BOTSWANA Daily News
THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES



SONA fashion highlights

PAGE 7

Nkele reigns supreme at Dithubaruba open

PAGE 8



NEWS

Government strives to shield economy from inflation

Page 2

BUSINESS

Business Botswana welcomes vision

Page 4

DIKGANG

Eppie o tsibosa ka kgokgontsho

Tsebe 5



Boko to advance climate efforts at COP31

President Advocate Duma Boko (centre) with Botswana Defence Force Commander, General Mpho Mophuting on his departure to the leaders Summit of the 31st Conference of Parties (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye yesterday. Photo: Phenyo Ramatu

GABORONE

President Advocate Duma Boko is expected to deliver a national statement at the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) Leaders' Summit where he will highlight Botswana's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to a press release from Botswana Government Communication and Information Systems (BGCIS), President Boko will participate in the Leaders' Summit of the COP31 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Antalya, Turkiye from November 10 to 15.

The release states that COP31 will bring together global leaders, representatives of the private sector and civil society, climate scientists, indigenous people and youth to deliberate on ways to strengthen global climate action by addressing priority areas such as mitigation and adaptation, climate finance, technology transfer, capacity building and loss and damage associated with climate change. "Botswana's participation in COP31 will provide an opportunity for the country to contribute to shaping international climate policy," it says.

The release also states that following his participation in COP31, President Advocate Boko will undertake a state visit to Cote d'Ivoire from November 15 to 18 at the invitation of his counterpart, Mr Alassane Dramane Ouattara.

It further says that during his visit, the two Presidents will hold bilateral talks aimed at strengthening relations and exploring areas for enhanced cooperation in mining, agriculture, trade and investment as well as energy.

"Several bilateral cooperation agreements are expected to be signed upon the conclusion of the official talks," it elaborates.

The release states that as part of the high-level economic cooperation engagements, the President will also officiate at the second edition of the International Extractive Resources and Energy Exhibition (SIREXE) where Botswana will participate as the Country of Honour in recognition of the significant strides it has made in advancing effective mineral resource management and championing natural diamonds for development.

"The President will officiate at a Business Forum aimed at promoting business to business linkages between Botswana and Cote d'Ivoire," it stated.

The release further states that during the President's absence, Vice President Mr Ndaba Gaolathe will assume the role of Acting President. ***BOPA***

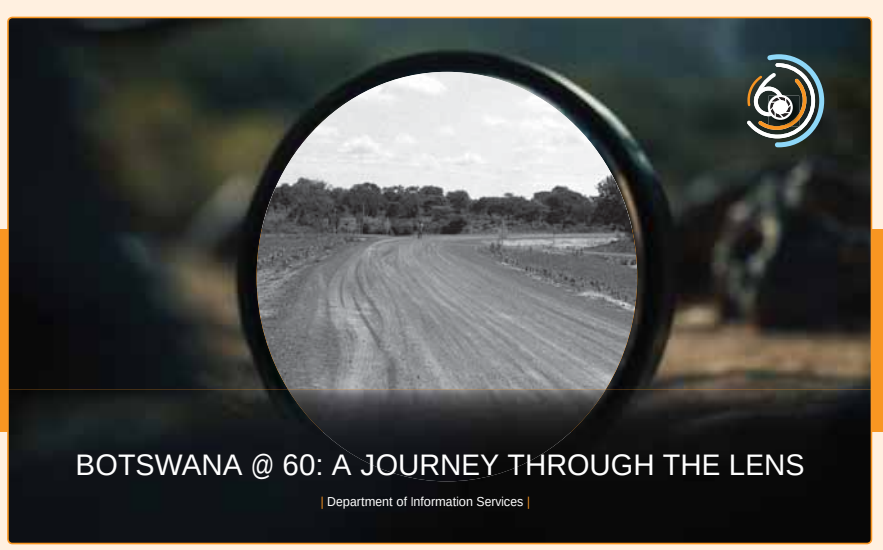
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Legislators express mixed reactions to SONA

Bonang Masolotate
GABORONE

Legislators have expressed mixed reactions towards President Advocate Duma Boko's State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA). Leader of the Opposition, Mr Dumelang Saleshando said promises made during the previous address remained unfulfilled.

He said, as was the case in the previous address, the President had made promises to address challenges facing the country, particularly in the health sector, but little had changed.

He recalled that during the previous public health emergency, President Boko had promised to address shortages of medicines in public health facilities, but the situation remained unresolved.

He also said the President did not update the nation on his previous promise to make public services accessible online.

He said Batswana continued to queue for essential services such as national identity cards, passports and driving licences, despite the promise of digital access.

He further said citizens continued to face economic hardships arising from unemployment and underemployment, while questions remained unanswered about the P4,000 minimum wage.

Mr Saleshando also said the UDC government had promised a constitutional review but had yet to shift its focus to the Constitutional Court.

Meanwhile, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang, believes the speech signalled stability in the country's economic trajectory.



Members of Parliament after the State-of-the-Nation Address in Gaborone on Monday.

Mr Atamelang said his key takeaway from the address was that the country was experiencing stability in its economic trajectory following a turbulent period.

He noted that the President had outlined the government's economic recovery roadmap and plans to diversify the economy.

From his ministry's perspective, Mr Atamelang said one of the key issues highlighted was the maintenance of A1 roads, which had been a longstanding concern.

He also pointed to the Trans-Kalahari Railway project, which had been under discussion for a considerable period.

He said the project's feasibility study had been completed and efforts were now focused on identifying a developer.

Mr Atamelang said the railway project would create employment opportunities for citizens during both construction and operational phases.

He also highlighted the introduction of TANA Metro buses as one of the ministry's new initiatives, saying the service would ease commuters' movement within the city.

He said the electric buses would modernise public transport while promoting environmentally friendly mobility.

He added that their successful rollout would help restore public confidence in public transport, which was currently characterised by inefficiencies.

Mr Atamelang said the projects outlined in the SONA demonstrated that the country was moving in the right direction.

For his part, Thamaga/Kumakwane MP, Mr Palelo Motaosane, said although the address touched on several issues, his key takeaway was Botswana's increased shareholding in De Beers.

He welcomed the planned increase to 30 per cent, expressing hope that the diamond market would recover to the benefit of the country's economy.

However, Mr Motaosane said the President had not adequately addressed bread-and-butter issues, including the reduction in government assistance for hectarage under the agricultural support programme.

He said he had expected the President to outline how farmers would be supported going forward.

He further noted that the address did not explain how hundreds of graduates would be assisted to secure employment and access economic opportunities. ***BOPA***

Government strives to shield economy from inflation

GABORONE

Amid rising cost of living owing to global conflicts and shocks, government strives to protect livelihoods, preserve economic stability and shield economy from inflation, says President Advocate Duma Boko.

In the State-of-the-Nation Address on Monday, President Boko stated that government temporarily suspended fuel levy, road levy and security of supply levy for a period of six months at a cost of approximately P700 million to enhance economic stability amid turbulence and uncertainty.

Nonetheless, he said the country's economy was showing signs of recovery.

The President said the contraction narrowed significantly from 2.8 per cent in 2024 to 0.7 per cent in 2025, supported by improving conditions in the diamond sector and a moderation in the decline of mining activity.

He said macroeconomic fundamentals were also strengthening, with Foreign Exchange Reserves rising by 32.2 per cent to P63.2 billion (USD4.4 billion) in July 2026.

"The growing buffer reflects prudent economic management and reinforces government confidence in Botswana's capacity to navigate global uncertainties," he said.

As part of the government's commitment to building a more inclusive financial system, President Boko said government had facilitated the introduction of a Basic Bank Account to expand access to affordable banking services, particularly for Batswana in the low-income bracket earning less than P4,000 per month.

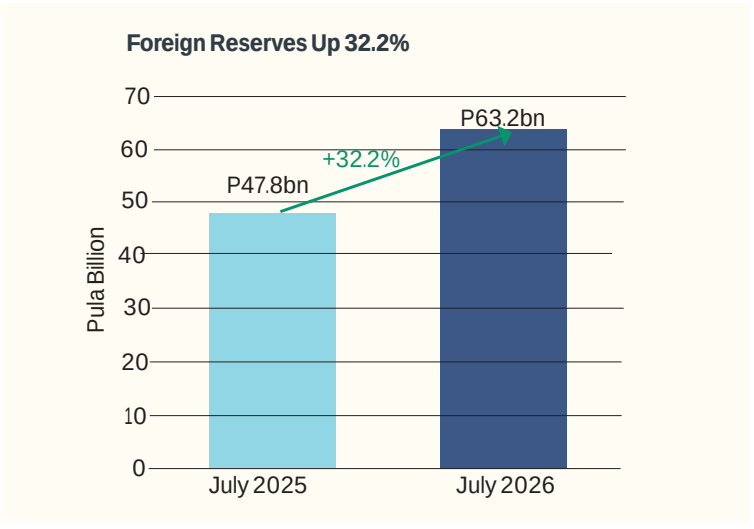
He explained that the account attracted no monthly maintenance fees and required a minimum opening deposit of only P50.

"Deposits are free, as are the first three withdrawals each month and the first Bank Card is free of charge," he said.

Also, he said to improve Botswana's financial payments system, reduce the cost of doing business and increase the speed at which money circulates through the economy, government has introduced an additional payment clearing window at 5pm, extending the previous 3pm cut-off.

This reform, he said would enable more payments to be processed on the same working day, thereby improving cash flow for businesses, suppliers and households.

He stated that during the period February 2026 to October 2026, transactions valued at P66.92 billion were processed through the additional clearing window, demonstrating its significant contribution to the efficiency of national payments system.



He also spoke of efforts toward protecting businesses that keep people employed, noting that since January 2026 to October 2026, government settled 216 050 supplier invoices valued at over P62 billion, reinforcing cash flow and job security for local businesses.

President Boko said government continued to investigate and address concerns pertaining to legacy outstanding payments.

"During the last SONA, I announced the intention to establish the Botswana Mercantile Exchange (BMX) to support commodity trading, price discovery and risk management, thereby diversifying the economy and firmly positioning Botswana as a hub for regional trade. I am delighted to report that we have made progress in this area. The BMX, which was soft-launched in March 2026, commenced trading in red sorghum, with further commodity and cross-listing arrangements still being worked out," he said.

He said Botswana Financial Services Centre (BFSC) was now at the stage of securing implementation partners ahead of the commencement of the project in the next financial year.

President Boko said at the moment they were finalising Botswana's very first comprehensive National Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) framework.

"The framework is our passport to the future economy, establishing clear rules and transparent goals," he said.

President Boko said Botswana was being positioned as a socially conscious and sustainable green investment destination.

With a view to enhance global competitiveness of domestic enterprises, he said government has established a specialised fund to mitigate structural constraints faced by exporters.

He said an amount of P15 million in the current financial year has been allocated to the fund.

To date, President Boko said 78 companies have registered to participate, therefore urging national export community to utilise the mechanism to expand their production volumes and global reach.

He indicated that as the country prepared for international scrutiny through upcoming credit reviews expected in March-April 2027, and financial crime assessments in July 2027, government will monitor implementation and take corrective action wherever weaknesses were identified. ***BOPA***

Botswana shifts focus to high-yield farming

GABORONE

President Advocate Duma Boko says Botswana's focus on food production is shifting towards achieving higher yields on fewer hectares rather than allocating more funds to ploughing larger areas, as the nation seeks to strengthen food security and cushion itself against severe El Niño weather patterns.

Delivering the State-of-the-Nation Address in Gaborone Monday, President Boko noted that the strategy was already yielding positive results through the Lemang Dijo programme, which aimed to transform the country into a high-yield agricultural producer.

"In the last season, we distributed 74 846 Lemang Dijo vouchers valued at P191 million, resulting in 64 295 hectares planted nationwide," he said.

The President commended Mr Tlou Omphemetse of Moshaweng village alongside 11 top-performing farmers from Nswazwi, Tutume, Mokatako, Gasita, Mopipi and Sese North, who harvested over four tonnes per hectare.

That accomplishment, he stated, demonstrated how Lemang Dijo was turning Botswana into a high-yield producer.

He emphasised that a small-farm and ultra-high-yield approach would be crucial to weathering the harsh impacts of El Niño.

On the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in Zones 11 and 13, President Boko said the outbreak dealt a severe blow to the beef industry, halting exports and reducing abattoir offtake to 4 725 tonnes against a target of 70 000 tonnes.



Lemang Dijo programme, which aims at transforming the country into a high-yield agricultural producer is already yielding positive results.

In response, to fight the outbreak, he said the government deployed P97 million in emergency funding and also continued to commit additional resources.

"Through rezoning and intensified surveillance, we are restoring Botswana's FMD-free status," he added.

He thanked the citizens, farmers, businesses and communities for uniting with a singular purpose to protect the national herd, during the outbreak, saying their patriotism demonstrated that the country's strength laid in its people.

Furthermore, President Boko revealed that as at September 30 this year, dairy cows had been imported for Milk Valley Farm in Lobatse, bringing the farm's total herd to 874, following his pronouncement, last year, on the planned importation of 1 000 elite Girolando dairy cows from Brazil.

He said the farm was targeting approximately 15 million litres of milk, annually, at full operational capacity, with potential to meet up to 23 per cent of the national milk demand. Beyond milk production, the President said the strategic investment would support local feed supply chains, dairy processing, skills development and broader citizen participation in the agriculture value chain.

Regarding the poultry sector, President Boko expressed delight that the sector continued to perform exceptionally well and had started to export. In July 2026, he said one local producer achieved a historic milestone by exporting the first consignment of hatching eggs to Mozambique.

During the 2025/2026 financial year export season, he said citrus was the main plant-and-plant-products commodity exported, accounting for approximately 10 500 tonnes, representing 20 per cent of total exports of the sub-sector.

He added that Botswana's citrus fruits were mainly exported to the European Union, Asia, North America and other parts of Africa. ***BOPA***

Dikoloti announces additional subsidies for productive farmers

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

At least 274 farmers who produced more than two tonnes during the 2025/2026 farming season will benefit from an additional government subsidy equivalent to assistance covering one hectare, Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti has said.

Addressing farmers during the 2025 Grain Producers Awards for Micro Farmers and Gulugwe Cluster Harvest handing-over ceremony in Gaborone Monday, Minister Dikoloti said the move was a deliberate intervention to encourage farmers to increase production and to recognise those who demonstrated commitment to achieving tangible results.

"It is important that farmers understand the direction government is taking. We will continue to provide support but, we will increasingly strengthen the link between public investment, performance and measurable outcomes. Let this be understood across the agricultural sector that government will reward excellence, recognise productivity and create opportunities for farmers who demonstrate that they can produce more with the resources available to them," he said.

Minister Dikoloti said that as they celebrated the achievements of farmers, they must acknowledge the realities confronting agricultural production, particularly the increasing threat posed by climate variability and the current El Nino related weather risks.

He said the prospect of prolonged dry spells, erratic rainfall and rising temperatures presented risks to crop establishment, growth and overall productivity as the conditions required them to rethink conventional farming practices and accelerate the adoption of climate-smart and water-efficient production systems.

"It is against this background that government is promoting Go Kabela Initiative which seeks to encourage farmers to adopt conservation agriculture principles and climate-resilient farming practices. Go Kabela is not simply another agricultural campaign. It is a strategic response to the changing climate and the need to safeguard agricultural production, protect soil health and improve the efficient utilisation of scarce water resources," he said.

He also said that through the Go Kabela initiative, government was encouraging farmers to adopt practices such as minimum soil disturbance, appropriate soil cover through mulching and crop residues, improved water harvesting, timely planting and other moisture conservation techniques.

"I therefore wish to encourage our farmers to embrace the Go Kabela Initiative and work closely with agricultural extension officers to acquire the necessary knowledge and practical skills," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Dikoloti awarded 12 farmers from various districts with farming implements, saying they had demonstrated that agriculture was not merely an activity for subsistence but an enterprise with the potential to generate wealth, create opportunities and contribute meaningfully to national development. The implements awarded included an 18 horsepower walk-behind tractor, complete with a planter, a rotavator and a disc plough.

"The awards being presented today are therefore not merely gifts. They are strategic investments in productive farming enterprises and incentives for other farmers to inspire to higher levels of performance. May these tractors and their accompanying implements become instruments of greater productivity, expand production and lasting success," he said

Representing the Botswana Seed Industry Association, Mr Tebogo Motingwa said every grain harvest begun with a seed whose quality, genetic potential and suitability to local growing conditions shaped what a farmer could achieve.

He said the Seed industry Association role extended from developing, producing and supplying quality seed to helping farmers make informed choices about varieties and their management.

"A strong seed industry gives farmers reliable options, supports food security and creates opportunities for local production, skills and indeed employment," he said.

He said early engagement helped the association members to prepare supplies and align them with farmers' needs. He also said the sector's true north was clear; to raise agricultural contribution to at least six per cent of Botswana's gross domestic product.

He further said that the 12 farmers awarded gifts showed why small scale producers deserved a meaningful place in the national ambition.

Phoenix of Botswana Insurance Company, Chief Executive officer, Mr Carlson Chiswo said the volatility of the weather in Botswana was not a surprise but a norm and the people had to adapt to live within the El Nino phenomena.

Mr Chiswo said that as phoenix of Botswana, they believed in developing products that were relevant.

"Through our transformation of the Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme, which we have been privileged to be assigned to transform, we have introduced parametric solutions. Parametric insurance solutions speak to index-based insurance programmes that respond to specific needs of our farmers," he said. ***BOPA***

> "Let this be understood across the agricultural sector that government will reward excellence, recognise productivity and create opportunities for farmers who demonstrate that they can produce more with the resources available to them."
>
> **Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti**



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Business Botswana welcomes vision



Lindi Morwaeng
GABORONE

Business Botswana has welcomed President Duma Boko's emphasis on productive economic transformation and greater private-sector participation, but says concerns over government insourcing, labour legislation and the ease of doing business remain unresolved.

Reacting to the State of the Nation Address (SONA) delivered during the Third Session of the 13th Parliament on Monday, Business Botswana acting chief executive officer, Mr Tsholofelo Mpaphi, said the President's economic vision provided encouragement to the private sector, which had consistently advocated for a business-driven approach to economic transformation.

He said the reaffirmation of a private-sector-led economy was particularly important as it gave businesses confidence that they would remain key partners in government's efforts to transform and diversify the economy.

Mr Mpaphi welcomed the emphasis on productive diversification, saying the private sector had long advocated for the development and expansion of productive sectors to strengthen the economy.

He also welcomed the institutional reform agenda, particularly the focus on improving the efficiency of state institutions, noting that some institutions, especially regulatory bodies, had created challenges for businesses.He said Business Botswana had consistently called for the rationalisation of institutions to improve efficiency and ensure their operations did not unnecessarily constrain private-sector participation.

The organisation also looked forward to further engagement on the State-Owned Enterprises Ownership Policy and measures aimed at making utilities more competitive and supportive of economic development.

However, Mr Mpaphi said some aspects of government's policy direction remained a source of concern, particularly the Public Service Insourcing Programme and its possible implications for businesses that had grown through government outsourcing arrangements.

President Boko told Parliament that the programme, launched on April 1, 2026, was projected to absorb approximately 9 380 Batswana into better-paying jobs, with 4 366 eligible temporary employees already absorbed into permanent positions.

While government has presented the programme as part of its commitment to decent work and employment security, Mr Mpaphi said Business Botswana was concerned about its potential impact on businesses, particularly those operating in the private security sector.

He argued that many businesses had been established and created employment opportunities through outsourcing arrangements, warning that insourcing could threaten their sustainability and the livelihoods of their employees.

"We have always felt that they are not aligned with a private-sector-led economy," he said, calling for further engagement between government and businesses to develop a model that balanced decent work with business sustainability.

Mr Mpaphi also raised concerns about the Employment and Labour Relations Act, saying some of its requirements were onerous and did not adequately take into account the prevailing economic conditions under which businesses operated.

He said Business Botswana had participated in the consultation and negotiation processes but remained dissatisfied with certain provisions that it believed required further discussion.

He explained that some issues remained unresolved during negotiations, with the approval process proceeding despite businesses believing there was still room for further engagement.

He nevertheless welcomed the establishment of structures under the Act, saying they presented an opportunity to review the legislation and address concerns raised by stakeholders.

Mr Mpaphi said Business Botswana hoped the review process would strike a balance between decent work, workers' rights and business sustainability.

On the ease of doing business, he said the organisation had expected more decisive attention to removing administrative bottlenecks that continued to affect business operations.

He cited business registration, licensing procedures, payment processes and visa applications within the tourism sector as areas requiring urgent intervention.

Although the President had previously acknowledged the challenges posed by red tape, Mr Mpaphi said businesses wanted clearer measures on how government intended to address the obstacles.

Meanwhile, President Boko reported that government had settled 216 050 supplier invoices valued at more than P62 billion between January and October 2026, saying the payments were intended to strengthen cash flow and protect jobs in local businesses.

Mr Mpaphi said Business Botswana appreciated the positive direction outlined in the address but believed sustained engagement and effective implementation would be essential in creating an environment where businesses could grow, remain sustainable and contribute meaningfully to employment creation and economic transformation. ***BOPA***



Business Botswana is rallying behind President Advocate Duma Boko's vision to drive economic transformation, calling it a major confidence boost for the private sector. Acting CEO, Mr Tsholofelo Mpaphi highlighted that the government's commitment to a private-sector-led economy aligned with what businesses had been advocating for.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Web Summit opens with record Chinese tech presence

LISBON - Web Summit 2026 opened in Lisbon on Monday with a record presence of Chinese technology companies and around 70 000 participants expected over four days, organisers said. Addressing the opening ceremony, Web Summit founder and CEO Paddy Cosgrave said this year's event attracted participants from over 160 countries, making it the most international edition. Highlighting China's rapid advances in AI, robotics, automobiles and energy, Cosgrave said future technology superstars would increasingly come from China and that Chinese companies were playing an increasingly important role in shaping global technological development. With sessions covering a range of topics such as humanoid robots, embodied AI, autonomous agents and industrial applications. ***Xinhua***

Experts meet to tackle illicit financial flows

KAMPALA - African financial experts on Monday began a five-day meeting in Uganda to discuss ways to combat the growing threat of illicit financial flows fueled by digital technologies, complex financial systems and cross-border criminal networks. The Africa Financial Intelligence Summit 2026 has brought together delegates from 36 countries under the theme: Securing Africa's Financial Future: Intelligence, Innovation and Integrated Enforcement in an Era of Borderless Financial Crime.Uganda's Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Henry Musasizi said Africa was at a defining moment as financial crime continued to grow in scale, speed and sophistication alongside the rapid expansion of digital finance. ***Xinhua***

Mining and energy core to Cote d'Ivoire economic diversification

ABIDJAN - Cote d'Ivoire aims to mobilise 38 trillion CFA francs (about US$66 billion) by 2040 to develop its mining, oil and energy sectors, doubling their combined contribution to GDP to nearly 14 per cent, according to a policy document presented by the government on Monday. The Integrated Mineral Resources and Energy Policy (PIRME), presented in Abidjan by Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, seeks to make the three sectors a second pillar of the economy alongside agriculture. The investment programme will be funded mainly by the private sector, which is expected to provide 88 per cent of the total funding, with the public sector contributing the rest. Key projects include a mineral port in San Pedro, railway lines for mineral transportation and a second oil refinery in the port city. The policy also aims to improve infrastructure. ***Xinhua***

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Eppie o tsibosa ka kgokgontsho

Relief Lephutshi
NTLHANTLE

Bontsi jwa bana ba ba itemogelang dikgang tsa kgokgontsho le tshotlako gantsi ba na le poifo ya go ka ntsha mosi ka sekhurumelo mme se se ame isago ya bone ka ntlha ya kgatelelo ya maikutlo le go tlhoka tlhokomelesego go tswa kwa batsading.

Se se boletswe ke mongwe wa dikgantshwane tsa batabogi, Rre Bhekempilo Eppie mo potsolotsong morago ga mogwanto o o neng o itebagantse le go rotloetsa thata ba-na-le bogole ga mmogo le tshireletsego ya bana.

Mogwanto oo, o ne o tshwaretswe kwa Ntlhantlhe ka Labotlhano, ka fa tlase ga setlhogo sa : Ditshwanelo Tsame, Boikarabelo jwame, Bokamoso Jwame.

Mmampudi yo wa mabelo o gakolotse bana ba sekole le ba ba sa tseneng sekole go nna podimatseba mo dikgannyeng tse di ba gatelelang, segolo jang tse di ba dirang ba-tswa-setlhabelo mo go tsa kgokgontshong le tshotlako ka go ema kgatlhanong le diemo kgotsa maitemogelo ape a a ka supang diemo tsa go nna jalo mo matshelong a bone.

O gakolotse bana gore ba ithute go bua le barutabana ba bone, bagokgo kgotsa bagolo ba ba mo tikologong ka tse di ba diragalelang kwa malapeng a bone.

A re dikgang di tshwana le go thibela bana go tsena sekole kgotsa go ilediwa dithuto ke dikgang tse di diragalang mme o tsibosa baithuti botlhokwa jwa go bolelela mongwe yoo gaufi jaaka bagagisanyi, kgotsa mongwe yo o gaufi le bone.

Erile a rola maikaelelo a letsatsi mongwe wa barulaganyi ba letsatsi e bile e le mogokgo wa sekole se segolwane sa Emang kwa Ntlhantlhe, Rre Israel Tshikare, a tlhalosa fa maikaelelo e le go tsibosa batsadi le bana ka ditshwanelo tsa bana le boikarabelo jo bo solofelwang.

Mangwe maikaelelo ke go rotloetsa tshireletso ya bana kgatlhanong le tshotlako ga mmogo le go itlhokomolodisiwa ga bana, go sireletsa bana go inaakanya le diritibatsi ga mmogo le nnotagi, go tsibosa batsadi gore ba lemoge fa bana ba ba nang le bogole ba tshwana e bile ba lekana fela le ba ba senang bogole.

Rre Tshikare o sedimositse fa go le dikgang tse dintsi tse jaaka bana ba itlhokomolositsweng, ka ntlha ya gore batsadi ba bone ba ba tlogetse le bo mo nkukuabone ba ba sa tlholeng ba kgona sepe.

"Bangwe bana go itshupa fa tiro ya bone ya sekole e sa tlhokomelwe ke batsadi mme se digela maduo a baithuti le madi aa kwa tlase," ga tlhalosa mogokgo a tlatsa ka gore bana ba le bantsi ba mo tlhokomelong ya puso ka kemo-nokeng ya dikhansele, mme e le bana ba ba nang le batsadi.

Fa a tsibosa ka molao tebang le kgokgontsho kgotsa tshotlako ya bana, Constable Onkutlule Boifang go tswa kwa Lobatse Child Friendly Centre o tlhalositse gore go palelwa ke go bega kgetse ya ngwana yo o tlhokang tshireletso kwa ntle ga lebaka le le utlwalang go ka baka gore motho a lefisiwe madi a a seng kwa tlase ga P5,000 mme a sa fete P10,000.

O tlhalositse fa mo molaong wa bana wa 2009; Section 25 sub-section 3, o tlhalosa fa go dirisana le motho yo mongwe yo o sotlang ngwana ka thobalano kgotsa yo o mo dirisang botlhaswa, go ka atlholelwa tuelo e e seng kwa tlase ga P30,000 mme e sa fete P50,000 kgotsa kgolegelo ya sebaka se seng kwa tlase ga dingwaga di le tlhano mme e sa fete dingwaga di le 15.



Sekgantshwane sa mabelo, Rre Bhekempilo Eppie (mojeng) o tlhalositse fa bana ba le bantsi ba ba itemogelang tshotlako le kgokgontsho ba tshaba go bua ka diemo tse ba diraletseng. O ba rotloeditse go begela barutabana ga mmogo le ba ba gaufi le bone.

A re go palelwa ke go bega kgetse ya tshotlako ya ngwana kgotsa tiriso botlhaswa ya ngwana go ka atlholelwa madi a a kwa tlase ga P10,000 mme e sa fete P30,000 kgotsa kgolegelo e e seng kwa tlase ga dingwaga di le pedi mme e sa fete dingwaga di le tharo kgotsa ka bobedi joo.

O tlhalositse fa go tlhokomologa le go tshwara bana botlhaswa, mo go ka bakelang modira molato go lefisiwa madi a a seng kwa tlase ga P5,000 mme a sa fete P20,000 kgotsa go tsenngwa mo kgolegelong lobaka lo lo seng kwa tlase ga dingwaga di le thataro mme e seng kwa tlase ga dingwaga tse pedi go ya ka Section 56, sub-section 1 mo molaong wa bana wa 2009.

A re Section 61 mo molaong o, e supa fa go tshwarwa bosetlhogo kgotsa go otlhaya ngwana go ka atlholelwa tuediso e e seng kwa tlase ga P30,000, mme e sa fete P50,000, kgotsa go tsenngwa mo kgolegelong lobaka lo lo seng kwa tlase ga dingwaga di le supa mme e seng go feta dingwaga di le lesome kgotsa melato e ka bobedi.

Go ganela ngwana ka tshono ya go tsena sekolo go ka atlholelwa madi a a seng kwa tlase ga P5,000, mme a sa fete P10,000, fela jalo le go thapa ngwana wa dingwaga tse di sa letleng go se ka fa molaong e bile go ka atlholelwa dikgwedi tse di seng kwa tlase ga lesome le bobedi mme e seng go feta dingwaga di le tlhano kgotsa madi a a seng kwa tlase ga P10,000 mme a sa feteP30 000 kgotsa melato e ka bobedi. ***BOPA***

Mapodisi a duba thankga kwa Tsabong

Cathrine Simane
TSABONG

Mapodisi a Tsabong kwa Kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Borwa ba re ga ba jesiwe diwelang ke borukutlhi jo bo farologanyeng jo bo ileng magoletsa bogolo jang jwa didirisiwa tsa motlakase. .

Mo potsolosong le ba BOPA bosheng mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong Superintendent Monnathebe Mphela o ne a tlhalosa fa bogodu jwa kopore bo ile magoletsa bogolo jang mo matlong a puso a go sa nneng ope mo go one.

Supt Mphela o ne a tswelela a tlhalosa fa go simolola ka Lwetsi ngwaga oo fetileng go fitlha mo nakong eno ba setse ba gatisitse dikgetsi di le boherabobedi. A re magotswana ao go ya ka ditlhotlhomiso tsa mapodisi go lemosegile fa ba tsweletse ka go senya le go utswa le gone go gokolola megala ya motlakase mo matlong aa setseng go sena ope morago ga gore badirelapuso ba huduge go ya go berekela go sele.

Supt Mphela o ne a supa fa gape magodu ao a utswa le mo motseng wa Tsabong mo matlong a a sa nneng ope mo go one, a supa fa mapodisi ba tshwere badira molato ba le batlhano le moreki a le mongwe mo palong eo mabapi le borukutlhi joo.

O ne a supa fa gape ba tshwenngwa ke dikgang tsa petelelo tse di kekelang mo kgaolong ya gagwe ka mapodisi ba setse ba gatisitse di le boherabobedi ngwaga oo fetileng fa ngwaga ono di le borataro.

Supt Mphela o boletse fa dikgang tse gantsi di amang bomme mme ditshekatsheko di supa gore tlhakanelo dikobo eo ee sa dumalanwang e diragala morago ga maitiso a marekisetso a bojalwa.

A re gantsi badiramolato ke bakapelo ba bomme bao.

Mo godimo ga moo, Supt Mphela a re mapodisi ga ba jesiwe dilweng ke dikgang tsa tlhakanelo dikobo le basetsanyana ba ba dingwaga tse di kwa tlase ga lesome le boherabobedi tse tsone di leng tlhano ka palo go tswa ngwaga oo fetieng go fitlha mo ngwageng ono.

Supt Mphela o boletse fa ba tshwenngwa ke dikgang tsa kgokgontsho tse di felelang di baka dintwa tse di le tsone di ileng magoletsa ka mapodisi ba setse ba begetswe di le borataro ngwaga oo fetileng mme ngwaga ono ba gatisitse di le lesome.

Mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong o boletse fa borukutlhi jo bongwe jo bo kwa godimo kwa kgaolong ya gagwe e le jwa bogodu jwa dihutshane jo bo simologileng morago ga gore go bulelwe go tlhabiwa ga tsone ka jaana go ne go tswaletswe ka lebaka la go laola kanamo ya bolwetsi jwa tlhako le molomo.

Supt Mphela o boletse fa magodu ba utswa dihutshane morago ba di tlhabe mme ba rekisetse setshaba ka bokukuntshwane, a tlatsa ka go gakolola setshaba go emisa nama kwa go sa letlelesegeng teng mme ba e reke kwa marekisetsong a nama ka a na le diteseletso le gore nama e a bo e tlhatlhobilwe.

Supt Mphela o ne a supa fa ba setse ba gatisitse dikgetsi di le lesome le botlhano ts bogodu jwa dihutshan, mme ba ne ba tshwara badira molato ba le lesome le bongwe a supa fa badisa gantsi e le bone ba amegang mo borukutlhing joo.

Mo go tse dingwe mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong o ne a supa fa ba tshwenngwa gape ke bangwe beng ba marekisetso a bojalwa ka modumo oo kwa godimo e bile ba ntsheditse diletso tsa bone kwa ntle mme seo e le molato o ba ka atlholwang madi aa sa feteng P500,00.

O ne a gakolola le beng ba dikereke dingwe ka le bone jaanong go utlwala modumo oo feteletseng bogolo jang mo maitseboeng mme a ba kopa go ikgapha ka go dira jalo ka go sa letlelesege. ***BOPA***

Gare calls for clarity on issues affecting Batswana

Lindi Morwaeng
GABORONE

Reactions to President Advocate Duma Boko's State-of-the-Nation Address have highlighted varied expectations, with political and institutional leaders calling for greater clarity on issues affecting ordinary Batswana, stronger accountability and improved governance.

Leader of the Minority Opposition in Parliament and Member of Parliament for Moshupa/Manyana, Mr Karabo Gare, welcomed some of the initiatives outlined in the address but said several pressing issues affecting the lives and livelihoods of Batswana required greater attention.

Mr Gare said although aspects of the address offered hope, people were still seeking clear answers on the availability of medicines in health facilities.

"Batswana want a clear message on the status of medicine supplies. They want to know where the medicines are," he said. He also expressed concern over the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak, which he said had severely affected Batswana, particularly families dependent on livestock for their livelihoods.

While acknowledging Government's efforts to contain the disease, Mr Gare said farmers needed clear guidance on how they could continue trading and earning an income amid the outbreak. He noted that some households depended entirely on cattle sales to meet their financial needs, arguing that the country needed practical ways of managing the disease while safeguarding livelihoods.

"The President could have stated ways of living with the disease. If the issue of foot-and-mouth disease does not come out clearly, it becomes difficult for us to talk to Batswana," he said. Mr Gare further raised concern over the rising cost of living, saying inflation was placing households under increasing financial pressure.

He called on government to communicate clearly and in simple terms the social protection measures and relief programmes available to assist struggling households. On the economy, he welcomed the planned increase in Botswana's shareholding in De Beers from 15 to 30 per cent, describing it as a positive development if properly structured and financially managed.

He also commended the President for acknowledging projects initiated by the previous administration and continued by the current Government.

He cited the Metro Bus project and the Chobe-Zambezi water infrastructure project as examples of initiatives whose continuation he welcomed. Meanwhile, Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Kgosietsile Ngakaagae, said the forensic audit was among the most significant issues in the address from his institution's perspective.

Mr Ngakaagae said the DPP had been preparing for the work ahead through engagements, meetings and strategic planning with relevant institutions. "The President is right. We have been preparing for this behind the scenes as government. There has been a series of meetings, strategizing, and we have been burning the midnight oil over the forensic audit, trying to ensure that we do not do a shoddy job," he said.

He said the institution was preparing for the assignment, emphasising the need for thoroughness in handling matters arising from the audit.

Mr Ngakaagae also highlighted the need to strengthen the capacity of investigative institutions, including the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), as well as special investigation and asset-tracing structures.

He said the DPP had been working with the law enforcement cluster to develop an appropriate model for strengthening these institutions.

"At DPP, we have shared reports on what we need to be capacitated with," he said.

For her part, Jacqueline Basina, a business law partner and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) advisor, said the central message she took from the address was the importance of sustainability and stronger governance.

Ms Basina said the forensic audit had brought governance challenges to light, highlighting the need to address them and foster a culture of accountability.

She also welcomed the planned reporting guidelines for State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and the development of an ESG framework, saying these would help strengthen governance structures within public entities. "Economic failures around the world have been centred around governance failures. So I think addressing that is a big part of moving towards the economy blooming," she said.

Ms Basina said strengthening governance and accountability was essential to laying the foundation for sustainable economic growth. *BOPA*



Maun East MP, Mr Goretetse Kekgonegile, said there was need for clear implementation timelines for projects such as the Special Economic Zones Authority and Milk Valley, which had been in the pipeline for a long time but were beginning to take shape.

'Address shows promising outlook'

Bonang Masolotate
GABORONE

Chairperson of Madibelathopho, Mr Michael Keakopa, said the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) has laid a solid foundation for how government intends to fulfil its promises to voters. He said this on the sidelines of President Advocate Duma Boko's SONA on Monday.

Mr Keakopa expressed hope that the promises made by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) ahead of the previous elections, which saw it voted into power, would ultimately be fulfilled.

"It has been very difficult, even where we took off, but the path is showing where we are heading, even the light is beginning to show," he said, reflecting on his takeaways from the address.

He said the country would have been in a dire situation had it not been for the visionary leadership of the UDC, pointing to the state of the economy the party inherited when it assumed power.

He added that the public was also beginning to show confidence in the interventions being implemented to move the country forward.

Mr Keakopa said the President had outlined the country's economic recovery, noting that when the UDC took over, government was struggling to pay workers' salaries, a situation he said had since changed. He further said government had managed to service loans and debts inherited from the previous administration, a development which had improved liquidity in the banking sector and ultimately lowered interest rates.

He urged Batswana to listen to and study the speech attentively, saying they would realise that the country was returning to its glory days.

He said President Boko had demonstrated through his actions that the country had crossed the bridge of economic uncertainty. Mr Keakopa added that job creation was beginning to gain momentum and that more positive changes would become evident before the end of President Boko's first term.

Meanwhile, Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Executive Secretary, Mr Ame Makoba, said although the President had highlighted promises and positive developments, the address did not reflect the true state of affairs in the country. He said Batswana continued to face daily challenges in service delivery, citing government's failure to print drivers' licences and delays in the issuance of national identity cards.

He said farmers were also grappling with the effects of Foot and Mouth Disease, adding that these concerns were not adequately addressed in the President's speech.



Mr Michael Keakopa

Mr Makoba further argued that some of the achievements highlighted by the President were the result of programmes initiated by the BDP, citing the Diamond for Development Fund and Airport City.

He said it was encouraging that the President had acknowledged that not everything implemented by the previous administration was bad and that some initiatives deserved to be continued.

Maun East MP, Mr Goretetse Kekgonegile, said the address had both positives and negatives, adding that the UDC government was finally realising that some of its campaign promises were unattainable.

He said the country's economic performance could not sustain the UDC's promises, making it difficult for government to fulfil its pre-election pledges. He added that the President should have acknowledged this reality much earlier.

However, Mr Kekgonegile noted that projects such as the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) and Milk Valley, which had been in the pipeline for a long time, were beginning to take shape under President Boko. Despite welcoming the progress, he said the projects lacked clear implementation timelines.

He also expressed disappointment that the President had not addressed the implementation of the Employment and Labour Relations Act, which he said was critical to ensuring workers received the P4 000 minimum wage. He said the delay disadvantaged workers, who continued to face exploitation by employers, adding that government had missed an opportunity to set the tone on workers' rights and protection. ***BOPA***

Arts & Culture

State-of-the-Nation Address fashion highlights

Lindi Morwaeng
GABORONE

Fashion became an expression of national pride, optimism and personal identity as dignitaries, Members of Parliament and invited guests gathered for the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) during the Third Session of the 13th Parliament on Monday.

While attention was firmly focused on President Advocate Duma Boko's address and the country's development priorities, the arrivals also provided a colourful display of fashion, with guests using their attire to communicate patriotism, dignity and hope for a brighter future.

From elegant dresses in a rainbow of colours to carefully selected suits in shades of blue, grey and black, the gathering brought together diverse fashion tastes, with a noticeable appreciation for earth tones and African-inspired designs.

For some, however, dressing for the national gathering went beyond appearance, providing an opportunity to make a statement about Botswana and its aspirations.

Dineo Saleshando, who has become something of a familiar fashion attraction at SONA gatherings, once again drew attention with her choice of clothing, this time drawing inspiration from the country's national colours. Although she did not consider herself a fashion icon, Saleshando said she enjoyed looking good and deliberately chose a theme for the gathering each year.

"I do love looking good and every year I choose a theme. This year, basically, I am just inspired by my own country. It is a State of the Nation Address, why not try the blue and show the world that our blue is quite nice?" she said.

Saleshando, who wore a creation from Essentric Style Loft, said her choice was an expression of appreciation for Botswana. For Thato Selemogwe, her floral dress represented excellence, a quality she believes should define Botswana's identity. "The look is inspired by excellence. Botswana should be known for excellence.

If you look at the diamond studs in my dress, I want to believe that they represent my country and what we are known for," she said. Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Pushie Manyeneng, opted for earth tones, which she said reflected her pride in being Motswana.

Her choice of colours also reflected her anticipation of the President's address and the positive frame of mind in which she approached the parliamentary gathering. "I am looking forward to what is going to be said by the President. Even my clothing shows. I just wanted to brighten up, even my mind. I am wearing earth colours to show that I am a proud Motswana," she said. Gaborone Mayor, Oarabile Motlaleng, brought an international flavour to his fashion choice, drawing ideas from his wife and designers in different countries.

He said he independently selected the different elements to communicate the diversity and inclusivity associated with his role as Mayor of the capital city, which hosts people of different nationalities. Meanwhile, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, viewed his clothing as an extension of his responsibility and respect for the people he represents. He said public representatives should maintain a dignified appearance, particularly during important national events. "As a Member of Parliament and as a representative of the people, I have to look the part and respect the people I represent, and that has to show even in my outfit. I should look dignified. I respect this day and have to look the part," he said.

For Ramotswa MP, Boniface Mabeo, the gathering called for a straightforward approach to dressing, as he simply selected one of his existing suits. Describing himself as an ordinary man with limited interest in fashion, Mabeo said his focus remained on the business of the day.

"I took one of the suits I have. I am just a normal guy. I do not know much about fashion," he said, adding that he viewed the event as business as usual. One of the most colourful fashion statements came from Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Lesego Chombo, whose attire carried a message of hope and renewal, particularly for young people. Chombo said her colourful ensemble symbolised the hope for a new dawn and reflected the aspirations of young Batswana and their expectations for the country's future. "My outfit is inspired by the hope for a new dawn. That is why it is this colourful and that is also the choice of colour in it. It reflects what a lot of young people are looking forward to in the SONA and what they hope will come out of it," she said. ***BOPA***



Speaker of the National Assembly, Dithapelo Keorapetse and wife, Katlego did not disappoint as they arrived for SONA in style.



Leader of Opposition, Dumelang Saleshando and wife, Dineo rocked up in coordinated navy-blue outfits.



Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti and wife Maipelo made a stylish entrance in coordinated black suits and ties.



Gaborone Mayor Oarabile Motlaleng arriving at Parliament in style.



Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Lesego Chombo made a bold fashion statement.

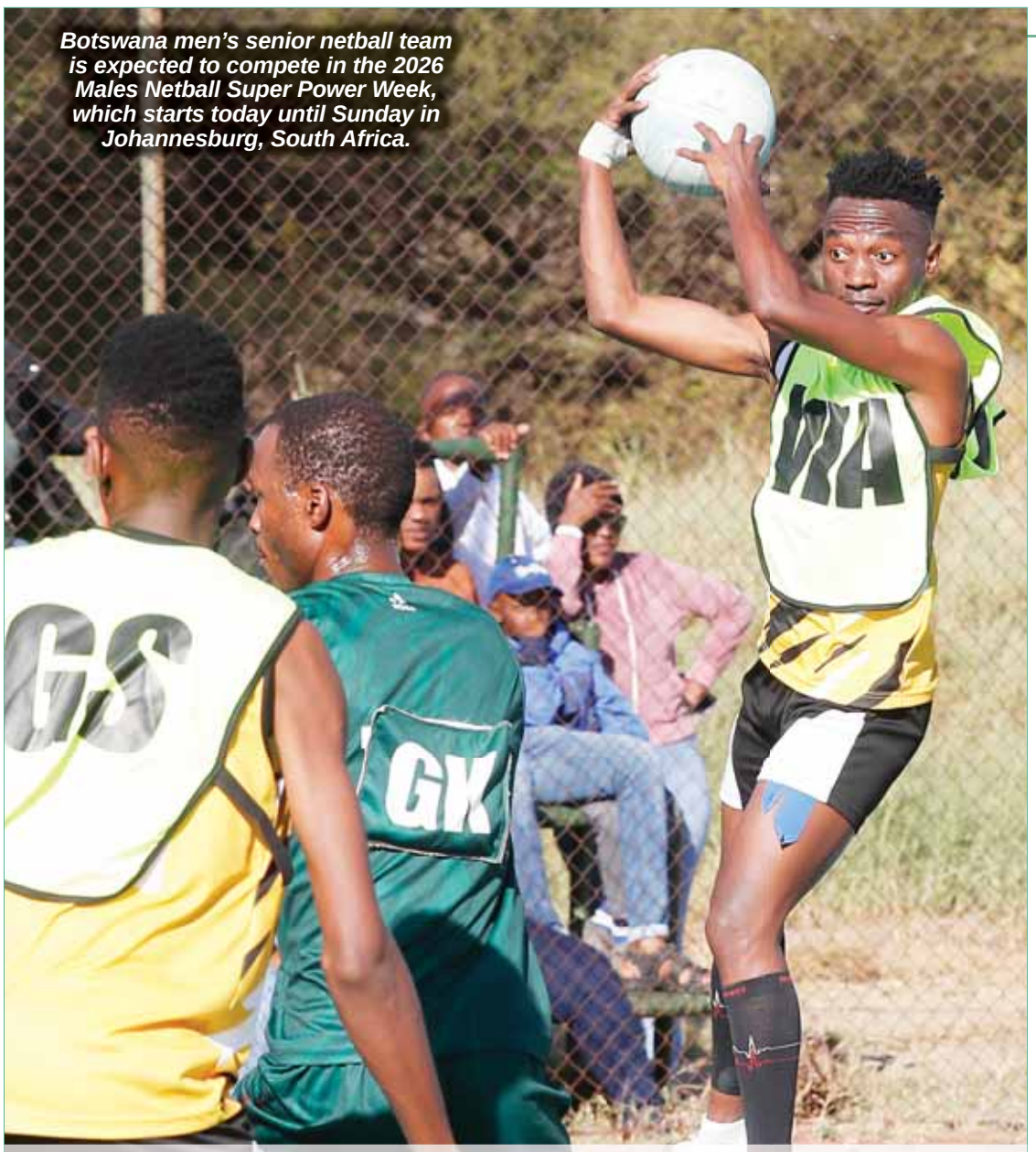


Rethabile Boko turned heads as she arrived for SONA.



Malebogo Mpugwa's elegance and style took centre stage in the red carpet.

DailySport



Botswana men's senior netball team is expected to compete in the 2026 Males Netball Super Power Week, which starts today until Sunday in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Men netball team starts Super Power Week campaign

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Botswana men's senior netball team is expected to compete in the 2026 Males Netball Super Power Week, which starts today until Sunday in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The competition, to be held at Wembley Indoor Arena, will bring together teams from the region, providing Botswana with an opportunity to test its strength against international opposition.

Botswana has been drawn in the Green Pool alongside Zimbabwe, Royal Bafokeng, University Sport South Africa (USSA) and Protea Warriors, while the other pool has eSwatini, Namibia, SA U23 males, South African National Defence Force and South African Police Services teams.

The national team will open its campaign against Zimbabwe tomorrow, before facing Royal Bafokeng on Friday and USSA on Saturday.The top two teams from each pool will advance to the semi-finals scheduled for Sunday, with final set to be played later in the day.

Botswana has previously recorded notable performances in men's netball, winning the Lesotho Tri-Nations Cup unbeaten in 2022.

However, the team finished fourth at its Africa Netball Cup debut in 2023 before placing sixth at the 2025 edition in Malawi.

The 12-member squad comprises four defenders, four midcourt players and four shooters.

The defensive department consists of Letlhare Ketumile, Lucas John, Moalosi Henry and Masogo Monty, while the midcourt features Bogatsu Thuto, Monyama Tshegofatso, Moswate Bonang and Rataola Merapelo. The shooters are Kebonyemang Peter, Kgomokhumo Karabo, Masogo Terry and Mphaleng Oscar.

The team will be managed by Kabo Basaako Topo, with Neo Ntwaagae as head coach and Shathiso Mugibelo as assistant coach. Mochankana Choopota will serve as the team medic. ***BOPA***



Rising table tennis star, Boitlamo Nkele stole the spotlight at the 11th edition of Dithubaruba Table Tennis Club Open Tournament in Molepolole. She claimed the ladies' singles title in a competition that attracted 90 players from different clubs. Photo: Keetile Bontsibokae

Nkele reigns supreme at Dithubaruba open

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Rising table tennis star, Boitlamo Nkele stole the spotlight at the 11th edition of Dithubaruba Table Tennis Club (DTTC) Open Tournament after claiming the ladies' singles title in a competition that attracted 90 players from different clubs.

Nkele, a junior and senior national team player from the Bontleng/Ithuteng project, defeated former number one-ranked player, Tshepiso Rebatenne of Nhabe Table Tennis Club 3-1 in the final to secure gold, a trophy and P2,000 in prize money.

The tournament, organised by Dithubaruba Table Tennis Club in partnership with Boitekanelo College and under the tutelage of Botswana Table Tennis Association, also attracted international participation, with a junior player from Namibia and a senior competitor from Nigeria among the entrants.

Meanwhile, in the ladies' singles category, Nkele led the charge as players from the Bontleng/Ithuteng Project dominated, collecting three of the four available medals.

In other categories, Ghayouri Kamrouz of Namibia won the Under-19 boys' title, while Carol David of Bontleng/Ithuteng emerged victorious in the Under-19 girls'category.

Tshireletso Samuel of BDF Table Tennis Club claimed the men's singles title, while the mixed doubles gold medal went to Samuel and his partner Sibongile Six, also representing BDF.

Speaking in an interview, tournament director and DTTC team manager, Zacharia Seabo said the competition recorded an encouraging increase in registrations, particularly in the men's category.

Seabo said the introduction of mixed doubles was another significant development, noting that the category was rarely played locally despite being part of international competitions.

He explained that the initiative was intended to expose local players, particularly those in the national team, to the demands of mixed doubles competitions at international level.

Seabo further said the tournament provided national team players with valuable preparation ahead of the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contenders competitions.

"The participation of international players, particularly in the junior boys' category, gave our national team players a taste of the competition they can expect at the WTT events," he said.

Seabo said the tournament's broader mandate was to promote table tennis beyond Gaborone and make the sport more accessible to players and supporters in the Kweneng region.

"As a Molepolole-based club, our objective is to spread table tennis beyond Gaborone and create opportunities for players in our catchment area to participate in the sport," he said.

However, he expressed concern over the limited participation of young players, attributing the challenge partly to the collapse of school sports.

He observed that junior competitions continue to attract largely familiar faces, predominantly from Bontleng/Ithuteng, Maikano and Smash Maniacs Table Tennis Club.

Seabo also highlighted financial constraints as a major obstacle, explaining that organising tournaments require substantial resources, which the club largely had to source independently.

"Hosting such a tournament is costly, and without financial assistance from companies or organisations, it becomes difficult for the club to sustain these competitions," he said. ***BOPA***