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create employment

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#CountMeIn in full swing

Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka (right) and Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary Education Support, Mr Labani Mokgosi during the launch of the ministry's refurbishment of schools campaign dubbed #CountMeIn at Molefi Senior Secondary School in Mochudi on Tuesday. The campaign, aims to refurbish and maintain dilapidated school infrastructure across the country. The minister said the initiative currently targeted Form Five examination classrooms in 11 schools. She gave assurance that learning would not be disrupted, as the paint used was water-soluble and had a mild, non-intrusive odour. Ms Kgafela-Mokoka encouraged broad participation, noting that those unable to contribute financially could offer their services in support of the cause. Photo: Courtesy of Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education

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Mathoothe cautions against illicit brews

By Thuso Kgakatsi

HUKUNTSI - Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe, has cautioned against the production of illicit brews, saying such drinks were not safe for consumption and posed serious health risks to communities.

Speaking during a consultative kgotla meeting on the Liquor Amendment Bill, 2025, Mr Mathoothe said the Ministry was currently reviewing the Liquor Act of 2003 and its regulations to ensure inclusivity of all locally brewed beverages.

He cited examples of illegal concoctions known by names such as Malatlha in Ghanzi, Motwane wa Nurse and Motse o teng legodimong in Lobatse, which are often disguised to avoid detection by law enforcement.

“These are not the kinds of brews we want. We need legitimate, well-prepared traditional beers that can be regulated through dikgosi,” he said.

He warned that some brewers were in the habit of adding harmful ingredients, and announced that provisions would be made for the testing of brews to ensure safety, with non-compliant products banned from brewing permanently.

The assistant minister has also called on residents of Kgalagadi North to document all their traditional homemade beer for recognition purposes under the ongoing review of the Liquor Act.

He explained that previous reviews of the Act did not comprehensively capture traditional brews, leaving them unregulated and unrecognised.

“The new Act seeks to

address these gaps by ensuring that traditional beers across the country are registered and legitimised,” he said.

Mr Mathoothe further pointed out that although the Traditional Beer Regulations of 2011 were introduced to regulate home-brewed beers and curb illicit brews, challenges persisted.

For instance, he said Chibuku powder currently being sold in retail outlets was not approved for brewing and selling as a traditional beer.

“While this product has proven safe for consumption, it was not categorised under home-brewed traditional beer during the enactment of the regulations,” he clarified.

He also noted that the current Act prohibits the sale of Chibuku from residential premises, allowing only commercial outlets, saying the issue could

also be revisited.

Mr Mathoothe explained that the objective of the ongoing review was to close regulatory gaps in the current law and strengthen penalties for non-compliance to better manage the liquor industry.

He said the current Liquor Act provided for reduced trading hours and required outlets to be at least 500 metres away from schools, highways, major roads, or churches to minimise the proliferation of liquor outlets.

“In some areas, there have been calls to review this distance down to 250 metres, hence the need to re-examine whether these measures are still relevant,” he added.

Mr Mathoothe acknowledged persistent challenges in the enforcement of the current Act, including noise pollution, continued non-compliance by outlets and consumers, and lenient penalties.

He added that concerns such as over-regulation and fronting in the liquor sector would also be addressed during the review process.

Kgosi Merapelo Tshweneyagae of Hukuntsi welcomed the

ongoing review of the Liquor Act, describing it as both timely and necessary to address the growing social ills linked to alcohol abuse in local communities.

Kgosi Tshweneyagae said alcohol had become a leading contributor to family dysfunction and social problems in the district.

He attributed the abuse of alcohol to high unemployment rate, which he said had driven many people to seek comfort in consuming alcohol consumption.

Kgosi Tshweneyagae also raised concerns over the sale of a local homebrew known as Sejobajoba, which is prohibited to be brewed under the current law but continues to be sold in some retail outlets.

Beyond the liquor issue, the traditional leader highlighted other challenges hindering economic growth in Kgalagadi North.

He cited poor road infrastructure, particularly the Hukuntsi-Ncojane and Tshane-Tsabong roads, which he said were essential trade corridors that could unlock economic potential for the district and the nation at large. **BOPA**



Bishop Richard Mokgethe of The Cornerstone Apostolic Church in Hukuntsi during a consultative kgotla meeting on the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025 recently. Assistant Minister of Trade and Investment, Mr Baratiwa Mothoothe called on residents to document all their traditional homemade beers so they could be recognised under the ongoing review of the liquor Act. Photo: Thuso Kgakatsi

Teamwork bears fruit for Xhakaanare

By Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN - Residents of Xhakaanare ward have been commended for their remarkable demonstration of self-reliance and community spirit in constructing the new Xhakaanare kgotla offices.

Kgosi Tawana II officiated the official opening of the recently completed facilities, praising the community for their dedication and teamwork.

He urged residents to continue working together and playing an active role in promoting community development.

The project included the construction of a kgotla shelter, a two-room office block, a water system, ablution facilities, and a 250-litre Jojo water tank. The development was made possible through the collective efforts of several private companies and individual contributors.

He said they had demonstrated that unity and dedication were essential for bringing developmental projects by

creating a strong foundation of collaboration.

“Let us continue doing the amazing work we’ve started, I urge each of you to work together in harmony for the benefit of the community,” he said.

Xhakaanare kgotla was established in 2018 due to the expansion of the Maun and initially there was no structure as kgosi worked under a tree.

Kgosi Tapologo Mosika of Xhakaanare kgotla also expressed appreciation to everyone who took part in realising the vision of building a proper kgotla structure.

He also acknowledged the role Kgosi Tawana played in establishing the new kgotla in an effort to ensure residents access services closer as well as the generous support and donations from the Matlapana Business Community.

“Kgosi Tawana has always supported our kgotla and it is befitting for him to be officially opening it as he is the one who performed its ground-breaking thereof and for that we are grateful

for the support,” he said.

He said the offices would enhance service delivery, provide a proper platform for community discussions, and strengthen the role of traditional leadership in the area.

Speaking on behalf of the donors, Mr Titaan Shoeman said the opening of the kgotla was the beginning of a broader community development plan.

He further highlighted that phase two of the project would be a recreational facility for the community, that would give children a safe space to play as well as providing residents with a place to relax and socialise.

Kgosi Cosmos Lelathego of Moeti kgotla also encouraged team spirit among members of the community.

He spoke strongly against hatred within society, warning that it bred division and weakened the social fabric of the community.

Kgosi Lelathego emphasised the importance of promoting peace, tolerance and respect among individuals. **BOPA**

Mining show targets ordinary Batswana

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE - The upcoming inaugural Botswana Mining Show slated for October 21 to 23 in Gaborone, Ditshupo Hall, aims to open the mining sector to ordinary Batswana.

The show organiser and Progressive Institute chief executive officer, Mr Mmoloki Mmolotsi, stated on Tuesday during the Botswana Mining Show stakeholders and media breakfast meeting.

“We are looking at opening the mining sector to Batswana, it is not an elitist sector,” said Mr Mmolotsi, underscoring the need for locals to identify and seize opportunities presented by the sector.

He noted that mining, which had been the mainstay of the economy, could play a bigger role in diversifying the country’s economy, hence the show was conceived to open up the sector to ordinary locals.

The free-entry show aims to bring a fresh perspective to the sector through empowering locals and already, over 7 000 people have registered.

Progressive Institute chief operations officer, Mr Willard Machado, explained that the show would transform the journey for Botswana’s mining landscape.

It will also promote citizen participation in the mining value chain, create employment and business opportunities for Botswana, showcase sustainable

and ethical mining practices and position Botswana as Africa’s hub for innovation, exploration and economic inclusion, Mr Machado said.

Progressive Institute’s motive he said was to ensure that mining became a tool for citizen economic empowerment, opening doors of opportunities for both industrial giants and small-scale miners, youth, innovators, and local entrepreneurs eager to take part in wealth creation.

Over 10 000 participants, 150 exhibitors and more than 50 speakers are expected to take part at the show, which Botswana Chamber of Mines representative, Mr Joe Ramotshabi, said ushered in a new era of beneficiation through value addition as opposed to the volume of minerals produced and sold.

He said the show was about the value that entrepreneurs and the country could derive from minerals, adding that such included employment creation, diversification, industrialisation, wealth creation, citizen participation, export market development, community upliftment and improved living standards, among others.

The show, which will feature speakers from government and private sectors, including mining, academia, finance, tourism, and energy, among others, will be held under the theme: A New Era in Mining, and is open to the public through registration. **BOPA**



Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo (right) admiring Sebagu Sa Metsi necklace modelled by Ntswaki Thama during its launch in Gaborone on Tuesday. Manufactured and designed by Diamond College of Botswana, the first prototype necklace will be auctioned and the proceeds will be used to drill nine boreholes in Nata region. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Nata to benefit from auction proceeds

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - A necklace named 'Sebagu Sa Metsi', designed in Botswana which also carries a life changing mission was launched in Gaborone on Tuesday.

Manufactured and designed by Diamond College of Botswana, the first prototype necklace will be auctioned and the proceeds will be used to drill nine boreholes in Nata region.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo said the prototype necklace was a symbol of modesty and a powerful emblem of Botswana story.

Over a last couple of months, she said, they traversed across the world to share the Botswana diamond story.

She said they shared with the world the soul of Botswana's diamond and the impact that they create, adding that the Sebagu Sa Metsi necklace carries a deep cultural meaning.

Minister Kenewendo said its design was inspired by the iconic African Calabash reflecting the values of substance, unity and community that had long defined who Batswana were.

"Today as we gather here it is not merely to unveil the necklace, but to celebrate a vision that is woven from the threads of our heritage, culture and unweaving commitment to the transformation of Botswana's economy and society," she said.

Furthermore, Ms Kenewendo said Sebagu Sa Metsi which translates as 'the jewel of water' and its symbolism carried a similar

life changing mission.

She said the necklace, once brought to life, will be auctioned to help and drill boreholes, in an area that continues to face daily hardships of limited access to clean drinking water.

"In this way the necklace becomes a thread that connects nine boreholes, nine villages in Nata," she said.

Diamond College of Botswana, founder and Director Tsholo Mr Molapisi said one evening as he was scrolling on social media he came across Member of Parliament for Nata/Gweta and assistant minister of health decrying that his area had no water.

He said as a Motswana in the diamond industry he realised that he had to do something given that water was a basic necessity of life.

Sebagu sa metsi necklace, he said was not merely a work of art but a story, a testament, and a symbol of hope.

At the heart of the prototype necklace, he said lies a rare blue diamond, a gem which was scarce as a most precious resource it represent-water. Mr Molapisi said in Botswana water was the most limited a vital resource, adding that it shapes the was Batswana live, thrive and survive

"The blue diamond is more than a centre piece, but a reminder of the urgency and importance of water security," he said.

Mr Molapisi said hence the portion of the profits from the sale of the necklace would be dedicated to drilling boreholes in Kgalagadi and Nata/Gweta areas where water scarcity was a daily challenge.

BOPA

Official urges Botswana to accede to human rights treaties

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - The United Nations resident coordinator in Botswana, Ms Wenyan Yang, has called on Botswana to accede to critical international human rights treaties of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Speaking at a national consultation held in Gaborone on Tuesday, Ms Yang, emphasised the importance of embedding these treaties into Botswana's national development strategies to ensure that, "no one is left behind."

"These actions will reaffirm Botswana's values of equality, justice and shared humanity, they will also strengthen its standing as a regional leader in human rights," said Ms Yang.

She highlighted that accession to the ICESCR would reinforce Botswana's international credibility, improve monitoring and reporting mechanisms and unlock access to global partnerships and technical support.

"Acceding to the ICESCR is not just a legal step, it is a strategic

investment in Botswana's future, it will promote prosperity for all by embedding rights-based accountability into national plans such as Vision 2036 and the broader economic transformation agenda," she said.

She said the ICESCR ensured equal attention to fundamental economic, social and cultural rights, including education, healthcare, decent work, housing and an adequate standard of living.

These rights, Ms Yang noted, were essential for dignity and were key to reducing poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

She pointed out that so far, 173 countries had ratified the ICESCR, adding that in Southern Africa, Botswana, Comoros and Mozambique remained the only countries yet to do so.

Further, Ms Yang called on government to also accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, describing statelessness as a 'fundamental human rights crisis' that left millions of people worldwide invisible and vulnerable.

"Stateless individuals often face relentless isolation, poverty and stigma because they are not recognised as nationals by any state, legal identity is not just a technical issue, it is central to dignity, access to services and national development," she said.

She commended Botswana for aligning its national legislation with international norms and for previously acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

However, she stressed that it was now time to take the next step by joining the 1961 Convention and implementing the Draft National Action Plan to end and prevent statelessness.

Ms Yang pledged support of the United Nations in Botswana through technical assistance, capacity building and policy dialogue to help translate

treaty commitments into real improvements in people's lives.

Ministry for International Relations permanent secretary, Mr Thuso Ramodimoosi reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to international cooperation and human rights.

"Botswana remains dedicated to upholding human rights obligations and fostering international partnerships," he said. **BOPA**

Segokgo retires November 6

GABORONE - The Commander of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), Lieutenant General Placid Segokgo will officially retire from active service on November 6, following an illustrious career spanning over 42 years.

According to a press release from BDF, Lt Gen. Segokgo's outstanding leadership and strategic vision have greatly improved the operational readiness and capabilities of the army.

"The BDF extends its heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated service to Botswana. Throughout his tenure, the opportunities he created have significantly enhanced the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the BDF.

His visionary leadership has fostered an innovative environment that has been instrumental to the success of numerous BDF strategic initiatives," the release states.

The release further says before becoming the BDF Commander, Lt General Segokgo held various key strategic positions, including Deputy Commander, Air Arm Commander, Director of Air Operations, and Flight Commander, among others.

"He has demonstrated remarkable leadership in strategic roles at both the regional and national levels. At the regional level, he expertly chaired the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Defence Sub-Committee,

showcasing his ability to navigate complex security challenges," reads the statement. On the national stage, Lt Gen. Segokgo has held crucial positions, including Chairperson of the Steering Committee for the National Security Strategy and Deputy Chairperson of the National Coordinating Committee on Financial Intelligence.

Additionally, as a member of the Performance Management Forum, he has been pivotal in driving performance excellence.

"His extensive experience, strategic acumen and unwavering commitment to excellence make him an invaluable leader in shaping the impactful security policy landscape," reads the statement.

Moreover, the BDF has expressed its profound gratitude to Lt Gen.

Segokgo for his exceptional and dedicated service to the country.

"His visionary leadership and the invaluable opportunities he created during his tenure will undoubtedly inspire all BDF members, both in uniform and in civilian capacities," reads the press release. Moving forward, the statement notes that Lt Gen Segokgo's example will serve as a beacon guiding the BDF towards other greater accomplishments.

"The entire BDF community is truly thankful for his selfless commitment and leadership.

We wish him a retirement filled with well-deserved relaxation, robust health, and unparalleled success in all his future endeavours," the BDF press release concludes. **BOPA**



Lt Gen. Placid Segokgo

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Abotle Juices to create employment

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - Abotle Beverages, a Botswana citizen owned, 100 per cent fruit juice producing company, is projected to employ over 1 000 once fully operational.

The company's CEO, Mr Joseph Gabalebatse said the plan was to outsource services as logistics for the Southern Africa target market.

We are talking mass production with some working in the factory like cleaners, administrators, then there will be those indirectly employed like logistics, Mr Gabalebatse said.

He said they employed young people of ages ranging from 18 to 29 as agents, earning between P12,000 to P15,000.

We realised that employing them on a fixed salary would kill their creativity, marketing skills and business acumen, Mr Gabalebatse explained.

"We are big on youth

empowerment. These are the youth that once we get settled, we will absorb. This is an interim arrangement and looking at them, it is like they prefer it the way it is. We have paid for some of them at LEA to enroll for some business management courses," he said.

With a two-year shelf life, a standard that sets Abotle Beverages apart from other produce, Mr Gabalebatse attributed the quality to the ingredients they used.

"We use only one ingredient which is the fruit. We do not add any sugar. We do not add any water. We do not add any colourants. We do not add anything," he said, and explained that they used an American self-preservation technology, which was by means of pumping gas into the can.

The technology is patented and therefore, could not disclose the name of the gas except to explain that, once the gas is infused into the juice, it does not temper with



Some of the Abotle Beverages flavours from the company's seven juice range. The company CEO, Mr Joseph Gabalebatse said they employed the youth of ages ranging from 18 to 29 as agents, earning between P12,000 to P15,000.

its natural state, leaving the taste as it were on the mother fruit.

Mr Gabalebatse said they had gone through all the tests and complied with National Agricultural Research and Development Institute and Botswana Bureau of Standards specifications.

The juice is packaged in Vietnam but remains a Botswana product because the recipe originates in Botswana by Abotle Beverages.

"We find ourselves in an unfortunate situation because we do not have enough fruits to make this kind of juice. A can of Abotle orange juices needs around 12 oranges to make. Therefore, a container carries 3 000 cases. So, if you multiply 12 by the number of cases in a container, it means

for one container, you need more than 800 000 oranges. We do not have that," he said.

So, to achieve the objective of producing pure juice without compromising the standards, Mr Gabalebatse said they looked for a contract manufacturer and found one in Vietnam.

Contract manufacturers have factories but use recipe of the company that conceived the idea.

Vietnam has organic soils because of the tropical climate conditions, abundant fruits and big manufacturing plants, Mr Gabalebatse said.

The CEO said they wanted the juice packaged in Botswana and were in talks with Botswana Investment and Trade Centre, to bulk break, which meant importing in large containers to

be locally packaged.

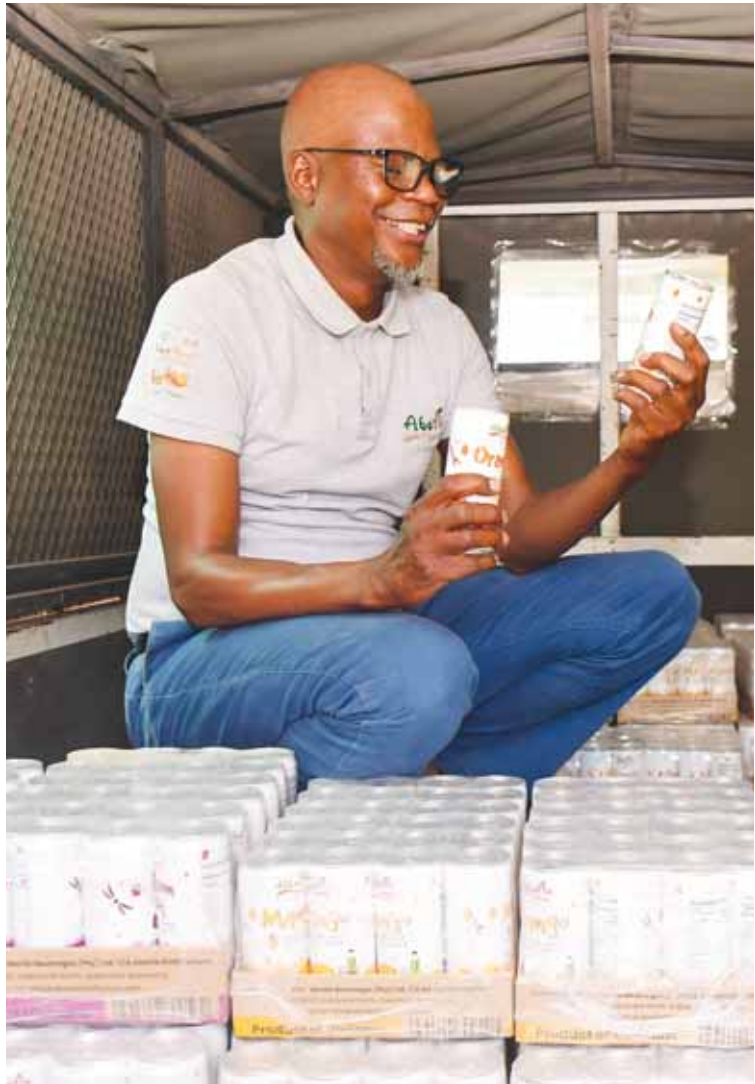
He said manufacturers were also keen on partnering with Abotle Beverages and also carried out skills transfer.

Mr Gabalebatse also said they were in talks with Special Economic Zones Authority to have the juice packaged in Botswana, to reduce costs while at the same time creating employment.

He said production started in June, and had sold over 2 000 cases.

We used a bottom up approach by selling to individuals, tuck shops, fuel stations, guest houses and hotels rather than chain stores, to launch and introduction the product, as well as create demand, Mr Gabalebatse said.

BOPA



Abotle Beverages CEO, Mr Joseph Gabalebatse said the products would soon be available in four of the biggest retail shops in Botswana. Photos: Teko Letsholo

South Africa diversifies export after US tariffs disrupt trade

JOHANNESBURG -

South Africa should strengthen diversification and resilience in its export base as the 30 per cent import tariff imposed by the United States in August has disrupted the country's trade, a South African official has said Tuesday.

"We gather today at one of the most pivotal moments in our nation's economic trajectory. The recent imposition of a 30 per cent tariff by the United States has threatened approximately 30 000 jobs and disrupted trade relationships built over decades," said Zuko Godlimpi, deputy minister of trade, industry and competition.

Speaking at the Export Symposium and Expo in Midrand, Johannesburg, where

140 exhibitors from various sectors have gathered for a three-day event to explore new business and market opportunities, Godlimpi said the recent developments underscored the need for diversification and resilience in South Africa's export base.

"This is our wake-up call, a moment demanding that we fundamentally reimagine our approach to international trade, market diversification, and economic resilience," he said.

He said BRICS markets, emerging economies in the Gulf region and deeper intra-African trade through the African Continental Free Trade Area presented key opportunities alongside traditional European markets.

Last month, senior South Africa government officials travelled to the United States to continue negotiations following the tariff imposition in early August.

However, no announcement has yet been made regarding the outcome of those discussions.

With exports, particularly in the agriculture and automotive sectors, valued in the billions of dollars, it is widely expected that the tariffs, if not reversed, will have the greatest impact on these key industries.

According to Godlimpi, South Africa's exports totaled R184.3 billion (about US\$10.66 billion) in July, up from R170.7 billion in June. And we recorded a trade surplus of nearly R4 billion in August," he added. **Xinhua**



Revised Fixed Voice International Tariffs

(Landline) Effective - 20th October 2025.



	Current Tariff/Min		New Tariff/Min	
	Postpaid	Prepaid	Postpaid	Prepaid
Fixed2Fixed				
Angola	1.60	1.83	2.75	3.13
Argentina	2.11	2.40	3.12	3.56
Armenia	2.50	2.85	3.23	3.68
Bahamas	2.20	2.51	3.46	3.95
Brunei	2.30	2.62	3.03	3.46
Cameroon	3.01	3.44	4.73	5.39
Cape Verde	2.90	3.31	4.62	5.27
Cyprus	1.60	1.82	2.38	2.72
Denmark	1.60	1.82	5.35	6.10
El Salvador	2.20	2.51	2.76	3.14
Germany	4.70	5.36	9.84	11.22
Iran	4.00	4.56	10.33	11.78
Ireland	1.60	1.82	3.68	4.19
Israel	1.90	2.17	3.55	4.04
Libya	3.50	3.99	4.88	5.56
Macao	2.50	2.85	3.55	4.05
Malawi	4.70	5.36	6.24	7.12
Malta	2.30	2.62	3.34	3.81
Mauritania	8.57	9.77	11.26	12.83
Moldova	4.90	5.59	6.74	7.68
Russia	1.90	2.17	18.17	20.72
Solomon Islands	10.39	11.84	16.28	18.56
South Sudan	5.70	6.50	9.35	10.66
Spain	3.90	4.45	7.22	8.23
Sudan	2.67	3.04	8.76	9.99
Togo	3.90	4.45	5.49	6.26
Tunisia	10.00	11.40	15.16	17.28
Turks & Caicos Islands	2.70	3.08	3.59	4.10
Uganda	4.70	5.36	6.57	7.49
Fixed2Mobile				
Algeria	8.84	10.08	11.32	12.91
Angola	2.91	3.31	4.91	5.60
Armenia	3.05	3.47	3.88	4.42
Bosnia & Herzegovina	4.70	5.36	6.09	6.94
Bulgaria	4.01	4.57	5.13	5.85
Comoros	7.77	8.86	11.05	12.60
CYPRUS	1.81	2.06	3.34	3.81
Denmark	2.30	2.62	5.34	6.09
Germany	2.30	2.62	4.95	5.64
Guinea Bissau	6.90	7.87	9.00	10.26
Iran	2.63	2.99	8.12	9.26
Ireland	2.20	2.51	7.26	8.28
Israel	2.00	2.28	3.65	4.17
Lebanon	2.40	2.74	3.08	3.51
Libya	3.81	4.35	4.88	5.56
Macao	2.50	2.85	3.55	4.04
Macedonia	4.80	5.47	6.45	7.35
Mali	4.88	5.56	6.67	7.61
Malta	5.20	5.93	8.56	9.76
Mauritania	8.13	9.26	11.22	12.79
Morocco	5.61	6.40	9.94	11.33
Myanmar	3.73	4.26	5.87	6.69
Nepal	2.60	2.96	3.62	4.12
Palestine	2.60	2.96	4.04	4.61
Reunion	2.84	3.24	6.37	7.26
Russia	7.44	8.49	14.52	16.55
Rwanda	3.60	4.11	4.57	5.21
Slovakia	2.60	2.96	3.74	4.26
South Sudan	5.72	6.52	8.89	10.13
Spain	2.82	3.22	7.32	8.35
Sudan	2.71	3.09	5.62	6.41
Sweden	3.21	3.66	5.10	5.81
Switzerland	4.81	5.49	7.12	8.12
Togo	4.05	4.62	5.46	6.23
Tunisia	10.45	11.92	15.17	17.29
Ukraine	3.10	3.53	10.28	11.72



Revised Mobile Voice International Tariffs

(Cellphone) Effective - 20th October 2025.



	Current Tariff/Min		New Tariff/Min	
	Postpaid	Prepaid	Postpaid	Prepaid
Mobile2Fixed				
Cameroon	3.04	3.47	4.41	5.03
Denmark	2.96	3.37	5.31	6.05
Germany	4.70	5.36	12.15	13.85
Ireland	2.31	2.63	3.54	4.04
Israel	2.60	2.96	3.82	4.35
Kenya	3.04	3.47	3.92	4.47
Liberia	6.60	7.52	11.12	12.68
Libya	3.50	3.99	4.89	5.57
Malta	2.60	2.96	3.40	3.88
Moldova	4.90	5.59	6.71	7.65
Reunion	2.60	2.96	8.18	9.33
Russia	2.67	3.04	17.00	19.38
Saint Vincent & The Grenadines	2.60	2.96	3.57	4.07
Solomon Islands	10.20	11.63	16.17	18.43
South Sudan	5.70	6.50	9.49	10.82
Spain	3.90	4.45	7.24	8.25
Uganda	4.75	5.42	6.57	7.49
Mobile2Mobile				
Algeria	8.70	9.92	13.20	15.05
Angola	2.93	3.34	4.67	5.32
Bahamas	2.30	2.62	3.43	3.91
Benin	4.30	4.90	5.53	6.30
Cape Verde	3.63	4.14	4.64	5.29
Denmark	2.92	3.33	5.29	6.03
Germany	2.30	2.62	4.94	5.63
Iran	2.64	3.01	10.33	11.78
Ireland	2.30	2.62	8.43	9.61
Israel	2.61	2.98	3.78	4.31
Malta	5.10	5.81	8.41	9.59
Mauritania	8.10	9.23	12.20	13.91
Morocco	5.77	6.58	9.86	11.24
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Russia	7.71	8.79	90.92	103.65
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Slovakia	2.60	2.96	5.56	6.34
South Sudan	5.71	6.51	9.01	10.27
Spain	2.84	3.24	7.29	8.31
Sweden	3.23	3.68	5.12	5.84
Switzerland	4.87	5.55	9.08	10.35
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Bomaipaafela ba laetswe go fuduga

Ka Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE

Modulasetilo wa lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Mmadinare, Mme Ruth Dipholo o laetse bomaipaafela ba kwa Mapakata, gaufi le Selebi Phikwe go fuduga.

Mme Pholo o buile se mo phuthegong ya kgotla e e neng e tshwerwe kwa Mapakata ka Laboraro, a re lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Mmadinare le tlaa ba fa malatsi a le masome a mararo gore ba bo ba fudugile.

A re ntle le go obamela tshwetso eo, seo se tlaa dira gore lekgotla la kabo ditsha le ba tseele ditshwetso tse di maleba ebile di le ka fa molaong.

Mme Pholo a re lekgotla la kabo ditsha le itemogetse kgolo ya bomaipaafela e e kwa godimo go simologa ka Lwetse mme ebile, go ipaya go ntse go tswetsetse.

Se a re se tlhotlhelediwa ke dikgang tse di senang boammaruri tsa gore go tlhokana le dipalo tse di ntsi tsa batho ba ba ipeileng gore lefelo leo le tlhongwe motsana.

Mme Pholo o supile fa bangwe ba setse ba jelwe ntsoma ka go batliwa madi ka mabaka a gore ba tlaa ba rulaganyetsa dipampiri tsa go nna kwa Mapakata.

A re le fa Mapaka e le lefelo la mafudiso, bangwe ba le dirile la bonno, ka ba agile matlo a bonno a sennela ruri mme go sena ditlamelo tsa botlhokwa di akaretsa metsi a a phepa, sengwe se se patikang bangwe go nwa metsi a a kgotlhelegileng, a a sa siamelang botsogo.

O bile gape a supa fa dipalo tse di kwa godimo tsa bomaipaafela di baka kgotlelesego ya tikologo, mme seo se ka nna borai mo leruong.

Mme Pholo o supile fa go

ipaafela e le molato o o motho a ka o isediwang kgotla tshekelong mme fa a bonwe molato, a lebanwa ke kotlhao ya go isiwa kgolegelong ngwaga tse pedi kgotsa a atlholwe P3,000.

Mokhanselara wa kgaolo ya Meriting kwa Selebi Phikwe, Rre Moagisi Buru o kaile fa a sa itumediwiwe ke go laltlhelwa ga matlakala mo go seng ka fa molaong kwa Mapakata, a a akaretsang marulelo a asbestos, le tse dingwe ka go farologana go tswa kwa mafelong a dikago.

A re le fa go tsibosiwa ka bo diphatsa jwa go latlha matlakala ka tsela e e sa babalesegang, bangwe ba itlhokomolositse se. **BOPA**



Modulasetilo wa lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Mmadinare, Mme Ruth Dipholo o laetse bomaipaafela ba kwa Mapakata, gaufi le Selebi Phikwe go fuduga. O buile jalo kwa phuthegong ya kgotla ka Laboraro, a re lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Mmadinare le tlaa ba fa malatsi a le masome a mararo gore ba bo ba fudugile.

Senepe: Chendzimu Manyepedza

Sekole se itumelela katlego ya ga Shatho

Ka Tebogo Masuruke

TUTUME - Sekole se se botlana sa Magapatona kwa Tutume se ipeletse phenyo ya moithuti wa sone, Shatho Makoba yo a neng a fenywa baithuti ba dikole tse di neng di tseletse kgaisano e e neng e rulagantswe ke mokgatlo wa The Broadcasters Organisation.

Moithuti yo wa lekwalo la bosupa, o ne a kwala polelo e e neng e araba setlhogo se se reng, Looking at SADC community. Moletlo o o neng o patagane le go tsamaisa baithuti ba lekwalo la bosupa ba ba neng ba laela, o ne o tshwerwe kwa sekoleng ka Labobedi.

Mogolwane mo ofising ya thuto kwa Tutume, Rre Shadreck Moffat a re Shatho o tlotlomaditse motse, sekole le Botswana tota ka e a ne a gaisa baithuti ba ba bangwe kwa dikgaisanong tse di neng di tshwerwe kwa Lesotho,

di tseletsewe ke baithuti go tswa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa le Zimbabwe.

Rre Moffat a re bana ba ba tswang kwa motseng oo ba lesego ka ba nna ba atlega mo dikgaisanong tse di farologaneng, selo se se supang fa ba na le talente.

O bile a re ka fa bokgeleke le ditalente di ribologang ka teng kwa Tutume, go supagala fa go santse go tlaa nna le dikgantshwane tse dintsi tse di tlaa emelang Botswana kwa mafatsheng a sele.

Rre Moffat o akgoletse ba mokgatlo wa TBO tiro entle e ba e dirang. A re se ba se dirang ke go tshwaranela thuto ya ngwana le puso ka go ba fa talente ya bodiragatsi le kitso. Fa a itebaganya le baithuti, o ba gwetlha go itlhokomela mo go tse di sa siamang.

A re ba ya go tsaya nako e telele ba se kwa sekoleng mme

seo ga se reye gore ba ikhutse mo go ithuteng, ba tswelele ba bale, ba baakanyetsa mosepele o kwa pele. O ba gakolotse go bega sepe se se bosula se se ka ba diragalelang kana ba bonwa se diragalela mongwe.

Rre Moffat o ba gwetlhile go feta ba tsholetsa maduo a sekole se ba yang kwa go sone go re se kgone go fitlhelela sewelo se se se beilwe ke lephata la thuo. Modulasetilo wa TBO, Mme Bontle Chigala a re lekgotla la bone ke lekalana le le bopilweng ke ba lephata la kgaso ba kopane le thuto le makalana mangwe a a amanang le tsa thuto.

Mme Chigala a re maikaelelo a mokgatlo ke go upolola talente mo baithuting ba dikole, go ba betla go re ba nne le bokgoni jwa go bua fa pele ga batho, go kwala polelo ka teme ya Setswana kana Sekgoa le go diragatsa ka bokgabane.

A re seo ba se rotloetsa ka go

tshwara dikgaisano mo dikoleng tse di tseletse mokgatlo oo. O boletse fa kgaisano e simolola kwa tlase, e palamela, go ya kwa kgaolo potlana go fitlha kwa kgaolong kwa go yang go tlhophiwa yo o yang go emela lefatshe kwa ntle.

A re mo magatong ao otlhe ka boraro, Shatho o ne a dira diaba mo polelo ya gagwe ya sekgoa. O ile a bolela fa Shatho a ne a ya go emela lefatshe kwa Lesotho kwa a ileng a tsaya maemo a ntlha. O kopile batsadi go ema nokeng bana ba bone le go ba fa lesedi la go dirisa talente ya bone.

Mokhanselara wa Tutume Botlhaba, Rre Egah Malensi o galaleditse naletsana eo, a supa fa Tutume a le lesego ka go tlotlomadiwa ke dikgantshwane tse di abetsweng ditalente ka go farologana.

Rre Malensi ne a eleletsa Shatho katlego le tswelelopele mo dithutong tsa gagwe. **BOPA**



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Zimbabwe reaffirms gender equality advancement

HARARE - Zimbabwe's participation in the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women is a testament to its unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, a senior government official said Tuesday.

Mavis Sibanda, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, told *Xinhua* in an interview that 'the forum provides a platform for knowledge exchange, enabling Zimbabwe to learn from global best practices in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as to share its own experiences and innovations'.

According to Sibanda, the meeting also presented Zimbabwe with an opportunity to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral partnerships in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

"This renewed global dialogue provides a platform for nations to reaffirm their dedication to implementing the Beijing Declaration and to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 5: Achieve

gender equality and empower all women and girls," she said.

Zimbabwe is represented at the meeting by Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Monica Mutsvangwa.

Sibanda said the minister highlighted the progress Zimbabwe had made over the years, from establishing gender-responsive institutions and policies that promoted women's participation in leadership and decision-making, to investing in women's economic empowerment.

Measures such as expanding education and training opportunities for girls and young women, and promoting women-owned enterprises through dedicated funding mechanisms and entrepreneurial support programs, were also mentioned, she added.

"These measures demonstrate Zimbabwe's commitment to global development frameworks such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5," Sibanda said.

Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Zimbabwe

has made substantial progress in implementing its provisions through policy reforms, institutional frameworks, and gender-sensitive programming, she added.

The global meeting, Sibanda noted, underscored the urgent need for collective international action to close persistent gender gaps and ensured that women were placed at the centre of sustainable development efforts.

"It further highlights the importance of international cooperation in formulating and implementing policies that empower women politically, socially and economically across all regions," she said.

Sibanda added that the global meeting held profound significance as it marked the 30th anniversary of the landmark 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

The conference, she said, laid the groundwork for the global advancement of gender equality and women's rights through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which continues to serve as a key guiding framework for gender equality initiatives worldwide. *Xinhua*



DAR ES SALAAM - A Chinese health expert demonstrating diagnostic techniques for schistosomiasis to Zanzibar health professionals during a training workshop in Tanzania. Chinese health experts are helping Zanzibar to eliminate schistosomiasis through the promotion of Chinese prevention and control standards as well as advanced diagnostic techniques. Wang Wei, the team leader, said the workshop enhanced local health workers' understanding of schistosomiasis control standards and equipped them with diagnostic skills, strengthening the island's capacity in disease surveillance, diagnosis, and prevention. Photo: Xinhua

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Kookilwe vows to inspire change

By Lindi Morwaeng

MOLEPOLOLE – Miss Tourism World finalist Bone Kookilwe has vowed to use her beauty pageant experience and international exposure to project Molepolole village in a positive light.

The 25-year-old beauty queen

who hails from Molepolole recently represented Botswana at the Miss Tourism World 2025 pageant held in China last month where 75 other countries participated.

Speaking during a welcome ceremony held in her honour at Lesimakgosi Ward in Molepolole recently, the reigning Miss

Botswana second princess, said although she did not bring home the Miss Tourism World crown, she returned with a wealth of knowledge and experience which she was eager to share with the youth in her village.

“Molepolole has been trending for the wrong reasons, yet there are so many good things

happening here. Out of 100, at least 70 per cent are positive stories, but we focus too much on the negative 30 per cent. It is time we changed that narrative,” she said.

Her main motivation, she said, was to help reshape perceptions about Molepolole and empower its young people to take pride in their community. Through her pageant experience, she hoped to inspire the youth to use their talents constructively and promote the good that existed within the village.

Representative of the Bencon Youth Foundation, Andrew Kgosiemang, encouraged the youth to take their talents seriously and not to underestimate themselves. “Kookilwe is proof that talent, when nurtured, can take you far,” he said. He urged young people to believe in themselves and use their skills to positively impact the community.

For her part, Kgalemag Magano said her granddaughter’s passion for pageantry was evident from a young age.

“At first, we did not understand her interest in beauty contests, but as she kept winning titles, we realised this was her calling and decided to support her fully,” she said.

Kookilwe, who hails from Difetlhamolelo Ward attended Kealeboga Primary School, Tshegetsang Junior Secondary School and Kgari Sechele Senior Secondary School in Molepolole. She began her pageantry journey at the age of 14 and had since built an impressive record of titles and community work that continued to uplift her village. **BOPA**



Ngami Junior Secondary School Traditional Dance Group from Sehithwa scooped position one in the traditional dance category at the Association of Botswana Schools Performing Arts competitions in Mmopane recently. Photo: Keetile Bontsibokae

School arts competition platform for emerging talent

By Keetile Bontsibokae

MMOPANE - Funding remains a magic spell in growing the arts fraternity and grooming talent.

Following the finals of the Association of Botswana Schools Performing Arts (ABOSPA) competitions in Mmopane recently, president of ABOSPA, Gobuamang Bakwena said the competition catered for choral, theatre, dance, backtrack, marimba and contemporary music.

Bakwena said the finals saw the young and elderly showing their artistic prowess, an effective strategy as it helped the youngsters to gain experience directly from the veterans.

He said ABOSPA’s mandate was to coordinate performing arts activities in all schools;

private and government.

In the choral category, University of Botswana (UB) did not struggle to claim the crown while Gaborone University College (GUC) dazzled the crowd to claim two crowns, for theater and band.

In the backtrack category Antho Ofithile of UB got first position while Regent School from Molepolole scooped the title for marimba category.

Ngami Junior Secondary School from Sehithwa won the traditional dance title after mesmerising the crowd and judges with tsutsube dance.

In poetry category Kutlo Simane of UB walked tall with the crown.

All title holders won P1,500 whereas the second and third placed performers pocketed P1,000 and P750 respectively.

Bakwena said the event was

a success despite most schools failing to attend because of lack funds for meals, transport and other logistics.

The coach for Ngami JSS, Maano Kagiso who is also a Business Studies teacher said lack of funds did not deter them to travel all the way from Sehithwa to Mmopane.

He said personal funding and the school management covered all expenses for the students, adding that it was important to encourage the youth to fully engage in extra curricula activities such as arts, as some would in future use it to improve their livelihoods.

Kagiso pleaded with the business community and other philanthropic individuals to invest more in arts and cultural activities as they could help create income for the performers. **BOPA**

internationally.

After Kookilwe won the Miss Botswana Second Princess title, Phori said she knew she had the potential to shine globally.

“She becomes the ninth young woman we have taken outside the country to compete internationally,” she stated.



Bone Kookilwe

Team doctor key to fight doping

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - The need to have a dedicated team doctor in every sporting code in efforts to fight doping among sportspersons cannot be overstated.

In an interview, Botswana Netball Association (BONA) team doctor, Dr Ariisa Babugura said a significant number of doping cases in Botswana were a direct result of sporting codes lacking dedicated doctors.

Dr Babugura indicated that doctors' specialised knowledge was critical for curbing doping, especially because it continued to be a persistent threat in Botswana sport, with cases frequently registered at crucial times before major competitions.

"Without this specialised guidance, athletes are often mistakenly given medication that contain substances prohibited in competition. This simple error could cost an athlete a fortune, or worse, their career. Therefore, it is essential that more doctors show interest in sport to help curb this trend," he said.

On other issues, Dr Babugura said BONA was looking into incorporating sport science into netball. "This initiative focuses on key areas like players lifestyle and diet," he said. He was confident that embracing science would transform players into a high-performing team that was capable of consistently winning medals and titles for the country.

He noted that Botswana already possessed great talent, with some players being among the best and successfully attracting interest from other teams.

He further said the aim was to perform comprehensive medicals for the netball team and use the resulting data to optimise the team for better performance.

Dr Babugura also highlighted that, elite athletes were unique and should not be treated like the general population, given their distinct physiology and needs.

"The few assessments I have done, have already revealed that players were suffering from a condition that is rarely diagnosed by a normal doctor who doesn't understand the needs of an elite athlete," he said. He gave an example of a netball player who might try to lose weight, yet their specific body weight could actually be beneficial in helping them avoid injuries.

Thus, he cautioned netballers against pursuing an idealised body that was not optimal for their position.

"In their attempt to lose weight, they often resort to dieting. This practice is detrimental because the intense demands of training and national team camps can lead to low energy availability (LEA)," he said. He added that LEA can negatively affect an athlete's menstrual cycle, mood, bone density and immunity and in turn make them susceptible to various illnesses and injuries.

"The best way to prevent this and maintain a healthy weight for performance is not through dieting, but by ensuring the athletes eat more when they are in training," he said.

On the other hand, the National Anti-Doping Coordinating Office (NADCO) anti-doping coordinator, Fred Seno pointed out that the rise in doping cases was a result of a convergence of factors.

Seno said such factors included limited education and awareness and general lack of knowledge among athletes, coaches and support staff, including doctors, about what constituted doping and its health or career consequences.

He added that the increasing number of cases could also be attributed to inadequate anti-doping education programmes.

He also noted misconceptions, as some athletes believed doping was necessary to compete internationally while others succumbed to the pressure to achieve success and high-performance expectations from family, coaches, sponsors and the nation. Furthermore, he said economic and social factors such as poverty and unemployment may push athletes to seek shortcuts to success. Seno also highlighted that limited enforcement capacity, few resources for education, testing, investigations, and results management, also contributed to the doping challenges.

Ultimately, he highlighted that collaboration was at the core of anti-doping and every stakeholder, including athletes, had a vital role to play in combating it.

Nevertheless, he said the recently Anti-Doping Bill, passed in Parliament in August was a significant development in the country's sport sector because it would assist in the establishment of a dedicated National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO), which would be the principal regulatory instrument for anti-doping in the country.

Meanwhile, the Bill was proposed in response to a rise in positive doping cases in sport as well as align the country's anti-doping framework with

international best practices.

It would also ensure functional separation between implementing agencies like the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) and Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC),

which focused on sport development and the anti-doping regulatory authority, in line with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC), to avoid conflicts of interest. The legislation would further provide a strong legal

foundation for anti-doping activities, including testing, investigations, enforcement and education. It would also strengthen the country's efforts to ensure clean sport and safeguard athletes health. **BOPA**



Botswana Netball Association team doctor, Dr Ariisa Babugura (left) and physiotherapist, Major Gabotepele Molefhi during the association's workshop in Gaborone recently. Dr Babugura emphasised the need for more doctors to participate in sports to help curb doping in Botswana, noting that the lack of medical guidance often led athletes to use prohibited substances unknowingly. Photo: Teko Letsholo

Local ballroom dance troupe to compete in South Africa

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - Botswana's arts scene continues to make strides across borders as Moonlight Dance Studio, a local ballroom dance group, prepares to compete in the South African Achiever and National Championships 2025 in Durban.

After seven years of competing locally, winning national championships but unable to fund trips abroad, the talented dancers will finally waltz out of the country to take part in the prestigious contest from December 12 to 13, where they would go up against other African nations.

"This is one of the biggest dance competitions and the final of the year and we are very excited to participate," said Thato Kgweidi, founder and head coach of Moonlight Dance Studio.

Kgweidi said after South Africa, winners in different categories would then move on to compete for a world championship at a host country yet to be announced.

He added that as part of their training, the group of 35 dancers, ranging in age from four to 28 years, often performed at local shows and family functions for exposure.

He added that the team would soon go for a boot camp to boost their confidence and refine their

routines.

"As a coach, I'm confident that we will win this. I'm betting on my group to dazzle the judges this December," he said with confidence.

Kgweidi, who won the Best Youth in Creative Arts award at the Botswana Youth Awards 2022, said since the studio's inception in 2018, the team had experienced steady and beautiful growth.

He expressed hope that sponsors would come on board to help elevate the art of ballroom dancing in Botswana. "Ballroom isn't just dance, it combines health, fitness and fun in a unique way," he added. **BOPA**