

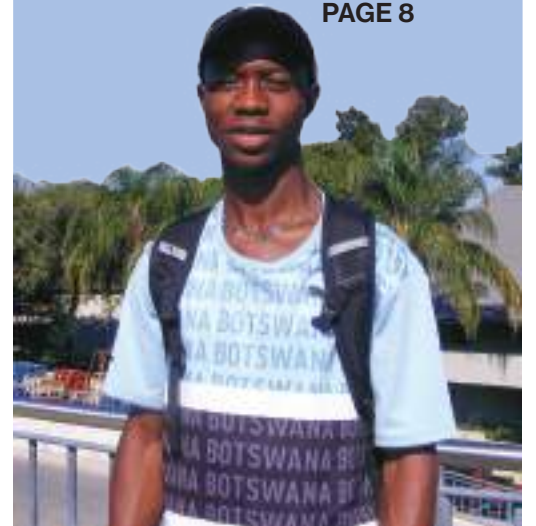
BOTSWANA Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES

Designers showcase statement pieces at pop-up event
PAGE 7



Matakule qualifies for World Athletics U20 Champions
PAGE 8



NEWS

Containment zone to ease FMD restrictions

Page 2

BUSINESS

Council turns to clean energy to unlock revenue

Page 4

DIKGANG

Go tshameka ke tshwanelo ya ngwana

Page 5

First Lady courts Bahumagadi to support Mpepu

“We seek your wisdom on how these priorities can be implemented in ways that are culturally acceptable, community-owned and sustainable. We seek your guidance on what will work in our villages and how traditional leadership structures can be strengthened to support this vision.”

STORY PAGE 3



First Lady Kaone Boko (centre) interacting with members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Mosadi Seboko (second left), Kgosi Sabata Masalila (left), Kgosi Isabella Tshipana (second right) and deputy chairperson, Kgosi Mbao Kahiko III in Gaborone on Monday. Ms Boko said she sought the wisdom and guidance of traditional leaders on how the priorities of the Mpepu initiative could be implemented in ways that were culturally acceptable, community-owned and sustainable. Photo: Pheny Ramatu



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Early child development - official

Mothusi Galekhutle
THEBEPHATSHWA AIR BASE

A nation striving for sustainable development and a knowledge-based economy cannot afford to overlook the importance of early childhood development, Ms Lillian Tshegang, Chief Executive Officer of Bosa Bosele Training College, said during the International Day of Play held recently at Thebephatshwa Air Base.

“Investing in children’s development is the most valuable investment a nation can make. The quality of childhood experiences today will shape the quality of future leadership, innovation, and productivity,” Ms Tshegang told attendees.

She stressed that play was much more than recreation, saying it was one of the most crucial foundations for learning, development, creativity and personal growth. Through play, children discover their identities,

explore the world around them, and build the confidence and resilience needed to face future challenges,” she said. She expressed regret that many children still faced obstacles that limit opportunities for a safe and fulfilling childhood.

“Urbanisation, poverty, violence, unsafe environments, excessive screen time, and limited recreational facilities continue to diminish opportunities for children to learn and grow through play,” she noted. Learn To Play representative, Ms Priyanka Handa Ram described play as one of the earliest ways children experience connection, belonging and love.

“While it serves as a tool for learning, literacy development and school preparation, she said, fundamentally, it is about building relationships. Through play, children engage in essential developmental work: making sense of the world, experimenting with ideas, exploring relationships and discovering their identity,” Ms Handa Ram said.

Citing her experience at Dukwi Refugee Camp, she observed that



Children participating in activities during International Day of Play celebrations hosted by Letlhakeng District at Thebephatshwa Air Base recently. Speakers at the event emphasised that play was more than recreation, describing it as one of the most essential foundations for learning, development, creativity and personal growth. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

children from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds connected through play despite language barriers. Play, she explained, served as a universal language of curiosity, friendship and belonging, which is especially vital for children experiencing uncertainty, disruption or displacement.

“Feeling safe and having a sense of belonging through play are essential prerequisites for children to learn and thrive,” she said. Play fosters resilience, self-control, empathy, problem-solving, communication and the ability to form healthy relationships. Perhaps this is why today’s theme feels so vital: Protect Play, Protect Childhood.”

Letlhakeng Deputy Council Secretary, Dr Delic Sehunwe, added that happy and healthy children are nurtured through play, which was not only enjoyable but fundamental to a child’s development.

“Through play, children nurture their self-identity, learn basic skills, acquire social behaviors and develop emotional management,” Dr Sehunwe said.

Ms Maelagongwe Dintwe, a representative from the Office of the First Lady, said Letlhakeng District has responded positively to

the First Lady’s message during the launch of her Mpepu programme in Takatokwane.

“Her message did not fall on deaf ears,” Ms Dintwe said, describing the district’s efforts as a milestone. She added that the district recognises early childhood development as a valuable investment. **BOPA**



Letlhakeng Deputy Council Secretary, Dr Delic Sehunwe (left) and Bosa Bosele Training College CEO, Ms Lillian Tshegang during International Day of Play recently. Ms Tshegang said the nation could not afford to overlook the importance of early childhood development, particularly at a time when the country was striving for sustainable development and a knowledge-based economy. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

Commission promotes water resource management

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

To build awareness and understanding on why countries must cooperate on shared water resources, the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) is engaging with stakeholders including learners to sensitise them on the importance of transboundary water resource management.

OKACOM, an interstate organisation that manages the Okavango River Basin between Angola, Botswana and Namibia, on Friday engaged with the environmental science club members at Tshwaragano Junior Secondary School to drill them on why cooperation between countries matters and the role of youth in protecting transboundary waters.

The engagement follows a request from the school management to the organisation to facilitate learners on sustainable solutions in addressing environmental challenges in the region as per the newly established Social Studies syllabus which prompt them to be taught on transboundary water resources management.

OKACOM communication and outreach manager, Mr Botsalo Thamuku confirmed the engagement in an interview noting that it also focused on the role that OKACOM played in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB).

“Students are crucial stakeholders with regards to coming up with solutions for sustainable development which will address the challenges within their immediate environment and as such the engagement aimed to cultivate a knowledge seeking culture, information and relevant support which allows impactful actions and a good understanding of the newly established Social Studies syllabus.

With a multiplicity of shared watercourses, which include groundwater in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), he said it was imperative that there was collective and collaboration to water development and management.

Shared vision, he said was critical in ensuring sustainable cooperation on shared watercourses citing that by working in collaboration, SADC could turn scarcity into opportunities for regional solidarity, energy generation and food security.

SADC member states are increasing their cooperation in the water sector in pursuit of regional integration and sustainable management of transboundary water resources for the socio-economic benefit of the citizens.

“Water is critical for all our development initiatives and an important catalyst for development and as such, an enabling environment is critical for success and sustainability of water programmes and should

be maintained and nurtured,” he added.

Mr Thamuku further highlighted that water resources in SADC were seen as an opportunity for cooperation and peace rather than cause for conflict. Instead of fighting for scarce resources, neighbouring countries collaborate through formal river basin organisations (RBOs) to proactively manage shared river systems, thereby ensuring dialogue and preventing potential disputes.

He also acknowledged that OKACOM continued to champion the sustainable management of the CORB which is still one of the last remaining near pristine river basin in the region.

“This resource should be well managed and its ecological integrity conserved with great balance between development and environment protection and conservation,” he said.

Mr Thamuku underscored that at a regional and basin level, interventions should be strategic and add value to ongoing member states initiatives.

However, he said OKACOM mandate required it to investigate and determine long term, safe yield of water available from the river, estimate reasonable demand from consumers, conduct investigations related to water infrastructure and develop measures for alleviation of short-term difficulties such as droughts and floods among others. **BOPA**

Containment zone to ease FMD restrictions

Aobakwe Molefhi
CWAANYANENG

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture expects to ease Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions in Zone II once construction of a 330 km containment fence is completed by the end of June 2026, FMD coordinator Dr Odireleng Thololwane said Saturday.

Speaking on the sidelines of surveillance and vaccination exercises in Cwaanyaneng, Goodhope District, Dr Thololwane said the fence will stretch from Ramotswa to Werda in Kgalagadi. It will run through Mogobane, Kanye, Mmathethe, parts of Banyana Farms and Mashampa ranches, relying heavily on existing drift fences.

“Construction has already started in most areas because the farming community and the public have volunteered to help. We expect the fence to be complete by end of June 2026,” Dr Thololwane said. He stressed that finishing on schedule was critical to stop the disease spreading further. Once complete, Botswana will submit a dossier to international

partners detailing FMD control measures and proof the outbreak is contained.

“With approval from our partners, the ministry will then look into easing restrictions in uninfected parts of Zone II,” he said. Dr Thololwane urged farmers to present livestock for vaccination and ensure animals are tagged with both zonal and owner brands. He also encouraged farmers to bring stray animals for vaccination, warning that unvaccinated strays could reverse progress made.

Currently, vaccinations are underway in Cwaanyaneng, where at least nine animals have shown signs of FMD. Dr Thololwane said some areas in the Southern District had already received two doses and await a third.

He said Banyana Farms would also be vaccinated due to proximity to South Africa, where the disease was first reported.

Meanwhile, Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti and Assistant Minister Motsamai Motsamai are touring the area, addressing kgotla meetings to update residents and farmers on the FMD situation. **BOPA**



Delegates during the inaugural Botswana-Lesotho Bi-National Commission in Gaborone on Monday. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for International Relations, Mr Thuso Ramodimoosi said Botswana Meat Commission and Botswana Vaccine Institute were seeking to strengthen collaboration with their counterparts in Lesotho as the two countries expanded bilateral cooperation. Photo: Washa Bofelwang

BMC and BVI target Lesotho to bolster food security

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) and Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) are seeking to strengthen collaboration with their counterparts in Lesotho as the two countries expand bilateral cooperation aimed at boosting value-added meat processing, animal health and regional food security.

This was said by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Relations, Mr Thuso Ramodimoosi at the inaugural Botswana/Lesotho Bi-National Commission (BNC), on Monday. He said the new framework had identified several strategic areas for cooperation, including agriculture, water management, trade, security

and investment.

One of the commission's aims, he said was to explore opportunities to deepen collaboration in the sustainable management of water resources, harness Lesotho's hydropower potential and support climate-resilient development initiatives.

Mr Ramodimoosi noted that the BNC would also explore practical measures to facilitate commerce, remove trade barriers, stimulate industrialisation and unlock new investment opportunities for the private sector.

He added that the two countries intended to exchange technical expertise and best practices to

promote responsible resource governance, mineral beneficiation and sustainable development.

Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of strengthening defence and security cooperation, saying enhanced collaboration would contribute to regional peace, stability and collective security.

Beyond economic and security matters, Mr Ramodimoosi said there was a need to deepen cooperation in education, gender equality, youth empowerment, tourism, sports, culture, heritage and the creative industries. Such partnerships, he said, would strengthen people-to-people ties, expand opportunities for skills transfer and innovation, and

foster institutional partnerships that would benefit future generations.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary in Lesotho's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Mr Thabang Lekhela, underscored the importance of leveraging the strong relations between the two countries to drive economic empowerment and investment.

Mr Lekhela, who is also the Lesotho delegation, said the longstanding bilateral relationship provided a favourable environment for investors from both countries to expand their business ventures and strengthen economic cooperation.

He said deeper economic engagement would complement

the historical, cultural and linguistic bonds shared by communities in Botswana and Lesotho.

Mr Lekhela identified several sectors with potential for collaboration, highlighting Lesotho's garment manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries as areas where Botswana entrepreneurs could explore investment opportunities.

As the SADC advances its regional industrialisation agenda, he stressed the importance of regular engagement between the business communities of the two countries to maximise opportunities arising from their strong diplomatic and economic relations. **BOPA**

First Lady courts Bahumagadi to support Mpepu

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

First Lady Kaone Boko, has called on Bahumagadi to help tackle challenges facing children, saying their involvement is essential to the success of the Mpepu Programme.

Ms Boko made the appeal while responding to dikgosi after updating the Ntlo Ya Dikgosi on Mpepu initiative.

Derived from the cultural practice of securely carrying a child on the back while a mother works, Mpepu reflects care, protection, responsibility and constant presence. The concept

ensures that a child is never abandoned, never left behind, and always held safely close.

The programme has two strategic pillars: Early Childhood Development and Child Protection.

Under the Early Childhood Development, the focus is on maternal and infant care, nutrition and learning disabilities. While Child Protection focuses on positive parenting, positive masculinity and femininity as well as child-friendly environments.

These priority areas, she said influenced a child's development and future contribution to society, making them essential for securing Botswana's future.

She stressed that the programme's success does not rely on government alone saying it required engagement from

families, communities, traditional leadership, civil society and development partners.

"We seek your wisdom on how these priorities can be implemented in ways that are culturally acceptable, community-owned and sustainable. We seek your guidance on what will work in our villages, and how traditional leadership structures can be strengthened to support this vision," she said.

The First Lady added that the partnership would help shape a Botswana where every child had the opportunity to thrive.

In response, dikgosi applauded the First Lady's focus on children's well-being and urged her to work directly with their spouses; Bahumagadi.

Kgosi Esau Molehele of the Ghanzi region appealed to the

First Lady to include their spouses and collaborate with them on the programme. He suggested the Office of the First Lady to consider establishing village committees involving the spouses of dikgosi to better address challenges children faced.

Kgosi Puso Gaborone of Batlokwa echoed the call, saying the role of their spouses would further enhance Mpepu. He called for building networks across villages to develop the initiative.

Kgosi Gaborone also appealed for social and mental health growth to be incorporated into the programme to build resilient and emotionally available children better equipped to face life challenges in a society increasingly affected by mental health issues. **BOPA**

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Daily Business

Council turns to clean energy to unlock revenue

**Mothusi Galekhutle
LETLHAKENG**

Lethakeng District Council has identified innovative approaches to strengthen its financial base and increase the revenue support grant.

The measures include establishing solar farms in Tshwane to harness clean energy and create long-term economic benefits, as well as commercialising the Malwelwe Agricultural Cluster Farms to unlock agricultural potential and support local farmers.

Addressing a full council meeting on Friday, Lethakeng District Council Chairperson, Mr Gordon Mokgwathi said the strategic initiatives were aimed at generating sustainable revenue while promoting development in the district.

He also mentioned that the council had proposed building a modern commercial center at the Lethakeng Bus Rank, which would provide business opportunities and stimulate local trade. Additionally, Mr Mokgwathi also stated council's plan to outsource the management of the Lethakeng Bus Rank toilets and market stalls to improve service delivery and efficiency.

These planned projects, he said, demonstrated the council's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and community



Lethakeng District Council chairperson, Mr Gordon Mokgwathi (left) and council secretary, Ms Gakelebale Gabatwesepo during a full council meeting recently. Mr Mokgwathi said the council was implementing innovative approaches aimed at generating sustainable revenue while promoting development in the district. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

empowerment. "By implementing these measures, the council aims not only to increase revenue but also create jobs, stimulate local businesses, and enhance the quality of life for residents," he said.

The chairperson urged everyone to embrace the opportunities with determination and unity, ensuring that the council continued to be a catalyst for progress and prosperity.

He also called on the relevant bodies to commit to the successful

execution of the initiatives.

Regarding government's decision to introduce the Child Support Grant (CSG), he reported that the council has reached out to 545 clients. Of these, only 152 had the necessary documents for registration.

Mr Mokgwathi noted that the Departments of Social and Community Development, Education, and Information Technology had launched a campaign to address the issue of the lack of identity documents in

the district.

The Department of Civil and National Registration, he said, had also been involved to complete the collaboration, which would include a key stakeholder and development partner, UNICEF. He noted that this effort would require resources and extensive engagement with village leaders and the wider community.

He called upon councilors and various heads of departments to contribute to the success of the initiative. **BOPA**

Botswana launches national fodder strategy

GABORONE

Botswana on Monday launched a National Fodder Strategy aimed at transforming the nation's agriculture sector, reducing dependency on imported animal

feed, and building climate resilience.

"Feed security is the foundation of a resilient livestock industry for any country. More so for an arid country like ours," Minister of Lands and Agriculture Edwin

Dikoloti said at the unveiling of the strategy in Gaborone.

Dikoloti said the government had set a target to raise agriculture's contribution to the gross domestic product from 2 per cent to between 6 per cent and 10 per cent over

the next five years, and expand the national cattle population to 5 million.

The new strategy, which promotes localised, climate-smart production of fodder crops such as lablab and lucerne, is expected to increase national livestock feed demand by about 103 per cent by 2030, while growing the dairy industry by at least 60 per cent and reducing the dairy import bill by nearly 75 per cent, according to the minister.

Carla Mucavi, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations representative in Botswana, described the strategy as a milestone that reflected Botswana's commitment to transforming its agriculture sector and strengthening the resilience of its agrifood systems.

Mucavi emphasised that in a semi-arid country like Botswana, where rainfall patterns were increasingly unpredictable, the strategy was both timely and strategic.

She noted that fodder security became even more critical in the context of foot-and-mouth disease, which had disrupted livestock movement and constrained trade.

"Strengthening local fodder production, establishing strategic feed reserves, and improving feed systems will help farmers maintain healthy livestock during movement restrictions, reduce distress sales, and enhance the sector's capacity to recover and withstand future shocks," Mucavi said. **Xinhua**



Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations country representative, Ms Carla Mucavi (left), Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti (centre) and Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima during the launch of National Fodder Production Strategy in Gaborone on Monday. Dr Dikoloti said the strategy was designed to address sector challenges by setting a clear vision to build sustainable inclusive and competitive fodder industry. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mozambique approves law to establish national development bank

MAPUTO - President Daniel Chapo of Mozambique has promulgated a law establishing the National Development Bank to promote inclusive and sustainable development by financing strategic projects. According to a statement issued by the presidency on Monday, the bank will be mandated to structure, finance and drive development projects. The law was approved by the Assembly of the Republic in May, following a proposal submitted by the president, which the government said would also help strengthen the country's economic sovereignty. Lawmakers said the new institution would help address financing gaps that have limited investment, particularly for young entrepreneurs seeking to enter sectors such as agriculture. **Xinhua**

Danish pharmaceutical firm expands operations

TIANJIN - Danish pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk announced Monday that it will inject an additional ¥200 million (around US\$29.4 million) into its production base in north China's Tianjin Municipality, expanding drug production and ramping up assembly and manufacturing capacity of its related injection pens. Once completed, the expansion project will further lift the production capacity and supply efficiency of relevant products, to better meet the growing diversified medication demands of the Chinese market, the company said. Located in the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area, the Novo Nordisk Tianjin production site is one of the company's strategic global manufacturing hubs, supplying injection devices and finished pharmaceutical products to China and other markets. **Xinhua**

Fair to boost regional SME cooperation

YAOUNDE - The 10th edition of Yaounde International Business, SME and Partnership Exhibition is aimed at boosting investment and promoting locally made products. Speaking at the opening ceremony on Monday, Cameroon's Minister of Trade Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana said the fair was expected to enhance regional trade cooperation among small and medium enterprises and business service providers, helping exhibitors reach buyers, sourcing professionals and channel providers across Central Africa and broader Africa. Held biennially, the trade fair attracts around 1 000 local and international exhibitors per edition, Mbarga Atangana said. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

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Major Onalethata Kedidimetse wa Botswana Defence Force (molemeng) morago ga go buisa banni ba Donga kwa Francistown, ka go lwantsha kgokgontsho ya bong le mehuta e mengwe ya borukhuthli bosheng. A re mookamedi wa sesole o tlhomile komiti e e akaretsang ba boipelego, baruti le baitseanape ba tsa botsogo jwa tthaloganyo, maikaelelo e le go aga sesha boitsholo jwa masole le go ba fa kemo-nokeng e e ka thusang go hema go amega mo dikgannyeng tsa kgokgontsho le melato e mengwe. Senepe: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Ntwa kgatlhanong le kgokgontsho ya bong e tsweletse

Semakaleng Edward

DONGA

Setshaba le makalana a puso ka go farologana a tsweletse ka maiteko a go lwantsha kgokgontsho ya bong le mehuta e mengwe ya borukhuthli.

Bosheng, Kgosi Thomas Mpenya wa kgaolwana ya Donga kwa Francistown o ne a epa pitso kwa setshaba le ba-nale-seabe ba neng ba kopana go tla ka methale ya go rarabolola go golela pele ga ditiro tsa borukhuthli.

Lengwe la makalana a a neng a tsibogetse pitso eo ke la Botswana Defence Force (BDF), le moemedi wa lone Major Onalethata Kedidimetse a neng a supa fa

kwa sesoleng ba tshwenngwa ke dikgang tse, bogolo jang kgokgontsho ya bong.

O boletse fa ba dira ka natla go itsa go kekela ga kgokgontsho ya bong, a re nngwe kgato e ba e tsereng ke go tlhoma komiti e e gogang kwa tlhogong maiteko a go lwantsha seemo seo.

A re e ne ya re ka Moranang mookamedi wa sesole a tlhoma komiti eo e e akaretsang ba boipelego, baruti le baitseanape ba tsa botsogo jwa tthaloganyo, maikaelelo e le go aga sesha boitsholo jwa masole le go ba fa kemo-nokeng e e ka thusang go hema go amega mo dikgannyeng tsa kgokgontsho le melato e mengwe.

Major Kedidimetse a re go fitlha mo nakong eno komiti e setse e kile ya tshwara dithuto-puisanyo go ruta masole le go ba thusa go ipaakanya.

“Sengwe gape se re se dirang ke go rotloetsa phetogo ya dikakanyo. Re rotloetsa badiri ka rona go ithuta go laola maikutlo, seo e le gore ba tle ba kgone go tshela mmogo sentle le batho ba bangwe,” o ne a tthalosa jalo.

Go tswa kwa go ba sepodisi, Sub Inspector Senoge Masole o ne a ama kgang ya tiriso ya ditagi a re e atile thata segolo jang mo bananeng.

Mme Masole o kaile fa bothata jo bo senya bokamoso jwa bana mme ka jalo go le bothokwa gore go

bo lwantsha go tshwaraganelwe.

O kgothatitse batsadi go nna gaufi le bana ba bone, a supa fa bana bangwe ba ikamanya le ditagi ka batsadi ba a bo ba sa baya matshelo a bone leitlho. O ne a rotloetsa batsadi go nna ba tlhola dikgetsi tsa bana tsa dibuka gore di ka tswa di tshotseng se se sa letleleseng, a re go dira jalo go ka thusa gore go tsibogwe ka

nako fa bana ba tswa mo tseleng Mmaboipelego Mme Bogadi Choose o tthalositse fa go tshwanetse ga nna le ba boipelego kwa dikoleng gore ba kaele bana segolo jang ka e tlhela go tswa mo morafeng.

Mme Chose o ne a re go bothokwa go nna teng ga makalana a a lomaganeng a twantsho tiriso ya ditagi. **BOPA**

Mapodisi a tlhotlhomisa dikgetse tsa dipolao

Aobakwe Molefhi

GOODHOPE

Mapodise a Goodhope a tlhotlhomisa ditiragalo tse di farologanyeng tsa dipolao tse go belaelwang di ama bangwe ba baratani mo kgaolong ya Goodhope-Mmathathe.

Motshwarelela mookamela mapodise a Goodhope, Assistant Superintendent Kenneth Edward o rurufaditse seo a tthalosa fa ba amogetse pego ka mafelo a beke e supa fa rre mongwe wa dingwaga tse masome a mararo le boferabobedi le mokapelo wa gagwe wa dingwaga tse masome a mabedi le bothano ba tlhokile kutlwano mme ba felela ba lwa.

A re bane ba tabogela koo mme ba seka ba bona ope ka gone go supagala fa bobedi joo bone bole mo tseleng bo tswa mo motseng wa Mmathethe goya kwa masimong a Mmalore.

A re ba ne ba ikgata motlhala mo mosong mme ka go tlhoka lesego ba fitlhela bobedi jo bo seo mo botshelong ka go ne go lebeaga fa wa mme yo o tlhologang kwa Magoriapitse a iteilwe ka sengwe mo sefatlhong fa wa rre ene a yo

a ikgapetse botshelo ka go ikaletsa mme ba bapile le losea lwa bone le le nngwe le sa amega.

O supile fa ba ne ba ragosetsa bobedi joo kwa kokolong ga mmogo le losea lwa bone lwa dingwaga tse pedi mme ba bongaka ba supa fa ba setse ba tlhokafetse.

Ass. Superintendent Edward o tthalositse fa losea lo ne lwa tlhatlhoibiwa ke ba bongaka mme lwa busediwa nkukualone, mmagwe motswa setlhabelo wa mme.

O kaile fa moswi wa rre e ne e le modisa kwa masimong a Mmalore mme a tlhologa kwa motseng wa Selokolela mme a supa fa ditlhotlhomiso di tsweletse go batlisisa se se ka tswang se bakile tiragalo eo.

Mo tiragalong e nngwe e e masisi, Ass. Superintendent Edward o tthalositse gape fa ba ne ba amogela pego e supa fa mme wa dingwaga tse masome a mararo le borobabongwe wa Magoriapitse a fitlhetswe mo boidiiding jwa madi ke moagisanyi wa gagwe.

A re moagisanyi o boletse fa a ne a amogela mogala go tswa kwa mokapelong wa mme yoo, yo le ene a tlhologang mo motseng wa

Magoriapitse a mo itsise fa ba tlhokile kutlwisisanyo.

“Moaginsayi a re o ne a ragogela kwa lelwapeng la bone mme a kopantshiwa ke matlhotlhapelo ao mme ka bofefo a re begela mme ra kgona go isa mme yo kwa kokolong kwa a neng a rurufadiwa fa a tlhokafetse’.

Ass. Superintendent Edward a re ka amswabi, ba sepodise ba ne ba fitlhela modiramoloto a seo mme morago a leletsa mongwe gore a bolelele mapodise gore ba ka mmona kae.

Ka lesego, a re ba ne tshwara mmelaelwa mme o ba thusa ka ditlhotlhomiso.

Ramapodise o ikuetse mo setshabeng gore fa ba na le dikgotlhang ba ikuele ko dikgosing, bagolo, ba boipelego gona le go go tsa ditshwetso tse di maswe tsa go bolaana.

E re mapodise a dira ka gotlhe go ruta setshaba ka kgokgontsho ya bong, a re go ngomola pelo gore batho ba bo ba ntse ba tsweletse ka go gapela ba bangwe botshelo le gone go ikgapela botshelo. Le fa go ntse jalo, o boletse fa ba sena go ipona tsapa go tswela ka dithuto tseo. **BOPA**

Go tshameka ke tshwanelo ya ngwana

Cathrine Simane

TSABONG

Motshwarelela mokwaledi wa khansela ya Tsabong, Rre Bothle Scotch o kgothatitse batsadi go neela bana nako ya go tshameka ka jaana e le tshwanelo ya bone e bile go na le seabe se se tona mo kgolong ya bone.

O buile se kwa letsatsing la mafatshefatshe la go tshameka ga bana (International Play Day) le le neng le tshwere bosheng mo Tsabong ka setlhogo se se reng “Sireletsa motshameko, sireletsa bongwana.”

Maikaelelo a letsatsi leo e ne e le go tsibosa setshaba ka bothokwa jwa go golola bana gore ba tshameke.

Letsatsi leo le simolotse go ketekwa ka ngwaga wa 2024 lefatshe ka bophara mo Botswana ka tshwaragano ya ba lekgotla la UNICEF le ba Learn to Play morago ga ditshwetso tsa lekgotla la ditshabatsaba (United Nations General Assembly).

Rre Scotch o tthalositse fa go tshameka go na le seabe mo kgodisong ya ngwana ka go bula tthaloganyo ya gagwe, go mo thusa go akanya le gone go thusa itshidilo mmele.

O supile gape gore go tshameka go ruta ngwana go tshela le ba bangwe le gone go mo thusa go itumela le go rotloetsa boitekanelo jwa maikutlo.

O lebogetse gore letsatsi leo le bo le tshwaretse mo Tsabong e le lwa ntlha mme a solofetsa fa

batla a tswela ka go netefatsa gore dikole tse di kgakala le ditlamelo le ipelela letsatsi leo.

“Dikole ka go farologana di tshwanetse go keteka letsatsi leo e le tselo nngwe ya go le tlotlomsa le go arogana le setshaba bothokwa jwa lone mo baneng,” a tlatla jalo.

Rre Scotch o gwethlile batsadi le bathokomedi ba bana go emisa mokgwa wa go tshamekisa bana ka megala ya lotheka a re bana ba tshwanetse ba tshameka le ba bangwe.

O supile fa lefathse leno le itlamile go gagamatsa tirisanyo mmogo le lekgotla la United Nations tlotlomsa tshwanelo ya bana ya go tshameka a tlatla ka go kopa kemo nokeng ya batsadi go fithelela seo.

Mopalamente wa Kgalagadi borwa, Rre Tokyo Modise o ne a gatelela bothokwa jwa go tshameka ga bana a supa fa seo se ka ba thusa go itshidila le gone go fokotsa go ka tsenwa ke malwetsi.

A re gantsi basetsanyana fa ba gola ba tlhalefa pele ga basimanyana a tlatla ka gore le mo dikoleng tse di potlana ba gaisa ba basimane mo dithutong mme seo se fetoge fa ba tswela le dithuto ka ba basimane ba ntsha tlhogo.

Baithuti ba sekole se se botlana sa Tsabong ga mmogo le ba dikole tsa bananyana (Pre Schools) e ne e le ba tsaya karolo mo letsatsing leo ka jaana ba ne ba natifisa ka metshameko e e farologanyeng. **BOPA**

Kgari Sechele II celebrates excellence

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Hard work, perseverance and commitment to excellence were at the centre of Kgari Sechele II Senior Secondary School celebrations on Friday as the school honoured and recognised outstanding achievements by learners and staff.

Hosted under the theme: Honouring hard work, inspiring continuous growth and shaping future Leaders, the excellence awards ceremony aimed to celebrate and reward students, management, teaching and non-teaching staff following the school's impressive performance in the 2025 Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) examinations.

The school was ranked third nationally and emerged as the top-performing school in the Kweneng District.

Speaking during the event, chief executive officer of Bosa Bosele Training Institute, Ms Lilian Tshegang commended the award recipients and urged them to continue striving for excellence.

"Today, we celebrate excellence, perseverance and achievement. Success does not happen by accident; it is built day by day through determination, discipline, sacrifice and an unwavering

commitment to one's vision," she said.

Ms Tshegang also acknowledged the theme saying it resonated deeply with her personal and professional journey as an educator, attorney, entrepreneur and leader.

Hard work, she said often went unnoticed because it took place when no one was watching while success was not guaranteed noting that talent may open doors, but hard work kept them open.

"Your dedication and sacrifices have brought you to this milestone, and every achievement being celebrated today has been earned."

She also acknowledged the contributions of parents, guardians, teachers, mentors and supporters whose encouragement helped students to reach their goals.

Ms Tshegang encouraged learners to embrace continuous growth noting that today's achievements should serve as a foundation rather than a destination citing that rapid technological advancements and changing industries demanded lifelong learning and adaptability.

The moment people believe they have learned enough, she said they stopped growing and yet growth required humility, curiosity and courage.

She said reminding students that growth was never by mere chance but results from forces working together.

She urged them to invest in education, embrace innovation, seek mentorship and continuously challenge themselves.

Ms Tshegang further challenged students to become leaders driven by purpose rather than power, citing that true leadership was not defined by titles or status but measured by impact and by how many lives were improved.

Recipients were encouraged to use their knowledge to solve problems, create opportunities for others and make meaningful

contributions to society.

Among the top achievers honoured was Walter Tebogo, who obtained 48 points with five A*s, two As and three Bs.

Walter attributed his success to the unwavering support of his mother, Ms Lesedi Tebogo whom he said provided educational resources, emotional support and guidance throughout his academic journey.

He encouraged fellow students to remain focused on their studies and avoid distractions that could hinder their academic progress.

His mother, Ms Tebogo expressed confidence that her

son would continue excelling at tertiary level, where he intended to pursue studies in medicine.

She said that had been consistent in his academic performance as he had been among the top performers from primary up to senior school.

However, 51 students who attained A* were each awarded with P200 by Gaborone University College (GUC), the top ten BGCSE achievers received P300 and certificates from Kebajoy Foundation, while top achievers Walter Tebogo and Christine Rampape received gift packs from Letshego Financial Services in

addition to the P1,000 awards presented by the school.

The school head, Ms Baaitse Kebobone attributed the school's success to unity and collaboration among stakeholders. She thanked parents, students, teachers, the Village Development Committee, Parents Teachers Association, Lekgwapheng Police, Molepolole Prisons and the Botswana Defence Force's Thebephatshwa Air Base, among others, for their support.

Ms Kebobone said the school was determined to improve on its achievements and outclass other schools by attaining position one nationally this year. **BOPA**



Accused police officer, Mosetsanagape Makhura (centre) leaving Broadhurst Magistrate Court after a recent court appearance. She faces two counts of grievous bodily harm and is alleged to have splashed two colleagues with boiling water on their faces in Mogoditshane on June 3. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Court grants police officer bail

Loago Thomas
GABORONE

A female police officer, Mosetsanagape Makhura based at Botswana Police Headquarters in Gaborone who is charged with causing grievous bodily harm for splashing two colleagues with boiling water has been granted bail by the Mogoditshane Magistrate Court.

Appearing before Chief Magistrate Gofaone Morweng recently, Makhura (35) was granted conditional bail, thus ordered to bind herself with P2,000 and provide four Botswana sureties with traceable contact details, binding themselves with the sum of P4,000 each.

Makhura was also ordered to report to Mogoditshane Police Station weekly, not to commit any offence while on bail and not to contact potential state witnesses.

Prior to granting bail, Magistrate Morweng said the court must

balance the interests of justice, the rights of the accused, and the presumption of innocence.

He said the accused place of residence was Mogoditshane Police Camp, worked at Botswana Police Headquarters and the prosecution knew where to find her.

He noted that the prosecution could have balanced its investigations and ascertained what might have prompted the officer to act in such a manner after she had asked for permission to go home, which was denied, and she later absconded.

"You should also be concerned to know if she was in the best state of her mind.

Can a police officer in her right state of mind act like that? Did you investigate why they refused to grant her permission to go home?" he said, adding that such was in the best interest of justice.

According to facts relayed before the court, Makhura, on June 3, 2026, while at work,

requested an early release from shift but her supervisor refused, citing a 15 minutes break policy accorded to officers.

Later, after the break, she is alleged to have not returned to resume her duties, and 45 minutes later, the superior sent two police officers to arrest her at the police camp, upon which she splashed boiling water on the faces of the said officers.

The two officers' sustained injuries, and one has since been discharged from hospital while the second victim suffered severe burns and remains hospitalised.

The accused's attorney, Ms Precious Gwende expressed concern about the handling of the case before bail ruling, saying the police were the investigator, complainant, prosecutor and witness in the matter.

However, Magistrate Morweng overruled the objection, noting that the case was at its initial stage. The case will mention on July 14 for status update. **BOPA**

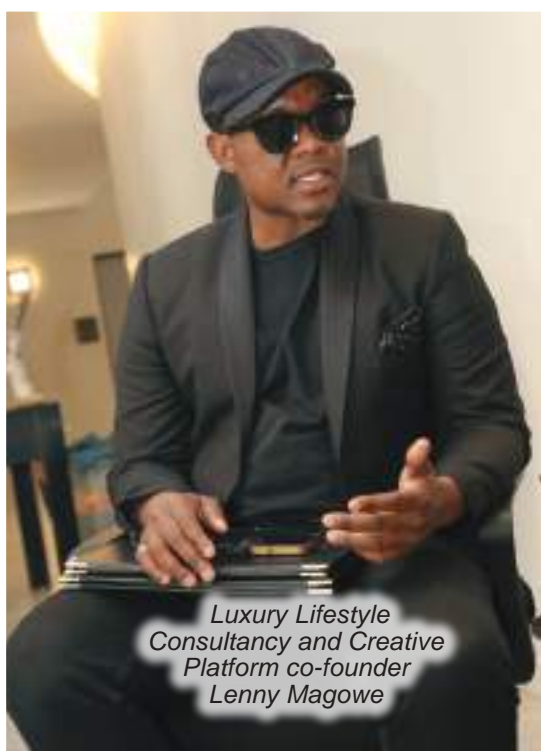


Bosa Bosele Training Institute CEO, Ms Lilian Tshegang during Kgari Sechele II Senior Secondary School excellence awards ceremony in Molepolole recently. She encouraged learners to embrace continuous growth, stressing that their achievements should serve as a foundation for future success.

Arts & Culture



Trudy Bakwena
of Tru'D



Luxury Lifestyle
Consultancy and Creative
Platform co-founder
Lenny Magowe



Sabine Matsheka launched Maru in 2020, and her designs are a ready-to-wear collection.
Photos: Washa Bofelwang

Designers showcase statement pieces at pop-up event

Loago Thomas
GABORONE

The serene atmosphere of Phakalane Golf Estate was on Saturday replaced by ambiance from a fashion pop-up event featuring three of Botswana's most renowned brands, Maru, Tru'D and Diary 34.

The event was hosted by 315, a luxury lifestyle consultancy and creative platform founded by Bakang Palai and led by Lenny Magowe.

Choosing Phakalane was no accident, it is a space frequented by those who value sophistication and quality, an ideal setting for a brand that aims to do more than just showcase clothing.

The lifestyle consultancy platform, 315 is designed to elevate authors and creatives, giving them a refined platform to reach broader, more discerning

audiences.

Among the designers who took centre stage was Trudy Bakwena, the founder of Tru'D, a label she established in 2019.

Her work is rooted in Botswana's cultural heritage, drawing inspiration from the garments worn by previous generations, particularly sackcloth and leather.

For Bakwena, leather is not simply a material; it is a statement of identity and reclamation.

She is deliberate in her mission: to redeem leather as what she considers the original fabric of her people, to reimagine its possibilities and to revive culture through clothing in a way that feels contemporary and relevant.

Her pieces are available both as bespoke commissions and ready-to-wear garments, bridging tradition and modern style in every stitch.

Sabine Matsheka launched Maru in 2020, drawing the name from the Setswana word for cloud.

The inspiration is reflected in every garment, a ready-to-wear collection designed to feel as light and effortless as the sky above. But behind the airy aesthetic lies a far more grounded reality.

Like many small creative entrepreneurs in Botswana, Matsheka has had to navigate a financial landscape that does not

always recognise the value of what she is building.

"Bringing in raw materials is very expensive," she explained "getting funding and loans of that nature from our traditional institutions is not always easy, because we are seen as liabilities."

Despite the obstacles, Maru's trajectory has been remarkable. Last year, the brand competed in Creation Botswana, a pitching competition that forms part of the French government-funded Creation Africa initiative.

Maru claimed first place, walking

away with P100,000 from Bukhara Botswana. Later that same year, the brand added another accolade, winning the Most Impactful Business Award at the Standard Chartered Women in Tech Awards.

The next fashion pop-up is scheduled for June 27. **BOPA**

Shanghai Disneyland celebrates decade of success

SHANGHAI

As Shanghai Disneyland marks its 10th anniversary on Tuesday, the resort is moving forward with several expansion plans, after having welcomed over 100 million guest visits by the end of October 2025.

On Monday, president and general manager of Shanghai Disney Resort, Andrew Bolstein, shared more updates on Shanghai Disneyland's new Spider-Man-themed land, which will be the park's ninth themed land. The last piece of the attraction's iconic red track was recently installed.

Additionally, the resort's third hotel, the Shanghai Disney Enchanted Star Hotel, is set to open this winter.

The park has benefited from the

rapid rise of Shanghai's tourism. It has also created over 15 000 direct jobs in the city.

In 2011, when construction on the Shanghai Disney Resort first began, Shanghai received 230 million domestic visitors and gained tourism revenue of about US\$40.92 billion.

By 2025, those numbers had jumped to 416 million domestic visitors and 566.68 billion yuan in revenue, according to local culture and tourism authorities.

China's surging inbound tourism, fueled by expanding visa-free entry policies, has also noticeably increased attendance at Shanghai Disneyland, especially among visitors from Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Southeast Asian countries.

Thai tourist Aum, who has

visited the park twice, said she was attracted to Shanghai's pleasant weather, reasonable cost and its convenient transportation.

She said the park offered fun rides, a wide range of entertainment and diverse food options.

Since spring, Shanghai Disney Resort has held a series of events to celebrate its 10th anniversary. As the summer holiday approaches, theme parks across Shanghai, including Shanghai Disney Resort, are expected to see an upsurge in visitors.

"We believed we could create something the world had never seen, a place where Disney storytelling met Chinese culture in a way that was genuinely new," said Josh D'Amato, the Walt Disney Company's chief executive officer. **Xinhua**



Regions await request approval

Thamani Shabani
FRANCISTOWN

Although school sports preparations have begun, regions are still waiting for the ministry to approve their equipment requests.

The Ministry of Sport and Arts, alongside that of Child Welfare and Basic Education, officially launched school sports and arts in Lobatse earlier this year, with the primary phase focusing on basic training, physical education, and inter-house competitions.

North East Regional Director of Operations, Labane Mokgosi, said the ministry had instructed regions in early 2025 to submit lists of required sports equipment, including football nets, balls, and kits, much of which was worn out or missing.

“Until now, we have not received any feedback from the parent ministry,” Mokgosi said.

He added that the high volume of requests from schools nationwide was straining government finances. It is also unclear whether the return of school sports will follow the old calendar: athletics in the first term, ball sports in the second, and examinations in the third.

Mokgosi noted that the main reason the government suspended school sports years ago was the high cost of overtime pay linked to extramural activities.

While sports in public schools remain on hold, private institutions have continued their sports programmes uninterrupted. For instance, last week, Mophato Private Primary School held its in-house sports competition in Francistown as part of its ongoing talent development programme

Deputy Principal, Kabelo Maule said sports have always been part of the school’s curriculum.

“That is why private schools continue to hold inter-school competitions annually—to nurture talent among these young athletes,” he said.

Parents and Teacher Association Chairperson, Onnetse Olatotse said Mophato had never stopped athletics or ball sports as child development must be holistic.

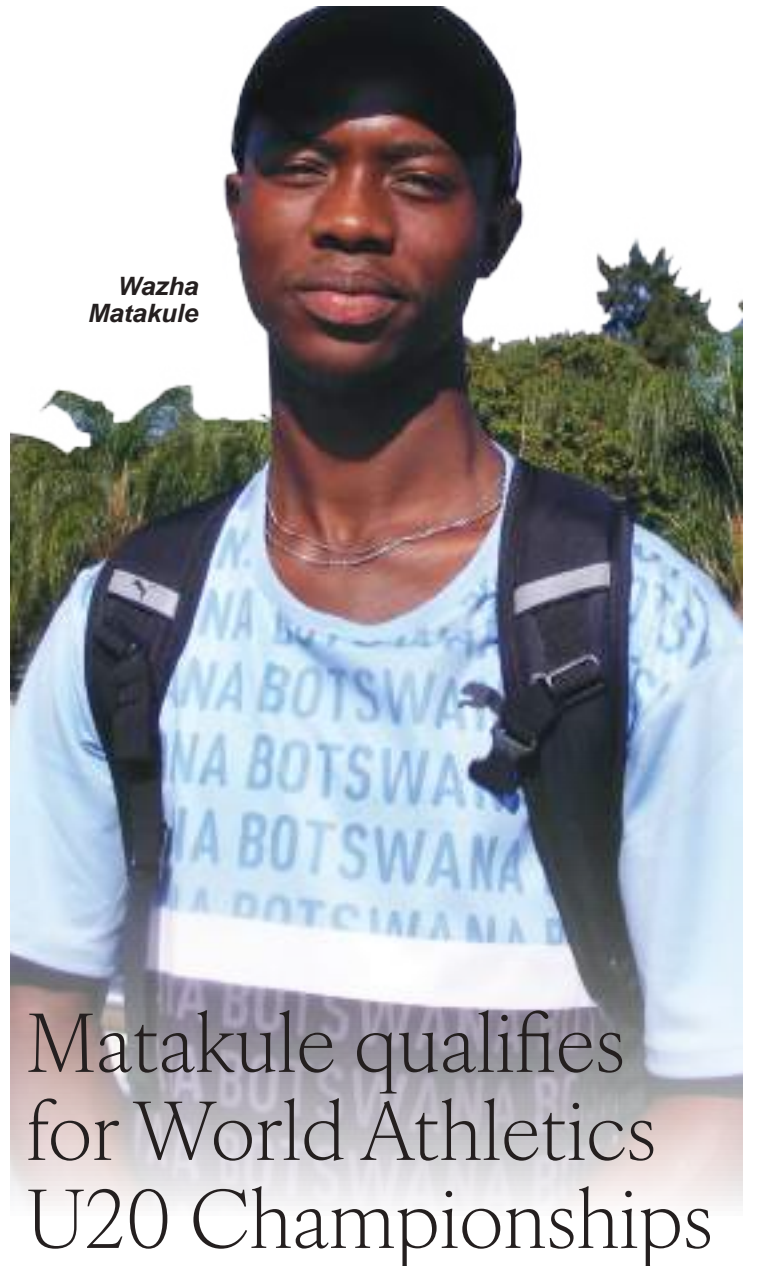
She added that athletics could also support livelihoods, especially for students who were gifted in extracurricular activities.

“A person can make a living from their God-given talent, and these children need to be nurtured so that they can earn from sports, as we see locally and in other countries,” she disclosed. **BOPA**



Mophato Private School Under-12 boys’ Takudzwa Makava clocked 3:07.66 to win 800m race during the school’s Inter-House Athletics Competition in Francistown recently. The event served as preparation for the upcoming Inter-Schools Championships in July and formed part of the school’s ongoing talent development programme.

Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata



Wazha Matakule

Matakule qualifies for World Athletics U20 Championships

Thamani Shabani
FRANCISTOWN

Wazha Matakule of Lions Dean Athletics Club from Gaborone has qualified for the World Athletics U20 Championships during the Sua Pan Athletics Club’s under-18 and under-20 track and field meet held on Saturday.

The vibrant and energetic Matakule put up a spirited fight in the 200-metre race clocking 21.24 beating the qualifying standard of 21.25.

His coach, Nico Manyepedza, said Matakule’s qualification marked strong progress, more so that he had already secured a 100-metre qualifying time of 10.49 at the just ended Southern Africa Confederation of Athletic Associations (SACA) Championships held in Mauritius on June 6.

Both times meet the entry standard for the World Athletics U20 Championships set for Eugene, Oregon, United States of America from August 4 to 9, 2026.

However, Lions Dean Athletics Club dominated the Sua Pan meet, taking first and

second places in several final races while Tati Athletics Club was strongest in the runner-up positions.

In the under-18 women’s 100m final, Leo Kgakole of Lions Dean opened a clear gap to win and Game Oneile of Tati Athletics also displayed an impressive performance.

In the men’s Under 18, Botlhe Maphane of Isaac Makwala Athletics Club finished in position one with a time of 11.28 in 100m, just outside his personal best of 11.25. Prince Ngubevana of Lefika Athletics Club clocked 11.59 also against a personal best of 11.30.

Sua Pan Athletics Club secretary, Gaone Masugae said the meet went ahead despite a low turnout caused by short notice and financial delays.

The event, she said aimed to select athletes for both the World Athletics U20 Championships billed for the USA and the Youth Competitions to be held Mozambique in December 2026.

The meet also attracted members of the national women’s 400m squad which is preparing for Commonwealth Games competition. **BOPA**

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