

BOTSWANA

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Gaseitsewe:  
Strong willed  
beauty queen

PAGE 7



Southern  
Africa Junior  
Championships  
under 14 team  
event



NEWS

Court  
postpones  
Mzwini  
asset freeze  
application

Page 2

DIKGANG

Tema e le  
nngwe e ka  
ntsha mo go  
bonalang

Page 5

ARTS & CULTURE

Gaseitsiwe:  
Strong willed  
beauty queen

Page 7

Official warns of  
FMD catastrophe

Naomi Leepile  
TSABONG

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the neighbouring South Africa has the potential to plunge the region into abject poverty if preventative measures are not enforced. Furthermore, the spillover into Botswana will be catastrophic for the national economy, says Tsabong District acting agricultural coordinator, Dr Tshepang Moeng.

Speaking during kgotla meetings addressed by Kgalagadi South MP, Mr

Tokyo Modise on Tuesday, Dr Moeng cautioned that an outbreak could trigger an immediate loss of the lucrative European Union market, which was contingent on the country's disease-free status.

This will result in livestock export ban, restriction on meat products and the risk of losing national herd leading to socio-economic impacts on household dependent on livestock sales, he said.

He pleaded with the community to avoid importing meat products and report any livestock showing suspicious symptoms of the disease. He also stressed the importance of animal marking to ensure traceability.

Dr Moeng however confirmed that department of veterinary and Botswana Police Service teams were working tirelessly patrolling the border line.

The area MP, Mr Modise also issued a stern warning to residents of Tsabong, McCarthy's Rust and Maubelo regarding the critical threat of FMD infiltrating from neighbouring South Africa. He expressed concern over the rising frequency of illegal border crossings.

Cont... page 3



Dr Tshepang Moeng

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Pako Lebanna  
GABORONE

The case in which the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is seeking a court order to freeze assets belonging to former cabinet minister Dr Kefentse Mzwini

Justice Oteng Motlhalo of Gaborone High Court said on Tuesday that while he appreciated the urgency of the matter, he required an additional week to study the heads of argument submitted by both the applicants and the respondents.

The matter before the High Court is an application by the DPP seeking to restrain various properties belonging to Dr Mzwini and related parties, pending investigations by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC).

The DPP first made the application in late December under the Proceeds and Instruments of Crime Act. It was granted by the High Court on an urgent and ex parte basis, meaning that a legal request was made to a court by one party without the other party being present or notified.

The ruling resulted in a rule nisi (a provisional court order) restraining Dr Mzwini from accessing a wide range of assets, including immovable properties, agricultural equipment, shares, and cash. These assets were placed under the management of the Office of the Receiver, a state entity responsible for administering assets under investigation or seizure.

Given the temporary nature

# Court postpones Mzwini asset freeze application

Dr Kefentse Mzwini



of ex parte orders, the DPP has since returned to court seeking confirmation of the asset freeze. Justice Motlhalo will determine whether the statutory requirements for restraint have been met and whether the provisional order should be confirmed, varied, or set aside.

The DPP argues that the restraint is necessary to prevent possible tampering with the assets while DCEC investigations continue. However, Dr Mzwini's legal team opposes the application,

denying any wrongdoing and raising both procedural and substantive objections.

During Tuesday's hearing, counsel for Dr Mzwini complained that the Office of the Receiver had been evicting tenants and dismissing employees from the restrained properties. In response, Justice Motlhalo issued an interim order interdicting the Receiver from evicting tenants or dismissing employees pending the final determination of the restraint proceedings. **BOPA**

## Food donation to enhance learners welfare

Mothusi Galekhutle  
MANTSHWABISI

The Segokgo Foundation on Monday donated food baskets to the Mantshwabisi Primary School in a move aimed at addressing food insecurity and improve learners wellbeing.

Speaking at the event, Letlhakeng Deputy Council Secretary for Operations, Ms Delic Sehunwe described the donation as timely and essential, noting that it would help alleviate food insecurity at the school's Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) hostel and promote overall health.

She said access to adequate nutrition played a critical role in learners' health, concentration and overall academic performance.

Ms Sehunwe said the generosity of the Segokgo Foundation was vital in assisting the government to fulfill its social development objectives and highlighted that government alone could not achieve the goals.

She further mentioned that

collaboration with the council was advantageous, as the council was closely connected to the community, thereby impacting a larger community.

Mr Botshelo Segokgo, from the Segokgo Foundation said their mission was to support underprivileged children in the community to create a brighter future.

This commitment, he said, led them to provide assistance to the Mantshwabisi RADP hostel.

He said having gained firsthand knowledge of challenges students faced, he was dedicated to continuing his support and hopefully attract other partners for donations.

Additionally, he encouraged learners to show respect to their teachers and parents to fully benefit from their education.

In his welcoming address, Deputy School Head Mr Dikago Sephorile also praised the donation, noting that the school was encountering difficulties, including shortage of resources.

**BOPA**



Letlhakeng Deputy Council Secretary, Ms Delic Sehunwe (left) receiving food donations from Mr Botshelo Segokgo of Segokgo Foundation in Mantshwabisi on Monday. The food hampers were donated to Mantshwabisi Primary School learners. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

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# Calls mount to expedite Nokaneng-Gumare road

Kedirebofe Pelontle  
GUMARE

The poor condition of the 37-kilometre Nokaneng-Gumare road dominated discussions during a Kgotla meeting addressed by the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae, on Tuesday.

Residents expressed concern that the deteriorating state of the road continued to affect daily life and economic activity in the area. Mr Timothy Samoxa said residents expected the minister to heed their concerns and urgently address the status of the Nokaneng-Gumare road following the meeting. He further urged government to prioritise the development of roads linking villages to cattle posts, noting that such infrastructure played a critical role in supporting the agricultural sector.

Echoing similar sentiments, Mr Gideon Mathethe said poor roads and inadequate infrastructure in the Okavango District were negatively affecting the socio-economic wellbeing of residents. He appealed to the ministry to prioritise the district in future infrastructure development plans. Ms Omphile Medupe raised safety concerns, stating that the poor state of roads in the district had contributed to numerous fatal accidents. She urged the ministry to upgrade roads to acceptable safety standards to save lives. Responding to the concerns, Mr Salakae explained that the Nokaneng-Gumare road project, which was to be implemented under the Development Manager Model, was among projects suspended when the ministry resolved to review the model. He said the review aimed to determine whether projects were awarded appropriately or whether the model contributed to inflated costs and corruption. The minister added that the review process was expected to be completed within two months, after which the ministry would decide on the way forward regarding the Nokaneng-Gumare road project. **BOPA**



Part of the ongoing Gumare-Shakawe road project. Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle

## Residents appreciate project progress

Kedirebofe Pelontle  
GUMARE

Residents of Gumare have expressed gratitude for the progress achieved on the Gumare-Shakawe road project. They said this at a kgotla meeting addressed by the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Mr Noah Salakae in Gumare on Tuesday, where he indicated that the project was expected to be completed in 2027. Kgosi Moitshepi Molelwa of Gumare appreciated that the project was taking shape, bringing hope to the Okavango people as the road which was constructed in the 1990's had never been maintained and as a consequence was depleted. A resident, Mr Moopi Morris welcomed the minister's briefing on the project, which reassured the community with the promise of completion next year. The Village Development Committee (VDC) chairperson, Ms Keatlaretse Gabatsholwe observed that the Gumare-Shakawe road was an integral part of the road network which contributed positively to the Okavango community hence its maintenance was a welcome development.

The road project, she said was initially planned to be maintained in 2021 by asphalt overlay but the scope of work was changed in 2023 after realising that some parts of the road were depleted hence required complete reconstruction. Mr Salakae explained that the project delay was also attributed to lack of some construction materials in Okavango which the two engaged companies, Bango Trading for Gumare-Sepopa section and Rockefeller for Sepopa-Shakawe section sourced far. The government, he however said was committed to ensure roads in Botswana met desired standards since road infrastructure was key for economic growth of the country. He observed that the current



Residents of Gumare have expressed gratitude for the progress achieved on the Gumare-Shakawe road project. Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle

“... the project delay is also attributed to lack of some construction materials in Okavango, which the two engaged companies, Bango Trading for Gumare-Sepopa section and Rockefeller for Sepopa-Shakawe section sourced far.”

road infrastructure in the country were in a deplorable state with Okavango roads being worst. Mr Salakae therefore promised the residents that government would ensure Botswana had roads which promoted regional integration since the roads connected the country to its neighbours such as Namibia. The minister further said the his ministry was planning to review the Road Act therefore required input from members of the public before presenting the bill before Parliament. He said the review among others would consider increase of road traffic accidents charges and other offenses fines. Most residents opposed the proposed increase of road offenses fines citing that people were already affected by the economic hardships currently affecting the country. **BOPA**

## Official warns of FMD catastrophe

from page 1

Mr Modise noted that such criminal activities posed a direct threat to the national economy, particularly as South Africa continued to battle significant FMD outbreaks. “The risk of infection is at an all-time high. We have individuals crossing illegally and returning with prohibited animal products. This must stop if we are to protect our livestock industry,” he said. Mr Modise urged residents to cooperate fully with veterinary officers, report all illegal crossings and maintain strict control over their livestock movement to keep them away from the border fence. He further added that the government's transformation agenda was a national prosperity dependent on agricultural security. While residents pledged their support, they also voiced frustrations regarding government compensation policy and border security. Ms Elizabeth Bless of Maubelo pointed out significant gaps in border enforcement. “The police are no longer patrolling as they used to, and people are crossing to South Africa at will,” she said, adding that cross-border stock theft had become an alarming vector for potential disease transmission. Furthermore, residents criticised the current FMD compensation rates. Many argued that the payment of P700 per cow and P200 for small stock was insufficient to cover the market value of their animals, pleading with the government to review the figures with the view to increase them. Meanwhile, following the notification of the outbreak of FMD by South Africa in Waterberg District, Limpopo province last year, farmers and stakeholders particularly in the district bordering the country such as Tsaabong, Good Hope, Ramotswa, Tlokweng, Kgatleng, and Mahalapye were urged to be vigilant and advised to observe FMD preventative measures. The measures according to a press release from Ministry of Lands and Agriculture include controlling movement of livestock by heading and kraaling especially at night. Farmers are also urged to immediately report any suspected signs of FMD in animals such as lameness, drooling and ulcers in the mouth and hooves. The release says South African livestock that have crossed into Botswana or Botswana livestock that have crossed into South Africa and livestock suspected to have been returned from the neighbouring country should be reported. Farmers are further advised to notify authorities on vandalism of the disease control fence or illegal crossing at undesignated points as well as report suspected illegal use of, or smuggling of FMD vaccine into Botswana. **BOPA**

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# DailyBusiness

## German wholesale business sentiment hits new low

FRANKFURT

The business sentiment of Germany's wholesale sector has sunk to a new low and structural reforms are needed to prevent more bankruptcies and job losses in the sector, the country's industry body has said on Tuesday at its annual press conference.

According to a survey published by the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA), the wholesale sector is expected to grow slightly by 0.7 per cent this year.

"That's closer to stagnation than to growth," said BGA.

The BGA climate indicator, which reflects the current business sentiment based on the actual business situation and business expectations, stood at 70.6 points at the beginning of the year, well below the 100-point threshold that separates negative and positive trends, according to BGA.

The indicator, which is as low as it was during the COVID-19 pandemic, sends a clear message that wholesale companies in Germany 'are overwhelmed by the economic situation, and they no longer have any buffers,' BGA president Dirk Jandura warned at the press conference.

Jandura urged the German government to make structural reforms and provide relief to the sector to avert a deeper crisis. "

The economic situation of the German wholesale sector is dire. If the political framework for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) does not finally change, we must expect even more bankruptcies and even more job losses." More than half of the wholesale companies in Germany reported declines in sales and profits in 2025 as the wholesale industry was mired in a recession that started in 2023.

Over 2,000 wholesale companies have been closed since the beginning of 2023, according to the BGA. *Xinhua*



YAOUNDE - Cameroon Minister of Higher Education Jacques Ndongo (left) and Zhao Zongzhi, chief engineer of China First Highway Engineering at a signing ceremony of a framework agreement for the MINESUP-CFHEC Professional Certification Programme in Cameroon on Monday. The agreement seeks to promote professionalism in university education and improve graduate employability. Photo: Xinhua

## China foreign trade hits new high

BEIJING

China's foreign trade expanded 3.8 per cent year on year in yuan terms in 2025, official data showed on Wednesday.

Last year, the country's foreign trade value hit 45.47 trillion yuan

(about US\$6.48 trillion), according to data released by the General Administration of Customs. This marks the ninth consecutive year of growth for China's foreign trade since 2017.

Exports grew 6.1 per cent year on year to 26.99 trillion yuan in

2025.

Imports reached a record 18.48 trillion yuan, with year-on-year growth of 0.5 per cent, cementing China's status as the world's second-largest import market for 17 years in succession.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), China's cumulative import and export value had exceeded 200 trillion yuan, representing a 40-percent surge from the 13th Five-Year Plan period and an average annual growth rate of 7.1 percent.

At a government press conference held in Beijing on Wednesday, Wang Jun, deputy head of the General Administration of Customs, said China's foreign trade achievements were 'truly remarkable and hard-won' amid global economic challenges.

Wang attributed the steady growth of China's foreign trade to three major drivers: The country's pro-trade stabilisation policies, the sustained release of import demand from its vast domestic market, and a sophisticated industrial system that continuously adapts to evolving overseas needs. *Xinhua*

## UK retailers see weak Christmas trading amid rising cost of living

LONDON

Retailers in Britain experienced a drab Christmas in December as households continued to cut spending amid a rising cost of living, data from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) showed on Tuesday.

The country's total retail sales rose 1.2 per cent year on year in December, well below the 3.2 per cent growth recorded a year earlier and also below the 12-month average growth of 2.3 per cent, according to the BRC.

Food sales increased 3.1 per cent year on year, outpacing growth in December 2024 but still below the 12-month average, while non-food sales fell 0.3 per cent, reversing the 4.4 per cent growth seen a year earlier. "It was a drab Christmas for retailers, as sales growth slowed for the fourth consecutive month," said Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the BRC. She noted that food sales were lifted mainly by ongoing food inflation, while sales of gifting items fell short of expectations.

"It remains a challenging time for retailers, with consumers cutting back on spending due to higher household bills and

any discretionary spend is being prioritised, particularly toward holidays and home improvements," said Linda Ellett, British head of consumer, retail, and leisure at KPMG.

"Retailers are also facing increasing costs while needing to invest in innovation." Dickinson urged efforts to support struggling families and give the economy the boost it needs. *Xinhua*



CAPPADOCIA - Chinese tourists in Türkiye recently. A new visa-free regime for Chinese citizens is fueling expectations for a tourism boom in Türkiye, as industry operators predict the easier entry will lead to longer stays and deeper cultural ties. Photo: Xinhua

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Zimbabwe foreign currency earnings on rise

**HARARE** - Zimbabwe's foreign currency earnings rose to US\$16.2 billion in 2025, up from US\$13.3 billion in 2024, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mushayavanhu said Tuesday. In an update on the monetary and financial conditions, Mushayavanhu said export earnings dominated the basket of foreign currency receipts in 2025, averaging 59.7 per cent of total foreign currency receipts, followed by loan proceeds at 14.8 per cent and diaspora remittances at 13.5 per cent. "A significant growth in foreign currency receipts is expected in 2026 on account of the improvement in prices of key export minerals and growth in remittances," he said. The update shows that the southern African country experienced price and exchange rate stability throughout the year, he said. Mushayavanhu said the stability demonstrated the effectiveness of prudent monetary policy, anchored in optimal money supply management, consistent accumulation of foreign reserves to back the local Zimbabwean currency. *Xinhua*

#### China second-hand vehicle sales top 20 million in 2025

**BEIJING** - China's used car market hit a record high in 2025, with transactions topping 20 million units, according to data from the China Automobile Dealers Association (CADA). In December, the vehicle transfer rate, a key gauge of cross-regional circulation, climbed to 34.9 per cent, up 4.7 percentage points from a year earlier. The increase has helped unlock the circulation value of used vehicles and ease inventory pressure on local dealers, said Luo Lei, vice president of CADA. Supported by the continued expansion of China's new energy vehicle (NEV) holdings, used NEV transactions reached 1.6 million units in 2025, accounting for 7.9 per cent of total used car sales. *Xinhua*

#### Hungary hails China contributions

**BUDAPEST** - Hungary Minister of Justice Bence Tuzson on Tuesday praised the contributions of Chinese enterprises to Hungary's economic and social development. Speaking at a breakfast meeting co-hosted here by the Hungaria Ministry of Justice and the Association of Chinese Enterprises in Hungary, Tuzson said the Hungarian government was promoting the development of digital rule of law and was committed to improving judicial facilitation to effectively protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese businesses operating in the country. The minister also answered questions from enterprise representatives regarding the legal systems of the European Union and Hungary. *Xinhua*

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Badiri ba pele ba moepo wa BCL ba le kwa phuthegong e e neng e buisiwa ke Tautona Advocate Duma Boko. Tona wa tsa Ofisi ya ga Tautona le Itshireletso, Rre Moeti Mohwasa a re puso e tlaa duela ba ba neng ba latlhegelwa ke ditiro fa moepo wa BCL o tswalwa ka 2016. A re ba tlaa duelwa madi a ba neng ba a solofeditswe a dikgwedi tse di lesome le boferabobedi.

## ‘Melao e mesha e tsisa ledula le tsosoloso itsholelo’

Victoria Kesimolotse  
MAHALAPYE

Goromente o tla dira tshutiso ya melao mengwe e ntseng e beile Batswana le puso ka fa mosing. Mafoko a, a builwe ke Mopalamente wa Mahalapye East, Rre Augustine Nyatanga fa a buisa phuthego ya kgotla kwa Mahalapye ka Labobedi. Rre Nyatanga o supile fa go setse go dirilwe ditshutiso tsa melao e le masome mararo le bobedi, mme o nankotse e le mekawana e e setseng e le mo tirisong. “Re setse re nnile le dipuisanyo kwa palamenteng tse di santseng di tsile go tswelwa go netefatsa gore ditshwanelo tsa Batswana ga di gatakiwe mme e bile go tshelwa ka ledula,” ga bua jalo Rre Nyatanga.

“Jaaka ha re setse re kile ra umaka gore ga gona madi mo sekgwameng sa lefatshe la rona, re dumalanye go emisa go ikaega thata ka diteemane mme re tsositse dinao thata ka fa go netefatseng gore lekgetho la dithoto le a duelwa,” ga bua Rre Nyatanga. Rre Nyatanga, yo gape e leng mothusa tona wa tsa boathodi le ikgago sesha, a re go kgethiswa dithoto go ka thusa go tshegetsisa itsholelo ya lefatshe ka e bile go lebeba batho ba kolota lekgetho ka dipalo tse di kwa godimo.

O gateletse gore molao oo wa lekgetho o tla thusa le gore dithoto di duelle ka maranyane, ka go supegile fa dikgwebo tse dintse tsa batswakwa di sa duele lekgetho ka go sa kgonagale go ba duedisa ka dikarata tsa dibanka. Rre Nyatanga a re lekgetho le tshwanetswe go duelwa mme e bile le molao o o tlhokomelang tsa maranyane (Digital Platform Bill) le one o tlaa simolola go tsena mo tirisong.

O tlhalositse gore molao o mongwe ke wa tsa pereko o o gwetlhang bahiri go oketsa dikonteraka go tswa go dikgwedi tse tharo go ya kwa ngwageng, se e le go sireletsa babereki ka jaana go ne go setse go na le dingongora tsa go sa duelwa sentle mabapi le kgang e ya dikgwedi tse tharo.

“Re itemogetse gore bahiri ba tshaba go duela babereki dituelo tsa bone tse di ba lebaganyeng morago ga tiro e fela (severance benefits) ka jaana ba a bo ba theogetse lebaka le le khutshwane mme go hirwe ba bangwe gore ba tsweladise,” ga bua Rre Nyatanga.

A re molao o mongwe o o sutisitsweng ke o o sireletsang Batswana mo borukutlhing jwa maranyane (Cyber Crime Security). “Melato e mentsi e diragala mo maranyameng, mme badira melato ba tshwanetse go lebiswa melato eo.”

A re le bana ba ba kwa tlase ga dingwaga tse di lesome le borobabobedi ba mo diphatseng ka jaana ba kgona go dirisiwa botlhaswa mo maranyaneng ka gone go tlhoka go itse le go sirelediwa. **BOPA**

## Tema e le nngwe e ka ntsha mo go bonalang - Tona

Portia Rapitsenyane  
LECHENG MALAKA

Mopalamente wa Tswapong North, Rre Prince Maele a re tema e le nngwe e balemi ba thusiwang ka yone ka lenaneo a Lemang Dijo e ka ntsha dijo tse di botoka fela thata. O buile jalo fa a buisa banni ba Lecheng le Malaka bosheng.

Rre Maele a re baitseanape ba temo ba supile fa tema e le nngwe e ka ntsha dikgetsi di le masome a mabedi a se se lemilweng se tshwana le mabele, mmidi le dinawa. Ka jalo a re balemi ba seka ba galala tema eo ba re ga e a lekana.

Rre Maele o buile se, a tsibogela dilelo tsa bangwe kwa Lecheng le Malaka ba ba neng ba ngongoregela gore puso e fokoditse ditema tse ba di lemilwang go tswa mo go tse nne go ya kwa go e le nngwe ba supa fa ba tsile go bolawa ke tlaa ka ba tsile go ntsha dijo tse dinnye.

Rre Maele o supile fa tema e le nngwe e ka le tla balemi go tlhokomela temo ya bone sentle go na le fa ditema di le dintsi tse di neng di lemiwa mo nakong e e fetileng di bo di ntsha maduo a tema e le nngwe.

Fa a tsibogela kgang e nngwe e Mme Chana Monyama wa Malaka a neng a ngongorega ka yone ya Re A Nyalana e banyalani ba sa saleng thulaganyo ya morero wa Setswana, Rre Maele lenaneo leo le dirwa ka thulaganyo ya ofisi ya ga molaodi. Mme Monyama o ne a supa fa o siama gore banyalani ba seka ba sala tsamaiso ya Setswana jaaka ya bogadi.

Tona Maele re fa monna le mosadi ba batla go nyalana ba bo ba ya kwa go molaodi, molaodi ga a botse sepe gore magadi a kae, ka magadi e le tsamaiso ya Setswana ya go leboga batsadi ba mosetsana e le tlotlo fela. A re bangwe ba ba dirisang Re A Nyalana ke bangwe ba ba sa bolong go nna mmogo mme ba sena ditsompelo tsa go ntsha magadi ka a lopiwa a le mantsi a

supa fa bontsi jwa bone ba nna ka kagiso mme go se molato gore ba nyalane.

O ne a rotloetsa banni go sa ipone tsapa mme ba ikwadise mo lenaneong la Re A Nyalana ka le ka ba sologela molemo bogolo jang fa yo mongwe a tlhokafala mme

a tlogela dithoto mme go thusa jalo ka go fedisa dikgotlhang. Rre Maele o ne gape a lekodisa banni ba kgaolo ya gagwe fa seemo sa itsholelo ya lefatshe leno se sa tokafale ntateng ya diteemane tse di sa rekiweng mme puso e sa nna fela ka e lebile mehama e mengwe

e tshwana le ya temo thu, tsa maranyane le tse dingwe. O ne a tsibosa banni ka bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo jo bo tlhagogile kwa South Africa.

A re barui ba nne podi matseba thata mo leruong lwa bone ka bolwetsi joo bo le diphatsa. **BOPA**

## Puso e tlaa duela badiri ba pele ba BCL

Chendzimu Manyepedza  
SELEBI PHIKWE

Puso e tsere tshwetso ya go duela badiri ba pele ba moepo wa BCL ba ba neng ba latlhegelwa ke ditiro morago ga go tswalwa ga moepo oo ka 2016.

Tona wa Ofisi ya ga Tautona le Itshireletso, Rre Moeti Mohwasa o bulie jalo jaaka a ne a buisa badiri ba pele ba moepo oo kwa Selebi Phikwe ka Mosupologo.

Tona Mohwasa o tlhalositse fa dituelo tse di tla neelwa bao ba ba latlhegetsweng ke ditiro tsa bone ka 2016 fela jaaka moepo o ne o tswalwa.

Le fa gontse jalo a re dituelo tse ga dina go gotlhogotlhana le dipe dituelo tse badiri ba pele ba moepo oo ba ka batlang go di seka di akaretsa go gobalela mo tirong. A re puso e tla itebaganya le go duela badiri bao madi a neng ba a solofeditswe a dikgwedi tse di lesome le borobabobedi morago ga go latlhegelwa ke ditiro.

A re maikaelelo a dituelo tseo ke go ba thusa manokonoko a ditlamorago tsa go latlhegelwa ke tiro mme e bile go itshupile fa go ne go se maleba.

Rre Mohwasa a re puso e itemogetse fa dingwe ditshetso tse di neng di beilwe badiri ba moepo oo pele di ne tsa seka tsa diragadiwa, ka jalo seo se tswelutse ka go ama babereki ka tsela e e ngomolang pelo.

A re puso e tlaa itebaganya le go duela badiri bao madi a ba neng ba a solofeditswe a dikgwedi tse di lesome le boferabobedi morago ga go latlhegelwa ke ditiro.

A re maikaelelo ke gore komiti e e tlhomilweng go tlhotlhomisa dikgang tsa moepo le ba-na-le-seabe ka go farologana ba fefose ditsetlana tse di tla salwang

morago go dira dituelo tseo, a re se ke go itsa tiego go ka ntsha madi ao.

Rre Mohwasa a re mangwe maikaelelo a go duela badiri bao ke go supa fa puso e tsaya ka tlhwaafalo e bile e tlotla ditshwanelo tsa bone tsa setho.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, moeteledipele wa lekgotla la badiri ba meepo, Rre Joseph Tsimako, o akgotse maiteko a puso e a dirang mabapi le dikgang tsa dituelo ka go farologana tsa badiri ba pele ba moepo wa BCL.

A re se se tla tswelwa se dira pharologanyo e bile se tsisa tshepo ya gore dikgang ka bontsi tse di amileng badiri ba pele ba moepo wa BCL, fa o tswalawa, di tla rarabologa.

Rre Tsimako o kopile gore go nne go nna le tekodiso e e maleba.

Mongwe wa badiri ba pele ba BCL, Rre Kesalopa Thanyane o supile fa a itumeletse tshwetso ya dituelo tse di saletseng kwa morago. A re ntswa go ise go nne le tshedimoso ya gore dituelo di tla dirwa leng e bile e le bokae, go a nametsa gore sengwe ba tla se bona. **BOPA**



# Uganda presidential campaigns close ahead of general elections

The three-month presidential campaigns in Uganda concluded on Tuesday, with the main contenders rallying for votes in the central part of the East African country ahead of today's vote.

KAMPALA

Incumbent President Yoweri Museveni held his final rally in Kampala, the capital, where his supporters donning yellow attires marched through the streets singing and chanting.

Museveni, who is seeking a seventh five-year term in office, told supporters gathering at Kololo

Independence Grounds that the campaign was successful.

He said some rallies turned out to be celebrations highlighting the achievements the country had registered. Museveni urged voters to turn out in large numbers, assuring them that the elections would proceed without disruption.

His main challenger, Robert Kyagulanyi, a pop star-turned politician, also urged voters at his final rally to turn up and vote.

Kyagulanyi, popularly known as Bobi Wine, is running on the ticket of the opposition National Unity Platform.

This marks his second bid for the presidency after facing off with Museveni in the 2021 elections. Six other candidates are also vying for the presidency after traversing several parts of the country and seeking support from voters.

Simon Byabakama, chairperson of the Electoral Commission, told reporters that after the close of

the campaigns, no candidate was supposed to canvass for votes, noting that culprits would be penalised.

He assured the country that a free and fair election will be delivered.

The elections taking place today, stated at 7:00 a.m. local time will close at 4:00 p.m. (1300 GMT), with about 21 million registered voters expected to turn up at polling stations across the country, according to the electoral body.

Xinhua



Mahmoud Ali Youssouf

## African Union committed to multilateralism

ADDIS ABABA

African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf on Tuesday called for strengthening multilateral systems to address global challenges amid the U.S. decision to withdraw from various international institutions.

The AU said in a statement that the chairperson has taken note of the recent presidential memorandum issued by the United States, directing the cessation of the country's participation in, and funding to, certain United Nations (UN) entities, as well as the withdrawal from selected non-UN international organizations.

"The chairperson aligns with the statement of the Secretary-General of the UN underscoring the importance of strong, effective, and inclusive multilateral system at a time when the international community faces intersecting global challenges, including conflict, climate change, economic uncertainty, and public health threats," the statement read.

Youssouf stressed that these institutions "play an important role in supporting Africa's development, peace-building, humanitarian response, and the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the AU and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

"Any reduction in their operational capacity may have implications for development gains, peace consolidation efforts, and the resilience of communities, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings," he said.

He said that multilateral platforms, historically served as effective vehicles through which shared global objectives were advanced, delivering tangible results for both Africa and the broader international community.

The AU also expressed its hope that continued dialogue between the United States, the UN and international partners will help identify pathways to sustain critical multilateral functions, enhance efficiency and accountability, and ensure that most vulnerable were not disproportionately affected.

U.S. President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order, suspending U.S. participation in and funding for 66 international organizations, agencies and commissions, including a number of UN-affiliated bodies. Xinhua

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# Gaseitsiwe: Strong willed beauty queen

Thandy Tebogo  
**KANYE**

The first Botswana beauty queen, Serwalo Gaseitsiwe, who succumbed to death after a long illness, has been described as a bold person who promoted unity.

Gaseitsiwe, who died at the age of 83, was laid to rest at Mmalekwa Cemetery on Tuesday in Kanye.

Various speakers shared their memories of her, personality traits and achievements to honour her.

As a member of the royal family in GaNgwaketse, Gaseitsiwe was described as a woman of great strength and authority.

She was a Princess of Kgosi Mookami Gaseitsiwe, the younger brother of Kgosi Bathoeng Gaseitsiwe II.

K g o s i Gaofennngwe Bome said Gaseitsiwe was a princess who highly respected chieftainship and promoted unity.

“She was a firm person who believed in confronting issues to iron them out and would even

reprimand Chiefs for taking wrong decisions”, he stated further.

Leero Gaseitsiwe, the deceased’s second-born son, described mother as an outspoken person who preferred to handle issues in a transparent and unbiased manner.

He said she was not even scared of approaching Kgosi Seepapitso IV, who was feared by many during his reign.

Whilst Kwenantle Gaseitsiwe, her third-born son, said her mother worked at various parastatals, including the Botswana Housing Corporation and retired at Overap and Partners, which was an architectural company where she worked as an Executive secretary.

Gaseitsiwe had rich

knowledge of the Setswana culture and loved her relatives, including those in Molepolole and Serowe.

He said Ms Gasietsiwe was a true Princess whose line of friends included Tawana Moremi’s mother, Mohumagadi Debby Moremi and Mohumagadi Semane from Phokeng, South Africa.

One of the elders in the ward, Dr Taolo Moshaga, described Ms Gaseitsiwe as a bold, intelligent lady who was passionate about life. According to Dr Moshaga, Gaseitsiwe was a fearless straight talker who was loving and caring.

“She was a master of critical thinking who argued her cases, supporting them with facts,” he said.

Gaseitsiwe’s talents were recognised at an early age and nurtured within the family. Her grandfather, Kgosi Bathoeng Gaseitsiwe II, played a significant role in shaping her confidence and love for performance.

She subsequently founded a youth choir known as Tiny Tots, which comprised her aunts and Kgosi Bathoeng II, affectionately referred to as B2 played the piano.

Early experiences cultivated her poise, discipline and appreciation for the arts, laying a strong foundation for her public life. She was crowned the First Miss Botswana beauty queen in 1962, a title she carried with grace, dignity and humility throughout her life. **BOPA**



Gaseitsiwe family paying their last respects to first Botswana beauty queen, Serwalo Gaseitsiwe, who succumbed to death after a long illness in Kanye recently. Photo: Thandy Tebogo



**OUIDAH** - A local dressed in traditional costumes during the Vodun Days in Benin. The 2026 edition of Vodun Days which was held from January 8 to 10, showcased the diversity and vitality of Vodun culture through ritual demonstrations, dance and music performances as well as art exhibitions. Photo: Xinhua

## Namibia TV host finds new creative horizons in Beijing

**WINDHOEK**

As China-Africa relations continue to deepen, more young Africans are choosing China as a destination to study, create and connect across cultures.

Among them is Namibia television host and digital content creator David Mbeha, who recently relocated to Beijing to pursue a Master of Business Administration degree, while expanding his footprint in the digital creative space.

“I decided on China, considering that I was already slowly moving into digital content production with the launch of my podcast titled ‘Uninterrupted with David Mbeha,’” Mbeha told Xinhua in a recent interview.

“I knew Beijing would be the perfect place due to its huge embrace of digital creativity, digital economy and advanced technology sector, allowing me to form part of a bigger digital creative community,” he said.

Mbeha described his move as part of a broader personal and professional strategy aimed at cultivating a global mindset and evolving creatively, a path that mirrors the growing emphasis on people-to-people exchanges between Africa and China.

Since arriving in Beijing, Mbeha has quickly immersed himself in China’s vibrant creative and media ecosystem.

“Since my move to Beijing, I have had the honor of being part of the 2025 Beijing International Film Festival as an African media representative,” he said.

Mbeha also took part in a Wuhan-based e-commerce workshop, where he was recognized for his live-streaming skills, reflecting the growing convergence of media, commerce and digital innovation in China.

Mbeha was also recently featured on China Global Television Network (CGTN) in an interview tracing his personal and professional journey in Beijing, marking a major milestone in his international media career.

“My work in both digital creativity and television in Africa gained recognition from CGTN, where I shared about my journey,” he said. Xinhua





Kabelo Dambe

# Tonota FC denies Dambe move

Thamani Shabani  
FRANCISTOWN

Township Roller’s star goalkeeper, Kabelo Dambe, will not be joining Tonota FC. The club’s public relations officer, Thabo Tomota, clarified the situation today, confirming the goalkeeper has not been signed. “We saw it on social media, but we have never had a meeting with him,” Tomota stated. Tomota noted that Tonota FC has yet to sign any new players during this transfer window, assuring

fans that the team has not lost any players either. “We are actually looking to bring in some new players, probably by the end of this week,” he added. The speculation regarding Dambe’s potential move has ignited discussions among fans, with many questioning the motivations behind a prominent goalkeeper considering a transfer to a second division team. As of press time, attempts to contact Dambe for further comments have been unsuccessful.  
**BOPA**

## Southern Africa Junior Championships under 14 team event underway



Botswana Malak Macheng playing Onitsha Ramanamapanoharona of Madagascar during Southern Africa Junior Championships under 14 team event in Gaborone on Wednesday. She won the game 7-6, 6-2. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi