

A re morago go ne ga nna le dipelaelo tsa gore rre yoo o ka tswa a tsamaile le mongwe kwa Gakhibana, mme a tlatsa ka go supa fa e ne ya re ba tswelletse ka letsholo la go mmatla ba begelwa

fa go bonwe motlhala o go belaelwang e le wa gagwe gaufi le motse oo.

O boletse fa mapodisi le batsadi ka tshwaragano le thuso ya sefofane sa tlhoo-tomo sa sepodisi ba ne ba latedisa motlhala oo mme ya re ka letsatsi la Mosupologo mo tshokologong ba fitlhela monna yoo mo sekgweng mme go lebega a sa tlhole a le mo botshelong.

Senior Superintendent Tlhapi-

David a re ba ne ba ragosetsa monna yoo, kwa kokelong ya Tsabong kwa ba bongaka ba fetileng ba tlhomamisa fa a tlhokafetse.

O boletse fa e tlaa re mo bogaufing serepa se romelwe kwa kokelong sa Princess Marina kwa Gaborone go ya go tlhatlhojwa ke ba bongaka.

Senior Superintendent Tlhapi-David o ne a supa fa mapodisi ba tshwenngwa ke dikgang tsa

go timela ga batho kwa kgaolong ya Tsabong, a tlhalosa fa bontsi jwa nako batho ba go nna jalo ba fitlhelwa ba tlhokafetse ka ntlha ya letsapa le tlala.

O ne a gakolola batsadi le setshaba go gakolola bana gore fa motho a ka iphitlhela a latlhegetswe ke tsela segolo jang mo sekgweng a ikgate motlhala go boela kwa a tswa teng go na le go tswelela le mosepele mme a sa itse kwa a go yang. **BOPA**

# Bogogi kwa Matlapana bo lebogela ditlhabololo

Ka Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Kgosi Tshupegetso Bontsibokae wa Matlapana o lebogetse lenaneo la go agela Batswana matlo la Bonno National Housing Programme Target 61 000, le le neng le simolodisiwa ke Tautona Advocate Duma Boko kwa Palapye ka Labobedi.

Ka lenaneo le, go ne ga simolodisiwa kago ya matlo a le 55 kwa Matlapana, mme yone e simolodisiwa semmuso ke Mothusa Tona wa lephata la metsi le bonno, Rre Motsamai Motsamai.

Kgosi Bontsibokae, o supile fa matlo ao, a tlaa fetola selebego sa motse o ebile e leng boremelelo jwa bojanala.

O supile fa ngogola go ne ga simolodisiwa kago ya matlo a le 45 go ne mo kgaolong ya gagwe.

Kgosi Bontsibokae o

solofeditse fa ba tlaa tlhokomela dikago tseo le go tlhomamisa gore ba ba filweng tiro ba e dira ka botswapelo.

A re lethoko la boroko e tlaa nna selo sa maloba mme ebile bangwe beng gae ba tlaa kgona go oba letsogo ka ba tlaa bona diphatla tsa mebereko.

Modulasetilo wa khansele ya Bokone Bophirima, Rre Itumeleng Kelebetseng o lebogile puso go tlhabolola kgaolo.

“Re lebogela gore matlo a ga a agelwe badirela puso fela mme le ba ba tlhokileng lesego kana ba amogela dituelo tse di kwa tlase ba ka reka matlo,” Rre Kelebetseng a supa a bo a gwetlha ba ba nang le kgatlhego go ititaya ka thupana.

A re go ngomola pelo go bona motho a fitlhelwa mo tanteng mme a gwetlha batsadi go direla bana ba bone bonno jo bo eletsegang, gore e re motsing ba

hularang, bana ba bo ba na le fa ba latsang tlhogo teng.

Mogolwane yo o tlhokometseng tsa kago go tswa kwa Botswana Housing Corporation, Rre Benjamin Olebile o supile fa kago ya matlo e le nngwe ya boikarabelo jwa koporase go rarabololo lethoko la boroko mo Batswaneng ka bophara.

A re puso e tsile ka lenaneo le le letlang gore Motswana mongwe le mongwe a seka a salalela morago mme a nne le boroko jo bo mo nayang seriti mme ke so ne se puso e dirileng gore theko le khiriso ya matlo a, e bulelwe mongwe le mongwe le yo o amogelang dituelo tse di kwa tlase tota.

O supile gape fa ba dirile gore kago ya matlo a, e akolwe ke dikonteraka tsa beng gae e bile ba lekile bojothle go kgaoganya tiro ka dikonteraka tse di tswang kwa Maun le metse e e mabapi. **BOPA**

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# Association wants intersex surgeries abolished

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE - Rainbow Identity Association, a local advocacy group, is calling for an end to intersex surgeries performed on babies, describing them as non-essential.

The association's project coordinator, Mr Kagiso Bannye, said in an interview that the procedures were mostly not medically necessary, as they were performed based on a child's genitals.

He explained that a person's sex was complex and could not be determined solely by visual inspection, as it involved hormones, chromosomes, and genitals.

Mr Bannye said the sex assigned by a doctor was recorded on the child's birth certificate, and could be difficult to change at a later stage if a need arose.

"The challenge in Botswana is that when a child is born, they are assigned either one (male) or two (female). We are saying that we intersex individuals belong to neither category; we should be assigned zero or three," he said.

He stated that when an individuals' sex identity differed from the one assigned at birth, the situation became more complex if such an individual's other reproductive organ had been surgically removed.

"We are calling for an end to these operations," he continued, noting that the association was currently running a campaign, 'Hands off Our Genitals,' which urges medical professionals to avoid making decisions solely based on genital anatomy.

Mr Bannye explained that parental consent for these operations often stemmed from misinformation by medical practitioners and societal pressure.

He added that some surgeries resulted in medical complications, leading to some individuals having to frequent health facilities while others became reclusive.

Furthermore, he highlighted that some intersex people faced challenges accessing facilities due to their national identity cards reflecting an opposite sex, adding that they were sometimes forced to undress to prove their sex.

Also, he emphasised the need for societal efforts to foster acceptance of intersex people, adding that they were often subjected to derogatory names due to widespread ignorance.

Despite their challenges, he said the National Registration Act was their lifeline, enabling individuals to change their sex designation on their identity documents.

Ms Mpho Mudendu, another project coordinator responsible for transgender issues, said intersex and transgender individuals were often perceived as gays or lesbians, which was inaccurate.

She stated that their sexuality was not determined by sexual partner preference but rather by their biological makeup.

Due to the lack of a law explicitly recognising and protecting the rights of intersex people, the government attempted to introduce such protections, along with protections for people with disabilities, through a failed constitutional amendment

last year. The amendment, which failed to pass, defined intersex as 'a person born with any of several sex characteristics, including chromosome patterns, gonads, and genitals that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies.'

According to the United Nations it is estimated that 1.7 per cent of the world population is born with intersex traits. **BOPA**



Rainbow Identity Association coordinators, Mr Kagiso Bannye (left) and Ms Mpho Mudendu during a recent interview in Gaborone. The association is advocating for an end to intersex surgeries performed on babies. Photo: Dimpho Buisanyang



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- Your Human Resource Office for record keeping

Or send it to the email below:  
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Toll free: 0800 600 177

Download the form from the BPOPF website.

[www.bpopf.co.bw](http://www.bpopf.co.bw)



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#### Job Summary

Reporting to Contracts Manager. The purpose of this role is to assist with the operating of a raisebore machine and any other task relating to operating to the assigned project in the mining sector, based at Zone 5, Toteng.

#### Areas of Responsibility:

- Site Preparation
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- Dismantling of machines
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#### Job Requirement

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- Minimum experience of 4 years an apprentice
- Speak, read and write – English
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- Police Clearance

### 2. 1 x Position: Welder/Boilermaker

#### Job Summary

Reporting to Contracts Manager. The purpose of this role is produce steel fabrications from metal plates and sections machine and any other task

relating to operating to the assigned project in the mining sector, based at Zone 5, Toteng.

#### Areas of Responsibility:

- Be able to work with drill press machines/hand drill/Grinders
- Maintenance of machines and tool inspection
- Adherence of Health, Safety and Environmental

#### Job Requirement

- Certificate in Welding or Boilermaker or equivalent
- Minimum experience of 4 years an apprentice
- Speak, read and write – English
- Medically fit to work in Mine, Health & Safety checks
- Police Clearance

#### Apply to:

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P O Box 118

Gaborone

[annekek@masterdrilling.com](mailto:annekek@masterdrilling.com)

**FARM WORKER WANTED** in Mmasegotso for horticulture, no experience required. Contact 77057711

**URGENTLY LOOKING FOR** Farm Workers to resume shortly. Application should forward application letter to: Box 492, Letlhakane.

## NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

**NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION** of boundary wall of plot number 7153 in Tlokweng Maratanang ward informs plot no 7152 and 7154 and construction of boundary wall.

### NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

**Master’s Reference: ESHGB 000281/24**  
**IN THE ESTATE** of the Late **KEINEE KWEREPE** who died at Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital, Maun, Ngamiland District, Botswana on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

**DATE at ----on this ----Day of ----2025.**

-----  
The Executrix  
Cecilia Onkemetse Kwerepe  
P O Box 1248  
Gaborone  
Cell: 71712311/72793905

### NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

**NOTICE IS HEREBY** given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administrative of Estates Act (Cap.33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of the High Court at **Francistown High Court** on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/ Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
KAMOGELO MAGOTE	ESHFT- 000831-24	23-07-2025	0900 HRS	BASUPI

**DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2025**

## Notice to Debtors and Creditors

**Master’s reference ESHFT-00477/23**

**IN THE ESTATE** of the late Tshiamololo Serokolo who died at Palapye Hospital, Central District on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2000.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that debtors and creditors in the above Estate are required to pay their debts and file their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within (30)days after publication hereof.

Waboraro Seakgosing, The Executor  
P O Box 20 Palapye  
Cell No 74183839

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL AND TRANSFER IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN TERMS OF SECTION 340F TRIBAL LAND ACT 02018

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 34 of the tribal land than Modise Ncube has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Most Sheheli Yasmin in respect of the below- mentioned property for the sum of P600, 000.00(Six Hundred Thousand pula only) namely:

**CERTAIN:** Piece of land being commercial plot  
**SITUATE:** At Mochudi  
**MEASURING:** 591sqm(Five hundred and ninety-one square meters  
**HELD UNDER:** Lot 18744 Mochudi  
**DEVELOPMENT STATUS:** Developed

Any citizen interested in a similar transaction in respect of the above property shall be given priority notwithstanding the agreement reached by the parties.

Any citizen objecting to this transaction should do so in writing to Mochudi Sub Land Board, within 30 days of this publication.

**Dated at Gaborone On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025**

## VACANCY

Rhino Steel Rolling Mills (Pty) Ltd, located in Ramotswa Station Industrial, is seeking highly qualified candidates for the following positions:

**Mill Fitter Machinist:** Candidate must be conversant and experienced in mill maintenance for the equipment mounting, fitting, roll inspection, roll assembling mill etc with knowledge in roll conditions, hardness, wobblers, journal slots, diameter and radius of fillet. Responsible for the role assembly, change of chock, mill setting, guide boxes other mounting and fittings etc to get the smooth operation during running.

**Furnace Crane Operator:** The candidate must have prior experience in the steel melting industry, with a solid understanding of operating overhead cranes, hoists, hooks, and trolley-based lifting systems. In-depth knowledge of molten metal handling is essential, including precise ladle positioning, controlled pouring of molten steel at temperatures up to 1750°C, and safe tapping into the furnace. The operator must demonstrate the ability to maneuver loads smoothly and steadily to prevent jerks, splashes, or spillage, ensuring both safety and process integrity in high-risk, high-temperature environments.

**Electrical Engineer -Foundry & Rolling Mill:** Seeking a qualified Electrical Engineer with experience in maintaining and repairing industrial equipment, including induction furnaces, plant motors, overhead cranes, conveyors, and electrical panels. Must hold a diploma in Electrical Engineering and have hands-on experience in foundry electrical systems, especially those involving induction furnace operations. Strong troubleshooting skills and knowledge of industrial safety standards required.

**Induction Furnace Operator:** responsible for overseeing the entire melt cycle—from charge preparation and furnace start-up to tapping and post-melt cleanup. Proficiency in real-time process monitoring, slag control, alloy addition, and temperature management is essential. The operator must be familiar with operating PLC or automated furnace control systems and capable of coordinating with lab teams to meet metallurgical targets. Experience in routine maintenance checks, refractory lining assessment, and strict adherence to safety protocols in high-temperature environments is crucial. Attention to detail, sound judgment, and the ability to work as part of a team are key to excelling in this role.

The technicians will be required to work responsibly without any supervision and provide training on shop floor. Should have a minimum of five years in a similar field.

Please apply in confidence to:

**The Director, Rhino Steel Rolling Mills (Pty) Ltd, P O Box 3028, Gaborone, Botswana.**

**MOATLHODI PLOT OWNER 9204** Jerusalem / Moshupa intend change landuse to commercial and consolidation plot 9200. Objection forwarded Moshupa District Council Physical Planning Office 544 9000

**ELIZABETH LIZY NDLOVU** of Plot No. 6299 Palapye intends to change land use from residential to multi-family and erect a boundary wall. For any objection contact Palapye District Council’s Physical Planning office, or call 493 0800 within 14 day of this publication.

**CHANGE OF LAND USE** & neighborhood consultation. New Resources (Pty) Ltd, owner of plot 258 & 259, Extension 5 intends to change land use from single-family residential to mixed-use commercial land use. Contact Gaborone City council for queries, 365 7400

**CHANGE OF LAND USE** from Recreational to residential. Plot 2366, Oodi Queries 577 7411

**LESEGO MOTHAEI OF PLOT 11844.** Letlhakane intend to change Plot use from residential to Civic and Community, also intends to construct a boundary wall. Enquires call 290 9331 Boteti council/Physical Planning.

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**AMBER HOLDINGS & SUPPLIES** Upholstery wanted. Able to do sofas, car seats and chairs, at least a certificate in upholstery 5 years above experience with reference. Call 77 116 091 / 73 581 450

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

ESHFT-000007/25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the Late **AISENG TSHEVEDI ESHFT-000007/25** who died at Palapye, Central District, Botswana on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within 30 days after the publication hereof.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 08<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY 2025

TIMOTHY TSHEVEDI  
EXECUTOR DATIVE  
P O BOX 847 PALAPYE  
CONTACT: 76287696/74398071

AND TO: MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT  
PRIVATE BAG F13  
FRANCISTOWN

NOTICE OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for certified copy of **Deed No: FTTL 390/2008** dated the **11<sup>th</sup> November 2008** made in favour of **ESTATE LATE BROTHER MTSHAYELI KHUPE** in respect of:

Certain Piece of land being: Tribal Lot 38 JACKALAS NO.1

Measuring: 1602 m<sup>2</sup> (One Thousand Six Hundred and Two Square Metres)


Situate: At Jackalas No. 1 in the Tati Tribal Area

Held Under: Deed No.: FTTL 390/2008

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the registrar of Deeds Francistown within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

Date: 27/06/2025

ADDRESS: P O BOX 92  
RAMOKGWEBANA



VACANCY: ASPHALT BATCHING PLANT OPERATOR

Rockefeller (Pty) Ltd, a well-established, 100% citizen-owned civil engineering company, is seeking a highly skilled **Asphalt Batching Plant Operator** for our Asphalt Batching Plant Manufacturing facility in Botswana.

Minimum Requirements and Key Competencies:

- Certified Asphalt Batching Plant Operator with hands-on experience operating a QLB 1000 AMP or similar asphalt batching plant.
- Specialized training in Asphalt Technology.
- Proven knowledge of asphalt production processes.
- Proficiency in computer applications relevant to plant operation and reporting.
- Familiarity with Botswana's Standard Specifications for Roads and Bridges, international road and highway standards, and TMH1 protocols.
- Expertise in:
  - Asphalt Batching & Drum Plant Operation
  - QLB 1000 Asphalt Mixing Technology
  - TMH1 Materials Sampling & Testing
  - Bitumen Heating & Circulation Systems
  - Asphalt Coring & Compaction Testing
  - Laboratory Equipment Calibration
  - Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Quality Control & Reporting
  - Preventive Plant Maintenance
  - Compliance with safety and production standards.
- Minimum of 5 years' experience as an Asphalt Plant Operator.

Key Responsibilities:

- Operate and monitor the QLB 1000 AMP or equivalent asphalt batching plant.
- Perform routine and preventive maintenance to ensure optimal plant performance.
- Maintain strict compliance with safety, quality, and production standards.
- Train and mentor interns and junior staff in asphalt plant operations and quality control procedures.

Application Instructions:

Suitably qualified Batswana citizens are invited to apply by sending a detailed CV and relevant certifications to:

The Human Resources Manager  
Email: [enquiries@rockefellercivils.com](mailto:enquiries@rockefellercivils.com)

Closing Date is 30th July 2025. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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## Show proceeds to assist artistes

By Marvin Motlhabane

**KANYE** - The inaugural *Dining with Diamonds* show has the potential to become a hallmark event in Botswana's entertainment calendar, setting a precedent for future collaborations in the arts and hospitality sectors.

Presented by Brand Botswana in partnership with Opulent Entertainment Group, the event scheduled for Friday at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel 430 will see the venue transformed into a diamond-themed wonderland, showcasing Botswana's legacy of luxury and elegance.

This innovative concept merges the sophistication of fine dining with the vibrancy of live musical theatre.

In an interview Denim Richards, founder and CEO of Opulent Entertainment Group, promised attendees a once-in-a-lifetime experience. An accomplished American performing artiste with over two decades in TV, film, and musical theatre in Hollywood, Richards is currently known for his role as Colby in the hit series *Yellowstone*.

He described the event as an enchanting experience where 'the table is set for royalty, and every course tells a story'.

Guests will be treated to a five-course meal, premium wines, and entertainment from a 15-person live orchestra, featuring 20 local artistes affectionately referred to as Botswana's home grown diamonds.

The primary objective of this dinner theatre is to establish and fund an international creative

conservatory based in Botswana.

"This space will be dedicated to training and elevating Botswana's already talented creatives in acting, singing and dancing," he explained.

Participants will reconnect with their theatrical roots during a 12-week intensive programme led by an international team of entertainment professionals.

The event aims not only to revive Botswana's rich theatrical culture, but also to expand the creative economy, creating sustainable job opportunities.

Currently, around 35 individuals have been contracted behind the scenes, showcasing the extensive opportunities arising from this major event.

This blend of culinary and artistic excellence is poised to attract both locals and tourists, fostering a greater appreciation for Botswana's cultural scene.

Richards confirmed that Jonathan Procter, Group CEO of Primedia Group, along with his South African delegation, will

attend.

Monde Twala, senior vice president and general manager at Paramount Africa & Lead BET International, will also be present.

Notably, 95 per cent of the artistes participating have recently graduated from the University of Botswana and they include talents such as Sebage Thipe, Tshegofatso Kgomotso, Unathi Kerebotswe, and Thebe Moraladi.

To partake in this extraordinary experience, there are 15 corporate tables available for sale, which strategically bring together the public and private sectors. Richards noted that the creative economy is often seen as not a viable financial investment.

The initiative aimed to enhance the value proposition of the show. Corporate packages have already been sold to diverse companies, including KGK Diamonds Botswana, whose diamonds pieces will be modeled by some performers.

Other attendees are Brand Botswana, BITC, Air Botswana, National Arts Council, Bank Gaborone, and the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, among others.

This collaboration offers an opportunity for significant corporations in the public and private sectors to unite. Richards mentioned plans to organise another show for the general public in a larger venue at a later date.

"Our focus is on longevity and sustainability, and we're excited about the future of *Dining with Diamonds* beyond Gaborone. We ultimately envision taking the show on the road to places like Maun, Kasane, and other iconic locations across Botswana," he shared.

He noted aspirations to diversify the tourism experience beyond traditional game drives

by integrating elements of creative tourism - immersive, live performances staged in culturally and environmentally significant areas. Richards underscored their commitment to artistes beyond the stage, highlighting that all performers are compensated promptly for every rehearsal.

His company is dedicated to establishing a model that uplifts the creative economy and positions Botswana as a leader in innovation-driven tourism.

This event is a curtain raiser to many other similar events to be delivered by Opulent Entertainment Group in the home soil. **BOPA**

## New York relishes Botswana fashion

By Benita Magopane

**GABORONE** - Multi-award-winning fashion artist Tsholo Dikobe is championing Botswana's creative fashion industry while immersing herself in New York City's dynamic cultural and artistic landscape.

Best known for her 2014 Innovative Designer of the Year Award win in London, Dikobe turned heads with her groundbreaking transformation of Mogagolwane, Botswana's traditional blanket, into contemporary fashion.

The collection celebrated heritage with boldness and originality, earning her international acclaim.

Now serving as a cultural creative director, she continues to merge traditional African aesthetics with modern design across various platforms, including film, editorial, and performance, crafting compelling narratives that reimagine African identity on a global scale.

"It has been a personal mission of mine to amplify the reach of African fashion narratives on the international stage as I tour various continents," said Dikobe, who is currently based in New York City, a city she calls the "portal of all things fashion."

Having spent five months in the United States' fashion capital, Dikobe is actively engaging with global fashion leaders and learning from some of the industry's best.

Among her highlights was attending an exhibition and masterclass in Legacy, Vision, and Couture hosted by UBS House of

Craft at the prestigious Dior Atelier.

"I thought I knew what fashion and couture were, until Dior's own ateliers revealed the true essence of couture through education, construction, history, and storytelling. What I know now? A treasure."

Dikobe has also rubbed shoulders with iconic names in the fashion and entertainment world, including Michael Kors, Ruth Carter (two-time Emmy-winning costume designer of *Black Panther*), Heidi Klum, and celebrity stylists such as Law Roach, June Ambrose, and Harrison Ford's long-time image consultant.

"These encounters have been invaluable. They have inspired me to elevate my craft and broaden my creative vision for African aesthetics on the global stage. When I walk the streets of New York, people often stop to compliment my look and ask where they can get what I'm wearing. That tells me African fashion is resonating."

For Dikobe, these moments go beyond style, they reflected a growing curiosity about Botswana and its creative potential.

"Most people don't know where Botswana is, let alone the depth of its cultural richness.

That's what I am working to change."

She added that her journey was about building bridges, connecting continents, honouring her roots, and challenging boundaries of what African fashion can be.

"Stay tuned," she said with a smile. The story is only getting richer. **BOPA**



The cast of the live musical theatre production *Dining with Diamonds* during rehearsals in Gaborone recently. Opulent Entertainment Group CEO, Denim Richards said the event billed for the Grand Ballroom, Hotel 430 in Gaborone on Friday aimed to revive Botswana's rich theatrical culture, while also contributing to the growth of the creative economy and creating sustainable job opportunities. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

# Ookeditse instils hope ahead of crucial clash

By Anastacia Sibanda

CASSABLANCA - As the senior women national football team, The Mares step into the Larbi Zaouli Stadium for their crucial TotalEnergies CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations today, Assistant Minister of Health, Lawrence Ookeditse

says they should remember that it is not how they started, but how they finish the tournament, which matters.

Ookeditse, who is in Casablanca to rally behind the team, reminded them that the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon shocked the World by beating, star studded Argentina 1-0 in the

1990 FIFA World Cup.

Argentina by that time had the best in the world, amongst them Diego Maradona and Néstor Lorenzo, but Cameroon's Oman Biyik made the difference by scoring the only goal, in the 67th minute of the game.

"Two stories from Italia 1990 World Cup, Cameroon went all the way to the quarter final, but Argentina despite being humiliated by Cameron in their opening game, managed to make it to the final, only to be beaten by Germany 1-0 in the final," he recalled.

As such, Ookeditse said

onus was now on The Mares to demonstrate that they really want to proceed to the quarterfinals.

"If you want it more, you will get it, it is in the mind, in the heart, and there is nothing at all that says any team here is better than you," he said. Ookeditse told the team that back home the whole population was excited and they were looking forward to the match.

"Batswana are excited and they believe that we can get somewhere, all this is your doing because on Sunday, when you played Algeria, you demonstrated that you are a good team," he said.

Furthermore, he said although the results told a different story, the way they played the second stanza of the game demonstrated to the whole continent that they were a force to reckon with. For her part, vice captain, Nondi Mahlasela thanked the assistant minister for the word of motivation; which she said came at the right time ahead of their battle against Nigeria.

"That's exactly what we wanted to hear and we can promise Batswana that we are going to lift our heads. What happened with Algeria is in past, now we are focused," she said. **BOPA**

## Indonesia gears up for gymnastics world championships

JAKARTA - Indonesia is set to host the 2025 Artistic Gymnastics World Championships, which will take place in Senayan, Jakarta, from October 19 to 25, chairperson of the Indonesian Gymnastics Federation Ita Yuliati has announced on Tuesday.

So far, 86 countries and regions have registered for the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of the championships, which is a new record, according to Ita.

"Usually, this world championship is attended by around 70 countries [and regions],

and this time there are already 86 countries [and regions] that have registered.

This is a record in itself," she stated. The event will bring together over 600 athletes from across the globe to compete at this major international tournament.

As the host nation, Indonesia is continuing to refine all aspects of its preparations, including arena readiness, technical arrangements, budgeting, and training camps for the national team, Ita added. **Xinhua**



CASABLANCA - The Mares familiarising themselves with the Laarbi Zaouli pitch, where they will play against Nigeria today in a crucial TotalEnergies CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations encounter. Photo: Anastacia Sibanda



TRENTON - Joao Pedro (right) of Chelsea celebrating after scoring his first goal during the semi-final match against Fluminense FC at the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 at the MtLife Stadium, New Jersey, the United States on Tuesday. Pedro scored twice against his former club as Chelsea reached the final with a 2-0 win. Photo: Xinhua

## Mongolia to host 2027 FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup

SWITZERLAND - FIBA announced on Wednesday that Mongolia will host the 2027 FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup from March 31 to April 4 in its capital city Ulaanbaatar.

FIBA data show that during the FIBA 3x3 World Cup recently held in Mongolia, more

than 50 000 fans turned up in Sukhbaatar Square, where the Mongolian women's team reached the final.

"Mongolia continues to prove itself as a true world-class hub for 3x3 basketball," said FIBA 3x3 managing director Alex Sanchez.

"The fans, the atmosphere and the quality on the half-court make Mongolia the ideal host for the FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup 2027.

We are excited to return to Ulaanbaatar, ten years after Mongolia made history by staging the first-ever FIBA Asia Cup in 2017," he added. **Xinhua**

## Revamped Bayer Leverkusen prepares for unknown journey

BERLIN - The 2023-24 Bundesliga champion, Bayer Leverkusen is gearing up for a full reorganisation due to the departure of coach Xabi Alonso, along with Florian Wirtz, Jeremie Frimpong and Jonathan Tah.

The journey into the unknown is guided by 55-year-old coach Erik Ten Hag, who is relishing a second top-level chance after his dismissal from Manchester United in 2024.

The team's pre-season plans reinforce the idea of a complete restart, including its unusual trip to Brazil from July 14 to 24 where it will visit the training ground of Flamengo.

"You cannot sail on yesterday's wind," said Ten Hag.

"We start from zero and have to readjust our compass."

Sporting director, Simon Rolfes said the club's goals included finishing in the top four in Germany and the top 16 in Europe.

"In these spheres, you are inevitably a candidate for winning silverware," he stated.

With about US\$176 million earned from Wirtz's transfer, Leverkusen has signed Jarell Quansah, Malik Tillman, Ibrahim Maza, Abdoulaye Faye and Mark Flekken.

The Brazil trip is said to create an inspiring atmosphere far away from local concerns about the future and display the club's intention to strengthen ties to South America.

"If you want, ties to South America have been growing over the past decades as we had

several players from there in our shirt," said Rolfes.

While Ten Hag emphasises that 'everyone has to keep it as a pleasant memory to be ready for a new start,' the team is already ahead with tactical changes, as the new coach seems to prefer a back four.

After the departure of Alonso, the team adopted a different model as Ten Hag is said to rely on strict discipline.

Like his predecessor, Ten Hag favours a dominant playing style centred on a high level of ball possession.

He discussed a 'perfect foundation' established by Alonso. "It's on us to rely on these pillars and, at the same time, create something new." **Xinhua**



CASABLANCA - The Mares coach, Alex Malete said during a press briefing in Morocco yesterday that today's game against Nigeria in a TotalEnergies CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) encounter was an opportunity the team could not afford to miss. Photo: Courtesy of CAF



CASABLANCA - The Mares captain, Sedilame Bosija promised during a media briefing that the team would play in the WAFCON quarter-final. Photo: Courtesy of CAF

# Captain promises quarter-final berth

By Anastacia Sibanda

CASABLANCA - The Botswana senior women national football team, The Mares captain, Sedilame Bosija has promised that the team will play in the TotalEnergies CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations quarter-final.

Speaking during a press conference ahead of their Group B clash against Nigeria at the Larbi Zaouli Stadium in Morocco today, she said though they did not start well in their first game, they would play to prove their mettle.

She said they would their game against

Nigeria to redeem their pride.

"The game against Algeria, is now water under the bridge. We are now focused and we have learnt and identified our mistakes, so today, there will be no time for errors," she said.

Coach Alex Malete said today's game was an opportunity The Mares could not afford to miss.

He said he was cognisant of the fact that they did not start the tournament well, as they lost 1-0 to Algeria.

"Against Nigeria, we have to play every moment, every second, from the first whistle, until the last whistle," he said.

In that regard, said as a team, they were very confident and positive that they would qualify for the quarter-final.

"Everyone; players, managers and technical team, have a strong believe that we can pull through and make it to the next round," he said.

Most importantly, he said they believed in each other, in their system and structure.

Furthermore, he said should they execute the game plan well against Nigeria, and play with heart, desire, commitment and passion, they would be in a good position to get good result.

He said the mission was to be very

competitive in remaining games, adding that they would also have to look at the other groups; how they played in terms of the scoreline and goal differences.

"Every goal matters, so we have to keep the game against Nigeria very competitive and finish strongly in our game against Tunisia," he said.

He said they did not play well in the first half, adding that when they had played against Nigeria in the WAFCON last edition and lost 2-0. "But this time I believe that they are a different team now, they have grown, and it is the same for us, we have grown as a team, and individually," he said. **BOPA**

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