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Karowe project on track



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left), Lucara Diamond Mining Group CEO, Ms Eira Thomas (centre) and Lucara Botswana managing director, Ms Nazeem Lahri during a meeting at the Office of the President yesterday. Ms Thomas updated the President on the US\$550 million Karowe Diamond Mine expansion project, which entails underground mining. Expected to prolong the mine's lifespan to 2040, the project is set for completion in 2026. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

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Council chairperson unveils road map

By Booster Mogapi

LETLHAKENG - The newly elected Letlhakeng District Council chairperson, Mr Anderson Mathibe on Tuesday unveiled his roadmap to the district development committee.

He told heads of departments that the comprehensive plan aimed to reinvigorate and reposition Letlhakeng as the area's economic hub and a global anchor for commerce.

"The road map to Letlhakeng District's future includes some strategies to respond to emerging economic trends and capitalisation on the district's strength to keep Letlhakeng vibrant, while focusing on priorities such as offering commercial agricultural opportunities, a corrupt free district, resilient workforce and attraction of new industries", said Councillor Mathibe.

He said in order to position Letlhakeng for the future, the district had to put forward policies that responded to new economic trends and challenges while continuing to invest in the strengths and assets that were core pillars of Letlhakeng's competitiveness.

The plan, he added, would require a mix of mind-set change, investments and administrative programmes to support new and

ongoing initiatives.

Cllr Mathibe said his road map comprised strategies and initiatives which included keeping Letlhakeng clean, safe and inviting.

"We shall brand our district and give it a welcoming image," he added.

He said council would facilitate new businesses and projects funded by government and make sure they paid back the loan to enable others to be assisted.

The chairperson pointed out that they would assess the potential for conversion of domestic farming to commercial looking at the opportunities availed by government especially after the ban on import of horticultural products.

Mr Mathibe said they would provide direct recovery assistance for new businesses and reduce the time, complexity and cost of opening new businesses.

He said transforming Letlhakeng District into a leading arts, culture and agriculture and tourism destination would be beneficial to the constituents.

He added that the district had great potential in agriculture and a rich culture which could be used to attract tourists.

Councillor Mathibe said for the road map to bear fruit, he needed a workforce that was more than willing to enhance

service delivery and increase productivity for the benefit of the district. "The road map lays the ground to reimagine our district with nine key strategies and nearly 50 initiatives and leverages impactful economic tools and policies that will advance Letlhakeng's role as the country anchor for commerce, agriculture, tourism, arts, performance and culture," he said.

Mr Mathibe urged the officers to be steadfast in their commitment to work alongside him and the district to ensure they emerged stronger in building a brighter future for Letlhakeng District.

He urged the committee to be forward thinking as the district continued to evolve by harnessing the strengths of the diversity, tourism, agriculture, culture and beauty.

Deputy council secretary, Mr Tumelo Seboko said address by the council chairperson called for all public servants to come on board to deliver. He said service delivery remained paramount in reaching Batswana who wanted to enjoy government programmes and services.

Mr Seboko added that teamwork among government departments was important for timeous service delivery. **BOPA**

Sehithwa police register two murder incidents

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Sehithwa Police Station Commander, Superintendent Nshaki Mabophiwa says incidents of murder and suicide in his policing area are worrisome.

He said they had already registered two murder and one suicide cases since the beginning of the year as compared to three recorded last year.

He said the first incident involved a 38-year-old woman who was murdered by her 28-year-old boyfriend near Makakung.

Superintendent Mabophiwa

said two herdsmen alerted the police after they found the woman motionless with bruises all over the body.

He said the duo reported that a man emerged from the bush, confessed that he had assaulted the deceased and promised to hand himself to the police.

He said the police traced the accused and found him hanging from a tree about two kilometres from the scene.

They were both rushed to Letsholathebe Memorial Hospital where they were certified dead.

In another incident, which

took place at Mmathamagana cattle post, a 78-year-old man died after being assaulted by a 48-year-old man from the same locality.

Superintendent Mabophiwa said it was alleged that the deceased had reprimanded the suspect for dating young girls and that he lost temper and assaulted him a knobkerrie.

He said the police took the old man to hospital where he was certified dead upon arrival.

The suspect has been arraigned before the Maun Magistrate Court to answer for charges of murder. **BOPA**



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Local government empowerment imperative

By Thuso Kgakatsi

KANYE - Government has embarked on the empowerment of local authorities in order to engender their contribution to the national transformation agenda.

This was disclosed by Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Mabuse Pule at the commencement of a three-day training workshop on the role of councillors and dikgosi in the transformation agenda in Kanye on Tuesday.

He said the programme was prompted by the realisation that there were competency gaps which needed plugging to enable dikgosi and councillors to fully

support government initiatives at local level.

Mr Pule said as the second tier of government, dikgosi and councillors should fully understand their role in the national development agenda as well as its socio-economic imperatives and priorities.

He said their training was therefore imperative in order to capacitate them on the delivery of their mandates and to engage constructively towards facilitating change and social transformation at local level.

The assistant minister said government had therefore prioritised strengthening of bogosi and the kgotla system

in the provision of services, promoting local participation and social inclusion.

To that end, Mr Pule said his ministry had partnered with Botswana Public Service College to come up with a training programme.

The programme was designed, facilitated and piloted last year with one group in Palapye and another in Gaborone, he said.

Mr Pule said the intention was to equip councillors and dikgosi at all levels with both leadership and public administration skills for better service delivery.

Bogosi, he pointed out, was central to the development of communities and promotion of

their welfare.

“Dikgosi play a critical role in ensuring that communities they lead live in peace and harmony. They promote social cohesion (nation building), dispense justice and preserve culture within their communities,” he said.

The assistant minister said the training resonated with the Vision 2036 pillar on governance, peace and security which sought to make bogosi and the kgotla system visible, functional and an empowered institution capable of contributing meaningfully to the national development agenda.

Buttressing the point, Department of Tribal Administration director, Mr Patrick Tlotleng said the programme was aimed at equipping dikgosi with relevant skills and knowledge in order to enhance their role in the

transformation agenda.

Giving an overview of the programme, he said it included assisting them to better understand Vision 2036; helping them to exercise effective leadership; demonstrate an understanding of Botswana’s intergovernmental relations and operations as well as statutory responsibilities of different institutions.

Kgosi Malope II of Bangwaketse thanked the ministry for organising the workshop saying it would capacitate dikgosi and help them to clearly understand their roles in driving the transformation agenda.

“We need to clearly understand our roles so that we can in turn cascade them further to our people in our respective villages,” he said. **BOPA**



Bakgatla regent, Kgosi Bana Sekai (left), Kgosi Kgari Sechele III of Bakwena (centre) and Barolong’s Kgosi Lotlaamoreng II (right) were among the traditional leaders who attended a three-day training on the role of councillors and dikgosi in the transformation agenda. The training opened in Kanye on Tuesday. Photo: Thuso Kgakatsi

Bosele, Grootlaagte council by-elections set for March 25

GABORONE - Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Kgotla Autlwtse has issued election instruments for Bosele ward in Gaborone Bonnington North and Grootlaagte ward in Ghanzi North.

In a press release, the ministry says the poll will be taken on March 25 while nominations of council candidates will be received on March 2 between 0900hrs to 1230hrs and 1400hrs

to 1700hrs at Bosele Primary School for Bosele Polling District and Grootlaagte Primary School for Grootlaagte Polling District.

The Bosele ward vacancy was occasioned by the passing on of Ms Thabanyane Mmualefe on New Year’s day and that of Grootlaagte ward by the demise of Mr Ezekiel Kajuu on January 12.

Both councillors were members of the Botswana Democratic Party. **BOPA**

Karowe expansion project progressing well

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - The US\$550 million Karowe Diamond Mine expansion project, which is expected to prolong its lifespan to 2040, is reported to be progressing well.

“We are pleased by the progress of the project. Our focus is on engaging innovative technology in the project,” Lucara Diamond Mining Group chief executive officer Ms Eira Thomas told President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi at Office of the President yesterday.

She said the underground mining development undertaking was expected to be completed in 2026.

Ms Thomas said the plan was to sink dual shafts of 800 metres with the intension of extracting ore from the deepest

and richest levels of the ore body explaining that there would be no disturbance on ongoing open shaft mining activities.

The project was exciting because it would make Karowe the first underground diamond mine in Botswana and possibly the largest shaft sinking mine in the world, she said.

Ms Thomas said the project would not only increase the mine’s lifespan but would also contribute to the value of its product.

On another issue, she stressed the importance of Lucara Diamond Mining Group being transparent in its activities as today’s consumers wanted to know if they were supporting responsible companies with their purchases.

“They want to establish whether they are supporting

responsible businesses that care about the environment, social commitments and governance,” said Ms Thomas.

Responding, President Masisi commended the company for the developments underway at Karowe Diamond Mine which he described as a major contribution towards the documentation of Botswana diamond mining history.

The President said he was not aware of any country in the world that was a trendsetter and was even close to Botswana’s performance in the diamond sector.

He said the Karowe project would ensure that the company continued to extract the most valuable diamonds which contributed immensely to Botswana’s development. **BOPA**

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EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Jwaneng Town Council is mandated to deliver of quality social development services and environmentally sustainable Municipal infrastructure through effective local governance for improved lives of Jwaneng Community

Applicants are invited from suitably qualified Botswana Citizens for the below mentioned post tenable in Jwaneng.

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 2 OF 2023

POST: Assistant Manager (Procurement)

SALARY: D2 (P305 664 – P337 068) per annum

QUALIFICATION: Degree in Strategic Supply Chain Management or Business Administration or Chartered Institute of Purchase and Supply level 6 or any other related field.

EXPERIENCE: At least ten (10) years relevant work experience in Purchasing, Supply and Materials Management, two (2) of which should have been served as Principal Procurement Officer.

LEAVE: 30 working days per annum

BENEFITS: Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and Employee pays 50%) Pension Fund (Govt. pays 15% Employee pays 5%)

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3. Facilitates bulk procurement of supplies to ensure compliance with local procurement programme.
4. Conducts market research to ensure that advertised specifications are aligned to the new product developments.
5. Analyses material and equipment losses; investigates losses; discusses findings with management; recommends policy and procedure changes; prepares and coordinates the implementation of changes.
6. Authorises purchase orders of authorised limit and submits exceeding amount to the supervisor for approval.
7. Authorises disposal of obsolete/unserviceable goods.
8. Manages the inventory of the Council's assets.
9. Undertakes any other related duties as directed by management.

Key Competencies

- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Relating and Networking
- Analyzing
- Learning and Researching
- Planning and Organizing
- Delivering Results and Meeting Customer Expectations
- Following Instructions and Procedures
- Entrepreneurial and Commercial Thinking

Applicants should quote the above Vacancy Circular No. giving the following;

Full name, address and date of birth;
Qualifications supported by certified copies of Certificates, transcripts, Identity Card and Two (2) references for a period less than twelve (12) months.
Copy of appointment letter to present post.
Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae).

In case of serving officers, applications should be routed through Chief Executives, applications not so routed would not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates would be responded to, we are unable to respond to all applicants.

Applications should be addressed to:

**Town Clerk
Jwaneng Town Council
Private Bag 01
Jwaneng**

CLOSING DATE: 9th March 2023.



EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Jwaneng Town Council is mandated to deliver of quality social development services and environmentally sustainable Municipal infrastructure through effective local governance for improved lives of Jwaneng Community

Applicants are invited from suitably qualified Botswana Citizens for the below mentioned post tenable in Jwaneng.

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 2023

POST: Principal Quantity Surveyor I

SALARY: D2 (P305 664 – P337 068) per annum

QUALIFICATION: Degree in Quantity Surveying or related field.

EXPERIENCE: At least six (6) years relevant work experience, two (2) years of which should have been served as Principal Quantity Surveyor II. Candidates must be registered with Quantity Surveyors Registration Council.

LEAVE: 30 working days per annum

BENEFITS: Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and Employee pays 50%) Pension Fund (Govt. pays 15% Employee pays 5%)

DUTIES:

1. Coordinates, manages and directs the quantity surveying works to ensure compliance with established legislation, regulations, policies and directives.
2. Coordinates the preparation of cost estimates of capital projects and major maintenance projects.
3. Ensures that bills of quantities and specifications are prepared on time to enable the institution to undertake the tendering procedures and practices concerning capital and maintenance projects.

4. Supervises and guides subordinates in accordance with set standards.
5. Develops and ensures implementation of quantity surveying procedures, practices, standards and management to ensure quality quantity surveying works.
6. Undertakes any other related duties as directed by management.

Key Competencies

- Entrepreneurial and Commercial Thinking
- Delivering Results and Meeting Customer Expectations
- Deciding and Initiating Action
- Working with People
- Planning and Organizing
- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Applying Expertise and technology
- Analyzing

Applicants should quote the above Vacancy Circular No. giving the following;

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Present post and date of appointment thereto;
Copy of appointment letter to present post.
Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae).

NB: In case of serving officers applications should be routed through Chief Executives, applications not so routed would not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates would be responded to, we are unable to respond to all applicants.

Applications should be addressed to:

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CLOSING DATE: 9th March 2023

Sip & Plan Botswana spreads wings

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE - In an effort to expand its footprint, Sip & Plan Botswana will host annual goal-setting sessions in Rustenburg, South Africa on February 25 and Lusaka, Zambia on April 28-29.

Sip & Plan founder, Ms Tefo Atholang told *BOPA* in an interview recently that the sessions were geared towards empowering participants to transform their attitudes to realise their visions and dreams for the future.

Ms Atholang said the Sip and Plan sessions engaged the mind, body, and soul, culminating in an artistic expression of the participants' aspirations and desires.

She also said the session helped participant release negative energy and replace with positive energy. The session also provided encouragement to unleash one's best self.

Ms Atholang said the sessions would be facilitated by a specialists in the area of Communications, Public Policy Analyst and Financial Analysis.

She said mindfulness coach, Mother K Masire, as well as business analyst, Lucky Kgosiemang would also be part of the programme.

The facilitators, she said would provide



Ms Masire (centre) with participants at the previous Sip & Plan goal-setting sessions in Rustenburg, South Africa. Photo: Courtesy of Sip & Plan Botswana

practical knowledge that was applicable in both personal and professional settings.

"With the speakers from different

backgrounds, we will be bringing greater direction, multidimensional focus, and increased productivity as well as heightened motivation to the participants in both their personal and professional lives.

Sip & Plan Botswana has been operational for three years and has hosted events at different facilities locally such as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, Ministry of Youth, St Joseph College and private sessions.

"The initiative has helped individuals to learn how to plan for the year and

how to channel their focus and reaffirm purpose in their lives," she said, adding that some students from different schools have testified that they did well in their final exams after they were taught about the importance of drawing a vision board.

For the first time last year, the company spread its roots to Namibia in August where they were invited to host a Midyear Intention Setting Session.

She said this year's theme is: Action It, adding that they hoped to continue taking the #pushabw brand to other nations of the world. *BOPA*

Official advises small businesses to advertise products, services

By Tshiamiso Moseitlha

PALAPYE - Advertising is critical for getting a product or a service to the targeted market, says Mr Kelebonye Bagai, a lecturer at Botswana Integrated University of Science and Technology (BIUST).

Mr Bagai, who was presenting at a small business training workshop in Palapye on Tuesday, said promotion with clear and appealing message would help businesses to reach the target audience.

Mr Bagai, who is a communication, culture and media lecturer explained that effective advertising drove businesses as it captured the attention of customers.

He appealed to small business to regularly advertise so as to remind customers of their brands. "This could be done by offering new products at a promotional price or discount pricing for loyal customers encouraging them to feel connected to the product and the business,

therefore ignore competitors," he said.

"No matter what type of business you run, you have competitors. There will always be brands vying for the attention of the same consumers. If you do not use advertising to put your brand at the forefront of people's minds, your competitors will gladly take the spotlight," said Mr Bagai.

He said a product that stayed in the shadows for too long lost relevance in consumers' minds. Mr Bagai added that advertising helped in educating consumers about how products or services could help them.

Therefore, he advised small businesses to engage in advertising campaigns to improve brand building and generate a deeper understanding of their brands.

He said as their target market understood more about the business, they developed a strong connection to such brands and this assisted in building and expanding customer base, trust and loyalty. *BOPA*

UN appeals for US\$397m for quake-hit Syria

NEW YORK - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced on Tuesday the world body is launching a humanitarian appeal for US\$397 million for the people of earthquake-hit Syria.

"This will cover a period of three months," Guterres told reporters, adding that "we are in the final stages of a similar appeal for Turkey."

The Syria effort brings together the entire UN system and humanitarian partners and will help secure desperately needed, life-saving relief for nearly 5 million Syrians, including shelter, healthcare, food and protection, Guterres said.


"The most effective way to stand with the people is by providing this emergency funding," he noted. Strong earthquakes and aftershocks hit Türkiye and neighbouring Syria on February 6, with the death toll climbing to over 35 000 people as of Monday. In the immediate aftermath of the

earthquakes, the United Nations rapidly provided US\$50 million through the Central Emergency Response Fund.


"But the needs are immense," Guterres said, pointing out that one week after the devastating earthquakes, millions of people across the region were struggling for survival, homeless and in freezing temperatures. "We are doing all we can to change this. But much more is needed," he said. The UN chief stressed that the human suffering from this epic natural disaster should not be made even worse by manmade obstacles in access, funding and supplies.

"Aid must get through from all sides, to all sides, through all routes, without any restrictions," he said.

"I urge member states and others to fully fund this effort without delay and help the millions of children, women and men whose lives have been upended by this generational disaster," said Guterres. *Xinhua*



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Ikgolaganye le rona pele ga **10 March 2023**



BTC warns public of scammers

By Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

GABORONE - Batswana have been urged not to give out their personal details to scammers who pretend to be employees of Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) under the pretext that they have won a competition.

This warning was aired during a BTC recharge to win competition launch at Rail Park Mall on Tuesday.

Sponsorship and events manager at BTC, Mr Mosarwa Molema said the scammers were patient and used loopholes in their conversation with the victims to gain their trust before stealing their money.

"We already have many

cases of customers who have been tricked by these scammers.

Our customers need to know that our company can never ask them to give their details, but the operator would rather tell the customer their details as a way of verifying," said Mr Molema.

He said the objective of BTC competitions was to give back to the community and to change the lives of ordinary Batswana and subsequently the country's economy.

A representative of Ernst and Young Botswana, Ms Motshabi Kediegile said in order to confirm the fairness of the competition, BTC had engaged them alongside IT experts who checked to validate contestants.

They also confirmed the attendance of selected candidates.

"We were present when the draw was done and the procedures were in accordance to set standards.

A random selection process was used and that means all customers have a chance to win," said Ms Kediegile.

One of the winners, Ms Elizah Seramane appreciated the prize, saying it would help her to finish her project.

"I am very thankful," said Ms Seramane.

Another winner, Ms Dorcus Gaboitsewe also thanked BTC for the prize money, saying it would help her to finish building their screen wall.

All BTC customers still stand a chance to win by recharging with P100 or more and dialing *180# to enter the competition.

BOPA



Mr Molema



Top 10 winners of the P10 000 BTC recharge to win competition in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Molema has cautioned customers of scammers who pretend to be BTC agents to swindle people of their hard-earned money. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Eurozone likely to avoid recession but Germany, Italy still at risk

ROME - The eurozone may end up sidestepping the risk of a recession, as data released Tuesday by Eurostat showed positive economic growth in the fourth quarter of last year.

But some countries including Germany and Italy, which represent the eurozone's first and third largest economies respectively, are still facing recession risks.

Eurostat, the European Union (EU)'s main statistics entity, reported Tuesday that the 19 eurozone economies grew by a modest 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared with the previous quarter.

The data did not include Croatia, which became the 20th member of the euro area at the very start of this year.

As an economic recession

is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative gross domestic product growth, and economic forecasts predict European economies will pick up growth rates in the second quarter this year, this indicates the euro area could probably avoid a technical recession.

But that is not the case for all the countries.

Six of eurozone countries showed negative economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2022, including Germany and Italy, whose growth declined by 0.2 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.

The two countries were hardest hit by the Ukraine crisis, as both have export-driven economies and depend heavily on natural gas from Russia, which has been disrupted following sanctions

against Russia.

In the last three months of 2022, the 27 member countries of the EU reported an average zero growth compared to the previous quarter.

Countries across Europe suffered from high inflation caused by surging energy prices last year.

Eurostat's data showed that the inflation rate for the eurozone dipped back into single digit in December, tallying a 9.2-per cent.

For the EU as a whole, the rate in December was 10.4 per cent.

The three Baltic states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania where Russia's economic influence is strong, reported the highest estimated inflation rates in January, at 18.8 per cent, 21.6 per cent and 18.4 per cent respectively. *Xinhua*

UN launches solar minigrids programme to increase access to energy

MOGADISHU - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Somalia have launched an ambitious solar minigrids programme to increase access to electricity in the country.

UNDP Resident Representative in Somalia Jocelyn Mason said in a joint statement released Monday evening in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, that 65 per cent of people don't have access to electricity in Somalia.

The Somalia project of the

Africa Minigrids Programme (AMP) will bring new development opportunities to rural communities while contributing to putting the country on a sustainable development path. "Yet the appalling drought we are experiencing now only underscores the importance of sustainable, green energy, and Somalia has the potential for plentiful supplies of solar and wind energy," Mason said.

The program, which is funded

by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Africa Minigrids Programme, is a regional energy access program led by UNDP in partnership with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) a leading think tank based in Colorado that monitors and projects energy trends worldwide, and the African Development Bank.

The AMP works with 21 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to promote scaled-up investments

in solar minigrids to increase access to sustainable, affordable energy while supporting climate action.

The UNDP said the project will start with pilot projects to demonstrate the viability of minigrids hybridisation, which will provide electricity to 66 670 people while avoiding nearly 30 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) direct emissions.

This will be the first step of the

AMP approach in the country, which aims to catalyse a larger, durable transformation of the country's energy system which will help the country close its energy access gap while enabling a 594 000 tCO₂eq of indirect greenhouse gas emissions mitigation.

Jama Taqal, Somalia's minister of Energy and Water Resources, said the program will increase access to clean energy and improve service delivery. *Xinhua*

Bakoko turns new leaf in career

By Keonee Kealeboga

SEROWE - Thirty two years of service, characterised by absolute dedication to work, firm diligence in the discharge of duties and willingness to go an extra mile, will go down as defining tenets in the book that is Mr Moses Bakoko's life.

On December 31 last year, then aged 54, the Paje native officially handed back the vehicle logbook and keys that had for many years been the basis of his job as a driver at the Department of Information Services, and set out on a new and completely different path of life.

Optimistic as would be expected, Mr Bakoko without doubt relished the opportunity to serve as kgosi of Paje under the Department of Tribal Administration.

His appointment as kgosi, while opening up new horizons for him, drew the curtain on a job that will remain dear to his heart beyond his stay with the Department of Information Services, a job that he became synonymous with from the tender age of 22.

During his 32 years with his previous employer, Mr Bakoko never limited himself to just staying behind the wheel, but instead spread his wings and took up other roles, at times performing up to three roles to get the work done.

Occasions without number, armed with his vehicle and public address (PA) system, he would start off by publicising events, most often kgotla meetings and the next morning he would drive

to the venue, set up and operate his PA system while simultaneously taking notes to later compile news stories.

Driven by a burning desire to see a well-put-together product at the end of his working day, Mr Bakoko became a household name in Radio Botswana's *Tatediso ya Dikgang* programme while his byline also featured repeatedly in the *DailyNews*.

All these, he did with great precision despite his lack of training in journalism and earned him commendation from all that he encountered in the course of his work.

"I joined the department on September 25, 1990. Three months later in December while Mr Mojaboswa Jabeng (the messenger/reporter) was away on leave, the bureau chief, Mr David Matshidiso directed me to cover some kgotla meetings and this was where everything started," he explains.

Upon his return in February of the following year, Mr Jabeng put fuel on the embers of a fire that had begun burning in his absence, taking Mr Bakoko through the ropes in reporting for radio and the rest, as is often said, became history.

Mr Bakoko reckons that his stay in the employ of the Department of Information Services was indeed a colourful experience that had, as would ordinarily be, its own highs and lows. Of the highs, he cites a healthier work ethic where public officers made work a priority.

"Re ne re sa lekanye tiro le madi le fa dikgwetho di ne di le kalo.

O tlaa gakologelwa gore nako eo le maranyane a a kanakana a a diitlhaletsanyo a ne a seyo; e ne e le tlwaelo gore e re bosigo o robetse lepodisi le bo le tla go go tsosa le tla ka molaetsa wa gore kamoso go tsoga go phakelelwa golo gongwe mme ka boammaaruri tiro e tsoge e dirwa ka botswere ke botlhe ba ba amegang," he says, reminiscing of how back in the day employees soldiered on with work despite widespread challenges.

A plus specific to the department that also made Mr Bakoko's stay with his former employer pleasurable was the availability of several in-house training opportunities for employees of different levels over the course of years.

"In addition to many that I benefited from, in 2003 I had the opportunity to undergo a year-long audio installation systems course at Madirelo Training and Testing Centre, where I got to acquire in-depth knowledge on how to operate the PA system. I'm also happy that in 2018 I was given the opportunity to be trained to operate the more contemporary PA system that is used for the president" he says.

While he looks back with great pride, the now Kgosi Bakoko yearned for a public service whose loyalty to the country is unquestionable.

"Se lekanyeng tiro le madi; nnang boineelo le loroto mo lefatsheng la lona le mo go ba le ba direlang. Tlotlang mowa wa tirisanyo-mmogo," he says.

To Ms Masego Serameng, Kgosi Bakoko has indeed been cut from



Kgosi Bakoko in his office at Paje kgotla. He said while starting a new job could be challenging, he was glad to be serving the nation in a different capacity.

a special type of cloth, with a laid-back personality, an ever optimistic outlook of life and a drive so strong that he will always do his utmost to get work done.

Ms Serameng, who was the administration officer when Mr Bakoko was stationed in Letlhakane, was awestruck by the endless commendations from the various stakeholders that the office's news reporting team that comprised Mr Bakoko, Mr Jabeng and the late Ms Cynthia Mabona constantly drew.

"Our team of reporters was a force to reckon with. It was through the team's unrelenting dedication that the Orapa/Letlhakane mine bought the office its first ever computer in 2003 after officials from the mine had visited the office and found our reporters using a typewriter," she noted.

Mr Bakoko's honesty even in situations where he could potentially get into trouble stood out for his then colleague, who recalled a 2004 incident in Mokubilo where while packing up his PA equipment after a day's work while his vehicle was idling, a mentally-disturbed man jumped in and reversed the vehicle, crashing into another that was parked a short distance away.

"The next morning while I was at pains to complete the CTO (Central Transport Organisation) forms and make my recommendation as his supervisor as to whether I deemed him to have been careless or not, he walked into my office and admitted that he was wrong to have left his

engine running while the vehicle was unattended," she says.

Beyond work, Ms Serameng and Mr Bakoko's relationship evolved into family and to date the duo continues to participate in each other's family events, a tradition that they started two decades back.

Kgosi Keletshwaretse Phetsogang of Mmatshumo who had an opportunity to work with Mr Bakoko in different capacities is convinced that given his caliber the latter will fare quite well in his new role as kgosi.

He believes background and experience in the media will count in Mr Bakoko's favour.

"As a person from the media, he will be in a position to research; he will read the Penal Code so as to be able to preside over cases well. I know some people think dikgosi do not read, but we do," he adds.

Kgosi Phetsogang has made it his personal assignment to support Kgosi Bakoko and ensure that his tenure is successful.

Former councillor in Letlhakane, Mr Johnson Kelaotswa has no doubt that Kgosi Bakoko will not only handle bogosi well but will also have a spot in each of his people's hearts.

"Ke dumela gore tiro e o tlaa e tshwara ka manontlhotlho. Ke dumela gore batho ba gagwe ba tlaa mo rata tota," he remarks.

Mr Bakoko, who spent most years of his service in Letlhakane, leaves the Department of Information Services at a time when he had been stationed in Serowe for 11 years. **BOPA**



Mr Bakoko operating the PA system. His job as a driver at the Department of Information Services entailed use of the PA system. He said operating the system required skill, alertness and a high degree of agility. Photos: Keonee Kealeboga

ON SALE

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No additional primary school for Tutume

GABORONE - Government will not be able to construct a new primary school in Tutume during the Transitional National Development Plan 2023-2025 due to budgetary constraints.

That is despite that figures warranted construction of a new primary school at the village.

Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Mabuse Pule said this in response to a question in Parliament on Tuesday.

However, the assistant minister said the ministry would take the request on board with other deserving priorities, albeit through the normal planning process.

"The decision to construct a

new primary school is influenced not just by population, but also by other factors such as the distance travelled by pupils to the nearest school and the number of existing schools and their enrollment," Mr Pule said.

Currently, he said Tutume had a total of six primary schools, two junior schools and a secondary school.

Member of Parliament for Nkange, Dr Never Tshabang wanted to know if there were any considerations of an additional primary school in Tutume given its current population size.

Dr Tshabang also asked the minister to give demographics required for a large centre to have an additional primary school. **BOPA**

Markers, trail maps due along Tropic of Capricorn

GABORONE - The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is looking to develop markers and trail maps to harness the tourism potential along the Tropic of Capricorn.

Answering a question in Parliament, on behalf of the environment and tourism minister on Tuesday, Mr Sethabelo Modukanele said the project would start with identifying points where the line crossed the main roads such as the A2 highway connecting Kang and Ghanzi and where it crossed the Molepolole-Serowe road during the next financial year.

Mr Modukanele explained that the Tropic of Capricorn cut through the peripheries of Dovedale, Mokgenene and Pallaroad villages in the Mahalapye area, Boatlaname and Shadishadi in the Kweneng District as well as Hunhukwe, Ncaang, Metsimantle and Ukwi in the Hukuntsi area.

Member of Parliament for Takatokwane, Mr Tshoganetso Leuwe had wanted to know which regions or villages through which the Tropic of Capricorn passed in Botswana. Mr Leuwe also wanted to know if the ministry had any plans to demarcate or mark for visibility where the line passed to stimulate the tourism sector in those areas. **BOPA**

Over 23 000 patients get chronic illness card

GABORONE - Parliament has heard that 23 474 patients countrywide have been issued with a chronic illness programme card since December last year.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Sethomo Lelatisitswe said out of the number, 699 were from the Bobirwa Sub-region.

Mr Lelatisitswe explained



Mr Lesaso said for initiatives such as ISPAAD and LIMID to succeed, beneficiaries needed to play their part rather than placing everything on the shoulders of the benefactor.

Lesaso urges Batswana to meet govt halfway

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Batswana have been urged to meet government halfway in utilising initiatives tailor-made to address poverty to ensure they bear fruit.

Member of Parliament for Shoshong, who is also the Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development, Mr Aubrey Lesaso said this on Tuesday in his contribution to the debate on the proposed budget for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Mr Lesaso indicated that government had in place, good initiatives such as ISPAAD and LIMID, adding, however, that for the initiatives to succeed, beneficiaries also had to play their part rather than placing everything on the shoulders of the benefactor.

"There are instances where Batswana used ISPAAD to plough, but later abandoned their fields, while others used LIMID to take some small-stock which later failed to multiply because of lack of care.

These habits are of concern because they might render government assistance redundant," he cautioned.

On the issue of value chain, Mr Lesaso said many Batswana were lacking in understanding

the benefits of value chain from local products, something he said government needed to intensify education on.

"Most Batswana only know as far as selling their cattle or farm products.

They are not aware that they can make more money by selling cattle products such as offal," he said.

Mr Lesaso cited gall stones, which he said could fetch as high as US\$13 000 per kilogramme in the eastern counties where it is used for medicinal purposes.

On issues of education, Mr Lesaso said it was vital that government ensured timely delivery of projects, because late delivery could impact on the economy.

He, however, expressed reservations that the budget failed to cater for backlogs at junior schools, most of which he said were constructed around 1985 and were now lacking on current necessities such as Internet.

"The current education stresses the use of technology, but most of our schools do not have provision that would enable such, so we need assets and infrastructure maintenance to bring them up to date," he said.

He also cited lack of air

conditioning, which he said was a necessity in schools, looking at the current high temperatures brought about by climate change.

Contributing to the debate, Member of Parliament for Ngami, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama said government should have increased the old age pension to at least P1 000.

"The ideal should be P1 500, but P1 000 would have been better.

A P1 000 increment would have cost government an additional P36 million on the budget, an increment of P1 200 would have meant P56 million on top while P1 500 would have meant P87 million.

I have no doubt this was not beyond the coffers of government if there was a will," he said.

Mr Hikuama also urged government to guard against what he termed wasteful expenditure and corruption, which he said hampered all efforts aimed at good revenue collection.

The legislator also urged government to take high unemployment rate seriously, especially among the youth so that they could also enjoy the economic growth as was reported in the budget speech. **BOPA**

He said illnesses covered under the programme included hypertension, gout, asthma, mental illnesses and chronic conditions, among others.

On an awareness programme, the assistant minister said such was done through a Botswana Television programme, *Tsa Botsogo*, while further information was provided to patients at health facilities.

Member of Parliament for Bobonong, Mr Taolo Lucas had asked the minister to state the criteria used for patients to qualify for the card, the number of Batswana who had been issued with it in the Bobirwa sub-region.

Mr Lucas had also wanted to know if there was any awareness programme to assist people to know about the card. **BOPA**

ATM bombings under control - Mmusi

GABORONE - Botswana Police Service (BPS) will continue to monitor the situation and adjust its strategies to ensure that the crimes were put under total control, Minister of Defence and Security, Mr Kagiso Mmusi has said.

Minister Mmusi was responding to a parliamentary question on Tuesday in which Member of Parliament for Tati West, Mr Simon Moabi had wanted to know if the ministry would consider other measures to curb Automated Teller Machine (ATM) bombings and armed robberies, including

kidnappings, torturing of women and children and the increase of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the country.

Minister Mmusi told Parliament that concerted efforts by all law enforcement agencies led by the police service had made incidents of ATM bombings and armed robberies to be under control.

On other issues, the minister said cases of kidnappings were rarely recorded by the police, adding, 'only one case was reported in the last five years'.

Regarding GBV, Mr Mmusi pointed out that the authorities

had put in place measures to combat the scourge and the ministry had since opened child friendly centres at different police stations across the country, to provide a conducive environment where victims could be attended to without

possible intimidation.

Further, the minister said the police continued to build capacity in dealing with GBV at both pre-service and in-service levels.

"Police involve the outreach in fighting all acts of crime through

its outreach programmes targeting vulnerable groups such as students, youth, women and children. Both electronic and print media are used to disseminate anti-crime information, including GBV," he added. **BOPA**

Mmolotsi calls for Parliament budget, research office

By **Thato Mosinyi**

GABORONE - Member of Parliament for Francistown South, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi has called for establishment of a budget and research office that will allow Parliament to effectively engage and make substantive contribution to Appropriation Bills.

Mr Mmolotsi made the call in his contribution to the debate on the proposed budget for the 2023/2024 financial year on February 14.

"Not a single budget proposal has ever been amended in Parliament, thus Parliament's role in the budget process is non-existent due to lack of capacity," he said.

Mr Mmolotsi, who is also leader of the minority parties in Parliament said as an independent institution, the National Assembly should be able to counter with solid proposals and provide an alternative budget to the one presented by the executive arm of government.

As such, he proposed that P50 million be reallocated from the Ministry of Defence and Security's development budget towards the establishment of a Parliament budget and research office.

The Francistown South legislator indicated that in line with the proposal for a new economic development path, government should also establish Botswana Construction Company to undertake mega projects, not only nationally, but also globally.

That, he said was a tried and tested development strategy and revenue mine as well as job plant for many developed countries.

He said Botswana's development path should emulate that of the Asian Tigers who had registered rapid economic growth that was inclusive, having lifted millions of their citizens out of poverty and created environments that made it possible for entrepreneurs to thrive.

"Their strategy has been

nurturing and attracting Multi-National Companies, first through earmarking some of their best-performing parastatals for global dominance," he said.

Mr Mmolotsi said his political party, Alliance for Progressive (AP), also suggested that Botswana took advantage of its central location and establish itself as a transport hub for the over 370 million people in the SADC region.

"The AP has over the years proposed for the improvement of the rail backbone, through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) by constructing inter-country fast trains connecting Johannesburg and Central Africa through Gaborone," he said.

He further implored government to establish an economic development board to serve as a strategic hub and act as a nerve centre for the country's growth plans to attract investment.

"Our transformation depends not only on establishing strong political institutions, but also on establishing strong economic institutions," he added.

He noted that the P85 million proposed budget for wealth creation programme was not adequate, hence recommended that a catalyst for wealth creation of sector funds be established in the different sectors of the economy.

The sector funds, he said, did not only avail capital, but most critically attracted top talent and technical skills to the sectors that would have already been identified as potential economic engines.

Conversely, Mr Mmolotsi warned against the impact of high unemployment rates on government's efforts to promote sustainable livelihoods and building resilience.

"Botswana finds herself in a challenging economic climate, grappling with high unemployment rate with over 250 000 people unemployed, 80 per cent of whom are graduates," said the legislator. **BOPA**



Minister Mmusi told Parliament that concerted efforts by all law enforcement agencies led by the police service had made incidents of ATM bombings and armed robberies to be under control.

Poultry sector environment improves after fixing anomaly

GABORONE - Fair play in the poultry industry, including the sale of fertile eggs, day-old chicks and chicken feed manufacturing has improved ever since a study into the sector was carried out to correct the then existing anomaly.

A study conducted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry through the Competitive and Consumer Authority revealed that there were currently two major producers of fertile eggs and day-old chicks in the country, while broilers and layers were produced by various establishments and retailers in the market.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, trade and industry minister, Mr Mmusi Kgafela said the study revealed some bottlenecks, among them protectionist policies used by early entrants to make it difficult for any new market entrants.

Mr Kgafela said some of the bottlenecks included requirement to seek consent from the existing players before one could seek permission to import.

He added that such existing players were already vertically integrated along the supply value chain and at the same time, competing with small players

who were their customers.

"These existing players supplied day-old chicks and poultry feed, and it was almost impossible for new entrants to import feed.

This makes it very difficult for small players to compete with their master suppliers," he said.

Mr Kgafela said the study however, made a number of recommendations, some of which have already been realised.

He said some of the positives from the recommendations were that more producers of feed were able to enter the market, which reduced the high cost of feed.

"More producers of day-old chicks also entered the market and this also brought down the cost of day-old chicks, and because of evident business opportunities in the market, this attracted more market entrants in the production of day-old chicks and poultry feed manufacturing," he said.

Mr Kgafela said there were currently about 260 poultry projects across the country, majority of which were small scale broilers, while poultry feed manufacturers were currently seven.

The minister said the poultry sector still had a lot of opportunities for small businesses within the various sectors of supply value chain.

As a ministry, he said they were content that the sector no longer had the monopoly or duopoly like it was prior to the implementation of the Competitive Act.

"Due to allegations of restrictive business practices especially collusion of pricing, the ministry and the Competitive Consumer Authority are carrying out an investigation in the manufacturing and supply of poultry feeds," he said.

He added that the investigation and its legal process would be complete in August and results would be shared with Parliament.

Minister Kgafela was responding after Member of Parliament for Palapye, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi wanted to know if there was any monopoly in the poultry sector, and if any, what the ministry was doing to rectify the situation.

Mr Ramogapi also wanted to know if the ministry would consider investigating and reporting the findings. **BOPA**



Go lwela meelwane go dia ditlhabololo

Ka Masego Tabengwa

MASUNGA - Go lwela meelwane ga metse mokgaolong ya Bokone Botlhaba go bolelwa go tshwenya thata, ka go diya go diragadiwa ga ditlhabololo.

Mo nakong ya gompieno, dikgang tse go tshwerweng phage ka mangana mo go tsone di tlhano.

Di akaretsa metse ya Sekakangwe le Kalakamati, Kalakamati le Botlalaote, Masunga le Letsholathebe, Pole le Masukwane le Matshelagabedi le Matsiloje.

Tse pedi mo go tsone, di setse di fetiseditswe kwa mokwaleding wa lephata la Dikgaolo le Tlhabololo magae, morago ga gore maiteko otlhe a go leka go di rarabolola a iteye sefologole.

Morago ga go tshwenyega ka dikgang tseo, Molaodi wa kgaolo ya Bokone Botlhaba, Rre Gobe Macha le Kgosi Sibangani Mosojane yo e leng moemedi wa kgaolo kwa ntlong ya Dikgosi, ba ne ba thulanya ditlhogo, mme ba bona go le maleba go phutha magosi a kgaolo go tla go abelana megopolo, e e ka thusang go rarabolola dikgang tseo.

Magosi a kgaolo ya Bokone Botlhaba le one fela jalo, a ne a supa fa a sa jesiwe diwelang ke seemo seo.

Ka jalo, mo bokopanong jwa bone le ba-na-le seabe ba bangwe wa kgaolo, jo bo neng bo tshwaretswe kwa Masunga kgwedi eno e le lesome le bone, magosi a dumalane ka bongwe fela jwa pelo gore dikgosi tsa metse e nne tsone di kopanelang dikgang tseo di le nosi, ntle le go akaretsa merafe ya bone.

Maikaelelo ke gore morago ga tumalano ya bone, e bo e le gone ba iteseng morafe le ba-na-le seabe ba bangwe jaaka ba lekgotla la kabo ditsha go diragatsa tse di tshwanetseng, go tlhomamisa gore tumalano ya bone e nna ya sennelaruri.

Go tlhalosiwa fa dikgang tsa mofuta oo, fa gongwe di tlhoka tharabololo kwantle ga morafe, o go bolelwang fa go le gantsi o eteletsang dikeletso le go gogela kobo kwa matlhakoreng a one, mme seo se felele se tlama kgosi go reetsa le go sala morago dikeletso tsa morafe wa gagwe.

Banni bangwe mo metseng go bolelwa e le bone ba tukisang melelo mo dikganyeng tseo.

Ka jalo, tsholofelo ke gore fa dikgosi e ka nna tsone di buisanang koo di le nosi, di ka tswa ka tema.

Magosi mangwe a tlhalositse fa ketsaetsego ya meelwane e bakwa ke go bo go sa kwalwa gope ka yone, gape go sena sepe se se ba kaelang ka meelwane eo, mme mogodimo ga moo mabutswapele a mangwe a a neng a ka tlhologanya botoka, a setse a iketse badimong.

Fa ba supa matshwenyego a bone, molaodi Macha le Kgosi Mosojane ba re dikgang tseo di setse di eme pele go gatela pele ga kgaolo mo ditlhabololong.

Ba ne ba kopa magosi go ya go buisana le go dumalana gore metse ya bone e kgaogane fa kae, ba dira seo ka kagiso, thokgamo le setho se se eletsegang.

Rre Macha a re bosheng jaana, lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Tati le ne la retelwa ke go abela baikopedi ditsha kwa mafelong mangwe a a amegang mo dikganyeng tseo.

A re seo se amile lekgotla leo thata mo go fithelele seelo se le se beetsweng tebang le peo ya ditsha mo ngwageng wa madi wa 2022/2023.

Kgosi Mosojane a re bangwe banni ba rotloetsa gore kgang e felele e isiwile kwa makgotla tshkelong, a re mme go kgona go diragala gore e re lekgotla le athola le bo le sa athole ka fa bone ba solofetseng ka teng.

A re ka jalo, go ka nna molemo fa magosi a ka buisana le go welelana gore phelelong go seka ga nna le ope wa bone yo o ka bonang ekele o beilwe ka fa mosing. **BOPA**

Ka Masego Tabengwa

MATENGE - Badiredi ba maphata a puso, khansela le makalana ka go farologana ba gwethilwe go ietela metse ka go farologana go utlwa matshwenyego a morafe.

Mopalamente wa Tati Bophirima, Rre Simon Moabi o kopile jalo mo phuthegong ya kgotla kwa Matenge ka Mosupologo morago ga gore Kgosi Kutlwano Matenge a supe fa badirelapuso ba le maoto a tshupa go ba etela go ba lekodisa ka ditsamaiso tsa maphata a bone le go utlwa tse di ba tshwentseng.

Mopalamente Moabi a re matshwenyego mangwe a a begwang ke banni ga se a tlhokang mopalamente, mme e le a maphata a ka a tshwaraganelang le morafe go batla tlhabololo ntle le tiego.



Babereki ba khansela ya Gaborone ba abelana dimpho ka letsatsi la Valentine ka Labobedi. Dibui ka go farologana di ba kopile go bereka mmogo ka lorato le tlotlo. Senepe: Gontle Merafhe

Lerato le ka kgothatsa babereki - ratoropo

Ka Bakang Wren

GABORONE - Babereki ba khansela ya Gaborone ba rotloeditswe go supa lorato mo go bangwe ka bone. Se se builwe ke Ratoropo wa Gaborone, Rre Austin Abraham ko moletlong wa go ipelela letsatsi la Valentine ka Labobedi.

A re go rata mmereki ka wena go ka thusa gore go dirwe tiro ka manontlhotlo.

Ratoropo o kaile fa babereki ba tsaya nako e telele mo tirong, ka jalo ba tshwanetse go ithuta go

bereka mmogo sentle, ka lorato le gone go tlotlana.

“Go bereka mmogo ka lorato go dira gore le tote mo bodireding,” a thalosa.

Mokgothatsi wa letsatsi, Mme Thandi Malebang o tlhalositse fa lerato le sena boikgogomoso jaaka buka e e boitshepho e bua.

Ka jalo Mme Malebang o ne a rotloetsa babereki go nna le lerato, a re se ke go itirela molemo mo botshelong. O kaile fa lerato le tshwanetse go ipelelwa tsatsi le letsatsi e seng fela ka letsatsi la Valentine.

O kopile botlhe go nna le mowa wa neelano, le go ithata ka go le botlhokwa. Mme Malebang o ne gape a gakolola gore go botlhokwa go nowa moro kgotsa go lemogwa botlhokwa mo tirong.

A tlatsa ka gore batho ba tshwanetse go thwaafalela mongwe ka bone fa a seyo, ele fela ka fa a berekang le bone ka teng kgotsa ka fa a ba fang lerato ka teng.

Gape o supile fa go le botlhokwa go itshwarela ba ba go kgopisitseng, a supa fa seo se golola motho mo moweng. **BOPA**

Maphata a kopiwa go etela metse

Ka Masego Tabengwa

MATENGE - Badiredi ba maphata a puso, khansela le makalana ka go farologana ba gwethilwe go ietela metse ka go farologana go utlwa matshwenyego a morafe.

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Mopalamente Moabi a re matshwenyego mangwe a a begwang ke banni ga se a tlhokang mopalamente, mme e le a maphata a ka a tshwaraganelang le morafe go batla tlhabololo ntle le tiego.

Rre Moabi o ne a itsese banni ba Matenge fa go dirwa ga ditlhabololo go santse go amiwa ke tlhalelo ya madi.

Le fa go le jalo, o ne a ba akgolelea go bo ba santse ba tshgeditse mowa wa boipelego ka go supagala fa ba kgona go iterela dingwe mo motseng, go na le go baya fela mo pusong.

Mopalamente o ne a ba lekodisa ka ditshutiso dingwe tse di fetisitsweng kwa diphuthegong tse di fetileng tsa palamente, a supa fa go tserwe tshwetso ya gore lenaneo la ditlhabololo la lesome le bobedi (NDP12) le seka la tsena mo tirong jaaka go ne go solofetswe.

Rre Moabi a re lenaneo leo, le tla tsena mo tirong morago ga ditlhopho tsa setshaba tsa 2024, mabaka e le gore le tle le tsamaelane le sebaka sa ditlhopho.

O tlhalositse fa go tlhomilwe lenaneo la nakwana le le bidiwang Transitional National Development Plan, le go diragadiwang ditlhabololo dingwe ka lone mo sebakeng sa dingwaga tse pedi.

Mopalamente Moabi o ne a tswelala a ba itsise fa go tserwe tshwetso gape ya gore madi a Constituency Community Projects a dirisiwe mo go direng le go baakanya ditsela tse di mo metseng.

Molaodi wa kgaolo ya Bokone Botlhaba Rre Gobe Macha o ne a ema nokeng ntlha ya gore bodiredi jwa maphata bo etele metse, mme a supa fa go tshwenya go bo morafe le one o goga dinao go tsena diphuthego tsa kgotla.

Banni ba Matenge ba ne ba lebogela ditlhabololo dingwe tse di tswelletseng ka go dirwa mo

motseng wa bone, mme gape ba ikuela ka ditlhabololo dingwe tse ba eletsang di ka dirwa.

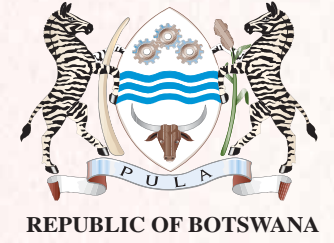
Mo mafokong a gagwe a kamogelo, Kgosi Matenge o boletse fa thulaganyo ya go etela metse ga bodiredi e ka tlhofofatsa go diragadiwa ga dingwe le gone go lekodisa mopalamente ka dingwe mo nakong e khutshwane.

Kgosi Matenge o ne a phophotha barutabana ba sekole se se botlana sa Matenge legetla, mo maikemisetsong a bone a go ntsha madio a a nametsang.

Modulasetilo wa komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa Matenge, Rre Gibson Bafana o kopile gore go dirwe ditsela le go gokela dipompo tsa setshaba di le tharo kwa ditsheng tse di sha, gore batho ba ba sa tswang go abelwe ditsha koo ba kgone go dira tlhabololo. **BOPA**



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, The President Of The Republic Of Botswana ,will officially open The 25th World Organisation for Animal Health(WOAH) Regional Commission For Africa Conference.

VENUE-GABORONE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (GICC)

DATE-21 FEBRUARY 2023

TIME- 1030HRS



25th Conference of the
Regional Commission
for Africa

25e Conférence de
la Commission Régionale
pour l'Afrique



ClassifiedAds

FARM WORKERS

HERDBOY WANTED P O Box 168 Mahalapye. Cell no 75456825 Dialwa David

ABBOTTS HOLDINGS CELL 74 726 715 is looking for Farm Worker

DIPHLO WANTS 2 Farm workers at Dikhu Lands Pilikwe Cell 71 722 136

FARM WORKER WANTED in Bobonong call 71 308 070 / 73950906 Molatedi Tombale

FARM WORKERS REQUIRED at Dikgomo farm Sebina phone 71304990 / 71 311 360 or apply to Box 436 Francistown

FARM WORKER WANTED at Matebele. Apply to M. Keloneilwe at P O Box 168, Letlhakeng.

FARM WORKER WANTED at Mabutswe Farms. Reply to owner P O Box 26283 Gaborone. Closing date 28.2.23.

LOOKING FOR FARM WORKER at Lorolwane-Modimosane farm. Box 10407 Kanye. 76412113

KEBATLA MODISA KO Baapelo Kgaolo ya Kareng leletsa Keaoleboga Tembwe 73 667 239 P. O Box 2158 Gaborone.

HERDBOY WANTED IN Central District contact 75 910 144

TWO FARM WORKERS wanted. Experienced in horticulture production wanted for Ntlhantle. Apply to Budding Rod Services P. O. Box 45549 Gaborone or call 72 744 670 Deadline 17/02/23

FARM WORKERS WANTED- Dipina Lands. Contact Mark PJ Tshegetsang. Box 172 Digawana Cell: 71 608 671 Closing Date: 05.03.2023

FARM MANAGER REQUIRED to start immediately. Mature adult 50+ years old. Experienced (20 years), commercial farming. Irrigation systems experience a must. Apply to Mr Seitiso Botoka Box 298 Pitsane Clsoing date 28/02/2023

FARM WORKER WANTED at Lentsweletau 71 677 333

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

KELETSO MOTLHALAMME OF plot 3047 in Gabane would like to change land use from single residential to multi residential and erect boundary wall. Anyone with objection should contact Mogoditshane Sub District Council physical planning officer in writing within 14 days of this publication.

HOUSE MAIDS

HOUSE MAID WANTED in Gaborone. Contact : 75 910 144

VACANCIES

HOPE MEDICAL CLINIC wants to hire a full time Medical Doctor, a Radiographer and a Pharmacist with 5years experience, applications should be sent to hopemedicalclinicletlhakane@gmail.com contact 72 866 500 for any enquiries

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- 2, TLB EXCAVATOR OPERATOR WITH 5 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

APPLY TO
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UNIBUILD@BTCMAIL.CO.BW
TEL: 391 3777

LOST DEED OF TRUST

Notice is hereby given that we intend applying for a certified copy of the Notarial Deed of Trust No. MA 275/2005 dated the 25th day of August 2005 made by CRC TRUST.

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with The Registrar of Deeds within three weeks from the last publication of this notice.

Dated at Gaborone this
13th day of February 2023.
c/o Ashford Kgomo and Associates

MULTI LEVEL SYSTEMS ANALYST

Vacancy Exists : For a Multi Level Systems Analyst.

- Roles**
- Configuring the hardware & software system in a multi level business set up
 - Designing instruction manuals for systems & training users.
 - Testing & updating the systems on a regular basis as may be required.
 - Preparing & encoding multi level business details.

Education, experience & skills.

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- At least 3 years work experience as a multi level systems analyst.
- Experience with java, SQL, mac OS & windows systems.
- Must be a team player with desire to continuously learn.
- Having a bachelor's degree is an advantage.

Apply to: Dynalab Botswana (Pty) Ltd,
Private Bag 84 Gaborone, KB Mall unit 3

Closing date : 10th March 2023

IN THE HIGHCOURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

ESHMN000003-23

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late **SEGOLAME CHANGU MATSHELO (NEE MALEHO)** who died in Maun Sedie Kgotla on the 15th September 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that debtors and creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of wherever nature with the undersigned within 14 days after the publication hereof.

DATE AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 27 DAY JANUARY 2023

Executor Dative

Georginah Maleho

Executor Dative

PO Box 73

Moroka

AND TO: Master of the High Court

Private Bag 30 Maun



Rosyblue Facets (Pty) Ltd is a Diamond Manufacturing Company located in Molepolole and we are looking to fill the position of **Factory Manager** which is tenable in Molepolole.

1. FACTORY MANAGER

The Factory Manager will be responsible for supervising the factory workers while ensuring that targets are met well on time.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Developing and implementing innovative strategies to increase effectiveness of factory operations.
- Assisting with the recruitment of factory employees.
- Collaborating with management to establish and execute quality control processes.
- Ensuring that machinery used in the factory is in good working condition and organising for their repair and routine maintenance.
- Preparing production reports and submitting them to management.
- Inspecting of finished products regularly to determine whether they meet the expected quality standards.
- Motivating factory employees to continually achieve factory targets.

REQUIREMENTS

- Experience in a managerial or supervisory role within a factory.
- Sufficient knowledge of diamond industry-specific factory equipment.
- Proficient in all Microsoft Office applications.
- The ability to multitask.
- Outstanding time management skills.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Strong management and leadership skills.
- Effective communication skills.

Please email your applications to: hr.bw@rosyblue.com

Closing Date: 24th February 2023.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

DIAMOND CUTTING AND POLISHING MANUFACTURING COMPANY

A diamond cutting and polishing manufacturing company based in Gaborone is looking for experienced candidates in the following diamond processes/ field:

- 1) 1 x Davinci Laser Operator
- 2) 1 x Diamond Planner
- 3) 1 x Dialit Machine Operator
- 4) 4 x Bottom Final Polishers
- 5) 1 x Girdle Polishers
- 6) 2 x Table Smoothing
- 7) 8 x Fancy and Round Polishers

Please post your detailed CV to:

The Recruiter

P.O. Box 2039ABG Sebele Mall GABORONE

Only applications received by post will be accepted.

Closing date: 15th March 2023

Preference will be given to Botswana citizens.

RADIOGRAPHER

JOB DESCRIPTION

- TO PERFORM DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES USING MEDICAL IMAGING MODALITIES SUCH AS XRAY, MAMMOGRAM AND ULTRASOUND
- INTERPRET MEDICAL IMAGES TO ASSIST THE PHYSICIAN WITH SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND / OR TREATING PATIENTS

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- CONDUCT XRAY
- PERFORM DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND SERVICES
- ORDER AND CONTROL RADIOLOGICAL AND ULTRASOUND CONSUMABLE
- MAINTAIN XRAY AND ULTRASOUND EQUIPMENT TO STANDARD
- REPORTING

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- DIPLOMA / DEGREE IN DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHY
- CERTIFICATE IN ULTRASONOGRAPHY WILL BE AN ADDED ADVANTAGE
- MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- VALID REGISTRATION WITH BOTSWANA HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

SEND ALL NEEDED REQUIREMENTS TO: villageradiology@vhrc.co.bw



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THE BURS BOARD TOURS PORTS OF ENTRY

The Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) Board of Directors and BURS Executive from the 23rd – 29th January 2023 embarked on a tour of the Revenue Service’s establishments in the North and South Regions. The tour covered McCarthy’s Rust, Middlepits, Bokspits, Two Rivers, Makopong, Bray, Dobe, Mamuno and Mohembo Border Posts.

The main purpose of the visit was for the Board to familiarize themselves with the ports of entry, their operations, as well as to meet and greet BURS staff and other border agencies based at the various points of entry. The Board also had an opportunity to appreciate progress made thus far at the Mamuno Border Post which is scheduled to operate 24hrs beginning 1st of April 2023. Mamuno Border Post is also expected to be commissioned as a One Stop Border Post (OSBP) on the 1st of December 2023 as per bilateral agreement signed by the Governments of Botswana and Namibia in September 2022.



BURS Commissioner General welcoming the BURS Board Chairperson and other Board Members to Middlepits Border Post



Officer-In-Charge welcoming BURS Board Chairperson, Commissioner General and Board Members at Kalahari Transfonteir Park port of entry



The Board Chairperson and his entourage appreciating ongoing projects at Mamuno Border Post



Officer-In-Charge at Bokspits Border Post briefing the BURS Board



BURS Board Chairperson Dr Lesedi Senatla, BURS Commissioner General Mrs Jeanette C. Makgolo and Board Members Mr Gerald Ntshobane, Mr Ben Tobedza and Mr Pono Molalhwhe at the Kalahari Transfonteir Park port of entry



Mamuno Border Post Officer-In-Charge briefing the Board



An officer at Dobe Border Post briefing BURS Board and Senior Management on operations at the port of entry



Kuru artist, Nxabe Toase from D'Kar doing what she knows best at Thapong Visual Arts Centre recently. She said as a Mosarwa she continued to embrace and celebrate her culture through painting. Toase has previously exhibited her works at national art festivals and has won several awards. Photo: Felicity Male

Plum blossom festival launches in east China

NANJING - An international plum blossom festival was launched on Monday in the city of Nanjing in east China's Jiangsu Province, according to the local culture and tourism bureau.

The event, which will run until March 12, has its main venue on Plum Blossom Mountain in the eastern suburbs of Nanjing, where themed exhibitions and cultural product sales have also been organised.

A special tourist bus route on Plum Blossom Mountain has been launched for the festival so that visitors can enjoy the flowers, according to the event organisers.

Xia Jun, deputy head of the municipal culture and tourism bureau, said that the festival was expected to promote Nanjing's tourism and present the natural beauty of the city through a series of diverse cultural, tourist and commercial activities.

The plum blossom is the city flower of Nanjing, where it is a local custom to view the plum blossoms in early spring every year.

The international plum blossom festival was first held in 1996 in the city. *Xinhua*

Few turn up for auditions

By Kehumile Moekejo

JWANENG - The turn up for the inaugural Miss Supranational Botswana auditions, which started on January 21, has been relatively low, the organisers have said.

The auditions started in Kasane followed by Maun, Ghanzi, Francistown, Selebi Phikwe, Palapye and Jwaneng.

The last lap of auditions were scheduled for Gaborone this past weekend.

Citing factors such as low confidence for potential candidates, the licence holder, Kaone Moremong also acknowledged that rural-urban migration contributed to the low turn up.

"Since we started the auditions we have realised that only a few people show up and this is mainly due to low confidence to take up the opportunity. We also note that others are disqualified due to the fact that they have children, which goes against one of our pre-requisites.

However, we also acknowledge that most young ladies have moved to the city to pursue their dreams hence we are expecting a better turn up for the Gaborone auditions as compared to home

villages," she said on the sidelines of the Jwaneng auditions on Sunday.

Moremong also indicated that they had engaged local scouts to assist in locating potential candidates for the pageant.

The initiative, she said, was intended to get the best from each place through engaging experienced scouts who know their areas better, especially those

with experience in organising beauty pageants.

She noted that although it was the first time the pageant was held in Botswana, she said they received positive response especially from the sponsors.

She noted that the vehicle and scholarship prizes attached to the pageant were some of the things that set it apart from the rest.

She said the top 30 contestants

would be trained on etiquette, walk, public speaking and make-up as well as legal documentation, after which a talent show would assist in selecting the top 12 to be enrolled in a vigorous boot camp.

Following the national crowning on April 8, the queen will represent Botswana at the Miss Supranational grand finale scheduled for July in Poland.

BOPA

Event aims to support education

By Kehumile Moekejo

JWANENG - Over 25 artists from Jwaneng are expected to perform at the J-Mecca Back 2 Skul event penciled for Jwaneng Town Council (JTC) Stadium this Saturday.

The event, a brainchild of Unit 4/Seole ward councillor, Tshepo Mathulwe, is a collaborative event intended to collect stationery and raise funds towards the education needs of Jwaneng schools.

"This initiative is motivated by the pledge that I made after last year's candlelight session intended to motivate learners to perform well during the

examinations. I have since decided to collaborate with local artists to make a contribution to the education sector in our town," said Mathule in an interview.

He said each reveller was expected to bring exercise books and other items as a gate pass, while part of the gate takings would also be used to buy prizes for last year's top performers across the schools.

"We do not often appreciate the collective effort by our schools hence the aim is to appreciate the schools' performance while at the same time motivating them to do better," he said.

Mathule said as a community

leader and also chairperson of the JTC education committee, he was obligated to be exemplary and encourage the community to play a role in improving the country's education sector. "Improving the education sector is not entirely up to the government, and I hope this initiative will encourage the community, especially parents, to realise that their contribution is equally important," he said.

He noted that since the event strived to be inclusive, it would start off with a family fun day set up, where a renowned entrepreneur and motivational speaker would set the tone.

He said the guest, who was an

alumni of one of the local primary schools, would also demonstrate the importance of the Adopt a School Initiative, as one way of supporting education.

However, he noted that for the evening festival, they discouraged revellers from roaming the township while clad in school uniform to avoid sending a wrong message to the learners.

"As much as the theme of the event is school uniform, we do not want to send the wrong message to our children hence we are appealing to our elderly patrons to enjoy responsibly and not send mixed signals to the younger ones, lest they take advantage." **BOPA**

China table tennis team readies for WTTC finals

BEIJING - The Chinese table tennis team will stage two competitions to select players for the upcoming ITTF World Table Tennis Championships (WTTC) Finals, the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA) announced on Tuesday.

The first selection competition will be held in Beijing from February 18-23, while the second will take place after the WTT Singapore Smash, with both consisting of men's singles,

Cheptegei leads Uganda's team

KAMPALA - Star runner, Joshua Cheptegei, says Uganda can win gold at the World Cross Country Championship in Bathurst, Australia on February 18.

Cheptegei, who is the world record holder in the men's 5 000m and 10 000m, is part of the Ugandan team that traveled on Tuesday ahead of the world event.

"We have a good team in both senior and junior levels and we are confident of coming back with medals. We know we shall face tough competition from Ethiopia and Kenya, but we have prepared well enough," Cheptegei told Xinhua before departure.

Cheptegei is expected to combine with another Olympic medalist Jacob Kiplimo to outshine Kenya's two-time winner Geoffrey Kamworor.

Head coach Francis Damai also said he is optimistic the team is well-prepared and should be able to perform well.

"We generally have a good team in all categories in seniors and junior levels," added the coach. Uganda's team will have six senior male and six women runners, along with six junior male runners and five junior female runners.

The World Cross Country Championship 2023 will also attract other athletes from Australia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Burundi, Canada, Brazil, Egypt, Eritrea, Spain, New Zealand and China among others Xinhua



Cheptegei

women's singles and mixed doubles.

During the WTTC Asia Continental Stage in January, China ensured its full quota at the WTTC Finals in Durban, South Africa from May 20-28, meaning five spots each in the men's and women's singles and two berths apiece in the three doubles events.

According to the CTTA, winners in singles categories from any of the two selection competitions will directly earn qualifications to the WTTC Finals, while for the mixed doubles, only one pair will get a ticket to the tournament in Durban.

Winning the men's and women's singles titles at the WTT Singapore Smash scheduled for March 7-19 will be another pathway for Chinese paddlers to compete in the WTTC Finals.

The remaining spots of the Chinese team will be decided by the coaching group in terms of players' world rankings, performances when playing against opponents from other associations, technical characteristics and other factors.

"We hope to provide a platform for all players to compete in an open, fair and equitable manner.

Whether Olympic champions

or young players, they need to fully unleash their potential in this process," said Li Sun, who was appointed the Chinese team's chief coach in December last year. 16 male and 13 female players, all ranked among the Top 100 in the 2023 Week 5 ITTF singles world rankings, will participate in the first selection competition, including prominent figures Fan Zhendong, Ma Long, Sun Yingsha and Chen Meng.

Mixed doubles matches comprised of preliminaries and a main draw, as 11 pairs will directly advance to the main draw and five other pairs will qualify

through the preliminaries.

The first stage of the main draw adopts a round-robin format as players are divided into four groups.

The top finishers from each group will contend for the championship during the second stage, while playoff and third-place matches will also be staged to decide the final position for each participant.

The CTTA said that every player will earn respective ranking points, which serve as criteria for placing and grouping in the second selection competition. Xinhua



BEIJING - The Chinese table tennis team will stage two competitions to select players for the upcoming ITTF World Table Tennis Championships finals, the table tennis association announced on Tuesday. Photo: Xinhua

Liverpool welcomes official report

LONDON - Liverpool Tuesday welcomed the official report by an independent panel into the chaos at the UEFA Champions League final last May.

UEFA published on Monday the report produced by the Independent Review Panel led by Dr Brandao Rodrigues, which investigated the events surrounding the UEFA Champions League final played in Paris on May 28, 2022.

The UEFA said the report highlights a number of important lessons about how the organisation of the final could have been improved and makes a set of recommendations to ensure better fan experience and safety at future events.

"On behalf of UEFA, I would like to apologise most sincerely once again to all those who were affected by the events that unfolded on what should have been a celebration at the pinnacle of the club season.

In particular, I would like to apologise to the supporters of Liverpool for the experiences many of them had when attending the game and for the messages released prior to and during the game which had the effect of unjustly blaming them for the

situation leading to the delayed kick-off," said UEFA General Secretary Theodore Theodoridis.

In a statement released Tuesday, Liverpool said the report fully vindicated Liverpool fans while finding UEFA primarily responsible for organizational failings, absence of overall control or oversight of safety and security, poor planning and lack of contingency plans. Fans were penned in and teargassed outside

the Stade de France at the final.

Liverpool FC called on UEFA to implement 21 critical recommendations of the report to ensure safe passage for all football supporters at every UEFA match.

"We were determined to make sure a robust investigation was conducted in order that lessons are learned to ensure the safety of football supporters in Europe is never compromised again," read the club's statement.

"It can't just be a focus on finals, it has to be a focus on all of the matches that we conduct across Europe and that's really UEFA's role and responsibility to deliver on that," said Liverpool FC's CEO Billy Hogan.

"So, effectively from our perspective we want to now see UEFA take these 21 recommendations and put them into practice," Hogan added. Xinhua



Hogan



Theodoridis

BGGP attracts top athletes

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Some top athletes are expected to compete at the Botswana Golden Grand Prix (BGGP) Continental Tour Gold – 2023 scheduled for the National Stadium April 29.

Jamaican Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce, Canadian Andre De Grasse, USA's Vernon Norwood, Paul Dedewo, Clayton Murphy are some of the athletes expected to take Gaborone by storm.

Speaking at a press briefing in Gaborone on Tuesday, the local organising committee's, Barulaganye Mogotsi said as part of the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold series, the BGGP meet would offer a total of more than P2.3 million in prize money plus higher world ranking points, which assist athletes to qualify for World Championships and Olympic Games.

"It will be broadcast in over 150 countries. We have Supersport and Btv ready to show the event to the world," he said.

Furthermore, Mogotsi said the meet would also further Botswana's quest to become a summer training and competition venue for the world's best athletes leading to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and beyond.

A number of initiatives, he said, would also be held by Botswana Athletics Association in line with the BGGP meet to enrich the sport.

"This may include training camps for senior athletes alongside international ones, crucial competition opportunities for the next wave of talent, as well as pathway opportunities for officials and volunteers and coach education fora," he said.

Mogotsi said Botswana

athletes have been shining on the world stage, therefore there was no better time than now to bring a gold level meet home, in conjunction with the Botswana government and local sport bodies (BNSC, BNOC, BAA &

Golden Sports Door Agency). For his part, Gaborone mayor, Austin Abraham, said hosting a gold status event resonated well with the government's policy on development of sport.

He said President Dr

Mokgweetsi Masisi had on numerous occasions stated that Botswana aspired to host international events.

"It cannot be over-emphasised that events of this stature would go a long way in promoting

sports tourism in Botswana. This is one of the aspirations espoused in Vision 2036 that as we transition from an upper middle income country to a high income country we do that in diversity," he said. **BOPA**



Fraser-Pryce



De Grasse

Gaborone Commercial College of Higher Studies (GCCHS)



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