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Pono Yame success priority



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left) and Sophie, Countess of Wessex during a meeting at Office of the President yesterday. President Masisi commended the countess for participating in eye screening demonstrations through the Pono Yame eye health programme at Molefe Primary School in Kopong earlier the same day. He said government was determined to make the programme a success. Countess Sophie was also commended for her charity work around the world. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

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Health minister calls for continuous prayer

By Kgotsofalang Botsang

SELEBI PHIKWE - Churches and communities have been urged to continue praying for end of HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), road accidents, COVID-19 and gender based violence (GBV).

Selebi Phikwe residents learnt that prayer reflected human elements and acknowledged that there was God who was a supreme being.

The Minister of Health, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, said this at the official closing of month of prayer in Selebi Phikwe on Sunday.

He said end of the month of prayer did not mean the end of prayer, calling everybody to pray without ceasing.

"You must make prayer your everyday routine as it brings results including healing in relation to mental and social problems affecting our people," he added.

He commended the church for having held these prayers consistently for the past 26 years, adding Botswana was a blessed country.

"We have stood the test of time and overcame different challenges, we need to thank the good Lord for all of that. Botswana has achieved progressive milestones against the fight against HIV/AIDS," the minister said.

Dr Dikoloti explained that the results of the Botswana AIDS Impact Survey of 2021 (BAIS V) showed that 93.2 per cent of people living with HIV/AIDS knew their status, whilst 97.9 per cent of those who knew their status had enrolled on ARVs.

The results, he said, also showed that 98 per cent of those on ARVs were virally suppressed, adding it was a great milestone closer to ending HIV/AIDS by the year 2030.

Dr Dikoloti also appreciated other role prayers in this fight including NGOs, health workers and the private sector whom he said worked together towards the reduction of public health threats, adding their efforts would never go unnoticed.

In addition, he said the battle against HIV/AIDS as well as NCDs was far from being won, hence an urgent need to pay a special attention to issues that cause new HIV infections.

He said alcohol and substance abuse ,which were on the rise, GBV and all its forms, multiple and concurrent partnerships as well as cross-generational sex were some of the challenges that needed undivided attention.

"We ought to curb social ills and also help stop all the harmful beliefs and practices which promote them. I encourage the church to ensure that their teachings and doctrine drive people towards certain behaviours to avoid harmful practices. The church should promote good health amongst its members and the community at large," the minister said.

Furthermore, he said NCDs were a burden not only to the government, but also individual families and communities, adding the economy would always be affected.

For his part Botswana Christian Health and AIDS intervention Programme (BOCAIP) national board chairperson, Reverend Keleneilwe Kgerethwa said the church, in collaboration with government, resolved to host a month of prayer.

Therefore, September was set aside as the month of prayer.

"Though we go through difficult times, we make a confession that joy comes in the morning and that when God is on our side we shall be victorious," he added.

He said the month of prayer was established to pull churches together regardless of their doctrines to a praying mode for a nation that was subjected to high mortality.

To build a nation that prayed together, Reverend Kgerethwa said, the church endeavored to continue praying for peace, security and also to acknowledge that science and faith co-existed.

To attain a snap shot of the purpose of month of prayer, he said it was necessary that relevant structures were put in place and as such BOCAIP was birthed as a conduit of processes and relations.

He said BOCAIP had grown to become an establishment that no longer focused on HIV/AIDS but also on other public related challenges such as the COVID-19, NCDs, GBV and road accidents.

Reverend Kgerethwa commended government, through the Ministry of Health, for the recent establishment of the National Public Health Institute explaining that 'the church is ready to work with you in attaining such as monumental assignment of public good.

for his part, Selebi Phikwe East MP, Mr Kgoberego Nkawana, commended the church and other stakeholders for delivering a successful closing of the month of prayer event.

He said the event empowered the businesses in Selebi Phikwe calling for more events to be held in the town to boost the business community.

Kgosi Molefi Pilane of Ikageleng ward added that even though the war against COVID-19 was not over yet, this country made big strides in combating the virus because of prayer. ***BOPA***



Minister Dikoloti (centre), Kgosi Pilane (left) and Reverend Kgeretlhwa during the closing ceremony of Month of Prayer against HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, GBV, COVID-19 and road accidents in Selebi Phikwe on Sunday. Dr Dikoloti urged stakeholders to continue praying, despite end of prayer month. Photo: Kgotsofalang Botsang

Environmental conference for Maun October 19

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - A non-governmental organisation, Junior Ranger Botswana, will hold an environmental awareness conference on October 19.

The NGO intends to promote nature conservation and sustainability as well as provide environmental education under the slogan: They Explore, Learn and Protect Nature Conservation and Sustainability.

The organisation's project coordinator, Ms Agang Tsheko, said in an interview that the purpose of the Maun conference was to raise awareness, educate and empower pupils, teachers and the community on issues concerning environment, biodiversity and wildlife conservation.

Environmental awareness, she said, could help minimise pollution and global warming.

"At the end, we want to have empowered community members who will be active in conserving our environment and caring for the planet. We also believe that it is important for our future generation to have knowledge about the flora and fauna in promoting tourism activities," Ms Tsheko added.

The event, she said, would begin with a panel discussion under the theme: Biodiversity on the Edge with panelists from Elephant of Africa, Cheetah Conservation, Department of Wildlife and National Parks and other tourism industry professionals.

Ms Tsheko said the discussions would also look into the challenges relating to biodiversity, environment and bird migration, adding stakeholders would share in depth knowledge on the environment and how they were influencing its conservation.

To spice the day, she further noted that they would conduct an award ceremony for the piggy bank competition, which was launched in March this year.

The competition targeted Junior Range Botswana and StartUp4Kids Club members from schools, who made piggy banks/money boxes from recyclable waste.

She said the competition dubbed: Save Money, Save the Planet was intended to help pupils apply lessons about the importance of saving money and the planet through recycling.

Meanwhile, Ms Tsheko explained that the environmental conference was an initiative of Knyphausen Stiftung and StartUp4Kids Foundation in partnership with industry leaders.

The foundation produces educational material on the nature specific topics, which serve as a practical reference work for the children and young people.

The children and young people were thus provided with the necessary technical, social and design skills in the areas if environmental protection. ***BOPA***



Telemedicine eye screening pilot project starting soon

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - In an effort to address current eye testing service challenges in Botswana, Alive Botswana Medical Clinic is to embark on a telemedicine eye screening pilot project at Gaborone's Block Six Diabetic Clinic.

In an interview, the clinic's managing director, Dr Mosweu Boitshepo revealed that the pre-pilot phase had been completed and was successful.

It was now moving into the deployment phase scheduled to commence in the second half of this month and expected to be completed sometime in November, he said.

Dr Boitshepo said the project, diabetic retinopathy screening, was prompted by the fact that there were currently only five public health care facilities designated for performing retinal testing.

"Consequently, many patients end up having to travel long distances to get to those facilities, a situation which has contributed to poor compliance to the screening test by patients," he said.

Noting that Botswana's diabetes prevalence was 5.1 per cent of the total adult population, Dr Boitshepo said all the patients had to undergo routine retinal eye screening at least once a year or once in two years in an effort to reduce preventable blindness.

It was high time both private and public health service providers positioned themselves to deliver cutting edge services that were current, research-based and addressed specific burning health issues, he said.

Dr Boitshepo said the project entailed taking retinal images of patients using Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved, portable-handheld fundus camera and uploading them onto a secure and encrypted telemedicine platform.

An eye specialist, located remotely, would be able to grade the uploaded retinal images virtually, 'in real time', he explained.

Dr Boitshepo said the specialist would be able to assess the condition of the patient's retina and determine the extent of damage caused by factors related to the patient's chronic illness and based on the findings; make recommendations.

He said the results would be automatically shared with the patient's attending health care provider through an SMS.

Dr Boitshepo said the project's main aim was to give many Batswana with chronic illnesses access to a more convenient screening service.

The objective was to implement an innovative, efficient and convenient way of conducting retinal eye screening for patients with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and HIV, he said.

Dr Boitshepo said the project was sponsored by Alive Botswana Medical Clinic, which provided a team of ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses, research specialists, optometrists and the Block Six Clinic team.

Meanwhile, Dr Boitshepo has said Alive Botswana Medical Clinic was established in 2019 and provided mobile health services.

Popularly known as Mobile Doctors Botswana, the service allows patients to call a doctor for consultation.

It also provided home based child welfare services which proved extremely useful during the COVID-19 pandemic characterised by social distancing and movement restrictions, he said.

The clinic now offers general medical and surgical consultation, counselling and laboratory services and has a visiting dietician and ophthalmologist. ***BOPA***



Dr Boitshepo (left) conducting telemedicine eye screening on a patient in Gaborone recently. A pilot project aimed at giving many Batswana with chronic illnesses access to the service is scheduled to commence mid-October at Gaborone's Block Six Clinic. Photo: Gontle Merafhe

Success of Pono Yame programme government priority

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - Pono Yame programme, which screens school children for eyesight problems and links those diagnosed to appropriate eye health services, has full government support, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi said in Gaborone yesterday.

Dr Masisi, who was hosting a senior member of the British royal family, Sophie, Countess of Wessex said government, through the ministries of education and health, identified school children with vision challenges and offered them assistance.

The programme used research and evidence-based solutions from British eye health organisation Peek Vision, he noted.

Dr Masisi said the two ministries played a significant role in the process of early detection and intervention which would help Botswana attain the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Countess Sophie related her experience of visiting Molefe Primary School in Kopong earlier the same day to see the programme in action.

She was accompanied by health and education ministers Dr Edwin Dikoloti and Dr Douglas Letsholathebe respectively.

"I saw the huge involvement in the utilisation of the latest technology to screen and detect eyesight problems and to offer solutions thereof including tracking the treatment offered and its impact. I heard a young lady speak movingly about how the programme has been of benefit, and after the initial investment, we believe over time it will be heavily impactful," she said.

The countess, who is the wife of Prince Edward, younger brother to King Charles III, said she would report back to her brother-in-law about her Botswana experience and the programme's success.

President Masisi used the occasion to once more express heartfelt condolences to the British royal family and the people of the United Kingdom following the death of Queen Elizabeth II recently.

He also asked Countess Sophie to convey Botswana's congratulations and warm greetings to the new king.

The President recalled that during the June Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, he had invited the then Prince Charles to visit Botswana. ***BOPA***

ATM blast suspect dies in shoot-out with police

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - A 43-year-old robbery suspect was shot and killed during an exchange of fire with law enforcement officers around 3am yesterday, Mochudi police have confirmed.

The station commander, Superintendent Smash Mokoba said in an interview that the suspect was one of four who attempted to blast a Standard Chartered Bank ATM at Mochudi's Notwane Shopping Complex.

One of the suspects was severely injured and was hospitalised while two others fled the crime scene in a black Lexus sedan but their escape was thwarted by an accident when the car hit a nearby bar.

Supt Mokoba said the shoot-out ensued following a failed attempt to blast the ATM with explosives.

Police suspect the attempt failed because the ATM was constructed with heavy mortar that fell on the safe.

Meanwhile, a Botswana Police Service media release says the third suspect, a 37-year-old Motswana male, was arrested at Lentsweletau while the fourth is still at large.

The release says two firearms, a pick-axe and an axe were recovered from the scene while a motor vehicle suspected to have been used by the suspects has been impounded.

In another incident, Supt Mokoba said police were investigating the death of a 42-year-old man of Khunou ward in Molepolole who was hit by a train at Artesia around 2am yesterday.

The man is suspected to have been lying on the railway track and died on the spot.

Supt Mokoba said police were investigating yet another incident in which a 42-year-old man died after his vehicle overturned at Boseja Ward last Friday night.

He said the man was certified dead on arrival at Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital. ***BOPA***



Police and bank employees salvaging money from the blasted Standard Chattered Bank ATM in Mochudi yesterday. Photo: Mmoniemang Motsamai

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Psychiatrist to update court on witness

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - Magistrate Jobbie Moilatshimo of Broadhurst Magistrate Court has on Monday ordered a psychiatrist to give an up to date report on the progress of counselling a minor witness.

The prosecutor in the July 14, 2022 murder case of Barulaganye Aston of Mogampane Ward in Kopong, Ms Keletso Ookeditse told the court that a witness, who is a minor, alleged to have witnessed the murder and sexual assault of the deceased was undergoing counselling at Sabrana Psychiatric Clinic, therefore yet to record a statement.

Ms Ookeditse said the witness is scheduled to meet with the doctor again on October 19 for counselling.

Following the refusal to grant Leufty Gaolemogwe Kosie and Outlwile Aston bail pending finalisation of the investigations which included recording of statements from all potential witnesses, the defence attorneys have urged the prosecution to set timeline for wrapping up their investigations.

As such, the court has ordered the psychiatrist to update the court on the time that would be required to complete the counselling process to ensure that the witness was in a position to record a statement.

The quartet of Oageng Moagi Letsholo, Kosie, Aston and Kebaleboge Ntsebe are charged with the murder of Barulaganye Aston.

Meanwhile, the fourth accused person, Ntsebe told to the court that the police had reportedly conducted a search in her house without her consent.

Ntsebe asked the court if it was lawful for law enforcement officers to enter and search her house in her absence.

To that, Ms Moilatshimo advised Ntsebe to seek legal advice in relation to her concern or raise the issue before the court that would try the matter. The case will mention on October 24 for status hearing. ***BOPA***



Kosie (left), Letsholo (centre) and Aston (obscured) leaving Broadhurst Magistrate Court in Gaborone yesterday. Magistrate Moilatshimo has ordered a psychiatrist to give an update on the progress of counselling the minor witness. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

Australia expects more floods

SYDNEY - Though the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) got a brief sigh of relief from days of intense rain, local authorities and meteorologists warned on Monday that more severe weather conditions are predicted to come.

"My message is please don't be deceived," NSW Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke said.

"We may see a reprieve for a few days but...(we) will be heading into some more difficult conditions towards the end of the week."

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) meteorologist Dean Narramore told local media that relief from the rain on Monday did not signal the end of flooding.

"NSW could brace for widespread rains of up to 100 mm from Wednesday, and it might lead to moderate or possible major riverine flooding," the expert noted.

Currently, more than 100 flood warnings are remaining across NSW, while the State Emergency Service (SES) has responded to over 1 000 calls for assistance and 44 flood rescues since Friday evening.

Farmers and landholders are encouraged to plan ahead and report any flood damage.

NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin said flood danger persisted after the rain stopped, with people, animals, crops, pastures, roads and railway lines all potentially affected.

He urged people to be extra careful this summer, as the full force of a third consecutive La Nina was felt. ***Xinhua***

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

UASF/PT/001/2022.2023

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF INTERGRATED FM TRANSMITTER SYSTEMS AT SEHITHWA, GUMARE, SERONGA, SANKOYO AND SHAKAWE SITES IN THE NORTH WEST DISTRICT

Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF/the Fund) hereby invites companies with substantial experience to tender for the **Supply and Installation of Integrated FM Transmitter Systems at Sehithwa, Gumare, Seronga, Sankoyo and Shakawe Sites in the North West District.**

The tender is reserved for 100% citizen-owned companies who are domiciled in Botswana and registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) (former Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board) under the following categories;

Code 116: Broadcasting and Audio-Visual Services
Subcode 01: Installation and Maintenance of Broadcasting and Audio Visual equipment

OR

Code 118: Telecommunication Services
Subcode 05: Installation and Maintenance of Telecommunications Equipment and Systems

Youth owned companies in Botswana shall purchase the ITT at **50%** of the purchase price as per Presidential Directive CAB 14 (B)/2015.

The Invitation to Tender (ITT) document may be purchased by interested companies at a non-refundable fee of **P280.00 VAT inclusive (Two Hundred and Eighty Pula Only).** Payment must be made in the form of bank transfer or deposits into the following banking details:

Account Name:	**Universal Access and Service Fund Trust**
Bank:	**Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited**
Branch:	**Fairgrounds Branch**
Account Number:	**9060000966210**
Account type:	**Call deposits**
Sort Code:	**064967**
Swift:	**SBICBWGX**
Reference:	**COMPANY NAME**

Tender documents shall be issued upon provision of **Proof of Payment (POP)** to tenders@bocra.org.bw. All funds transfer bank charges shall be borne by the bidder.

Mandatory site visits shall be conducted at different sites. Only bidders who attended the site visits will be considered. Company representatives will be expected to present their Identification Cards or Passports during registration and no representative will be allowed to represent more than one company. The schedule for the site visits is as follows:

Site	Date	Time
Sehithwa	18 Oct 2022	0930 Hours
Gumare	18 Oct 2022	1400 Hours
Seronga	19 Oct 2022	0930 Hours
Shakawe	19 Oct 2022	1400 Hours
Sankoyo	20 Oct 2022	0930 Hours

Bids and all supporting documents should be submitted not later than **10:00 Hours** on **04 November 2022** or such other later date as the Fund may advise in writing, at the **Tender Box** located at the following UASF Secretariat address:

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
Plot 50671
Independence Avenue
Gaborone

Bids will be opened at 10:05 Hours on 04 November 2022 at the UASF Secretariat offices. Bidders and the general public are invited to attend the tender opening.

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, the Fund is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.

For any further information regarding the tender, please contact Procurement Office at tenders@bocra.org.bw

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Tuesday October 11, 2022 No. 187

KAZA elephant aerial survey progressing well

By Keamogetse Letsholo

KASANE - The first ever Kavango Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA) elephant aerial survey data gathering process has so far covered more than half of the targeted area.

In an interview recently, KAZA TFCA Executive Director, Dr Nyambe Nyambe said different survey teams completed aerial elephant population counting in Zambia, Zimbabwe and part of Botswana, adding that currently, the exercise was underway in Namibia.

Dr Nyambe indicated that the teams will end their task in Angola and the data analysis process, which would reveal the actual elephant population in the five KAZA TFCA partner states will follow.

He said the analysis process is expected to start from the end of this month until the first quarter of next year, with the report expected to be released in the second quarter.

Dr Nyambe was optimistic that the survey would give accurate estimated elephant population because a synchronized data collection methodology was deployed in all the countries at the same time.

He said the report would help the partner states to understand the current status of elephant numbers and their distribution across the KAZA area and make informed decisions based on science.

He said the report would also enhance engagements by partner states at different levels in discussions on the management of elephants.

Dr Nyambe said the issue of over population in some of the partner states came with risks on the biodiversity and human-elephant interactions, hence the survey was a development, adding that it did not only concentrate on elephants, but other large herbivores.

He, however, said the KAZA aerial survey did not replace the need for individual partner states national surveys to make estimations on their elephant population distributions.

Meanwhile on the sidelines of the week long preparatory workshop for the survey experts held in Botswana in July, the surveys coordinator, Mr Darren Potgieter said seven aircrafts would be flown at the same time sifting across the 519 000 square kilometre KAZA landscape. ***BOPA***



Dr Nyambe said different survey teams had completed aerial elephant population counting in Zambia, Zimbabwe and part of Botswana, adding that currently, the exercise was underway in Namibia.

Short-trip boosts car rental, camping business

BEIJING - The popularity of short-distance travel has spiked the growth of the car rental and camping markets in China during the weeklong National Day holiday, latest data shows.

Short and medium-distance intra-province trips accounted for a big share of the 255.54 million passenger trips estimated to have been made in China between October 1 to 7, according to the Ministry of Transport.

Self-driving tours and trips to nearby locations were also highlights of the holiday, according to the ministry.

Car rental services giant CAR Inc. said its orders and total leased days during the holiday both increased from last year, with younger generations growing into a major customer community.

Mafengwo, a Chinese travel services and social networking site, said the bookings for local trips on its platform soared over 90 per cent year on year during the holiday.

Suburban parks and villages near cities were among the most popular destinations, data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism shows.

Camping has become popular for short trips. Data from e-commerce platform JD.com shows that camping gear sales jumped 97 per cent year on year during the holiday, and sales of outdoor storage goods soared 457 per cent. ***Xinhua***

Improving logistics indexes reflect economic recovery

BEIJING - Multiple logistics indexes have recently reversed their downward trajectories with improvements in market demand and business operations, indicating China's economic engine is on track to make a comeback thanks to concerted pro-growth policies.

During last week's national holiday, China's express delivery firms were swamped with orders, handling more than 4.1 billion parcels in total, the State Post Bureau said on Saturday.

An industry index shows the country's courier market bounced back from its previous lows to become brisk in September, a usually buoyant month.

The China express delivery development index, a measure of overall express delivery business activities and trends, came in at 353.1 last month, up 13.5 per cent month on month.

The e-commerce logistics index reversed August's contraction to climb to 108.1, close to this year's high of 108.9 logged in February, according to a survey jointly conducted by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) and e-commerce giant JD.com.

And improvements are not limited to the e-commerce sector.

The index tracking the country's logistics market performance stood at 50.6 percent in September, up 4.3 percentage points from August, reversing a two-month losing streak, according to the CFLP. Hu Han, a researcher at the China Logistics Information Center, attributed to the rebound to the implementation of macro policies, the steady recovery of household consumption, rapid growth in energy and logistics, as well as the restoration of the logistics supply capacity.

Most sub-indexes edged up last month.

The sub-index for new orders came in at 50.1 per cent, up 3.2 percentage points from August, indicating an increase in orders and the recovery of demand in the logistics market, said He Hui, assistant president of the CFLP.

The country's logistics infrastructure was smooth overall in September,

Hu said, noting the strong resilience of the e-commerce express network as indicated by the rapid recovery of business volume and new order sub-indexes.

Due to increases in orders and revenues, the profitability of enterprises of varying sizes showed signs of improvement,

Hu said, adding that firms' performances in the third quarter were significantly stronger than in the previous quarter.

"As policies to stabilize the economy and support enterprises gradually took effect, business operations in the logistics sector have seen overall improvement," Hu said.

This year, China unveiled a package of measures to tackle COVID-induced disruptions and coordinate pandemic control.

In late September, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang urged policy implementation and called for efforts to guarantee smooth logistics and the steady supply of coal and electricity. Looking ahead, analysts say that complicated international economic situations, resurgences of COVID-19 cases in several regions and feeble demand may combine to weigh on logistics operations in the fourth quarter. ***Xinhua***

Handmade lantern market declines

YANGON - With Myanmar's lighting festival around the corner, lantern makers in Yangon are seeing low demand for their products compared to previous years.

"The sales of decorative lanterns decreased this season," said Nyein Chan, who has been making and selling lanterns during the annual season since he was a child, referring to the lighting festival which falls in mid-October.

While waiting for customers at his shop at Yangon's Kyimyindaing lantern market, the 34-year-old said that his colorful handmade products have attracted passers-by as the festival is drawing near.

However, this year's sales declined due to higher commodity prices, including higher prices of raw materials for making lanterns.

The prices of all commodities, especially imported ones, significantly rose compared to last year's prices, as the Myanmar currency Kyat devalued about 28 percent against the U.S. dollar over the year, data showed.

"As lanterns are not essential things like food, clothing and shelter, ordinary people no longer buy lanterns this year as they were struggling to make ends meet amid rising food prices," said Nyein Chan.

Although the prices of raw materials were higher, lantern makers do not raise the prices of lanterns this year, said Thanda Oo, a lantern maker.

"We keep making and selling lanterns to preserve the business inherited from my ancestors."

Using bamboo as one of the main raw materials, Myanmar's traditional handmade lanterns come in different types and designs. Basically, bamboos are trimmed and molded into selected shapes. ***Xinhua***



SINDH - ***The total death toll from monsoon rain and flood since mid-June has risen to around 1 638 and left 12 865 injured in Pakistan, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said on Monday. According to a report released by the NDMA, 588 children and 332 women were among those who lost their lives in flood-related accidents.*** *Photo: Xinhua*

Dow tumbles 630 points as Fed. pivot hopes fade

NEW YORK - US stocks fell sharply on Friday as a solid September jobs report fueled concerns that the Federal Reserve would continue to be aggressive with rate hikes.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 630.15 points, or 2.11 per cent, to 29 296.79.

The S&P 500 decreased 104.86 points, or 2.80 per cent, to 3 639.66.

The Nasdaq Composite Index shed 420.91 points, or 3.80 per cent, to 10 652.40.

All the 11 primary S&P 500 sectors ended in red, with technology and consumer discretionary down 4.14 per cent and 3.54 per cent, respectively, leading the losses.

The US Labor Department reported Friday that US employers added 263 000 jobs in September amid a still tight labor market, with the unemployment rate edging down to 3.5 per cent.

"The tighter labor conditions will likely keep the Fed on track for another aggressive rate hike next month," LPL Financial Chief Economist Jeffrey Roach said in a note on Friday.

Investors have been worried that rapid central bank policy tightening could throw the economy into a recession.

Earlier this week, Wall Street posted a strong two-day run as a slew of weak economic data raised hopes that the Fed could pivot to a less aggressive stance sooner than expected. For the week, the Dow rose 2 per cent, while the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq climbed 1.5 per cent and 0.7 per cent, respectively. ***Xinhua***

Energy firm begins testing at gas field

JERUSALEM - London-based Energean began on Sunday gas pumping testing at the production facility of the disputed Karish natural gas field in the Eastern Mediterranean, according to a statement from the company.

The testing was 'an important step' in the commissioning process of the floating production facility known as the "Energean Power," installed 90 km off the Israeli coast, Energean said in the statement.

The move came after approval by the Israeli energy ministry, it added.

The potential gas production at the Karish gas field is likely to further increase tensions between Israel and Lebanon, as Israel claims the gas field falls completely within its economic zone while Lebanon says it is in disputed waters. The two neighbors are currently negotiating over their maritime borders under the mediation of the United States. ***Xinhua***

Cambodia trade records 18 per cent increase

PHNOM PENH - Cambodia's foreign trade volume reached US$41 billion in the first nine months of 2022, up 18 per cent from 34.76 billion dollars in the same period last year, an official report showed on Monday.

The kingdom's total exports were worth us$17.25 billion during the January-September period this year, up 22.1 per cent year-on-year, and total imports hit US$23.76 billion, up 15.2 per cent, according to the General Department of Customs and Excise's report.

Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Undersecretary of State Penn Sovicheat attributed the growth to the full resumption of socio-economic activities in Cambodia, free trade agreements, and a rise in global demand.

"There is no doubt that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade pact and the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA), which both entered into force earlier this year, have given a big boost to our trade growth," he told *Xinhua*.

"Under the two free trade agreements, we're confident that our exports to international markets, especially to China and other RCEP member countries, will be bigger, especially the exports of potential agricultural products such as rice, bananas and mangoes, industrial products, and processing goods," Sovicheat said.

The RCEP comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Joseph Matthews, a senior professor at the BELTEI International University in Phnom Penh, said that the RCEP has injected new impetus into Cambodia's international trade growth.

All member countries have reaped and will continue to reap the benefits of RCEP, especially Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar, he told Xinhua.

"In my personal view, in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era, the RCEP will be a driving force for trade and investment in all member states,"Matthews said. ***Xinhua***

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DAVOS - ***Georgieva at the World Economic Forum 2022 Annual Meeting in Switzerland. She said there was a 'fundamental shift' in the global economy and urged countries to bring down inflation.***
Photo: Xinhua

IMF chief highlights shift in global economy

WASHINGTON DC - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief has said there is a 'fundamental shift' in the global economy, urging countries to bring down inflation, put in place responsible fiscal policy, and jointly support emerging market and developing economies.

The global economy is moving "from a world of relative predictability - with a rules-based framework for international economic cooperation, low interest rates, and low inflation to a world with more fragility - greater uncertainty, higher economic volatility, geopolitical confrontations, and more frequent and devastating natural disasters," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a curtain raiser speech ahead of the 2022 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

Stressing the urgency to stabilise the economy, Georgieva noted that global outlook had darkened by multiple shocks, among them a war, and inflation had become more persistent.

The IMF has downgraded its growth projections already three times since October last year, to only 3.2 per cent for 2022 and 2.9 per cent for 2023, the IMF chief said, adding that the global institution would downgrade growth for next year in its updated World Economic Outlook next week.

"We will flag that the risks of recession are rising," she noted.

The IMF estimates that countries accounting for about one-third of the world economy will experience at least two consecutive quarters of contraction this or next year.

"And, even when growth is positive, it will feel like a recession because of shrinking real incomes and rising prices," she added. Overall, the IMF expects a global output loss of about US$4 trillion between now and 2026.

The IMF chief urged policymakers to stay the course to bring down inflation, and to put in place responsible fiscal policy - one that protects the vulnerable, without adding fuel to inflation, while calling for joint efforts to support emerging market and developing economies.

"A stronger dollar, high borrowing costs and capital outflows cause a triple blow to many emerging markets and developing economies," said Georgieva, noting that the probability of portfolio outflows from emerging markets over the next three quarters had risen to 40 per cent, which could pose "a major challenge" to countries with large external financing needs.

More than a quarter of emerging economies have either defaulted or had bonds trading at distressed levels and over 60 per cent of low-income countries are in - or at high risk of - debt distress.

The IMF chief urged countries to work together to address issues such as food insecurity, which was now affecting a staggering number of 345 million people, and climate change, the existential threat to humanity.

Since the pandemic began, the IMF has provided US$258 billion to 93 countries.

Since the Ukraine-Russia war, it has supported 16 countries with close to US$90 billion.

This is additional to last year's historic 650 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocation. ***Xinhua***

UN resolution urges countries to remedy historical racial injustice

GENEVA - The UN Human Rights Council on the last day of its 51st session, adopted a resolution calling upon all the relevant countries to find ways to remedy historical racial injustice so as to help restore the dignity of the affected countries and their people.

The resolution, titled From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, also requests UN human rights bodies to provide a written report at the next Human Rights Council session on the progress in this regard.

The just-adopted resolution mentioned that some countries have taken the initiative to apologise and paid reparations for grave and massive violations committed as a result of slavery, the slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies.

It urged those who have not yet expressed remorse or apologised to find ways to help restore the dignity of victims.

The resolution also acknowledged the importance of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as a milestone in the common fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, saying that the declaration addresses the deep historical roots of contemporary racism and that slavery and the slave trade are crimes against humanity.

Deploring the recurrent incidents of excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers, the resolution emphasised that countries should guarantee reparations to victims and ensure independent, prompt and effective investigations.

It also underlined the imperative need for effective implementation of previous UN resolutions on racism, racial discrimination, and other related forms of intolerance, and the importance of political will and commitment to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

"The Human Rights Council continues to be alarmed at the resurgent violent manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance precipitated by scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous ideologies, such as white supremacy, as well as by extremist nationalist and populist ideologies," said the resolution.

At the request of the United States, the Human Rights Council on Friday voted on the draft resolution and adopted it with 32 votes in favour (mainly developing countries), 9 votes against (US, Britain and some other Western countries), and 6 abstentions. ***Xinhua***

Putin orders intensified measures to protect Crimea-related facilities

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on Saturday to strengthen measures for protecting transport crossing through the Kerch Strait, the power grid connecting Crimea and the main gas pipeline to the peninsula.

Putin authorised the Russian Federal Security Service to organise and coordinate measures to effectively protect these facilities, said the decree published by the Kremlin. Earlier on Saturday, a deadly blast hit the 19-km Crimean Bridge, which consists of two parallel routes for automobiles and trains over the Kerch Strait.

A truck exploded on the road bridge, causing seven fuel tanks of a train heading to the Crimean Peninsula to catch fire.

Three people were killed in the blast, which also led to the partial collapse of two spans of the road bridge.

Traffic has reopened to cars and buses with a full inspection procedure needed, while trucks are still required to cross the Kerch Strait by ferry, Crimea's head Sergei Aksyonov said.

Meanwhile, the railway service on the bridge has been fully restored and all scheduled trains, both for passengers and freight, will be able to cross the viaduct, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin said late Saturday. ***Xinhua***

Portugal to invest US$2.9bn in curbing energy inflation

LISBON - The Portuguese government will inject 3 billion euros (US$2.92 billion) into electricity and gas systems to contain inflation in energy prices, according to the Social Concertation agreement signed on Sunday with social entities.

According to the document disclosed by the Portuguese news agency Lusa, the government is committed to adopting new measures to mitigate the increase in costs for both families and companies.

The objective of the Social Concertation, signed between the government and the largest Portuguese employers' confederations, is to improve the income, wages, and competitiveness of entrepreneurs in the medium term.

The Energy Services Regulatory Authority will disclose reductions of around 40 euros per megawatt-hour for gas consumed by companies, which allows for a 'saving of around 20 to 30 per cent compared to the expected price in 2023,' the agreement defines. ***Xinhua***

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‘A ditirelo di goroge kwa setshabeng’

Ka Cathrine Simane

KISA - Maphata a puso mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi borwa a kgothaditswe go isa ditirelo le ditlamelo kwa Motswana mongwe le mongwe a leng teng ka nako ee tshwanentseng jaaka e le maikaelelo a puso.

Mopalamente wa kgaolo Rre Sam Brooks o buile se jaaka a ne a lekola banni ba motse wa Kisa bosheng maikaelelo e le go ba rolelela tsa phuthego ya palamente e e fetileng le go utlwa matshwenyego a bone.

O ne a kgothatsa badirelapuso go ema ka dinao go tlhomamisa gore melao ee dirwang kwa palamenteng e isiwa kwa setshabeng ka go buisa diphuthego kwa dikgotleng gore Batswana ba kgone go e tlhaloganya botoka, a supa fa go tshwenya ka bangwe ba sa ntse ba goga dinao.

Mopalamente o ne tlhalosa fa banana ba le maoto a tshupa go tsaa mananeo a ba ka itshetsang le go tlhabolola matshelo bone ntswa puso e ba eme nokeng ka go ba baya kwa pele fa go tla mo tshekatshekong ya di dikompone ka nako ya dithentara le gone go rotloetsa maphata go reka mo dikgwebong tsa beng gae go di godisa.

Ka seemo sa motlakase o boletse fa o tshwenya bogolo jang mo metseng e gogelwang go tswa Afrika Borwa mme maikaelelo e le go buisana le tona o o maleba ka dikgakololo tsa bomaitsanaape go tlhofofatsa gore o gokelelwe mo mafaratlhatlheng aa mo Botswana go goroga mo Tsabong.

Moplamente o boletse fa mengwe ya melawana ee dumanweng e le wa Botswana Energy Regulation Authority wa theko le thekiso ya lookwane go tsena mo diatleng tsa Batswana go na le tsa batswakwa jaaka go ne go ntse pele.

Banni gareng ga tse dingwe ba ne ba ngongorega ka lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Tsabong ba re le tsaa lobaka go baya ditsha, motlakase oo sa ikanyegeng, tsela ya Tsabong-Kokotsha ee tsweletseng ka go gapa matshelo a batho ka e le tshesane ebile e le dikhuti, dibatana tse di ba jelang loruo, metsi aa seng phepa a le borai mo botsogong jwa bone ka a le rusi le tanka ee sa babalesegang le tse dingwe.

Modulasetilo wa VDC Rre Sedwin Kgaudi a re tiego ya lekgotla la kabo ditsha go ba neela setlankana sa kgwebo ya morafe ya dikoko tsa mae e nnile le seabe mo go salaleng morago ga ditlhabololo mo go yone.

Rre Kgaudi a re le ntswa khansele e dirile maiteko go ba thusa ka dikoko tsa mae di le makgolo a mane sebe sa phiri ke go tlhoka kwa ba rekisang teng mme ba kopa mopalamenete go ba batlela mmaraka.

O ne a supa fa go na le tlhaelo ya dipilisi bogolo jang tsa tsa malwetsi aa sa tshelanweng, letlhoko la dikoloi mo maphateng aa farologanyeng mo go paledisang badirelapuso go dira tiro ka fa go tshwanetseng ka teng.

Rre Mpho Keareng mokwaledi wa lekgotla la kabo ditsha o ne a tlhalosetsa morafe fa tiego e bakilwe ke ditshekatsheko tsa moalo wa lefatshe le go batla sekidi sa lefatshe kwa banni ba ka bewang teng.

O boletse fa dikopo tse ba di amogetseng go tswa kwa banning ba Kisa di le 94 mme diphatlha tse di leng teng tsone di le 152, a supa fa ba tla ba baya mo bogaufing.

O kaile fa ba ipeetse seelo sa gore pele ga kgwedi ya Mopitlo e ya fifing ngwaga oo tlang ba tlaabo ba beile ditsha di le 2 156 mo metseng ee masome a mabedi le bobedi ya kgaolo eo.

Assistant Supurintendent Monnathebe Mphela o ne a supa fa bogodu jwa loruo bo ile tlase morago ga gore ba SSG ba goroge gaufi le motse wa Maralaleng.

O boletse fa mapodisi a thibeletse mo kgaolong go thusa ka go dikologa terata ya molelwane kgapetsa. ***BOPA***



Tona wa Banana, Metshameko, Bong le Ngwao, Rre Tumiso Rakgare (molemeng) a reka mo mogwebing kwa maemelong a dibese kwa Francistown bosheng. Rre Rakgare a re puso e dirile mananeo a le mantsi a a lebaneng le go tlhabolola bomme le go ba ntsha mo lehumeng. Senepe: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

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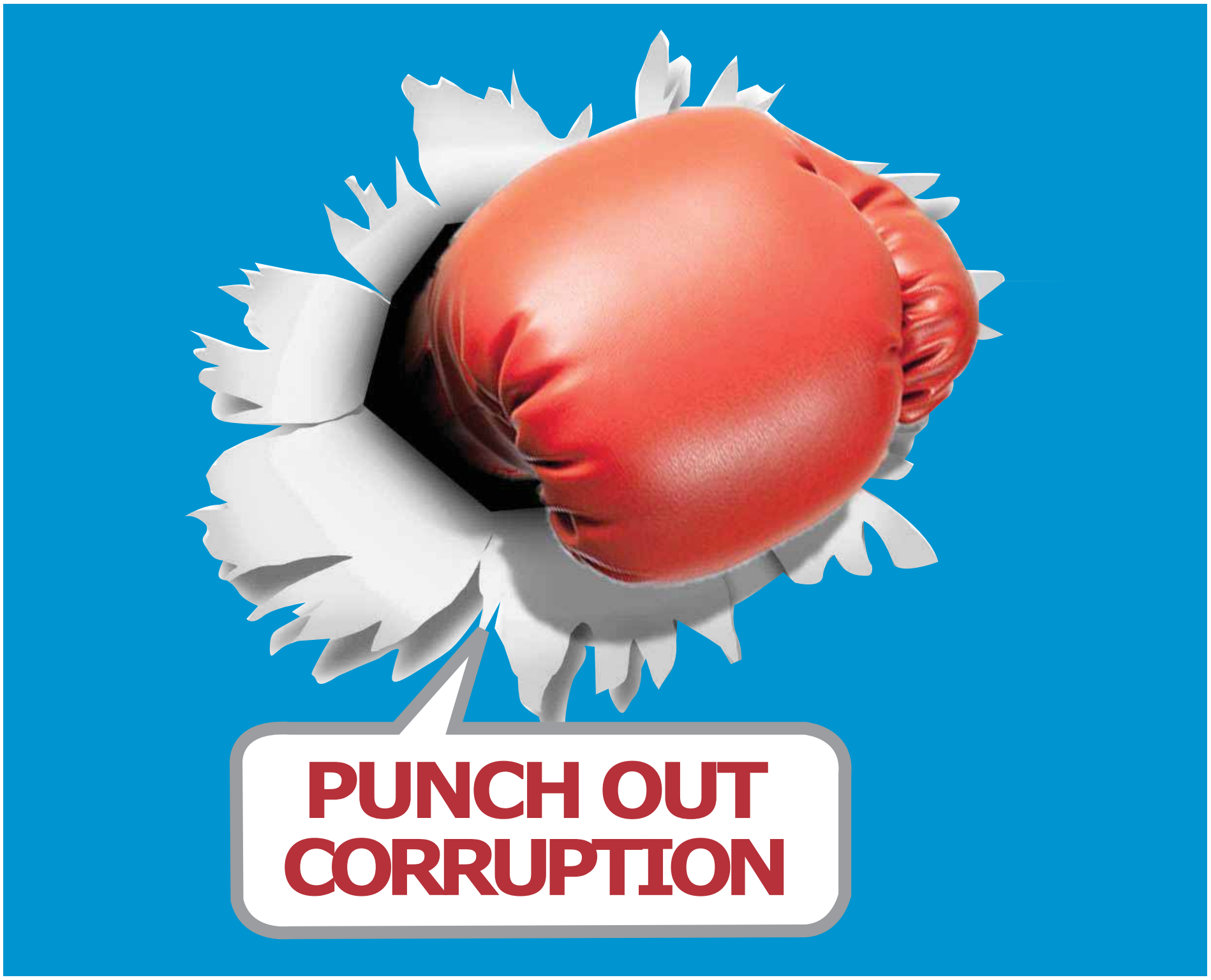
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APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intents to apply for a certified copy of title Deed **No.836/1993** dated **03** day of **SEPTEMBER 1993** made in favor of REX REKI MUKOKOMANI in respect of:
CERTAIN: Piece of land being **LOT 19308, GABORONE IN EXTENSION 12**
SITUATE: GABORONE WEST, EXTENSION 12 PHASE 2
MEASURING: 432^{50} (FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO SQUARE)
All persons having objection to issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the registrar of Deeds, PRIVATE BAG 0020 GABORONE withing three (3) weeks of the last publication of the notice hereof:

Dated at GABORONE on this 04th Day of OCTOBER 2022
Kutlwano Mukokomani
APPLICANT

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF LOBATSE
HELD AT LOBATSE CASE NO: CCMLB 000592-19

In the matter between:

LESEDI LA PELA ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL (PTY) LIMITED Plaintiff

And

NOAH MOLATEDI Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following property will be sold by public auction by Deputy Sheriff **DITIRO P. GABOBAKWE** to the highest bidder as follows:

DATE OF SALE:	28TH OCTOBER 2022
VENUE:	GOODHOPE POLICE
TIME:	10:30 A.M.

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CONDITIONS OF SALE: CASH OR BANK GUARANTEED CHEQUES IMMEDIATELY AFTER SALE.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 7th DAY OF OCTOBER 2022
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FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

Master's Ref: ESHGB-000093/21

IN THE ESTATE of the late **MMAMONYANA MOTLAFELA** who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the 31st July 2014.

THE FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT in the Estate will lie open for inspection at the offices of the Master of the High Court at Gaborone for a period of twenty-one (21) days from the date of publication hereof.
Any objection to the Estate Account may be lodged with the Master.

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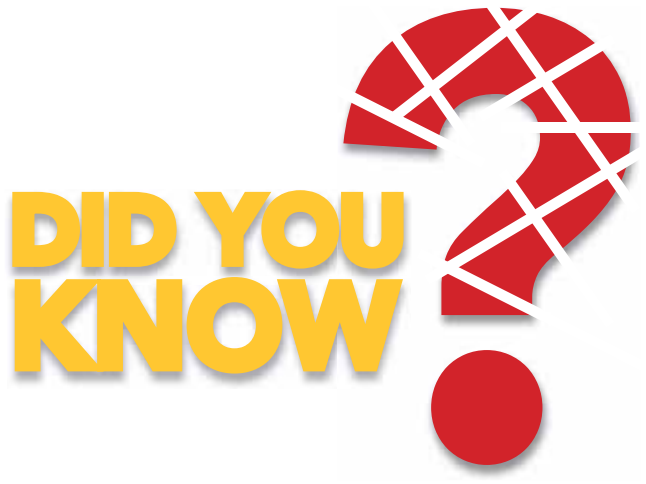
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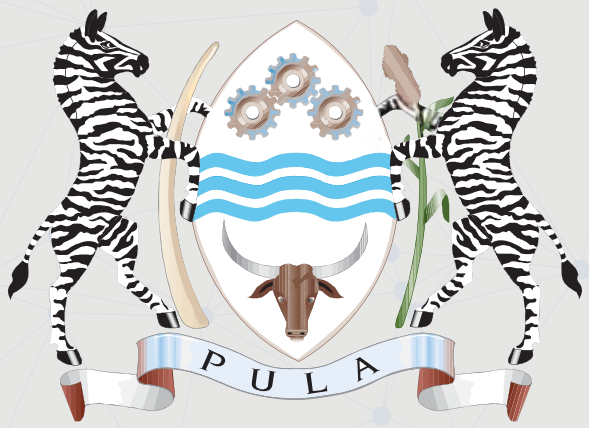
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China hands over pharmaceutical warehouse to Zim

HARARE - China recently handed over a multi-million dollar state-of-the-art pharmaceutical warehouse to Zimbabwe.

The warehouse is set to boost Zimbabwe's drug storage capacity and improve its health delivery system.

Constructed and funded by the Chinese government, the project cost US$22 million.

Construction of the warehouse by China's Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Group Limited (AFECC) began in 2019 and was completed in April 2022.

Speaking at the handover and commissioning ceremony, Zimbabwe president Emmerson Mnangagwa praised China for its support to Zimbabwe's health sector.

He noted that such solidarity and support signaled the strong bond between the two countries, adding the country was grateful to China and the new warehouse meets international standards of efficient medicine storage.

The warehouse, one of the largest in the southern African region, has a surface area of about 43 000 square meters and a building area of about 13 700 square meters.

Its designed capacity will reach 10 000 pallets from the current 6 000 pallet capacity.

"The increase is set to significantly improve the operational efficiency in the access of medicines, drugs and medical consumables in our health delivery system and further enhance our quest to achieve universal health coverage," Mnangagwa said.

Handing over the warehouse, Chinaq ambassador to Zimbabwe, Guo Shaochun, said the project demonstrated the time-tested friendship between the two countries, adding that it will play an important role in Zimbabwe's medical and health undertakings, especially in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said the project was timely as Zimbabwe had been looking for ways to stimulate the localised production of pharmaceutical products, so as to reduce over-reliance on imports.

The National Pharmaceutical Warehouse is one of the many projects that feature Chinese aid to Zimbabwe, along with several projects in agriculture, water, energy, infrastructure, education and health sectors, the ambassador noted.

"China will continually and sincerely support Zimbabwe to achieve Vision 2030 and safeguard its sovereignty and independence," the ambassador added. ***Xinhua***

Malawi bans sale of food in schools

LILONGWE - Malawi has banned sale of food in primary and secondary schools ahead of the new school year, which started yesterday.

Cholera outbreak continued with 117 cumulative deaths recorded as of Sunday.

Requesting parents to pack homemade food for pupils, the education ministry 'is directing that selling of food in primary and secondary schools is banned with immediate effect until further notice,' said a statement signed by secretary for education, Chikondano Mussa.

Universities and colleges are advised to ensure that food vendors and suppliers are oriented and adhere to the standard operating procedures issued by the ministry to all learning institutions.

Cholera has been spreading sporadically across the country since the first cases were recorded in the south-eastern border district of Machinga in March.

As of Sunday, 23 districts have reported cases with 17 districts coming on board in the past 14 days, bringing the caseload and death toll to 4 223 and 117 respectively. ***Xinhua***



KAMPALA - ***Regional leaders attending Uganda's 60th independence anniversary on Sunday have called for unity among states to fast-track the well-being of their citizens.***

Uganda marks 60th independence anniversary

KAMPALA - Regional leaders attending Uganda's 60th independence anniversary on Sunday have called for unity among states to fast-track the well-being of their citizens.

Uganda president Yoweri Museveni, who presided over the celebrations attended by five heads of state from eastern Africa, called for value addition on agricultural products.

"In Uganda, we have had fights with political actors over value addition. Everything is got from outside yet the raw materials are available. At least we have started producing our own processed milk, fertilizers, and some textiles," Museveni said.

He also emphasised that the East African Crude Oil Pipeline will go on as planned.

Kenyan president William Ruto called on traders and investors to take advantage of the vast regional market to supply what is produced in excess in the different countries.

"As a region, it is clear to us that we cannot share poverty, and we cannot share hunger, but we can share opportunities and prosperity," Ruto said.

"We have the challenge to ensure a borderless East African Community where goods and services can move across Africa in free trade," Ruto added.

Burundian president Evariste Ndayishimiye thanked Museveni for his contribution to establishing peace in the region.

"We can only be stronger if we work together. For the sake of peace, nothing should stand in our way," he said.

The celebrations, which had a march-past and several cultural performances, were also attended by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit, and Tanzania's Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

Several diplomats and other officials also attended the celebrations held at the same place where Britain handed over power to Uganda on October 9, 1962. ***Xinhua***

Zambia ,Namibia sign natural gas pipeline project deal

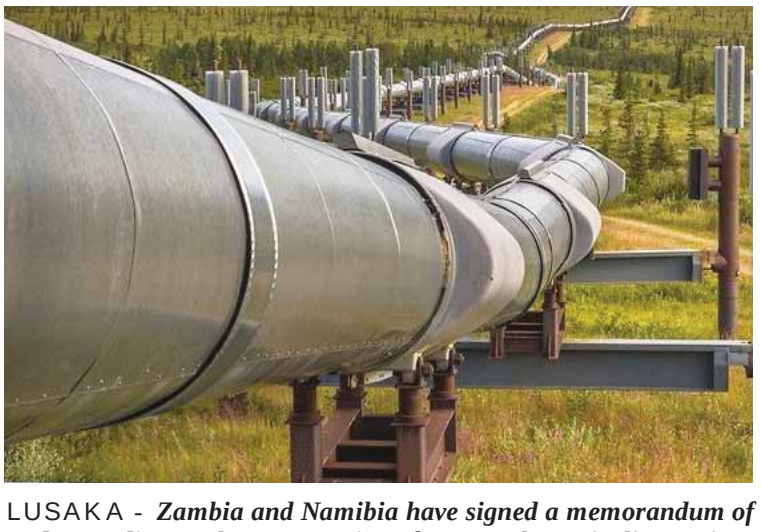
LUSAKA - Zambia and Namibia have signed a memorandum of understanding on the construction of a natural gas pipeline project, a Zambian senior official said Friday.

The deal was signed on Thursday on the sidelines of the 10th session of the Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation between the two countries.

Peter Kapala, Zambia's minister of energy, said the pipeline will run from Zambia to Namibia's coastal city, Walvis Bay and then to Swakopmund on the western side of Namibia.

"This project, led by the private sector, is expected to take three to four years to complete and, when it's done, the gas, which will be pumped to Zambia, will be used for power generation while the oil pipeline will help reduce the cost of petroleum products in Zambia," he said in a statement.

Once completed, the pipeline will supply between 100,000 and 120,000 barrels of refined petroleum products per day to Zambia and beyond, he said, calling the project a milestone in efforts to promote the development of key infrastructure in the two countries, given the volatility of international oil and gas prices. ***Xinhua***



LUSAKA - ***Zambia and Namibia have signed a memorandum of understanding on the construction of a natural gas pipeline project.*** Photo: Xinhua

African Union opens joint operation centres

MOGADISHU - The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has opened joint operations centres (JOCs) to enhance coordination and planning with Somali security forces (SSF) during operations against al-Shabab.

ATMIS Force Commander Diomede Ndegeya said the centres which were opened across the AU mission's areas of responsibility would enable the allied forces to work together to ensure effective operations against the militants.

"Joint operations centres will be functional in all sectors to coordinate operations and I urge all sector commanders to ensure that they are fully effective in their areas of operations in the regions," Ndegeya said.

He said ATMIS personnel, Somali security forces and partners would coordinate and plan operations at the centres as contained in the ATMIS Concept Of Operations (CONOPs).

The CONOPs provide a framework to guide the implementation of the gradual transfer of security responsibilities to the Somali security forces and the eventual exit of AU troops from Somalia.

Ndegeya said the JOC at the ATMIS force headquarters would coordinate with the sector headquarters, ATMIS Police, mission headquarters, Somali security forces, and other security agencies to provide updates regarding al-Shabab threats and progress on operations.

He said the centres support the implementation of the various UN resolutions requiring the Somali security forces to gradually assume full responsibility for the country's security.

The ATMIS official said consultative meetings had been held between ATMIS and SSF to reconfigure the AU mission taking into consideration the operational priorities of SSF.

The Somali Deputy Minister of Defence, Abdifatah Mahamud said recent joint operations in the Hiran and Galgaduud regions of central Somalia were successful.

"I congratulate ATMIS for implementing the Joint Operations Centres, which will improve coordination between the SSF and ATMIS.

The officers embedded and working together will ensure effective operations," Qasim said.

Harjit Dhindsa, the Director of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), noted that the centres supported the implementation of the new ATMIS mandate by the UN Security Council, which required ATMIS troops to be highly mobile and able to deploy quickly.

"For mobile forces and quick reactions to be really quick, there is a need for information availability at a very short notice. And for the forces to be deployed effectively, it is important that there is a control centre from where they can operate," Dhindsa said. ***Xinhua***



CANBERRA - ***The rising cost of living has overtaken COVID-19 as the top source of concern among Australians, a survey has found.***

Cost of living pressures Australians' top concern

CANBERRA - The rising cost of living has overtaken COVID-19 as the top source of concern among Australians, a survey has found.

The survey, which was published by the national mental health organisation, Beyond Blue on Monday to coincide with World Mental Health Day, revealed rising interest rates, growing inflation and worries about the cost of living were the main causes of stress and anxiety to the Australian people.

It found that Australians were operating at a lower level on average than prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and that adults were being weighed down by work challenges and cost of living rises.

Compared to the same period in 2021, fewer people are using Beyond Blue services to seek advice on the impact of the pandemic, and more are discussing family and relationship stress and anxiety.

Forty-eight percent of the 1 500 participants in the national survey said they felt lost when it came to their mental health and 46 per cent said they did not believe their problems warranted seeking support.

"Although, we are moving away from COVID-19 as being a major source of worry, people are telling us they're still adjusting," Georgie Harman, chief executive of Beyond Blue, said.

"Survey respondents said a lack of social connection, isolation, negative self-worth are lingering feelings and that things are not quite back to normal just yet."

Australia has recorded its highest rate of inflation in more than 20 years, with consumers paying more for everything.

According to data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in July, the Consumer Price Index rose by 1.8 per cent in the June quarter and 6.1 per cent over the last 12 months.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of Australia announced a rate hike for the 6th consecutive month, lifting its cash rate target by 25 basis points to 2.6 per cent. ***Xinhua***

AfCFTA launches trade initiative for seven countries

ACCRA - The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has launched a guided trade initiative for seven member countries.

These seven countries, which have signaled their readiness to start trading under AfCFTA were Tanzania, Mauritania, Kenya, Egypt, Cameroon, Rwanda and Ghana.

AfCFTA Secretary-General Wamkele Mene said at least 96 different products from the seven countries could be freely traded under the rules of AfCFTA.

Products approved to trade under AfCFTA include horticultural products, pharmaceuticals, rubber, aluminum kitchenware, sugar, steel and wooden products.

These products originating from Africa will enjoy duty-free and quota-free trading among the partnering countries.

"This is the moment the founding mothers and fathers of the Organisation of African Unity have longed (for).

We have finally honoured and made reality the vision of those who liberated our continent," said Mene.

"We are connecting East Africa to West Africa, North Africa to Southern Africa.

Trade will be the driver of inclusivity, creating opportunities for young Africans.

So we have taken the first journey today, and I hope in 15 years, we will have succeeded in lifting millions and millions of Africans out of poverty."

Ghana's Minister for Trade and Industry Alan Kyerematen said the launching of guided trade among seven countries was symbolic in many ways.

"It symbolises that AfCFTA was not just on paper but a reality. And we are moving from talk and negotiations to action.

It also symbolises that governments in Africa who have been involved in the negotiations are now giving way to the private sector to make it a reality," Kyerematen said. ***Xinhua***

IMF reaffirms commitment to supporting Ghana

ACCRA - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Ghana to weather the storm amid global economic uncertainties.

An IMF staff team, which visited Ghana between September 26 and October 7, said this assurance in Accra at the end of its visit.

The team held constructive discussions with Ghanaian authorities and stakeholders on policies aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability and laying the foundation for stronger and more inclusive growth.

"Key areas of focus included ensuring public finance sustainability while protecting the vulnerable, bolstering the credibility of monetary and exchange rate policies to reduce inflation and rebuild external buffers, and preserving financial sector stability."

Ghana has been facing multiple economic hardships over recent months including currency depreciation and soaring inflation.

The West African cocoa, gold and crude oil exporter commenced negotiations with the IMF in July, seeking support for an economic revitalisation programme. ***Xinhua***

Namibian teacher helps struggling learners

WINDHOEK - A Namibian secondary school teacher extends care by tutoring struggling learners to improve performance in mathematics and science, subjects that are rated as priority fields by the Namibian government.

Eugene Mangundu, qualified mathematics and physical science teacher at Khomastura High School in Windhoek, took the initiative to tutor as an extracurricular to help learners who had not grasped the subject contents during normal classes.

"I started in 2012 with one learner. When they saw the positive impact I made before I knew it, the demand grew as more people across the city approached me," he said.

The primary focus is to hearten the youngsters and give them hope for a better future.

He conducts tutorials after normal school hours, in groups, and individual sessions at home to learners from Windhoek and other regions.

"This is done to accommodate the demands and uniqueness of each learner. Some learn better in a group, others require individual attention to grasp the work to catapult ability," Mangundu said, who holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Namibia.

To date, he has helped over 120 youngsters who have moved on to universities and or the job market.



WINDHOEK - ***A teacher attending to learners during a mathematics and science tutorial in Namibia. Mangundu took the initiative to tutor as an extracurricular to help learners who had not grasped the subject contents during normal classes.***
Photo: Xinhua

As the numbers grew from 2019, the tutoring sessions became more organised and structured. Mangundu also cultivated a flair for writing study guides in mathematics, physical science, and chemistry, availed to the learners.

"The aim is to supplement learning material already offered by schools and aid learners in studying. Most importantly, to challenge them and boost their cognitive skills.

Learners become more confident when they grasp the fundamentals, and grades start improving," he added.

According to Mangundu, the tutoring offered under Eugene First Tutorial Academy complements government efforts in providing education.

Meanwhile, the feedback has been positive.

Thekla, a parent of one of the youngsters helped by Mangundu, said that her child's understanding of the subject and performance drastically improved.

To Mangundu's delight, all beneficiaries bear such testimonies.

According to the 35-year-old teacher, positive feedback meant he had given a gift of academic progression to the learners.

"Sometimes you get a very poor performance learner, and it requires passion and going the extra mile to transform the potential of that youngster into the best performer. This keeps me motivated to help more learners," he said.

In the interim, he hopes to transform the lives of more learners.

Ester Anna Nghipondoka, minister of education, arts, and culture, said teachers were at the centre of basic education delivery to all the learners in the country because they played an instrumental role in transforming education.

"Teachers are the engines at the heart of our education system, without whom, it is impossible to provide inclusive and equitable quality education to every learner," the minister said.

Namibia joined the rest of the world in observing World Teachers' Day on October 5 under the theme: The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers.
Xinhua

Chinese doctor dedicated to treating patients in Rwanda

KIGALI - As a middle-aged Rwandan man suffering from a hernia was waiting quietly in pain on an operating table in a room of Kibungo Hospital, eastern Rwanda, one day in late September, anesthesiologist Chen Zhihong and nurses were tensely preparing him for an operation.

The surgery was done by Li Junsheng, a surgeon of the 22nd Chinese medical team in Rwanda, and it lasted more than an hour and proved a success.

It was Li's sixth trip to Rwanda to offer medical care at Kibungo Hospital in the Eastern Province. He first visited Rwanda for medical care in 2007.

He has since lived in the country for nearly 10 years, offering medical care.

"Doing well in foreign aid medical work has been a guiding principle. There is a great need for doctors in Rwanda where patients with some common and frequent diseases are often not treated in time. Our knowledge and technology can really help local patients," said Li.

The 51-year-old medic recalled when he first arrived in Rwanda for foreign aid in 2007, he encountered many difficulties when communicating with local medical staff due to cultural differences. He, however, gradually learned to work with the local medical workers and patients over the years.

Having worked with Chinese doctors for a long time, Pierre Nsengiyumva, the hospital's head nurse, said Chinese doctors were playing an important role.

Besides their knowledge and skills, Chinese doctors are known for their compassion toward patients, said Nsengiyumva, who has also become Li's old friend.

"Dr Li especially has a very good understanding of the hospital and has rich surgical experience. We need professional doctors like Dr Li," said Nsengiyumva. "We like working with him and I can't imagine him leaving us."

The head nurse said it was easy to see Li's dedication and professionalism.

"Even if Dr Li is off duty, if the hospital calls him, he will always say, 'I'm ready,' and he is always available when we need him."

Rwanda has a shortage of orthopedic doctors. Nsengiyumva said that there was no orthopedic doctor at their hospital before the arrival of the orthopedic doctor Ma Xiaofeng from China, who had also solved many problems for the hospital.

"If there is no orthopedic doctor, some patients will be referred to a distant hospital, yet they may not have the money to go elsewhere. Patients prefer staying at this hospital where they will be close to families and assured of good care with a team of Chinese specialists to monitor their conditions," Nsengiyumva said.

Tuesday and Thursday are operation days for Chinese doctors. Li on average performs six surgical operations each operation day and eight operations at most.

His compassion to treat people has led him to dedicate his life to providing quality medical care in Rwanda.

He often has lunch at two or three o'clock in the afternoon due to his work schedule. "As soon as I get on the operating table I can only concentrate on the operation," Li said happily.

Many poor people visit the hospital to see a doctor. The distance is long, along a hilly road. Li understands the difficulty of the people and has always treated each patient with the spirit of 'the doctor's benevolence.'

Every time he went out, he found a long queue of patients with common diseases to attend to.

"I have developed the benevolence spirit over the years," he said. With his rich experience in foreign medical aid and a warm and forthright personality, Li has become the 'big brother' of the medical team.

Diligence and having a benevolent heart are essential to providing quality care in foreign aid medical work, he said.

Because there is no clinical minimally invasive medical equipment, such as endoscopy, angiography, etc., Chinese doctors have to rely on excellent technology during surgery to solve the problem by opening the incision smaller.

Critically ill patients do not have ICU care after surgery, and doctors need to conduct ward rounds often after surgery.

"Due to the difficulties, it is necessary to use your own initiative, adapt to local conditions, and solve practical problems according to the existing local conditions," Li stressed. Even though some patients cannot afford proper nutrition due to financial constraints during postoperative recovery, they receive support from Chinese doctors, who often send their own breakfast to the patients, 'all of which requires a kind heart.'

Over time, Li believes working in Africa provides a unique experience. "China's foreign medical aid has indeed solved many health problems for the middle and low-income people in Africa. As a doctor, being able to treat diseases and save people, and gain the trust of patients and hospitals makes me realize my personal value," he said, stressing he has gained African friends in the process.

"People's hearts are connected and fostering friendship between Chinese and Africans gives meaning to our foreign medical aid."

The Chinese government sent the first Chinese medical team to Rwanda in 1982.

Over the last four decades, 22 medical teams and more than 270 Chinese doctors have received 10 000 patients and performed more than 1 000 surgical operations in Rwanda. ***Xinhua***

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

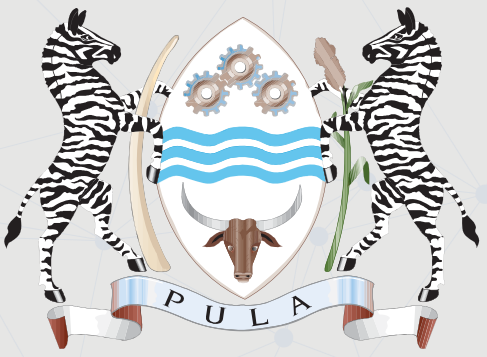
Botswana Government Communications and Information Systems

BGCIS

NATIONAL SYMBOL

1 The Coat of Arms

In June 1966, The Government of Botswana introduced the official use of the Coat of Arms. The Coat of Arms incorporates important cultural, social and economic elements of Botswana as a country. The Coat of Arms is the official country/Government Identifier and is used in all official documents/communication.



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

COMPONENTS OF THE COAT OF ARMS

- The shield encases the three cogwheels that represent industries in Botswana.
- The three Botswana blue waves symbolise water.
- At the bottom of the shield is the head of a bull which symbolizes the importance of beef industry and the traditions behind the pastoral farming in Botswana and the blade of sorghum represents arable farming.
- The two Zebras represent the natural fauna of the country and non-racialism.
- An elephant tusk reflects natural wealth and tradition of Dikgosi giving tusk as a token of wealth and esteem to other rulers.
- The national motto 'Pula' which translates to 'Rain' highlights the importance of water to Botswana. The motto is written in black on a Botswana blue half tone scroll, the reverse side of which is red. The scroll sits as a base for all the elements of the coat of arms.

New York City declares state of emergency

NEW YORK - New York City Mayor Eric Adams declared a state of emergency on Friday in response to a record-breaking influx of asylum seekers into the city, mostly from the southern border of the United States.

An executive order was issued on Friday to formally direct all relevant agencies in the city to coordinate their efforts to respond to the asylum seeker humanitarian crisis and construct humanitarian relief centres on a transitory basis.

The state of emergency shall remain in effect for 30 days and may be extended, according to the executive order.

Adams also called for emergency federal and state aid to handle the continued influx of asylum seekers, including legislation allowing asylum seekers to work, a decompression strategy at the border, a coordinated effort to move asylum seekers to other cities, emergency financial relief and immigration reform.

The shelter system in New York City is now operating at near 100-percent capacity accommodating over 61 000 people and the city would have over 100 000 asylum seekers next year if current trend continues, according to Adams.

"That's far more than the system was ever designed to handle. This is unsustainable. The city is going to run out of funding for other priorities," he said.

More than 17 000 asylum seekers, mostly from South America, have been bused directly to New York City from the southern border since April, Adams said.

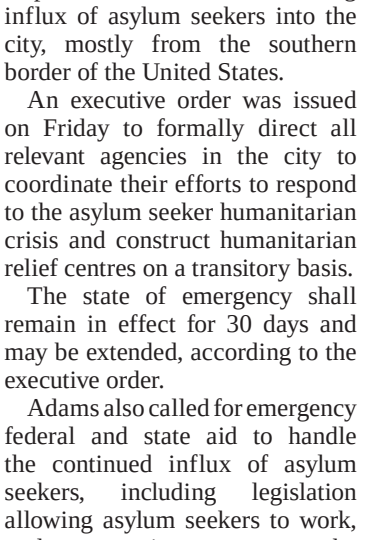
To accomodate the asylum seekers, the city has contracted 42 hotels as emergency shelters with one humanitarian emergency response and relief centre under construction on Randall's Island, and is working with the New York governor's office on identifying additional locations for relief centres and staffing resources.

Adams said New York City was expected to spend at least US$1 billion by the end of this fiscal year starting October 1 on the migrant crisis.

He blamed political motivation and lack of coordination for the man-made humanitarian crisis.

"If our city had had coordination or even just cooperation from any of the states sending buses, or more support from our partners, then maybe we could have budgeted, staffed and allocated resources for these asylum seekers," Adams said.

About a month ago, Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a public emergency in the nation's capital due to the arrival of thousands of migrants bused from the southern states of Texas and Arizona. X***inhua***



Adams



NEW YORK - ***More than 17 000 asylum seekers, mostly from South America, have been bused directly to New York City from the southern border since April. To accommodate the asylum seekers, the city has contracted 42 hotels as emergency shelters with one humanitarian emergency response and relief centre under construction on Randall's Island.*** Photo: Xinhua

'Tension fuels atmosphere of fear, hatred'

UN RAMALLAH - An escalation of tension in the West Bank will fuel an atmosphere of fear, hatred and anger between Israelis and Palestinians, a senior UN official has said on Saturday.

"It is necessary to reduce tensions immediately to open the way for decisive initiatives aimed at creating a viable political horizon between the two sides," UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland said.

On Friday and Saturday, four Palestinians were killed and dozens injured by Israeli soldiers in several West Bank towns and villages, said the Palestinian ministry of health.

Since early January, more than 100 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli soldiers, the ministry said.

Since March, 18 Israelis have been killed in attacks carried out by Palestinians in Israeli cities.

Wennesland expressed his concern over the deterioration of the security situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, calling on Israelis and Palestinians to restore calm and avoid further escalation.

"The fragility of the situation underscores the urgency of changing the dynamics on the ground while addressing the underlying security and political issues that fuel the current instability," he added.

On Friday, a senior Palestinian official called on the United States to intervene immediately and stop the Israeli army from killing Palestinians in the West Bank.

Palestinian presidency spokesperson Nabil Rudeineh urged the US to intervene 'and stop these daily crimes in the West Bank, which would have dangerous consequences that no one can bear, and then it will be too late.'

Tension in the West Bank has been mounting since March after the Israeli army intensified its military actions and operations against Palestinian militants and activists.

In the June 1967 Middle East war, Israel occupied the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, which are claimed by the Palestinians, and has controlled the areas ever since.

The Palestinians aspire to establish a Palestinian state on these territories. ***Xinhua***

UN voices concern over coup in Burkina Faso

NEW YORK - The UN Security Council on Friday voiced serious concern over the September 30 coup in Burkina Faso that ousted President Paul-Henri Damiba, particularly given the serious regional security challenges in the country's Sahel region.

The second military takeover in Burkina Faso in eight months is regrettable and undermines stability, the members of the council said, calling on the parties in the West African country to settle their differences through dialogue.

The coup was the second this year in Burkina Faso.

In the one on January 24, former President Roch Kabore was overthrown, and Damiba was sworn in on February 16.

The council members welcomed the call of the Economic Community of West African States for an end to violence and looting of all kinds, and underscored the urgent need for the restoration of constitutional order in Burkina Faso.

They expressed their support for regional and continental mediation efforts. The council members welcomed the statement issued by the African Union (AU) that reaffirmed the AU's opposition to any seizure or retention of power by unconstitutional means in Burkina Faso and demanded scrupulous respect for the timetable for a rapid return to constitutional order.

The council members further regretted that the political and security instability and the dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso would provide an opportunity for terrorist groups to wreak havoc in that country.

They encouraged more international support to help address the situation in the country. They also welcomed the advice of the UN Peacebuilding Commission regarding supporting peacebuilding efforts in Burkina Faso, including the commission's engagement and coordination with Burkina Faso's regional and international partners to effectively address the country's peacebuilding and transition challenges. ***Xinhua***

Global food prices decline

ROME - Global food prices slipped for the sixth consecutive month in September, as lower demand and strong production levels helped balance the impacts of higher energy and transportation costs, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported Friday. The monthly FAO Food Price I

ndex, averaging 136.3 points, was down 1.1 percent compared to August. This was the sixth consecutive month the index declined since it surged to its highest level in March, after the conflict between Russia and Ukraine sent energy prices soaring and interrupted trade routes.

Despite the decline, the broad index -- which tracks changes in global prices for common food commodities -- remained higher than at the start of the year and, in real terms, higher than at any point previous to 2022 since the 1970s. Prices for grains and cereals, a component in the index, rose by 2.2 percent due in part to uncertainty connected to the supply of wheat through the Black Sea, the trade route most affected by the Ukraine crisis. Dry conditions in the United States and Argentina have also had an impact on production in those countries, with rice prices also climbing based in part on changes in export policies from India.

In a separate report also released Friday, FAO estimated that global cereal production this year would be 2.768 billion tonnes, down 1.7 percent from 2021. The increase in prices for grains and cereals was offset by a big drop in vegetable oil prices, which fell 6.6 percent to its lowest level since February 2021.

The FAO said that rising production from Southeast Asia was a factor in the decline. Other major components in the broad index declined, but only marginally.

Dairy prices were down by 0.6 percent, though they remained more than 20 percent above levels from a year ago, FAO said. Meat prices were down by 0.5 percent while sugar prices fell by 0.7 percent. ***Xinhua***

New club to address common challenges

NICOSIA - Prague on Thursday hosted the inaugural gathering of the 'European Political Community (EPC),' bringing together 27 leaders of the European Union (EU) and those from non-EU nations and regions.

According to an EU statement, the EPC concept is envisioned to gather countries and regions outside the EU that share the bloc's values on business, security, the rule of law and politics.

France President Emmanuel Macron first proposed the idea for the EPC in May.

Soon after, the EU backed the scheme and facilitated the Prague event.

Along with EU states, several Western Balkan nations and regions, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and non-EU countries that are deeply integrated in the EU market, such as Norway and Switzerland, as well as Britain and Turkey were also invited to the so-called 'EU+' gathering.

"It's interesting because here we have EU leaders and non-EU countries meeting and really talking about European politics, not just in the EU context," Prime Minister of Iceland Katrin Jakobsdottir told reporters.

"Europe has many difficult problems right now and we meet here to discuss solutions," Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said at the opening of the session, mentioning the Russia-Ukraine conflict, inflation, high energy prices, the transition to sustainable energy, the economy and illegal migration as topics on agenda.

However, for all the rhetorical fanfare, the project was met with some skepticism.

In the lead-up to the event, concern has been growing that the EPC may duplicate other existing organisations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Council of Europe or the Group of Seven.

"My only concern is that the large and disparate numbers of countries invited mirrors the current Council of Europe, which may make a consensus hard to find and make it a talking shop with little clout," Charles Tannock, a former member of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee, told *Xinhua*.

Critics charge the idea is to slow down future EU accessions for countries in Eastern Europe and the Balkans aspiring to join the 27-member bloc.

On Thursday, Macron described the meeting as 'an important moment,' saying the objective was to share a common understanding of the situation affecting Europe, to build a common strategy and therefore, a strategic conversation.

"And I hope to come up with common projects."

And although there is little enthusiasm for European ideas in Britain, Prime Minister Liz Truss, leader of the Eurosceptic Conservative Party, was present in Prague.

Some analysts said this was a positive signal that London was seeking better relations with Europe after a fractious Brexit, which saw Britain leave the EU.

"I support any move which gets the UK politically closer to other European countries particularly to talk about security issues and energy policy," Tannock told *Xinhua*.

"We shall see shortly what it delivers, but certainly UK needs to plug back into EU structures on key matters like foreign policy, defense and security as NATO doesn't yet include Sweden or Finland and does not cover internal security matters," Tannock said.

The meeting also saw the involvement of Turkey President Recep Erdogan, suggesting that Ankara was keen to improve its relationship with the EU.

In a joint article published in Politico before the gathering, Edi Rama, the prime minister of Albania and Mark Rutte, prime minister of the Netherlands, said the group could discuss food security, transport, trade connectivity, higher education, research, innovation capabilities and cybersecurity.

"The EPC should be a workspace where we can meet and do business, whether an EU member or not," they noted.

"The EPC presents us with a critical opportunity to face our shared challenges head on. Europe must shape its own future, and the only way to do so is to work together as democratic members of the European family." Nonetheless, the questions of how the EPC will function and what it can achieve continue to cause debate. ***Xinhua***



NICOSIA - ***Leaders from 27 EU and non-EU nations on Thursday gathered in Prague for the inaugural EPC. The EPC gathered countries and regions outside the EU that shared the bloc's values on business, security, the rule of law and politics.***
Photo: Xinhua

Kenya forex reserves fall to five-year low

NAIROBI - Kenya's foreign exchange reserves declined by about US$103 million last week to hit a five-year low as the shilling fell to the lowest level in history against the dollar, the Central Bank of Kenya said in its weekly update of the financial markets.

The reserves fell from US$7.42 billion last week to US$7.32 billion, with the apex bank reported to have sold an unspecified amount of dollars to stabilise the local currency.

During the week, the shilling fell to an all-time low of 120.82 against the dollar, the Central Bank said in its update released Friday evening.

The Kenyan currency has declined seven per cent against the dollar year-to-date.

Despite the decline, the Central Bank, however, said 'the usable foreign exchange reserves remain adequate' to cushion the shilling and cover importers' demands.

The US$7.321 billion reserves, which are at 4.13 months of import cover, however, are in breach of the East African region's forex reserves policy, where member states are required to maintain 4.5 months of import cover. ***Xinhua***

Re-emergence of cholera in Haiti concern

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Haiti's Ministry of Public Health has sounded the alarm about the resurgence of cholera, which has claimed at least seven lives on the Caribbean island, raising concern among international organisations.

General director of the Ministry of Public Health Laure Adrien said recently the government had taken measures to curb the spread of the disease, including investigating potential cases, after the first two cases were reported on Sunday.

"Most of the victims died in their communities and could not go to hospitals," Adrien said at a press conference on Sunday.

The outbreak is concentrated in two areas of the capital Port-au-Prince that are under the control of criminal gangs, the World Health Organisation said.

In a statement released on Monday, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres expressed deep concern for the health and security of the people in Haiti.

Guterres requested 'immediate and unrestricted' access to all Haitian territory to facilitate the delivery of fuel for humanitarian purposes.

Due to civil unrest and gang rivalry, fuel deliveries have been blocked in Port-au-Prince since mid-September, affecting both the daily lives of Haitians and the ability of UN workers, other agencies and the international community to respond to the serious crisis in the country, the UN noted.

The global organisation is particularly sensitive to cholera cases in Haiti, which had not recorded any cases in the past three years. In 2010, about 9 700 people died from a cholera outbreak in Haiti traced back to a base camp for UN peacekeepers from Nepal. ***Xinhua***



PORT-AU-PRINCE - ***Haiti's Ministry of Public Health has sounded the alarm about the resurgence of cholera, which has claimed at least seven lives on the Caribbean island.*** Photo: Xinhua

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Models parading designs by Solo Creations at Women, Wine and Fashion event in Gaborone on Saturday. Different designers showcased colourful designs to welcome spring and summer. Photo: Felicity Male

Event platform for women to shine

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE - Upcoming designers showcased their creativity during a Wine Women and Fashion event at Grand Aria Hotel in Gaborone on Saturday.

Fashion Tips, Kael Creations, Cinnamon Snizzes, Adonai, Bantu Gold, Kapari Flavour and Just Grip had an opportunity to have their work seen in a big platform for the first time.

In an interview, Phatsimo Ranjo of Just Grip Creations said her theme for the night was about spring.

She decided to colour the day with pink and yellow in order to enlighten the mood of fashion show lovers who also dressed smart to the occasion.

The spring/summer fashion colour trends include fair green and fragile sprout, pastel pink, fuchsia innuendo and bubblegum pink, floral, red and light blues and all the new comers in the industry featured the colours.

One of the guests, Lesego Mokwena, said designers were always looking for new ways to be on point with trends, therefore new kids on the block managed to incorporate the spring /summer colours.

She said by digitalising fashion, upcoming designers were alive to government Reset Agenda because during their presentations, they mentioned use of social media to sell their designs which also helped them move with fashion trends quicker.

"This has also allowed brands to unlock their potential for commercial and creative success," she said.

Agnes Lesole applauded Ubuntu Group Company owner Peter Muzzah for a glamorous event.

She said Muzzah was on point with an initiative of empowering local businesses especially women who owned small medium businesses.

"When you empower women, you empower the whole world," she said.

Lesole also said she was happy that participating designers were not big names in the local fashion industry, but came from villages.

"I congratulate Peter for this beautiful concept and I hope next year many women designers would take part," she said.

The brains behind Wine Women and Fashion, Muzzah said though the event did not meet his expectations, he was happy to have given the upcoming designers the platform to showcase their products.

He said the idea was to empower local businesses therefore, pleaded with sponsors to support the initiative next year.

He said he also wanted to honour women in different business fields.

He said this was to help promote and advertise their business services and products.

The event, Muzzah said, was a second series of appreciating, empowering and bringing awareness through the Women Wine and Fashion event.

The event was born three years ago, but was disrupted by COVID-19. "However, such worked in many women's favor since they had time to think outside the box," he said

Women businesses who also exhibited included Norah Cosmetics, The body Shop Store, Delmar Jewels, Transformation Body Spa and clinic.

Guests were treated to wine tasting owned by local women.

Photography company, SG Media group provided women with the modern 360° Photo Booth which is designed to capture 360° high-resolution videos. Guests stepped on a platform where a high-end camera attached to a revolving mechanical arm rotates at high speeds 360 degrees around them and this indeed concluded the digitalised wine women and fashion event. ***BOPA***

Do not let rejection put you down - DJ Fresh

By Mothusi Galekutle

GHANZI - Creative artists have been implored not to let rejection throw them off track.

Addressing a workshop in Ghanzi on Friday, Thato Sikwane aka DJ fresh, said rejection was part of their game and should be used to fuel careers.

"Our industry needs focus and you should not be derailed by people perceptions," he stated.

Dj Fresh warned that though mentorship was the bed rock of the arts industry, they should not be copycats, but rather be inspired by their mentors.

He said individual uniqueness could help them be relevant, stating that copycat tendencies could render artists redundant.

He said self-branding was an important aspect of their career because it built one's reputation and created a certain perception about an artist.

Marketing and advertising should be part and parcel of your career, even billion dollar companies still do advertising, said Dj Fresh.

He encouraged artsists to exploit social media platforms and be consistent in what they were posting, adding they should have a separate page for other things they were passionate about.

He said reading was essential for building a career and artists should up-skill themselves.

Longevity in the industry depended on artist's efforts.

One must be too good that they are irreplaceable, said Dj Fresh.

He regretted that selfishness was destroying the creative industry and called for mind-set change.

Dj Fresh reminded artists that humbleness would open doors for them.

Artists said rubbing shoulders with Dj Fresh was inspirational and motivated them.

Dj Fresh is part of the Department of Broadcasting Services nationwide roadshow that launched in Kanye on September 20. ***BOPA***



DJ Fresh

Cycling challenge attracts over 150

By Thuso Kgakatsi

MOSHUPA - Over 150 cyclists participated in the Southern Epic Cycling Challenge, which also attracted participants from South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The race, held at Montshiwa Grounds in Kanye over the weekend, featured more than 30 women, who participated in different categories.

Among attendees were First Lady Neo Masisi, India High Commissioner, Rajesh Ranjan, who was the chief cyclist, Miss Botswana 2021/2022 Palesa Molefe and Kanye South MP Dr Lemogang Kwape.

In a brief interview the First Lady professed her desire to see the event grow.

She implored the organisers to be innovative and follow the trend in other countries, where the elderly were made part of the cycling challenge.

"Nothing beats witnessing the joy of the elderly participating in these challenges. We need to ensure that they join us next year," she said.

The First Lady, who also got a chance to empire the start of the 120km endurance race category, further indicated that her presence was a show of moral support.



First Lady Neo Masisi (third left) and Kwape (second left) at the start of the 120km race at the Southern Epic Cycling Challenge in Kanye over the weekend. The First Lady implored the organisers to be innovative, follow trends in other countries and include the elderly. Photo: Thuso Kgakatsi

Meanwhile, Thokozani Mahlangu from Team Aluwani of South Africa received the P8 000 cash prize after finishing first in the 120km category in 3:59:33, followed by his colleagues Thulasizwe Mxenge and Teynard Butler who completed the race in 1:01:26 and 3:02:52 respectively.

Nonofo Maswabi of the Jwaneng Cycling Club was crowned a champion in the female's Elite 120km, with a time of 3:24:17, followed by Anouk Van Der Geest of Tsela Riders in a time of 3:24:40 and Wame Ntwayakgosi, who completed in a time of 4:02:56.

Both the veterans and the masters' categories did not have female entrants and were won by Nolan Hoffman of Team Aluwani, followed by Alec Musariri of Tsela Riders and Thapelo Sebonego of Moshupa Cycling Club.

Male master 120 km category was won by Robert Sinclair of Unimills Hokoyo with a time of 3:13:09, followed by Seamus Oneal of Gaborone Cycling Club, at time of 3:51:55.

Moratwa Mothaope of Tsela Riders won the 18 to 22 years, 120 km race under female category at 4:38:18 followed by his colleague Lebopo Kono, with a time of 4:38:25.

Under 17-18, junior males 120km category, was won by Theo Tselayakgomo of Moshupa Cycling Club, with a time of 3:14:53, followed by Mpho Kgothatso of Morupule Cycling Club with a time of 3:22:02, and Phemelo Setshogo of Jonmol Cycling Club with a time of 4:05:19.

The female youth 60km category of age 14 to 16 was won by Keyshia Nthobogang of Tsela Riders, while the open female of 19 and over category being won by Zara Reid, followed by Gobona Mantle of Cycle 4 Life and Nomsa Sekopo of Morupule Cycling Club.

Ontlametse Maswabi of Tsela Riders won the Male 60km Category of 14 to 16 years, with a time of 1:48:27 trailed by Carlyn Watson-Ben at the time of 2:03:25, followed by Michael Angelo of Tsela Riders a time of 2:03:59.

For his part, Dr Ranjan highlighted that their involvement in the cycling challenge further strengthened relations between Botswana and India.

He said they were keen to offer the winner of the cycling challenge; a Motswana citizen, able to meet the requirement needed for admission to university; a scholarship for higher learning in India.

Dr Ranjan added that he was particularly pleased that early childhood development had been earmarked as the key priorities of the event, adding that this will go a long way in shaping the future generation. ***BOPA***

Double Action tournament champs

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Double Action are the inaugural ZAC Construction Cream of Gaborone tournament champions.

They beat Gaborone United 3-0 in the final.

Balotlhanyi Johannes and Ontlametse Gaonyadiwe netted Double Action's two goals while the third came via Golebaone Selebatso's own goal.

The game, played at Lekidi Football Centre on Saturday, started at a high tempo with a spree of attacks from both sides.

GU grabbed the first scoring opportunity in the early minutes, but Kelebogile Magaga squandered the chance.

In the 20th minute, Double Action launched an attack and Johannes taught GU players a lesson on how to score goals sending her side's first past the keeper.

However, the goal did not dampen Moyagoleele's spirit as they surged forward looking for an equaliser, but luck was not on their side as Double Action keeper, Bame Mokime denied them a goal.

In the 35th minute, Ontlametse punished GU after a defensive error netting a second for Double Action.

After recess, Double Action continued with their dominance but it would seem GU's new signee Lone Gaofetoge was on guard and managed to intercept a lot of their opponent's good runs.

However, in the 79th minute, GU's Selebatso mistake inside the box saw her score an own goal to increase Double Action's goals to three.

"We lost a game which we were supposed to win but we give credit to Double Action as they utilised their chances well and won the game," GU coach, Mompoloki Nthobatsang said in a post-match interview.

Nthobatsang said he was nonetheless happy that they managed to identify their flaws in a pre-season tournament and would work hard to rectify them.

"We are still building a team and we managed to lure other players to beef up our squad, so we are still in the process," he added.

Double Action coach, Kago Konege, said he was happy that the players executed the game plan well, which was to subject GU to pressure in the first stanza.

On one hand, Konege said they did not play their usual style as they had brought in new editions and trying new combinations.

"From here our assignment is to ensure that the new signees adopt our style of play because our culture is to keep possession," he said.

Meanwhile, GU had beaten Prisons 3-0 courtesy of Masego Kokoto's hat-trick while Double Action had won 3-1 against Mexican Girls to make it to the final.

In the losers' final, Prisons beat Mexican Girls 6-0.

In individual awards, Double Action's goal minder, Mokime was crowned goalkeeper of the tournament, Mexican Girls' Jessica Modise won two awards of top goal scorer after scoring four goals as well as young player of the tournament while Lesego Radiakanyo of Double Action was awarded player of the tournament. ***BOPA***



Double Action celebrating their 3-0 victory over Gaborone United in the Cream of Gaborone Tournament final on Saturday. Double Action pocketed P7 000, while GU got P4 000. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

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Botswana face Zambia today

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana will face Zambia today in a do or die clash in the COSAFA Under-20 Championships at the Mavuso Stadium in eSwatini.

The Young Zebras lost a game against the hosts and won one against Mauritius.

So, they have to beat Zambia for them to have a chance of proceeding to the semi final stage.

Zambia has amassed six points from two games while Botswana and eSwatini have three points each.

Coach Oupa Kowa said in an interview that the boys were determined to get a positive result against Zambia.

"The most important thing is approach as Zambia plays a good passing game and we must match them," he said.

The coach also said the Zambians were good at playing wide and crossing the ball into the box.

Kowa said his team played a similar type of football and that it had players who could match t Zambia.

Kowa also said he hoped Mauritius and eSwatini played a draw as it would keep Botswana on the second position.

He also noted that it would depend on the goal difference from other groups.

Botswana beat Mauritius 1-0 on Sunday courtesy of Botshelo Motsheja's strike.

Kowa said he was not happy with his boys performance because they were too causal.

"I take it that they undermined their opponents," he said. ***BOPA***



Botswana will face Zambia today in a do or die clash in the COSAFA U-20 championships at Mavuso Stadium in eSwatini. Photo: Courtesy of COSAFA

