Masisi attends Kagame inauguration

KIGALI - His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi (left) greeting Rwanda President, Mr Paul Kagame (centre) and wife Jeannette Kagame during the inauguration ceremony at Amahoro National Stadium yesterday. Botswana and Rwanda established diplomatic relations in September 2004 and in 2022 the two countries convened their inaugural session of the joint permanent commission on cooperation. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi
Acquisition of land to address shortage in North-East

By Mooketsi Mjalemotho

BUTALE • The acute shortage of land that has been a thorn in the flesh for the people of the North-East will soon be a thing of the past, thanks to the decision by the government to procure 45,000 hectares of land from Tati Community Trust for P1 billion.

For years on end, the people in the North-East District, especially farmers, have been complaining about the shortage of land in the district, which they said was a major stumbling block to the agriculture sector.

His Excellency, President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Khaebetswe Masisi, who addressed a kgotla meeting and officiated the opening of the Kgota Shelter in Butale on Friday, relayed that the decision by the government to buy the land was in view of the unavailability of land for pastoral, arable and residential land.

"This land will be open to everyone, so you have open business avenues in the area that would create employment and improve people’s livelihoods.

On rampant vandalism of the border fence, Dr Masisi promised residents that he would engage the same approach and strategy he employed to quell similar incidences of lawlessness that occurred in the Lobatse area.

On others, President Masisi gave residents of Butale a pat on the back for upholding the principle of lelengeng, which was primarily the main reason why they were able to co-exist harmoniously in the same kgora kgotla village in their area.

"I am so proud of you. In spite of the small size of your village, you have been able to maintain the principle of lelengeng as such, were part of the decision-making process.

He commended the North-East Village, lone primary for its consistent and outstanding performance in Primary School Leaving Examinations results. President Masisi also used the platform to praise Letsile Tebogo, who hosted the blue, black and white national colours at the Paris 2024 Olympics Games in France by attaining pole position and scooping a gold medal in the 200m race, a first for the country and Africa.

The kgotla by Tebogo should be a lesson to all that, with proper perspective and mindset, anything is achievable.

Batswana, he said, should be happy every time a fellow Motswana does well in every sphere of life, something that would help accelerate the nation towards achieving prosperity for all by 2036.

The President also greatly praised Mr Ben Samson, one of the farmers, for blowing a whistle at the initial stage of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Butale.

"It were not for him, the disease could have spread throughout the country and could have been a hard blow to the beef industry," he said, calling on Batswana to emulate Mr Samson’s public goodwill and sense of responsibility.

In her welcome remarks earlier, Kgosi Grace Butale gave a brief history of the village, snuggled between farms and the Botswana/ Zimbabwe border, dating as far back as 1911.

She said the resolve to construct the kgotla shelter was purely an aspect of mindset change by the people of Butale to complement efforts by government.

Kgosi also commended the government for the speedy restocking exercise, saying most of the restocked cattle had started calving.

Area MP, Dr Douglas Letsiholathebe, was elated that during his tenure he contributed to efforts to procure 45,000 hectares of land to be used by the people of the North-East District.

He also said that the water situation has also been resolved, developed as a result of which the government resolved Foot and Mouth that crippled the North-East," he said.

He commended the North-East Village lone primary for its consistent and outstanding performance.

"I have no doubt that indeed you are strong leaders who made change and improvement in your respective communities as well as individual families," he said.

Furthermore, Mr Wellio acknowledged that development in Botswana was anchored by four national principles of democracy, unity, development and self-reliance since independence which were rooted in the traditional culture and used in various development plans.

He emphasised the need for the VDCs and the community to continue upholding the principles.

Mr Wellio also appreciated that VDC structures created a platform for communities to engage directly to community governance and local problem solving initiatives hence he called on the public to take them seriously.

Meanwhile, out of the 47 VDCs, Komana VDC outdid other committees scooping the best overall trophy and other trophies as well as gold for being the best in digital literacy and the best in innovative and effective as well as the best stakeholders’ collaboration and networking categories respectively.

It was reported that Komana VDC had embraced the mindset change agenda as well as digitization to effectively deliver its mandate.

The committee has been also doing well in creating partnerships with various stakeholders to undertake some community projects.

**MAUN • Recognising and appreciating the work and contributions of Village development committees (VDCs) in advancing developmental agenda at village level is a welcome initiative.**

Speaking at the second edition of North West District Council VDC excellence awards in Maun Friday, Maun Lodge director, Mr John Wellio said the initiative had the potential to motivate VDCs to go an extra mile in undertaking more sustainable projects as well as attracting expertise and people willing to do voluntary work for communities.

He said the committees played an advisory role to government and as such, were part of the decision-making process.

"Held under the theme: Strengthening Local Governance at Village Level: Celebrating VDC excellence awards in Village/Ward Development, the awards aimed at celebrate achievements made by VDCs in implementing various projects as well as to promote local governance, projects and initiatives that align with the Reset Agenda."

Mr Wellio said the theme was relevant as having capacitated local structures was important for development of communities citing that many scholars stated that sustainable community development was linked to the presence of strong community leaders.

Butale Kgotla shelter on Friday. The shelter, which has a seating capacity of more than 150, was constructed at a cost of over P150 000. Photo: Gaeseitsewe Moruakgomo

Mr Horatius commended all the members present for their efforts in receiving the award.

He said they developed strategic plans and annual plans for their communities.

Mr Heratus said the committees also mobilised the community to identify projects, coordinate other organisations and stakeholders to enhance effective planning and implementation of projects as well as representing community in development matters.

Mr Chiwara said he was happy every time a fellow Motswana does well in every sphere of life, something that would help accelerate the nation towards achieving prosperity for all by 2036.
Grays Eden testament of tourism importance

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The opening of Grays Eden Sanctuary Boutique hotel project is testament of Botswana's efforts towards attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), says President Masisi.

The P45-million facility, situated along the banks of the Thamalakane River in Maun, is the first of its kind and it is a partnership between the owners, Sam and Sandrine Morris and Ker & Downey Botswana, a subsidiary of Chobe Holdings Company Limited.

Speaking during the official opening of the hotel on Saturday, President Masisi said the facility significantly contributed to the restoration of tourism in Botswana and ushered in a new era of offering visitors a great opportunity to experience a five star service, only 50m from the river in Maun.

He commended Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) for the important role it played in facilitating the project, saying it is a successful case of how the facility was a good example of what team work could achieve.

The momentous journey of the project, he said, started in London in April 2018 when the Morris family came into contact with Ker & Downey and took a decision to relocate from United Kingdom to Botswana in 2021 where they purchased a piece of land for the facility.

"Today we are here to celebrate the grand opening of the facility which equates with the solemnisation of a perfect marriage with all the attributes of a long life and remarkable partnership that should endure between Ker & Downey and Grays Eden Sanctuary Boutique hotel," he added.

President Masisi acknowledged the perseverence, patience and determination of all investors who embraced each other’s vision in the partnership.

He commented Chobe Holdings for being a standard bearer and encouraged the company’s leadership to pursue other partnerships as they broaden their footprint locally and expand their reach beyond our borders.

The investors, he said could have chosen any other country but they chose the peaceful and tranquil Botswana, a country that had for many years been credited for its efforts in conserving flora and fauna.

The country, he said, had remained steadfast in ensuring it remained a top destination of tourism, adding that it was not surprising that this year, the country was also voted Africa’s best for safari by safari bookings.

Dr Masisi said the accolades were not rare to Botswana as most of its facilities had over the years been ranked the best not only in Africa but throughout the world.

The importance of tourism sector in any economy, he said, could not be over-emphasised as it provided opportunities for developing countries to create jobs; grow innovative firms, finance the conservation of natural land and cultural assets as well as increase economic empowerment especially for women who are the majority of the tourism sector's workforce.

He said according to the World Bank Policy brief on Tourism and Competitiveness before coronavirus pandemic, tourism was the world's largest service provider, providing one in ten jobs worldwide, which was almost seven per cent of all international trade and 25 per cent of the world’s service exports, a critical foreign exchange generator.

Data from the Botswana Economic and Financial Statistics of 2024, Dr Masisi said confirmed that in 2023, the tourism sector comprising of transport and storage, accommodation and food services contributed P10.3 billion to the country’s Gross Domestic Product of which accommodation and food services alone valued at P4.3 billion.

“This signifies the tourism sector's potential in contributing to foreign exchange earnings for our country’s diversification drive and I am reliably informed that Grays Eden has invested around P45 million on this project with current employment of 40 staff members and it is anticipated that at full operation the facility will employ 60 staff members,” he added.

Dr Masisi said the occasion marked not only the launch of the new establishment but also a significant milestone in the government journey towards economic growth, tourism development and empowerment of the local communities.

Tourism, he said was not only a source of revenue but also an engine of economic growth, a bridge that connected cultures and a catalyst of development noting that in Botswana, the sector had the potential to transform lives and drive the nation towards sustainable future. The new hotel, he said would also be a useful addition in Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Entertainment (MICE) strategy.

The founder of the Grays Eden, Mr Sam Morris thanked BITC for its assistance and support throughout the journey to bring the facility to life. He also appreciated the support of the district leadership and the community to ensure the success of the project, noting they sourced materials in Maun and surrounding areas in an effort to empower the community.

Upholding community empowerment, he said was paramount as it showed how the company valued their contribution.

Mr Morris said beauty of the facility would be cherished by all visitors and future generations.

Rwanda Botswana relations symbiotic

By Pako Lebanna

KIGALI - His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi’s attendance alongside other international and regional guests in Kigali, Rwanda yesterday during the inauguration of Rwanda President, Mr Paul Kagame for a new term as the leader of the East African state, shows how relations between the two states continue to flourish.

Botswana’s High Commissioner to Kenya, Ambassador Andrew Sesinyi, stated in an interview that Botswana, Africa’s oldest continuous multiparty democracy, and Rwanda, widely acknowledged as a post-conflict development success story, have much to benefit from their symbiotic relationship.

Speaking ahead of the inauguration where 20 African heads of state and government converged at the Amahoro National Stadium in Kigali, Ambassador Sesinyi said President Masisi’s attendance was symbolic of the relationship between the two states.

“This is part the continued bond of friendship between Botswana and Rwanda. We have much to compare and learn from each other. For example, Botswana has succeeded in resolving issues such as rapid development, agricultural production, tourism marketing among other fields,” Ambassador Sesinyi said.

He added that like other nation states across the world, Botswana and Rwanda conducted their business differently in some areas and were better placed to improve each other if they allowed mutually beneficial cooperation to flourish.

“When we establish and strengthen ties with other countries, it is not just because of our similarity, or potential economic or trade benefit. But we also share our values of governance and democracy, and to influence each other positively towards a multilateral world and economic progress. There are areas we feel we could learn from Rwanda, they are known for their clean environment, rapid development, agricultural production, tourism marketing among other fields,” Ambassador Sesinyi said.

He stressed that President Masisi’s presence would further fortify ties between the two countries, two decades after Botswana and Rwanda first established diplomatic relations in September 2004, with bilateral relations becoming more pronounced through a Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation in 2022.

Ambassador Sesinyi said Botswana currently had 16 citizens, mostly students, who resided in Rwanda, including those in post-graduate studies, with others in business or gainful employment, among them former Botswana Stock Exchange head Mr Thapelo Tsheko, who was recently appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Capital Markets Authority.
By Baleseng Batlotleng

**TLOKWENG -** Leader of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) Advocate Dumo Boko has described his party as the appealing choice to offer durable solutions to challenges facing the country.

He was speaking at the UDC manifesto launch at the Royal Aria stadium in Tlokwen on Saturday.

Adv Boko said his party was aware of the problems Batswana faced and was presenting a manifesto that offered practical and effective interventions.

He said the manifesto was a carefully drawn vision that would guide the future of the nation and turn the fortunes of the economy around.

Adv Boko said UDC once voted into power would turn the country into a transport infrastructure, ICT and education hub thus creating many jobs they had previously promised.

He said five years into UDC's government 500 000 jobs would be created.

He said the manifesto, themed: Inclusive Growth, Quality Lives, was a contract between the UDC leadership and the people.

Adv Boko praised the stunning victory of Botswana sprinter and Olympic champion Reatile Letsile who he said had brought joy to people low on hope.

The relay team had flown the national flag high and brought adulation to a united nation.

He said priority would be given to the Jwaneng/Mabutsane constituency, particularly access roads. He said the current status quo demoralised public officers who frequently use these roads, and subsequently their service delivery was negatively affected.

Chairperson of UDC Mr Molatsi Molapise said change could only happen when leaders listened to stakeholders.

He said the manifesto w as a contract between the UDC leadership and the people.

Adv Boko said his organisation was appealing choice to offer durable solutions to challenges facing the country.

He said UDC pledged to build housing units for the poor and would charge no VAT for basic amenities such as electricity and water. Presenting the UDC’s gender equality action plan, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka said they had drawn a comprehensive plan to assist women who were hard hit by poverty and many social ills.

She said women were also feeling the pinch of poor public health system in Botswana. **BOPA**

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**BOTSWANA DECIDES**

‘UDC manifesto serves as contract’

By Baleseng Batlotleng

**For his part, Mr Ditlaphelo Keapepete** said his organisation was the only hope for unbuckling the chains of desperation in Botswana. He said UDC pledged to build housing units for the poor and would charge no VAT for basic amenities such as electricity and water. Presenting the UDC’s gender equality action plan, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka said they had drawn a comprehensive plan to assist women who were hard hit by poverty and many social ills.

She said women were also feeling the pinch of poor public health system in Botswana. **BOPA**

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**Prospective candidates reach out to voters**

By Kebumile Moekejo

**JWANENG -** The Radio Botswana Debate on Thursday pitted four parliamentary candidates vying for the Jwaneng/Mabutsane Constituency.

In their debate, they addressed a number of issues ranging from health, education and employment creation. The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) prospective candidate, Mr Kgakololo Ramosewaane, said to address the high unemployment rate in Botswana, his party intended to create 300 000 jobs in five years.

Mr Ramosewaane promised P600 unemployment allowance for the youth. He also said through the ‘Bring Back Our Jobs’, they had plans to establish manufacturing companies in Botswana to create jobs through mining value chains. He said priority would be given to the communities in the Jwaneng/Mabutsane Constituency.

He said he would advocate for an improved roads network in the constituency, particularly access roads. He said the current status quo demoralised public officers who frequently use these roads, and subsequently their service delivery was negatively affected.

The prospective candidate for the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Mr John Motsumi, said he intended to improve the lives of the constituents through agricultural programmes such as Temo Letloto and Thuo Letloto.

He said since the Jwaneng/Mabutsane residents were a farming community, his focus would be to expand the Jwaneng abattoir to create employment opportunities. He also said he would solicit investment opportunities geared towards developing agricultural value chains, which would in turn create jobs for the locals.

Mr Motsumi said he would bridge the gap between Jwaneng Mine and the local communities, and tap into existing programmes that could transform their lives and eradicate poverty.

Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF)’s Mr Mephato Reatile, who is the incumbent, said his party intended to have private doctors in health facilities within a 50km radius to improve accessibility of quality health care services.

Mr Reatile said through their Mineral Beneficiation Enterprise for Development policy, they intended to lure investors to set up diamond cutting and polishing industries in Botswana to create employment for locals.

He said introducing low tax rates for investors would also promote sustainable investments to benefit local communities beyond diamond mining. He added that his focus would be promoting the growth of local breeds, for both livestock and crops to avoid extinction.

Mr Omphemete Kwapa of Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) said he was committed to improving the road infrastructure in the constituency, which he said had stalled developments in major villages such as Mabutsane and Seke.

He also said he would advocate for a hospital in the constituency to reduce the distance travelled by patients to access services from Jwaneng Mine Hospital.

Mr Kwapa said his focus would be provision of free potable water for all.

He acknowledged that the Jwaneng Mine was not able to employ everyone, hence his party would create job opportunities through other sectors such as agriculture. He also said he would advocate for improved drug availability in health facilities. **BOPA**
By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE – A proposition to amend the Electoral Act to allow for the use of other identification documents to register and vote in general elections has failed to pass, by a vote, the second reading in Parliament.

That followed divergent arguments for and against the proposed amendment which was presented to the Seretse Philemon West MP, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse, recently.

Mr Keorapetse, also leader of opposition, had proposed that the Electoral Act be amended to allow for the use of corruption free electoral process to ensure the integrity of the election, thus enhancing public participation in the electoral process.

An exception should also be made to allow a voter who appears on the election roll should not be allowed to vote, provided they have an identity card, drivers’ license or passport.

He further encouraged Batswana residents to have their identity card, drivers’ license or passport at all times.

He highlighted that food and other documents can be used to vote and was not a transparent mechanism for counting of ballots, boxes during elections and further to minimise the risk of forgery to allow for counting of ballots, boxes during elections and further.

He also wanted to know when the Bills was made not only in the interest of the public but also as a reflection of a consultative and responsive government.

“We have listened to the people. The people who elected us and whom we represent in this assembly, and we are obliged to listen to,” he added.

Mr Morwaeng told legislators that Section 87 (6) of the Botswana Constitution did not allow for a law made by Parliament to operate until it had been published in the Government Gazette.

That, he said was an important and prescriptive consultative step necessary to safeguard citizens the opportunity to internalise the proposed legislation before Parliament passed it.

He pointed out that as much as MPs had the constitutional mandate to make laws, they were also required to consult for the peace, order and good governance in Botswana.

He explained that standing Order 72.3 prescribed that “no Bill other than an Appropriation Bill shall be read a second time earlier than 30 days after the day on which it was read a first time or, if in the case of a Bill presented by a minister or assistant minister a draft thereof was published in the Gazette before it was presented, 30 days after the date on which the draft was published.”

He highlighted that the standing order was crucial because the 30 days of publication underscored the significance of public engagement, and it was for them to consult such that when Bills were debated, feedback from constituents would be considered.
Show surpasses expectations

By Manowe Motsaathebe

BOBONONG - The inaugural Bobiriwa Farmers Partnership (BOFAPA) field day has left organisers both astonished and concerned about how to maintain the high standards set during the first event.

Despite being held in a cramped venue, the field day attracted over 3,000 members of the public and 19 business partners, far exceeding expectations.

Organisers had anticipated around five business partners for this new event, which initially lacked a well-established reputation.

The field day, however, was supported by reputable sponsors including Chipkay, FMK Trust, and Gabana Genetics, enhancing its appeal. The partnerships established during the event, according to organisers, would continue to grow and flourish in future shows.

“The success of this first show really shocked me because it appeared like it has been running for more than five years,” chairman of BOFAPA, Mr Coma Letsweletse added.

He said that the joy expressed by patron and Babiriwa at large propelled organisers to start early preparations.

“All we appeal to is for people to change their mindset towards livestock farming like where we keep a large head of Tswana cattle in order for it to be profitable,” the BOFAPA chairperson and added that farmers needed to employ improved farming methods and rear quality breeds to sustain them in droughts.

In a region plagued by drought and shortage of enough communal grazing land, farmers in Zone Six and seven were urged to change their mindset towards livestock rearing and adopt the commercial route.

“We held a bonfire event where we discussed several farming ideas, but it culminated in us agreeing in principle that unity and togetherness were key components of success,” he said.

With the objective of breeding quality stocks in both Zone six and seven, Mr Letsweletse said that members encouraged each other on the best breeding and farming methods.

Although they are yet to host any auction sales, the organisers used the field day as a launchpad for many activities to come. Members are charged, he said, that it is also time speed up the future shows were greatly advertised.

In the past, members have been attending renowned shows like one in Ghanzi and Letlhakane to equip themselves with the essential skills of hosting successful shows. BOPA

By Bonang Manololotse

GABORONE - The private sector has its own limitations to effectively trace, investigate and prosecute acts of financial crime.

As such the public and private partnership in combating Financial Crime in Botswana, will foster more engagement with law enforcement agencies and officials to assist in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

A representative from the private sector and Standard Chattered Botswana Chief Compliance Officer, Ms Shathani Molefe said recently during the launch of the Public and Private Partnership in

Private sector struggles to combat financial crime

By By Bonang Manololotse

GABORONE - The private sector has its own limitations to effectively trace, investigate and prosecute acts of financial crime. As such the public and private partnership in combating Financial Crime in Botswana.

She said the private sector was limited due to the lack of engagement or sharing of information across sectors.

In addition, she said the private sector did not have the right level of intelligence from law enforcement to support their daily financial crime detection practices.

Ms Molefe said private sector entities who are the gatekeepers for the integrity of the financial system, were at times not privy to the hot spots, or certain events that threaten the nation’s financial sector and the economy.

Therefore, she said, partnerships between the public and private sector were important especially when transactions were conducted digitally, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“With such speed of transactions, we too must establish ways to expedite our collaboration to engage on financial crime threats based on shared and agreed objectives, and priorities,” Ms Molefe stated.

She said the use of the public and private partnership would result in collaborative strategic intelligence sharing, which builds understanding of threats and risks. Ms Molefe said the collaboration would help both sectors develop a shared understanding of the threats, priorities, and mitigations of criminal activity.

Also, it would aid both public and private sectors to direct resources to priority areas in financial crime risks and strengthen financial systems and controls among others.

The participants in the public and private partnership in combating financial crime included commercial banks and law enforcement agencies, money or value transfer services and financial intelligence units.

The launch preceded the signing of an agreement to facilitate sharing of intelligence information. BOPA
By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Botswana athlete, Letsile Tebogo’s triumph at the Olympic Games in Paris, France, winning the first ever gold medal for the country and Africa in 200m race, on Thursday has not only gained him praises from the public but also Members of Parliament.

After a statement delivered by Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Honourable Tumiso Rakgare on Friday, MPs took turns to celebrate the Olympic Games 200m champion for his historic exploits.

Though they applauded Botswana’s achievement, some legislators were of the view that such indicated that there was need to do more to unearth similar talent at an early age.

Silebe Phikwe West legislator, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse said it was time that government considered to take sport back to schools.

“This will help to unearth more talents like Tebogo,” he said. He also urged the private sector to assist in sport development in the country.

Further, he advised that in celebrating him, the nation should also celebrate other athletes who were also doing their best at the Olympic Games.

Ngami MP, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama said Tebogo’s success was not only for Botswana, but for the African continent.

That, he said was because it was for the first time in the history of the Olympics that an African athlete had won gold in the 200m.

Mr Hikuama said the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) also congratulated Tebogo and wished him more success in the future.

“He has become our ambassador and his success is something that everyone would want to be associated with,” he said.

He also said success in sport required disciple and hard work among others, some attributes he said Tebogo had displayed.

Kgalagadi South legislator, Mr Sam Brooks urged government to seek ways to reach deeper areas like his constituency in pursuit of unearthing and developing talent.

“Government needs to do more than it has been doing in reaching these areas. We need to be aggressive in developing athletics as we have done with football,” he said. He also suggested that athletics should be included in the constituency tournament.

Kanye South MP, Dr Lemogang Kwape appreciated Tebogo’s parents for his proper upbringing. Dr Kwape also pleaded with government to consider rewarding his coach and the technical team as they equally played their part in the athlete’s success. Other legislators also praised Tebogo and urged government to build more sporting facilities across the country as a way of promoting sport development.

In his response, Minister Rakgare appreciated legislators for being united across the political divide in appreciating Letsele’s exploits.

“It is only right that Tebogo’s coach should also be rewarded as suggested,” he said.

MPs on Friday praised Olympic Games 200m champion Letsile Tebogo for his historic exploits.

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - The excitement surrounding Botswana’s athletes at the Paris Olympic Games reached new heights with the remarkable achievement of Tebogo Letsile, who clinched a gold medal in the 200m final.

While there was never doubt about the talent of Botswana’s athletes, the prospect of bringing home a gold medal was often met with caution due to the Olympics fierce competition.

Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Honourable Tumiso Rakgare, expressed the nation’s joy over Tebogo’s extraordinary performance.

“What happened, where an otherwise small nation with a population of just two million people conquered the world and carved its name into the annals of Olympic and sport history is just mammoth,” he stated, emphasising that the victory was for every Motswana and for all of Africa.

Rakgare commended Tebogo for demonstrating determination, resilience, and self-belief.

“His performance on the global stage has inspired not only upcoming athletes, but many young people in our nation and indeed the continent to dream big and to work hard to turn those dreams into reality,” he said.

Reflecting on Tebogo’s journey, the minister highlighted his consistency and dedication, which were evident during key milestones such as the World U20 Athletics Championships in Kenya and Colombia in 2021 and 2022, as well as at the World Athletics Championships.

The minister also pointed out that government has recognised sport and the creative sector as one of the eight priority areas for economic transformation in the twelfth National Development Plan (NDP 12). “The exploits by Tebogo at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games is therefore a sure sign that it is possible,” he concluded.

Therefore, he said, in recognising such exceptional performance, Tebogo was entitled to amongst other things from government, P25 000 for winning a gold medal, P25 000 for the top 8 finish in 100m and P50 000 for setting an African record in 200m.

“He will also get a housing unit in a place of his choice in Botswana for the podium finish and he has also won P1 million and P2 500 worth of groceries for 12 months from Choppies.

All these are in addition to the P50 000 qualification bonus, P8 500 monthly upkeep stipend since his qualification and the P5 000 appearance fee that he has already been paid,” he said.

Rakgare also said the whole of Team Botswana deserved applause on the historic achievement.

Projects profiling for marketing ongoing

GABORONE - Botswana Local Economic Development and Trade Centre (BITC), in collaboration with city, town and district councils and Local Economic Development (LED) framework, has started profiling some projects around Botswana with a view to package and ready them for marketing to potential domestic and international investors.

This was said by trade and industry minister, Honourable Mmusi Kgafela when responding to a question in Parliament recently.

Honourable Kgafela said the ministry promoted domestic and foreign investments through its departments and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in various areas of Botswana.

He added that through BITC, the ministry had mapped investment opportunities at district level which guided investment promotion and attraction efforts by the institution.

He indicated that Mabutsane, Mahodswane, Sekoma, Kokong and Keng were rich in natural resources which can be harnessed to bring in investments into such areas.

“Some of the natural resources include some plant species which can be used to make natural medicines and promote pharmaceutical manufacturing in those areas,” he said.

However said there was no specific plan for such areas, adding the ministry was open for engagement should there be ideas brought forward.

He also said such investments had the potential to boost the economy of those areas including the country through employment creation, rising incomes and skills transfer from the projects.

The minister said investment opportunities existed in livestock and cropping farming, animal feed production, keeping wildlife, manufacturing of natural medicines from plant species found in the area, small scale cement production, small scale oxalic acid production from excess biogas and high quality charcoal production.

Iwanget/Mabutsane MP, Mr Mphato Ralitele had asked the minister to state measures the ministry had taken to attract and support both local and foreign investors to develop projects and industries that capitalised on the unique wildlife, climate, vegetation and other natural resources in Sekoma, Kokong, Keng and Mabutsane.

He also asked the minister to state any potential projects that had been identified in and around those villages that might warrant seeking investors and if such investments had the potential to significantly boost the economy of the villages and surrounding villages. BOPA
EXTERNAL RE-ADVERTISEMENT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 05/08/2024

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 12 OF 2024

VACANCY CODE: 061200091-1.1

Vacancy: Principal Low Vision Specialist II
(Special Education), D3 Salary Scale, Department of Special Support Services - Maun Centre for Special Education

Applications are invited from highly motivated, well experienced and self - driven citizens and non - citizens for the position of Principal Low Vision Specialist II - (Special Education) in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development tenable at Maun Centre for Special Education.

SALARY SCALE: D3 (P293 652 - P323 748 per annum).

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BENEFITS:

i. O ptional medical aid scheme with the Botswana Public Officers Medical Aid Scheme (BPOMAS Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%).

ii. Contributory pension scheme (Government contributes 15% and employee contributes 5%).

QUALIFICATION:

• Applicants should have a minimum of Bachelor’s degree in Vision Impairment Rehabilitation or equivalent. Applicants should be registered with Botswana Health Professions Council.

EXPERIENCE:

• Applicants should have at least a minimum of six (6) years’ experience as a low vision rehabilitation specialist, of which two (2) years must have been served as Senior Low Vision Specialist or equivalent position and duties in the Private Sector or Parastatal Organisations.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

• To assess and rehabilitate learners with vision impairment to optimize utilization of residual vision and improve their functional performance and enable access to education.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

• Conducts screening for learners with vision impairment to determine their eligibility for comprehensive functional vision assessments and other related support

• Conducts comprehensive functional vision assessment and recommends provision of appropriate appliances for learners with vision impairment and educational placement.

• Compiles comprehensive individual assessment reports based on assessment findings.

• Provides preliminary counselling to all learners referred for Low Vision rehabilitation

• Participates in the multidisciplinary assessment and rehabilitation team in the centre.

• Undertakes regular visits to early stimulation centers, preschools, primary, secondary and special schools to screen, assess and follow up on learners with vision impairment.

• Develops low vision training materials for use by teachers, children/learners, rehabilitation personnel and parents.

• Provides low vision rehabilitation to develop and improve usage of residual vision on learners with vision impairment.

• Plans for various interventions according to types of vision impairments to promote access to education, training and active participation of learners with vision impairment.

• Conducts parent workshops to empower parents of children with vision impairment.

• Conducts reviews of each learner provided with low vision rehabilitation to guide on further interventions and management.

• Conducts regular follow ups for clients to track progress and rehabilitation outcomes.

• Collaborates with teachers, rehabilitation personnel, eye nurses and other related health personnel in the management of learners with vision impairments.

• Maintains comprehensive confidential records of learners with vision impairment.

• Produces and submits reports on low vision services to management in the Centre

• To conduct screening, diagnostic assessment and rehabilitation of communication, language, feeding and swallowing, cognitive, voice and speech disorders.

ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES

• Adhering to Principles and Values

• Relating and Networking

• Writing and Reporting

• Applying Expertise and Technology

• Planning and Organizing

• Delivering Results and Meeting Customer Expectations

• Coping with Pressures and Setbacks

VACANCY CIRCULAR No. 13 Of 2024

Vacancy Code: 061200083.1.1

Vacancy: Principal Speech and Language Therapist II (Special Education), D3 Salary Scale Department of Special Support Services - Maun Centre for Special Education

Applications are invited from highly motivated, well experienced and self - driven citizens and non - citizens for the position of Principal Speech and Language Therapist II (Special Education) in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development tenable at Maun Centre for Special Education.

SALARY SCALE: D3 (P293 652 - P323 748 per annum).

LEAVE DAYS: 30 Working Days Per Annum.

BENEFITS:

i. O ptional medical aid scheme with the Botswana Public Officers Medical Aid Scheme (BPOMAS Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%).

ii. Contributory pension scheme (Government contributes 15% and employee contributes 5%).

QUALIFICATION:

• Applicants must have a minimum of Bachelor’s Degree in Speech and Language Therapy/Speech and Language Pathology or an equivalent qualification.

• Applicants should be registered with Botswana Health Professions Council.

EXPERIENCE:

• Applications should have served for a minimum of six (6) years’ experience as a Speech and Language Therapist, of which two (2) years must have been served as Senior Speech and Language Therapist or equivalent position and duties in the Private Sector or Parastatal Organisations.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:

• Conducts diagnostic speech and language therapy assessments for learners with speech and language related disorders to determine eligibility to special support services.

• Recommends placement of learners with speech and language related disorder in appropriate and relevant educational institutions and programs.

• Compiles individualized assessment reports to guide in the implementation of rehabilitative interventions and support strategies.

• Participates in the multidisciplinary assessment and rehabilitation team in the centre.

• Provides targeted rehabilitative interventions to learners with speech and language related disorders.

• Undertakes client follow ups to offer consultative and advisory services.

• Initiates review of guidelines in the assessment and rehabilitation of children and learners with speech and language related disorders.

• Monitors the implementation of speech and language therapy assessment recommendations and rehabilitation plans for learners with speech and language related disorders.

• Develops screening and rehabilitative materials and facilitates modification, adaptation and development of cultural oriented assessment tests for learners with diverse special educational needs.

• Works closely with the teaching and support teams to develop and implement Individualized Education Plans (IEP) for learners with Severe to Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities.

• Sensitizes parents, rehabilitation officers, teachers, non-governmental personnel and any other relevant stakeholder for effective support of learners with speech and language related disorders.

• Maintains comprehensive learners records under speech and language therapy section.

• Produces and submits speech and language therapy reports to management in the Centre.

ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES

• Adhering to Principles and Values

• Relating and Networking

• Writing and Reporting

• Applying Expertise and Technology

• Planning and Organizing

• Delivering Results and Meeting Customer Expectations

• Coping with Pressures and Setbacks
100k target: Dream come true for many

Stories pages 9 - 16
Ditsha di tlaa okediwa mo Gaborone le Francistown

GABORONE: Le fa go ajwa ga ditsha tsa bonino go dirwa ka bofelo jo bo tlhapiang pelo kwa magaeng fa e sale Motlolegi Tautona Dr Mogweeetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi a ntsha tsalao ya gore e re mo dingwageng tse pedi go be go ablwe di le 100 000, kwa ditropoong go santse go rigediega, mo e bileng setshaba se ngongoreng. 

Ka jalo tona wa lefatse le tsaa Metsi, Motlolegi Dr Kefentse Mzwinila go boletse fa puso e le mo lenaneang la go oketsa lefatse mo ditropo kgolo e bong Gaborone le Francistown. 

A re lenaneo la kgoldiso ya Gaborone ke lone le tlaa supang gore toropo e golenla ke jaaka lenaneo la ditlhabololo (NDP12) le tlaa bo le itebasangtse le oketsa toropo ka lefatse le le ka tshwang ditsha di le 40 000, tse a reng ke munka Gaborone o tlaa bo a godile go menagane ga bedi.

Dr Mzwiniila a re koketsa e ya Gaborone e tlaa dirwa ka makagam. O bile a bolela fa Francistown e na tlaa okediwa ka lefatse le puso e le rekileng mo khampahani ya Tali. 

A re lefatse le re go godisetsa toropo ritlheng ya borwa kwa lefetso le le itseeng ka lena la Francistown South Expansion Area. 

Dr Mzwiniila gore lefatse le le dirishiwa jang, puso e tlala nna fatshe le bothle ba ba amegang ba fana megoopo. 

Kafalsetse la moraf, Dr Mzwiniila a re mkgotla a kabo ditsha a kgonne seelo sa go abo abo ditsha tse 100 000 se se neng se belele le Motlolegi Tautona Dr Mogweeetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi. 

Le fa go ntse tloko jalo a re go kgosa seelo ka go re tlaa dira jaaka le re lela borwa la tloko ya Tautona Lodge kwa lefatshe le se bolela fa Gaborone le Francistown. 

Motlolegi Tautona Dr Mzwinila gore lefatse leo le ya go godisetse golela ka jaaka lenaneo la ditlhabololo tse a re makgotla a kabo ditsha a kgonne le le laetswe, go a re go godisetse lefatshe go lebelelwa ditlhabololo go Moragolta. 

Moroag tse go abo setshaba sa bo 100 000, ditsha tse dingwre tse 7 000 di ne tsa bewa batho. 

“Re emise Motlolegi Tautona go baya seelo se sengwe gape mo lebakegeng le le sa flediseng pemo me re ke le tehpesa gore re tlaa dira jaaka re laetswe,” ga bua Tona Mzwiniila. 

On the issuance of Secure Land Title (SLT), Dr Mzwiniila said the process was moving at a snail pace due to some technical challenge. He assured the public that despite the technical hicups, his ministry was now moving at a speed to issue land certificates on time. 

Dr Mzwiniila a re no mboompieron lefatsha la gagwe le swelesweta le go konosetsa mananeo a ditlhabololo, a tlatsa ka go re mananeo a dikgaolo ina sa supa a saletse kwa morago mee go tseli le tloko.
By Keonee Majoto

KANYE - The culmination on June 11 this year of the target for land authorities to have allocated 100,000 residential plots in two years, rekindled many citizens’ land ownership dreams and gave them hope for a better and more dignified future.

Many had spent years as mere statistics in the waiting lists of different land boards across the country, and as their wait dragged on, some moved from the excitement they had carried when they initially lodged their applications for land to a state of near and even complete disillusionment as they could, with each passing year, see their dreams fleeting away.

When His Excellency The President, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi announced in 2022 that he had instructed the Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs to allocate 100,000 plots in the coming two years, the news was received with mixed emotions. To some, it was a ray of light that promised to dispel the darkness that had enveloped them for years, but to the sceptic, it was tantamount to trying to make one’s way to the moon on foot. It was unfathomable.

For the land boards, it was an opportunity to test the waters and see how much they could do with the limited resources at their disposal, and with no time to spend engaging in elaborate planning, they rearranged their cards and immediately went into action, engaging in elaborate planning, they disposed of the parcels begun to blossom like flowers who had been yearning to own land.

As the process of allocation unfolded, the dreams of many Batswana who had been yearning to own land parcels began to blossom like flowers after gentle showers of rain. Having set their sights on owning land, many had spent years as mere statistics in the waiting lists of different land boards across the country, and as their wait dragged on, some moved from the excitement they had carried when they initially lodged their applications for land to a state of near and even complete disillusionment as they could, with each passing year, see their dreams fleeting away.

Mr Motsaathebe, a resident of Kanye, who had been yearning to own land for years, finally got the chance to realize his dream when he was allocated a residential plot in Gamajaalela.

“Taxes are much lower than in rental,” he says.

Ms Mpaleng, another beneficiary of the 100,000 land allocation, says she was given in Kanye as part of the 100,000th plot initiative and hails Ngwaketse as “ke nene ketlhobogile, le go lebala ka ba ka lebalanga gore ke ne kile ka kopa setsho. Mme ke itumelela kgato e e neng ya tsewa ya go kgaragame gore gogotse gore gobo lebaka ka go fa motho seriti,” Ms Morebodi says.

Unlike her fellow beneficiaries of the target, 44-year-old Ms Amogelang Morebodi had to wait for 17 years to get the plot she had applied for in Malopowabojang. Her wait took her through a range of emotional states, tossing her from optimism and hope, to anger at the seeming lack of responsiveness by the land board, and finally to dejection that she would never have a plot to her name.

“Ke ne ke ithobogile, le go lebala ka ba ka lebalanga gore ke ne kile ka kopa setsho. Mme ke itumelela kgato e e neng ya tsewa ya go kgaragame gore gobo lebaka ka go fa motho seriti,” Ms Morebodi says.

A ceremony held in June to mark the allocation of the 100,000th plot to 27-year-old Ms Game Leesemane at Losabanya Ward in Kanye, President Masisi commended the Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs for a stellar performance in delivering the target within schedule. He had then announced that another target would be communicated in due course, that being another effort to keep improving access to land by citizens.

With 100,000 Batswana having benefited from the initial target, scores more stand to also have the opportunity to own land in the not-so-distant future.

These efforts to improve access to land add on to several other aspirations that government is pushing in efforts to transform the country’s economy and make it more inclusive.

“The land board,” he says.

Seeking to build an economy that leaves no one behind has seen government put access to land in the same basket with many other key priorities that collectively, will help it achieve the noble ideal of prosperity for all as espoused by the national Vision 2036. BOPA.

His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi assisting Ms Game Leesemane to mark her plot at Losabanya Ward in Kanye, which was the 100,000th to be allocated, following the setting of a target to allocate 100,000 residential plots in two years.
President Masisi fulfills promise - Mzwinila

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - A promise that was made by His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Kaebswte Masisi to Batswana to be primary players in the tourism sector has been fulfilled.

In April 2018, at his first kgotla meeting in Maun, the topical issue of concern from the people was in relation to the situation in the tourism industry as there was a cry that only a handful of Batswana were directly benefiting from the natural resources.

The appeal was for President Masisi to intervene, and ensure that Batswana were involved in the tourism industry and fully benefit from the business opportunities in the concession areas.

The feeling was that Batswana were denied business opportunities in the tourism industry.

The Minister of Lands and Water Affairs revealed recently in a media briefing that the affected concession areas were in tourism rich areas such as the Okavango, Chobe and some parts of Kgalagadi. In a response to the community plea, Honourable Dr Kefentse Mzwinila said a decision was taken to ensure that Batswana were primary beneficiaries of tourism related businesses in concession areas.

Batswana through community trusts and other Batswana businesses have been awarded head leases in concession areas. As holders of head leases, Dr Mzwinila said the community trusts and Batswana businesses would have the authority to engage operators to develop the land and run businesses as per the agreement.

To date, Dr Mzwinila said, 31 community trusts have been awarded head leases in the Okavango Delta. “When I say community trusts, I refer to Batswana. Some of the community trusts awarded the said head leases are for villages in the said tourism localities, women and youth trusts,” said Dr Mzwinila.

Additionally, Dr Mzwinila said about 10 Batswana companies were given head leases to operate tourism businesses and accumulate wealth from the natural resources.

“These figures were a significant achievement. It means the face of the tourism industry in the Okavango Delta has changed. We have changed the face of the tourism sector in the country,” said Dr Mzwinila.

“Now citizens through their companies and community trusts are fully benefiting from the tourism sector in the concession areas,” he added.

He said after getting such plots, the community trusts may look for operators and strike a deal for them to run such concessions.

“We have also allocated elephant hunting concessions. Government has taken a decision that elephant hunting was beneficial for the communities. Over the past month we have allocated around six elephant hunting concessions to Batswana and Batswana companies,” he said.

In another effort of ensuring that Batswana were benefiting fully from land, Dr Mzwinila said his ministry was revising the development control code.

He said the development control code entailed a guide to construction of buildings, be it business or residential and roads.

“The development control code is under review, so that Batswana will be able to see land as something that could economically empower them. We want to allow them to get empowered by meaningfully using their land,” he said.

He said the review would, among others, focus on encouraging Batswana to optimally use land by building up on the allocated piece of land. Dr Mzwinila said the days of building horizontally or literally were gone by, therefore building up would ensure that the land was fully utilised and that one could rent part of the building and generate income.

Dr Mzwinila added that the review would also look into relaxing the requirements for small scale business operations, including road reserves and number of packing bays.

“’If you want to open an office or guest house, we want to relax the requirements for people to have the flexibility of doing such and make wealth out of their land,” he said.

Also, Dr Mzwinila said government was in the process of revising lease rentals. He said since the introduction of Secure Land Title the value of tribal land had by statute increased twice.

He said the lease rentals for ranches, industrial plots as well as surface rights for mining also increased.

Dr Mzwinila said over the past years, government had been listening to Batswana raising concerns that the lease rentals were high and need to be reconsidered.

“We are in the process of finalising the review of lease rentals and see how we strike a balance as the emphasis was to ensure that Batswana use land to empower themselves and elevate their livelihoods.

One other thing that was done by the Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs was liberalising the provision of water at farming (ploughing) lands. “We had realised that since Batswana were determined to make use of their land and improve their livelihoods, some were engaged in business activities that will require potable water at their ploughing fields,” he said.

As such, Dr Mzwinila said Water Utilities Corporation started connecting water at ploughing fields.

“We have extended our service to farming areas to ensure that Batswana get maximum benefits from their land,” he said.

BOPA
Land acquisition brings hope to North East District citizenry

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - In the eastern part of Botswana, a hunger for land is growing, a hunger that threatens to devour the pastoral way of life that has sustained generations of cattle farmers. But on the horizon, there is a glimmer of hope, a promise of land abundant and fertile, a promise that the government has made to the people. Government has bought 45 000 hectares of land from Tati Company to address the twin crisis of grazing and residential land shortages, and ensure that farmers and people thrive.

The land acquired from Tati company, which was in the tight grip of freehold farmers for generations, is now to be distributed among the people, a blessing for cattle farmers and a beacon of hope for the North East District and Francistown. This victory is a testament to the tireless efforts of His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Kebatse Masisi and his administration. Despite the resistance of the freehold farmers, he remained undeterred in his quest to secure this land, a symbol of his commitment to the wellbeing of the pastoralists and the people of Botswana.

Another bold move that President Masisi reverberated throughout the country was when he decreed that 100 000 freehold plots must be made available, a mandate to which the land boards have been ordered to adhere to. This goal, though a challenge, was one that must rise to meet. Mayor of Francistown, Mr Bodisang Radisigo, remarked that everyone now has to embrace this opportunity and allow it to bloom into a prosperous future.

“President Masisi, an icon of vision and drive, has long recognised the vital importance of land in Botswana,” he added. “The issue of land is not just a matter of economic development, but one of national identity.”

He explained that for too long, Botswana has struggled with scarcity, with dreams stifled by lack of opportunity. “But that will change a path that leads to a future where abundance of land is a beacon of hope, of progress, and of pride,” he said.

Mr Radisigo said government was yet to finalise plans for the 45 000 hectares of land acquired in the previous year. He expressed confident that once the plans were finalised, land distribution would be in the best interest of the community and would contribute to the ongoing development and growth of Francistown.

The mayor explained that Francistown, being landlocked and hemmed in by freehold farms, has limited opportunities for expansion and development. Mr Radisigo, who pleaded for a slice of 45 000 hectares of the land, also urged government to take into consideration Francistown’s unique circumstances when allocating the land.

“A portion of it could be earmarked for the second city, allowing it to expand and grow,” he added.

He said all the available pockets in Francistown had been taken up, leaving no room for expansion. He also urged the government to reassess the borders of Francistown and its surrounding freehold areas.

“The boundary between Francistown and the neighbouring freehold farms is absurdly close,” he added. “The city has essentially been squeezed into a small pocket of land, with no room to breathe or grow and I implore government to review these boundaries.”

Mr Radisigo explained that this would allow Francistown the space it needed to flourish and become the thriving metropolis that “we know it can be.”

Kgosí Grace Butale of Butale said her village and people are caught in dilemma. “To the west, we are hemmed in by the freehold farms. To the east, we are barred from the vast expanse of Ramokgwebana River, which forms the boundary line between Botswana and Zimbabwe,” she added.

Kgosí Butale indicated that a farmer in the North East District, one who tends to his livestock with love and care, is expected to make do with a mere 80 cattle “while our counterparts in other parts of the country enjoy the luxury of herd numbering in thousands,” she explained.

She also explained that with this serious problem, they were left to struggle to sustain their livelihoods on the meagre pockets of land and resources that remained.

With the authority of a leader unfettered by the constraints of the past, President Dr Masisi has shattered the status quo, his vision for nation unshaken by the chains of scarcity. The North East District has been a parched canvas, a land in desperate need of water and opportunity.

Kgosí Butale, a beacon of hope in the bleakness of the situation, clung to the promise of the newly-acquired land as a lighthouse, a ray of light in the dark. With acquisition of this land, we see the glimmer of a better tomorrow, she said.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, Mr Mosito Kgosí Butale Mzwini, told a recent press conference in a landmark announcement that could reshape the urban landscape of Francistown that the Francistown expansion area would now be located on the southern frontier, as the government moves forward with the acquisition of land from Tati Company.

Mr Mzwini explained that this strategic acquisition, a bold step towards enhancing state land holdings in the city, was expected to spur development and bring the much needed investment to the district.

Though he could not state the exact time to start the process, he assured that the acquisition of land would provide a foundation for the growth and prosperity of Francistown.

He emphasised the importance of community engagement and input, and underscored the need for transparency and consultation with the residents of Francistown before any significant developments can take place.

He said government believed that the voice of the citizens was a pivotal component of the decision making process.

Minister Mzwini said government wanted to ensure that the vision of the city aligned with the needs and aspirations of the people of Francistown and created an urban environment that was not just functional, but responsive and sustainable.

Mr Mzwini said though the same was acquired legally by Tati Company during the colonial era, the aim was to re-claim the land that used to belong to Batswana.

Government last year made a breakthrough in the process of re-claiming the largest privately owned freehold land measuring 45 000 hectares, which was in the hands of Tati Company.

Government will spend over P1.4 billion in acquisition of this land.

Government was given an offer by the company and showed interest as an obvious expectation and the deal in acquiring the land has been finalised.

In his State of the Nation Address, His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Kebatse Masisi revealed that North East District was one of those that were experiencing shortage of land due to the fact that it was surrounded by freehold farms, especially the one in the hands of Tati Company. BOPA

Kgosí Butale
KANYE - Government continues to strive to make services accessible to marginalized sections of the population through the use of special dispensations crafted specifically to ensure that they do not get pushed further to society’s periphery.

One such dispensation relates to access to land by People with Disabilities (PWDs) through the Botswana Land Policy’s Affirmative Action component, which advocates for a proactive approach to addressing the land access needs of disadvantaged clusters of the society.

Section 71 of the land policy provides for disadvantaged members of the society to be provided with opportunities that would ensure their inclusion in the economic development mainstream through affirmative action in land allocation.

Of the categories covered by the affirmative action prerogative it mentions remote area communities, widows, orphans, youth and the vulnerable groups, namely PWDs and the needy.

Section 76 acknowledges that for most PWDs it is difficult to compete on an equal footing with able-bodied persons in identifying suitable land for development, hence the need for special assistance to secure land for them.

Allocation of residential land to members of this group will be expedited based on the recommendations from social workers and preferential treatment will be applied in favour of this group in consideration of applications,” the policy states.

Designed to help and ensure an easier and smoother process of acquiring land, the dispensation continues to help PWDs get access to land quicker as they have their own waiting lists separate from those of applicants from the mainstream society.

Visually-impaired Ms Tidimalo Masike of Mabalane benefited through the policy when she got allocated a plot in Metsimotlhabe in 2023.

Speaking in an interview on Wednesday, Ms Masike commended government for putting in place processes that made access to land easier for people like herself.

She said she applied for a residential plot in Metsimotlhabe in 2006, but that because of her lack of knowledge on the existence of the special dispensation, she was placed in the mainstream waiting list where she remained for 10 years.

She said it was only in 2017 that, out of curiosity, she wrote to the Disability Office at the Office of the President to enquire if she could not be assisted to obtain a plot, noting that a week later the office acknowledged receipt of her letter and assured her that they would write to Mogoditshane Sub-land Board regarding her request.

Ms Masike said two years later in 2019, the land board called her to appear before its adjudication board, leading to the allocation of her plot four years later.

Another beneficiary, Mr David Ranto of Serowe, who was allocated a plot in Mogoditshane in 2022, said while the intentions of the provision were generally good, some aspects of the process that PWDs had to go through in the land allocation processes were discriminatory to them and had to be reviewed.

Mr Ranto, who is also visually-impaired said it was saddening that PWDs were subjected to an assessment by social workers prior to being allocated land, something that was not the case with able-bodied applicants.

“The most precarious conceptualisation of disability in government departments is that disability is associated with poverty. So for a person with disability to have access to land, there is strong emphasis on the need for them to be assessed by a social worker,” he said.

He said the same way able-bodied land applicants were not subjected to social workers’ assessment, there was no justification why PWDs had to be subjected to such a procedure.

Mr Ranto, who served as chairperson of the Botswana Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted from 2019 till last year, said the need to present a letter from the social worker in addition to the disability health exemption certificate was unnecessary and served no justifiable purpose.

He said the disability card should be treated as evidence enough that its bearer was eligible to be assisted through affirmative action as provided for in the Botswana Land Policy.
Botswana Moves Forward

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - While allocation of plots for residential purposes is going at a somewhat satisfactory speed with tribal land, such cannot be said about state land, and the public is concerned by the stagnation in urban areas.

As such, Minister of Land and Water Affairs, Honourable Dr Kefentse Mzwinila said government was instituting plans to increase state land in the two cities of Gaborone and Francistown. He said Gaborone Extension Plan would give direction to the capital city’s growth and expansion. “Our layout will give out about 40 000 plots. Under NDP12 it will be on expanding Gaborone. The estimated 40 000 plots is a very big expansion. By the envisaged expansion, we are actually doubling the size of Gaborone,” said Dr Mzwinila.

Dr Mzwinila said government was working on finalising the development plans behind and we are working round the regional/district plans were lagging development plans. “About seven ministry was working on finalising the settlements. Currently, he said his ministry was working on finalising the layout of settlements as well as availing certificates on time.

Chairperson of Rolong Land Board, Ms Gloria Segokgo says the main challenge with plot allocation was that applicants preferred certain places or villages over others.

By Aobakwe Molefhi

GOODHOPE - According to statistics from Rolong Land Board, residential land remains the most sort-after commodity in their area of jurisdiction. The land board covers around 109 618 hectares and primarily administers tribal land, governed by the Tribal Land Act of 2018.

The chairperson of Rolong Land Board, Ms Gloria Segokgo said in an interview that they had surpassed their target of 1 784 plots as of 2023-2024. “We have cumulatively allocated 2 774 (155 per cent) residential plots contributing to the 100 000 plot allocation target that His Excellency, The President of the republic of Botswana Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Kaebsitse Masisi directed,” she said.

Ms Segokgo opined that the main challenge was that applicants preferred certain places or villages over others. Ms Segokgo said it was for that reason that they still had a waiting list of 5 744 for residential plots while the list for other uses, especially Agriculture stood at 1 366.

With the three land policies; freehold, state and tribal running parallel, the chairperson said harmonisation of land tenure system had not yet started due to various reasons advanced by stakeholders.

Some reasons were that all the three types of tenure were governed by different legislation including policies, hence the need to harmonise legislation first before the three tenures could be harmonised.

She opined that once all was done, harmonisation would accelerate the governance and administration of land processes such as allocation, transfers, sub-divisions and consolidation, adding that it would also reduce the cost of such processes.

Barolong Deputy chief, Kgosi Botiki Motshegare said even though tribal administration was aware of shortage of land in its territory, the land board needed to be commended for a sterling job.

However, Kgosi Motshegare said since their district was nestled between state and freehold land, government should consider reserving a certain percentage for the locals while the other percentage should be competed for by everyone else,” he said.

He said his subjects had always been practicing farming integrated, and that on its own had saved government land by using the same piece of land for different economic activities. Kgosi Motshegare said with the formation of the Barolong Community Trust, which was still at its infancy stage, they were hopeful that government would in future consider giving back some of the freehold land.

He said the move would help address the issue of shortage of land, especially among the youth as they would be given an opportunity to lease the land for agricultural activities.

BOPA
Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, Honourable Dr Kefentse Mzwinila says his ministry has been directed by His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi to establish patrol routes along the Botswana/Zimbabwe border with the view to manage cross border crime such as cattle rustling.

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - Issues relating to land are sensitive and therefore any decision made must engage thorough consultation before arriving at an agreement.

“Our wish is for Batswana to stay in locations where they have chosen and be able to accordingly use such land to their benefit as long as it is not conflicting with the law,” says Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, Honourable Dr Kefentse Mzwinila.

Dr Mzwinila said government was aware that some communities were residing on freehold land, therefore any proposed land use was governed by the manner.

He said if it happened that the people residing in such a locality were experiencing challenges affecting their residence and making their stay uncomfortable, any decision likely to be arrived at would engage all concerned parties.

“Whatever decision that must be taken will be for the best interest of the concerned parties,” he said.

Dr Mzwinila said the owner of the freehold land must also come to party and be willing to engage in consultation aimed at addressing the alleged issues.

However, Dr Mzwinila said the law allows for compulsory acquisition, as government had the power to repossess land and compensate accordingly.

Dr Mzwinila said compulsory acquisition was rarely used since the government believed in consultation, tranquility and peace. However, he said, if consultation does not bring the desired solution, then the law will take over.

“We want such issues to be resolved amicably, with an agreement that will satisfy all concerned parties.

“We do not want a situation where compulsory acquisition results in court cases. We can do that, we have done it before, but the fact of the matter is that we believe in decisions arising from consultation,” said Dr Mzwinila.

On another issue, Dr Mzwinila said his ministry had been directed by His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi to establish patrol routes along the border with the view to manage cross border crime such as cattle rustling.

As such, Dr Mzwinila said consultation were ongoing with the affected parties, the farming community with freehold ranches along the borderline. “We have consulted them and I can assure you that in the end, one way or the other, we will reach an agreement,” he said.

“They have raised their concerns, wondering if they will be duly compensated and how much land will be taken to pave way for the patrol route. The bottom line is that, since this was a directive from the Head of State, it ought to be implemented and it will be done after thorough and satisfactory consultations,” he said.

He said in areas where there were no patrol routes, they would be made. “Before the end of the financial year we will have resolved the issue,” said Dr Mzwinila.

On another issues, Dr Mzwinila said allocation of ranches had been halted for some years. “For some years now, we have not been allocating ranches. We have ranches at SO2, KW6, GH10 and GH11, which have not been allocated pending extensive consultation with neighbouring and concerned communities,” he said.

As for SO2 ranches, around Mabutsane area, Dr Mzwinila said government had agreed that the communities in that area must benefit. “If we are doing an allocation of the ranches at SO2, the community in the area should benefit either by getting communal grazing area or ranches,” he said.

Dr Mzwinila said his office had been engaged in consultations and the allocations would be done in a way that the communities in the concerned areas would be happy. “We want them to understand that the government respects their wishes and equally want them to improve their livelihoods by using land in their periphery,” said Minister Mzwinila.

“The same will apply at GH10 and GH11, Ghanzi area ranches, therefore we are going to consult extensively, living no one behind. We want to ensure that all Batswana in the concerned areas benefit first from the allocations in those areas and the remaining ranches will be advertised to the general public,” he said.

Dr Mzwinila said the most important thing to consider when dealing with land issues was that one must respect the communities residing in the land and take into consideration their views and where possible as guided by the law agree with them. BOPA
Vacancy Code: 061200081.1
Vacancy Circular No. 14 Of 2024
SALARY SCALE:
Education.
Skills Development tenable at Maun Centre for Special Education.
LEAVE DAYS:
30 Working Days per Annum.

BENEFITS:
i. O pential medical aid scheme with the Botswana Public Officers Medical Aid Scheme (BPOMAS Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%).
ii. Contributory pension scheme (Government contributes 15% and employee contributes 5%).

QUALIFICATION:
• Applicants should have a minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy or Equivalent. Applicants should be registered with Botswana Health Professions Council.

EXPERIENCE:
• Applicants should have served for a minimum of six (6) years as an Occupational Therapist of which two (2) must have been served as Senior O categorical Therapist or equivalent position and duties in the Private Sector or Parastatal Organisations.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
• To plan and deliver occupational therapy assessments and rehabilitative interventions for learners with physical disabilities, sensory integrative disorders, visual processing problems and other occupational therapy related disorders.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:
• Conducts diagnostic occupational therapy assessments to learners with physical impairments, sensory integrative disorders, developmental delays, learning disabilities and other occupational therapy related disorders
• Provides professional expertise and recommendations in the placement of learners with special educational needs in appropriate and relevant educational institutions and programmes including placement in Maun Centre for Special Education.
• Prepares individualized assessment reports to guide in the implementation of rehabilitative interventions and support strategies.
• Facilitates modification, adaptation and development of cultural oriented assessment tests for learners with diverse special educational needs.
• Develops screening and rehabilitative materials.
• Participates in the multidisciplinary assessment and intervention team in the centre.
• Initiates and reviews guidelines for assessment and intervention of children and learners with physical impairments. Sensory integrative disorders, developmental delays, learning disabilities and other occupational therapy related disorders
• Provides occupational therapy rehabilitative interventions
• Monitors the implementation of occupational therapy assessment recommendations and rehabilitation plans
• Guides teachers on the development and implementation of Individualized Rehabilitation Plans (IRPs) and Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs)
• Sensitizes parents, rehabilitation officers, teachers, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholder on effective support for learners receiving occupational therapy.
• Provides professional expertise and support to departments within the Ministry and other critical stakeholders on relevant policy developments, educational initiatives and services.
• Maintains comprehensive confidential records of clients under occupational therapy section.
• Produces and submits occupational therapy reports to management in the centre.

ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES
• Adhering to Principles and Values
• Relating and Networking
• Writing and Reporting
• Applying Expertise and Technology
• Planning and Organizing
• Delivering Results and Meeting Customer Expectations
• Coping with Pressures and Setbacks

Vacancy Circular No. 15 Of 2024
Vacancy Code: 061200092.1
Vacancy: Principal Educational Psychologist II - (Special Education), D3 Salary Scale Department of Special Support Services- Maun Centre for Special Education
APPLICATIONS:
Applicants should quote the reference and vacancy circular number and provide the following:
• Detailed and updated Curriculum Vitae
• Certified copy of a valid National Identity Card (O mongl Passport)
• Certified copies of Certificates (academic and professional) together with their transcripts.
• Two (2) recent work related references (not more than (6) six months old).
• Applicants should indicate:
  Date of first appointment, current position, date into current position and salary scale where possible.
• Actual salary per month (attach proof) for applicants from Parastatals and the Private Sector.

IMPORTANT:
• All applications should be routed through their Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered.
• Applicants who do not meet minimum requirements stipulated above will not be responded to. Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

Applications should be addressed to:
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education & Skills Development
Private Bag 005
Gaborone
Or Hand delivered to:
Ministry of Education & Skills Development
Headquarters, Records Management Unit
Floor 2, Office 25 (Registry)
CLOSING DATE: 19 August 2024
For further information, contact:
The Human Resource Management office from the following telephone numbers: 3715123, 3715128, and 3715127.
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT MAUN**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

In the estate of the late Christopher L Collins who died at Sedie Ward, Francistown on 20 July 1991 (Estate Number ESHFT-000125/22),

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors of whatever nature with the undersigned within 30 days after publication hereof.

DIANE WRIGHT,
Executive, Cell no. 71483134
P O Box 250198, Maun

**TOP INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING BOTSWANA / SHAAXNI CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING GROUP CORPORATION LIMITED**

**VACANCIES**

We are inviting applications for the below mentioned positions. Note the Requirements/Responsibilities

1. **CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (1)**
   - Responsibilities:
     - Supervises Overall works on site, ensures deadlines are met within client specifications.
     - Reports to the Project Manager.
     - Monitors and monitors Subcontractors.
     - Must possess a relevant Diploma in a Civil Engineering.
     - At least 10 years of relevant experience in Infrastructure projects.
     - Must possess a relevant Diploma or Degree

2. **PROJECT MANAGER (2)**
   - Preparation and Monitor Contract Agreement and work program.
   - Prepares reports and overall supervision of works.
   - Directs all operational aspects including tendering, project management, resource management, and administration.
   - Manages operational management and accounting process.
   - Responsible for financial monitoring and control of the contracts.
   - Must possess a relevant Diploma or Degree

3. **PROFESSIONAL CODED WELDER (5)**
   - 10 years experience and knowledge of steel welding of large water pipes.
   - Must possess a relevant certificate.
   - Ability to achieve 100% Steel welding of large water pipes.

4. **PLUMBER/TECHNICIAN (2)**
   - 10 years experience and knowledge of steel welding of large pipes.
   - Must possess a relevant certificate

**CLOSING DATE:** 23rd August 2024

Compliant and qualified candidates should email their CV’s to the Personnel Manager at: Shaaxni Construction Engineering Group Corporation Limited / Top International Engineering Botswana.

The Human Resources Manager
Private Bag 13, Mogoditshane
Tel: 311805
lizkaleta@gmail.com

Our company is looking for an experienced and Qualified **National Business Head**, with over 10 years’ experience in Retail business, the primary purpose of this position will be to lead by example to identify, develop and promote future opportunities to grow and expand the business through developing staff skills and promoting strong business networks.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Oversees operations and management of the stores.
- To identify opportunities to grow the business and enhance operational efficiency and develop a positive shopping experience for customers.
- To have strong organizational and time management skills, positive approach to continuous improvement and change management.
- Develop and oversee store budgets, control costs and increase profitability, implement forecasting models to enhance business intelligence and strategic planning.
- To collaborate with cross-functional teams, including product design, marketing, and operations to ensure successful execution of plans, and to monitor market trends and competition to identify new opportunities and adjust plans accordingly.
- To provide guidance and mentorship to team members, excellent communication and collaboration abilities, manage relationships with suppliers and vendors, analyze trends, develop promotions and marketing plans, and oversee stock levels.

The advert will remain open until the post is filled.

CONTACT: The Manager
Galflor Investments (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 259, GABORONE
Court Yard, Plot 54513, The Court Yard, (Mrs R.D Kgosisejo, C/O ) THE EXECUTOR DATIVE

PLOT 20578 MOSHANENG CLOSE BLOCK 3 INDUSTRIAL

THE SCHOOL invites general applications for the following teaching positions in the Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary sections: English, Setswana, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, PE, Agriculture, Computers, Library, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Accounts, Business Studies, History, ICT, Geography, RME, Art, Music, Guidance & Counselling, Science Lab technician, French, Travel & Tourism.

**Requirements:**
- Candidates must possess a B.A. degree and the appropriate teaching (minimum qualification is a Diploma) and subject qualifications as applicable.
- Minimum teaching experience of 5 years at a comparable level
- All candidates are required to provide the names of two contactable referees, in a relevant professional field.
- Preference will be given to Botswana citizens.

**ONLY SHORLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED FOR AN INTERVIEW**

**CLOSING DATE:** 26 AUGUST 2024

Please address all correspondence to:
**The Principal:** PO Box 3076, Gaborne, Botswana

**Tel:** 316 2307/8 | **Fax:** 316 2309

**Email:** bothale@btcmail.co.bw

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**Application for a Certified Copy of Title Deed**

**Notice is hereby given** that the undersigned intends to apply for the certified copy of title deed of that being held under a Board resolution letter issued by Maun Sub Land Board Dated 29th July 2022.

The land is situated in Matsaudi Layout in the Batawana Tribal Administration.

**Measuring:** 20.7m + 41.41m + 20.7m +41.41m

**Situated in:** Gabarone District, Botswana on the 8th day of March 2023.

The transaction is valued at P28 000.00 (twenty eight thousand pula only).

By virtue of this notice, any citizen willing and able to likewise conclude such transaction may make a similar offer through to Odlile Hobeng. P O Box 251061, Maun within thirty (30) days of this ad. Odlile Hobeng Ctel: 71285560.
Police graduates donate to community

By Moshe Galeragwe

OTSE - The Botswana Police Service Intake No. 1 of 2023 celebrated their commissioning and pass-out parade at the Botswana Police College on Thursday by donating P300,000 to support education, the girl-child, and persons with disabilities in the Southern region.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Minister of Defence and Security Honourable Kagiso Mmusi, expressed pride in the occasion that showcased collaboration and the willingness to assist those in need.

The donations included wheelchairs, photocopying machines, blankets, and sanitary pads, all raised by the graduands through their training allowances over the past six months.

Mr Mmusi applauded the kind gesture, emphasising that a culture of giving was deeply rooted in the Botswana Police Service (BPS) and is set to continue. He acknowledged the significance of extending support to those in need, especially to the girl-child and the education sector.

As the new police officers embark on their careers, Minister Mmusi encouraged them to excel and pursue promotions within the force.

He praised their impressive physical fitness and command during the pass-out parade, wishing them success in their future endeavours as part of the BPS. "What you have done is in line with the aspirations of the nation through the National Vision 2036," he said, highlighting the initiative’s alignment with national goals.

Senior Assistant Commissioner Lesego Ponchi, the Director of Training at the Botswana Police College, provided an overview of the project. He noted that beyond their formal training, the recruits were empowered to become agents of positive change in society. The donated items included three photocopiers for schools in Mokolodi, Mogobane, and Nthelelwe, 10 wheelchairs for residents in Nthelelwe, Kgomo Kgomo, Lekgogoloboto, and Ranaka, and 120 blankets for selected residents of Ramotswa. Additionally, sanitary pads were earmarked for distribution to Moeding College, Baratani, and Mogobane Junior Secondary Schools.

Deputy Commissioner of Support Services, Solomon Mantowe, echoed Senior Assistant Commissioner Ponchi’s sentiments, stressing the importance of compassion and caregiving as integral components of policing. He reminded the recruits that combating social ills aligns with their duties as police officers.

On behalf of the recipients, Mr Sonny Phiri, Chairperson of the Mogupha District Council and Councillor for Magotle/ Kgomo Kgomo, commended the recruits for their proactive community support, stating that their actions contributed to nation-building and foster a responsible community culture that prioritises caring for one another.

The gesture by Intake No. 1 of 2023 stands as a testament to the ongoing commitment of the Botswana Police Service to serve not only in their official capacity but also as compassionate members of the community.

By Moshe Galeragwe

KKG DIAMONDS BOTSWANA PTY. LTD.

VACANCY

KKG DIAMONDS BOTSWANA is a leading Diamonds company seeking to appoint a suitable candidate for the following positions:

Production Manager - Responsibilities:
- Planning & organizing production schedules.
- Managing the Vernon section/production supervisors.
- Oversee the polishing and the equipment they use on the factory floor.
- Responsible for carrying out production strategy decisions.
- Communicate with management regarding production in the factory.
- Responsible for hiring and training polishers.
- Managing and running the diamond polishing training school at KKG Diamonds Botswana.
- Directing expatriates polishers for training and up training the workforce of Botswana.

Qualifications & Experience - Bachelor degree in Business administration or related field.
- At least 10 years maximum work experience in diamond cutting and polishing.
- Leadership skills.
- Computer literacy.

Chief Operations Officer - Responsibilities:
- Oversees the effective manufacturing operations for Diamond Cutting and polishing.
- Manage the consistent output of a team of 500 + factory employees on a daily basis.
- Drive to productivity targets within allocated budgets.
- Liaise with suppliers, stakeholders, senior management and contractors.
- Distribute responsibilities across department, building efficiencies and utilizing available manpower to improve results.
- Conduct workforce training and development.
- Supervise a range of skilled and unskilled workers.
- Ensure quality controls and equipment maintenance programs are enforced.
- Establish and enforce company QHSE standard in line with relevant legislation and improve business processes.

Qualification & Experience:
- Degree in Management or related degree qualification in Management.
- At least 10 years’ experience in Diamond cutting and Polishing or related field.
- Proven Leadership skills.
- Expertise in analysing and improving systems and procedures, designing internal control systems and facilitating effective decision-making.
- Experience in negotiation and building relationship with suppliers.
- Computer literacy.
- Ability to drive continuous improvement processes and ensure the capacity is maximised.
- Ability to manage dynamic and changing workforce as well as being able to work extremely well under pressure.
- Dedication to the details, from budget management to locating coffins.

Data Analyst & Diamond process streamlining - Responsibilities:
- Optimization and security.
- Finding and analysing leads in sales.
- Managing the section managers/supervisors.
- Linear and abstract algebra.
- Traceability and provenance.

Qualification & Experience:
- Bachelor of Science in mathematics from a recognized university.
- At least 10 years minimum work experience in diamond cutting and polishing.
- Leadership skills.
- Bachelor degree in Business administration or related field.
- At least 10 years’ experience in Diamond cutting and Polishing or related field.
- Proven Leadership skills.
- At least 10 years’ experience in Diamond cutting and Polishing or related field.
- Proven Leadership skills.
- At least 10 years’ experience in Diamond cutting and Polishing or related field.
- Proven Leadership skills.

Closing date: 25 August 2024

The director

Botswana Police Service to serve not only in their official capacity but also as compassionate members of the community. He said: "The gesture by Intake No. 1 of 2023 stands as a testament to the ongoing commitment of the Botswana Police Service to serve not only in their official capacity but also as compassionate members of the community. He said: "
BIUST launches national science week

By Merapelo Mosarwa

MAHALAPE - Ministry of Science, Technology Knowledge and Technology (BIUST) aims to facilitate an enabling environment to make Botswana realize a digital transformed knowledge based economy.

To attain this transformation and gain ground to compete with the rest of the world, a complete mindset change, and perceiving technology as a driver for innovations and inventions was necessary.

Head of Telecommunications and Signalling of Botswana Railways, Ms Lesedi Gaolomoge said this during the launch of the National Science week themed: An inquiring mind; a gateway to creativity and innovation’.

"The truth is that there is no bettering of life without STEM,” she said BIUST Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Abraham Ogwu informed the attendees that this initiative stemmed from the SADC initiative following a resolution by SADC Science and Technology Ministers in 2008 that SADC should set aside a week every year to commemorate Research, Science, Technology and Innovation. "Our objective is to increase public awareness, understanding, engagement and appreciation of the importance of science, technology and innovation in our daily lives, through various interactive platforms,” he said.

Prof. Ogwu added that it was time to reflect on the impact of science in people’s lives and to inspire future generations to explore the mysteries of the natural world.

The launch also included an exhibition of projects by BIUST learners which included an electric smart metre, motorbike as well as a shoe cleaning machine. BOPA

Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the Proposed Multi-Purpose Abattoir at Tribal Grant No.1009-KP Rasesa Village

The public is informed that Porshdial (Pty) Ltd intends develop and operate a multi-purpose abattoir project in Rasesa Village near Golden Springs Feedlot. The establishments will rear, slaughter, package and sell small stock and cattle to the consumers countrywide.

The proposed project’s positive impacts among others are boost to the local economy and job creations. The project’s negative impacts include influx of flies and possible contamination of underground water in the area.

As part of EA study and in fulfillment of Section 7 (2) of the EA Act of CAP (45:07), notice is hereby given for public consultation meeting to be held in Rasesa Village (Main Kgotla) on the 22nd of August 2024 at 9:00am.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Present a brief overview of the communities to the community and the Interested and Affected parties (IAPs)

- Establish further views and concerns regarding the proposed project. The communities and the IA are kindly requested to attend the meeting.

Any comments or enquiries regarding the proposed project may be sent to the address below:

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER
GEOSPACE GREEN PROJECTS & CONSULTANTS(PTY) LTD
P O BOX 145 PITSANU
Cell: (+267)76930609
EMAIL: geospaceconsultants@icloud.com

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

TENDER FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT BOARDED VEHICLES IN GANTSI, TSABONG, LOBATESE, KASANE, MAUN, MAHALAPE, SELEHI PHIKWE, FRANCISTOWN AND GABORONE. NB. GABORONE WILL AUCTION FOR 3 DAYS.

- Only Citizens of Botswana and Companies wholly owned by Botswana citizens are invited for the purchase of Government boarded vehicles and plant items located at Gantsi, Maun, Kasane, Francistown, Tsabong, Mahalapye, Selebi Phikwe, Lobatse and Gabarone through public auctions.

- Lists of vehicles to be auctioned can be collected from Department of government vehicles and plant items located at Gantsi, Maun, Kasane, Francistown, Tsabong, Mahalapye, Selebi Phikwe, Lobatse and Gabarone through public auctions.

- Customers will be expected to provide the following for preparation of their refunds; Certified copy of Omang, Confirmation of account by bank, and Account holder confirmation.

- Refunds will be prepared and credited to customer’s accounts within 7 days.

Dates of Auction Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact No</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Gantsi</td>
<td>659 956/221</td>
<td>15 August 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mahalapye</td>
<td>654889/ 262</td>
<td>20 August 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Kasane</td>
<td>625 146/623/01/8</td>
<td>22 August 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Maun</td>
<td>686 122</td>
<td>26 August 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Francistown</td>
<td>624 472/26442</td>
<td>30 August 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Selebi Phikwe</td>
<td>624 472/26442</td>
<td>30 August 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Lobatse</td>
<td>241 997</td>
<td>2 September 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Gaborone</td>
<td>366 610/116</td>
<td>9-17 September 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The bidders are required to tender a deposit of P500.00 (Five Thousand Pula) using point of sale or tender the money to Bank of Botswana, Guarantee Account Account: 001160 6462 800, Branch Code: 1 195 1 5 Swift Code: BWTBBW CB. Reference: 511-1011 is to be eligible to bid for each vehicle. After remittance, submit proof of payment to be registered.

Customers will be expected to provide the following for preparation of their refunds; Certified copy of Omang, Confirmation of account by bank, and Account holder confirmation.

Tenders will be sold through an auction catalogue method in all stations. The actual sale will start at 09:00 am in all the stations. Payment for vehicles will be strictly Point of Sale for the full amount and made payable to Botswana Government within 6 working days including community...
Beyond U’S set on Afrotech

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - The Beyond U’S Afrotech show is steadily proving to be one of the fastest-growing Afrotech movements in the country evidenced by amazing line-ups with each show something that is their patrons undying.

Each edition has shown to offer patrons nothing but the best Afrotech tunes, and Saturday event at Game City Horizon Marquee being a testament. Beyond U’S has come off age despite being in its infancy, birthed in 2023. In its early days the local Afrotech DJs' sessions relatively attracted small crowds. Curated by Tefo ‘Tefo Foxx’ Phokoje, a Botswana export Afrotech DJ, Beyond U’S was established to provide an Afrotech platform to the talented Botswana Afrotech DJs and have opportunities to convene and share experiences amongst themselves as well as forming possible collaborations as they grow their craft.

Since the first edition, the brand had a small considerable crowd and has since grown in attendance and size as well as quality. Tefo Foxx still ensures that the Afrotech genre remains one such experience, undiluted to the intended crowd. Since the first edition of Beyond U’S, it has lived to the truth with the crowd treated exclusively to Afrotech sounds. “The fourth edition has shown growth with this movement, and I believe people now understand my vision of instilling the culture of Afrotech.

I am excited about today’s turn out, because this edition was more of a risk by including acts from South Africa,” said Tefo Foxx. He said they included DJs from outside to motivate local DJs, and encourage them to network and explore collaboration opportunities. Impressed with the latest edition’s turn out, he said they hoped to take the fifth edition outside Gaborone.

With every successful and growing event, come challenges, and Beyond U’S is no exception. Tefo Foxx said since he was pushing a strictly Afrotech Afro house genre, he competed with popular genres such as Amapiano.

“But I believe it will grow to high limits on its own without having to mix it with other genres, I am set on giving people only afrotech show,” he said.

The show featured DJs such as Lubonk, Darque, Haper Guru as well as Tefo Foxx amongst others, who captivated the crowd with some of their three step house mixes. Music enthusiasts danced to the fine-tuned mixes coming in the heat, with minimal gestures of head nods, waving hands, balled fists and punching as well as hands grabbing air.

The DJs mesmerised the audience with their soulful groovy beats setting the standard of excellence in the afrotech music genre. They gave energetic vibes, with Tefo Foxx ever giving infectious rhythms and, melodies sending the crowd to the nines.

Themed events celebrate romantic Qixi Festival

BEIJING - Multiple Chinese authorities have jointly organised a series of themed events nationwide to celebrate the Qixi Festival, also known Chinese Valentine’s Day, on Saturday.

These events included food and cultural merchandise markets, exemplary group weddings and various tourism activities featuring unique ethnic customs and cultural experiences.

The organisers, including the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, also launched flagship events in six localities, including Yiyuan County in Shandong Province, Lushi County in Henan Province, and Guangzhou City in Guangdong Province.

These events aimed to fully tap into the cultural value of the Qixi Festival, nurtured good values for familial and romantic relationships, and cultivate a new trend of social civility. Xinhua
TSABONG - Members of the Tsabong region Sport Volunteers Movement (SVM) braced the cold Saturday morning to walk 10 kilometres in an effort to encourage the community to fight non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which are an emerging global health threat.

Speaking during the walk, chief walker, business woman Dinaa Kaarate appreciated SVM and NCDs such as diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, heart disease, and cancer were the leading causes of death worldwide.

She also noted that the NCDs were increasing at an alarming rate in Botswana hence the need to encourage every individual to take steps towards improving physical fitness.

The sharp increase of non-communicable diseases globally, she said, required every individual to rise and take charge of their health by going for regular medical check-ups. As such, Kaarate said it was imperative to hold collective fitness walks in the community as an encouragement to adopt healthy habits.

Furthermore, she said such activities helped with improvement of physical fitness and also served to bring people together to network, thus enhancing social cohesion.

For his part, Tsabong region SVM chairperson Mokhopi Ntau said the event was organised under the theme: Community Health and Perseverance, targeted at encouraging members of the community to keep physically active. Ntau said this was the second installment of the event which started last year.

SVM is a voluntary movement structure under the Botswana National Sports Council and relies on sponsorships to carry out its mandate.

As such, Ntau appreciated different government departments and parastatals such as Water Utilities Corporation, District Health Management Team, TSAMAMA Trust, Botswana Network on Ethics Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA), Kaarate of Yonatan group and Botswana Sports Commission for making the event a success. BOPA

Members of the Tsabong region Sport Volunteers Movement during the 10-kilometre walk in Tsabong on Saturday. The walk was organised to encourage the community to fight non-communicable diseases which are an emerging global health threat. Photo: Calvinia Kgautle

**VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 6 OF 2024**

**VACANCY: DEPUTY MANAGER – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the below mentioned position tenable in IEC Head office, Gabonore

**REF NO:** IEC/4/34/411(77)

**DATE:** 07/08/2024

**INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT**

**VACANCY:** DEPUTY MANAGER – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

**SALARY:** 01 (P39/825.00 – P42/600.00) per annum

**LEAVE:** 30 working days per annum.

**BENEFITS:**
- Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and Employee pays 50%).
- Contributory Pension Fund Scheme (Government pays 15% and Employee pays 5%).
- Please note that this position does not attract Sack Skills allowance.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must be in possession of a Bachelor’s Degree in Estate Management/Facility Management/Construction Management/Engineering/Building Services or a related field.

**EXPERIENCE:** At least twelve (10) years Post Qualification Experience in Estate/Property/Facility Management/Engineering/Building Services or a related field.

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:**
To manage and coordinate projects for the maintenance of all buildings in the Independent Electoral Commission.

**KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:**
- Develops and reviews facilities management regulations, procedures and requirements.
- Monitors implementation of facility management regulations, procedures and requirements.
- Plans and administers the maintenance schedule for buildings within the Independent Electoral Commission.
- Monitors adherence to government regulations and environmental health and safety standards in relation to facilities.
- Undertakes and documents a termly risk assessment of all buildings and other health and safety checks as directed by the Health and Safety regulations.
- Develops and maintains Assets Register.
- Supervise work of contractors in connection with the maintenance and improvement of buildings and building facilities.
- Advise and monitors service contracts in collaboration with procurement and contract management.
- Conduct periodic inspections of buildings and evaluates the complexity of any needed repairs to determine best solution and job cost.
- Oversees the implementation of approved procedures to ensure the ongoing efficient operation of assigned buildings.
- Prepares reports on the operational effectiveness of the facilities.
- Prepares budget for the maintenance of all buildings.
- Initiates and manages procurement of any buildings maintenance needs by the Commission.

**KEY COMPETENCIES:**
- Working with people.
- Adhering to Principles and values.
- Analysis.
- Planning and Organizing.
- Delegating Results and Meeting Customer Expectations.
- Managing and Responding to change.

**APPLICATIONS:**
Please provide the following details:
- A cover letter and quote the vacancy circular number.
- Full names and postal address.
- Certified copies Academic Certificates & Transcripts.
- Certified copies of Omang.
- Certified copies of University Degree.
- Certified copies of Academic Certificate & Transcripts.
- Certified copies of Omang.
- Certified copies of University Degree.
- Details of recent work-related references (Not more than 6 years old).
- Certified copy of Academic Certificate & Transcripts.
- Certified copies of Omang.
- Certified copies of University Degree.

**IMPORTANT:**
- All applications from serving Public Officers should be routed through their Permanent Secretaries (Accounting Officers).
- Applications not so routed will not be considered.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be requested to email or faxed applications will not be considered.

**Applications should be addressed to:**
Secretary
Independent Electoral Commission
P/Rag 00284
Gaborone

**Handed delivered to:**
Independent Electoral Commission
Record Management Unit, 2nd Floor, Office No. 213
P.O. Box 75779, Gaborone, Block 10, Gaborone

For further information, please contact the Human Resource office at Telephone No: 3612400

Closing Date: 21st AUGUST 2024
Heroes welcome awaits team

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Kheletswe Masisi has called on the nation to accord the Botswana Olympic team a well-deserved heroes welcome upon their return from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games tomorrow.

The team is expected to arrive in Gaborone at 2:35pm. Speaking at final watch party in Gaborone on Saturday where he cheered the 4x400m men’s relay team to a podium finish, President Masisi commended the entire team for a sterling performance during the Games.

He thus said, it was only befitting for the nation to throng the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport, proudly wearing national colours of blue, black and white to welcome the team back from the Games. “I will make it a point to be at the airport myself and show support to the Botswana team upon their arrival from the Olympic Games tomorrow, President Masisi said.

Similarly, Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Honourable Tumiso Rakgare indicated that the team’s success should inspire unity among Botswana citizens.

‘’It is indeed a great time to be a citizen of this beautiful country and never in my life have I felt more proud to be a Motswana like now,” Minister Rakgare said.

His Excellency, President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Kheletswe Masisi (left) and First Lady, Her Excellency, Neo watching the Botswana 4x400m relay team in action during the final watch party in Gaborone on Saturday. President Masisi encouraged the nation to come in numbers to welcome the team back from the Games.

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