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Minister of Defence and Security, Mr Kagiso Mmusi performing the ground-breaking of the Sarona II housing project in Gaborone yesterday. He said the wellbeing and morale of the soldiers played a crucial role in their operational readiness and effectiveness, hence government was committed to addressing the critical accommodation challenges at Botswana Defence Force through such projects as Sarona II. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

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"Productivity levels have failed us,
and only we can resolve that anomaly"



Mthimkhulu commends Limkokwing

By Idah Basimane

GABORONE - It was evident throughout the year that Batswana continue to be a compassionate, just and caring nation contributing to the welfare

of fellow citizens.

Assistant Minister for State President, Mr Dumezweni Mthimkhulu said this at an event that was organised to mark Limkokwing University's gift of a Christmas tree to the nation.

The tree is 12 metres high, six metres wide and has a total of 50

000 lights.

Mr Mthimkhulu said Batswana needed to be commended for their enduring spirit of community and sharing.

He said this time of the year was an opportunity to give thanks for the year that is ending, and appreciate people's different

contributions to the wellbeing of the nation.

He urged the nation to wish speedy recovery and wellbeing to those in hospitals, or recuperating at home.

He asked for a special thought for those who would be on duty doing rendering essential

service, thus not being able to be with their families.

Limkokwing University Council member, Mr Gideon Gatsha said the event was an outreach programme to raise funds for charity and uplift those in need, in partnership with UNICEF. **BOPA**

NWDC prioritises roads

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The North West District Council has received P3.25 million for this financial year under the road levy fund as compared to P2.5 million in the previous financial year.

The money will be used for the wet grading of internal roads, purchasing of pre-mixers and the hiring of casual labourers for the maintenance of internal roads.

Council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng revealed this when delivering a speech at the ongoing full council meeting.

He noted that they had purchased the pre-mixers, employed 50 casual labourers in Maun and Sehitwa while the tender for the wet grading was at evaluation stage.

He acknowledged that the funds were not enough to include all the works that were needed.

He said a water catchment area was constructed at the back of Letsholathebe Memorial Hospital as a temporary measure and that a permanent solution would be implemented under the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP).

On the construction of Maun internal roads, Mr Kelebetseng said the project was at mobilisation stage and that the site was handed over to the development manager on October 8, 2023.

He also said the council had deployed three teams to carry out road maintenance in three villages; one team in Maun, another in Sehitwa and the third in Shorobe.

He said roads that had been prioritised for reconstruction were the Maun-Sehitwa and Sehitwa-Tsau roads, adding that during construction the access road to Nxaraga and Toteng would be constructed.

He also told councillors that a new weigh bridge would be constructed at Sehitwa together with offices and staff houses.

In addition, Mr Kelebetseng said the reconstruction of the Gweta-Maun and Maun-Shorobe roads were under consideration.

He said road maintenance of Shorobe-Mababe and Samedupi-Somelo had commenced.

Mr Kelebetseng said they would continue engaging communities in routine maintenance such as vegetation control along major roads, adding that all village development committees and community trusts would be engaged in vegetation control. **BOPA**



Mr Mthimkhulu (right) distributing food hampers to Gaborone South constituency elders at a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Gaborone on Friday. He said Limkokwing University's gift of a Christmas tree to the nation and donation of food hampers worth of P43 200 to Childline Botswana, Gamodubu Child Care Trust, Tsholofelo Children and Youth Trust, as well as elders was a true spirit of generosity to fellow countrymen. Photos. Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Gamodubu Child Care Trust, Childline Botswana, Tsholofelo Children and Youth Trust pupils enjoying Christmas yummies during a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Gaborone on Friday.

Community involvement key in safeguarding heritage

By Manowe Motsathebe

BOBONONG - Community involvement is key in safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, Bobirwa District Council chairperson, Mr Kgomotso Mmerekhi says.

"Therefore we should facilitate for awareness-raising on the importance of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) among traditional leadership and local communities in the Bobirwa District," said Mr Mmerekhi during the opening session of BDC full council, Monday.

The purpose of the convention amongst other things is to ensure respect for the ICH of the communities, groups and

individuals concerned while also raising awareness at the local, national and international levels on the importance of the ICH, and ensuring mutual appreciation thereof.

Even though Botswana has established four district Intangible Culture Heritage communities being Kgatleng, Chobe, Gantsi and North East districts, Mr Mmerekhi said that it was important for Bobirwa District to participate in the implementation of this convention.

"Among these districts, two have inscribed their ICH elements on UNESCO list and have benefited from the ICH Fund for communities in their districts to better safeguard their ICH," he said and called on all in Bobirwa to get involved in safeguarding

ICH in the district.

While time was ripe for raising of awareness, the chairperson said it was also an opportune time to simultaneously facilitate establishment of Bobirwa District ICH committee.

Additionally, the chairperson suggested for identification and definition of ICH in the district with community participation.

Mr Mmerekhi was buoyed by his participation at the Inter-City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network 9th General Assembly held on November 10-14 in the city of Kozhikode, Kerala, India.

At the general assembly held under the theme; Celebrating Diversity. Preserving Heritage: Sustaining Intangible Cultural Legacy, mayors, experts and cultural practitioners around

the world gathered to reflect on their collective commitment to safeguarding and nurturing ICH, he said.

As a result, the Bobirwa District Council chairperson felt it was therefore important for the local authorities to be involved in safeguarding ICH as they are closer to communities.

Botswana ratified the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH in 2010.

Botswana hosted the 18th session of the inter-governmental committee for the safeguarding of the ICH from December 4-9 in Kasane.

It was from this convention that Bobirwa District Council chairperson derived inspiration to set in motion safeguarding of ICH in his district. **BOPA**

Govt addresses BDF accommodation woes

By **Thato Mosinyi**

GABORONE - Government is committed to addressing the critical accommodation challenges at the Botswana Defence Force, Minister of Defence and Security, Mr Kagiso Mmusi has said.

Speaking at the Sarena II housing project ground-breaking ceremony, Mr Mmusi said the project epitomised government desire to improve the welfare of the army personnel, thus expressed gratitude to the major stakeholder being the BDF and RIC Development Botswana.

He said the project stood as a shining example of the positive outcomes public-private partnerships could yield if properly harnessed as BDF and RIC Botswana had made the Sarena II project a reality.

Minister Mmusi said as the sponsor of the project, government had set clear objectives of utmost importance to nation's security and wellbeing to alleviate soldiers accommodation woes through the construction of 408 Sarena II residential accommodation units.

"The Sarena II Project embodies our commitment to the men and women in uniform, an obligation to strengthening defence capabilities to ensure national security, I thus as the Minister of Defence and Security, assure you that I will personally leave no stone unturned in ensuring a successful completion of this project within the stipulated time frame," Minister Mmusi said.

The project, he said, aimed to alleviate accommodation shortage faced by the country's dedicated

soldiers.

"This project resonates with our belief that our soldiers should not be concerned and distracted by inadequate housing while discharging their duties of protecting and safeguarding our beloved nation, therefore our brave men and women in uniform deserve nothing less than safe, comfortable and modern living spaces that will allow them to recharge, rest and prepare to fulfil their worthy duties," he said.

Minister Mmusi said the wellbeing and morale of the soldiers played a crucial role in their operational readiness and effectiveness, thus by providing suitable accommodation, 'we create an environment where our personnel can thrive, focus and be equipped with the physical and mental strength necessary to provide the security our nation deserves'.

Furthermore, he said the project would, without doubt, attract and retain the right personnel within the BDF, saying 'we are in an era where competition for talent and skilled individuals is fierce and by offering modern, quality housing, we convey a clear message to potential recruits and current members'. He said joining the army should, in the future, be seen as an attractive and rewarding opportunity for those who wish to serve their country.

Similarly, BDF's Brigadier Paul Sharp stated that the ground-breaking ceremony marked the beginning of a new chapter, one that held immense promise and potential for the defence force and

the nation at large.

Brig. Sharp commended government for having the soldiers

wellfare at heart, adding that the Sarena II project was a significant milestone towards improving the

soldier's wellbeing and motivating them to effectively execute their daily chores. **BOPA**



Absa Group chief economist, Mr Jeff Gable (left), head of global markets, Africa regional operations, Mr Anthony Kirui (centre) and Bank of Botswana director of financial markets, Mr Lesego Moseki during a panel discussion of Absa Africa Financial Markets Index in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Gable said the index had become a benchmark for the investment community to gauge African countries' market infrastructure and was used by policy makers to learn from developments across the continent. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Botswana ranks 6th in Absa Africa index

By **Marvin Motlhabane**

GABORONE - Botswana is ranked sixth out of 28 countries in this year's Absa Africa Financial Markets Index, making the country suitable to attract both local and foreign direct investment.

Minister of Finance, Ms Peggy Serame said this during the official launch of the 2023 Absa Africa Financial Markets Index held in Gaborone on Monday.

Minister Serame said the Absa Africa Financial Markets Index was a valuable tool for measuring the state and robustness of financial markets across African countries.

She said the index also provided insights on development and integration of financial markets across Africa, adding that it was essential to have a comprehensive understanding of the progress being made in this area, as financial markets played a critical role in promoting economic growth and development.

She added that now in its seventh year, the Absa Africa Financial Markets Index was a toolkit for evaluating the financial development of surveyed countries based on measures of market accessibility, openness and transparency.

"The aim is to show how African economies can reduce the barriers to investment, which can, in turn, boost sustainable growth.

It is pleasing to note that more countries on our continent are seeing the value of the Absa Africa Financial Markets Index as evidenced by the expansion of participating countries to 28 this

year," she said.

Ms Serame said over 40 indicators were considered across six pillars, which included market depth, access to foreign exchange, market transparency, tax and regulatory environment as well as capacity of local investors, macro-economic environment and transparency and legal standards as well as enforceability.

"These pillars are pivotal to the strength of financial markets locally and each one signifies a facet that calls for collective commitment to building a resilient financial ecosystem," she added.

She said Botswana's third pillar on market transparency, tax and regulatory environment score improved by nine points this year as it implemented new measures on such front.

"For example, in July, the Botswana Stock Exchange approved a 25 per cent discount on initial listing fees for sustainable bonds," she said.

She added that Botswana and Uganda continued to lead in the fifth pillar on macro-economic environment and transparency with scores of 87 and 86 respectively, up one point from last year.

"The two countries scored highly on transparent fiscal and monetary policy decisions, as well as timely data releases for key macroeconomic variables," she said.

Ms Serame said Botswana relatively had low ratios for non-performing loans and external debt, particularly where external debt was 10 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product.

That, she said demonstrated the financial discipline and prudence as driven by economic agents and regulators.

She further said despite an overall improvement in the country's ranking, Botswana scores had declined in four of the six pillars this year, particularly the sixth pillar on legal standards and enforceability.

"This pillar serves as a reminder of the importance of a robust legal framework in fostering investor confidence and market integrity.

Moreover, it indicates the country's dedication to building a financial environment where rules are not only in place, but are enforced with unwavering commitment," she said and therefore pleaded with industry players to up their game to improve the four pillars.

Meanwhile, Absa Bank interim board chairperson, Mr Cosmas Moapare said the report should serve as a roadmap, guiding industry players toward targeted improvements in Botswana's financial markets.

Mr Moapare said market players across sectors had to collaborate to implement strategic reforms toward greater transparency, efficiency, and accessibility.

"By so doing, we can position Botswana as a regional financial hub, attracting both domestic and international investors," he said.

Mr Moapare said in Absa market, players had a willing and capable partner who was ready to play their part in improving configuration of the financial markets through provision of suitable banking solutions. **BOPA**

Botswana receives assistance to tackle climate change challenges

GABORONE - Botswana government received assistance to tackle climate change and Meteorological matters at COP28.

The Chinese government, through the China Academy of Space (CAST) donated a Multi satellite integration Meteorological Transportable Ground Application System to the Department of Meteorological Services in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to the tune of P31 million.

The equipment will help with tracking satellite data acquisition as well as imaging and processing.

The Chinese government held a ceremony where different developing countries signed for the cooperation.

Giving her remarks, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Ms Philda Nani Kereng appreciated the Chinese government through South-South framework for assisting developing countries adapt and mitigate climate change through the provision of financial and technical resources

to transition to low carbon and climate resilience patterns.

Minister Kereng signed the cooperation agreement on behalf of government.

Still on technical cooperation, Government of Italy through Ministry of Ecological Transition pledged to support Botswana government in the field of Sustainable Development to carry out the following; improve water resources management and protecting and restoring water-related ecosystem; promote access to sustainable renewable and efficient energy; strengthen and coordinate the efforts to combat global climate change and address its adverse effects; protect, restore and enhance sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems to sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss.

A Memorandum of Understanding is yet to be signed between the two governments. **ENDS**



Parliament adopts National Planning Commission Bill

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Parliament on Monday adopted a National Planning Commission Bill.

The Bill is intended to among others, make provision for national planning through the development of national visions and national development plans, as well as to establish the National Planning Commission (NPC) and provide for its powers and functions.

Presenting the Bill, the Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng had said it came about as part of government's rationalisation exercise where the decision was made to establish NPC to address government's fragmented and duplicated efforts in planning and implementation across government agencies.

"The commission is intended to become an apex advisory body that will progress our long term planning and drive the national development agenda," he said.

Mr Morwaeng also said the legislation would allow alignment of planning and electoral cycles, hence allowing the elected administration to have an influence on the content of the National Development

Plan (NDP).

"This Bill will also address misalignment between districts and national development planning," he said.

He stated that the Bill would establish the governing body, governor general, thematic working groups and their responsibilities.

Mr Morwaeng said contrary to some legislators' fears, the NPC would not be biased when distributing development projects as it would be composed of skilled experienced people with the right qualifications, who had also been involved with government planning in the past.

He also allayed fears that NPC would exclude ordinary people from national planning, saying the model would still accommodate the bottom up approach.

"The NPC will still consult Village Development Committees and District Development Planners to get their contributions before making its decisions," he said.

Mr Morwaeng also said the establishment of NPC would improve national planning and service delivery as it would focus solely on planning. **BOPA**

Collaboration paramount for plan implementation - Modukanele

GABORONE - The Assistant Minister of Local government and Rural Development Mr Sethabelo Modukanele has told Parliament that the Lobatse Regeneration Plan Guidelines and Standards 2019-2036 is in the custody of the Lobatse Town Council.

He explained that it was a comprehensive strategic plan which comprised several projects, activities and initiatives aimed at turning around the town's economic fortunes and improving its physical appearance. Given the comprehensive nature and scope of the plan, he said its implementation was in the hands of multiple stakeholders that included government, parastatals and the private sector.

Mr Modukanele stated that the collaboration of these economic actors was paramount for the attainment of desired outcomes.

He said there had not been any special funding package earmarked for the plan but noted that some substantial developments had been made possible using normal programming that included

the Constituency Community Programme (CCP), Ipelegeng and the Revenue Support Grant.

The assistant minister noted that the council optimised the utility of resources provided through the above-mentioned funding sources by engaging in Public Private Partnership arrangements.

He said the CBD pedestrian bridge over the railway line was done through a collaboration between Lobatse Town Council and Botswana Railways in 2020 where some monetary contribution was sourced from CCP.

Mr Modukanele said the bus rank was upgraded into a mixed-use precinct through a partnership with EMRE retail developers in 2021 where resources from Ipelegeng were used.

He said the ministry would continue to support similar partnership approaches for other activities under the Regeneration Plan. Just like any developmental project, he said the Lobatse Regeneration Plan was subjected to the National Development Planning process where there were

competing needs against limited resources. Consequently, he said some projects would not receive funding from the government adding that it was for this reason that they looked to the PPP model to reduce the existing financing gap because government alone could only do so much.

Mr Modukanele said the above-stated projects were a demonstration that collaboration between the public sector and private sector could be instrumental in achieving significant progress in the country's development agenda.

He said in the coming District and Urban Development Plans, his ministry would support and facilitate PPP projects from councils that had the potential to unlock economic growth and promote development.

He also stated that the National Spatial Plan 2036 was a long-term strategic plan designed among other things to address the issue of the Urban National Development Strategy to support the overall development of the urban centres in Botswana and for equitable development across the country.

He said through the guidance of the National Planning Commission it was anticipated that the National Spatial Plan would influence the thrust and direction of the upcoming NDP 12.

MP for Lobatse Dr Thapelo Matsheka had wanted to know the ministry's position on the Lobatse Regeneration Master guidelines and standard; 2019-2036 developed in partnership with the Lobatse Town Council but remained unfunded given the funding model between the central government and councils.

He asked whether the minister considered that this inhibited the development of Lobatse and the upgrade of most areas to town and city status. He asked whether considerations were being made to review or develop an Urban National Development strategy to support the overall development of key centres of Botswana and equitable development across the country. **BOPA**



Mr Modukanele said given the comprehensive nature and scope of the Lobatse Regeneration Plan Guidelines and Standards 2019-2036, its implementation was in the hands of multiple stakeholders that included government, parastatals and the private sector.

DailyNews accessed through digital platforms

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - The DailyNews paper is accessed through digital platforms for ease of accessibility.

"Currently, DailyNews is distributed through PDF format to various WhatsApp groups across the country. Furthermore, the PDF copy can be downloaded from the DailyNews website, <https://dailynews.gov.bw>, said Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng.

Mr Morwaeng, who was answering a question without notice from Palapye MP Mr Onneetse Ramogapi, in Parliament, Monday, explained that DailyNews distribution was currently outsourced to the BotswanaPost and Courier Junxion, trading as Mogaka Pty Limited.

The two, he said alternated to distribute the paper every six months.

BotswanaPost is a state-owned enterprise wholly owned by the government of Botswana and governed by a board of Directors

while Mogaka Pty Ltd is 100 per cent owned by a citizen director, Mr Morwaeng said. He said prior to engagement of BotswanaPost and Mogaka in 2018, the Department of Information Services invited courier companies to bid for a three-year contract to distribute the DailyNews to 544 places countrywide. Mr Morwaeng said the tender was won by Majestic Carriers, having quoted a lower price of P 41 287 680.

He said the contract was to run from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2021, but was terminated due to non-performance.

He said the company was currently suing the department claiming unfair termination, a matter which was before the courts of law.

Minister Morwaeng emphasised that publication and distribution of the DailyNews was a critical service as such the department had no choice but to appeal to BotswanaPost to assist with the delivery of the newspaper.

In the meantime, Mr Morwaeng

said the department published an Expression of Interest (EOI) inviting courier companies to distribute the paper to 544 places.

He also added that BotswanaPost and Sprint Couriers were short listed but due to budgetary constraints the department had to reduce the number of targeted places to 134.

"All the couriers who had submitted their bids for the EOI were invited as this was a new tender as per the advice of the Ministerial Tender Committee (MTC). The tender was closed in June 2020. BotswanaPost was recommended for award," he said.

However, Mr Morwaeng said BotswanaPost had not been awarded the tender yet because one of the bidders, Mogaka Pty Ltd queried their loss and the matter was with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.

Mr Morwaeng said the Department of Government Printing and Publishing Services (GPPS) had been responsible for printing the DailyNews since

2009/2010 financial year to date.

"Prior to that, the paper was printed by the Publishing and Printing Company Botswana (PPCB) and Dikgang Printing and Publishing on different occasions following their successful bids to print the paper," he said. Mr Morwaeng said the quantities produced have fluctuated from year to year starting from 80 000 copies at 32 pages to 40 000 copies at 24 pages and current 20 000 copies at 16 pages.

He said the reasons for the decrease in the DailyNews printed copies and the number of pages were due to substantial increase in the printing costs, particularly following the outbreak of COVID-19. Mr Morwaeng said the annual cost of printing DailyNews was currently more than P40 million. The minister said BotswanaPost was engaged on a six months contract from September 2023 to February 2024 to distribute 40 000 copies of the DailyNews to 155 places country wide where there were post offices and postal

agencies at the value of P7 985 552. 82, which translated to P 1 330 925. 50 per month. He said late or no delivery of the DailyNews paper at some constituencies was attributed to non-performance of the service provider.

"My ministry has engaged with the service provider and issued a warning regarding consistent failure to deliver," he said.

Mr Ramogapi had asked the minister to state the total pages of the DailyNews paper, quantity of copies produced per day in the last 20 years, current pages produced and quantity produced per day as well as cause for the decrease.

Mr Ramogapi also wanted to know the total amount paid to the contractor per month or per service, stating specifications of the contract, reasons behind late delivery or non-delivery of the newspaper as well as action that will be taken to ensure that the DailyNews paper arrives at constituencies in good quality, quantity and within proper cost. **BOPA**



Mr Pule told Parliament that Water bowing was done on a full-time basis at Makopong, Draaihoek and Kokotsha to augment water supply.

Govt addresses water shortage at Makopong, Draaihoek, Kokotsha

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - Water bowing is done on a full-time basis to augment water supply at Makopong, Draaihoek and Kokotsha.

Responding to question without notice from Kgalagadi South MP, Mr Sam Brooks on Monday, the Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Mabuse Pule said a long-term solution to the current problem would be the development of a water supply scheme from Werda wellfield to the three villages that is expected to be funded under National Development Plan 12 (NDP12).

Mr Pule said Makopong had two operational boreholes with daily yield of 0.096 million litres against the daily demand of 0.210 million litres.

He said Draaihoek was supplied by a borehole producing 0.048 million litres per day against the daily demand of 0.125 million litres.

Therefore, Mr Pule said water bowing was done to the two villages to supplement the supply shortage.

"Kokotsha village with a daily demand of 0.165 million litres of water per day does not have an operational borehole, hence bowing is undertaken on full time basis," he said.

Mr Pule said water bowing was done through two 20 cubic meters private bowser trucks and the other two 12 cubic meters Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) bowser trucks as a short-term plan to adverse water shortage in the three villages.

"The bowing companies are not permanently engaged but they are given one and a half month contracts on a rotational basis to empower Batswana owned bowing companies. Bowing is done temporarily as a relieve measure while awaiting implementation of a long term solution," he said.

He said three private water boreholes were currently being connected to the supply network to augment water supply to the villages of Makopong and Draaihoek. He explained that the first borehole was pump tested on November 13 and failed to perform as expected while the second borehole performed well.

"It has been connected to the village tank from December 02 with a yield of 5.2 cubic per hour improving the water situation in the two villages of Makopong and Draaihoek. The third borehole pump testing commenced on December 11 and it is expected to be completed by December 28," he said.

He added that WUC would drill another borehole at Draaihoek to augment supply from the existing borehole, noting that two local water surveying companies had been engaged on November 15, to survey site two water drilling sites as an emergency project.

The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of December. Mr Pule said construction of a desalination plant at Kokotsha had been budgeted for in the coming financial year to desalinate water from the two high yielding boreholes at Kokotsha to augment supply to the village.

Making a follow-up to the answer, Sefhare/Ramokgonami MP, Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang stated that the question posed by MP Brooks was a reaction to the current situation at the three villages.

Dr Gobotswang observed that the results of the Housing and Population census must be used to guide and ascertain the projected demand of water or any other service rendered to the community at certain locality as it was the case of water supply to the three villages.

Dr Gobotswang advised that for future planning purposes, the available results of studies must be fully taken into consideration to

avoid severe shortages in supply of basic necessities such as water. He said it was unfortunate that despite having such data to guide the development agenda and service delivery, government appeared to be caught off-guard therefore being reactionary rather proactive.

Mr Pule concurred that the whole idea of a Housing and Population Census was to collect data to guide the development plan as it gave a projection of the numbers of people that would require a service.

However, Mr Pule said even though government planning was guided by such data, planning was obstructed by challenges that were never anticipated.

MP Brooks, had asked the Minister of Lands and Water Affairs if he was aware of water challenges at Makopong, Draaihoek and Kokotsha and wanted the minister to state what was being done to address the situation. **BOPA**

Parliament rejects amendment proposal

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Parliament on Monday rejected a proposal by Okavango legislator, Mr Kenny Kapinga to reduce the maximum penalty for aggressors against people with disability.

The newly adopted Disability Bill set minimum sentence at 10 years while the maximum sentence has been pegged at 30 years.

Mr Kapinga argued that the sentence induced a sense of shock and might lead to extreme injustice. "This is more so that modern laws recommend reforming offenders than punishment. Such wisdom as expected from of legislature is not reflected prescribing a minimum of 10 years without an option for a fine. This is more so that transgression against people with disabilities differ on degrees," he said.

Making his contribution, Vice President Mr Slumber Tsogwane said punishment should take into consideration the fact that most people with disabilities were helpless, hence the need to harshly protect their human rights.

"People with disability have no defence so their protection should be utmost. We do not have to propose a lesser sentence, if at all, perpetrators would argue for a lesser sentence at trial," said Leader of the House.

Mahalapye West MP, Mr David Tshere said the sentence was too harsh especially that most caretakers of people with disabilities were volunteers.

He said the harsh penalties would therefore scare them from volunteerism. Member of Parliament for Gaborone South, Mr Dumezweni Mthimkhulu said the Bill should be seen as trying to nip the problem at the bud rather than punishing the degree of abuse.

"The only way to achieve that is to make the punishment harsh because if we put a lesser sentence

the Bill will miss the plot," he said. Supporting Mr Kapinga's amendment proposals, Francistown South legislator, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi said the Bill should not be prescriptive, but allow judicial officers to decide.

"The proposal does not however, support being lenient, but just that 10 years is too harsh and might not be commensurate with minor offences against people with disabilities," he said.

He said it should be brought to attention that some caretakers may flout the rules without malice aforethought, but genuine belief that their actions were for the good of the victim.

He therefore, advised against debating such matters with emotion saying though there was no doubt about the cruelty of some caretakers on people with disabilities.

Mochudi West legislator, Mr Mmusi Kgafela also opposed the proposal, indicating that in anyway, Section 27(4) of the Penal Code gave judges liberty to give a lesser charge than the minimum stipulated if an offence did not, in their view, warrant even the minimum sentence. He said Parliament should be allowed to express its seriousness by making harsh laws.

Another legislator, Mr Taolo Lucas of Bobonong also agreed that the harsher the laws, the higher the chances of scaring would be perpetrators. Ghanzi South lawmaker, Mr Motsamai Motsamai advocated for a broader amendment of all the laws that advocated for the rights of people with disabilities.

He said this would make the country compliant with the many international treaties it had signed.

Mr Motsamai also urged government to recognise caretakers of people with disabilities as this would also indicate genuine concern. **BOPA**

Tonota West Police Station to be considered during NDP12

GABORONE - Parliament has been told that construction of a police station in Tonota West will be considered during National Development Plan 12(NDP 12) as it could not be accommodated within the transitional development plan due to budgetary constraints.

Answering a question in Parliament on behalf of the Minister of Defence and Security, the Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Mr Sethabelo Modukanele said villages in the west of Tonota continued to be policed by personnel stationed at Tonota Police Station and Police

Post jointly. Tonota Member of Parliament Mr Pono Moatlhodi had asked if there were any plans to avail a mini police station in Tonota West with a view to curb crime.

Meanwhile Modukanele also told Parliament that there were plans to relocate Nata Police Station during NDP 12 and a plot has already been allocated to include staff houses.

He said he was cognizant of the fact that Nata Police officers were accommodated in a dilapidated police station which was built along the banks of Nata River many years ago. He said at the time, Nata River did not pose that

much risk hence its placement.

He also noted that the police station was also planned for maintenance under the Transitional National Development Plan and pre-tender activities involving scoping were on-going with the project expected to take off in 2024/2025 financial year.

Nata-Gweta MP Mr Polson Majaga had asked the minister when he would consider closing Nata Police Station given its dilapidated state.

He also wanted to know when it will be maintained since it provided services for tourists and international clients. **BOPA**



Okavango registers 900 for Temo Letlotlo



Okavango District councillors sharing a moment after a session in Gumare. Mr Ronald said over 900 people had so far registered for Temo Letlotlo Programme in Okavango.

Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

GUMARE - More than 900 farmers have registered for the Temo Letlotlo programme in the Okavango District so far, the Okavango District Council (ODC) Chairman, Mr Gaopalelwe Ronald, has said.

Mr Ronald was speaking when officially opening the ODC full council in Gumare on Monday.

He said the programme had been successfully launched and registration of farmers was ongoing on the Crop Management System (CMS) which was meant to maximize benefits for registered farmers.

He said there was a delay in the registration process at some point due to system interruption.

Temo Letlotlo is the Botswana government's flagship productivity-output-led and reward-based agroecological programme whose main aim was to improve food security at the household and national levels and get farmers into a commercial operations.

On other matters, Mr Ronald told the full council that Bont Tick dipping and treatment of

Dermatophylosis (Senkobo) was ongoing. He said a total of 10 890 cattle were dipped against 11219 expected this quarter while 3700 goats and sheep have been dipped.

Mr Ronald said that a total of 2926 cattle and 54 small stock belonging to 448 and 25 farmers respectively were treated for demartophylosis.

He said some cattle needed further treatment to fully recover from the disease while the disease's clinical severity has greatly reduced in some.

He said farmers were advised to take advantage of the 50 per cent government drought relief subsidy to help them with reduced livestock treatment costs.

He said that the district continued to experience problematic animals, especially elephants which destroyed crops and water facilities.

He said that 146 cases of problem animals were recorded in the district in the current quarter. Mr Ronald said the Department of Wildlife and National Parks has managed to compensate 184 cases, which amounted to P361 373.15 this quarter. **BOPA**

ORI advances research through partnerships

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Okavango Research Institute (ORI) has partnered and collaborated with both local and international institutions to advance teaching and research, says Prof. Joseph Mbaiwa.

Presenting a report during ORI's annual advisory board

meeting recently, he said a number of universities had visited the institute and signed agreements and that some ambassadors from European Union countries had also paid them a visit.

Prof. Mbaiwa also revealed that the institute had received funding from the Southern African Science Service

Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) to sponsor seven students to undertake research on land use conflicts, sustainable conservation and bio-diversity in the Okavango Delta, tourism and climate change to help in decision making.

He said locally they had worked and collaborated with some universities and mining companies as well as signing agreements. He acknowledged efforts by Khoemacau Copper Mine to mitigate climate change by planting trees in dikgotla and some schools.

Prof. Mbaiwa also said three experts were formulating the national tourism master and action plan, adding that it would serve as a guideline for the development of tourism.

Ms Una Busang from University of Botswana's public affairs department told the gathering that they were transitioning to become a research intensive institution, adding that the objective was to conduct research that would solve societal challenges.

The advisory board provides insight and recommendations to guide ORU to identify research topics aimed at addressing community concerns. It is made up of policy makers, civil society, the private sector and local government officials.

The meeting provided an opportunity for strategic planning and to enable the board to assess the institute's progress, identify areas for improvement and explore new avenues for growth and impact. **BOPA**



RAMALLAH - Some closed stores in the West Bank city of Nablus. A comprehensive strike in the West Bank and east Jerusalem in protest of Israel's ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip paralyzed all aspects of life in those Palestinian territories on Monday. Commercial activities in cities ceased, along with a complete shutdown of schools and universities, while transportation between Palestinian cities and villages also came to a halt. The strike even affected bakeries, which closed their doors in compliance with calls for a ceasefire in Gaza. Photo: Xinhua

COP28 receives outlook for China's energy transition

DUBAI - A report on China's energy transition outlook has been released on the sideline of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The report, named China Energy Transformation Outlook 2023, was launched Saturday at a side event themed "Jointly Shaping a Resolute Future for Global Energy Transformation" of COP28 ongoing in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

The report focuses on energy security and cost-effectiveness during the process of energy transition. Addressing the event, China's special envoy for climate change Xie Zhenhua said it is of great significance for countries to explore energy transition solutions based on their distinguished conditions and reach a consensus on energy transition that is inclusive, pragmatic, and feasible to all.

He expressed hope that experts attending the event could provide innovative solutions to common

and systematic challenges facing the globe and that more wisdom and strength could be gathered to promote global green and low-carbon transition.

The report said China will pursue a green and low-carbon path different from developed countries, and its clean energy technologies will achieve leap-forward development.

It added that the country is expected to achieve high-quality economic and social development with relatively low per-capita energy consumption and carbon emissions compared with developed countries, injecting confidence into global green growth.

Mary Warlick, deputy executive director of the International Energy Agency, hailed China as a major contributor to accelerating the expansion of the clean energy economy. She added that developed economies and China have the opportunity to jointly lead progress in global climate action by accelerating efforts on energy transition. **Xinhua**

IEC, UDC judgment set for December 19

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE - The Court of Appeal will deliver judgment of a case between the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and

the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) on December 19.

This follows the IEC's decision to appeal Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe's order rendered on November 10 at the Francistown

High Court. The IEC feels that the UDC does not have the right to observe and monitor the election registration process.

The case is before Justices Tebogo Tau, Isaac Lesetedi,

Singh Walia, Mercy Garekwe and Gotsilekgabo Tebogo-Maruping at the Court Of Appeal (CoA).

In his decision, Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetlwe gave the UDC an interim order to monitor and observe the registration process and interdicted and prevented the IEC from preventing the UDC registration clerks.

Appearing for the IEC, Advocate Andrew Redding said the UDC does not have the right to observe and monitor the registration process.

Adv. Redding said the judge of the High Court emphasised issues of fairness and transparency and overlooked the administration of the whole matter.

"When an administrative body denies you right, your redress is administrative review," he said, adding that the UDC should have challenged the IEC or the Electoral Act.

Adv. Redding stated that what the UDC was doing was seeking the court to create a right to observe elections, which was exclusive of other parties.

"There is no right and that is the end of it. If there has to be a challenge, it ought to be on the Electoral Act," he said.

He said the court should be interpreting legislations and not to identify gaps. Also, he said it puzzled that other interested parties such as the Attorney General were not cited in the matter.

Furthermore, he said there were privacy concerns with regard to registration data shared with the

UDC registration clerks, adding that voters would never want their information shared for advertising or political campaign.

Advocate Duma Boko for the UDC said the party had the right to observe registration and that derived from the Electoral Act, which he said was a mirror of the Constitution.

He added that the party was courteous when writing to the IEC that it would be deploying registration clerks.

Adv. Boko further said their application to the High Court was to avert chaos and ensure that the monitoring and observation was done in an orderly manner.

He said the UDC was desirous of not impeding the registration exercise hence it did not seek an order to stop the processes.

He noted that the UDC would exploit the possibility of interdicting the registration if aggrieved by the court decision.

"It will not inconvenience the IEC should the UDC have its election observers," he said.

He said the personal data privacy that the Commission was complaining about was not an issue, as such information had been shared in public places such as shops and the voters roll, among others. "There is no law that prohibit us," he said. "Where in the Electoral Act does it prohibit election observation?"

He said added that the lawgiver in his or her wisdom never prohibited observing the registration process. **BOPA.**

Police cluster request new strategies

By Bonang Masolotatse

KANYE - Kanye Police Cluster has been urged to employ new strategies in fighting crime especially at this time of the year, where analysis indicates rampant crime statistics.

Kanye First National Bank Branch Administration Manager, Mr Eric Setumo, said this in his keynote address at the Kanye Police Cluster Performance, where nine clusters from their policing area were handed the certificates which they attained at the national level cluster performance exercise.

Mr Setumo appealed for participation from clusters adding that, as Botswana Police Service was on a 60-day exercise against Crime and Road Safety, their input was highly anticipated in order to achieve the intended goal.

The initiative spearheaded by Botswana Police Service Crime Prevention Unit, and all the nine clusters belonging to Kanye Police took position one in the best category, whereas in the four clusters took position one Best Practice Category, and five clusters took position two.

Mr Setumo said Botswana Po-

lice's mission was to provide policing in partnership with the community, adding that emphasis of this mission is that community participation is very essential in the prevention and detection of crime in our community. "It is therefore the desire of Botswana Police to ensure meaningful partnership with the community," he said.

He therefore extended his sincere congratulations to the Kanye Police Community forum, inclusive of all structures for the good performance and commitment on the fight against crime.

"I am humbled by the selfless dedication and commitment by some of the cluster members for their efforts. I therefore encourage that you continue mentoring the youth on the benefits of fighting crime," he said.

He recognized and appreciated their sacrifice and input and that of other stakeholders.

He added that such dedication is huge as they have invested a lot of time towards the noble initiative of fighting crime relentlessly.

"We recognise the excellence and the results of spirit of volunteerism," he said. "This is a good sign of achievement as far as Bo-

swana Police is concerned."

He advised that this recognition of their selfless and committed efforts should serve as a motivation to keep the momentum rolling.

"What we desire as a nation is to see our communities building consensus and working together for a common goal of fighting crime in our country," he said.

For his part, Sejelo Police Station Officer, S/Supt, Banneetse Keakile, also commended clusters for their dedication to the cluster and innovative ways of combating crime that they have practiced over the years.

S/Supt Keakile indicated that they were disheartened by the alarming increase of cases such as theft, robbery, missing persons, and stock theft.

He urged the cluster members to be vigilant and report any suspecting cases of that nature, adding that such traits could lead to crime reduction.

He advised that during the festive season thieves were at their prime, adding that to prevent them, it was necessary for the community to work closely together through initiatives such as neighbourhood watch. **BOPA.**

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District exports over 160 tonnes of beef to DRC

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) has exported over 162 tonnes of frozen boneless beef from Maun, Ngamiland and Batawana abattoirs to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Updating a council meeting recently, North West District Council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng said BMC had sent 582 943.70kg to green zones, 91 740.20kg to a factory shop and 38 885.70kg sent to Kasane while Batawana sent 124 117.42kg to Kasane and Ngamiland abattoir sent 1 672.30kg to Kasane.

Mr Kelebetseng said the carcass meal amounting to 51 000kg was also exported to Zimbabwe and only 6 000kg was sent to a factory shop that manufactured pet food in Mochudi.

He also informed councillors that smallstock off-take to the market had shown constant increase above the set targets of 1 116 and 661 for goats and sheep respectively.

"Since our last gathering a total of 1 178 goats and 706 sheep were slaughtered, translating into a 19.35 per cent and 6.8 per cent increase respectively," he added.

On poultry, he said there was a market for eggs as the school feeding programme provided farmers with the opportunity to grow their business as evidenced by the 135 farmers who had since June, supplied 625 973 eggs.

Mr Kelebetseng also implored political leaders to support the new Temo Letlotlo programme which was launched in October.

"Registration for this newly crafted programme is ongoing at the respective extension areas and all farmers are encouraged to come forth and seek assistance," he said.

He also told the meeting that the Ministry of Agriculture had, through the implementation of an Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD), introduced the Horticulture Impact Accelerator Subsidy (IAS) fund.

He said the IAS fund assisted with different horticultural production packages where Batswana needed to bring 50 per cent contribution. However, he said in the North West district, the programme uptake was reported to be low as only two applications were approved during the reporting period.

Councillors also learnt that the recent launched Topline dip aimed to control bovine dermatophilosis disease commonly known as *Senkobo* in the district was doing well as there had been no active cases and mortalities recorded since its launch in October.

"The dip is indeed a game changer and considered a great milestone towards the control of bont tick on the basis of its 90

days residual effect," he said.

Furthermore, he noted that 48 extension officers were trained on the use of topline dip prior to the launch to assist with dipping of cattle in future.

He said 6 044 cattle were dipped by farmers at Shorobe extension area while 1 410 cattle were also dipped with Topline at Maun West Extension area.

With regard to livestock disease control situation in the district, councillors were told that vaccinations against Foot and Mouth Disease, Blackleg and Anthrax in cattle as well as rabies in dogs and cats had been completed. He said the Department of Veterinary Services had during the exercise registered six cases of rabies with four from canine and two from caprine species.

On other issues, Mr Kelebetseng said the Maun Development Plan (2023-2043) had been completed and the draft plan had been recommended for approval to the minister by the Physical Planning Committee at its sitting on November 29.

"This is a long term spatial framework that shall inform the development patterns or landscape of Maun and lure in investors from across the globe as we implement the good development proposals of Maun Green City," he added.

He said he was happy that the planning process adopted a bottom-up approach where both the community and stakeholders were taken onboard through extensive consultations.

"This is a welcome development. The plan will indeed transform Maun from being a gateway to the Okavango Delta into a tourist destination of choice both locally and internationally because it has endless possibilities of attracting potential investors for possible partnerships, joint ventures and public private partnership (PPP) initiatives along with the value chain," he added.

Thus, he implored all, including the business community, to be part of the implementation of the plan. **BOPA**

Prevalence of illicit drugs worrisome

By Keith Ketji

SEROWE - Illicit drug usage has been recognised as a growing problem in Botswana.

Botswana Police Service's Drug Enforcement Agency Senior Assistant Commissioner Mr Christopher Mbulawa told a Mindset change stakeholder engagement workshop in Serowe on Friday, that three main drugs used were Cannabis popularly known as Marijuana, cocaine and Methcathione (CAT) drug, better known as 'katse' on the streets.

He said the three were rapidly becoming popular in the country especially among teenagers.

He said in 2021, estimated



Mr Macha (left) awarding Mr Victor Bashe a Long Service award (39 years) during Masunga District Commissioner's office performance recognition and excellence awards ceremony recently. Mr Macha said the objective of the day was to appreciate efforts of deserving officers, as well as motivate others to excel in the coming year. Photo: Goweditse Kome

Official encourages employees to excel

By Goweditse Kome

MASUNGA - A mindset change coach at Office of the District Commissioner, Mr Christopher Moseki has said the Mindset Change Campaign was not to suggest that public servants have been doing things wrongly, but was meant to encourage them to do better and double the efforts to increase levels of productivity.

Speaking during a performance recognition and excellence awards ceremony

recently, Mr Moseki said pillars of mindset change were derived from aspirations of Vision 2036 and urged all to align themselves with them in order improve their lives and the economy of the country.

He encouraged people to stop criticising the government initiatives and programmes which were meant to improve the livelihoods of Batswana.

He warned against the tendency by some people who are always quick to say the financial programmes were for

the chosen few, certain people, and family members of some people or granted on friendship.

"Fight the negative energy," he said, pointing out that many people had risen from very difficult circumstances to achieve prominence and success through hard work.

District Commissioner-North East District Mr Gobe Macha said the objective of the day was to appreciate the efforts of deserving officers, as well as encourage and motivate others to excel in the coming year. **BOPA**

number of illegal drug users worldwide was about 296 million which was worrisome. He said statistics included Botswana as the country was not spared.

He thus implored all who were into drugs to discontinue their use as they could ruin one's future.

He said use of illicit drugs posed risk to pregnant mothers as it could cause complications during or after birth.

The officer said drug usage was a concern due to its negative effects on the health, wellbeing, and development of young people.

He said such usage was also associated with a higher risk of developing mental health

disorders and related problems later in life.

Mr Mbulawa said illicit drug use was also associated with an increase in other risky behaviours such as early sexual debut, unprotected sex, driving under the influence of drugs, violence and truancy.

He said there was a possibility children were indulging in illicit drugs without parents knowing, thus implored parents to monitor their children to ensure they were always on the right track.

He said children might behave well at home, but behave contrary when outdoors.

Mr Mbulawa said drugs were entering the country at a very

high rate and Batswana were also into the business of this harmful habit forming substances, caution peddlers to refrain from making a living through killing others.

He said the sad truth was that drugs were also in churches and therefore concerted efforts were needed to devise means to nip the monster in the bud.

"People should go all out and to save the youth who are leaders of tomorrow from drugs," he said.

Speaking at the same occasion, Apostle Dr Oratile Onalepelo said people needed to change the way they perceived things.

He said there was need to take a direction that everybody would envy. **BOPA**

SA hosts tuberculosis research summit

JOHANNESBURG - The BRICS Tuberculosis Research Network Innovation Summit kicked off on Monday in Durban.

Scientists and senior officials from BRICS countries have gathered together to facilitate collaborative research on innovations in tuberculosis diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics and drugs and health systems strengthening.

Tuberculosis remains a pressing concern for South Africa as approximately 300 000 people are estimated to get tuberculosis every year, South Africa's Deputy Health Minister Sibongiseni Dhlomo said at the opening plenary of the summit.

"Although our infection incidence

is declining, we are concerned about the unacceptable death rate among our tuberculosis patients.

A major driver of our TB infection is HIV as 48 per cent of our TB patients were people living with HIV in 2022," Dhlomo said.

South Africa has been scaling up new tools for diagnosis and shorter treatment regimens for drug-resistant tuberculosis, he said.

The BRICS nations carry a disproportionate burden of drug susceptible and drug resistant tuberculosis infection, according to Dhlomo, who noted that the summit's aim is to bring together programme managers and scientists from

BRICS countries to seek ways and means to exchange information, know-how and formulate redress strategies and solutions.

The summit was established by the health ministries of BRICS countries

in 2017 in response to the burden of tuberculosis among the BRICS countries.

Held under the theme; BRICS Innovations for Ending Tuberculosis, the summit will end on Thursday. *Xinhua*

Natural disasters affect over 407m people in Africa

ADDIS ABABA - Natural disasters affected a total of 407.5 million people in Africa between 2000 and 2022 as climate-induced catastrophic events led to severe humanitarian crises across the continent, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has said.

Amid the growing impact of climate-induced incidents across the African continent, such events have forced some 4.2 million people to become homeless, while killing 53 610 people and injuring 52 205 others, the UNECA has said Monday.

The UNECA said findings of its Economic Report on Africa 2023, which would be officially launched next week and titled; Building Africa's Resilience to Global Economic Shocks, had shown that climate shocks generally were highly correlated with the cyclical component of gross domestic product (GDP) growth and not with the long-term trend in Africa, which suggests that part of the volatility observed in growth emanates from climate-induced shocks.

"A temperature increase beyond a threshold of 0.7-degree centigrade results

in reduced real GDP growth. At 1.8-degree centigrade change in temperature, which is expected to prevail by 2030 if current trends persist, we could expect a 2-percentage point decline in real GDP growth," the UNECA said, citing the findings of its Economic Report on Africa. According to the UNECA, the frequency of natural disasters increases public debt levels directly, in which a unit increase in natural disasters could lead to a 0.25 percentage point increase in the ratio of net public debt to GDP.

"More significantly, climate change in Africa tends to derail poverty reduction and, in some cases, destroy the livelihoods of millions of people that mainly rely on agriculture and small businesses.

Droughts, floods, frosts, and other natural events that lead to crop failure affect the welfare of households that live in rural areas and small towns." The UNECA said the ERA-2023 carries important lessons regarding how African countries must incorporate climate change in the design and implementation of their long-term growth strategies. *Xinhua*



DONGSHENG - According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, China's grain output rose 1.3 per cent year in year out to a record high of 695.41 million tonnes in 2023. This is the ninth consecutive year for China to register a grain harvest of over 650 million tonnes. Photo: Xinhua

UN appeals for funds to provide humanitarian aid

GENEVA - The Office for the United Nations Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Monday appealed for US\$46.4 billion to provide vital assistance and protection to 180.5 million people from 72 countries facing the devastating impact of armed conflicts, climate emergencies and economic collapse.

According to OCHA's Global Humanitarian Overview, the Middle East and North African region require US\$13.9 billion, the largest total for any region in 2024 and accounting for 30 per cent of the total. East and Southern Africa requires US\$10.9 billion, while West and Central Africa calls for US\$8.3 billion.

Asia and the Pacific will require US\$5.5 billion, Eastern Europe US\$4.1 billion and Latin America and the Caribbean US\$3.6 billion.

According to the number of people in need and the depth of their need, the five largest country appeals in the OCHA overview include Syria calling for US\$4.4 billion, Ukraine US\$3.1 billion, Afghanistan US\$3 billion, Ethiopia US\$2.9 billion and Yemen US\$2.8 billion.

Rising global conflicts, notably in Sudan and between Israel and Gaza in 2023, have led to a dramatic increase in civilian casualties, the OCHA overview said.

OCHA figures also showed that the scale of forced displacement across the world has doubled in the past decade, affecting more than one in 73 people worldwide.

Conflict and climate disasters remained the main causes of such displacement.

Internal displacement reached a record

71.1 million at the end of 2022, a 20 per cent increase from the previous year.

The number of refugees is also at a record high of 36.4 million, with over half from Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine. "Almost one in five children worldwide is now living in or fleeing from conflict zones," Martin Griffiths, UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, highlighted.

According to the OCHA figure, a total of 258 million people across 58 countries face acute food insecurity, a consequence of armed conflict, economic shocks, climate extremes, poverty and inequality. Among them, 45 million children under five are at risk of wasting, with 13.6 million experiencing severe wasting, putting them in danger of death.

Griffiths said without collective global efforts, the food security situation is expected to worsen in 2024, citing Burkina Faso, Mali, the occupied Palestinian territory, South Sudan and Sudan as areas of utmost concern.

He also said 2023 was worrisome for humanitarian efforts because it's likely the first time since 2010 that funding for humanitarian aid will go down instead of up.

In 2023, levels of displacement, acute food insecurity, and malnutrition reached historically high levels but by November 24, the humanitarian system received around US\$20 billion, just 35 per cent of the US\$57 billion appealed in the Global Humanitarian Overview 2023. *Xinhua*

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Thapelo e na le maatla - mogolwane

Ka Kefilwe Selotlegeng

PALAPYE - Ba sepodisi sa Palapye ba tshwaragane le dikereke ba ne ba tshwara merapelo kgatlhanong le dikotsi tsa tsela tse di tswelentseng ka go gapa matshelo a batho mo kgaolong eo. ka tumelo ya gore ba ka fena ka mautlwelo bothoko a Modimo.

Merapelo eo, e ne e tsenwe ke dikereke ka go farologana le bogogi jwa Palapye ba le bone ba tshwentsweng ke dikotsi tsa ditsela.

Tiro eo, e ne e tshwaretswe fa thoko ga tsela ya A1 kwa Setatse, le kwa masimong a Lechana le ya A14 gaufi le moepo wa Morupule.

Mogolwane wa mapodisi a pharakano kwa Serowe Assistant Superintendent Koolebogile Sefatlhi a re ba tshwentswe ke dikotsi tsa tsela tse di gapang matshelo a batho, fa tse dingwe di tlogela bangwe ka bogole.

Assistant Supritendent Sefatlhi a re ba bone go tshwanela gore ba kope thuso kwa modimong ka ba dumela fa thapelo e na le maatla a go fena tsotlhe.

A re ba latlhegetswe ke batho ba le bantsi mo dikotsing tsa tsela a tlhalosa gore motho fa a tlhokafala ke tlatlhagelo e kgolo ka gore ga gona yo o ka mo emelang.

Ka jalo Assistant Superintendent Sefatlhi o ne a gakolola bakgweetsi gore nako tsotlhe ba netefatse gore dikoloi tsa bone di itekanetse fa ba tsaya mesepele.

A re mokgweetsi o tshwanetse a kgweetswe koloi a itekanetse gore a obamele matshwao a tsela ka nako tsotlhe.

Mogolwane o ne a re ba rulagantse thapelo go lebilwe malatsi a Keresemose le Ngwaga o mosha ka ba lemogile gore dikotsi ka bontsi di bakiwa ke boitumelo jo bo kwa godimo le mesepele e meleele.

Assistant Supritendent Sefatlhi a re ba lekile ka gotlhe mo ba ka go kgonang go thibela dikotsi tse di tswelentseng, ke ka moo ba boneng go tshwanela ke go bitsa dikereke go tla go rapelela dikotsi .

Assistant supritendent Sefatlhi a re bontsi jwa dikotsi di bakiwa ke lebelo le le kwa godimo le maitsholo a e seng one mo bakgweetsi bangwe mo ditseleng.

O ne a kopa baruti go akaretsa masula otlhe a borukuthi jo bo ileng magoletsa mo kgaolong ya Palapye le kgokgontsho a

tlhalosa fa matshelo a batho a le mo diphatseng ka lebaka la dirukuthi tse.

A re sepodisi ka nosi ga se kake sa kgona go lwantsha borukuthi ke ka moo ba rotloetsang mowa wa tshwaragano, neelano fa gare ga bone le morafe.

Mothusa Mogolwane wa mapodisi a pharakano mo Palapye Inspector Christopher Mpofu a re ba gatisitse dikotsi tsa tsela di le 467 mo ngwageng ono mo go tsona di le 13 e le tse di masisi.

Inspector Mpofu a re ka ngwaga wa 2021 ba gatisitse dikotsi i le 513, ka 2022 di le 506 tse di masisi di le le borobabongwe mo ngwageng tsoo pedi .

Mogolwane wa lephata la Ditsela Dipalamo le Ipabalelo mo Palapye, Rre More Chapete a re dikotsi tsa tsela di gaketse mme kgang e tona ke gore bakgweetsi bangwe ga ba obamele matshwao a tsela gape ga ba tlathlobe dikoloi tsa bone gore a di itekanetse.

Rre Chapete a re dikoloi ga di a direlwa go bolaya mme di diretse go thusa mesepele le go rwala dithoto ka jalo ga di dire dikotsi mme bakgweetsi ke bone ba bakang di kotsi.

Rre Chapete a re go lemosegile fa batho ba ba amegang thata mo dikotsing tsa tsela e le banana.

O ne a kopa batsadi go gakolola le go lemotsha banana bodiphatsa jwa go kgweetsa ba iphitititse dino kana dikoloi di sa itekanela.

A re mongwe le mongwe a eme ka dinao go thusa ba molao, a tlhalosa gore go batla batho ba fetola boitshwaro le ka fa ba dirang dilo ka teng.

Rre Chapete a re ipabalelo tseleng ke ya mongwe le mongwe, a tlhalosa fa go le bothokwa gore botlhe ba tshele ipabalelo tseleng go hema dikotsi. **BOPA**



Mapodisi a Palapye, dikereke ka go farologana le bogogi jwa motse ba ne ba tshwaraganetse tiro ya go rapelela dikotsi tsa tsela tse di tswelentseng ka go gapa matshelo a batho mo kgaolong eo. Merapelo e ene e tshwerwe mo Palapye fa thoko ga tsela ya A1.

Ditlhalano diya magoletsa

Ka Cathrine Simane

KHAWA - Mothusa molaodi mo kgaolong ya Tsabong Mme Thapelo Lesolame a re boeteledipele bo tshwentswe ke dipalo tse di kwa godimo tsa tlhalano bogolo jang tsa banana.

Mme Lesolame o buile se ka letsatsi la moletlo wa Re-a-Nyalana kwa Khawa bosheng.

O boletse fa dikgang tsa tlhalano di sa jese balaodi diwelang ka jalo a rotloetsa batho gore pele ga ba nyalana ba bo ba tsere tshwetso ya go aga malwapa a motia.

O boletse fa go simolola ka ngwaga wa 2021 go fitlha mo nakong eno kgotla kgolo ya ditsheko e setse e gatisitse dikgang di le dikete tse tharo, makgolo a mararo le masome a mabedi le bosupa (3 327) tsa banyalani ba ba kgaoganyeng semmuso bontsi e le banana.

Banyalani ba le boherabongwe ba ne ba ikanisiwa ka letsatsi leo.

O akgoletse banyalani go bo ba tsere tshwetso e e maleba ya go akola lenaneo la Re-a-Nyalana ka jaanong ba tla a kgona go tsamaisa malwapa a bone ka fa go tshwanetseng ba setse morago ka fa ba lailweng ka teng, selo se se tlaa ba thusang go aga bana

go nna le botho le bokamoso jo bo eletsegang mo setshabeng. O ne a kgothatsa banna go nna ditlhogo tsa malwapa tse di nang le boikarabelo mme ba tlogele mokgwa wa go kgokgontsha bomme, mme ba ba apese ka bothito jwa lorato ka dinako tsotlhe.

Mme Lesolame o rotloeditse bomme go tlotla banna ba bone jaaka lefoko la modimo le kwadiilwe.

A re gore manyalo a bone a nne le kagiso le ledula ke gore ba tlotle manyalo ka go buisanya, go itshwarelelana fa yo mongwe a dirile phoso le gone go tshephana, go emana nokeng ka dinako tsotlhe go le bothoko go le monate go itsa dikgang tsa dipolaano tse di tshwenyang mo lefatsheng ka bophara. Mothusa molaodi o ne a gakolola banyalani bothokwa jwa go tsena mo manyalong ba tlhologanya melao ya lenyalo, e katswa e la setswana kana la sekgoa, le go ithuta gore go tlhakanela dithoto le go se di tlhakanele go raya eng pele fa ba tsena mo lenyalong.

O ne a gakolola batsadi go tswa mo manyalong a bana ba bone ka seo se ka thusa go aga malwapa a nang le motheo ebile e itsetsepitse.

Kgosi David Toto II wa Tsabong fa a ama banyalani ka lefoko o supile fa lenyalo la Re-a-Nyalana le fokotsa ditsheenyegelo ka ditirelo di ba latela fa ba leng teng jaaka e le maitlamo a puso.

A re Re-a-Nyalana ke lenaneo le le haphegileng le le amogetsweng ka diatla tsoo-pedi ke puso ka le le mosola ka gore le fokedititse dikgosi dikgang tsa go lwela dithoto mo makgotleng a Setswana selo se a neng a phophotha legetla boeteledipele jwa mokgatlho oo.

O boletse fa mokgatlho oo, o tsile ka nako e e maleba ka jaana puso e sa beye sebete batho ba ba nang mmogo ba sa nyalana.

Kgosi Toto II o rotloeditse banyalani go amogela modimo go tsamaisa manyalo a bone ka go baya modimo kwa pele mo dikgwetlhong tse ba tlaa kopanang natso mo manyalong a bone.

Mongwe wa banyalani ka letsatsi leo Rre Abram Molapong o lebogetse thata Re-a-Nyalana go bo e gorogile kwa Khawa ka ba sa le ba e emetse, a supa fa ba le motlotlo le go nna le seriti ka jaana ene le mohumagadi wa gagwe ba tlaa kgona go tseenelela merero ya manyalo ba phuthologile le gone go godisa bana sentle ka fa molaong. **BOPA**

BDF e abela Kokotsha Play Group

Ka Cathrine Simane

TSABONG - E tlaare metseletsele ya maitiso a setlhophsa sa mmimo sa Sesole sa Botswana e wela, banni ba metse e le lesome le bothano ba bo ba setse ka go rumaruma jaaka sesole se tlaabo se abile P450 000 go thusa ba ba tlhokileng lesego.

Tiro e ya bopelotlhomogi, ya ngwaga le ngwaga, e mo ngwageng wa masome a mararo e ntsa e dirwa, selo se se dirileng pharologanyo thata mo matshelong

a ba ba thusitsweng.

Mogolwane go tswa mo BDF Colonel Norman Kebakuile o buile se jaaka a ne a abela sekole sa bananyana sa Kokotsha Play Group P25 000 kwa Tsabong bosheng.

O ne a tlhalosa fa ba ne ba tswa ka mogopolo wa go kokoanya madi go thusa ba ba tlhokileng lesego go thusa setshaba se ba direlang mo go sone fa ba kgonang teng go simolola ka 1991.

Colonel Kebakuile o ne a tlhalosa fa e le ba BDF ba tshwaraganye mmogo le balaodi, ba Khansela mo

lekalaneng la boipelego go ba thusa go tlhophisa ba ba tlhokang thuso.

O ne a supa fa ba simolotse letsholo la BDF la maitiso kgwedi e e fetileng ya Ngwanaatsele e tlhola malatsi a le mararo mme ba tlaa wetsa kwa Lobatse Civic Hall kgwedi eno e le lesome le borataro.

Colonel Kebakuile o ne a tlatla ka go supa fa tshologelo e ne e le e e nametsang mo metseng e ba setseng ba fetile ka yone ba lebeletse gore ke metse e e botona bo kae, mme a rotloetsa Batswana go tswela ba ba eme nokeng

ka madi a ba a kgobokanyanag e le a setshaba go thusa fa puso e tlhelaeng teng ka e ka seke e kgone e le nosi.

Mo potsolotsong le modulasetilo wa komiti ya ditlhabololo ya Kokotsha, Mme Nanaki Basimane yo e leng ene a amogetsweng madi ao o ne a galaletsa ba BDF thata, a supa fa sekole sa Kokotsha Play Group sa bananyana ba dingwaga tse pedi le sephatlo go ya kwa go tse nne se tlhokana le didirisiwa tse di ntsi mme madi ao a tlaa thusa go thiba fa go tlhelaeng teng. **BOPA**

Puso e rotloetsa bomme - Serame

Ka Portia Rapitsenyane

PALAPYE - Puso e dira gotlhe go rotloetsa le go tseela dikgang tse di amang bomme kwa godimo.

Se se builwe ke Tona wa Lephata la Madi, Mme Peggy Serame ka Matlhatso kwa bokopanong jwa go rotloetsa bomme, jo bo neng bo rulagantswe ke mokgatlo wa Motivational Talks by Matie.

Mme Serame a re go le gantsi bomme ba nna ka fa mosing mo go tsa itsholelo mme itsholelo ya bone e babalelwa ke dikgwetlho tse dingwe di tshwana le tsa go tlhokomela bana.

A re go tswa goo Lowe bana ba basetsana ba salela kwa morago mo go tsa thuto mme ba ba basimane ba ne ba gatela kwa pele ka jaana ba ne ba isiwa sekoleng go tswaledisa dithuto.

Mme Serame a re se se monate ke gore go na le diphetogo, bomme ba na le sebaka sa go tseba dithuto fela jaaka borre.

O ikuetse mo go bomme go tsibogela dikgwetlho tse di amang bomme le bana ba basetsana fa ba di bona. A re le fa puso e kopanetse dikgang tse di amang bomme le mafatshe a mangwe, se se botlhokwa ke gore a tse di saenetsweng di diragadiwe.

A re puso ga e a tshwanela go saena ditumalano tse di itebagantseng le bomme le melao ya go ba godisa fela mme e tshwanetse e bone gore di a diragala.

O ne a supa fa mo dingwageng tse tharo kana tse pedi tse di fetileng, go ne ga nna le pharologanyo jaaka Tautona Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi a ne a tsenya bomme ba ba nang le bokgoni mo maemong ditirong tsa puso.

A re mo nakong eno, bontsi jwa bakwaledi mo maphateng a puso ke bomme ka Tautona a ne a lemoga fa ba na le bokgoni.

Mme Serame o ne gape a supa fa bontsi jwa maphata a a itebagantseng le dikgwebo a eteletse pele ke bomme, se e le sesupo sa gore bomme ba a kgona e bile ba kgona go lemogiwa mo lefatsheng leno.

A re le fa go ise go lekane, pharologanyo e a bonala.

A re mo sepolotiking 11 per cent ke bomme mme se se supa fa go santse go na le kgwetlho.

O ikuetse mo go bomme go ema bomme ba bangwe nokeng fa ba emetse ditlhopho ka e le bone ba leng dipalo dintsi ka go dira jalo go ka ba thusa go isa bomme kwa Palamenteng.

Mme Serame a re bomme ba tshela mo dikgwetlhong di tshwana le kgokgontsho ya bong le letlhoko la ditiro.

A re banana bogolo jang ba tshela mo diemong tse di thata ka ba lebagane le letlhoko la ditiro. O supile fa mo nakong eno, go na le matlhasedi a ngwao le dilo dingwe tse di santseng di le teng tse di sa rotloetseng bomme gore ba eme ka dinao le bone ba supe fa ba ka kgona.

A re basadi ba bantsi mme ga ba rotloetse bomme ba bangwe bogolo jang mo polotiking mme a kopa bomme go emela bomme ba bangwe ka dinao ba ba rotloetse.

Mme Serame a re fa motho a dira sengwe a bo a sa kopane le dikgwetlho fa gongwe ga a

tswelele mme o ema gone fa a simolotseng teng.

A re mongwe le mongwe o tshwanetse a nne le tebelopele gore go seka ga nna motlhofo gore a kgoreletsega a bo a gakolola bomme go tswela ka go ikoketsa kana go itlhabolola.

A re bontsi jwa bomme ba gatelelwa ke maikutlo ka ba beile mo go fiweng madi ke borre

mme bomme ba tshwanelwa ke go leka ka nako tsotlhe go bona gore ba ka dira madi jang ka ebile go na le mananeo a puso a a ka ba thusang.

O ne a rotloetsa Mme Mathogonolo Sebeka yo e leng mosimolodi wa mokgatlo wa Motivational Talks by Matie go sa tsele kwa tlase se a se simolotseng mme se simolotse se

le sennye. Mme Sebeka o supile fa a ne a simolola a na le sengwe se se neng se mo gateletse mo tthaloganyong gore a felele a simolola mokgatlo wa gagwe mme tshisego eo ya gola go fitlhelela a e tthaloganya gore e mo isa kae.

A re o ne a simolola a nna le kgatlhego ya go etela ditiro dingwe tse di neng di tshwarwa

mme di amana le bomme.

Mme Sebeka a re o ne a simolola a nna a kwala mo maranyaneng mme a gakolola batho bogolo jang bomme, a nna a ya kwa dikoleng a gakolola baithuti mme kgabagare a simolola mokgatlo ka 2019 o maikaelelo a one e leng go fa bana ba basetsana thotloetsaole go fa bomme tlhotlheletso. **BOPA**

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FARM WORKERS

TWO HERDBOYS/ GIRLS (Moseitse). Jack Galamoyo Maja, Box 1088, Francistown. 75776962

TWO HERDBOYS/ GIRLS NEEDED (Matsitama). Gothusang Komboni, Box 20140, Monarch, 71622747

FARM WORKER WANTED at Sekokwe. Rebecca Modisenyane, Box 392, Francistown. 77766859

WISH TO EMPLOY a farm worker in Gumare. Deadline 30 Dec 2023, contact Gofaone 73349724

HERDBOY WANTED IN Sandveld Mr Innocent S Phatshwane Box 502125, Gaborone.

THREE FARM WORKERS and manager urgently wanted at horticultural farm in Morwa. Contact Motshegare Sebonye.Box 198 Mochudi by 25/12/2023

FARM WORKER WANTED at Magagarape Kweneng district 71517771

FARM WORKER WANTED in Tsodobe Farms. Should be 30 years and above, Male Contact Mosarwa at 74162050 or write to :The Manager, P. O. Box 21469, Maun. Closing date: 22.12.2023

FARM WORKER WANTED at Kgokonyane Cattlepost. Apply : P. O.Box 636, Letlhakane. 76385169. Closing date : 27 December 2023.

FARM WORKER WANTED ko Gweta South. Respond to P. O. Box 482, Orapa. Closing date 22-12-2023

FARM WORKER WANTED at Malotwana. Please call 71304317.

FARM WORKER WANTED at Khana Square in Letlhakane. Contact 71266168/77626364 .P.O. Box 1146, Letlhakane

FARM WORKER WANTED at Gimare ,Mosu area. Contact Unopa Masala at 71862430. P.O. Box 701 Letlhakane. Closing date : 29-12-2023

MISCELLANEOUS

DEBT COLLECTION/ PRIVATE investigations: 3187306/ 71678321/ 74242812, Property database paralegal

NEW COVENANT MISSION Trust looking for volunteers for youth outreach project. Minimum qualification: BGCSE. 71656039/ 71766494

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNERS OF PLOT 267, Mothoatau Ward in Seronga village, wishes to change landuse from agriculture to mixed use agriculture (agriculture and civic and community), any objections should be forwarded to Okavango District Council Physical Planning Office on 6874040.

MMALEILEMAJUBE OF Dikabeya Ward in Palapye would like to subdivide his farm. Any objection should be forwarded to Palapye Administrative Authority Physical Planning Office on 4921092.

OWNER OF PLOT No. 21393 Boikago Ward Palapye would like to change land use of their plot from single family residential to civic and community. Any queries contact Palapye District Council Physical Planning Office on 4921092.

OWNERS OF PLOT 12803 Rebaeng Ward, Palapye would like to erect a double storey and a boundary wall. Any objections should be forwarded to Palapye Administrative Authority Physical Planning Office on 4921092.

OWNERS OF PLOT 7732 Letlhakane, Phase 2 would like to consult his neighbours concerning the change of land use from single residential to multifamily residential. Any objection should be forwarded to Boteti District Council on 2909382.

OWNERS OF PLOT 9932, Extension 7 Palapye, would like to change land use from single residential to multifamily residential. Any objection should be forwarded to Palapye Administrative Authority Physical Planning Office on 4921092.

OWNERS OF PLOT 5339 Newstance, Selibe Phikwe, would like to change his land use from a single multi residential to a multifamily residential. Any objection should be forwarded to Selibe Phikwe Administrative Authority Physical Planning on 2610570.

OWNERS OF PLOT 2073 Orlando Selibe Phikwe, would like to change his land use from a single multi residential to a multifamily residential. Any objection should be forwarded to Selibe Phikwe Admin Authority Physical Planning on 2610570.

DIKTSISO GABOALAFSWE AT Kgarapa Letlhakane wishes to change use from integrated farming use to mix (50% light industrial and 50% commercial integrated farming). Any concerned party can contact Boteti District Council, Physical Planning on 2909382.

OWNER OF PLOT 4929 Kgosing Mmopane, Kegaisamang Bokadi would like to change landuse fro single residential to multi family residential and also erect a boundary wall. Objections can be sent to Mogoditshane Sub District Council Building Control at Tell: 3166646

ONTIFILE FLEXY KHUTSWANE owner of plot 5661, Mogoditshane Block 7 wishes to change land use from residential to multi-residential. Objections contact 71202742/ 7431027

MORRIS MOETLO OF plot 8183 in Mochudi wishes to change land-use from commercial to residential. For any objections contact Kgatleng Physical Planning Department within 14 days from date of publication.

SEA ROAD SOLUTIONS of plot 24303 Block 9 Gaborone wishes to develop a recreational park with resturant. For any objections contact Gaborone physical planning department within 14 days date of publication.

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION ADVERT. Ditshotlo Moreti owner of plot 2278, Modipane intends to change land use from residential to guest house. For any objections please contact Kgatleng District Council physical planning office. Tel: 5773512 or cell: 76135058/ 71879780

OWNERS OF PLOT 11227 Extension 10 Palapye would like to change his land use from a single residential to a multifamily residential. Any objection should be forwarded to Palapye Administrative Authority Physical Planning Office on 4921092.

OWNER OF PLOT 15910 Ramfurwa, Tlokwenng intend to build a boundary wall. Anyone with objections contact Tlokwenng council physical planning at 3698441 within 14 days of publication of this notice.

PROPERTIES

PLOT 25 X 30 for sale in Gopong price P45K negotiable. Call 78181225/ 75302607.

VACANCIES

SHOP ASSISTANT IS wanted at Mochudi Call 71778663/75270436

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED intends applying for a certified copy of **DEED OF FIXED PERIOD STATE GRANT NO. 1523/99** dated 8th day of **SEPTEMBER 1999** made in favour of **NORAH NCIMBI** in respect of the following property:

CETAIN SITUATE MEASURING HELD UNDER : Piece of land being Lot 36985, Gaborone; : in Gaborone West Extension 37; : 408 m2 (Four Hundred and Eight Square Metres); : Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 1523/99 dated 8th September 1999 made in favour of **NORAH NCIMBI**

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the **REGISTRAR OF DEEDS FOR BOTSWANA AT GABORONE** within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT **GABORONE** ON THE **11th DAY OF DECEMBER 2023**

MOYO LEGAL PRACTICE | Plot 19111, Aresutelane Way Phase 2 | **P O Box AE 451 AEH, GABORONE**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's reference: **ESHGB-000017/23**

IN THE ESTATE of the late Gakefole Phori who died at Gamonyamane Ward, Kang, Hukuntsi District, Botswana on the **13th day of July 2021**.

ANOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED aton thisday of2023.

The Executor
Aldrin Balekanye Phori
P. O. Box 120 KANG
TEL: 73608457

PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has applied for Bottle Store Liquor License in terms of section 13 of the Liquor Act (Act No: 9 of 2004) in respect of the premises situated at **Plot 2557, Maokaneng, Lobatse**. And the Liquor Control Authority has determined the application shall be heard by the Control Authority on the _____day of _____2023.

Any person who wishes to object grant of the license should within **21 days** of the last publication of this notice, give notice in writing to the said Control Authority of his intension to oppose the application and state the grounds in which his objection is based.

BILATERAL COMPLEX PTY LTD ADDRESS: **P O Box 10456, Lobatse**
NAME DATE: **28 / 11 / 2023.**

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A candidate with knowledge of Technology in Construction Engineering enabling to work as Project Technicians and Supervisor with a minimum of 10 years experience.

3. CONSTRUCTION / SENIOR TECHNICIANS (2)

High school diploma or the equivalent is required with more than 10 years experience.

4. GENERAL FOREMAN (2)

Applicant must have previous work experience as a General Foreman with more than 15 years experience in construction industry.

5. SITE /SECTION FOREMAN (2)

Applicant must have previous work experience as a Site Foreman with more than 6 years experience in construction industry.

6. SECRETARY (2)

Degree / Diploma in Business Management / Administration in Secretarial Studies or equivalent. Highly skilled in computers with more than 3 years experience.

7. ACCOUNTANT (1)

Bachelor degree in Accounting / Finance or Equivalent. To support the financial operations of the company by assisting with various accounting tasks. The applicant will play a crucial role in maintaining accurate financial records and ensuring compliance with accounting standard. Previous experience as an accountant is required with more than 5 years experience.

8. PROPOSED EXPEDITOR (1)

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Candidates who meet the above mentioned requirements should apply, enclosing their CVs, names and contact details to the following address: Colic Construction (Pty) Ltd. P O Box 47597, Phakalane, Gaborone. Email to: coliccon@126.com

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Private Bag F 197

Francistown

Tel: 00 267 2402877

Email: egaa@ega.adventist.africa

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: ESHGB-000010/23

IN THE ESTATE of the late **Simanyana Seithamo** and **Gasebetwe Seithamo** who died at **Bokaa Ward, Molepolole, Kweneng District, Botswana on the 22nd day of February 2007** and **Ramaloto Ward, Tlokweng, Tlokweng District, Botswana on the 25th February 2021** respectively.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within **thirty (30) days** after the publication hereof.

DATED at on this Day of 2023

The Executor
Steven Mothei Mothei
Plot 5162, Garanta Ward
P O Box 692, MOLOEPOLOLE
Tel: 71713905

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF DEED OF FIXED PERIOD STATE GRANT IN TERMS OF REGULATION 46 (1) OF THE DEEDS REGISTRY ACT

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to apply for a Certified Copy of Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 315/2000 dated **23rd February, 2000** made in favour of **Boitumelo Mmadilori Maletse** in respect of the following property

CERTAIN: piece of land being Lot 19180, Gaborone;
SITUATE: in Gaborone West Extension 12;
MEASURING: 450m² (Four Hundred and Fifty Square Metres);
HELD UNDER: Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 315/2000 dated 23rd February, 2000 made in favour of **Boitumelo Mmadilori Maletse**.

All persons having objections to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds for Gaborone, within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 7th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023
MONTHE MARUMO & CO. (Applicant's Attorneys, Portion 122, Unit 8G, Millennium Park, P. O. Box 1991 Gaborone)

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late **LEKGOBO MOTSHWAEDI** died at Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital, Francistown, and Francistown District, Botswana on the 2nd September 2022.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

Dated at _____ on this _____ Day of _____ 2023.

Neo Motshwaedi
Plot 2448, Extension 9
P O Box 459
MAHALAPYE
TEL: 71403346/74494948

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN ESHIFT: 00124-22

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late **GOITSEMANG MOTSUMI-ESHIFT/ 000124-22** who died at **MOLEBATSJI WARD, TONOTA, CENTRAL TUTUME District on the 29 JANUARY 2021.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within **30 days** after the publication hereof.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 06th DAY OF DECEMBER 2023

Otshepheng G.K Motsumi Executor Dative P O Box 112 Tonota Cell: 71717480/ 74411273 Francistown	Pelonomi Pinkie Motsumi Executor Dative P O Box 112 Tonota Cell: 71665545/ 72336611 Francistown	AND TO: Master of the High Court Private Bag F13 FRANCISTOWN
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IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN ESHFT 000335-23

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late **BABILE MOTHUDI- ESHFT - 000335-23** who died at **Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital, Francistown, Francistown District** On the 8th day of July 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within 30 days after the publication hereof.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 27th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023

Constance Mothudi Executors Dative P O Box 41 FRANCISTOWN	AND TO: Master of the High Court Private Bag F13 FRANCISTOWN
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NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: ESHGB-000584-23

IN THE ESTATE of the late **NKOKETSANG RABURU** who died at **Mmamarepe Ward, Kalamare, Central-Mahalapye District, Botswana on the 11th July 2023.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED at _____ on this _____ Day of _____ 2023.

The Executrix Dative
Jatura Gontswe Makabe
P O Box 10281 RAMOTSWA CELL: 72737404

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT ESHGB-000092/15

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE **KWENENG VINCENT TOKWE AND SALOME M. TOKWE** who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the **30th day of June 2015 and 9th day of May 2013** respectively.

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

DATED AT ON THE DAY OF 2023.

The Executor
Molatlhegi Modise
P.O. Box 1600,
MOGODITSHANE Mobile: 267 72 113 124

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Little Ngwana Stories gets nod in South Africa

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE - A book by a local author has been approved by a provincial government in South Africa for use in schools during the academic year 2024/2025.

Little Ngwana Stories, a book by Motswana author, Dr. Lesedi Gaeemelwe, has won the approval of the Gauteng Education Department.

Dr Gaeemelwe told *BOPA* that her children's book was endorsed by the Gauteng Education Department in April.

She said the book had received several accolades, including the African Honoree Authors Award in 2021, Mulher Forte African Literature Award in 2022, PANAFES Excellence Award in 2022, Botswana Literature Award in 2023 and Image Magazine Personality Award in 2023.

Dr Gaeemelwe disclosed that both the English version and Setswana translation of the book would be available in public school libraries across the Gauteng province, which had a large population of Setswana speakers.

Little Ngwana Stories came out in 2020.

She said the approval the book had received in South Africa was a significant milestone for her.

"My goal is to make creative and entertaining stories accessible to children worldwide to help them become well-rounded members of society," she stated. *BOPA*



Dr Gaeemelwe's book *Little Ngwana Stories* has been approved for use in schools by a provincial government in South Africa.

Five-time Grammy winner Collier releases *Witness Me*

LONDON - British musician and five-time Grammy winner, Jacob Collier, one of the world's most acclaimed musicians and also one-quarter Chinese, devotes himself to using the power of the universal language of music to bring people across the world together while gaining inspiration from Chinese culture and traditions.

Speaking to *Xinhua* at a studio in East London ahead of the release of his new song *Witness Me* and forthcoming album *Djesse Vol. 4* set for February 29, the singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist said; "I'm terrifically excited.

It's a very exciting moment. I've been working towards this song and this album for a long, long time, many years actually."

Collier released his latest single *Witness Me* on November 21, which features British rap titan Stormzy, Canadian superstar singer, Shawn Mendes, 19-time Grammy-winning gospel singer, Kirk Franklin and a choir of 5

000 voices. "I started to write *Witness Me* in 2021 with my good friend Shawn Mendes. He's a very golden person. When we met, we talked a lot about how important music can be as a remedy for the world, and how much more powerful music can be when many people do it together," Collier said.

"The song is about a group rather than about an individual. It's really about togetherness, forgiveness, observation and empathy. There has never been a more important time for these principles in the world than right now," he added.

Collier was the first British artist to receive a Grammy for each of his first four albums.

His mixture of jazz, R&B, acapella, gospel and groove has created a genre able to transcend cultures around the world.

He has also gone viral on social media for his videos, where he transforms his audience into spontaneous choirs across hundreds of shows around the

globe. "Last year, when I toured around the world, I recorded in all these venues to build a choir for the album, a 100 000-voice choir," he said.

"The sound of this, I can't describe it. It's the most human feeling I've ever experienced. It's like a wall of humanity."

"From the first moment of the album to the last minute, you have a 100 000-voice choir permeating the music.

For me, that feels like what life is all about," he said.

The 29-year-old musical prodigy and London native is partly of Chinese descent through his maternal grandmother.

"Every time I land in China, I always feel like part of me is coming home because I am one-quarter Chinese. I'm very proud of that. The way that people operate in China is so different from here in London. But in other ways, it's just the same," Collier noted.

In November, he staged a performance at the Shanghai

Jazz Festival which he called 'a miraculous show.'

"The audience was so energetic, so loving, so full of life and energy. Hearing the audience choir so far from home was a really remarkable sensation for me, and I was very proud to get to offer that to those beautiful people over there."

Collier also stressed that he found inspiration in Chinese culture and traditions, saying 'China is extremely powerful right now in the world.

There are so many extraordinary ideas and technologies and ancient traditions that live there and are born there.

As someone who comes from London, I've always really revered many elements of Chinese culture. I was brought up with Chinese medicine, and it's a really big part of my life."

He went on: "Everyone you meet in the world knows something that you don't know.

It's a beautiful thing to learn from each other and different

cultures. China is a mammoth market, it's a mammoth source of inspiration and innovation.

I'd love to spend more time there as a musician and really get underneath the surface of what makes those souls stir."

After spending years creating at home, Collier went on to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Purcell School for Young Musicians, where he studied jazz piano.

The artiste highlighted that he was on a mission to unite people around the globe through common humanity and build bridges across cultures and civilisations. Meanwhile, his mentor Quincy Jones, an American record producer, songwriter, and composer, said about Collier: "I have never in my life seen a talent like this. Absolutely mind-blowing."

British superstar rapper Stormzy said: "He's like nothing I've ever seen before, worked with before, listened to before." *Xinhua*



MILWAUKEE - DeMar DeRozan of Chicago Bulls dunks during the 2023-2024 NBA regular season match between Milwaukee Bucks and Chicago Bulls at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, the United States on Monday. Milwaukee Bucks outlasted the visiting Chicago Bulls 133-129. Photo: Xinhua

Ezekiel Mpofu dies at 71

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - Former football legend and coach of various prominent Botswana teams, Ezekiel Mpofu has died aged 71.

His longtime companion, Maefho Tshwaane said Mpofu died at Princess Marina Hospital on December 8 after a short illness.

She said Mpofu was admitted on November 16 after he complained of some difficulties in breathing and his condition deteriorated until he died.

Mpofu was famous for saving top teams from relegation such as Gaborone United (GU).

One of the deceased's mentees, Pogiso 'Wrist' Mmusi said it was a sad day for many clubs, such as Tafic. He said Mpofu was a dedicated coach, and his passion was evident to all who knew him.

"He will be remembered fondly by the Tafic family, and his loss will be felt deeply by all who knew him," said Mmusi.

Former Francistown Regional Football Association (FRAFA), chairperson, Fanyana Fish said the late Mpofu was a football legend who has left an indelible mark in sport.

"He is remembered as a coach who made a difference, taking teams from obscurity to prominence, and his impact was felt by all who knew him.

Fish said his work with Tafic, GU and Prisons XI will never be forgotten, and his legacy will live



Mpofu

on in the hearts of his loved ones and those he coached.

A Zimbabwean born national who became Motswana citizen since 2006, Mpofu's football journey started around 1985 when he coached Township Rollers and won a couple of leagues and cups before he moved to coach Tafic from 1987 to 1989.

In 1989, he assisted Gaborone United to avoid relegation from the then Super League (now Botswana Premier League).

From 1989-1995, he coached Prisons XI and helped it GET promoted to the elite league and also helped many other small clubs in the likes of Black Peril in Gaborone, Naughty Boys of Tlokweng, Mokgosi United of Ramotswa and Wonder Sporting Club.

The late Mpofu is survived by two sons and will be laid to rest on Saturday at Makakatlela cemetery in Mochudi. **BOPA**

German football opens door for investor

BERLIN - After a second vote and revised key points, German football is finally opening doors for a strategic investor.

In a second attempt on Monday, a two-thirds majority of the 36 professional clubs voted in favor of a new partner to increase the league's international competitiveness.

Plans of the German league association DFL envision an extra influx of up to one billion euros (about 1.08 billion US dollars) with a partner benefiting from increasing revenues from media rights for a period of up to 20 years.

Unlike in May, when a majority vote failed, reports speak of an eight percent participation for the new investor when it comes to media-rights revenues.

The new deal, set to start in 2024, includes several red lines such as a restricted influence on sporting decisions like kick-off times.

The German league's intentions come as a direct response to the vast advantage the Premier League has created by collecting nearly eight billion euros (8.6 billion US dollars) in international and national markets for a TV deal

from 2025 onwards. League association officials spoke of the attempt to secure second place in European football after the Premier League, while other leagues have lately made further progress.

Bayern Munich chairman Jan-Christian Dreesen called the Premier League untouchable and said the new deal is far from a sellout.

Spain's La Liga, France's Ligue 1, and Italy's Serie A have triggered similar actions, while the German league has lost ground compared to its European competitors.

The DFL's revenues of only 170 million euros (about 183 million US dollars) appear small compared to La Liga (897) and Serie A (205).

The Bundesliga has dropped to fourth position among Europe's top-five leagues.

In 2023, the French league opened doors to investors, allowing them to buy the majority of shares of clubs, and is expected to challenge the German league.

The DFL intends to maintain the 50-plus-one rule as a national specificity, as most of the 36 clubs from the first and second tier are voting in favor of the current rule.

German rules don't allow investors to acquire the majority of shares from clubs.

The DFL's actions are said to primarily strengthen the league's digitalisation, infrastructure, and international marketing.

Dreesen called the new deal a 'step into the future.' The DFL plans to use the additional investment to set up a streaming platform to create greater access to games for international viewers.

Experts say up to 200 million international fans are considering spending 100 euros (about 107.6 US dollars) per season to see games live.

Marketing experts fear the Bundesliga might turn into a development league, accompanied by the loss of emerging stars if it doesn't head for new strategies.

Nearly half of the league's recent transfer income of 600 million euros (about 645.8 million US dollars) came from the Premier League.

Fan organisations have expressed concerns about a possible growing influence of investors from outside and used last weekend's league game days for intense protests. **Xinhua**



Bayern CEO Jan-Christian Dreesen



Mphukuthi

U-15s at CAF school championship

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana Under-15 teams, both boys and girls, are in Zimbabwe for the CAF African School Football Championship that will be held on December 14-16.

The tournament features 11 countries; Angola, Botswana, eSwatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia,

Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, and hosts Zimbabwe.

Botswana is in Group A with eSwatini, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, while Group B has Angola, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia. Botswana Football Association (BFA) technical director Tshepo Mphukuthi told BOPA that he was confident the teams will compete well.

He said the tournament was a CAF initiative, adding that Botswana found it important to be part of the initiative given that their biggest challenge had been that children in Botswana start to play international football at a late stage compared to other countries.

“The initiative presented an opportunity for us to be part of the global world and catch our

players young,” he said.

He stated that the tournament would help prepare for the future because in 2025, the Under-17 team would be playing in the FIFA Under-17 World Cup qualifiers.

Mphukuthi pointed out that the championship would help them prepare players well on time.

He said it was intended that

the players who are in the current team would ultimately all graduate to the Under-17 side. “Our wish is that CAF African School Football Championship be played annually, as that would help us to continue to identify and nurture talent,” he said. In the absence of school sport, Mphukuthi said BFA had come with alternative means to identify talent. **BOPA**

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