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Duo solidifies ties



President Advocate Duma Boko (second right) and India President, Ms Droupadi Murmu (left) witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the health space by India High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr Bharath Kumar Kuthati (second left) and Minister of Health Dr Stephen Modise in Gaborone yesterday. President Boko said the MoU would facilitate Botswana's access to affordable and quality medicine. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Botswana and India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the health space in response to the current medical supplies shortage in the country.

This was revealed by President Advocate Duma Boko yesterday during the official talks with India President, Ms Droupadi Murmu, who is in Botswana on a three-day state visit.

"India is one of the foremost manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, especially generic drugs, thus, we will strengthen the relationship and converge in many areas of mutual interest," President Boko said.

The President said Botswana was thankful for the two countries' cooperation, particularly in the health sector as cemented by the signing of the MoU, which would, among others, facilitate Botswana's access to affordable and quality medicines.

"We are confident that the agreement will be able to address some of the crises currently bedevilling our health system," he added.

He therefore, commended India for the visit, citing that it afforded Botswana the opportunity to reaffirm its appreciation for the support in many aspects.

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Maun gears up for solar energy expo

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Preparations are underway for the annual Botswana solar energy expo which aims to foster the transition towards a sustainable and low-carbon energy future.

Themed: Enhancing solar energy for a sustainable future, the event is organised by Climate and Life and will be held on November 22 in Maun.

The expo is expected to attract hundreds of manufacturers, suppliers, financiers, investors, developers, policymakers, technology providers, distributors, and service providers showcasing their most recent products and innovations.

The managing director of Climate and Life, Mr Seloilwe Seloilwe confirmed the event in an interview on Tuesday, noting that the expo was a premier solar industry exhibition showcasing photovoltaic solar and energy storage solutions.

He said preparations were on track, and noted that the event would provide an opportunity for attendees to explore the latest trends in the solar power industry, compare and analyse various solar panel solutions, take advantage of exclusive expo promotions and discounts as well as forge new business partnerships.

While Botswana aims to become a regional hub for renewable energy, Mr Seloilwe was of the view that Maun’s abundant sunshine made it an ideal location for solar energy projects that could benefit the community.

With a population of around 85 293, Mr Seloilwe noted that Maun provided a sizeable local audience for the expo, potentially attracting individuals interested in renewable energy and sustainable living.

He said as the tourism destination of choice, Maun’s thriving tourism industry could benefit from solar energy solutions, making the expo an attractive opportunity for local businesses to explore sustainable options.

He also highlighted that Maun’s growing population and tourism industry drove energy demand, making solar energy a viable solution for meeting local power needs and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

“By showcasing solar energy solutions, this expo can contribute to Maun’s economic growth by attracting investments, creating jobs and promoting sustainable development.

It can also demonstrate cutting-edge solar energy solutions, positioning Maun as a hub for innovation and sustainability,” he added.

Furthermore, Mr Seloilwe revealed that by leveraging the potential of the sun’s power, the event would contribute to reducing carbon emissions, promoting economic growth, and enhancing energy security.

Botswana’s immense solar resources presented a promising opportunity for the nation to become a leader in solar energy generation, he said.

“Botswana is poised to leverage its solar potential for sustainable

economic growth.

As the country continues its energy transition journey, the

development of solar power will play a crucial role in shaping a greener, more resilient future for

Botswana and its people.

By harnessing the sun’s power, we can reduce our reliance on

fossil fuels, mitigate climate change, and promote sustainable development,” he said. **BOPA**



Preparations are underway for the annual Botswana solar energy expo, which aims to foster transition towards a sustainable and low-carbon energy future. The event themed: Enhancing Solar Energy for a Sustainable Future, is organised by Climate and Life.

BQA accredits Prison Staff College

By Kefilwe Selotlegeng

MAHALAPYE - Prison Staff College in Mahalapye has been accredited to offer Diploma in Prison and Correctional Management.

Launching the registration and accreditation of the College on Tuesday, the Minister for Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana said the occasion was a historic milestone in the national educational and correctional journey.

He said it was not just an achievement but a mark of transformation. The minister said the innovative learning programmes was designed to reshape correctional education in Botswana.

He said the registration,

accreditation and academic innovation signaled the firm commitment to delivering high quality, relevant and impactful education within the correctional sector.

Mr Ramaotwana mention that it also reflected their alignment with both national human capital development strategies and international standards of excellence.

He started that the college mission remained clear and compelling to design and implement effective training programmes for pre-service and in service trainees in prison law, security, offender rehabilitation and correctional management with the aim of capacitating staff for efficient delivery on their mandate.

Mr Ramaotwana also said the mission resonated deeply with Botswana’s transformation agenda, national human capital strategies and vision 2036.

He said as their correctional system evolved from a purely custodial model to one rounded rehabilitation, reintegration and human development, the Prison Staff College stood as a beacon of the professional excellence and reform.

Minister Ramaotwana added that the official registration and accreditation of this institution by Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) as a recognised education and training provider was both a badge of honour and a solemn responsibility.

He said it also assured that the offered programmes met

national and international quality benchmarks, adding that the qualifications were aligned with the national Credit and Qualification Framework (NCQF), therefore graduates would emerge competent, ethical and globally competitive.

“Together, let us continue to build a Botswana where no one is left behind, where learning transforms lives and where every qualification contributes to the growth of our nation,” said Mr Ramaotwana.

He said the initiative promoted equitable and inclusive lifelong learning opportunities for all, especially those serving within the justice and correctional sectors.

Mr Ramaotwana added that it reinforced the principle that education was not only a tool for advancement but a bridge toward dignity, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Botswana Prison Service Commissioner, Anthony Mokento said the introduction of the Diploma training in prison and correctional management was a transformational step in professionalising the correctional service.

Mr Mokento said the qualification was designed to enhance leadership, policy understanding, and operational excellence among correctional officers, thereby ensuring that the workforce was equipped to deliver services that met modern societal expectations of justice and rehabilitation.

Mr Mokento mentioned that beyond the diploma training, their learning programmes ranged from offender rehabilitation methodologies to correctional administration, custodial duties and security management tailored to empower both pre-services and in-services learners. **BOPA**



Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana (left) and Botswana Prison Service Commissioner, Mr Anthony Mokento during the accreditation of Prison Staff College in Mahalapye on Tuesday. The institution will now offer Diploma in Prison and Correctional Management. Photo: Courtesy of Botswana Prison Service

Botswana boosts regional petroleum security

By Ndingililo Gaoswediwe

G A B O R O N E - November 12-Botswana is making strides in bolstering regional petroleum security through major infrastructure projects and strategic initiatives aimed at ensuring a stable and resilient fuel supply.

Speaking at the Gaborone interstate oil industry seminar on Wednesday, Minerals and Energy permanent secretary, Mr Pelaelo Khowe underscored the importance of regional collaboration and innovative solutions to address ongoing supply challenges amidst global trade tensions.

He explained that member states of Southern African Customs Union (SACU) collaborated on issues including the security of supply, distribution, price harmonisation, quality standards, safety, and other vital matters affecting the oil sector.

Despite the efforts, he acknowledged that fuel supply challenges persisted, especially amid global unrest affecting trade and petroleum prices.

In response to the challenges, he said Botswana was exploring diverse solutions such as biofuels, coal-to-liquid technology, and joint procurement initiatives with neighbouring countries to secure supplies from international markets.

Mr Khowe said the country was also focusing on expanding its storage capacity, which remained critical to ensuring energy security.

He disclosed that currently, Botswana's strategic fuel reserves cover only 13.9 days of supply, short of the 18 days deemed necessary.

To address this, he stated that government, through Botswana Oil Limited, was investing in major infrastructure projects to increase storage capacity to 100 days.

He said among the projects was the expansion of the Francistown Petroleum Depot from 38 million litres to 98 million litres, which was nearing completion, with an expected commissioning date of June 2026.

Additionally, he said a new Ghanzi petroleum depot with a capacity of 30 million litres was under construction and scheduled to be operational by August 2026.

Mr Khowe said the infrastructure developments being undertaken aim not only to secure supplies but also to improve trade routes, particularly with neighbouring Namibia.

Further plans, he said included developing a 187-million-litre

storage facility at Tshele Hills and establishing a cross-border pipeline connecting South Africa and Zimbabwe to Botswana.

"The initiatives are designed to enhance the country's capacity to manage supply disruptions and ensure consistent fuel availability," he said. Mr Khowe also reported progress on the review of Botswana's Petroleum Pricing Slate, completed in September 2024 by the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA).

The revised framework incorporates a wholesale margin model and alternative supply routes from Mozambique and Namibia, which are expected to stabilise prices and reduce the financial burden on the National Petroleum Fund. Mr Khowe said, the new pricing system, which commenced on June 1, this year, aimed to balance the interests of suppliers, retailers, and consumers while providing relief to the government's fuel subsidy programmes.

Looking ahead, Mr Khowe said the meeting would address outstanding issues, including revitalising the SADC petroleum sub-committee and standardising fuel quality across the region.

Discussions will also focus on developing more effective pricing systems that reflect current market realities, ensuring the sustainability and resilience of the regional oil industry.

In his welcome remarks, acting deputy permanent secretary, Mr Midas Sekgabo reiterated the importance of regional cooperation, emphasising that the SACU committee, comprising Botswana, Lesotho, eSwatini, Namibia, and South Africa was established to facilitate collaboration and ensure the continuous supply of petroleum products.

Through harmonised policies, shared infrastructure, and coordinated investments, he said the committee aimed to build a resilient, efficient, and sustainable petroleum ecosystem across Southern Africa. **BOPA**



President Advocate, Duma Boko (right) and India President, Ms Droupadi Murmu during the latter's visit to the Office of the President in Gaborone yesterday. Ms Murmu said India would donate antiretroviral (ARV) medicines to support the Botswana's HIV/AIDS response. Ms Murmu is in the country for three-day state visit . Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

India gifts Botswana ARVs

By Bakang Wren

G A B O R O N E - Botswana is set to receive a major boost in its healthcare sector following India's pledge to supply antiretroviral (ARV) medicines to support the country's HIV/AIDS response.

The announcement was made by President Droupadi Murmu of India at the Office of the President yesterday.

She said India's pledge to send essential ARV medicines to Botswana came as part of a newly-signed Memorandum of Understanding on Pharmacopoeia Cooperation, aimed at strengthening medical collaboration between the two countries and ensuring the supply of safe and affordable pharmaceuticals from India.

"We witnessed the signing of an important agreement which will help in providing good quality and affordable Indian medicines to the citizens of Botswana. This gesture reflects India's deep respect for the people of Botswana and our shared values in promoting human welfare," she said.

President Murmu said India was honoured to contribute to Botswana's public health efforts and commended government for its continued commitment to universal health access.

In response, President Advocate Duma Boko expressed gratitude, describing the donation as a "timely and compassionate gesture that would make a tangible difference in people's lives."

"We are humbled by India's generous offer of ARV medication to Botswana. It will help solve a persistent problem in our healthcare and ensure that our citizens continue to access treatment that sustains life and dignity."

President Boko noted that the health cooperation formed part of broader discussions between the two leaders, which also covered trade, education, defence, digitalisation, and intellectual property.

He commended India's advances in medical science and pharmaceuticals, adding that Botswana's Parliament would, in time, draw from India's legislative experience on patent protection and affordability of life-saving drugs.

Further, President Boko said India's courts had been a global guide in defining fair access to medicine, especially against exploitative practices.

"As we expand local manufacturing, such precedents will help shape our own laws to keep essential treatment within reach for every Motswana."

The two Heads of State also reaffirmed their commitment to deepen ties in education and technology, with President Boko paying tribute to Indian educators who shaped Botswana's early education system.

"Many of us were taught by Indian teachers in Math and Science," he recalled.

"Their discipline and precision left a lasting mark and it is no surprise that India today leads in global innovation and technology."

President Boko also announced that Botswana would gift eight cheetahs to India under the Project Cheetah wildlife conservation initiative, calling it a "symbol of friendship, agility and shared commitment to sustainability."

President Murmu, in turn, expressed delight at the gesture, assuring that the animals would be well-cared for as part of India's ecosystem restoration efforts.

President Murmu's visit, which comes ahead of the 60th anniversary of Botswana-India diplomatic relations in 2026, marks a new chapter in cooperation across multiple sectors.

The state visit to Botswana is the first-ever by an Indian Head of State in the 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations. **BOPA**

Duo strengthens health cooperation

...from page 1

He noted that Botswana would continue to consolidate its stand as a democratic country and, in so doing, draw inspiration from India as it held the global acclaim as the mother of democracy.

"There are obviously differences between the two countries in terms of population size, the economy and other factors, but despite the differences, both countries share a belief in democratic principles, which serves as a strong bond that unites the two countries in terms of values and inspiration as well as approaches to governance," the President said.

In light of the prevailing economic situation, President Boko said Botswana would further

strengthen its bilateral relations with India, hence the visit was timely in the history of the two countries' relations.

He thus said Botswana was keen to work with India to strengthen initiatives geared towards the transformation of the country's economy and its revival as articulated in the Economic Transformation Programme.

President Boko also commended President Murmu for her country's long-standing relationship with Botswana in areas such as health, education, military cooperation and trade.

"I am aware that Madam President has for a long time been at the forefront of advocacy for the upliftment of people on the downside of society and has participated personally throughout

as an activist in education, gender affairs, social upliftment, cultural and language promotion," he said.

He further commended the Indian government for the contribution it had made for the enhancement of skills locally, as Botswana was host to a huge Indian community with some Batswana now being of Indian origin.

"We have many of Indian origin who operate businesses locally and hence contribute immensely to Botswana's economic landscape and sustainability," he said.

President Boko said in the spirit of shared environmental goals to promote biodiversity, Botswana donated eight cheetahs to assist in the regeneration of the species in India.

That, he said, was done owing to Botswana's diligence in the

conservation space.

Similarly, President Murmu indicated that the visit marked a significant milestone for the bilateral relations between the two countries, as India held the relations highly and was keen on nurturing them at all times.

President Murmu commended Botswana for its commitment to democratic principles and respect for the rule of law, as well as its role in the SADC region, which contributed towards the country's stable economic growth in the past years.

She reaffirmed India's commitment to build on the already established relationship to partner with Botswana in developmental projects identified by the Botswana government. **BOPA**

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Motshegwa apprises Parliament on RADP review

GABORONE - The Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) is a rural development strategy aimed at promoting equitable access to socio-economic opportunities for remote area communities covering currently 73 settlements across the 31 districts.

The programme seeks to improve living standards through the provision of essential services such as education, healthcare, water, housing and infrastructure.

Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa said this on Tuesday when responding to a question from Member of Parliament for Tati East, Mr Tlhabologo Furniture, who had asked the minister to state what the Rural Area Development Programme entailed and the government’s intentions regarding the programme.

Mr Motshegwa said that the programme promoted economic empowerment through livelihood support, skills development and income-generating initiatives.

To strengthen its implementation, he said government introduced the Affirmative Action Framework for Remote Area Communities in 2014, which guided targeted interventions to ensure the inclusion and meaningful participation of the communities in national development.

“As outlined in the 2025 State-of-the-Nation Address, the government’s current intention regarding RADP is to undertake a comprehensive review of the programme and to formulate a policy for indigenous people in Botswana,” he added.

Mr Motshegwa further stated that such initiatives were aimed at addressing long-standing social and economic marginalisation particularly among indigenous communities such as the Khoena-ne who had historically faced displacement, exclusion and limited access to essential services.



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa

Through the review and the new policy, the government, he said sought to promote social justice, affirm the rights of remote area communities and ensure their full inclusion and participation in national development.

The minister highlighted that the review of RADP was expected to take six to 12 months followed by six to nine months for the formulation of the policy for indigenous people. Overall, the process is anticipated to take 12-18 months.

He said the review would start in December this year while the programme was expected to conclude between December 2026 and June 2027.

Mr Motshegwa also noted that transport assistance for officers in RADP designated remote settlements was provided as needed for official duties depending on operational requirements, settlement accessibility and available budget. **BOPA**

Ministry sources funds from EU for road project

GABORONE - The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Entrepreneurship in its endeavour to provide infrastructure for ease of doing business, has through SPEDU, sourced funding from the European Union to construct a connecting road between Mathathane and Plaatjan point of entry.

This was said by Minister Tiroeane Ntsima in response to a question, by the Member of Parliament for Bobirwa, Mr Taolo Lucas. Mr Ntsima said the project entailed the construction of a 30 kilometre road that would link Mathathane and the Plaatjan border post.

The road, he said, was envisaged to link the Plaatjan border post to Selebi Phikwe through Bobonong.

Minister Ntsima said several milestones had been achieved towards the construction of the road. “This includes the development of the Concept and Detailed Designs; and the Environmental Impact Assessment.

A tender process for the construction of the road is on-going

168 relocated residents await compensation

GABORONE - The Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Mr Noah Salakae has informed Parliament that not all residents who were relocated to give way to Maun International Airport have been compensated.

Minister Salakae said on Tuesday during Parliament session, that the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and the Administration of Justice were making progress in the exercise.

He stated that several meetings had been held at Disana kgotla with the residents, to get their information so as to process their compensations.

The administration of justice he said, had also held consultation meetings with those that were paid through the Guardian Fund office.

Mr Salakae said 1 391 residents were cleared to be compensated and an additional 91 other residents said to have been over paid, making a total of 1 482 residents.

He indicated that the 91 were re-assessed by the task team to establish if indeed they were overpaid, noting that only seven were ruled out resulting in total of 1 475 to be compensated.

Out of the 1 475 residents, a total of 1 307 had been compensated with 168 yet to be compensated.

The exercise he said had taken long because of the magnitude of work involved of having to look for old records between the department of lands in Francistown and Tawana Land Board.

Minister Salakae said payment had been slow because some of the residents did not reside in Maun and it was difficult to contact them to complete the process of

compensation.

He indicated that another factor was that there was currently shortage of funds to continue the compensation and the administration of justice had difficulties in concluding some consultations as beneficiaries did not attend consultation meetings.

To mitigate some of the challenges that were being experienced, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure he said would be preparing a Project of Memorandum to request for additional funds to cover the remaining residents, noting that the Administration of Justice would speed up the process of consultation.

The residents he said were also requested to avail themselves when

called for consultation meetings.

Remaining residents would be paid as soon as the funds were available in the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year.

Minister Salakae was responding to a question asked by the Member of Parliament for Maun East, Mr Goretetse Kekgonegile who had asked for an update on the progress made in compensating individuals relocated to give way to Maun International Airport expansion.

Mr Kekgonegile also wanted the minister to give an update particularly on the total number of individuals compensated and those not compensated as much as reasons for none payment, mitigating factors, payment plans and actual payment date on pending payments. **BOPA**



Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Mr Noah Salakae has informed Parliament that not all residents who were relocated to give way to Maun International Airport had been compensated.

‘Modipane-Mabalane Road project behind schedule’

GABORONE - Modipane-Mabalane Road project is expected to continue experiencing delays, said Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae when answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday.

He said that the construction activities under the project had been under suspension from September 3, and that the Development Manager, Pro-Serve Consulting Botswana, had engaged a new contractor from November 1.

Mr Salakae said that the project’s overall construction progress was currently 48 per cent, showing no improvement in the month of September due to work stoppages by the Sub contractor.

However, in overall, the project demonstrated steady progress despite the work stoppages, particularly in drainage and main road activities, while certain areas were yet to advance, Mr Salakae said. He further explained that the project had experienced delays due to severe weather conditions such as heavy rainfall between December last year and February this year, and that had significantly disrupted site activities.

The minister said that with the onset of the current rainy season, further delays were anticipated.

He noted that more delays were yet to be experienced due to irregular payment cycles which posed a serious risk to project continuity, affecting the cash flow of both the development manager and subcontractors, particularly during the acceleration phase under prevailing fiscal constraints.

Disagreements between the development manager and the initial contractor had led to a work stoppage, resulting in a time loss of approximately three months, Mr Salakae explained.

Moreover, he said, persistent difficulties in procuring construction materials had hampered progress since project inception, adding that, the project’s completion date had been revised from April 2026 to November 2026.

Kgatlang East MP, Mr Mabuse Pule had asked the minister to provide an update on the progress of Modipane - Mabalane Road currently under construction using the DM model, as well as share details on the current status of construction milestones achieved.

He also wanted the minister to indicate if there any encountered or anticipated delays, and state the estimated timeframe for completion. **BOPA**

Makhura journey inspires world

By **Thamani Shabani**

FRANCISTOWN - A rising star in the realm of mental health and youth empowerment, Ms Annah Makhura is a testament to the adage that the sky is the limit.

At 26, she embodies determination, ambition and the grace bestowed by her first name, which means ‘God’s favour.’

With a foundation of faith and an impressive portfolio, Ms Makhura is not only making her mark in Botswana but also aspiring to inspire the world. From an early age, Ms Makhura exhibited talent for writing that would foreshadow her future successes.

While her parents, particularly her father, Mr Peter Makhura, encouraged her gift, they could hardly predict the remarkable achievements that awaited their daughter.

Today, she stands as a multi-talented individual who has already founded the AG Mental Clinic, her own psychological counselling service, providing virtual and mobile support. “AG stands for Alpha and GAHDOHL, which symbolises the beginning of greatness,” she explains, emphasising her commitment to helping others on their journey toward mental well-being.

Ms Makhura’s work extends into authorship, as she has recently published an inspirational book titled, *The Motivator’s Parables for Teen*.

The 46-page guide offers profound life lessons distilled from the biblical perspective, tailored for young people, especially teenagers.

“I had long dreamed of writing a book during my time at the University of Botswana,” she recalls, reflecting on her passion for literature that blossomed in secondary school.

Her intention with this book is clear, to motivate and equip the youth of Botswana to carve out their paths and succeed in their personal endeavours.

Despite her many successes, Ms Makhura faced significant challenges.

After graduating, she experienced four long years without employment, a period that forced her to confront the harsh realities of life independent of her parents.

Yet, through her faith and perseverance, she emerged stronger, determined to use her experiences as a foundation for helping others.

“The grace of God helped me overcome these obstacles and I strive to live a life that reflects that faith,” she shares. In her efforts to foster growth and support among youth,

Ms Makhura has infused her book with interactive exercises aimed at encouraging personal reflection and affirmations.

Each chapter tackles critical themes, *Sowing and Reaping*, the *Power of Mind, Company and Association* as well as *Delayed Gratification*.

These essential life skills, gleaned from her own journey and biblical teachings, serve as tools for young readers to navigate their own lives meaningfully.

Ambitiously looking ahead, Ms Makhura is set on pursuing further education, either a PhD or a Master’s in Psychology from the University of Zambia.

Her vision extends beyond academia, she aims to transform AG Mental Health into a holistic health hub that reaches the borders of Botswana and beyond.

Ultimately, she dreams of establishing a charitable organisation focused on providing integrated services to disadvantaged children and teenagers to ensure that they have access to academic and mental health resources and basic necessities.

Reflecting on her relationship with her daughter, Ms Makhura proudly acknowledges the bond they share.

“My daughter has always been my best friend, and her respect for our family values has undoubtedly contributed to her success,” she said.

As Ms Makhura continues to inspire those around her, she remains rooted in her faith, embodying the principles that have guided her journey thus far. As she navigates the journey ahead, she exemplifies the spirit of resilience and dedication.

With her sights set high and her heart committed to service, the sky is indeed the limit for this remarkable young woman.

BOPA



A rising star in the realm of mental health and youth empowerment, Ms Annah Makhura is a testament to the adage that ‘the sky is the limit’.

Organisation help elderly thrive in old age

By **Keith Ketl**

MOCHUDI - In 2023, Professor Gabatshwane Tsayang and Ms Seanokeng Bulayani, a human resource expert, founded Rasesa Oldiesorganisation.

The organisation is a community-based group located in east of Palapye, dedicated to enhancing the lives of the elderly by providing support, care and companionship.

Prof. Tsayang said the idea came after noticing the elderly’s loneliness, misery and lack of care.

She added that children and

relatives of the senior citizens usually lacked the skills to care for the elderly.

To counter loneliness and isolation, she said the organisation brought the elderly together to foster social connection and mutual support.

She shared that the organisation had organised annual events in 2023, 2024, and 2025, bringing together various experts and Village Extension Teams to explore ways to assist the elderly.

She added that at the most recent, third annual event in 2025, they brought a team of medical doctors from Gaborone

working under an organisation called ‘Project Happiness’. She said that the doctors consult on various ailments and recommend follow-up by the local clinic.

Moreover, she said ‘Project Happiness’ also distributed food hampers, a gesture that elderly people greatly appreciated.

She expressed gratitude that, thanks to ‘Project Happiness’, several elderly people have received medical services, while others have obtained a total of seven wheelchairs.

She explained that these events raise community awareness of the challenges faced by senior

citizens and provide a platform to find solutions.

“Some of the elderly people were challenged to know who they are to a point where sometimes they can just walk out of their houses unaware that they are not properly dressed,” she pointed out.

She added that some elderly people sometimes enter other people’s homes at any hour and risk humiliation and being labelled ‘witches’.

She believes that elderly people should enjoy their golden years after retirement and lead peaceful and enjoyable lives. **BOPA**



Gumare Farmers Association chairperson, Mr Timothy Samoxa has called on the Botswana Meat Commission to consider bringing the weighing scale to designated collection points across Ngamiland region, which could benefit and motivate more farmers to supply the abattoir with sufficient animals.

Farmers call for services expansion

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - In an effort to advance the newly launched Direct Cattle Purchase (DCP) scheme, Gumare Farmers Association chairperson, Mr Timothy Samoxa has called on the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) to consider bringing the weighing scale to designated collection points across the Ngamiland region.

The development, he said, could benefit and motivate more farmers to supply the abattoir with sufficient animals, as they would have access to the service closer to their locations.

He relayed in an interview that the current arrangement, where cattle were only weighed at Makalamabedi quarantine, disadvantage other farmers from getting better returns from their animals because of the distance travelled.

Mr Samoxa is of the view that cattle lose weight when travelling long distances in a truck.

“Our animals do shrink when travelling long distances because they are not well fed or watered for some hours or days, and that can lead to a significant live weight loss”, he added.

By bringing the weighing scale closer to farmers, he said, it could help minimise transport time, ensure proper handling, and provide access to water whenever possible, eventually reducing shrinkage.

The farmer, who was the first from the Okavango district to sell cattle through the new scheme,

said the district had three major villages being Shakawe, Gumare, and Seronga.

As such, the abattoir can consider bringing the cattle weighing scale to Gumare in the meantime, he suggested.

Gumare, he said, was strategically located, and when funds permitted, the abattoir could expand the service to other areas in the region to benefit the farming community.

Despite his concerns regarding the price of P16 per kilogram of live weight cattle, which he said was low, Mr Samoxa encouraged farmers to continue supporting BMC by consistently supplying it with cattle to help the abattoir meet market demand.

By so doing, he said the abattoir could secure more lucrative markets for its animals.

“BMC is our own entity as it is established to support us farmers and promote the interests of farmers. One of its objective is to provide us with better prices for our livestock and as such, we should supply the abattoir with sufficient animals to realise greater returns,” Mr Samoxa said and urged farmers who were against the set rate to remain calm with a hope that BMC management would listen to their plea and increase the price to P22 per kg in the long run.

He said their contribution and the role of the abattoir were crucial to the rural economy; hence, they should all do the right thing and achieve a win-win situation.

Meanwhile, BMC recently launched the new scheme in Ngamiland, a pilot project aimed at making cattle sales easier, faster, and more transparent for farmers.

Through the scheme, cattle are purchased directly from farmers at approved collection points, covering transport to the quarantine and operational logistics.

During the launch, the BMC's acting CEO, Ms. Kesolofetse Tibe, indicated that they had reserved more than P25 million to purchase cattle through the scheme and pleaded with the Ngamiland farmers to adopt the scheme for their benefit. **BOPA**

Africa must build strong digital foundation - official

CAPE TOWN - The Africa Tech Festival kicked off on Tuesday in Cape Town, South Africa, gathering innovators, policymakers, and investors to explore how technology can drive a more inclusive digital future for Africa.

Delivering the keynote address at the opening ceremony, South Africa's Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Solly Malatsi noted that Africa must build strong digital foundations to ensure emerging technologies benefit everyone.

“If we want Africa to benefit from and participate in the next wave of innovation, especially AI, we must get three foundations right at scale: affordable connectivity and devices; reliable digital public infrastructure; practical digital literacy that meets people where

they are,” said Malatsi.

“Emerging technologies like AI will be tools for opportunity, not symbols of exclusion. We will turn prototypes into products, and products into public value in order to build a more inclusive digital future for our continent,” he added.

Now in its 28th edition, the Africa Tech Festival is Africa's largest technology and digital innovation event, which runs until Thursday. It is expected to draw 17,000 delegates, 300 exhibitors, and 450 speakers.

Held under the theme “Responsible Innovation, Inclusive Investment, Connectivity for Development, and Policy Harmonization,” the festival features four anchor sessions, namely AfricaCom, AfricaTech, AfricaIgnite, and the AI Summit Cape Town.

AfricaCom Portfolio Manager

Sean Suzuki said the continent's digital infrastructure challenges remain tied to “accessibility and affordability for connectivity.”

“This is linked to regulatory challenges, and it is crucial to develop the right frameworks as well; forming key partnerships across the ICT industry; and the digital skills gap,” he said.

Justin Georges Tala, global accounts manager at Cameroon Telecommunications, which attends this year's AfricaCom, said bridging Africa's digital gap requires collective action.

“We cannot do this alone -- there have to be strategic partnerships that need to be put in place to make sure that we bridge the digital gap on the continent,” he said, adding that strategic partnerships are needed to provide “end-to-end meaningful connectivity” to the continent. **Xinhua**

Libya, Oman discuss investment cooperation

TRIPOLI - Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, prime minister of Libya's UN-recognised Government of National Unity (GNU), met in Tripoli, Libya with Oman's Ambassador to Tunisia Hilal al-Sanani on Tuesday to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in energy and investment.

During the meeting, al-Sanani

expressed Oman's keenness to strengthen economic ties with Libya and support partnerships between institutions of both countries for joint investment, the government's Hakomitna news platform said on Facebook.

For his part, Dbeibah affirmed the government's readiness to facilitate procedures that would

strengthen bilateral partnership and create new opportunities for integration between the two countries.

The meeting marks continued efforts to strengthen ties between Libya and Oman, whose diplomatic mission left Libya in 2014 due to security concerns but has maintained engagement

through visits and meetings.

Since the fall of former leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya has been split between two rival governments, the Tripoli-based GNU led by Dbeibah, and the eastern-based administration appointed by the House of Representatives and headed by Osama Hammad. **Xinhua**

Ba rotloetswa go tsibogela botsogo

Ka Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN - Maphata a puso ka go farologana mo kgaolong ya Bokone Bophirima a rotloeditswe go eteletsa pele mananeo a botsogo, maikaelelo e le go fokotsa borai jwa go tsenwa ke malwetse a a sa tshelanweng. Kgakololo e ntshitswe bosheng ke mogolwane wa lephata le le rotloetsang botsogo, twantsho ya bolwetse jwa AIDS le malwetse a sa tshelanweng, Mme Gloria Rakgotla kwa tirong e e neng e

rulagantswe go rotloetsa botsogo. Mme Rakgotla o tlhagisitse setshaba go tsibogela botsogo ka go dira sepe se se ka thusang go sidila mmele le tlhaloganyo. A re go tlhoka go itshidila mmele ke kgwetlho mo babereking ka bontsi bo tsaya nako e ntsi ba dira tiro e e sa ba gwetlheng go sidila mmele, selo se se tsisang borai jwa go tsenwa ke malwetse a a sa tshelanweng jaaka madi a matona, sukiri, monono o feteletseng le a a amanang le pelo.

A re lefelo la tiro le tshwanetse la tsibogela go ruta le go rotloetsa badiri go thibela malwetse a a sa tshelanweng. Mme Rakgotla a re makalana ka bontsi ga ana tsamaiso ya go rotloetsa botsogo mo tirong ka jalo seo, se dire gore badiri ba se ka ba bona thuso e e tlhokegang jaaka go tlhatlhabiwa ke dingaka kgapetsa kgapetsa, go ikhutsa, go itshidila mmele kana go bona ditirelo tsa botsogo jwa tlhaloganyo. Morutuntshi wa lekalana la

APSA, Mme Nokuthula Martin a re botsogo ke karolo e e botlhokwa mo tirong, ka jalo go tshwanetse ga nna le nako ya go sekegela botsogo jwa babereki. Mme Martini a re go ka dirwa jalo ka go nna le lenaneo la go itshidila mmele kgotsa go rulaganya thuto ka botlhokwa jwa go ja dijo tse di itekanetseng. A re go botlhokwa gore ofisi

e nne le komiti ya boitekanelo, mafelo a boitapoloso le go dira melawana ya mo ofising e e rotloetsang go itshidila mmele le go laola maikutlo a babereki. Mme Martin a re malwetse a a sa tshelanweng a na le seabe se segolo mo go oketsegeng ga dintsho mo lefatsheng ka bophara, ka jalo go tshwanetse ga tsewa dikgato tsa go a fedisa. **BOPA**

Tshwaragano ya mapodisi le morafe e tswa tema

Ka Masego Tabengwa

MASUNGA - Motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi a kampa ya Masunga, Assistant Superintendent, Saaka Nsimbi o supile boitumelo ka maiteko a dirwang ka tshwaragano le setshaba go bepisa borukuthi, seemo se se dirang gore kgaolo e robalelwe ke ditlhokwa. Mo potsolotsong ka Mosupologo, Mme Nsimbi o boletse fa ba itemogela kwelo tlase ya ditiragalo tsa borukutlhi mo metseng e e welang ka fa tlase ga kampa ya Masunga. Kajalo o lebogetse tshwaragano ya mapodisi le morafe wa metse eo, a re ke yone e thusang thata gore seemo sa borukutlhi se bo se bepile. A re keletso ke gore mowa oo, o tswelele go ya go ileng ka maikaelelo e le go lwantsha le go nyeletsa borukutlhi. Le fa go ntse jalo, Asp. Nsimbi a re ba sepodisi ba tswelletse ka go gasa molaetsa mo setshabeng gore se nne poti matseba mabapi le manweenwee a a dirisang metlhale ka go farologana go

leka go ba amoga madi a bone. O boletse fa ba sa tswa go tsaya tshwetso ya go nna ba etela bagodi kwa ba kokoanelang teng ka nako ya kamogelo ya madi a Tandabala, go ba tsibosa gore ba ikele tlhoko. Mme Nsimbi a re o nona pelo ka mathe ka jaana go lebege lesedi mabapi le manweenwee ao, le setse le rotlhegela mo ditlhaloganyong tsa batho, ka moo a ba gwetlha go tswelela ba tshegeditse melaetsa eo go itsa gore ope a nne motswasetlhabelo. Mo go tse dingwe, Asp Nsimbi a re ka jaana paka ya dipula e setse e gorogile, kgakololo mo batsading ke gore ba leke go nna ba tlhomile matlho le go laola metsamao ya bana, go itsa ditiragalo tse di bosula tse gantsi di diragalang mo pakeng ya dipula. O gakolotse batsadi gape go kgalemela bana go tshamekela mo ditseleng, a re ke sengwe se gantsi se bakang gore ba amege mo dikotsing tsa tsela mmogo le go dirisa bagkweetsi diphoso tse di sa tlhokafaleng. **BOPA**



Dipula tse di bokete tse di neleng mo Gaborone ka Labobedi di ne tsa tlatsa mosele kwa Old Naledi, mme tsa dira maphashaphasha mo ditseleng. Ratoropo wa Gaborone, Rre Oarabile Motlaleng o supile fa ba lekile go katolola mesele ya Gaborone gore fa metsi a tla ka bokete a seka a baka merwalela mo ditseleng le mo malwapeng. Senepe: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

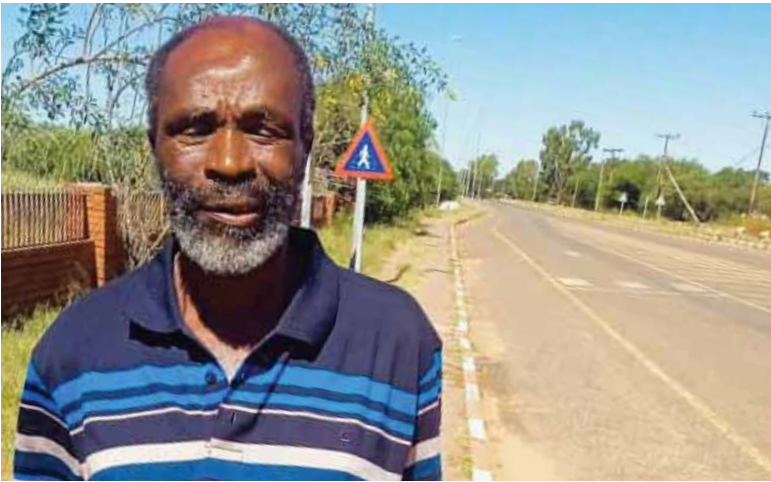
Mapodisi a mo patlong ya ga Ntikane

Ka Calviniah Kgautlhe

MOLAPOWABOJANG - Mapodisi a Lobatse a mo patlong ya ga Rre Tiroyaone Ntikane wa Molapowabojang yo go belaesegang a timetse. Moo potsolotsong le BOPA, mothusa mookamela mapodisi a Lobatse assistant superintendent Montsho Segokgo a re mapodisi a begetswe tiragalo e, ka kgwedi ya Phalane a le malatsi a le masome a mabedi le botlhano ke ba losika ba supa fa Rre Ntikane wa dingwaga tse di masome a marataro le boferabobedi (68) a

sa bonwe. O ne a tlhalosa gore ba sepodisi ba ne ba ikgolaganya le banni ba Molapowabojang go bolotsa letsholo go batla monna yo a kaileng a ise a bonale go fitlha mo nakong eno. O tlhalositse gore Rre Ntikane ke motho yo o tshelang ka seemo sa tlhaloganyo ee sa iketlang (dementia) ka gore mo nakong e e fetileng, ba sepodisi ba kile ba begelwa fa a ne a timetse mme ba ne ba mmatla ba bo ba mmona mo nakong e khutshwane. Ass. Superintendent Segokgo o tlhalositse gore o tshwenngwa

ke gore mo nakong eno ba mmatlile sebaka se se leele mme le jaana ga a ise a bonale. Mothusa mookamela mapodisi a Lobatse, Rre Segokgo a re ba begetswe gore Rre Ntikane o bonwe la bofelo a apere borokgwe jo bohobidu le sekipa se se botala jo bo gateletseng mme se kgwarilwe ka ditselana tse di mmala o mohibidu le mmala o o mosetlha e bile a rwele ditlhako tse dintsho. A re mo nakong eno ba sepodisi ba boloditse letsholo ba tshwaraganye le morafe go mo senka. **BOPA**



Rre Tiroyaone Ntikane

Thamaga records rise in GBV cases

By **Booster Mogapi**

MMANKGODI - In the quiet communities under the Thamaga Police jurisdiction, an insidious problem has taken root, evolving from an occasional blight into a deep and painful wound. Gender-based-violence (GBV), once an issue whispered about behind closed doors, is now a public health and safety crisis, a relentless ‘thorn in the flesh’ that threatens the very fabric of local life.

Official police statistics, recently presented at a community workshop, confirm the worst fears - defilement, rape and even murder cases are escalating at an alarming rate.

This stark reality was the focus of a recent GBV workshop organised by the Fraternal Body of Christ in Mmankgodi at Moon Light Gardens, where official figures laid bare the scale of the problem.

Inspector Patricia Diraditsile, representing the police, presented statistics that painted a worrying picture of escalation compared to the previous year.

To date, Insp. Diraditsile said defilement cases had hit 21, with rape cases close behind at 19.

The violence, she said, was not confined to sexual offenses, adding that the report tragically included three murder cases and 19 threats to kill, which showed the extreme dangers facing residents.

“The numbers show a worrying escalation,” she added, as she expressed concern for the safety of residents, particularly women and children, within her jurisdiction.

Insp. Diraditsile did not stop at statistics, but pointed to underlying societal issues fuelling the crisis. She highlighted the growing concern of missing person cases, which she attributed to ‘wayward behaviour amongst children,’ and believed was often exacerbated by drug and substance abuse. It was on such a backdrop that she encouraged families to work with the police.

“We call on parents and guardians to work with the police to instil moral values in children. cooperation and increased vigilance between the police and the community are essential,” she urged.

The workshop also served as a vital platform to unite community

leaders and stakeholders.

In his opening address, Member of Parliament for Gabane/Mmankgodi, Mr Kagiso Mmusi, underscored the devastating impact of GBV.

Mr Mmusi described GBV as a ‘thorn in the flesh for many families,’ which left some to mourn lost loved ones while many others were left with permanent scars.

He emphasised that addressing the violence was a collective responsibility.

“The time has come that all take responsibility and stop violence of any form to create a safe place for children and women.

GBV needs everyone to be hands-on in the community and be on the lookout for each other to protect and save lives,” he said.

The MP applauded the Bahurutshe and the organisers for hosting the educational platform, saying sensitising the community was the first step toward change.

For his part, the organising committee chairperson, Pastor Kgosana Rathari, explained that the workshop was born from the backdrop of increasing GBV cases which continued to bring instability and stole the lives of people.

Pastor Rathari said they felt that finger-pointing had to end and a unified approach was needed.

He said the workshop theme, Safe homes, safe communities, stop violence, was a powerful appeal for every individual to take ownership of safety in their own homes and neighbourhoods.

Giving a perspective from the traditional justice system, Kgosi Lawrence Thobega of Mmankgodi village sparked a debate by suggesting that empowering chiefs to administer corporal punishment could be an effective measure in curbing rising GBV cases.

Kgosi Thobega contended that traditional leaders historically maintained order and discipline, noting that changes in laws which inhibited their ability to execute corporal punishment had caused more harm than good.

He urged policy makers to strengthen the traditional justice system, arguing that chiefs were on the frontline, dealing with numerous GBV cases reported by men, women and children.

For Kgosi Thobega, empowering local chiefs was a

necessary step to address social ills before the problem spiralled out of control.

Meanwhile, the workshop

ended with a powerful consensus, whether through modern policing, community engagement or traditional

justice, the fight against GBV in Thamaga required commitment and cooperation of every resident. **BOPA**

Gang rape accused demand presence of victim in court

By **Calviniah Kgautlhe**

LOBATSE - Wabile Mohlomi (30), one of the three men accused of rape says the authority to grant him bail lie in the hands of the victim.

The trio of Mohlomi, Phenyo Khubitla (19) and another 17-year-old are accused of raping a 13-year-old girl at Kgoro on July 11, 2025.

Therefore, Mohlomi has demanded the presence of the victim during his bail application.

Appearing before Lobatse Magistrates Court’s Senior Magistrate, Mr Tshoganetso Atamelang for status hearing on Monday, Mohlomi, said his demand was not followed, the presiding magistrate must recuse himself from handling the case.

His reasoning was that the magistrate has no authority to grant them bail as such powers were in the hands of the rape victim.

Mohlomi alleged that failure to avail the victim for their bail hearing would be tantamount to denying them bail.

“You are the one refusing to grant us bail, therefore you must recuse yourself from presiding over these case,” said Mohlomi.

The second accused Khubitla, equally pleaded with the court to grant bail, so that he can engaged an attorney.

He was of the view that he was not confident enough to self-represent his case, therefore urging the court to attach stringent conditions on his bail release.

The third accused person, who is under the maturity age of 18 years concurred with his co-accused, Khubitla that granting him bail would allow him time to engage an attorney.

Responding to his request to engage legal representation, magistrate Atamelang ordered that he be allocated counsel services through Legal Aid



Phenyo Khubitla (left) and Wabile Mohlomi appearing before Senior Magistrate Mr Tshoganetso Atamelang of Lobatse Magistrate Court for status hearing on Monday. The two, together with Botshelo Motswagole are accused of raping a 13-year-old girl in Kgoro on July 11. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

underscoring that since he was under age at the time of committing the offence, he was entitled to legal representation as provided for in the Children’s Act.

In response to the first and second accused persons, Mr Atamelang said the court operated within parameters provided for by law, therefore the Bail Act of 2024 detailed the rights of the accused individuals and the conditions under which bail may be granted or denied.

Mr Atamelang equally said the court has the right to protect the rights of the minor victim taking into account the trauma she

suffered during the ordeal.

He brought to their attention that if an elderly rape victim could break down in court during a bail application hearing, the situation could even be worse for a minor.

“She is a minor, therefore it will be irresponsible of me to subject her to such trauma of having to stand in the box listening to your bail application. I am unapologetic about my decision. She will only come during trial,” he said.

The trio were further remanded in custody and will appear before court for another mention December 3. **BOPA**



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‘His fascination with black is psychological, spiritual, even historical. It carries the intimacy of confession, the ritual of mourning, and the possibility of rebirth’

ATI’s black

By Tshireletso Motlogelwa

GABORONE - In *Lephoi*, directed and shot by Cyc Jouzy the late lyricist ATI stages one of his most visually charged metaphors. The video opens with him beside a children’s playground, dressed in a luminous orange suit that seems almost too bright for the scene. The air carries a strange stillness, heavy with foreboding. It is an ode to tragic love — one in which his lover not only sticks the knife but turns it. As the song progresses, the mood curdles. The scene cuts to ATI wandering through a bush clearing. He begins to undress as the song itself darkens, moving from innocence to foreboding. At its bleakest crescendo, he appears alone in a boat adrift on a lake the colour of aged sewage — a black expanse that seems ready to swallow him whole. The sequence reads like an emotional map: from innocence to loss, from spectacle to solitude. The brightness of the orange suit evokes youth and optimism; the dark water, everything that follows when both have evaporated. For ATI, black is not merely a colour — it is a state of being. The black teardrop beneath his left eye, the gothic palette of his wardrobe, the deliberate dimness of his stage lighting — all point to an artist searching for meaning in the negative space of feeling. Western culture often reads blackness

the living and the spirit world, between the seen and unseen. ATI’s modern iconography reopens that vocabulary. His darkness is not despair; it is cosmological. He returns to the ancient idea that creation begins in shadow. The lake in *Lephoi* is therefore not an ending but a beginning — a return to the womb of the world. Yet his imagery also joins a larger conversation in the African diaspora, where black has long been both burden and banner. From the Harlem Renaissance to the Black is Beautiful movement, from Jean-Michel Basquiat’s erratic crowns to Kerry James Marshall’s matte-black portraits, artists have used the colour to reclaim dignity and visibility. Musicians from Nina Simone to Kanye West have turned it into sound — transforming sorrow into power. ATI’s aesthetic aligns with that lineage, translating the global discourse on blackness into a distinctly Botswana register: solitary, spiritual, and intimate. When he first adopted his gothic look, some dismissed it as imitation of Western subculture. But look closer and it becomes a dialogue between emotheatrics and African ritual. In many Bantu

medium — a temporary residence for the soul in transition. ATI’s teardrop can be read in the same light: less fashion than scarification, a reminder that grief, once faced, can be sacred. That personal symbolism has national echoes. Botswana’s youthful population inhabits a paradox — political calm alongside quiet anxiety. Economic optimism meets emotional exhaustion. ATI gave that unease a vocabulary. His darkness spoke for a generation confronting disillusionment with faith, love, and belonging. In making pain visible, he broke the polite silence that often surrounds it. The final image of *Lephoi* lingers: ATI floating motionless in the black lake, neither sinking nor swimming. The light has receded, yet the scene feels peaceful, not tragic. The water holds him as if in suspension — a moment between dissolution and discovery. For centuries, black has been treated as absence — of light, of virtue, of hope. But in ATI’s art it becomes the opposite: the place where everything begins again. Darkness, for him, was never the enemy of illumination. It was its condition. Without it, nothing could be seen clearly. **BOPA**

as absence, but in ATI’s hands it becomes density — the fullness of emotion rather than its void. His fascination with black is psychological, spiritual, even historical. It carries the intimacy of confession, the ritual of mourning, and the possibility of rebirth. In *Lephoi*, that black lake becomes a metaphor for immersion in pain — but also for surrender to truth. To grasp the resonance of his symbolism, one must look deeper into Africa’s own relationship with black. In precolonial art, black was not the colour of death but of creation. The Egyptians called their fertile soil Kemet — the black earth from which life grew. Across West and Central Africa, sculptors darkened wooden figures in soot or oil to summon ancestral presence, while the Benin bronzes carried dark patinas that suggested divine authority. In these traditions, black was generative. It marked the threshold between

mourning customs, black cloth, charcoal markings, and night vigils are acts of reverence, not rebellion. Darkness becomes a spiritual



ATI

Doping threatens Botswana image



By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Pressure to win the lucrative incentives that major competitions come with has been identified as one possible explanation for the rising cases of doping among local athletes.

The observation was made by Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) acting president, Oabona Theetso, who attributed the rising incidents of violations of anti-doping rules to athletes' desire for quick results in efforts to better position themselves for winning.

In an interview, Theetso said the BAA was the hardest-hit, and should the situation not improve, Botswana risked being blacklisted by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Theetso said anti-doping-rule violations were now a scourge in Botswana as BAA recorded a positive case each year.

The predicament he said, would eventually cast doubt over the authenticity of Botswana's wins, tarnishing the country's

image in the process.

He said with Botswana being a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Agency, the persistent anti-doping violations were a grave threat to the integrity of the country, particularly as signatories carried the natural responsibility to promote clean sport.

He added that doping was bad as its effects went beyond just potentially soiling the country's good standing but that it could also negatively affect athletes' health.

"Their health is at risk because of the steroids they use. You can imagine an athlete developing a serious chronic condition because of using banned substances," he said.

He said as BAA they would continue to engage their athletes to sensitise them about the dangers and implications of anti-doping-rule violations.

The acting president said they waited with bated breath for the Anti-Doping Bill which was passed in the July sitting of parliament to be signed into law to pave way for an Anti-Doping Act.

That he said, would make provision for stringent penalties for doping offenses.

Meanwhile, Botswana National Olympic Committee has recently been handed a comprehensive report by the investigating team that was appointed to work on issues of doping, entailing causes, root cause analysis, and the supplements market.

Given the sensitivity with which issues of doping must be handled, the report and its contents are yet to be made public. **BOPA**

Oabona Theetso



STATE VISIT TO BOTSWANA

11th - 13th November 2025

Her Excellency Mrs. Droupadi Murmu
President of the Republic of India

