

# BOTSWANA Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES

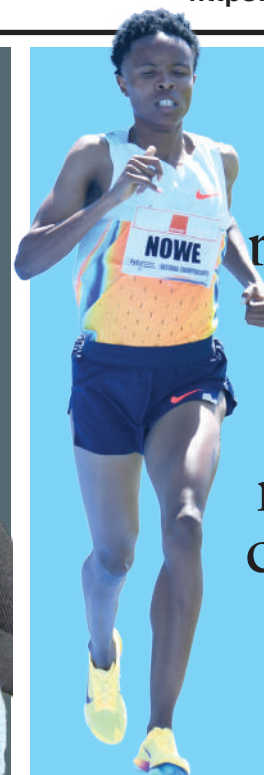
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## Botswana and Rwanda strive for free travel movement



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and his Rwanda counterpart, Mr Paul Kagame during the official talks held at the Office of the President in Gaborone yesterday. The two President discussed issues that advance Botswana-Rwanda bilateral relations towards high impact economic partnerships. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

**Lesedi Thatayamodimo**  
**GABORONE**

President Advocate Duma Boko has highlighted ongoing efforts to remove barriers and allow citizens of Botswana and Rwanda to travel more freely without obstacles.

Speaking during official talks in Gaborone yesterday, President Boko commended Rwanda for its

policy allowing Botswana to stay in the country for up to six months, up from the previous 90-day limit.

"It is time for Botswana to reciprocate by extending similar provisions to Rwanda citizens.

There will be no pre-existing structures that delay or hold back progress," President Boko said, adding that both countries must embrace new approaches to cooperation and development.

The President underscored the importance of enhancing people-to-people connections, noting that easing travel restrictions would not only strengthen diplomatic relations but also promoted tourism, trade and cultural exchange.

He added that both nations stood to benefit from increased collaboration in key sectors such as education, technology and

infrastructure development, hence the need for practical implementation of agreements.

He further highlighted the importance of continued dialogue and exchange of ideas, saying such engagement would enable Botswana and Rwanda to learn from each other and accelerate shared development goals.

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# DailyNews

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# Kanye Brigade attracts more students

Marvin Motlhabane  
KANYE

Kanye Brigade, located alongside the scenic Mmakgodumo Dam, has enrolled 171 students and is recording higher interest since the introduction of National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF) programmes as well as a raise in stipend.

The increase of the monthly stipend for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) students from P300 to P2 200 last year August has improved access, dignity, and academic performance across Botswana's brigades and technical colleges.

In an interview, Kanye Brigade Principal, Ms Tshegofatso Tsele attributed the growth to the improved stipend and the introduction of new NCQF-aligned programmes. He said the programmes were both shorter (12 months) and better aligned with current industry demands than legacy programmes.

Ms Tsele said the brigade offered three main courses: Automotive Engineering, Electrical Installation and Maintenance, and Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning.

Certificate Level 3 is available in all three courses, while Certificate Level 4 covered Automotive Engineering and Electrical Installation and Maintenance.

She highlighted a surge in applications. For instance, in August 2024, before the stipend increase, Kanye Brigade received 1 134 total applications with 242 for Automotive Engineering, 562 for Electrical Installation and Maintenance and 330 for Refrigeration and Air-

Conditioning. From the total, only 120 students were selected.

In August 2025, applications jumped to 3 625 with 653 applications for Automotive Engineering, 1 859 for Electrical Installation and Maintenance and 1 123 for Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning. Ms Tsele emphasised the institution's commitment to inclusive education, providing readers, scribes, and large-print examination papers for three students with special needs currently enrolled.

Mr Thebe Laletsang, Student Representative Council (SRC) president and a Level 4 Automotive Engineering student who joined in 2024, described the stipend adjustment as life-changing.

"The ultimate increase of the monthly stipend from P300 to P2 200 has really helped us afford rental, food stuff, and toiletries. It has brought us dignity because it shows that government truly recognises us as TVET students - our stipend now matches that of university students," he said.

He noted that the brigade's location on the outskirts of Kanye made transportation a major challenge under the old stipend.

"The increment has helped us access the brigade with ease and has reduced our dependence on parents. Before, we relied on side jobs for transport money, which meant spending a lot of time outside school and that created room for failure." He added that the NCQF programmes are aligned with current market demands, making them ideal for creating employment opportunities.

Mr Ntebogang Serame, a Level 3 Automotive Engineering student renting an apartment for P600 per

month, said the new allowance has countered the effects of inflation and rising fuel costs.

"The revised monthly allowance has secured us better spaces for learning away from family crises, allowing me to live independently. I can now spend more time in class because the NCQF programmes are quite demanding and need full focus," he said.

Ms Tshepiso Modukanele, SRC finance minister and an Automotive Engineering student, highlighted the shift in perception.

"The revised programmes and the stipend increment have brought significant changes, especially in erasing the old narrative that Brigade Centres were for failures. The NCQF programmes come with Entrepreneurship Development and Business Communication modules, which prepare us to graduate into business and create employment opportunities for others," she said.

Kanye Brigade head of department, Mr Ithuseng Nthai, said that by improving financial support, shortening programme duration, and embedding market-relevant skills, government is making TVET a first-choice pathway. He noted that students are showing better concentration, higher attendance, and a greater confidence in their futures.

Mr Nthai added that the stipend reform, together with NCQF modernisation, is ushering in a more vibrant, inclusive, and respected TVET sector in Botswana. For institutions like Kanye Brigade and thousands of learners nationwide, technical education has become a genuine route to self-reliance, dignity, and economic contribution.

**BOPA**



Introduction of National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF) programmes as well as a raise in stipend has attracted more prospective students to Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions, and brigades.

## Councilors okay CCP projects

Kedirebofe Pelontle  
GUMARE

Okavango District Council (ODC) has given a green light to the proposed projects to be undertaken through Constituency Community Projects (CCP) and Ikageng Public Works during the current financial year.

Presenting the allocation during a special full council meeting recently, ODC Principal Economist, Mr Tumisang Mokotedi said projects amounting to P10 million were proposed for the three constituencies

of Ngami, Okavango West and Okavango East.

He said some of the proposed projects for Ngami Constituency were procurement of an ambulance for Xaixai clinic, construction of a classroom block at Thale Primary School in Gumare and Strategic Environment Assessment at Habu village.

As for some of the proposed CCP projects for Okavango East, Mr Mokotedi said they included procurement of ambulance for Seronga clinic, borehole drilling and equipping at Mogotho village and

two Bonno houses at Mohembo.

Meanwhile, Okavango West will among others receive funds to cover for maintenance of two staff houses at Sepopa village, graveling of internal roads in Shakawe and construction of one classroom block at Kajaja Primary School amongst others.

Councillors approved the projects saying they were key to the needs of their communities.

The meeting also discussed the establishment of a second district, renaming and realignment of the current Okavango District. **BOPA**



Deputy Council Secretary for Primary Health Care Services, Mr Conrad Ntsuape said medicine availability at local facilities had improved slightly in current quarter, ranging between 50 and 70 per cent. He noted that the previous quarter recorded a supply level of 64 per cent.

## Council calls for payment of clinic consultation fees

Marvin Motlhabane  
KANYE

Amid ongoing challenges in medicine availability at public health facilities, Kanye District Council is urging patients to pay registration fees during consultations to help supplement government efforts in procuring essential drugs and improving service delivery.

At the height of Botswana's recent economic crisis, medicine availability at public facilities dropped as low as 17 per cent, triggering widespread shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies.

The situation worsened following a sharp decline in diamond revenues, which strained public finances, leading President Duma Boko to declare a national public health emergency on August 25, 2025.

In a recent interview with BOPA, Deputy Council Secretary for Primary Health Care Services, Mr Conrad Ntsuape said medicine availability at local facilities has improved slightly in current quarter, ranging between 50 and 70 per cent. He noted that the previous quarter recorded a supply level of 64 per cent.

Mr Ntsuape explained that the shortage has severely affected treatment for common conditions, particularly the unavailability of paediatric syrups, leaving many parents struggling to manage childhood illnesses such as fever, infections, diarrhoea, and respiratory conditions.

He highlighted that non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including hypertension, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and chronic respiratory conditions, account for one of the largest portions of government health expenditure.

"Patients with these conditions often require uninterrupted medication, as even short interruptions can lead to severe complications, hospital admissions, or life-threatening emergencies. Medicinal prices have surged dramatically, with procurement costs frequently five to ten times higher than normal due to global market pressures, supply chain disruptions, and emergency purchasing," said Mr Ntsuape.

He added that district councils, including Kanye, were responsible for small-scale procurement of medicines and supplies below the P100 000 micro-procurement threshold.

However, he said many essential items; especially paediatric formulations, antibiotics, and NCD

drugs exceed the limit in cost, forcing greater reliance on Central Medical Stores (CMS).

Mr Ntsuape noted that while some non-drug consumables such as syringes, bandages, and cotton wool have recently become more available, the shortage of actual medicines remains the core challenge.

As part of the transition to the new local government structure, the Council is gradually introducing revenue collection systems at health facilities.

Mr Ntsuape revealed that registration fees, which once contributed up to seven per cent of the health budget in 2007, have fallen to just one per cent in recent years.

To address this decline, Kanye District Council has set a target of collecting at least P20 000 annually from registration fees at health facilities.

Revenue offices have already been established at the Main Clinic, Sebego, Dada, Losabanyane and Kgatlheng, with plans to extend the service to other facilities.

He reassured the public that exemptions and waivers were available for vulnerable groups, including children under five, pregnant women, the elderly, registered indigent persons, and other vulnerable individuals identified through social welfare assessments.

Mr Ntsuape said emergency cases will continue to receive immediate attention without prior payment, in line with national health policy.

Regarding fee structures, he said citizens were required to pay a nominal P5 registration fee, after which general consultations remain free.

He said referrals from private doctors attract a charge of P50. For non-citizens, consultation fees range from P15 to P80 depending on the cadre of health worker (nurse, doctor or specialist).

Mr Ntsuape said additional charges apply for services such as pap smears (P80), ANC registration (P86.20), scans (P256.20), deliveries, admissions and post-natal check-ups.

He encouraged patients to cooperate by paying promptly to avoid delays in non-emergency services.

Mr Ntsuape said the initiative forms part of broader national efforts to promote financial sustainability and accountability in Botswana's public health system without compromising equitable access to care. **BOPA**

# Boko advocates free movement to boost Botswana-Rwanda ties



Presidents Advocate Duma Boko (right) and Mr Paul Kagame during tête-à-tête at the Office of the President yesterday. The two discussed issues that advance Botswana-Rwanda bilateral relations towards high impact economic partnerships.  
Photo: Phenyio Moalosi

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President Boko also praised Rwanda for its resilience and remarkable recovery from a painful past, describing it as a nation committed to unity, healing and rebuilding.

He acknowledged the sacrifices made by the Rwanda people, noting that despite the trauma they endured, they had emerged stronger and more determined to build a cohesive society.

He reiterated that Botswana was ready to deepen cooperation with Rwanda, emphasising the importance of strengthening bilateral ties and fostering

partnerships that deliver tangible results.

On the African Continental Free Trade Area, President Boko underscored the need for African countries to invest in infrastructure that connects the continent, facilitating trade and the free movement of people and goods. Meanwhile, Rwanda President, Mr Paul Kagame emphasised the importance of collaboration, saying strong bilateral relations between Botswana and Rwanda would significantly contribute to regional integration and economic growth.

“Partnerships are essential for Africa’s collective progress,

by working together, Rwanda and Botswana can unlock new opportunities for our people and contribute to regional integration,” he said.

President Kagame is in Botswana on a two-day official state visit, signalling a renewed commitment to deepening diplomatic, economic and security cooperation between the two nations.

The visit marked a significant milestone in relations between the two countries, which had maintained cordial ties since establishing diplomatic relations decades ago. **BOPA**

## Countries forge diplomatic relations

Gontle Merafhe  
GABORONE

Botswana and Rwanda Bilateral Cooperation has grown exponentially by scale and scope since establishing diplomatic relations in 2004.

Marking the opening of the Botswana and Rwanda Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation (JPCC) in Gaborone on Tuesday, a precursor to the state visit by Rwanda President, Mr Paul Kagame, Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale said the bilateral mechanism was an important platform which afforded the two nations invaluable opportunity to exchange views on bilateral regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Dr Butale said that the visit afforded Botswana an opportunity to explore further avenues for

deepening and broadening bilateral cooperation in the critical sectors of the two economies such as trade and investment, mining, tourism, culture and the promotion of exchanges in science, education and technology.

He also said beyond bilateral cooperation, the two countries continued to advance their common positions and values at continental and international level.

“We remain confident that our collective efforts will play a significant role in the promotion of peace and security in the region and beyond the continent,” said Dr Butale.

His counterpart, Rwanda Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr Olivier Nduhungirehe, said his nation was encouraged by the steady progress made across key sectors, among them; defence, police

cooperation, mining, agriculture and livestock development as well as growing engagement between the private sectors of the two countries.

“Looking ahead, Rwanda sees strong potential to deepen further cooperation in the mining, energy and ICT sectors, which are critical to industrialisation and sustainable economic transformation of the African continent,” he stated.

Mr Nduhungirehe said Rwanda was keen to exchange experiences in ICT, and to learn from Botswana’s strong track record in mining, governance and the energy sector development.

“In this context Rwanda is exploring the introduction of nuclear energy, including Small Modular Reactors, as part of our future energy mix,” he elaborated.

President Kagame’s two-day state visit ends today. **BOPA**

## Botswana responds to polio threat

Mmoniemang Motsamai  
OODI

Botswana have been urged to respond and embrace the Oral Polio Vaccination campaign that would be conducted countrywide as a preventative measure to prevent potential spread among vulnerable children from (0 to 59 months) as well as to strengthen immunity.

Officially launching the Oral Polio Vaccination Campaign in Oodi on Tuesday, Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, said the campaign was a proactive and necessary step to prevent the spread of the virus to children under five years.

The campaign follows a recent confirmation of circulating vaccine-derivative poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases in neighbouring Namibia and Zambia.

Thus, Mr Motshegwa said proximity of these developments to Botswana specifically to the Charleshill and Okavango Districts, places the country at risk.

“This is not a distant threat it is a regional reality that demands immediate, coordinated, and

decisive action hence the country’s decision to conduct a National Oral Polio Vaccination campaign around the same time with the other neighbouring countries as recommended by WHO,” he said.

Minister Motshegwa highlighted the importance of responding swiftly to the campaign, stating that Polio was a highly infectious disease that can cause lifelong paralysis and even death contributing to increased child mortality.

“Polio is a highly infectious disease that can cause lifelong paralysis and even death contributing to increased child mortality,” he said.

The campaign will be conducted two rounds, targeting all children under the age of five years (0 to 59 months), regardless of their previous vaccination status starting from: First round from May 5 to 8 and second round June 8 to 11.

The campaign will be conducted by vaccination teams identifiable by tags through house to house and health facilities and in locations where children commonly gather including day care centres.

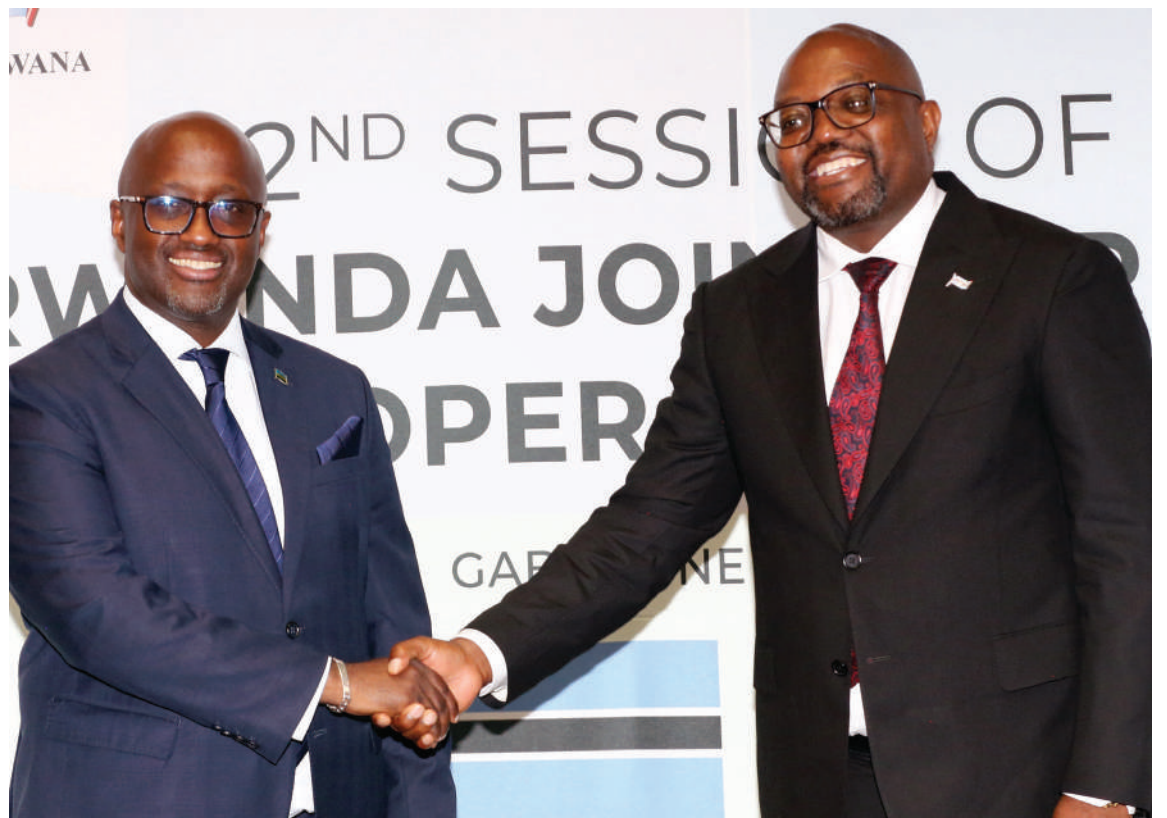
Kgatleng District Council Health committee chairperson, Mr John Marumo implored parents and caregivers to welcome the teams into their homes.

He also emphasised the importance of responding to campaigns to allay any threats.

UNICEF acting representative, Ms Tuduetsa Kelapile, said in an interview that the campaign aimed to reach over 272 000 children under the age of five.

She said UNICEF and government worked to facilitate procurement of polio drops, signifying commitment to strengthen the cold chain and logistics systems so that every dose remains safe, potent, and ready to safeguard every child.

She said UNICEF in collaboration with the Botswana Red Cross Society were reaching out directly to caregivers, traditional leaders, and community champions, to ensure they have the knowledge and power to dispel fear and misinformation. **BOPA**



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Rwanda, Mr Olivier Nduhungirehe (left) and Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale during official opening and closing ceremony of the ministerial segment prior the second session of the Botswana-Rwanda Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation in Tlokweng on Tuesday. Dr Butale said key sectors for cooperation included trade, investment, mining, tourism, agriculture and global issues which sought to deliver sustainable development, job creation and technology transfer.  
Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

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# Daily Business

## FMD outbreak delays Milk Valley expansion

Calviniah Kgautle  
LOBATSE

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Zone II has brought to a standstill the roll out of Phase I of Milk Valley Expansion Project in Lobatse where a consignment of heifers expected to arrive from Brazil has been temporarily halted.

The robust expansion plan at Botswana's dairy flagship project wholly owned by Botswana Development Corporation was in progress but temporarily disrupted by the outbreak of FMD in Zone II.

"Heifers have been bought and were already under quarantine at Brazil to prepare them to be shipped to Botswana but the process was put on hold because of cattle movement restrictions here, Milk Valley Farm interim general manager," Mr Onkemetse Bareki, said.

He said the consignment was temporarily paused to mitigate any FMD risk that might arise in Zone II.

Milk Valley Farm is aligned to Botswana's economic diversification goals since it plays a significant role in reducing Botswana's reliance on dairy imports, thereby strengthening local food security and supporting domestic dairy production.

Preparations were on course to receive the 1 000 heifers

from Brazil which will be brought into the country in batches of 200, expected to be completed before the end of the year.

So far, Mr Bareki said, in anticipation of the new heifer batches, they had already started the ball rolling where they dried almost all available milk cows and had begun to cull the unproductive ones.

In addition, he said construction of two more cow houses and supporting infrastructure, as well as land development to expand fodder production to accommodate the coming cows was ongoing to cater for more milking cows in a project which was established to accommodate well over 2 000 cows, each with a daily production capacity of over 20 litres of milk.

To combat the impact of FMD scare, he said the farm was in the process of applying for compartmentalisation which is a critical FMD control strategy to better manage animal health to prevent outbreak or spread of FMD virus at the farm. The approach, he noted was essential for maintaining animal health and safety and ensure integrity of international trade.

"Now that Zone II has recorded FMD outbreak cases, the likelihood of completing the process is less. We

can only apply for a compartment if the last FMD case was at least more than 10KM away from Milk Valley Farm. Of course we can apply but the scary part is that the disease keeps coming closer. Right now it is 22 KM away from us," he said.

He thus expressed concern that should FMD come closer to Milk Valley, and the farm was not yet gazetted as a compartment then the farm would face serious setbacks. "We will be in trouble because we will not be able to trade," he said.

His sentiments were echoed by Dairy Producers Association representative, Dr Wame Boitumelo who said FMD severely affected dairy production by reducing milk production, increasing veterinary costs, and disrupting trade, leading to significant economic losses. He highlighted that the local Milk Industry had not been performing well, adding that FMD outbreak was likely to worsen the situation.

He noted that the outbreak was particularly challenging to the dairy industry as farmers

incurred high running costs including high feed costs on a daily basis. He said milk could not be sold due to current FMD controls. This, he noted would adversely affect dairy businesses and thus called for urgent formation of an FMD Relief Fund to assist the farmers to recover.

He reasoned that dairy production was a daily business and so if a farmer could fail to sell for a consecutive 28 days, they might likely not recover economically afterwards or service their bank loans, emphasising that the FMD caused a significant drop in milk yield, most probably leading to permanent loss of production potential and a decrease in milk quality.

"The economic repercussions are severe, with local dairy farmers facing productivity loss and treatment costs due to the FMD outbreak," Dr Boitumelo said. **BOPA**



Milk Valley Farm interim general manager, Mr Onkemetse Bareki said Heifers that had been bought were already under quarantine at Brazil to prepare them to be shipped to Botswana but the process was put on hold because of FMD outbreak.  
Photos: Calviniah Kgautle



## South Africa lifts FMD restrictions in KwaZulu-Natal

CAPE TOWN

South Africa has lifted disease control restrictions in KwaZulu-Natal and secured six million vaccine doses as it shifts to a nationwide response to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen said on Tuesday.

Steenhuisen said at a media briefing in Cape Town that outbreaks have now been reported in all provinces, making localised containment measures increasingly difficult to justify.

"Today, I am announcing the

formal lifting of the foot-and-mouth disease restrictions within the KwaZulu-Natal Disease Management Area," he said.

Authorities will instead move toward a country-wide system of movement controls for cloven-hoofed animals, aimed at standardising biosecurity measures while easing the economic burden on farmers.

South Africa has so far received six million doses of FMD vaccines, with additional shipments expected in the coming weeks as part of an effort to scale up immunisation across the livestock

sector.

According to the minister, South Africa aims to vaccinate 80 per cent of its national herd by December 2026 as it sought to contain the outbreak and restore confidence in its livestock industry.

The government has also published a Routine Vaccination Scheme in the Government Gazette, allowing livestock owners to voluntarily vaccinate animals under state supervision while the national rollout continues.

The scheme is designed to accelerate vaccination through a public-private partnership model

and improve traceability in the livestock industry.

Steenhuisen said South Africa would use an upcoming Southern African Development Community (SADC) agriculture ministers' meeting to push for a coordinated regional response.

"Following a close study of the regionalisation model used in South America, we will use the upcoming SADC Agriculture Ministers' Meeting later this month to call for a similar regional approach as well as the establishment of a regional vaccine bank," he said. **Xinhua**

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Mining fees reduction to boost beneficiation

**HARARE** - The Zimbabwean Cabinet on Tuesday approved a comprehensive review of mining licenses, permits, and levies, aimed at lowering production costs and boosting domestic mineral value addition. "Cabinet approved the streamlining of duplicated regulatory licenses, removed unnecessary levies, and lowered unjustifiably high fees for the mining sector," said Mangaliso Ndhlovu, acting minister of information, publicity and broadcasting services, at a post-Cabinet media briefing in Harare. He said duplicative and overlapping licenses and permits were now streamlined under a single regulatory authority, while over 80 per cent of the mining sector fees that were considered reasonable have been maintained. **Xinhua**

#### Ghana central bank records US\$3.1 billion annual loss

**ACCRA** - Ghana's central bank on Tuesday disclosed that it had recorded an annual loss of GHS34.95 billion (about US\$3.11 billion) in its overall operations for the year ending December 31, 2025. In a statement, the bank said its annual financial report, released earlier, indicates a total operating loss of GHS15.63 billion and other comprehensive income (OCI) losses of GHS19.32 billion for 2025. The Bank of Ghana said its negative equity also moved from GHS61.32 billion at the start of the year to GHS96.28 billion at the end of 2025. "The operating loss is primarily driven by the cost of open market operations, used to absorb excess cedi liquidity, and the cost of the Domestic Gold Purchase Programme which built Ghana's reserves. The OCI loss reflects the impact of the cedi's appreciation on the bank's foreign-currency reserve assets," the statement added. **Xinhua**

#### Algeria, Egypt sign oil cooperation agreements

**ALGIERS** - Algeria's state-owned energy giant Sonatrach on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation, paving the way for future contracts to supply crude oil and petroleum products from Algeria to Egypt, Algeria's official APS news agency reported. Meanwhile, a contract valued at over US\$1 billion was also signed between Sonatrach, Thailand's PTTEP, and a consortium comprising Egypt's Petrojet and Italy's Arkad, with an aim to develop the second phase of the Hassi Bir Rekaiz oil field in the Berkine Basin, eastern Algeria. The consortium won the contract in October 2025. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Algerian Minister of Hydrocarbons and Mines Mohamed Arkab said the two agreements reflected the strong ties between Algeria and Egypt and their shared commitment to enhancing Arab and African cooperation, as well as promoting strategic partnerships across the continent. **Xinhua**

# Dikgang

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# Ba Block 6 ba leka ka borukutlhi

Gontle Merafhe  
GABORONE

Baagi ba kgaolwana ya Block 6 mo Gaborone ba re ba tshwentswe ke seemo sa borukutlhi se se gakadiwang ke dikgwebo tsa bojalwa tse ba dumelang di fetile palo mo kgaolong eo.

Baagi ba supile fa kgaolwana ya bone e na le marekisetso a nnotagi a le masome a mane le bobedi.

Ba supa gore tse di diragalang kwa mafelong a nnotagi ke tse di ngomolang pelo.

Ba re dipetelelo, dipolaano, dintwa tse di bakang dikgobalo, le tiriso ya ditagi tse di begelwang mapodisi di dintsi, mme di diragala ka nako ya maitiso.

Ba ntshitse ikuelo bosheng mo phuthegong e buisiwa ke Mopalamente wa Gaborone Bonnington North, Mme Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti le mogolwane was sepodise, Superintendent Knight Molosiwa.

Ba tlhalositse gore kgaolo ya bone e tshwenngwa ke batho baba etelang mafelo a maitiso, mme bangwe ba bone e le ba ba tlang ka maikaelelo a go tla go senya le go utswa.

Ka jalo, ba kopile gore motsamao wa mapodise o bonale mo kgaolong ya bone, segolo bogolo ka dinao tse batho ka bontsi ba seong mo malwapeng gore ba kgone go kgaupetsa ba ba nang le mokgwa wa go dira borukuthi.

Gape, ba tlhalositse gore seemo se bifella kwa pele ka ntlha ya diherwana le mebila e fa gare ga malwapa tse di medileng bojang le ditlhare, ka jalo disinyi di iphitlha le go amoga batho dithoto tsa bone mo mafelong ao.

Sengwe se se sa jeseng banni diwelang ke gore baithuti bangwe ba

sekole se segolwane sa Bonnington ba inaakantse le tiriso ya ditagi, e bile ba ipopile digongwana tsa tshenyo le boganana.

Ba supile gore digongwana tseo, di bogisa baithuti ka bone, ba fetotse sekole mosako wa mabole, mme ba dira le tshenyo ya dithoto tsa sekole jaaka go senya terata ya sekole.

E rile a tswa la gagwe, Supt. Molosiwa a re ditlhotlhomiso di supile gore go tlhoka tirisanyo fa gare ga mapodise le morafe go dira gore borukutlhi bo golele kwa godimo.

A re fa go nang le tshwaragano teng, borukutlhi bo a laolesega.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, mogokgo wa sekole sa Bonnington, Mme Lizzer Ramogapi a re ba tshwaraganye le batsadi go fedisa bothhoka-tsebe jwa baithuti.

Mme Ramogapi a re ba setse ba thibile diphatlha tse di neng di butswa ke baithuti mo terateng la sekole.

Mopalamente Mme Mophuting-Dikoloti a re o tshwaraganye le makhanselara a kgaolo le baagi go busetsa seemo sa borukutlhi mo taolong.

Mme Mophuting-Dikoloti a re o tlaa tswela ka go leka go bona gore mafelo a maitiso bogolo jang a nnotagi, a fokotswa kana a laolwa jang ka a hupeditse kgaolwana ya Block 6.

O ne a re o buisanya le khansela ya Gaborone go sinosa dikgwa mo kgaolong.

A re o tlaa leka go buisanya le beng ba ditsha tse di sa tlhabololwang gore ba di tlhabolole kana ba fokotse sekgwa se se mo go tsene ka gore ke bonno jwa dirukuthi gape bangwe ba setse ba di fetotse kwa go latlhelwang matlakala teng.

**BOPA**



Mopalamente wa Gaborone Bonnington North, Mme Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti (molemeng) le mokhanselara wa kgaolwana ya Bosesa South mo Gaborone Bonnington North, Mme Esther Letlhare ba le kwa phuthegong ya kgotla mo Block 6 bosheng. Baagi ba kgaolwana eo, ba supile matshwenyego ka seemo sa borukutlhi se ba reng se gakadiwa ke dikgwebo tsa nnotagi tse ba dumelang di fetile palo mo kgaolong ya bone. Senepe: Pheny Ramatu

## Banni ba Goshwe ba ngongorega ka polao ya dikgomo

Goitsemodimo Williams-Madzonga  
GOSHWE

Barui ba Goshwe mo kgaolong ya Tutume ba ngongorega ka polao ya dikgomo tsa bone ke ba lephata la mathoko a leruo, morago ga gore di tsene kwa kgaolong ya Bokone Bothaba e tlhasetsweng ke bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo.

Ba ntshitse ngongorego eo mo phuthegong ya kgotla e buisiwa ke Mopalamente wa Nkange, Rre Motlhaleemang Moalosi ka Mosupologo.

Mme Tirelo Goleele, yo e leng mongwe wa ba ba bolaetsweng dikgomo, o supile fa ba ne ba kopiwa go tla go supa fa dikgomo e le tsa bone, mme ba dira jalo.

A re ntswa ba rurifaditse fa dikgomo e le tsa bone, ba lephata la mathoko a leruo ba ne ba tsaya tshwetso ya go di bolaya ba sa ba rerisa.

Mme Goleele a re dikgomo tsa gagwe di bolailwe, ntswa di ne di kentlwe ka mokento wa go thibela bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo.

A re o ne a solofetse gore gongwe

ba lephata la mathoko a leruo ba tla di isa kwarantining mme morago di tlhatlhabiwe go bona gore a di nale bolwetse jaaka puso e buile gore e ya go lwantsha bolwetse ntle le go bolaya leruo.

Ka jalo, Mme Goleele a re ga a batle phimolo dikededi ya madi, o batla go busetswa dikgomo.

A re o itshetsa ka temo thuo, ka jalo se se ngomolang pelo ke gore mo godimo ga gore o bolaetswe dikgomo, go lebege le kwa masimo a tla dika a dule fela, ka ditlou di bakile tshenyo mo tshimong ya gagwe.

Mongwe wa banni, Rre Matlhare Baitheki a re ba lephata la taolo ya mathoko a leruo ba na le seabe mo motsamaong wa leruo o sa laolesegeng mo le felang le tsena kwa kgaolong e e nang le tlhako le molomo ka gore ba ne ba ntsha terata e kgaoganyang dikgaolo tseo ba re e kgologolo, mme ba seka ba e busetsa ka nako.

O ne gape a kopa gore go okediwe palo ya bodiredi ba lephata la diphologolo le makgabisana naga go thusa go lwantsha motsamao wa ditlou tse di tshelletseng ka dipalo tse di kwa godimo mo motseng wa

bone e bile di bakile tshenyo e ntsi kwa masimo.

Ka jalo, Rre Baitheki o kopile gore ba tsenyediwe terata ya motlakase go lwantsha motsamao wa ditlou ka e le tsone di ba senyetsang thata ka go kgaola terata ya molelwane, mme se se dire gore leruo la bone le tsene kwa le sa tshwanelang go tsena teng.

Fa a tswa la gagwe Mopalamente Rre Moalosi o supile fa kgang ya go bolawa ga dikgomo e gorogile kwa go ene mme a dirile maiteko a go batlisisa ka yone.

A re o ba kopile go tla go buisa morafe go ba tlhalosetsa gore go diragetseng.

Rre Moalosi o ne a kgothatsa banni go tsaya karolo mo go lwantsheng bolwetse jo, a tlhalosa gore bo ka laolesega fa batho botlhe ba sala morago ditaello tse ba di fiwang ke badiri ba lephata la mathoko a leruo.

A re go nna le seabe mo go lwantsheng tlhako le molomo go tla dira gore seemo se boele mo taolong, mme barui ba kgone go itshetsa ka go rekisa dikgomo tsa bone. **BOPA**

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# Celebrating Nation Hood

## What is your contribution in building your community?



Duduetsang Daniel

I believe community is built in the house before it reaches the kgotla. I spend time teaching my younger sister Diane and their meanings, showing her how to cook, and reminding her why we greet elders with both hands. I see it helping her already, she carries herself with respect. Culture lives when we pass it on. That's how I contribute to building our community. One lesson at a time. **Duduetsang Daniel**

I am deeply committed to uplifting my community through hands-on service and advocacy. As an active member of Victorious Ladies Rising NGO, I support young women by providing donations and standing with survivors of rape, teenage pregnancy, and abuse. In my home village of Kopong, I lead by example through village-wide clean-up initiatives and by caring for our elders with compassion, including offering massages and companionship to ensure they feel valued and seen. **Sharon Van-Rooyen**

I speak Setswana at home with kids and teach them proverbs and idioms. I also go to the kgotla when there's a community meeting. I attend patlo, magadi and weddings. Take kids to dikgafela. **Kelebogile Malate**

Since I got born again I decided to let my young one know that to live for Christ is the only way to save their life because the world is full of challenges. I contribute by leading them to find God while it's still time. **Kefilwe Ganagagabo**

For me, building the community really comes down to how I show up for people every day. I try not to overcomplicate it. I believe in Botho, that who I am is shaped by the people around me, so I make a conscious effort to add value, even in small ways. In our context here in Botswana, a little support or direction can genuinely change someone's path, so I don't take that lightly. I also try to be intentional about how I engage with people, being respectful, honest, and reliable. I think community is built on trust, and that comes from consistency, not big speeches or once-off efforts. Beyond that, I support what's around me, wheth-



Faith Marumo

er it's local initiatives, meaningful conversations, or anything that helps people move forward instead of staying stuck. **Faith Marumo**

My contribution is to help others when ever they are in need, sharing the word of God leading to counselling when they are broken inside because it might lead to loneliness I help in community preparations for weddings, funerals and other parties and even contributing to make these events a success because Mabogo Dinku a thebana. **Peggy Dipholo**

I volunteer as an author for Right for Education Africa – Botswana, writing articles that help communities understand and solve local challenges. **Gina Moabi**

My contribution in building my society is making sure I attend kgotla meetings always to participate in all activities concerning my community. Attending school meetings where I get a chance to talk to students about the impact of bullying and teach them the word of God. I take part in the cleaning campaign in my community. The most important is giving back to the community by donations of food and clothes to the poor, mostly adopting a child to help once in a while. **Vivian Kgakgamatso**

My contribution to my community is through education. Even though I'm still a student, I help my classmates and neighbors understand topics they struggle with and assist them with application forms. For example, I help friends write job application letters and explain which courses are marketable for them to study. I believe a community grows stronger when we share knowledge, not hide it. **Octobia Molatise**

As an individual I try by all means to be a role model to the young ones, I avoid bad behaviours like taking drugs and alcohol, disrespecting elders. I also encourage young ones to do their best academically and to go to church as church to learn good behaviour and we learn to make informed decisions. **Neo Rapaila**

I contribute to my community by sharing knowledge, volunteering in litter picking, attending ceremonies like dikgafela, helping the less privileged and spreading the word of God. **Kedirelang Buka**

On a personal level, I believe building a community starts small: listening without judging, sharing what you know, and showing up when someone needs help. Even small actions like mentoring a junior at work, volunteering at a local clinic, or keeping the neighbourhood clean. **Boitshepho Raphiri**

When I have money I identify the needy people in our community and buy them clothes and food. Any opportunity I get, I share with people around me since I want my community to have a better and peaceful life. I teach young ones Botho, honesty, forgiveness, and good relations using the word of God. **Sedilame Puoeng**



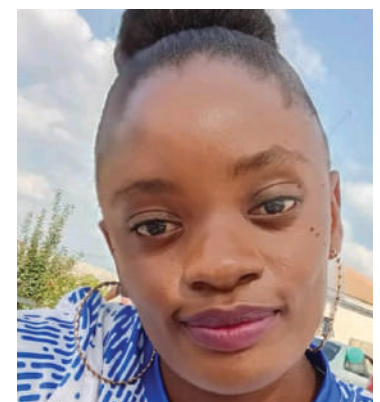
Neo Rapaila



Kelebogile Malate



Peggy Dipholo



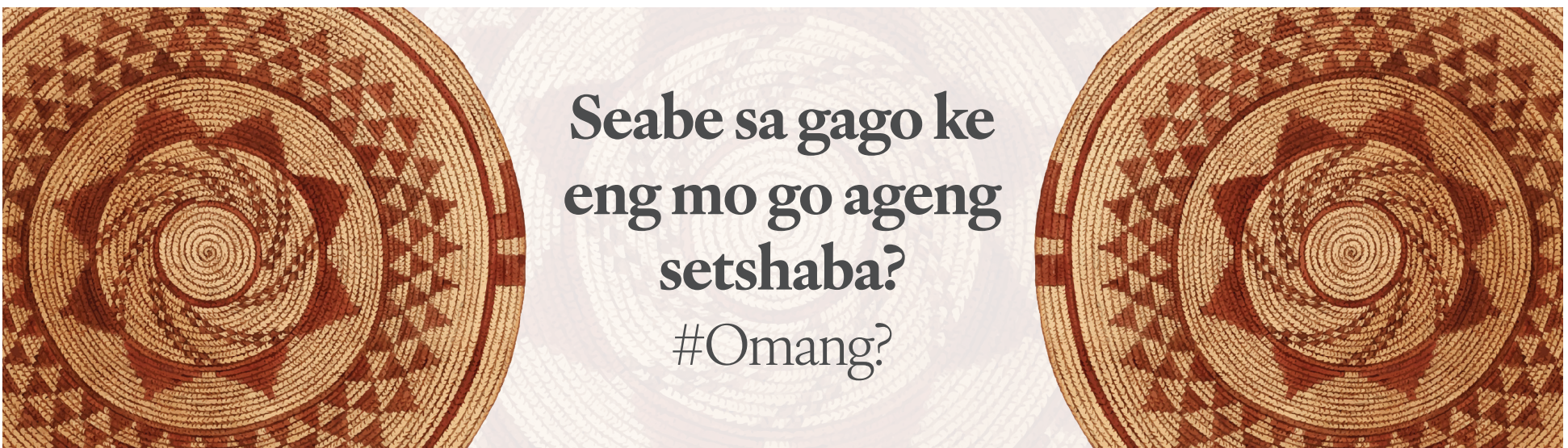
Sedilame Puoeng



Gina Moabi



Sharon Van-Rooyen





In November last year, Botswana donated eight cheetahs to India, a move that was meant to strengthen wildlife conservation and diplomatic ties between the two countries.

# Why Botswana Must Deepen Partnership with India Now

The global order is under visible strain. The ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran has added a new layer of volatility to an already fragile international system. Energy markets are unsettled, supply chains remain vulnerable, and the ripple effects are being felt far beyond the immediate region.

For countries like Botswana, the message is unmistakable: external shocks are no longer occasional—they are structural. In such a world, partnerships must do more than signal goodwill. They must deliver stability, resilience, and real outcomes. It is in this context that the Fourth India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) should be

viewed—not as a routine diplomatic engagement, but as a strategic opportunity. For Botswana, it is a moment to deepen a partnership with India that is both practical and forward-looking. India–Africa relations have always been anchored in history and solidarity. But today, they are being reshaped by necessity.

The central question is no longer whether to cooperate, but how to cooperate in ways that reduce vulnerability and expand opportunity. The theme of IAFS-IV—India-Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive Transformation, captures this shift. It signals a move from broad commitments to focused, results-driven collaboration. For Botswana, innovation is not optional—it is central to its ambition of becoming a knowledge-based economy under Vision 2036.

India's experience with digital public infrastructure, fintech ecosystems, and affordable healthcare offers scalable models that can be adapted to local contexts.

The opportunity lies not in replication, but in co-creation—building solutions that respond directly to Botswana's developmental priorities.

Resilience is even more urgent. Recent geopolitical tensions have underscored how exposed economies can be to disruptions in energy, trade, and logistics.

For Botswana, strengthening resilience means diversifying and deepening partnerships in critical sectors—energy security, healthcare, food systems, and digital infrastructure.

India's development partnership model, which is demand-driven and capacity-focused, aligns well with these priorities.

This is not about dependency; it is about strategic complementarity.

Equally important is inclusive transformation. Growth must translate into jobs, skills, and opportunities—especially for young people.

Botswana's demographic profile presents both promise and pres-

sure. India's own development experience highlights the importance of investing in education, skills, and entrepreneurship at scale.

Expanding cooperation in these areas through training, technology partnerships, and academic exchanges can help unlock Botswana's human potential.

The Botswana-India relationship already has a strong foundation. Capacity-building programmes, scholarships, and cooperation in sectors such as health and information technology have delivered steady results.

But the current global environment calls for greater ambition, more targeted collaboration, clearer priorities, and measurable outcomes. IAFS-IV offers that platform.

It brings together leadership and policy direction, but its real value will lie in implementation.

For Botswana, this means identifying priority sectors, aligning them with national goals, and leveraging partnerships that can deliver tangible impact.

In an increasingly uncertain world, not all partnerships will prove equally reliable.

Botswana's engagement with India stands out because it is rooted in mutual respect, shaped by shared development experiences, and focused on practical outcomes.

That makes it not just relevant, but strategic. IAFS-IV is therefore more than a summit. It is an opportunity for Botswana to position itself within a partnership that can help navigate global uncertainty, build resilience, and accelerate its development trajectory.

The case for deepening Botswana-India ties is no longer just compelling. It is urgent.



President Advocate Duma Boko (centre) and India counterpart, Ms Droupadi Murmu (third left) at a state banquet hosted in honour of the visiting president in Gaborone last year.

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# Arts & Culture



## Young entrepreneur weaves passion into purpose

**Keetile Bontsibokae**  
**MOLEPOLOLE**

**A**us Lolah Crochet, a Kanye-based handcraft business, is steadily making its mark in the world of handmade fashion through creativity, resilience and cultural expression.

Founded by Lorato Motswagae, the venture reflects a journey of passion and determination shaped by her love for art and self-expression.

After completing her International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) at Livingstone Kolobeng College in Gaborone, Motswagae made a conscious decision not to remain idle or succumb to unemployment.

Instead, she chose to pursue her passion for handcrafting, turning it into a full-time career.

"I have always been drawn to working with my hands. It is calming, grounding, and healing," she said.

"Through my work, I am able to pass that healing energy to others, allowing them to wear something personal, expressive and uplifting."

Her vision is to grow Aus Lolah Crochet into a brand that celebrates both style and culture while remaining environmentally conscious.

She aims to produce eco-friendly, durable pieces that are thoughtfully designed and gentle on the planet.

"This is not a side hustle, it is my daily work and a lifelong path I have chosen," she emphasised.

Motswagae's journey began five years ago when she started learning

and refining her crochet skills.

Over time, she built a strong foundation, developed her creative voice, and in 2026 officially branded her business, marking a turning point in her entrepreneurial journey.

Based in her home village, the business draws inspiration from the local community.

Each piece is handcrafted from start to finish using carefully selected yarn, colours, and textures to bring her ideas to life.

"I source my materials locally, mainly from pharmacies and African Mall, ensuring they are of good quality and suitable for durable, well-finished products," she explained.

While she recently showcased a Botswana-themed collection during the World Relays, Motswagae noted that her creativity goes beyond national colours.

"I explore different styles, moods, and inspirations to keep each piece unique and expressive," she said.

Running the business independently, she manages both production and daily operations, while collaborating with a digital marketing designer to strengthen her brand presence.

Although sales have been slow, she remains optimistic, viewing this phase as part of the growth process.

"I am still learning about my target market and refining the brand. It is about building something meaningful step by step," she said.

One of her main challenges is limited funding, which restricts expansion and access to higher-quality materials.

Despite this, she continues to

innovate within her means while striving for consistency and growth.

To promote her work, Motswagae relies on pop-up stalls and social media platforms, allowing her to connect directly with customers and reach wider audiences.

Her participation in the recent World Relays received positive feedback, with many customers appreciating the creativity and craftsmanship of her products.

While headbands proved more popular, hats took longer to gain traction.

Customer testimonials further affirm the quality of her work.

Malebogo Tlhabaki from Metsimothabe praised the comfort and craftsmanship of her gloves, while Laone Chekula from Mogoditshane commended both her products and character, describing her as dedicated, supportive, and consistent.

Motswagae encourages fellow entrepreneurs, especially youth, to focus on building structure in their businesses.

"Know your target market, brand your work properly, price it correctly and market it consistently. Most importantly, stay visible and keep showing up," she advised.

She also urged unemployed youth not to lose hope, but instead to explore their creativity and individuality.

"Sometimes life is asking you to build something different, something that reflects your hands, your mind, your culture and your energy," she said.

Her brand slogan, *Golden Era of Handcrafted Love*, reflects her



**ABOVE** - Some of the products crafted at Aus Lolah Crochet.

**BELOW** - Lorato Motswagae displaying some of her handicrafts. She chose to pursue her passion for handcrafting, turning it into a full time career.

Photos: Courtesy of Aus Lolah Crochet



commitment to creating meaningful, high-quality pieces rooted in care and authenticity.

"Aus Lolah Crochet is more than just a name, it tells a story," she explained.

'Aus' comes from 'Ausi,' symbolising warmth and nurturing, while 'Lolah' represents my personal journey. Crochet is where everything comes together, where love becomes something tangible."

Motswagae hopes to secure funding and expand her brand, while continuing to inspire others through her work and story. **BOPA**

# DailySport

Young entrepreneur weaves passion into purpose

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## BAA rests elite stars and sends well-rounded charge to Accra

Anastacia Sibanda  
**GABORONE**

The pressure to field a dream team of household names is often overwhelming.

Yet, as the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) prepares to send its delegation to the CAA Senior African Championships in Accra, Ghana, this May, it is not about who is on the plane, but why some of the nation's brightest stars are staying home.

BAA acting president, Oabona Theetso confirmed in an interview that elite sprinters in Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori and Collen Kebinatshipi would not be competing at the upcoming CAA Senior African Championships scheduled for May 12-17. Theetso explained that the association decided to allow the top tier time to rest and shield them from the spectre of burnout given that it had been a gruelling 2026 calendar packed with a lot of activities, which included the just ended Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026, the Diamond League, Commonwealth Games and the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championship.

"We deliberately omitted our elite athletes to give them some time to rest. The season is very long with a lot of activities and their longevity is our priority," Theetso explained, acknowledging that even the world's fastest athletes had limits. By stepping back, he said the icons inadvertently opened a door for a new generation.

"This squad isn't just a list of names, it's a strategic bridge between the legends of today and the champions of tomorrow," he said.

Meanwhile, the Accra-bound team is a vibrant tapestry of experience and raw potential. But perhaps the most human element of this year's selection is the BAA's push for inclusivity. For years, the spotlight in Botswana has shone almost exclusively on track.

This time, the association is making sure that the shadows are lifted from the pits and hurdles. "We did not want a situation where track athletes were the only ones benefiting. It was only proper to include hurdles and field events to ensure a well-rounded national development," Theetso said.

BAA has included field specialists in the likes of high jumpers Goitseone Joel and Tshwanelo Aabobe as well as long jumper Tshogofatso Bojosi, to prove that every discipline mattered. "It is a chance for these field warriors to prove that our country's athletic prowess is not just about how fast you can run, but how high and how far you can fly," he added.

On one hand, for some athletes like 400m sprinter, Lee Eppie, the trip to Accra is a deeply personal mission. Having secured a silver medal at the last edition in Douala, Cameroon, Eppie will be competing against his own past. Now in the best shape of his career, he carries the weight of expectation to upgrade that silver to gold.

Similarly, the 4x400m men's relay team heads to Accra with a target on their backs. They are defending champions, who turned the lights out in Cameroon with a golden 3:02.23

performance. The then team comprised Omphile Seribe, Collen Kebinatshipi, Boitumelo Masilo and Leungo Scotch. Though the faces or names in the line-up may have changed, featuring the likes of Justice Oratile and Kabo Rangwe, the hunger to protect the national legacy remains the same.

From the double-sprint ambitions of Prince Selepe and Kelvin Lobatlamang (100m and 200m) as well as Jayson Mandoze (100m) and Calvin Omphile (200m), to the gruelling endurance tests awaiting Oratile Nowe in 800m and 1 500m with Kefilwe Galeitsiwe in the 5 000m and 10 000m, this team represents a nation in transition.

The middle and long-distance events see Kethobogile Haingura and Letlhogonolo Mokgethi in the 800m, while Lopang Oontse takes on the 5 000m and 10 000m double. In the hurdles, Kemorena Tisang will compete in both the 110m and 400m events, joined by Victor Ntweng in the 400m hurdles. The 100m dash features Boitshepo Kelapile, Katlego Kaisara and Lone Madzimule.

The 200m and 400m events will see Obakeng Kamberuka, Naledi Montshe and Karabo Mantswinyane in action, with Batisani Kennekae adding depth to the 400m roster.

Meanwhile, the squad reported for training camp yesterday and will depart for Accra this weekend.

They have also been training in the quiet corners of Botswana and the competitive arenas of South Africa since January, waiting for this exact moment. **BOPA**

Botswana Athletics Association is sending a full squad of sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers to compete at the CAA Senior African Championships in Ghana next week.

