

BOTSWANA

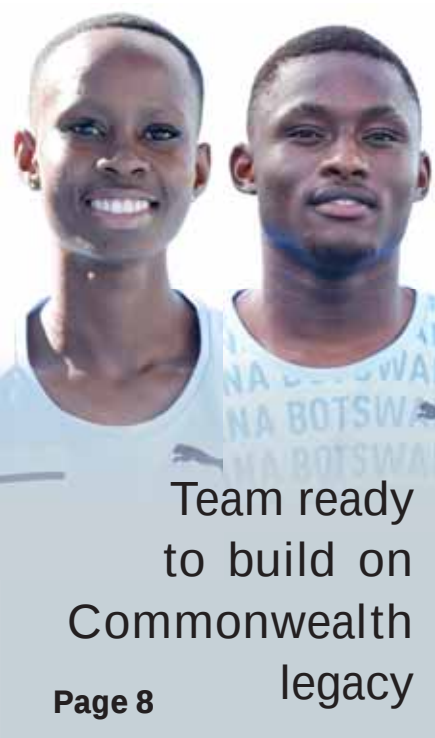
Daily News

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Healing programme starts today



First Lady Kaone Boko will today launch the National Healing, Remembrance and Closure Programme dedicated to honour Batswana who lost their lives in the country's most devastating tragedies, as well as to bring closure to their families. The programme is aimed at recognising families affected by the Matsha Community College truck accident of November 2015 and the Mmamatlakala bus tragedy of March 2024.



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Member of Parliament for Gaborone South and Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana (right) donating blankets to elderly residents of Old Naledi in Gaborone on Tuesday. He also donated blankets to residents of Naledi North and Naledi Central. A total of 300 blankets were distributed to residents aged 65 years and above to help keep them warm during the winter season. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

MP donates 300 blankets

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

More than 300 blankets were distributed to elderly residents aged 65 years and above in Old Naledi on Tuesday as Gaborone South MP and Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana, launched a winter outreach initiative aimed at protecting vulnerable residents from the cold.

Speaking during the blanket donation ceremony at Naledi Central Kgotla, Ramaotwana said the initiative was introduced to help shield elderly residents from the harsh winter conditions, noting that older people are more susceptible to cold weather because their immune systems weaken with age.

“We decided to start with residents aged 65 years and above because they are the most vulnerable. Our hope is to lower the qualifying age to 60 years next year so that more elderly people can benefit,” he said.

Mr Ramaotwana said the programme would be rolled out across all sections of Old Naledi, including Naledi Central, Naledi North and Naledi South, to ensure all eligible elderly residents receive blankets.

He assured residents who were unable to attend the ceremony that they would also receive blankets, adding that he would personally deliver them to ensure no one was left out. Mr Ramaotwana said his office was not only focused on

the welfare of the elderly but was also developing programmes to empower young people.

He said plans were underway to bring together government departments and private sector representatives to educate youth about available opportunities and help address the challenges they face.

Kgosi Ishmael Edward of Naledi Central Kgotla welcomed the initiative, describing it as a meaningful gesture of support for the elderly.

Even a small gift should not be despised”, he said. Meanwhile, chairperson of the Old Naledi elderly group, Mmampula Bodutu, said beneficiaries were grateful for the blankets and thanked the minister for remembering them during the winter season.

The handover was met with songs and ululations from some of the elderly residents, who expressed their appreciation for the donation.

However, Bodutu said elderly residents continue to face significant financial challenges, particularly the high cost of water bills.

She explained that many pensioners spend a large portion of their monthly old-age pension on essential services, with some water bills reaching as much as P2,300. Bodutu appealed for interventions to ease the financial burden on elderly residents, saying reducing the cost of essential services would greatly improve their quality of life. **BOPA**

Tourism Satellite Account to strengthen planning

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe
GABORONE

Botswana has launched its first Tourism Satellite Account, a milestone expected to strengthen the country’s ability to measure, manage and grow the tourism sector through reliable data.

Officially launching the satellite account analysis for the period 2020–2024 in Gaborone on Tuesday, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Wynter Mmolotsi described the development as a defining moment in Botswana’s journey to better understand tourism as a driver of sustainable development.

He said the satellite account was more than a statistical achievement, adding that it would provide the country with a powerful tool to assess, grow and develop the tourism sector.

Mr Mmolotsi said the account would, for the first time, provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry, revealing the disruption of livelihoods, the decline in visitor arrivals and the strain placed on the sector. At the same time, he said, it would also demonstrate the industry’s recovery, adaptation and resilience.

He explained that the account was the most comprehensive and internationally recognised framework for measuring tourism’s contribution to the economy. Unlike conventional tourism statistics, he said, it integrated tourism into the System of National

Accounts, enabling the country to accurately measure tourism’s contribution to gross domestic product, employment, investment and foreign exchange earnings.

The minister also launched the 2025 Inbound Visitor Survey Report, saying it provided detailed information on visitor spending patterns collected at Botswana’s busiest points of entry and exit. He said the report would help improve tourism products, enhance competitiveness and increase benefits for local communities.

Mr Mmolotsi further launched the Tourism Statistics System (T-STATS) and its mobile application, saying the innovation would modernise tourism data collection by enabling operators and stakeholders to submit information in real time. He said this would improve the timeliness, reliability and accessibility of tourism statistics while providing the foundation for future annual TSA compilations.

He said the satellite account, the Inbound Visitor Survey Report and T-STATS formed a suite of tools that would provide comprehensive information on tourism’s contribution to the economy, visitor behaviour and real-time industry reporting.

The minister called on the private sector to use the new data to innovate, improve competitiveness and attract investment, while encouraging communities to use the information to strengthen their participation in tourism development.

He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to strengthening tourism statistics through investment in people, technology and partnerships, saying reliable

data led to informed decision-making and a stronger tourism sector.

Mr Mmolotsi also thanked Statistics Botswana, Bank

of Botswana and the Ministry of Finance for supporting the successful implementation of the project. **BOPA**



Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi (left) and director of T-Stats solutions, Mr Kevin Millington during the launch of the Tourism Satellite Account and Tourism Statistics System in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Mmolotsi described the development as a defining moment in Botswana’s journey to better understand tourism as a driver of sustainable development. Photo: Washa Bofelwang

Motshegwa calls for high performance culture

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa has urged the ministry and local authorities to embrace a high-performance culture, saying public institutions must put service delivery, accountability and development first.

Addressing Gaborone City Council on Tuesday, Mr Motshegwa said poor performance and corruption must carry consequences, while integrity, professionalism and a good reputation should be recognized and rewarded.

“The ministry’s primary mandate is to serve the people and drive development,” he said.

The minister noted that business people had complained about lengthy, bureaucratic government processes weighed down by unnecessary red tape.

“So why do we not put in place efficient processes and procedures? We should be concerned with results, excellence and delivery. At the end of the day, we will not be judged by how many processes, policies and laws we have, but by our performance,” Mr Motshegwa said.

He added that government would ultimately be judged by the number of people it assisted, the lives it transformed, and the impact it made on communities.

Mr Motshegwa said the remarks present an opportunity for local authorities to review their governance systems and organisational culture to find practical ways to improve service delivery.

He also said the ministry must empower local authorities to operate independently without excessive micromanagement, in line with government’s

decentralisation agenda.

The decentralisation policy, he explained, will focus on devolving powers from central government to local authorities, which are better positioned to provide quality services to residents.

On governance, the minister stressed the need for transparency in council operations.

Councillors, he said, should receive documents on time to allow proper study and informed decision-making.

He said the mayor’s mandate is to promote the health, safety and good governance of the city, and that Gaborone City Council should set the standard for other local authorities given its strategic role in the country’s administration and economy.

“We cannot afford unaccountability, disunity and indiscipline in local authorities, especially when our people continue to face serious challenges such as unemployment and poverty. These are the issues that should occupy our attention,” he said. **BOPA**



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa (left) and Gaborone mayor, Mr Oarabile Motlaleng during the minister's address to the Gaborone City Council on Tuesday. Mr Motshegwa urged the council to prioritise service delivery. Photo: Pheny Ramatu

Take charge of data protection - official

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

Accounting officers must move beyond financial oversight and take ultimate responsibility for data protection compliance in their ministries, a senior governance expert has said.

Speaking at a data protection training workshop for government accounting officers in Gaborone this week, Mr Ron Chari, Executive Director of the Chandler Institute of Justice, told public service executives that they served as the

key information risk managers in government.

“Data protection is a critical governance indicator that ensures government information remains secure, compliant and private. It should not be delegated solely to a legal or IT department as a technical function,” Mr Chari said.

He said accounting officers, who act as data controllers, must treat citizen data with the same care as public funds.

“No accounting officer here would allow a single thebe to leave their ministry without

authorisation, proper records or an audit trail, yet personal and sensitive information held by government departments is often not managed with the same level of care, despite being a public asset held in trust,” he said.

Mr Chari noted that services such as passport and driver’s licence applications compelled citizens to surrender sensitive personal information, placing a duty of care on accounting officers.

“While the accounting officer is not an official legal title in the terms of the Act, they are senior officials

typically representing the Data Controllers,” he said.

Under Botswana’s Data Protection Act, heads of departments bear ultimate responsibility for compliance and can face civil and criminal liability, including possible custodial sentences for serious breaches.

Mr Chari said these stringent penalties had pushed many corporates to implement the Act, while government still needs to strengthen its capacity.

Also addressing the workshop, Ms Senwelo Modise, Head of Technology, Cyber and Data Protection at Bookbinder Business Law, said government does not need to reinvent systems but should adopt practical lessons from the private sector.

“Data protection does not introduce new ways of doing things.

Government needs to draw practical lessons from the corporate sector and assess how oversight and board-level accountability can be translated into public administration.

We merely need to enhance existing policies and controls to recognise Data Protection as a commodity,” Ms Modise said.

She warned that the impact of a data breach goes beyond regulatory fines to include operational disruption and reputational damage.

Ms Modise added that compliance is critical as Botswana pursues its goals under NDP 12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme to become a diversified, digitally enabled, high-income economy.

“These ambitions depend on data provided by citizens and businesses that are willing to transact with a digital government founded on public trust,” she said.

The training attracted executive management from government ministries and state entities to discuss governance responsibilities and practical priorities for implementing Botswana’s data protection framework. **BOPA**

“We cannot afford unaccountability, disunity and indiscipline in local authorities”

Healing programme to provide psycho-social support

Thokozani Matiha
GABORONE

The Office of the First Lady, Ms Kaone Boko, will today launch the National Healing, Remembrance and Closure Programme, a month-long initiative honouring Batswana who lost lives in two of the country’s road tragedies.

The programme, in collaboration with national stakeholders seeks to use memorials and commemoration to help the nation reflect on the past, address present challenges, and reaffirm that ‘Every life matters. Every family matters. Botswana Remembers.’

“The core philosophy is long-term recovery. The initiative goes beyond immediate crisis aid to focus on sustained emotional and physical rebuilding,” a press release from the Office of the First Lady says.

A total of 54 Batswana died in the two incidents: the 2015 Matsha Community College truck accident in Dutlwe that claimed seven students, and the 2024 Mmamatlakala bus tragedy in

South Africa that killed members of the ZCC St Engenas congregation.

The release further says commemorations begin today, with the handing over of a refurbished Home Economics Laboratory at Matsha Community College and a remembrance ceremony at the Dutlwe Memorial.

The Dutlwe Memorial Monument will be upgraded into a permanent memorial and road safety awareness site. It will also provide continued psychosocial support and household engagements with bereaved families and survivors.

According to the release the second major event will be held on July 18, 2026 at Molepolole Stadium where The National Healing, Remembrance and Closure Programme will honour victims of the Mmamatlakala bus crash.

Additionally, the release says the programme will also support ongoing road safety reforms, including measures to strengthen protection of minors and improved standards for cross-border passenger transport.

“Memorials help to examine the past, address contemporary issues, and show respect to victims. By creating concrete records, they help prevent denial and allow societies to move forward,” the statement says, adding that memorials serve as physical reminders and spaces for reflection and gratitude.

The month of July has been set aside for national reflection, inspired by the legacy of founding President Sir Seretse Khama.

To reach the wider public, the programme will run a coordinated awareness campaign that includes a television documentary titled : We Remember, which will feature daily radio voices of healing, community engagements, and a digital campaign using hashtags #WeRememberBW, #HealingTogetherBW and #Setho.

“By standing with the affected families, we uphold our shared humanity and our enduring commitment that no citizen will ever be forgotten. Remembering Together, Healing Together, Moving Forward Together,” the statement says. **BOPA**

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DailyBusiness

Pandamatenga farmers ramp up harvest operations

Portia Keetile
PANDAMATENGA

A wave of activity is underway at Pandamatenga as commercial farmers ramp up their annual harvesting operations.

Despite a devastating start to the season marked by a severe storm which wiped out crops and destroyed infrastructure, Pandamatenga commercial farmers demonstrated remarkable commitment, successfully planting 38 908 hectares of crops.

Pandamatenga remains critical to national food security contributing 47 per cent to Botswana's national crop production mostly sorghum, millet, beans, wheat, chickpeas and sunflower.

In an interview, Winfort Investment field manager, Mr Piet Humman stated that they had planted a total of 2 350 hectares of diverse crops from sorghum, mung bean, sunflower, wheat and maize.

He said they were currently harvesting mung bean which was planted on one of the areas that were affected by the floods at the beginning of the season hence noted the crop did not perform to its full potential.

Following the mung bean harvesting, he remarked they would move to the late planted sorghum which was slated for sale at BAMB. Mr Humman pointed out that wheat planting took place in May and June using irrigation which was a slight delay from the traditional window.

He expressed optimism with



Loading of mung beans from a combined harvester machine into a truck at Pandamatenga farms. Pandamatenga remains critical to national food security contributing 47 per cent to Botswana's national crop production mostly sorghum, millet, beans, wheat, chickpeas and sunflower. Photo: Portia Ikopoleng

the introduction of a new wheat variety which showed a great potential for its upcoming harvest.

The farmer indicated that they had identified a market for wheat in Zambia, adding that they were currently engaged in regulatory discussions to facilitate trade channels and certifications for export.

However, he alluded that Pandamatenga wheat farmers faced high transportation expenses to move their harvest to Gaborone and other markets within the

country. Another commercial farmer, Mr Charl Viljoen said this season they ploughed 420 hectares of sorghum, 100 hectares of chickpeas, 280 hectares of mung beans, 540 hectares of sunflower and 260 hectares of lablab.

He stated that commercial farmers had accelerated operations to harvest the bulk of their mature crops while late planted crops were scheduled for end of winter harvest.

He said due to the flooding experienced at the beginning of the

season, the farmers had to delay planting some of their crops while waiting for water to clear.

Despite the flood threat he noted farmers remained resolute and committed to return to full operations eyeing a bountiful harvest this year.

The farmer stated that this year most of them planted sunflower because of a partnership with a local cooking oil manufacturer, who approached the farmers to secure a steady supply of sunflower seeds. **BOPA**

High-tech China pavilion draws crowds at Tanzania fair

DARES SALAAM

On Monday, at the heart of the 50th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, a steady stream of visitors flows into one of the most vibrant sections of the exhibition grounds, the China pavilion.

From high-tech agricultural machinery to sleek electric vehicles and advanced industrial technologies, the pavilion has been a focal point since the fair opened on June 28.

Running through July 13, the annual event, popularly known as Sabasaba, has drawn thousands of visitors eager to explore new ideas, partnerships, and opportunities.

For Dawson Kahwa, a businessman from Temeke district in the port city of Dar es Salaam, the China pavilion offered more than just a display of products, but it was a glimpse into the future.

"I have seen high-tech agricultural machinery such as irrigation pumps that could transform farming in Tanzania if adopted by our farmers," Kahwa told Xinhua during China Day, a special promotional event of the trade fair dedicated to showcasing China's trade, investment, technology, and

cultural cooperation with Tanzania.

Kahwa was among hundreds of visitors who thronged the pavilion on Monday, drawn by the promise of innovation and the possibility of practical solutions to local challenges.

Across the exhibition space, rows of modern equipment and digital technologies illustrated the breadth of China's industrial capabilities.

Demonstrations of irrigation systems, agro-processing tools and smart technologies attracted particular interest from farmers, entrepreneurs and policymakers seeking to boost productivity and efficiency.

China Day, held as part of the trade fair, provided a platform for government officials, business leaders and investors from both countries to reflect on the progress of bilateral cooperation and explore new avenues for growth.

Dennis Londo, Tanzania's deputy minister for industry and trade, emphasised the importance of strengthening partnerships that deliver tangible benefits. "As we celebrate China Day, let us renew our commitment to building stronger trade and investment partnerships that

deliver real outcomes for our people," he said.

He noted that China has become one of Tanzania's most important trade and investment partners, contributing significantly to industrial growth, infrastructure development, technology transfer and job creation.

He also highlighted the significance of China's recent zero-tariff policy for African countries, including Tanzania, describing it as a transformative opportunity.

"The zero-tariff arrangement provides our producers and exporters with direct access to one of the world's largest consumer markets," he said.

"It creates favorable conditions for Tanzanian products to compete more effectively and expand their presence in China."

Technology and innovation, he added, would be critical in enabling Tanzania to fully benefit from these opportunities.

He called for deeper cooperation with Chinese enterprises in areas such as advanced manufacturing, digital transformation, renewable energy and agro-processing.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian highlighted the strong and growing economic ties between

the two countries.

"China has been Tanzania's largest trading partner for 10 consecutive years," she said, adding that bilateral trade reached US\$ 5.12 billion in the first five months of 2026.

Chen noted that more than 300 Chinese companies are currently operating in Tanzania across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and services, contributing to the country's industrialisation.

Chen also pointed to the popularity of Tanzanian products such as coffee, cashew nuts and gemstones among Chinese consumers, particularly at international trade expos in China.

She reaffirmed China's commitment to expanding openness and promoting trade liberalisation, emphasising that such efforts would create new opportunities for cooperation with Tanzania and the broader African continent.

Wang Xiangyun, chairperson of the East Africa Commercial and Logistics Center (EACLC), the main sponsor of the 50th DITF, said the China-Tanzania partnership is one rooted in shared vision and mutual benefit. **Xinhua**

BUSINESS SERVICES

Tourism drives local economy

MAUN - Tourism sector in North West District continues to contribute significantly to local economic development through business growth, employment creation, and revenue generation, particularly within accommodation establishments and mobile safari operations.Updating on the performance of the economic empowerment programmes, monitoring and evaluation officer at the Office of the District Commissioner, Mr Pelotshweu Ntesang said the district through department of Tourism, carried out inspections, licensing, compliance monitoring, and tourism statistics collection to support sustainable tourism development and improve regulatory compliance. The district also strengthened registration of the T-Stats (tourism statistics tool) system to enhance collection of employment, room occupancy, and visitor data and the figures were expected to increase as more operators update their information. **BOPA**

Britain records strongest car sales in June

LONDON - Britain's new car market recorded its strongest June since 2019, with registrations rising 11.4 per cent year on year to 213 166 units, driven by continued growth in electric-vehicle sales, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said on Monday. Battery electric vehicles accounted for a 30 per cent share of all new registrations in June, reflecting strong end-of-quarter demand and increased consumer interest amid higher fuel prices linked to the conflict in the Middle East, the industry body said. The SMMT attributed the market's growth to continued investment by manufacturers in a wider range of electrified vehicles and an increasing number of automotive brands operating in the British market. **Xinhua**

China-Laos Railway freight tops 20 million tonnes

KUNMING - Cross-border freight transported via the China-Laos Railway has exceeded 20 million tonnes since the line opened in December 2021, marking another milestone for this international rail corridor, local railway authorities said on Wednesday.

As of Wednesday morning, the railway had handled more than 20 million tonnes of cross-border cargo and operated over 23 000 cross-border freight train trips, according to China Railway Kunming Group Co., Ltd.

Since the railway began operation on December 3, 2021, railway authorities in China and Laos have worked closely to improve freight organisation and enhance transport capacity and efficiency, driving steady growth in cross-border cargo volumes. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

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Grace Sebape
LOBATSE

Moeteledipele wa setlhophsa sa mmmino wa borankana sa Tauyasekgwa kwa Lobatse, Rre Koorapetse Tshiamo o gwetlhile badiragatsi gore dirisa talente ya bone go itshetsa.

O buile se, mo potsolosong bosheng a supa fa bangwe ba ithokomolosa nna ka talente ya bone go na le gore ba di godise gore di ba tswela mosola mo botshelong.

O boletse fa setlhophsa sa bone

se le magorogo masha, mme se na le bomme ba le babedi le borre ba le bararo ba ba ititeileng sehuba go dirisa talente mo go tsa bodiragatsi jwa mmmino.

Setlhophsa seo se tswa kgakala se dira bontle ka jaana e ne ya re ka ngwaga wa 2020 fa lefatshe le wetswe ke seru sa bolwetsi jwa Covid 19, se ne sa ntsha pina ya *Tlhapa diatla* e maikaelelo a yone e neng e le thusa puso go gasa molaetsa ka moopelo.

Ka bolwetsi joo bo ne bo amile dilo ka bontsi ga mmogo le itsholelo tota, Rre Tshiamo a re

morago ga pina eo, setlhophsa se ne sa tsenwa ke boitseme mme sa emisa go diragatsa.

A re monongwaga ba ne ba itharamologelwa ba lemoga fa ba ntse talente ya bone ka marago mme ba tsosolosa setlhophsa gape.

O tswelletse a tlhalosa fa bodiragatsi bo ba thusa thata ka jaana bo kgapa bana mo ditirong tsa botlhokatshebe.

Rre Tshiamo a re toro ya bone ke go bona setlhophsa se gola mo tirong ya bone e bile se tsabakela se kgona go lemogiwa

lefatshe ka bophara, ba lalediwa go diragatsa mo meletlong e metona, ya manyalo le e mengwe fela.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o ikuetse mo mapahteng a puso le dikhamphani tse di ikemetseng go ba lemoga le gone go ba fa sebaka sa go diragatsa pele ba ka batla ditlhophsa kwa ntle ga Lobatse.

“Seo se ka re thusa go dira letseno le re ka ithusang ka lone go godisa bodiragatsi jwa rona re bo re bo phatlalatsa mo isagong. Re eletsa go akarediwa

mo ditirong tse tlhokang bodiragatsi,” a tlatsa jalo.

Rre Tshiamo o ikuetse gape mo badiragatsing ba ba setseng ba godile go ba ema nokeng ka go ba fa maele a a ka ba godisang gore le bone ba fitlhelele fa ba leng teng.

“Motswana o rile ‘wa o esi ga o ele’ ke ka moo re dumelang gore thotloetsa ya badiragatsi ba bangwe e ka re tswela mosola ka jaana maikaelelo a rona e le go ribolola mmmino wa rona kgwedi ya Phalane monongwaga,” a digela jalo. **BOPA**

Tshimo ya morafe e ntsha maduo

Cathrine Simane
KOLONKWANENG

Modulasetilo wa komiti ya ditlhabololo kwa motseng wa Kolonkwaneng, Rre Tumelo Matebele o boletse fa tshimo ya morogo e ba e abetsweng ke ba khamphani ya Lucara Botswana e tswelletse sentle.

Banni ba ne ba abelwa tshimo ya selekanyo sa 100m x 100m ka 2023 mme modularsetilo a re e dira dipoelo tse di nametsang go na le jaaka pele.

Rre Matebele o boletse seo mo potsolosong bosheng a tlhalosa fa lefelo leo ba le bone morago ga gore banni ba ikuele kwa mopalamenteng wa pele pele, Rre Sam Brooks ga mmogo le boeledipele jwa motse gore ba tlhoka ditlhabololo tse di ka tokafatsang matshelo a bone.

A re ba ne ba neelwa lefelo leo, le pele e neng e le la banana mme morago ga dipuisano tse di tseneletseng ba le fetola go nna la temo ya morogo. O boletse fa ba ne ba amogelesega ka diatla tsoo pedi ka jaana ba Lucara ba ne ba ba thusa ka madi aa kanang ka P1.3 million go simolodisa tshimo eo ya merogo le go reka tsotlhe tse di tlakafalang.

Mo mading ao, a re ba kgonne

go gokela sediba, go reka koloi, sebalamakgolo (laptop) le go hira moeteledipele mo sebakeng sa ngwaga magareng ga tse dingwe.

Rre Matebele a re morago ga go abelwa tshimo eo, thobo ya ntlha e ne ya dira dipoleo tse di botoka mme kgwebo ya simolola go wela tlase morago ga go tlogela tiro ga moeteledipele wa pele ka 2024.

A re kwelo tlase ya kgwebo e ne e dirwa ke go tlhalela kitso ya tlhokomelo ya merogo a tlatsa ka gore pele ba ne ba lemile merogo ka go farologana, maphutshe, mmidi, ditamati le maungo a mangwe jaaka magapu mme ba ne ba rekisa thobo ya bone kwa dikoleng le marekisetso a matona jaaka la Choppies.

O boletse gape fa botsalano jwa bona le ba Lucara bo tswelletse sentle a supa fa baa kola bogakolodi jo bo maleba. Rre Matebele a re ba lekalana la Local Enterprise Authority le bogogi jwa motse le bone ba tshwaragane le bone ka go ba fa dikgakololo gore ba fitlhelela maitlamo a bone ka tshimo eo.

O tlhalositse fa ba eletsa go atolosa tshimo a tlatsa ka gore ba emetse phetolo go tswa kwa go ba kabo ditsha morago ga go isa kopo. A re maikaelelo ke go atolosa temo thuho ba simolodisa thuho ya dikoko

tsha mae, tsha nama le yone thuho ya dikolobe le dihutshane.

Rre Matebele a re ba segofetse mo nakong ya gomipeno ka ba amogetse baithuti ba le barataro go tswa kwa Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) go tla go ithuthuntsha a tlatsa ka gore ba tlaa anywa go le go ntsi mo go bone ka ba tlaa ba tlhatlhelela ka maele le dikitso tsa temo thuho.

Baithuti bao ba tlaa tsaya kgwedi tse thataro.

Modulasetilo wa komiti e e tlhokometseng mo tshimo, Mme Alvinia Kgaudi o ne a iteela kobo moroko a supa fa komiti e sa lebelela fela go dira dipoelo mme e tswa kgakala ka go tsenya letsogo mo ditirong tsa motse.

A re ba abetse bagodi bangwe ba ba tlhokileng lesego mo botshelong merogo. A re o dumela fa ba tlaa

dira ka natla morago ga go godisa le go tlhabolola tshimo ya bone.

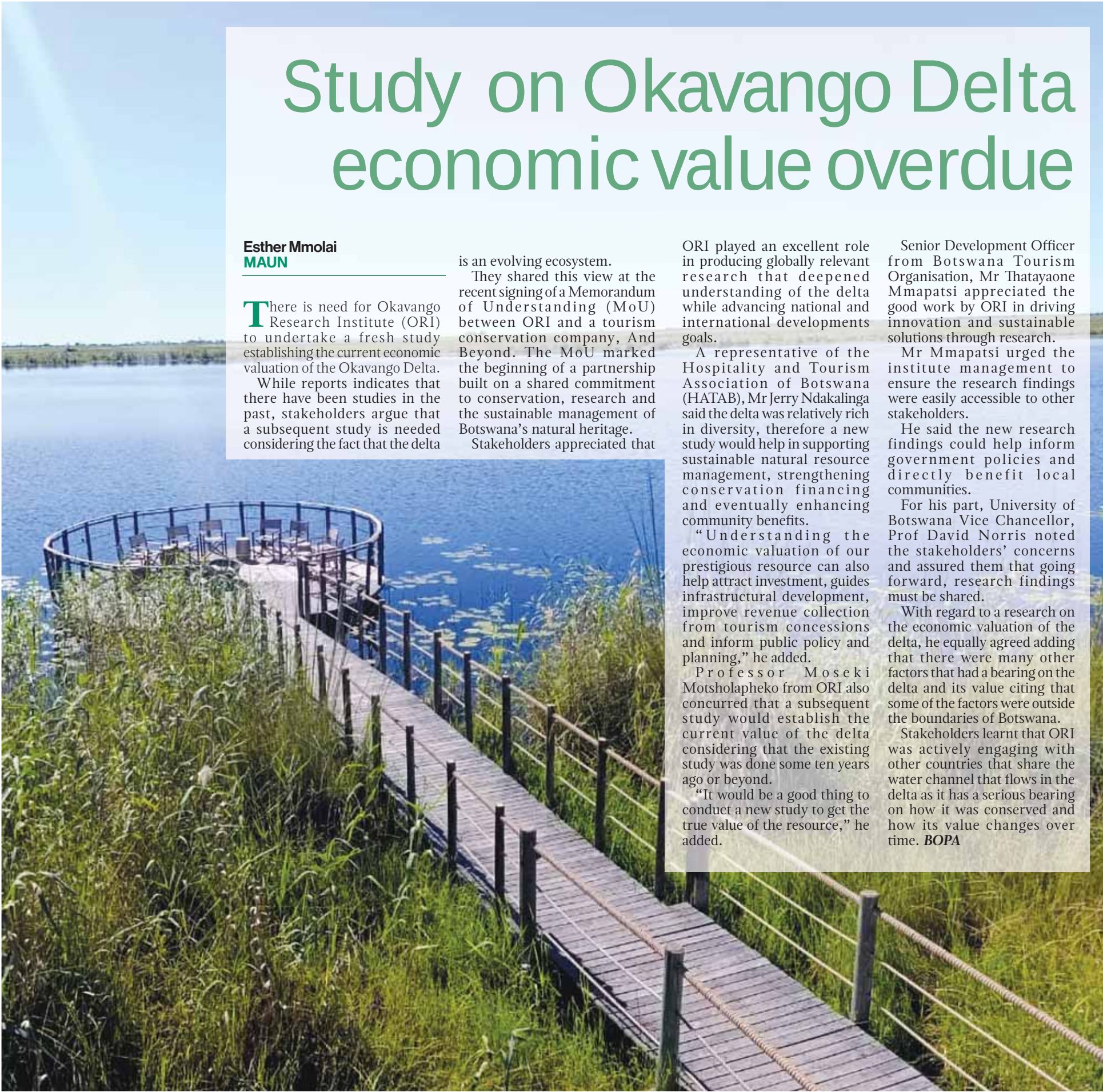
Fa a tswa la gagwe, mokhanselara, Rre Ikitseng Dipone wa kgaolwana ya Bogogobo/ Kolonkwaneng o ne a supa fa ba na le tsholofelo e tona mo baithuting ba BUAN go ba thusa go tlhabolola tshimo ya bone.

A re baithuti bao na le boitsaanape, maitemogelo le dikitso go tlhatlhelela ba ba dirang mo tshimong. **BOPA**



Badiri kwa tshimong ya komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse kwa Kolonkwaneng e ba e abetsweng ke khamphani ya Lucara Botswana. Modulasetilo wa komiti, Rre Tumelo Matebele a re tshimo eo, ya selekanyo sa 100mx100m e dira dipoelo tse di nametsang go na le jaaka pele.

Senepe: Letticia Nnokotema



Study on Okavango Delta economic value overdue

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

There is need for Okavango Research Institute (ORI) to undertake a fresh study establishing the current economic valuation of the Okavango Delta. While reports indicates that there have been studies in the past, stakeholders argue that a subsequent study is needed considering the fact that the delta

is an evolving ecosystem. They shared this view at the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ORI and a tourism conservation company, And Beyond. The MoU marked the beginning of a partnership built on a shared commitment to conservation, research and the sustainable management of Botswana's natural heritage. Stakeholders appreciated that

ORI played an excellent role in producing globally relevant research that deepened understanding of the delta while advancing national and international developments goals. A representative of the Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB), Mr Jerry Ndakalinga said the delta was relatively rich in diversity, therefore a new study would help in supporting sustainable natural resource management, strengthening conservation financing and eventually enhancing community benefits. "Understanding the economic valuation of our prestigious resource can also help attract investment, guides infrastructural development, improve revenue collection from tourism concessions and inform public policy and planning," he added. Professor Moseki Motsholapheko from ORI also concurred that a subsequent study would establish the current value of the delta considering that the existing study was done some ten years ago or beyond. "It would be a good thing to conduct a new study to get the true value of the resource," he added.

Senior Development Officer from Botswana Tourism Organisation, Mr Thatayaone Mmapatsi appreciated the good work by ORI in driving innovation and sustainable solutions through research. Mr Mmapatsi urged the institute management to ensure the research findings were easily accessible to other stakeholders. He said the new research findings could help inform government policies and directly benefit local communities. For his part, University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Prof David Norris noted the stakeholders' concerns and assured them that going forward, research findings must be shared. With regard to a research on the economic valuation of the delta, he equally agreed adding that there were many other factors that had a bearing on the delta and its value citing that some of the factors were outside the boundaries of Botswana. Stakeholders learnt that ORI was actively engaging with other countries that share the water channel that flows in the delta as it has a serious bearing on how it was conserved and how its value changes over time. **BOPA**

The Okavango Delta provides for highly valuable tourism activities, flora and fauna.

District Commissioner treats pensioners to breakfast

Samantha Gabaeme
HUKUNTSI

Smiles filled the Hukuntsi Post Office on Monday as elderly pension beneficiaries were treated to breakfast by the Office of the District Commissioner while waiting to collect their monthly pensions, a gesture that underscored the importance of caring for senior citizens. For majority of the elderly, pension day often comes with long queues, physical fatigue, and health-related challenges that make prolonged standing or waiting particularly difficult, especially for those living with chronic illnesses and mobility limitations. The Monday good gesture, therefore, offered more than just a meal; it provided comfort and relief in an environment where

access to seating, shade, and basic amenities is often limited. As pensioners settled in with cups of tea, bread, and soup, the usual strain associated with pension collection day was softened by a sense of care and community, turning a routine administrative process into a more dignified and humane experience. The District Commissioner, Ms Veronica Rabakane said the idea for the breakfast initiative was inspired by the sight of elderly pension beneficiaries queuing outside the post office early in the morning during the cold winter season. She said that as officers travelled to work each month, they would often see senior citizens arriving long before opening hours to secure their place in the queue, which prompted her office to find a meaningful way to make their

wait more comfortable. Ms Rabakane stated that the breakfast was organised as a surprise by the Office of the District Commissioner to express appreciation for the elderly and to let them know that their well-being mattered. "The initiative was inspired by biblical teachings that encourage giving as an expression of love. As Batswana we have a responsibility to care for one another," she said adding that the breakfast was a seed of kindness that would hopefully grow and have a lasting impact on the community. The breakfast was the Hukuntsi's Office of the District Commissioner first initiative and the office would like to make it a regular event although not monthly due to financial challenges. On his part, Kgosi Merapelo

Tshweneyagae said the breakfast initiative was a demonstration of love, care, and respect for the elderly. He said the gesture reflected the Office of the District Commissioner's commitment to ensuring that senior citizens felt valued and appreciated, adding that it should reassure them that they were not taken for granted but remained important members of the community. Postal Supervisor, Ms Gorata Ishmael, commended the Office of the District Commissioner for organising the breakfast, describing the initiative as demonstration of care and concern for senior citizens. She said the initiative had also highlighted the need for a shelter at the Hukuntsi Post Office to protect pensioners from harsh weather conditions while waiting

to collect their monthly stipends. Speaking on behalf of the elderly beneficiaries, Mr Thekololo Molatole expressed gratitude to the Office of the District Commissioner for organising the breakfast, describing it as a thoughtful and unprecedented gesture. He said the initiative had given them hope and encouraged them to look forward to similar acts of kindness in the future. Mr Molatole also appealed to the Office of the District Commissioner to consider addressing the need for a shelter at the Hukuntsi Post Office, saying it would provide much-needed protection for elderly pension beneficiaries from both the cold winter mornings and the intense summer heat while they waiting to collect their monthly pensions. **BOPA**

Arts & Culture

Designer upcycles old denim into art

Loago Thomas
GABORONE

Art has always found a way to reinvent itself. From oil on canvas to sculpture, photography to digital design, creative expression continues to evolve as artists push boundaries and challenge the way people see the world around them.

In Botswana, however, one artist is taking that spirit of reinvention a step further, not only in how he creates, but also in what he creates with. Mokganedi Elisa, professionally known as DenimKing, is a textile and mixed-media artist and fashion designer from Tutume who grew up in Selebi Phikwe. Where others see a pile of worn-out jeans and discarded clothing, he sees a canvas. Specialising in transforming discarded garments into works of art, with a particular focus on denim recycling, Elisa has carved out a creative identity that is uniquely his own, blending environmental consciousness

with craftsmanship, storytelling and style. Although he initially trained and worked as a professional welder and fabricator, Elisa’s passion for art never faded. Art was always his favourite subject while growing up. Despite pursuing a technical career, he eventually chose to follow his creative calling. Determined to strengthen his artistic foundation, he returned to school to pursue an Associate Degree in Fashion and Textile Design at Limkokwing University, combining his love for fashion, textiles and visual art. His fascination with denim grew from a desire to turn waste



Mokganedi Elisa, known as DenimKing specialises in transforming old denim into works of art. Photo: Courtesy of Mokganedi Elisa

into something meaningful. By transforming old denim garments into artworks, he developed a

distinctive artistic identity that merges environmental awareness, craftsmanship and storytelling. This innovative approach eventually earned him the name DenimKing.

Starting out, however, was not easy. “One of the biggest challenges was getting access to jeans, as friends and family did not fully understand what I was trying to achieve at the time. I had limited resources and had to work with what was available,” he said. Despite the challenges, he remained committed to his vision, and eventually the experiences helped him grow both personally and as a business owner.

Starting with limited resources, Mokganedi built his career through hard work, experimentation and persistence. He has participated in numerous exhibitions and competitions, including the Stanbic Festival, Nna le Seabe, Youth Rally and the Nando’s Art Competition, where he consistently secured first and second positions.

In 2023, he achieved a major milestone by winning first place in the National Art Competition in the Mixed Media/Innovative Design category.

He is also a member of Thapong Visual Arts.

As both an artist and fashion designer, Mokganedi successfully balances the creative and business aspects of his work by integrating artistic expression into fashion and using both disciplines to inspire innovation.

Through exhibitions, competitions and social media, he continues to share his work with wider audiences while promoting sustainability through art and design.

Mokganedi hopes to expand his reach beyond Botswana by exhibiting internationally and showcasing the country’s creative talent on the global stage.

For him, success is about more than recognition; it is about creating meaningful work, inspiring others, promoting sustainable practices and leaving a lasting impact through art and fashion. **BOPA**

Finalists to battle for Red Bull Dance Your Style title

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

After qualifying through fiercely contested battles, Botswana’s best dancers will on Saturday, compete for the coveted national title at

Molapo Piazza, and the winner will stand a chance to represent the country at the Red Bull Dance Your Style World Final in Zurich, Switzerland, on October 24. The 16 finalists are Yarona ‘Yaya’ Tumelo, Ditiro ‘Savage

Hound’ Kapeko, Campbell ‘Velox’ Kayure, Lerato ‘Janice’ Kganguapelo, Larona ‘B-MO’ Mmusi, Itumeleng ‘Brutal’ Bosula, Frank “London” Reid, Tinashe ‘Mr Tee’ Mangiroza, Alvan-Michael ‘Michael’ Okere,

Prince ‘Ultra Kluch’ Tshikare, Ella ‘Ella’ Phillip, Novea ‘Novy’ Van Wyk, Bosa ‘Sir Bosa’ Gadimorone, Archibald ‘KAIZ3N’ Gibbs, Bofelo ‘King Jozi’ Sthembeni and Lindelwa ‘Kuruk’ Ndlovu.

The winner will follow in the footsteps of previous Botswana champions who have represented the country on the international stage, most recently Malebogo “Lebo M” Mabifhi, who earned a place at the 2025 World Final in Los Angeles, USA, after being crowned Botswana’s top dancer.

Reflecting on her experience, Lebo M said competing internationally had broadened her perspective on dance and encouraged this year’s finalists to remain authentic and enjoy every moment on stage.

“The most important thing above it all is to have fun on stage, enjoy the moment and be the moment. Authenticity and staying true to your style, win or lose, is definitely a big part of growing as a dance artist,” she said in an interview.

Red Bull Dance Your Style is judged entirely by the audience, with dancers required to adapt in real time to unpredictable music selections ranging from Hip Hop, Amapiano, House and Afrobeats to global chart hits.

Competitors are judged on their freestyle ability, originality and performance skills in thrilling one-on-one battles decided by the crowd.

In addition to the fast-paced dance competition, fans can expect a full entertainment programme featuring performances by South African hitmakers Zee Nxumalo and Sykes, while Botswana’s Mdu ‘Iha Party’ will keep the energy high as the event’s official MC. **BOPA**



Botswana’s best dancers will on Saturday compete for the coveted national title at Molapo Piazza and the winner stands a chance to represent the country at the Red Bull Dance Your Style World Final in Zurich, Switzerland in October.



Obakeng Kamberuka

Kennekae Batisani

Oratile Nowe

Boitshepo Kelapile

Tshegofatso Bojosi

Naledi Monthe

Team ready to build on Commonwealth legacy

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

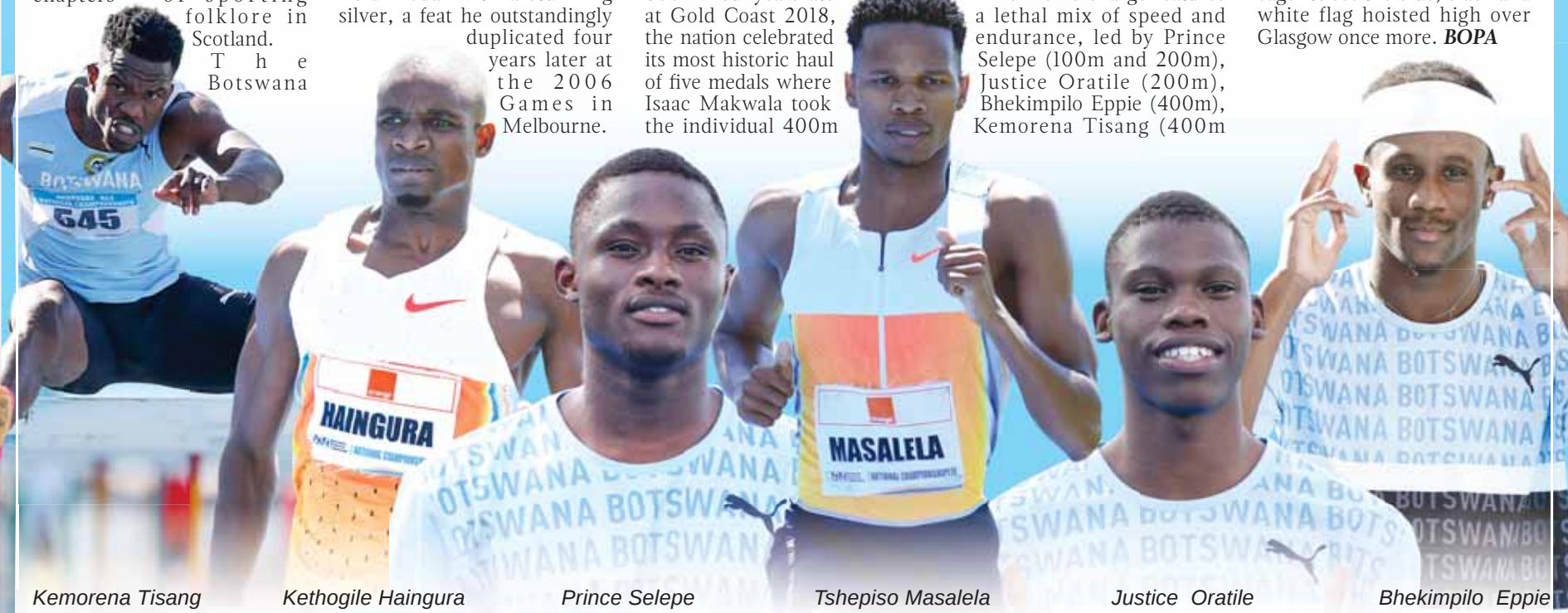
An ambitious target of seven medals stands between the newly unveiled track and field squad and Commonwealth glory as the countdown to Glasgow 2026, billed for July 23 to August 2, enters its final stretch. From Gable Garenamotse's historic silver in 2002 to the golden eras of Amantle Montsho and Isaac Makwala, Botswana's rich athletic history now rests on the shoulders of 12 formidable athletes ready to write their own chapters of sporting folklore in Scotland. The Botswana

National Olympic Committee (BNOC) has locked in the seven-medal objective by banking heavily on the country's traditional sprinting talent and middle-distance prowess, a bold strategy designed to emulate and build upon previous historic feats. Botswana's deep relationship with the Commonwealth podium began 24 years ago at the 2002 Games in Manchester. It was there that long jumper, Garenamotse leaped into the history books to claim Botswana's first-ever track and field medal with a stunning silver, a feat he outstandingly duplicated four years later at the 2006 Games in Melbourne.

However, the definitive turning point for local athletics arrived at the 2010 Delhi Games, when Montsho secured a historic breakthrough, charging down the home straight to capture Botswana's first-ever Commonwealth gold medal in the women's 400m. Since that pivotal night in India, Botswana has consistently stamped its authority on the international stage. At Glasgow 2014, Nijel Amos captured the global spotlight by winning gold in the men's 800m. Four years later at Gold Coast 2018, the nation celebrated its most historic haul of five medals where Isaac Makwala took the individual 400m

gold, Baboloki Thebe grabbed silver, Montsho reclaimed her women's 400m crown, the men's 4x400m relay team stormed to gold while the women's 4x400m relay secured a bronze. Most recently, at Birmingham 2022, the men's 4x400m relay team kept the momentum alive by capturing a hard-fought silver medal. Looking to replicate those golden eras, the BNOC recently finalised the 12-strong athletics squad heading back to Scottish soil. The men's charge features a lethal mix of speed and endurance, led by Prince Selepe (100m and 200m), Justice Oratile (200m), Bhekimpilo Eppie (400m), Kemorena Tisang (400m)

hurdles), Ketlhogile Haingura (800m) and Tshepiso Masalela (one mile). Matching them in ambition, the equally formidable women's contingent features Boitshepo Kelapile (100m), Obakeng Kamberuka (400m), Kennekae Batisani (400m), Naledi Monthe (400m), Oratile Nowe (800m) and Tshegofatso Bojosi, who carries the field-event torch in the long jump. With the opening ceremony just around the corner, the talent-heavy squad carries high expectations of a proud nation eager to see the blue, black and white flag hoisted high over Glasgow once more. **BOPA**



Kemorena Tisang

Kethogile Haingura

Prince Selepe

Tshepiso Masalela

Justice Oratile

Bhekimpilo Eppie