

BOTSWANA

Daily News

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Diamonds fund targets economic growth



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and Diamonds for Development Fund board chairperson, Dr Akinwumi Adesina during a courtesy call at Office of the President yesterday. President Boko said the Diamonds for Development Fund was a bold and visionary initiative aimed at ensuring that Botswana benefited directly from the wealth generated by diamonds, while supporting economic growth, industrialisation and job creation. Photo: Phenyio Moalosi

State visit to consolidate ties

Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE

The two-day State visit of Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Sultan of the Sultanate of Oman is expected to further consolidate the warm and growing relations between Botswana and Oman as well as to establish a stronger foundation for long-term political, economic and people-to-people cooperation.

Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik will undertake a visit to Botswana from today until tomorrow.

According to a press release from the Office of the President, the visit represents an important milestone in the growing relations between the two countries, following the establishment of diplomatic relations in October 2025 and President Advocate Duma Boko's working visit to Oman in April.

The release states that the strategic partnership between Botswana and Oman has already begun to yield tangible results, including the groundbreaking of the 500MW solar power plant in Mawana, Maun in April.

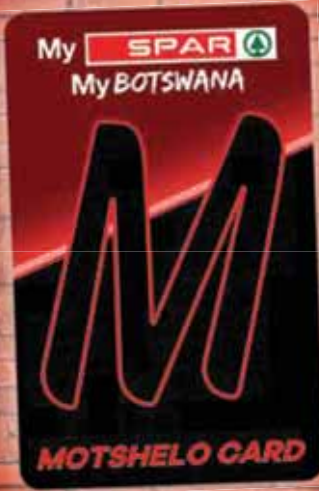
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MVA Fund calls for action to prevent road accidents

Thuso Kgakatsi
KANG

Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA Fund) has called on road users to take responsibility of preserving life as Botswana continues to grapple with road traffic crashes.

Speaking at the official launch of the month of prayer for Kgalagadi North District in Kang Kgotla recently, MVA fund injury prevention manager, Mr Tlhabano Mmusi said the campaign's theme: Let There Be Life, aligned with the fund's road-safety mandate.

The launch is part of the national Month of Prayer campaign, which commemorates 30 years of collective action against social and health challenges affecting Botswana. Mr Mmusi noted that road traffic crashes remained a major threat to the wellbeing of citizens.

He said MVA fund statistics showed that 328 people lost their lives in road accidents in 2025, a slight decrease from the 346 fatalities recorded in 2024. However, he cautioned that the figures represented far more

than numbers, as every death left families, friends and communities grappling with profound loss. "Every life lost on our roads is a family affected," Mr Mmusi said, adding that survivors with permanent disabilities also faced life-changing consequences.

He urged motorists to make responsible choices by obeying traffic regulations, avoiding speeding, refraining from driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and eliminating the use of mobile phones whilst driving. He also reminded drivers to wear seatbelts and protect vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists.

"Getting to our destination safely is more important than getting there quickly," he said, adding that prayer must be accompanied by action.

"We cannot pray for safer roads while driving recklessly," he added. He also commended BOCHAIP for its continued collaboration with the MVA Fund, the church and other stakeholders in promoting road safety.

Reflecting on the three-decade history of the Month of Prayer, Mr

Mmusi noted that the campaign began during a time when Botswana was battling one of the world's most devastating HIV epidemics.

Acknowledging significant milestones such as Botswana achieving WHO Gold Tier status for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission, he cautioned against complacency, urging young people to know their HIV status and seek early treatment when necessary.

In addition to road safety and

HIV, this year's campaign addresses a wide spectrum of national health and social challenges, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs), where he urged Batswana to adopt healthier lifestyles, exercise regularly and seek routine screenings.

He also highlighted alcohol and substance abuse due to its direct links to family breakdown, gender-based violence (GBV), crime and school dropouts, thus urged parents to maintain open

communication with youth.

On GBV, he called on communities to reject normalising violence, but foster safe and supportive environments.

Kgosi Basadi Seipone III of Kang called on Batswana to embrace the spirit of the anniversary by combining faith with responsible action. She emphasised that the theme should inspire all to protect one another so that Botswana can build a stronger and thriving future for generations to come. **BOPA**



MVA Fund Injury Prevention manager, Mr Tlhabano Mmusi (centre), Kgosi Basadi Seipone III of Kang (left) and other dignitaries during the official launch of the 2026 September Month of Prayer for Kgalagadi North District in Kang recently. Mr Mmusi said MVA fund statistics showed that 328 people lost their lives in road crashes in 2025, a slight decrease from the 346 fatalities recorded in 2024. Photo: Thuso Kgakatsi

Kgosi Khama hails Mule Foundation

Booster Mogapi
TSOLAMOSESE

Kgosi Khama IV of GaMmangwato has applauded Mule Foundation for its dedication to caring for the elderly, describing them as the generation that laid the foundation for the country's development.

Speaking in Tsolamosese on Saturday at the launch of the Mule Foundation, brainchild of the Member of Parliament for Mogoditshane West Constituency, Mr Galenawabo Lekau, the former president said elderly people were close to his heart as he equally showed them compassion and love.

He said elderly people made Botswana what it was today, therefore deserved care.

Kgosi Khama added that the Mule Foundation would go far as they had chosen to undertake a project that focused on the builders of the nation. He promised to support them in their journey.

He further said Botswana had been facing economic challenges, which called for public private partnerships as the government was faced with competing demands.

He said heavy reliance on government has proved to be detrimental to community building hence the need to shift focus, engage all stakeholders to participate in social and economic development.

For instance, Kgosi Khama said, recently an idea was hatched in his region to engage in a variety of small businesses in partnership with the Botswana Exporters and Manufacturers Association (BEMA).

He said the idea was to reduce over-reliance on government and was optimistic that it would contribute to the local economy and livelihoods of the community in his region as small businesses would among others create employment

for the youth.

He further said the foundation would play a critical role in assisting the health sector by providing health checks for the elderly as it was one of its mandate.

Kgosi Khama applauded MP Lekau for the initiative to extend a lending hand to elders as they have immensely contributed towards nation building.

He donated blankets that will be distributed to the elderly in Mogoditshane West Constituency.

The founder of the Mule Foundation, Mr Lekau said the organisation was founded on the basis of assisting the elderly who have health challenges among them diabetes, high blood pressure, and epilepsy.

He said the primary objective behind the foundation was to ultimately build a clinic.

Mr Lekau further said the clinic would come handy as diabetic patients got their health services at Block 6 clinic, which was distance from Mogoditshane.

He said since such services were now accessed at a far located health facility, being Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital, establishing a facility offering such services in Mogoditshane would come as a relief to the elderly.

"We want to build a clinic for them so that they would not have to travel far for their medical assistance and check-ups," he said.

Mr Lekau said the idea of inviting Kgosi Khama to the launch was based on his experience as a patron to many foundations, coupled with his leadership skills to provide the relevant guide in running a foundation

He said while still awaiting the construction of the clinic, the vehicle for the foundation would help transport diabetes patients to Sir Ketumile Masire Hospital for their medical assistance. **BOPA**

Govt settles new police station naming dispute

Goitsemodimo Williams-Madzonga
MARAPONG

Following a dispute between Marapong and Semitwe villages over naming of a newly built police station in their area, government has resolved the issue by giving the station a neutral name of the late former Member of Parliament Mr Mudongo Maswikiti.

Addressing the leadership of the two villages in Marapong on Monday, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, said government was committed to nation-building and promoting unity among Batswana in all aspects. He explained that whenever disagreements arose between communities, the government sought to bring the parties together to find an amicable resolution.

He said it was for this reason that after the consultation meetings that were held in the two villages respectively in June this year, where each of them presented their proposed names for the police station, the government decided on a neutral name of former Member of Parliament for

the area who represented them for five consecutive terms.

Minister Mohwasa noted that the name was taken in consideration of the contribution the late icon had on the development of the area and the country, adding that having him elected to office for such a long period was an indication that he had great influence in the area.

In addition, Mr Mohwasa pointed out that the issue of village boundaries which was raised during the meeting regarding the location of the plot where the office has been built should not be used as a deciding factor of naming of the station. He said when development projects were done across villages, they were meant to serve the nation hence the spirit of individualism should not be allowed to prevail among the communities.

Nevertheless, he urged the two villages' leadership to engage relevant authorities to resolve the issue which seemed to be a matter of concern and affecting progress and developments.

On behalf of the people of his village, Kgosi Batisani Joseph of Semitwe said they welcomed the proposed name and had no objection, adding that they were looking forward to the official opening of the station to service

them as well as create employment for the youth.

He further said having law enforcement within reach, will help fight crime in the area and reduce distance of travelling to Sebina or Tatitown police station in Francistown to report cases.

Kgosi Bakani Mampori of Marapong said the community remained opposed to the proposed name. He stated that should the government opt for a neutral name as a compromise, Marapong would have limited participation in the station's opening.

He said their rights should be respected and recognised by allowing them to remain an independent village, rather than having developments intended for their community shared with others.

For his part, Member of Parliament for Nkange constituency Mr Mothaleemang Moalosi appealed to Marapong leadership to accept the decision taken by government and understand that developments were meant to serve all the people despite their location. He also urged them to speed up the process of addressing the pending issues of village boundaries so that it did not affect future developments. **BOPA**



Veteran scouts ushering in Scout Movement legend, Mr Phometsi Molefe (second right) during celebrations to mark his 80th birthday and 61st year as a scout member. Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major Gen. Pius Mokgware said Mr Molefe’s illustrious contribution to scout movement was a milestone to be celebrated. He was recognised for his contribution to developing young people, strengthening scout leadership and promoting discipline. Photo: Mmoniemang Motsamai

Mokgware urges schools to revive scout movement

Mmoniemang Motsamai
RASESA

Scout movement has been hailed as a good distraction for adolescents.

Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Maj. Gen (Rtd) Pius Mokgware said during an event to honour one of the Scout Movement legends, Mr Phometsi Molefe, Saturday in Rasesa that the movement was important in leading anti-drug initiatives and youth programmes. He stressed that scout should be resuscitated in schools, to provide a vital frontline defense in educating adolescents and preventing substance abuse before it started.

Maj. Gen. Mokgware said the movement helped in character building and discipline and that it had always played an important role in communities. Scouting creates a responsible nation, brings about community building and a safe environment where youth can grow up as responsible citizens,” he said and praised Mr Molefe for contributing in strengthening the movement and promoting patriotism and discipline in young people. Maj. Gen. Mokgware further called on retired scout veterans to play a leading role in bringing back to life, the movement that once mattered in molding young people. He said the movement’s evolution and achievements should be featured in museums and that it ought to play a meaningful impact as part of the packages for city tours by tourists. Mr Molefe who was also celebrating his 80th birthday and 61st year as a member of the movement said he pioneered the popular Lesedi Primary School Scout movement in Gaborone during the 1970s, mentoring many

young people. Mr Molefe reminisced that said back then, scout was one of the popular movements that built positive values in young persons.

He said he wished the genesis of the movement could be featured at the National Museum, for future generations to learn about its evolution.

Beyond specific character traits, he said the movement had been pivotal in teaching youth to work together and also taught them survival and practical life skills.

“I have lived scout all my life carrying virtues of discipline and one of the traits I embodied was ‘duty to God and duty to others,’ he said. Showering him with accolades, a friend and colleague, Dr Jabulane Muchado, said he met Mr Molefe in 1974 as a trainer and educator, who mastered many skills from photography to a soloist musician, guitarist, historian and a living library for the scout movement.

“Mr Molefe is a masterpiece who does everything effortlessly, he is extremely talented,” he said.

Dr Muchado further described him as someone with a disarming character, soft demeanor, but held an authoritative discipline character.

“He played a huge role in teaching young people leadership and resilience,” he said.

He said Mr Molefe spent most of his life building patriotism, discipline, and community service among young people across the country. He served as the first national Rover Scouts commissioner for Botswana when the section was founded in 1983 and further worked as a Field Scout commissioner and senior leader trainer. **BOPA**

State visit to consolidate ties

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It further states that the project underscores the two countries’ shared commitment to renewable energy.

The release states that during the visit, the two leaders will hold official talks on strengthening cooperation across a wide range of strategic areas of mutual interest, including trade and investment, minerals and mining, energy, infrastructure and logistics, agriculture, tourism and health.

According to a release, the two countries will also explore opportunities to deepen practical economic cooperation, building on President Boko’s engagements with the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) during his visit to Oman.

Also, the visit will culminate in the signing of several bilateral agreements covering general cooperation, political consultations, investment promotion, commerce and industry, air services, visa exemption, health cooperation and mining exploration.

Furthermore, Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik is expected to tour the Diamond Trading Centre Botswana in Gaborone to appreciate Botswana’s diamond industry and explore opportunities for cooperation in beneficiation and value addition. **BOPA**



Gaborone Mayor, Mr Oarabile Motlaleng admiring a work of art during the official opening of the Botswana @60 Photography Exhibition and launch of a coffee table book at the National Museum and Monuments. The exhibition forms part of activities marking Botswana’s 60th anniversary of independence.

Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Atamelang Keoagile (second left), Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Ms Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti (centre), Attorney General, Mr Dick Bayford (second right) with Department of Information Services former heads of photography, Mr Phagane Tladi (left) and Mr Mosotho Modirwa during the official opening of the Botswana@60 Photography Exhibition and launch of a coffee table book. Ms Mophuting-Dikoloti said through photography, the department had preserved the nation’s achievements and experiences, contributing to a visual archive that captures the essence of Botswana. The exhibition themed: Botswana @60: A journey Through the Lens runs until September 30. Photos: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo



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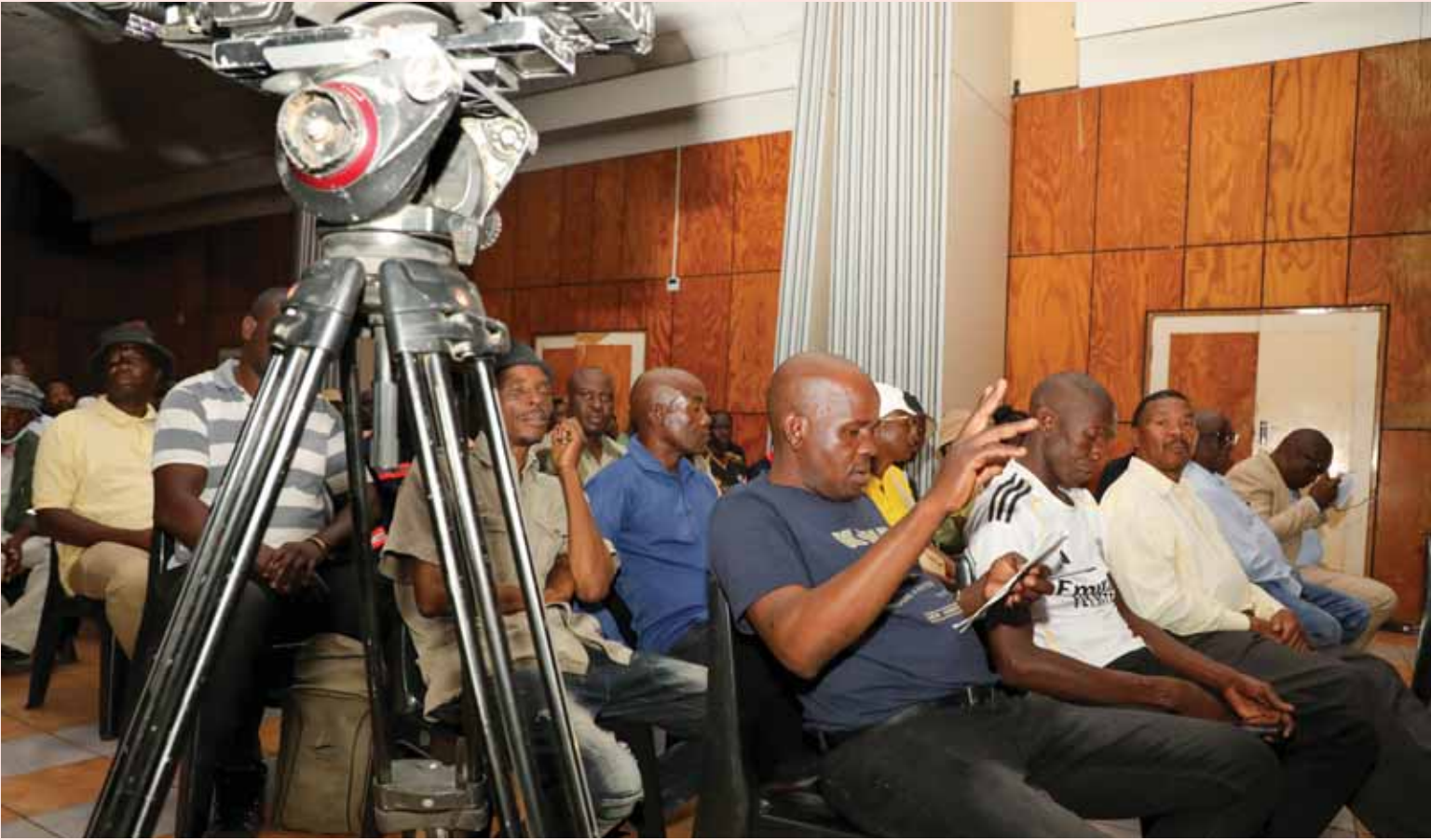
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DailyBusiness



Former Tati Nickel employees during a consultative meeting in Francistown on Monday. Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa and Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware updated the former employees that government was hamstrung by the liquidation process that seemed to take longer than anticipated. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Liquidation process frustrates former Tati Nickel workers

Kelebogile Taolo
FRANCISTOWN

Former workers of the now closed Tati Nickel Mine have expressed frustration and pain over delays in receiving their

compensation, saying the ongoing liquidation process has left many of them in financial distress. The concerns were raised during a meeting with the Minister for State President, Justice and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, and the Minister

of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware, held in Francistown on Monday. The workers told the ministers that years of waiting had taken a toll on their livelihoods, with some struggling to service bank loans they had expected to settle using their compensation.

“The task team was sent to ask us how we would like to be paid. That brought hope to us and we expected to be paid. But now we have to wait for the liquidation process which we don’t even know when it will be completed,” said one visibly distressed Masego Lentetse.

Another worker appealed to government to at least engage the banks on their behalf. “We were thinking of paying our debts with the compensation. Now interest keeps piling and we are stuck,” he said.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Mohwasa said government’s hands are tied until the liquidation process was completed, as compensation funds would only be realised from the sale of the mine’s assets and apologised to the ex-workers for the delay in engaging them directly.

“Due to the liquidation process, government cannot make any decision regarding compensation at this stage. Government will only be able to compensate you once the liquidation process is completed, because that is where the money for compensation will come from,” Mr Mohwasa explained.

He assured the workers that government acknowledged their plight and is monitoring the

process closely. For his part, Maj. Gen. Pius Mokgware, said government had taken steps to prevent a repeat of the Tati Nickel and BCL situations.

He announced that a new law on liquidation commenced at the beginning of September 2026 is now in the offing, and it prioritises employees during liquidation.

Under the previous law, employees were paid last after all other creditors.

“As it was previously, the liquidation process was that employees got paid last after everything else was paid. But the current law is that during the liquidation process employees must be paid first,” Minister Mokgware said.

He added that the amendment was specifically informed by experiences of both BCL and Tati Nickel ex-workers to ensure that workers were not left vulnerable in future company closures.

Minister Mokgware therefore urged the ex-workers to remain patient while the legal process runs its course, noting that government remained committed to their welfare.

Both ministers emphasised that, in this current case, the liquidator has full legal mandate over the process and government cannot interfere.

The BCL/Tati Nickel Mine was placed under liquidation years ago following financial challenges, leaving hundreds of former employees unemployed and awaiting compensation. **BOPA**

Culling remains last resort in FMD control

Marvin Mothabane
KANYE

The culling of cattle to manage and control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is carried out only after every other measure to curb the spread of the disease has been exhausted.

Speaking at an FMD consultative meeting in Kanye on Friday, the Director of the Department of Veterinary Services, Dr Kobedi Segale therefore urged farmers to adhere strictly to control measures, including preventing their cattle from crossing the containment fence.

He acknowledged that certain containment measures, such as culling, have a negative impact on farmers and confirmed that there were currently no plans for restocking to those affected.

Dr Segale further clarified that strict FMD control protocols long enforced in the north have helped shield the south from the disease. He called on farmers to take the lead in the fight against FMD, stressing that government alone, even with ample resources, could not eradicate the

disease without the full cooperation of livestock owners.

He said if farmers became complacent and fail to actively prevent the spread of FMD, they risked being left with cattle of little commercial value.

Bangwaketse deputy chief, Kgosi Kebapetse Telekelo cautioned that, unlike in previous years when the government restocked livestock for farmers who lost cattle to FMD through culling in the Ngamiland region, the state no longer has ample resources to provide such support in the present day.

Members of the community raised concerns that the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture had not conducted a proper induction to educate residents about the containment zone, its purpose, and the importance of keeping cattle within its boundaries.

Farmers at the meeting also questioned why the Department of Veterinary Services resorts to culling livestock that stray into the containment zone rather than exploring alternatives such as vaccination and quarantine. **BOPA**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

South Africa leverages BRICS to boost economy

JOHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa has said the country should leverage its BRICS membership to deepen economic cooperation, expand trade and investment and deliver tangible benefits to its people. In his weekly newsletter following the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, India, Ramaphosa said BRICS was an important platform for building political and economic ties that benefited the country and people. More than one-fifth of South Africa’s trade is conducted with other BRICS countries, and the country has also benefited from development financing provided by the New Development Bank. The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement also gives the country access to a pool of US\$100 billion in currency reserves in the event of a liquidity crisis, he added. Looking ahead, Ramaphosa said South Africa’s priority was to continue to use its BRICS membership to deepen bilateral cooperation and expand trade and investment ties. **Xinhua**

Somalia steps up climate risk mitigation

MOGADISHU - Somalia is ramping up emergency preparations ahead of the October-December rainy season to mitigate potential flood impacts, as climate experts warn that a strengthening el niño could bring unusually heavy rainfall. Somalia’s Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) convened strategic meetings from Sunday to Monday with local and international partners to strengthen multi-agency flood prevention and emergency preparedness ahead of the anticipated rains. The emphasis on early action was echoed by SoDMA Disaster Risk Management Director Khadar Sheikh Mohamed, who urged vulnerable communities to take early precautions as the Deyr rains approach at a three-day strategic meeting in Mogadishu which concluded on Sunday. Mohamed said the disaster agency had already placed 29 districts across 14 regions on high alert for riverine and flash flooding. SoDMA has advised residents to monitor official alerts, identify evacuation routes, and assemble emergency kits containing food, water, medical supplies and essential documents. **Xinhua**

China automakers take centre stage in Italy auto show

TURIN - Chinese automakers have taken centre stage at the 2026 Turin Auto Show for their growing design capabilities and advanced technology, as industry representatives highlighted the increasing role of Chinese companies in Europe’s automotive sector. The auto show opened Friday in Turin, featuring 132 new vehicle models and a range of activities including test drives and events focusing on automotive design. During the Torino Automotive Design Award (TADA) ceremony held Friday at the Teatro Regio, Chinese automakers including Chery, Geely, Great Wall Motor (GWM) and GAC received awards in various categories, underscoring the growing presence of Chinese brands at the Italian event. The Turin Auto Show has offered a glimpse of how technological innovation, design and industrial cooperation are increasingly bringing the Chinese and European automotive sectors closer together. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

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‘Go tlhomiwa Kgosi ke boikarabelo jo bo kwa godimo’

Booster Mogapi
MMOPANE

Kgosi Puso wa Batlokwa a re go tlhomiwa go nna Kgosi ke boikarabelo jo bo kwa godimo.

O buile se kwa Mmopane ka Labotlhano, jaaka a ne a tlhoma Kgosi Simon Manthe mo setilong sa bogosi jwa motse oo.

A re bogosi bo raya dilo di le dintsi jaaka Kgosi Manthe a tsaya boikarabelo jwa go tshegetsa le go tswaledisa ditso tsa Mmopane.

A re bogosi bo raya go tlotlomatsa seriti sa bogosi, popagano ya setshaba, mme e bile morafe o solofela dilo di le dintsi mo go ene.

Kgosi Puso a re bogosi bo raya go tlogela motlhala gore ka nako e Modimo a mmiletsang gae, a sa le a buiwa ka tse dintle tse a di dirileng.

O tlhaloseditse fa peo ya ga kgosi e tla ka nako e e leng gore puso e sekaseka molao wa bogosi le wa makgotla a Setswana.

“Seo se raya gore bogosi bo mo seemong sa go itepatepanya le diemo tsa segompiano le go amogela diphetogo tsa sesha,” Kgosi Gaborone o tlhalositse jalo, a bo a supa fa puso e ikaeletse go tlotlomatsa seriti sa bogosi le go ba neela dithata tse di ba tshwanetseng gore ba kgone go dira tiro ya bone.

Kgosi Puso o lemositse Kgosi Manthe fa a ne a wetsa dingwaga

di le masome a mabedi a ntse a le kgosi, kgwedi ya Motsheganong.

A re mo dingwageng tsa gagwe tsa bogosi, o ithutile gore o ka tsaya ditshwetso mme morago motho a lemoge gore setshaba se na le dipharologano ka tshwetso eo mme a amogele gore phoso e dirwa ke motho e bile e baakanngwa ke motho.

“Gape o ithute gore go na le nako e o tshwanetseng go ema wa etelelela pele, mme nako tse dingwe ga re o di goge kwa morago. Reetsa dikeletso tsa batho. O ka nna moeteledipele mme morafe wa gago o tla pele,” Kgosi Puso a gakolola.

O gakolotse gore Botswana ga e sa tlhole e le wa maloba, lefatshe le fetogile, dikeletso di fetogile le dikgwetlho di fetogile ka morafe o na le ditsholofelo tse di sha mme ba sa eletse kgosi yo o nnang fela mo kgotleng.

A re morafe o solofela kgosi yo o tlhaloganyang lefatshe le tikologo, yo o reetsang, yoo bonwang ke morafe ebile a tlhaloganya banana le go buisana le batho ka go farologana.

O ne a tlatsa ka gore morafe o solofela kgosi yo o somarelang ngwao mme a amogela diphetogo, a na le tebelopele, mme seo se raya gore kgosi wa gompiano a itepatepanye le diphetogo tsa sesha mme a sa ikapole bogosi



Banni ba Mmopane ba le mo boitumelong ka peo ya ga Kgosi Simon Manthe bosheng.



Kgosi Puso Gaborone wa Batlokwa (molemeng) le Kgosi Simon Manthe jaaka Kgosi Manthe a ne a tlhomiwa mo setilong sa bogosi jwa Mmopane bosheng. Kgosi Puso a re bogosi bo raya dilo di le dintsi jaaka Kgosi Manthe a tsaya boikarabelo jwa go tshegetsa le go tswaledisa ditso tsa Mmopane. Dinepe: Kgosi Puso Gaborone

jwa gagwe.

Kgosi Puso a re Kgosi Manthe a tswelile ka go ithababola, a bale dibuka le go nna le dikitso ka go farologana.

“Moeteledipele o ikagelela ka batho ba ba ka mo thusang go isa morafe kwa pele ka dikakanyo le tebelopele. Kkgosi o rera le morafe wa gagwe. Itikaganyetse ka batho ba ba ka go thusang go aga morafe,” Kgosi Puso a laya.

A re peo ya ga Kgosi Manthe ke tshimolodiso ya bokamoso jo boshwa jwa Mmopane le loeto le leshe go etelelela morafe, mme a seo se tshwanetse go tliša popagano e ntsha mo motseng.

“Leina le lentle mo bogosing le a itirelwa, se lebele Modimo, tsamaya le ene, ke ene mogakolodi

mogolo wa gago,” Kgosi Puso a kgothatsa.

Kgosi Kgari Sechele III wa Bakwena ene o mo gakolotse fa rraagwe a diretse morafe ka boleele, mme a mo eleletsa masego ao mme a bu saka lorato le kagiso. A re o mo eleletsa katlego mo setilong sa gagwe sa bogosi le go nna le bothale jwa go direla morafe wa gagwe tse di molemo ka seo se ka thusa gore a itirele motlhala o o nonofileng.

Malomaagwe Kgosi Manthe, Rre Kagiso Mogopodi, a re o neilwe setilo sa boikarabelo jo botona mme setilo seo, se maoto a mane a a rayang ene e le kgosi, borangwaneagwe rraagwe, borangwane le morafe.

A re manno a sone ke kgotla

ya Mmopane ka jalo morafe o tshwanetse o mmone kwa kgotleng.

Rre Mogopodi a re Kgosi ga a na mophato, mophato wa yone ke morafe ka jaana a lekana le morafe otlhe.

Mopalamente wa Mmopane/ Metsimotlhabe, Mme Phushie Manyeneng, o lebogisitse Kgosi Manthe a bo a rotloetsa morafe wa Mmopane go mo ema nokeng.

E rile a amogela thomo, Kgosi Manthe o supile fa a utule sentle ditaello le dikgakololo go tswa mo magosing le batsadi ba gagwe.

A re o ya go dira mmogo le morafe wa Basikwa gore ba age Mmopane mmogo.

O kopile morafe go tswelela ba mo fa dikgakololo. **BOPA**

Mogolwane o kopa bodiredi go ntsha maduo

Grace Sebape
LOBATSE

Badirelapuso ba maphata aa ka fa tlase ga Lephata la Ofisi ya ga Tautona kwa Tutume ba kopilwe go bereka ka natla le go ntsha maduo mo tirong.

Se, se builwe ke mothusa molaodi wa kgaolo ya Tutume, Rre Boamogetswe Monyena mo bokopanong jwa babereki bosheng.

A re ofisi eo, e tona, ka jalo setshaba se solofela thuso ya maemo a ntlha, mme ka jalo o kopile bodiredi go tshegetsa serodumo sa lephata leo ka go thusa batho ka nako.

Rre Monyena o kopile bodiredi

go dirisanya sentle le molaodi yo moshwa, Rre Ewetse Selelo.

A re ga gona sepe se se fetogileng e bile tshwaragano ke phenyo.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Rre Selelo o gakolotse badiri gore puso e beile mo go bone go rekisa mananeo mo setshabeng.

O gateletse gore badirelapuso ba gololesegile go tla ka megopolo go abelana le ba bangwe ka fa ba akanyang dilo dingwe di ka dirwang ka teng go tokafatsa maduo mo tirong.

Rre Selelo o kopile badiri go bereka ba le seopo sengwe go bona gore ba tsholetsa kgaolo ya Tutume le batho ba yone.

A re badirelapuso ga ba a tshwanela go bereka ka go salwa morago, ka jalo a re mongwe le

mongwe o tshwanetse a nne le maitlamo a go ntsha maduo fa a leng teng.

Rre Selelo o ba kopile go nna le lerato mo tirong le go nna le mowa wa neelano le go tlotlana ka dinako tsotlhe.

Gape, o ba gwethhile go dirisa bokgoni le bothhaga jo ba bo kaileng ka nako ya fa ba ne ba ikopela tiro, a gatelela ka gore ba se lebele maikano.

Molaodi o ba kopile go babalela dithoto tsa puso tse ba di dirisang le go amogana mo go leng teng fa ba santse ba emetse gore seemo sa itsholelo se tokafale.

Fa ba tswa la bone, badirelapuso ba ne ba itela ka tlhalelo ya didirisiwa, segolo bogolo jang dikoloi. **BOPA**

BoFiNet promotes STEAM among learners

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Kgale Hill Junior Secondary School students have been urged to embrace Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) subjects as a way of driving Botswana’s agenda toward building a digitally skilled workforce.

Speaking at the school’s 30th anniversary celebrations recently, Botswana Fibre Network (BoFiNet) chief executive officer, Dr Geoffrey Seleka said technology was increasingly shaping the global economy through developments such as Artificial Intelligence, robotics, automation, data analytics and cybersecurity. He said Botswana would need young people with strong technical and creative skills to participate meaningfully in the digital economy.

“As Botswana advances its digital transformation agenda, the demand for skilled human resources in these areas will continue to increase,” he said.

Dr Seleka encouraged learners to view mathematics, science and information technology as more than examination requirements, saying they provided the foundation for solving real-world problems and pursuing careers in technology and innovation.

He said the country’s national ICT infrastructure provider, BoFiNet, required skilled professionals such as network engineers, fibre technicians, cybersecurity specialists, systems engineers and software developers.

He added that other sectors, including financial services, mining, energy, manufacturing and government, were also increasingly seeking people with digital and technical skills.

As part of its contribution to the anniversary celebrations, BoFiNet gifted each of the top three performing learners with a laptop.

Dr Seleka said the initiative was part of BoFiNet’s corporate social investment focused on enhancing youth through digital skills, aimed at improving young people’s employability and entrepreneurial opportunities.

He called on learners to consider vocational and technical education, noting that Botswana needed a balanced workforce comprising academics, scientists,



Kgale Hill Junior Secondary School learner, Kago Ratshipo (left) with his guardian during the school’s 30th anniversary celebration and prize giving ceremony in Gaborone recently. Kago was awarded the best Form 3 pupil in Mathematics. BoFiNet’s CEO, Dr Geoffrey Seleka encouraged learners to embrace STEAM subjects, highlighting the growing demand for technical skills Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

engineers, technicians, artisans, entrepreneurs and innovators.

“We cannot all be office workers,” he said, stressing that every profession had a role to play in national development.

Dr Seleka further encouraged parents and teachers to support

learners in developing confidence in science, mathematics and technology from an early age. The school marked 30 years of existence under the theme “30 Years of Excellence: A Legacy Built on Perseverance.”

Dr Seleka congratulated the

school’s leadership, teachers, learners, parents and stakeholders for their contribution to its three-decade journey, noting that the improved academic performance demonstrated the value of collective effort and perseverance. The School Head,

Mr Dommy Motlhanka said the school maintained a pass rate of above 50 per cent over the past 30 years. He said the school recorded a 67 per cent pass rate in the 2025 Junior Certificate Examination (JCE), placing it 13th nationally.

BOPA

ARV defaulters concern

Chendzimu Manyepedza
SELEBI PHIKWE

A total of 444 patients receiving antiretroviral (ARV) treatment in Selebi Phikwe have defaulted on their medication, raising concerns about the health risks to the affected individuals and the broader community.

Principal Registered Nurse at Selebi Phikwe Primary Hospital, Mr Arone Masilo, said this during the official opening of the Month of Prayer in Selebi Phikwe.

He said records showed that patients had gone more than three months without returning to health facilities to collect their ARV refills.

He described the situation as risky and potentially detrimental to efforts to achieve sustained HIV treatment and viral suppression.

He said consistent adherence to ARV treatment was critical for people living with HIV, as the medication helps suppress the virus, enabling patients to maintain their health and live longer.

Mr Masilo explained that treatment defaulting was not only a concern for individuals who stopped taking their medication, but also had broader implications for the community. He said it undermined government efforts to control HIV and AIDS and threatened to reverse gains made over the years in the national response.

“Government continues to invest significant resources in the provision of HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services. Patients who default are taking back efforts made this far

to reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS,” he said.

He added that patients who defaulted could experience an increased viral load, potentially resulting in further health complications, particularly where other prevention measures were not consistently practised.

Mr Masilo said the 444 defaulters should serve as a wake-up call for stakeholders to intensify efforts to ensure that people on lifelong treatment remained connected to health services.

He stressed that HIV treatment was not a once-off intervention, but a long-term commitment requiring patients to take their medication as prescribed and attend scheduled medical appointments. Principal Registered Nurse from Primary Health Care, Ms Caroline

Setshego, expressed concern about the prevalence of social ills such as teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

She noted that teenagers were increasingly exposed to such challenges, which negatively affected their well-being.

Ms Setshego called on stakeholders to strengthen support systems for young people, stressing that addressing the social ills required collective responsibility and continuous intervention. The Month of Prayer is an annual initiative that provides communities and other stakeholders with an opportunity to unite in prayer, raise awareness and seek solutions to pressing social challenges, including HIV/AIDS, GBV, road accidents and non-communicable diseases.

BOPA

Law Society sets new date for Bar Examinations

Bonang Masolotatse
GABORONE

A week after the High Court dismissed an application by Leeds Beckett University graduates trained through a franchise with the Gaborone University College of Law and Professional Studies (GUC), the Law Society of Botswana (LSB) has scheduled bar examinations for October 26-30.

In a statement released on Monday, LSB says the

examinations, initially set for June, were halted due to legal challenge and will proceed following the judgment in Arnold Rapula Somolekae and Others versus Law Society of Botswana.

The new scheduling clears the way for foreign-trained lawyers to apply for local bar admission while excluding the Leeds Beckett University graduates who sought to compel their inclusion. Bar examinations are a statutory requirement for graduates who

studied law outside Botswana or foreign attorneys wishing to practise locally.

The legal challenge began when the applicants approached the High Court on an urgent basis to compel the LSB to register them, hence the litigation halted the process pending determination by the court. They argued that exclusion was unlawful, irrational and violated their legitimate expectation of admission.

The LSB raised concerns over the

quality of the law degree’s delivery and cited an audit by Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA), noting that Legal Practitioners Regulations required applicants to hold a law degree obtained by examination directly from a prescribed university.

Delivering the judgement after hearing both parties at the beginning of this month, Justice Dr Godfrey Nthomiwa dismissed the urgent application, noting that the matter could not be properly

determined on the affidavits before the court alone. He said the dispute had wide implications for both the country and the legal profession and required fuller ventilation beyond affidavit evidence, including oral testimony and full argument.

Following refusal to grant interim relief, LSB announced that preparations for the October exams were underway and candidates who registered in April and met eligibility requirements would be allowed to sit for the tests. **BOPA**

Arts & Culture

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★ FASHION SHOW

Date: 26.09.2026
Venue: Independence Avenue (in front of Civic Center)
Time: 7PM

★ INDEPENDENCE EVE

Date: 29.09.2026
Venue: National Stadium - Gaborone | Obed Itani Chilume Stadium - Francistown
Time: 3PM

National Boipuso Activities



BEIJING - Children holding smiling face props at a kindergarten in Qinyang City, central China's Henan Province. China has made phone-free classrooms a legal requirement for minors with Chongqing municipality enforcing the ban. UNESCO's latest Global Education Monitoring Report showed that 114 education systems now have a national ban on mobile phones in schools. Photo: Xinhua

China moves toward phone-free classrooms to protect minors

BEIJING

For Ye Hui, the past summer break has been a digital tug-of-war.

Every time she confiscated the tablet, her 10-year-old son found a way to crack the password. So when the new semester began, she finally felt relief, not just because he was back in class, but because the law was now on her side.

“Teachers will be more persuasive, given that the ban on smart devices is no longer just a school policy,” said Ye, who lives in southwest China’s Chongqing municipality.

The ban Ye spoke of is stipulated in a local law on minor crime prevention, which took effect on September 1. It prohibited Ye’s son and his counterparts from bringing phones, tablets and other smart devices into school.

Official statistics showed that China has close to 200 million underage internet users, with over 97 per cent of minors having online access.

Minors’ attention being eroded by the algorithm is a problem faced by countries across the world in the digital age, said Wang Peng, a deputy research fellow at the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences.

Putting a mobile device school ban into law is necessary, as it provides legal support for schools to enforce the ban to keep students from such erosion, Wang said.

Chongqing is the latest to elevate a phone ban from a school policy

to legislation, as the entire country is working to build a safe and healthy internet environment for children’s wholesome growth.

A similar legal ban has already been put in place in Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, Zhengzhou in Henan Province and places across Fujian Province.

The aim is better prevention of internet addiction among underage students, according to Chongqing municipal legislature, noting the provision cited a 2021 guidance document on the protection of minors’ rights and interests in school by the Ministry of Education.

In mulling over the local law on minor crime prevention, Chongqing’s legislative body found that exposure to bad information as a result of smartphone usage caused some school-age children to develop unhealthy ideas and values, and even commit crimes.

Ye was one of the worrying parents struggling to keep their children away from smartphones’ bad influence. Her son spent nearly eight hours every day on screen and even paid for virtual skins and props for online games during the past summer vacation.

“He could always find a way to unlock the tablet.”

Strict restrictions on smart device use could help nip internet addiction in the bud, Ye hoped.

Xiao Junyi, a student from the 29th Middle School in Chongqing, welcomed the phone ban in school, admitting phones had proven detrimental to students’ level of

concentration and undermined their learning.

“We would secretly take out the phone and surf online when class was on,” Xiao said.

Teachers believe when the phone ban becomes a law provision, it will be more convincing to students and easier for them to enforce.

“It will save a lot of unnecessary lecturing,” said Hu Ranrui’an, a deputy head teacher at the Science City Middle School Affiliated to Chongqing Normal University.

But in reality, some children, particularly middle school students who have no parent to take them from and to school, do need cell phones for emergency contact.

“It is not a one-size-fits-all ban,” said Jiang Yongsong, a supervisor from the 29th Middle School. There is a provision in the law that allows parents to file a written application if students need phones in school, he said.

Countries around the world have also been introducing bans, with smartphones increasingly seen as a source of classroom distraction and a potential threat to students’ well-being.

UNESCO’s latest Global Education Monitoring Report showed that 114 education systems now have a national ban on mobile phones in schools, representing 58 percent of countries worldwide.

However, experts cautioned that restriction is not enough to address the problem, calling for joint efforts from society, school and family. **Xinhua**

NACB and Goethe-Institut upskill creatives

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

Creatives in the North West District have been equipped with skills to access international funding opportunities and develop competitive grant proposals.

The workshop, a collaboration between the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACB) and Goethe-Institut, was intended to expose creatives to international funding opportunities while equipping them with the skills required to prepare and submit grant applications.

Chairperson of the NACB Board of Directors, Prince Monna, said the Council had identified Botswana as one of the countries recording the lowest number of applications for international grants compared with the six Southern African countries targeted by some funding programmes.

He said the realisation had prompted the Council and Goethe-Institut to bring the training closer to creatives to simplify the grant application process, clarify funding requirements and equip practitioners with the knowledge needed to successfully apply for available opportunities.

“These funds could help our creative industry to flourish, hence the need to capacitate our creatives to enable them to grow,” he said.

He further said the workshop was also intended to help creatives understand the 11 Heritage Narrative Clusters and identify the cluster that best corresponded with their artistic practice.

Intellectual property expert, Bathusi Lesolobe, emphasised the importance of understanding the requirements of a funding opportunity before submitting an

application.

Lesolobe cautioned participants against treating a grant call as a suggestion, explaining that it should instead be understood as a specification that clearly outlined what the funder was seeking.

He urged creatives to carefully read and understand each call before applying, saying this would enable them to determine whether their artistic practice and proposed project met the requirements.

Among the opportunities highlighted during the workshop were the African-European Partnerships for Culture (AEPC) grants for creative and artistic practitioners 2026.

Through the Southern Africa project, Goethe-Institut invites creative and artistic practitioners from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to apply for grants aimed at strengthening cultural cooperation within Southern Africa and between Southern Africa and Europe.

One of the participants, Segametsi Setshwane, appreciated the opportunity, saying creatives were sometimes unaware of opportunities available to them.

“This grant call comes at an opportune time for us as Batswana when our industry is still struggling. This will give most of us the zeal to work harder and better our products,” she said.

She said the workshop had provided relevant information that would enable practitioners to identify opportunities and use them for their development.

Another participant, Seth Sethoko, said the workshop had been well received by creatives, adding that participants were now more confident to apply for available grants. **BOPA**



Creatives during a proposal writing and grant application workshop in Maun recently. The workshop sought to equip creatives with skills to access international funding opportunities. Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe



Botswana National Olympic Committee president, Tshepo Sitale (second right) launching Nike as Team Botswana's official technical partner during a press conference in Gaborone on Monday. The historic 10-year partnership, valued at more than P104 million, runs from 2026 to 2036 and will provide athletes with high-performance competition and training apparel, among other technical support and performance incentives. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

BNOC unveils P104m Nike deal

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

The Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) has secured a 10-year partnership with global sportswear giant, Nike valued at over P104 million. The deal, which runs from 2026 to 2036, marks a financial and technical boost for local sports. According to the new agreement, Nike is the official technical partner for Team Botswana and it includes high-performance competition kits,

training apparel, hospitality wear and lucrative performance incentives. Speaking at the launch in Gaborone on Monday, BNOC president, Tshepo Sitale said under the agreement, Nike would provide Team Botswana with world class, code specific competition kit, hospitality apparel, training wear, travel wear and podium uniforms. "Comfort matters, fit matters, technology matters, freedom of movement matters, confidence matters at the highest level," he

said. Sitale said athletes must not be given generic clothing and asked to compete, adding that wherever technically possible, their apparel must respond to the specific demands of their sporting codes and the highest standards of international competition. "A Team Botswana uniform is more than something an athlete wears. It carries the colours of a country. It carries the sacrifices of coaches, families and communities. It carries the hopes of a nation. It must make every

athlete feel prepared, respected, equal to any competitor and proud to represent Botswana," he said. Also, he said within the sponsorship, he said there was an element of rewarding excellence, as Nike was committed to recognise achievement at the highest level. The agreement, he said provided Olympic podium incentives of US\$30,000 (over P400,000) for a gold medal, US\$20,000 (over P270,000) for a silver medal and US\$ 10,000 (over P135,000) for a bronze medal.

He said it also provided a structured incentive programme for medal winning performances at the Commonwealth Games with US\$20,000 (over P270 000) for a gold medal, US\$10,000 (over P135 000) for a silver medal and US\$5,000 (over P60,000) for a bronze medal. "This is over and above the Olympic Solidarity scholarship where we give our athletes US\$600 (over P8,000) for males and US\$750 (over P10,000) for their female counterparts," he said. BOPA





BOTSWANA @ 60
A Journey Through
The Lens
#One nation . A thousand stories!

NOW ON!!!

The long awaited Botswana@60 Photo Exhibition is finally here. The first of its kind. Exquisitely curated works of art.

Venue : National Museum and Monuments
Date : From September 14, 2026

