

BOTSWANA

Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES

Namibia royals to grace Otjiserandu celebration



PAGE 9

Sebako breaks barriers in sport

PAGE 10



NEWS

First lady hands over ICT facility

Page 2

BUSINESS

Tourism industry players call for decentralised licensing

Page 6

DIKGANG

Banni ba Tswapong ba kopiwa go somarela phane

Tsebe 7

Govt backs P1.713 billion BADEA deal



Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

Government has supported a newly sealed loan and grant agreement with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) as a vital lifeline as Botswana pivots toward a private-sector-driven economy.

Speaking at the second meeting of BADEA's Board of Directors in Gaborone, Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe said the funding came at a crucial time when the global economy was experiencing tight fiscal conditions.

The Vice President said to navigate these pressures, there was need for bold thinking and long-term financial solutions.

Cont...page 3

Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe at the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa second meeting of the board of directors 2026 in Gaborone yesterday. Mr Gaolathe commended BADEA for its continued expansion of support across Africa through sovereign financing, private sector operations, trade finance, technical assistance and capacity building.
Photo Phenyio Ramatu

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Thursdays

Bank trains women entrepreneurs on business growth

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Investing in women-led enterprises is key to sustaining community livelihoods, creating local jobs and reducing poverty, Absa Bank has said.

The bank on Friday hosted a one-day workshop in Maun aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs with practical tools to build resilient and sustainable businesses.

Speaking at the event, Absa Public and Media Relations Manager, Mr Spencer Moreri, said women played a critical role in the economy and the bank remains committed to supporting

them through tailored banking and empowerment programmes.

“Through these workshops, the bank equips women with practical skills in financial literacy and business governance,” Moreri said.

He added that Absa has signed several Memoranda of Agreement with organisations including the Local Enterprise Authority and the Botswana Unified Revenue Service to help entrepreneurs improve export-readiness and tax compliance.

The bank also uses a colleague-volunteering strategy to mentor and train women business owners.

Participants were taken through key areas including

talent acquisition, fair termination practices, intellectual property protection and employment law.

Absa Legal Advisor, Mr Keletso Tebele, stressed the importance of intellectual property as both a moral and economic asset.

“Intellectual property is typically used by the owner but can also be licensed to another user under commercial terms,” Mr Tebele said.

He urged women entrepreneurs to register their trademarks, noting that under Section 74 of the Industrial Property Act, a mark must be capable of distinguishing the goods and services of an enterprise to qualify

for registration.

Senior Human Capital Business Partner, Mr Smile Thela, briefed attendees on the Employment and Labour Relations Act 2025, which was passed into law in July last year and is awaiting commencement.

He warned that employers must keep a register of casual employees for the current period and for two years thereafter, or risk a fine of P10,000 or two years imprisonment.

Mr Thela added that all employment laws apply to SME staff and urged business owners to treat employees well, saying workforce welfare directly impacted business success.

The workshop also covered Absa’s enterprise and supply chain development programme, funding options for SMEs, and solutions to challenges small-scale entrepreneurs face when accessing financial services.

One of the participants, Ms Lesebogang Temane, thanked Absa and LEA for their support.

“Both organisations are doing their best to provide solutions to the challenges entrepreneurs face,” she said.

Ms Temane encouraged fellow business owners to use the services offered by both institutions and to comply with labour laws to avoid penalties. **BOPA**

First lady hands over ICT facility

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

To bridge the digital divide in rural areas, Botswana Communication Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), will hand over fully-furnished digital centres at Sankoyo and Makakung primary schools today and tomorrow.

The facilities are an endeavour to bridge the digital divide in rural areas, by providing internet access and digital literacy training to children in non-urban areas.

The First lady Ms Kaone Boko, is expected to officially launch the digital centre at Sankoyo Primary School today while Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr David Tshere, will officiate at Makakung tomorrow.

BOCRA views the development as a continued quest in enhancing modern learning experience for pupils, by empowering them with digital skills.

Prior to the launch, information, communication and technology (ICT) trainings were conducted in primary schools of Shorobe, Khwai, Mababe Makakung and Sankoyo targeting learners in Standard, five, six and seven respectively. Learners were drilled on robotics, artificial intelligence, (AI), VR training, digital content creation and cybersecurity awareness.

Kgosi Gokgathang Moalosi of Sankoyo welcomed the milestone that would empower local economies and ensure residents

“Sankoyo is a remote area far from amenities and with this ICT development, we believe it will transform local economies and improve residents’ quality of life without requiring urban migration.”
Kgosi Moalosi

are not left behind in technology advancement.

The centre, he said, was essential in fostering improved learning opportunities for learners and the community since it would connect the rural communities to the global village.

“Sankoyo is a remote area far from various amenities and with this ICT development, we believe it will transform local economies

and improving residents ‘quality of life without requiring urban migration,” said Kgosi Moalosi.

He said that the technology would benefit learners by enabling self- paced learning, transform traditional classrooms into interactive environments that stimulated curiosity and problem solving skills.

“Our children will be at the same level with their counterparts in urban areas as they will get equal access to online resources and eventually improve their academic performances,” he noted.

BOCRA’s Broadcasting and Corporate Communication head, Ms Masego Jeremiah, recently informed a full council meeting that they had provided fully fledged porta- cabins equipped with the necessary equipment such as computers and air-cons among others.

She appreciated support from the local council officials saying they had been cooperative and provided guidance for the smooth implementation of the projects.

“These projects focus on extending high speed, reliable internet to undeserved areas to facilitate e-learning and our efforts are part of a broader commitment to ensure even undeserved villages have digital access,” she added.

BOCRA is undertaking the projects through its Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF) targeting rural, unserved and undeserved areas. **BOPA**



First Lady Kaone Boko



Minister of Communications and Innovation Mr David Tshere

Chobe remains Foot and Mouth Disease free

Portia Keetile
KASANE

Chobe District continues to maintain a free Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) status despite recurring outbreaks that have plagued various regions across the country.

Veterinary experts have attributed this success to the district robust multi layered defense strategy designed to protect the designated FMD red zone.

In an interview with Principal Veterinary Officer- Chobe District

Dr Tichaona Aaron explained that the district maintained a rigorous schedule of three vaccinations annually which were scheduled for March, July and November.

This, he pointed out achieved 90 per cent coverage consistently hence creating an immune wall that prevented the virus from establishing traction in cattle.

“As a district we do not wait for the disease to appear instead we embark on active surveillance and post vaccination monitoring to continuously verify the efficacy of the vaccines.”

He explained that the outbreak in the green zones spread rapidly because the virus was entirely foreign to these animals.

The officer alluded that unlike in Chobe where periodic vaccines trained cattle immune systems to fight the disease, animals in other zones had never been vaccinated against FMD.

Moreover, Dr Aaron emphasised that the strict enforcement of red zone movement protocols prevented the accidental introduction of the virus from other zones currently battling

FMD outbreaks.

The officer commended Chobe farmers for embracing the strict vaccination programme noting their dedication reflected a collective resilience of local stakeholders.

He warned that Chobe’s dense wildlife population including African buffalo which carried the FMD virus posed a threat to maintaining a disease free status in a red zone.

“The interaction between cattle and wildlife at grazing and water points is a constant risk factor for

spillover,” he added.

He said Chobe’s transboundary location exacerbated disease risks due to movement of livestock and wildlife crossing international borders for water and grazing.

Dr Aaron advised farmers to keep adhering to the vaccination schedule to protect their livestock therefore safeguarding the entire regional economy and maintain the potential for future market access.

“Respect movement protocols because they are meant to protect you, your neighbours and the entire beef industry,” he said. **BOPA**

Refurbished tankers to ease fuel transportation

Thandy Tebogo
KANYE

The return to service of 34 refurbished fuel tankers by Botswana Railways is expected to significantly boost the country’s fuel transportation capacity and strengthen energy security.

The tankers, which had been out of service since 2018, were overhauled through a partnership between Botswana Railways and African Rail Company.

Botswana Oil Senior Manager for Hydrocarbon Sourcing, Mr Callaghan Motlaleng, said in an interview that the refurbished tankers would enhance the country’s ability to transport petroleum products efficiently through the rail network, providing an alternative mode of transportation.

Mr Motlaleng said an operational internal rail tanker fleet would give Botswana greater control over fuel logistics and replenishment cycles. Rather than relying solely on external transport providers, the country would be able to schedule movements and replenish fuel stocks more efficiently.

He said the overhaul and rehabilitation project was not expected to have a direct impact on the regulated pump price of petroleum products. Instead, it was intended to improve the efficiency of the fuel supply chain by restoring rail transport capacity for bulk fuel



Acting General Manager – Supply at BOL
Mr Callaghan Motlaleng

movement.

Botswana Railways Director of Projects, Mr Thabo Gabanamotse, said maintaining and rehabilitating fuel tankers increased the number of wagons available for service, thereby expanding the volume of petroleum products that could be transported by rail.

He noted that rail transport enabled storage facilities to



Botswana Railways has returned 34 refurbished fuel tankers to service through a partnership with African Rail Company. The tankers, which had been out of operation since 2018, are expected to boost the country’s fuel transportation capacity and strengthen national energy security.
Photo: Courtesy of Botswana Railways

replenish fuel stocks more quickly than road transport and added that investments in rail efficiency supported faster movement of consignments, allowing national demand to be met more swiftly and cost-effectively.

Mr Gabanamotse said rail transport also avoided delays commonly experienced by trucks at border posts, making it a more reliable option for fuel imports.

He further stated that improving rail capacity through refurbished wagons would enhance fuel availability and help reduce transportation costs.

Despite the various factors that influence fuel pricing, Mr Gabanamotse said Botswana

Railways remained optimistic that its role in fuel transportation would contribute to lower logistics costs, which could ultimately influence pricing dynamics determined by regulators.

He noted that the performance of Botswana Railways had declined significantly since 2018 following the withdrawal of fuel tankers from service. This resulted in the share of fuel imports transported by rail dropping from 70 per cent to below 20 per cent.

Although some rail volumes were maintained through the use of wagons from other railway administrations, he said the arrangement was not sustainable as those resources were often

reassigned to other operations.

Mr Gabanamotse said each refurbished tanker had a carrying capacity of 55 000 litres, enabling a full train load to transport approximately 1.87 million litres of fuel.

He added that the shift from road to rail would ease congestion on roads, as a single train load could replace approximately 50 fuel trucks.

Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority’s Communications and Public Relations Manager, Mr Goaba Mojakgomo, reiterated that the capitalisation of the overhaul project would not directly affect the regulated pump prices of petroleum products in Botswana. **BOPA**

Duo advances parliamentary cooperation

Taboka Ngwako
KASANE

Clerk of the National Assembly, Dr Gabriel Malebang has called for strengthened cooperation between Botswana and Zambia’s parliaments as the two institutions continue to share experiences and best practices aimed at improving parliamentary administration.

Dr Malebang made the remarks in Gaborone on Wednesday when he welcomed a delegation from the Parliament of Zambia, which is in the country for a benchmarking visit focused on enhancing institutional capacity and strengthening parliamentary processes.

He said the engagement reflected the shared commitment of both legislatures to strengthening

parliamentary democracy, promoting good governance and improving public service delivery.

“Your presence here today is testament to the shared commitment of our legislatures to strengthen parliamentary democracy and diplomacy, enhance institutional capacity and promote good governance across our region,” he said.

Dr Malebang said benchmarking visits provided an opportunity for Parliaments to exchange experiences, compare practices and identify innovative solutions to challenges confronting modern legislatures.

He noted that both country’s Parliaments operated in an environment where citizens increasingly expected transparency, inclusivity and responsiveness from their elected institutions.

“Citizens demand transparency, inclusivity and responsiveness from their legislatures. It is therefore incumbent upon us as parliamentary staff to ensure that our institutions are equipped to meet these demands,” he said.

He said Botswana’s Parliament was undergoing transformation through reforms aimed at strengthening its legislative, oversight and representative functions.

Among the reforms being considered are the establishment of a Parliament Act, a Parliamentary Services Commission, a Code of Conduct and Ethics for Members of Parliament, a Parliamentary Budget Office, a strategic budget framework and a review of the institution’s organisational structure.

For her part, leader of the Zambian delegation, Deputy Clerk for corporate affairs, Ms Cecilia Mambwe said the benchmarking visit formed part of Zambia’s annual parliamentary improvement programme aimed at promoting learning and institutional development.

She said the Zambian Parliament deliberately included officials from different departments during such visits to ensure that knowledge sharing benefited the institution as a whole.

“We sort of mix and match, so we get officers from different departments so that the learning is not concentrated on one department, but across departments because we work as a team,” she said.

Ms Mambwe said the visit was not intended to determine which Parliament was better, but to learn from each other and adopt practices that could enhance parliamentary operations.

“We believe that there is always something that your sister Parliament is doing better than where you are, and it helps us to learn from other Parliaments,” she said.

She added that benchmarking visits also served as performance assessment tools, enabling legislatures to identify gaps, improve systems and implement changes upon returning home.

The engagement between the two Parliaments will focus on areas such as parliamentary administration, committees, public relations, research, editorial services and diplomatic relations. **BOPA**

Govt backs P1.713 billion BADEA deal

...from page 1

“While our central financing philosophy is to shift from a public sector economy, infrastructure gaps remain significant. Our financing framework will reflect this transition with 60 per cent of projects expected to be privately led and financed, while government focuses on enabling investment through public infrastructure and social inclusion,” Mr Gaolathe said.

Meanwhile, the newly signed package channels fresh capital directly into local enterprise development and academic research, featuring a €110 million (P1.705 billion) mixed credit facility awarded to the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) to drive industrial growth and create sustainable employment opportunities.

Additionally, a €500 000 (about P7.75 million) grant was extended to the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) to support agricultural research, skills development and knowledge sharing.

Mr Gaolathe commended the enduring relationship, pointing to previous high-impact BADEA interventions that continued to support the nation’s key gateways, including a recent US\$10 million (P135.8 million)

facility through the National Development Bank (NDB) to support large-scale food production in the Pandamatenga area, a US\$10 million (P135.8 million) terminal upgrade facility at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport (SSKIA) and an US\$8 million (P108.6 million) package providing essential airport equipment and runway extensions for Kasane International Airport.

“BADEA’s interventions have strengthened gateways in our economy and supported production of our agricultural sector. They demonstrate how development finance can connect markets, expand enterprise, and strengthen national resilience,” he added.

For his part, BADEA board chairperson, Dr Fahad Aldossari indicated that the agreement reflected more than 40 years of mutual trust and development cooperation.

“Our long-standing partnership showcases our support to Botswana’s development priorities particularly in infrastructure, private sector development, re-finance and human capital development. Our goal is to deliver practical results that support sustainable development and an overall improved quality of life,” Dr Aldossari said. **BOPA**

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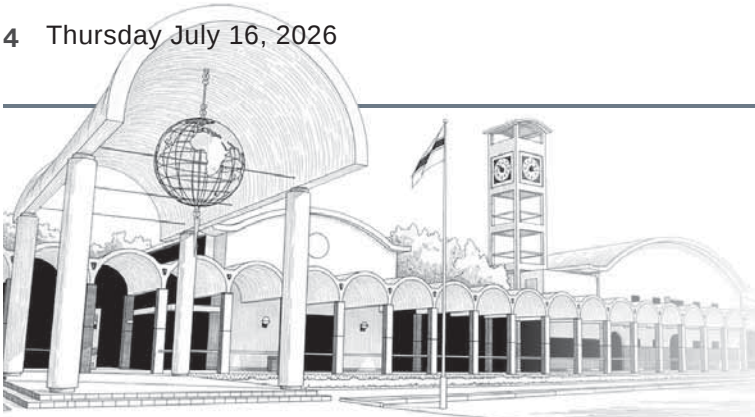
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PARLIAMENT 2026

Commission receives over 200 cases



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said the Public Service Commission had received a total of 202 cases, 31 of which were settled and 171 were still pending.

GABORONE

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has received and registered a total of 202 cases from the public service from October 2024 to 10th July 2026.

This was revealed by Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa responding to a question in Parliament on Tuesday.

“The nature of the cases registered with PSC included surcharge of officers for loss of stores or damage of property, especially government vehicles, dismissal from the public service, lack of promotion, unfair labour practices and non-payment of Scare Skills Allowance,” he noted.

He said out of the total, 31 cases were settled, while 171 were still pending, the reason being that the PSC started dealing with the backlog of 56 cases from the previous years preceding 2024.

Some of the cases, he said, were pending because the Commission had to request for supplementary

evidence from both appellant and respondents, which often took a long time to be furnished with such vital documents.

In addition, he said in some cases, appellants postponed their appeals in order to seek legal advice or representation.

Further, Mr Mohwasa said the ministry through Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) and the PSC, continued to create opportunities for capacity building geared toward effective management of workplace grievances, dispute and disciplinary matters.

However, Mr Mohwasa informed the House that the government through DPSM had reviewed the Public Service Act and Human Resource Policies with the intention to reduce disputes in the workplace.

He further revealed that the PSC was appointed by the President in terms of Section 109 (1) of the Constitution as an independent body, noting that it did not report to DPSM but reported to the

Wage bill limits creation of new posts

GABORONE

Government’s policy to contain the public service wage bill limits the creation of new posts, resulting in the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture continuing to engage some employees on temporary or fixed-term contracts.

Responding to a Parliamentary question on Tuesday, Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti said additional positions

could only be created through rationalisation processes.

He explained that while functions performed might be of a continuous nature, appointment to the permanent and pensionable terms depended on the availability of approved positions within the approved establishment.

Dr Dikoloti said this practice was consistent with the laws of Botswana, including the Employment Act 17(1) and Public Service Act 13 (c), which recognised fixed-term and temporary employment arrangements where circumstances demanded.

He explained that employees engaged on fixed-term contracts also enjoyed the rights and benefits provided for under the applicable labour legislation and the terms of their contracts. Mr Dikoloti, therefore, said the ministry created and filled permanent positions as and when additional positions were approved through the government Establishment Authority.

He said until positions were created and funded, the ministry continued to engage employees on temporary or fixed-term to ensure continuity in service delivery, enable the ministry to maintain operational flexibility, particularly in responding to seasonal and programme-based activities within the agricultural sector.

Furthermore, Dr Dikoloti said these positions were not part of the government’s insourcing programme as per guidance

provided by the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM). However, Dr Dikoloti said government acknowledged that prolonged reliance on such arrangements raised concerns to job security, conditions of service and broader principle of decent work and human dignity.

He therefore said the ministry was working with DPSM to ensure that employment practices remained aligned with national labour standards and continued to safeguard workers’ rights.

Also, Dr Dikoloti said the ministry was engaging relevant central agencies, including the Ministry of Finance and DPSM to secure the necessary approvals and resources as and when opportunities arose.

He was responding to a question from the MP for Okavango East, Mr Gabatshole Disho, who had asked the Minister to apprise Parliament on why the ministry continued to employ a significant number of workers on temporary and fixed-term contract.

Mr Disho wanted to know whether the practice was consistent with labour laws and fair labour security, decent work and human dignity.

Additionally, Mr Disho asked the minister when the ministry intended to review the practice and what measures were in place to regularise the employment status of long serving temporary employees. **BOPA**

Govt strengthens recruitment processes

GABORONE

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa says government continues to strengthen recruitment processes through the review and implementation of improved recruitment guidelines, enhanced delegation of human resource functions to Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Responding to a question in Parliament on Tuesday, Mr Mohwasa said government recognised that timely recruitment, prompt confirmation of appointments and effective succession planning were critical to maintaining a capable, stable and high-performing public service.

He said the delays in filling positions and prolonged acting appointments were attributed to challenges associated with attracting and retaining officers in remote areas; with some officers seeking redeployment to other locations after a short period of time following their acceptance of promotion to such remote areas.

To curb such challenges, Mr Mohwasa said government has taken a decision to offer appointments on condition to work at the post for a minimum of five years before transfer.

He said plans were at advanced stage for senior government officials to visit districts to ascertain the vacancy rates in government departments and reinforce implementation of new initiatives.

Minister Mohwasa said government has established administrative expectations to guide the Ministries, Departments and Agencies to conduct recruitment

within 90 days, including defined stages for requisition, approval and advertisement, selection, appointment and assumption of duty.

He said the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) continued to monitor compliance and that appointing authorities were encouraged to ensure that newly appointed officers were assessed and confirmed within six months prescribed probationary period, subject to satisfactorily performance.

Mr Mohwasa also said, government has reviewed labour laws, which resulted in the introduction of Employment and Labour Relations Act and the Public Service Act to address existing gaps in the employment practices. Furthermore, he said measures had been put in place to address skills gaps in critical positions; with government implementing strategic workforce planning, talent management and succession planning initiatives across the public service.

He said government was engaging with stakeholders, including trade unions on the introduction of the Leadership Development Project under the Leadership Transformation Programme reform to address leadership development and succession planning.

Minister Mohwasa was responding to a question from MP for Kgatleng East Mr Mabuse Pule who had asked whether there were timelines or performance standards for recruitment and confirmation processes and what measures have been put in place to prevent prolonged acting appointments and skills in critical positions. **BOPA**

‘Concession areas designation under Wildlife Policy’



Minister of Environment and Wildlife, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi told Parliament that the Wildlife Policy of 1986 recommended establishing Wildlife Management Areas and Controlled Areas to promote sustainable utilisation of wildlife and to prevent unregulated hunting.

GABORONE

Concession areas in Botswana were officially designated in 1989 under the Wildlife Policy of 1986.

Responding to a question in Parliament on Monday, the Minister of Environment and Tourism Mr Wynter Mmolotsi said the policy recommended establishing Wildlife Management Areas and Controlled Hunting Areas to promote sustainable utilisation of wildlife, including through the Community Based Natural Resources Management Programme (CBNRM) and to prevent unregulated hunting by issuing hunting quotas.

The concession areas, he said, comprised CT1, CT2, CT3, CT4, CT5 and CT6 and that they have been in operation for over 30 years.

“It has been challenging to identify various previous owners over the years because the areas were administered under different ministries and land authorities,” he said.

However, the minister said CT1 was leased out to Destination South, CT2 to Bottles Pan Safaris, CT3 and CT6 were currently unattached without owners, CT4 zoned as Nata ranches and CT5 was a mixed-use concession by Nata Conservation Trust and Tlou Safaris Lodge.

Regarding the amount raised through hunting quotas, Mr Mmolotsi said Destination South has not raised

any funds as the lease recognised the area as a non-consumptive use or photograph area.

Bottle Pan Safaris, he noted, would be operating for five years and has since 2023, paid an amount of P9,936,113 in hunting quotas fees to the government.

The minister said CT3 was currently unattached with no owner, hence it had not made any money from hunting.

Mr Mmolotsi said the hunting quota for the CT4 concession was allocated under a special elephant quota though the area did not attract a suitable bidder following advertisement in 2023.

“Tlou Safaris Lodge has since paid Nata Conservation Trust the sum of P14,042,600 for the community hunting quotas in CT5 since the lifting of the hunting ban in 2019,” he said.

The minister, however could not divulge much on payments of lease rentals as they fall under the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture and also indicated that the same ministry signed all lease agreements.

He was responding to a question from the MP for Chobe, Mr Simasiku Mapulanga who had asked the minister to state the years in which the hunting concessions were established, the number of companies and individuals who won the license to hunt as well as the amount raised to date. **BOPA**

Proposals to establish specialised land court at advanced stage

GABORONE

This was said by Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana when answering a Parliamentary question on Tuesday.

Mr Ramaotwana said the ministry had identified a gap in the current land dispute resolution system and that proposals to amend relevant legislation were at an advanced final stage and would be brought before Parliament for approval.

He said the specialised Land Court would handle land-related legal matters more efficiently, moving beyond the current Land Tribunal framework.

At independence, he said the Constitution provided for the establishment of the High Court of Botswana with unlimited original jurisdiction to hear all matters, including land matters.

Later, in 1997, the minister said the Land Tribunal was established through the Tribal Land Act following the need for a fair, effective, efficient and citizen-friendly tribunal to deal with land issues.

He said the Tribunal currently served as an appellate body against decisions of Land Boards and Planning Authorities.

Land Boards and Planning Authorities, he said performed administrative statutory roles independently and separately from his ministry, while the courts acted as an oversight authority where an aggrieved party might seek recourse against decisions of the two public bodies.

“It is crucial to draw a

distinction between legality and administration. The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture handles the front-end operations of land management issues such as allocations and planning, while the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services handles the back-end responsibility of overseeing land dispute resolutions,” he explained.

Currently, he said the Land Tribunal operated under the Land Tribunal Act of 2014, adding that in principle, government intended to incorporate the Land Tribunal as a specialised division of the High Court of Botswana.

This approach, Mr Ramaotwana said, would provide a direct, speedy, cost-effective, efficient and citizen-friendly land dispute resolution mechanism.

“Removing the process of appealing to the High Court from the Land Tribunal will create a direct and swifter path to the Court of Appeal, ensuring that citizens gain faster access to justice, while significantly shortening the legal journey from the Land Board to a final verdict. Therefore, there will not be a need to create a Land Court of Appeal,” he added.

On the issue of the Land Disputes Management System and Database, Mr Ramaotwana said land management systems and databases fell under the scope of land administration issues, which were outside the ministry’s jurisdiction.

He said the adoption of specialised land courts would ensure a more streamlined and effective dispute resolution mechanism.

By reducing litigation timelines and clearing pending land disputes,

the minister said the system would also allow service providers to refocus on their core mandates.

He further reiterated that land allocations fell outside the jurisdiction of his ministry, which maintained strictly an oversight role in line with the principle of separation of powers.

Mr Ramaotwana was responding to a question from Lobatse MP, Mr Kamal Jacobs

who had asked the minister if there were any government efforts and considerations on the establishment of Land Courts and Land Courts of Appeal as a way to attend and address land disputes and land-related matters in a more professional setup and legal framework.

Mr Jacobs also wanted to know if the minister was aware that Land Courts and Courts of Appeal

would ensure proper legality and administration of land disputes, foster relevance to land issues and settlements, administer and handle the Land Disputes Management System and Database, and allow land allocations and land disputes to run effectively, efficiently and independently as different portfolios under the oversight of the ministry and other relevant stakeholders. **BOPA**



Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana said specialised land court would handle land related legal matters more efficiently, moving beyond the current Land Tribunal framework.



DailyBusiness



Portia Keetile
KASANE

Stakeholders contributing to the review of the Tourism Act have called on government to amend operating regulations to create a more level playing field for small and medium enterprises, saying the Act would enable them to compete more fairly with larger operators offering tourism activities on the river and in national parks.

Tourism industry players call for decentralised licensing

Chobe tourism operators have called on government to decentralise the business licensing process, arguing that empowering district-level authorities is the only way to eliminate costly administrative delays and boost operational efficiency.

Speaking at a consultative meeting on the review of the Tourism Act in Kasane on Monday, industry stakeholders argued that housing the licensing approval board exclusively at the Department of Tourism headquarters in Gaborone created unnecessary bottlenecks. They stated that the centralised model was both time-consuming and impractical for a single body handling applications from across the entire country. To resolve such inefficiencies, attendees urged government to integrate digitalisation and innovation into the new Act by creating a centralised online portal that hosted all licensing information and outlined required documents as well as processed online payments. Furthermore, they proposed that the new legislation included provisions for a single and all-encompassing license for large-scale enterprises. They pointed out that under the current framework, multi-service businesses, such as five-star hotels, were forced to secure separate and individual licenses for every single activity they offered, including boat cruises, game drives and photography. Stakeholders also recommended replacing the current flat-rate licensing fee with a variable structure tied directly to business revenue, arguing that the flat-rate system unfairly penalised start-ups by charging them the same fees as multi-million-dollar enterprises. To further streamline compliance, attendees

recommended expanding the statutory powers of the Department of Tourism personnel, saying that would allow field officers to enforce penalties directly on-site, rather than relying on police intervention to lay charges as the current law dictated. Responding to the submissions, the Department of Tourism director, Mr Lopang Pule, explained

that a diagnostic review had shaped the National Tourism Strategy Master Plan, which exposed how outdated regulations continued to hinder growth in the sector. He noted that the ongoing consultations would help birth a comprehensive legislative document built on forward-thinking ideas designed to remove operational barriers and optimise

efficiency. Mr Pule emphasised that the new Act must actively promote product diversity by incorporating cultural heritage, eco-tourism as well as other under-explored niches. “We must come up with a legislative that caters for emerging trends, innovation and be futuristic applying to the next 30 years,” Mr Pule said. **BOPA**

Satrix Global ETFs listing unlocks access to international markets

Marvin Motlhabane
KANYE

In a significant step toward democratising access to global markets, the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) hosted a bell-ringing ceremony to mark the secondary listing of three Satrix Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). The move enables local investors to gain diversified international equity exposure directly in Botswana Pula through the familiar infrastructure of the local market. In an interview with BOPA recently, Mr Kopano Bolokwe, Head of Product Development at the BSE, described the listings as a clear statement of the direction Botswana’s capital market was heading. For years, ordinary Batswana faced significant hurdles when investing in international markets, including the need for foreign brokers, currency conversions, complex tax implications, and unfamiliar regulatory environments. The new Satrix listings fundamentally change this landscape. “Investors can now buy and sell units in these ETFs on the BSE using the same trusted platforms they use for local shares. This simplifies the process, reduces costs, and lowers complexity.” Mr Bolokwe explains. The three ETFs listed are the Satrix MSCI World Equity Feeder

ETF, which provides exposure to a broad range of developed market companies worldwide, the Satrix MSCI Emerging Markets Feeder ETF, which tracks opportunities in fast-growing emerging economies and the Satrix S&P 500 Feeder ETF, which offers access to the 500 largest US companies, a key benchmark for global equity performance. Mr Bolokwe noted that the three were feeder ETFs that tracked well-known global indices, thereby making international diversification readily accessible to Batswana. He highlighted the BSE’s broader strategy of using innovation to promote financial inclusion. “Exchange Traded Funds do exactly that. They simplify investing, lower barriers to entry, promote diversification, and most importantly make investing accessible to ordinary people,” he said. According to Mr Bolokwe, the three ETFs specifically addressed everyday citizens such as teachers saving for retirement, young graduates making their first investments, entrepreneurs building wealth, members of community savings groups (Metsshelo), SACCOs, churches, and parents investing in their children’s futures. “These ETFs are not products reserved for institutional investors or the financially privileged. They are for everyone,” he emphasised. An Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

is essentially a basket of many stocks (or other assets) that trades on a stock exchange like a single share. Unlike actively managed funds, most ETFs passively track a market index. This offers instant diversification across hundreds or thousands of companies, reducing risk compared to picking individual stocks. An Exchange Traded Fund also typically feature low costs, high liquidity (allowing trading throughout the day), and full transparency through publicly disclosed holdings. In Botswana’s context, these global feeder ETFs allow investors to own a ‘slice’ of the world economy without needing offshore accounts or navigating complex foreign investment processes. The listings also underscores Botswana’s growing appeal as an investment destination and reflect the strength of its regulatory framework. Satrix, a leading South African provider of index-tracking products, selected the BSE as part of its African expansion. Mr Bolokwe acknowledged the partnership with Satrix and the valuable contributions of the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA), the government, Motswedi Securities, legal advisers, and the BSE team. Investors interested in the new ETFs can contact BSE-licensed stockbrokers for more information. **BOPA**

BUSINESS SERVICES

Zimbabwe completes requirements for duty-free access

HARARE - Zimbabwe has completed all requirements to enjoy duty-free access to the Chinese market for qualifying products, the national trade promotion organisation ZimTrade said Tuesday. According to ZimTrade, Zimbabwean exporters can now obtain the required Certificate of Origin from the organisation, enabling them to benefit from preferential duty-free access to the Chinese market. Exports shipped to China on or after May 1 are eligible to apply for retrospectively issued Certificates of Origin. Zimbabwean businesses to increase exports to one of the world’s largest consumer markets. ZimTrade said in a statement. **Xinhua**

Zambia partners with Chinese firms to build solar power plants

LUSAKA - The Zambian government on Tuesday signed contracts with a consortium of five Chinese firms for the design, supply, and installation of two-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plants in each of the country’s 156 constituencies. The contracts were signed during a ceremony in Lusaka, under the Presidential Constituency Energy Initiative, a flagship programme aimed at expanding Zambia’s electricity generation capacity from the current 3,500 megawatts to 10,000 megawatts by 2030. Nicholas Phiri, permanent secretary for technical services in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, said the programme, approved by the cabinet in November last year, spearheads a nationwide renewable energy rollout aimed at eradicating structural power deficits and fostering localised wealth creation. **Xinhua**

Minister applauds China mining firm for community development

HARARE - Zimbabwe minister of state for provincial affairs and devolution for Midlands, Owen Ncube has commended Chinese gold mining firm Chenxi Investments for its contributions to the country’s economic growth and community development. Speaking at a ceremony in Shurugwi, Midlands Province, Ncube praised the company’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, noting that they aligned with Zimbabwe’s goal of achieving an upper-middle-income economy by 2030. During the event, Ncube handed over 25 solar streetlights to the Shurugwi Town Council and a mini-bus to the Shurugwi Football Club, both donated by the firm. The donations are part of Chenxi’s US\$2-million-comprehensive CSR programme for 2026, which also earmarks funds for a community dam, a market center, village business units, and the expansion of Shurugwi District Hospital, including staff accommodation. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

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Kgosi o lebogela setshaba go ithaopa

Aobakwe Molefhi
MARATADIMA

Kgosi Lotlaamoreng II wa Barolong o akgotse morafe go ithaopa go thusa mo kagong ya terata ya thibelo matlhoko a loruo.

O buile mafoko a kwa merakeng ya Maratadima kwa terata eo e setseng e tsamaya teng, go tswa Tsoaneng.

Kgosi o tlhalositse mo potsolotsong fa a itumela e bile a nametswa ke tiro e e setseng e dirilwe ya dikhilomethara di feta masome a mararo fa e sale kago ya terata eo e simolola kgwedi ya Seetebosigo e ya fifing.

Kgosi Lotlaamoreng II o ne a supa fa a patilwe ke matsholo-tshireletso a a sa tlholeng a le mo tirong ya puso ka maikaelelo a go tsenya letsogo mo tirong eo.

O tswelletse ka go akgola morafe le marara a metse e tshwana le wa Tsoaneng, Mokgomane le Cwaanyaneng go tswelela ba sa ipone tsapa mo go ithaopeng go aga terata eo. A re tshwaragano eo ke yone e e tlaa kgontshang puso go lwantsha segajaja seo sa bolwetsi jwa tlhako le molomo.

Terata eo, e e laolang metsamao ya loruo e simolodisitse semmuso ka kgwedi ya Seetebosigo e tlhola malatsi a le masome a mabedi le bosupa mme e simolola kwa masimong a Ramotswa, go feta ka mafelo a Ranaka, Mmathethe, Tsoaneng-Sekhuthlane mme e wela kwa motseng wa Werda.

Mo go tse dingwe mogokaganyi wa ditirelo tsa matlhoko a leruo a itebagantse le twantsho bolwetsi jwa tlhako le molomo, Dr Odireleng Thololwane o tlhalositse fa ana le lesokolela la go ithaopa mo mafelong mangwe a terata eo e fetang mo metseng ya teng.

O supile fa kago ya terata eo e sa nametse kwa metseng ya kgaolo ya ga Malete, a supa fa boipelego le bothapo bo le boutsana.

A re seo sea swabisa ka gore e re le ntswa Batswana bangwe bale maoto a tshupa go ithaopa, ke bone gape ba ngongoregang ka go kganelwa go gweba le go ja leruo lwa bone. Dr Thololwane a re fa nne mowa wa boithaopo oo diragalang kwa metseng ya Morolong o ka anama mo tirong e, gone go ka nna bofefo gore puso e sekaseke go bulela go gweba ka nama. **BOPA**



Mothusa tona wa dikgaolo le ngwao, Rre Ignatius Moswaane, o rotloeditse banni ba Moremi le Lesenepole go ithulaganya go bona gore ba ka itshetsa ka eng. O buile jalo kwa diphuthengong tsa kgotla tse a neng a di tshwere kwa metseng eo bosheng.

Banni ba Tswapong ba kopiwa go somarela phane

Portia Rapitsenyane
PALAPYE

Banni ba kgaolo ya Tswapong ba kopilwe go somarela phane gore ba tswelele ba itshetse ka yone.

Fa a bua kwa diphuthengong tsa kgotla kwa Moremi le Lesenepole, mothusa tona wa dikgaolo le ngwao, Rre Ignatius Moswaane a re go bothokwa gore banni ba tswe ka megopolo le maano a go somarela le go dira madirelo a a

ka rekisang phane.

A re kwa mafatsheng a mangwe ba dira sengwe ka yone ka e kgona go phuthelwa mme e rekisiwe ka madi a a kwa godimo a beng ba phane kwa Tswapong ba sa a boneng ka ba e tsaya motlhofo.

Rre Moswaane a re go a bonala gore phane e na le mosola ka bangwe ba kgona go e latela kgakala go e bapala. Rre Moswaane o supile fa metse ka go farologana e na le dingwe tsa di-tsa tlholego kana tse e di filweng ke Modimo di tshwana le dibapala nageng mme di ka thusa gore go dirwe dikgwebo ka tsone mme di tsosolose matshelo.

Ka jalo, mothusa tona o kopile banni ba metse go ithulaganya go bona gore ba ka itshetsa ka eng.

A re metse ka go farologana e tshwanetse e tsosolose thulaganyo ya papadi le madirelo., a tlhalosa fa se, se ka kgonagala fa ba ka

ipopa mme ba dira ba le mmogo gore ba tlhame ditiro go fokotsa manokonoko a letlhoko la ditiro bogolo jang la banana.

Rre Moswaane o ne gape a fa banni sekai ka leungo la morula le le atileng thata kwa Tswapong a supa fa kwa South Africa ba dira madi ka one ka o dira bojalwa jo mo nakong eno bo rekiwang ka madi a a kwa godimo.

A re dithapo tsa morula di na le ditsheru tse mo nakong eno kwa mafatsheng a mangwe ba setseng ba dirile dikgwebo tse di ba busetsang madi. A re kgaolo ya Tswapong gape e tumile thata ka go lemiwa thata ga magapu mme banni ga ba bone khumo mo magapung ao, ka ba felela ba dira bojalwa jwa setopoti ka one jo bo felelang bo sa ba fe madi a a kalokalo.

O ne a rotloedisa banni go atolosa dikakanyo a supa fa temo mo kgaolong e ntsha magapu a

mantsi mme ba dire sengwe se se ka ba tsisetsang dipolelo.

A re se sengwe se banni ba ka itshetsang ka sone ke go dirisa di-tswang kgomong di tshwana le letlalo le dinaka.

A re banni ba ka dira mafelo a go sugelwang matlalo a dikgomo mo go one ka mo nakong eno a sena tiriso e e kalo ka a latlhiwa fa go sena go bolawa kgomo.

O ne a rotloedisa banni go boela mo go tlhameng dikoporase tse ba ka tsamaisang dikgwebo ka tsone ka di ne di dira sentle fela thata mo bogologolong.

A re Batswana ga ba a tshwanela go fetoga batlhoki mme ba na le lefatshe le lentsi la temo.

Rre Moswaane o ne a supa fa komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse e tshwanetse e abelwe lefatshe ka ditlhabololo tse di ka dirwang di le dintsi fela thata fa go na le lefatshe. **BOPA**



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE & SECURITY

Department of Broadcasting Services

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

APPOINTMENT OF A MARKETING PARTNER TO SECURE SPONSORSHIP AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR BTV IN-HOUSE PRODUCED PROGRAMMES: Proposal No. SP/DBS/001/2026–27

The Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) invites suitably qualified and experienced companies to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the appointment of a Marketing Partner to secure sponsorship and strategic partnerships for Botswana Television (BTV) in-house produced programmes.

Interested firms should demonstrate proven expertise in sponsorship acquisition, marketing, brand partnerships, business development, and stakeholder engagement.

The detailed Expression of Interest document, including the scope of work, eligibility requirements, and submission instructions, is available from the Department of Broadcasting Services.

A non-refundable deposit of **P250.00** payable in cash or must be made out in favour of the Government of Botswana or the entity stated in the Expression of Interest and must be paid on collection of the Expression of Interest. Youth Companies shall purchase the Expression of Interest at a 50% of the fee as per Presidential Directive CAB 14 (B) 2015 (**P125.00**) should be paid to: **Revenue office, 029, Administration Block (GROUND FLOOR), Mass Media Complex, Plot 37795, Wellie Seboni Rd, G/West Phase 2, Gaborone, Botswana. (Cheques will not be accepted)**

Collection Period: **08 July 2026 to 16 July 2026** Collection Times:

- 08:00 hours – 12:45 hours
- 13:45 hours – 15:30 hours

Submission Deadline

The closing date and time for submission of proposals shall be: **22nd July 2026 at 1000 Hours**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing not later than two (2) days before the tender closing date to **M. M. R. Matula, Tel No. 365 3099 Email: mmatula@gov.bw; S. Dipatane Tel 365 8050 Email: sdipatane@gov.bw**

The Department of Broadcasting Services reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest and is not bound to appoint any respondent.

Stephen P. Motlogelwa
Director - Broadcasting Services



Namibia royals to grace Otjiserandu celebration

Baherero during a previous Otjiserandu cultural event.

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

The Ovaherero from different parts of Botswana and Namibia convene in the dusty village of Tsau, North West District, every year in July, to celebrate Otjiserandu festival.

Women come clad in traditional dresses and cow horn-shaped headgear, and men parade in military style uniform.

The occasion affords them a chance to reflect on the scars they endured during the genocide, the enduring legacy and honour the sacrifices of those who came before them. Billed for July 18, the colourful event will be held under the theme: Hooves of History; Our Legacy in Land and Livestock.

History indicates that between 1904 and 1908, the Germans began to rain terror on the communities of Ovaherero, Ovambaderu and Nama who were suspected of supporting the resistance to be dispossessed of their land and cattle.

Many, together with Kgosi Samuel Maharero of Ovaherero escaped into Botswana where Kgosi Sekgoma Letsholathebe of Batawana gave them sanctuary.

In hindsight, Tsau holds historical

significance since it was the first place of refuge where Kgosi Samuel Maharero and his followers settled.

The event organising committee vice chairperson, Newman Tjimunoko, told BOPA that while the celebration aimed to remember and honour their forefathers, they also wished to keep their history and culture alive for the benefit of the younger generation.

The occasion, touted as a platform for cultural education and social cohesion will be characterised by song, dance, storytelling and traditional cuisine.

The tribe will also honour the war veterans buried in the village.

“We have a very rich history which is worth sharing. It is our belief that by remembering and paying our respects to the fallen heroes, we will have blessings and fortunes. Even the sick will get healed,” said Tjimunoko.

He said they were expecting a delegation of the Ovaherero from Namibia led by their paramount chief, Kgosi Maharero and the governor of Otjozondjupa region who would give a keynote address on the day. Kgosi Tawana is also expected to grace the ceremony.

BOPA





Sebako breaks barriers in sport



Cecilia Sebako

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Cecilia Sebako has carved her name into the history books by becoming the first Motswana woman to attain the elite World Athletics Bronze Level referee certification. Out of a global cohort of 26 successful candidates, who took part in the rigorous Bronze Level referee examination on May 23, Sebako emerged as one of the two Botswana to achieve the milestone. Philander Vilander also made the cut. Sebako and Vilander were among the 11 graduates from English speaking group, while the remaining 15 graduates hail from French speaking nations. The historic achievement marks a major breakthrough for gender representation and equity in local sports administration. Managed by World Athletics, the Bronze Level certification is a prestigious global standard designed to transition top-tier national technical officials into international roles, qualifying them to serve as Technical

Delegates at major global events. Reflecting on her landmark achievement, Sebako admitted the journey was demanding but rewarding. “I am incredibly happy, especially since this was my first time sitting for the Bronze examination,” she said. Her rise through the officiating ranks is nothing short of remarkable. After qualifying as a National Referee in Zimbabwe in 2022, she began officiating the following year. “My first major milestone was the Botswana Golden Grand Prix in 2023, which was a turning point because that was when referees registered with World Athletics were formally recognised,” she said. Since then, Sebako has become a versatile fixture in the local athletics scene, officiating across track and field events, marathons, and cross-country races. Sebako acknowledged that the test was highly challenging, she credited her success to the preparatory webinars hosted by World Athletics, which provided critical guidance.

She added that her study partners from Zimbabwe assisted handsomely. The Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) Sports Development Manager, Patrick Moesi said Sebako’s accomplishment was a monumental step in advancing sport. “As a federation, we are happy because she has broken boundaries as the first woman in Botswana to make the cut,” he said. Meanwhile, Moesi also said they were equally happy for Vilander, as the second Motswana in the May 23, 2026 cohort to pass the rigorous Bronze test, making him the third man in the country to acquire the certificate. “With these latest results, Botswana’s officiating credentials have received a significant boost. The country now boasts an elite panel of four Bronze-level referees and one Silver-level referee,” he said. He was confident that the number of international referees would continue to rise as more local officials enroll in advanced global programmes. **BOPA**



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