

BOTSWANA

Daily News

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Duo enhances bilateral cooperation



President Advocate Duma Boko (second right) welcoming Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik of the Sultanate of Oman (left) at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport for a two-day state visit yesterday. The visit is expected to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Botswana and Oman, with the two countries set to sign agreements covering political consultations, investment promotion, commerce and industry, air services, visa exemption, health cooperation and mining exploration. While in the country, the Sultan is expected to also tour the Diamond Trading Centre Botswana to appreciate the country's diamond industry and explore opportunities for cooperation in beneficiation and value addition. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

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Illegal land occupation puts development at risk

Kabo Keaketswe
LET LHAKANE

Illegal occupation of land in Letlhakane remains a concern as it undermines systematic planning and Infrastructure development. This was said by Boteti District Council chairperson Mr Onkhoparetse Monnaatsie at the

opening of a full council session on Monday. “We must address both the problem and its underlying pressures through effective enforcement, accelerated planning, increased serviced land and stronger stakeholder collaboration, while recognising the legitimate development needs

of our communities,” he said. Land administration, the council chairperson alluded that it remained a critical development issue for Boteti. Mr Monnaatsie emphasised that while limited plots remained available at Letlhakane’s Phase III with 170, Mopipi 792 and Mokoboxane 264, Letlhakane

Sub Landboard faced a substantial waiting list of approximately 35 917 applications. This, he said reflected the growing development pressure in the district, as land was fundamental to housing, business, investment, infrastructure and industrial development. Mr Monnaatsie said there was need for continued collaboration among council, the sub landboard, traditional leadership and communities to accelerate appropriate planning and lawful access to land. On other issues, the council chairperson spoke of waste management as a critical environmental, public health and economic priority for the district. He said the district was therefore accelerating efforts to strengthen partnerships with investors and

other stakeholders to improve waste management across Boteti. Mr Monnaatsie also encouraged relevant authorities and the public to increasingly explore opportunities in recycling, resource recovery, reuse, waste-to-value initiatives and enterprise development, turning waste management into an economic opportunity. “A clean Boteti is not merely an environmental aspiration, it was also vital for public health, tourism, investment and economic development,” said Mr Monnaatsie. He also highlighted that the district’s monthly clean-up campaigns had significantly improved the cleanliness and appearance of villages, while promoting public health, environmental awareness and civic pride. **BOPA**

Use of alternative identification to offer relief

Relief Lephutshi
KANYE

Owing to challenges relating to issuance of National Identity (Oman) cards, citizens are permitted to use a valid Botswana Passport or Driver’s Licence as a primary form of identification. Addressing a full council meeting on Monday, Kanye Council Chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgosithebe however said the move would require confirmation that Oman replacement was underway. He said the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs through the Department of Civil and National Registration had since the beginning of the year experienced production delays which slowed issuance of National Identity Cards. He said the situation was attributed to capacity constraints of the available personnel and old production equipment with frequent breakdowns. Mr Kgosithebe said to lessen the impact of the delays on members of the public, stakeholders had been informed of the recent changes to the National Registration Act of 2025. He said the key highlights of the amendment piece of legislation had stopped the rigid mandatory provision, where National Identity Card was the only legal form of primary identification used by citizens, allowing the use a valid Botswana Passport or Driver’s



Owing to challenges relating to issuance of National Identity (Oman) cards, citizens are permitted to use a valid Botswana Passport or Driver’s Licence as a primary form of identification.

License as primary identification, where they were deemed necessary or while awaiting the issuance of their identity card. “In addition, clients with urgent or pressing needs are issued with verification letters by the department and the letters may be presented to institutions or organisations that require proof of identity pending the production of the client’s national identity card,” he said. Additionally, Mr Kgosithebe said the revised service fees were that, Oman renewal and change of particulars would cost P10, while the duplicate identity card not done under negligence would

be P10. He said citizens requesting for a duplicate card, established to have been damaged or lost under negligence will part ways with P200, while late card renewal would attract P10 cost per month levied at 30 days after the expiry date up to a maximum of P200. Furthermore, those who would collect their cards beyond communicated dates would be required to pay P10 levied after 180 days from date of issuance up to a maximum of P200. He said confirmation fee will be P5 and first time applications remains free. The fees came into effect July 1, 2026. **BOPA**

Five councils turn to resource sharing for delivery

Keamogetse Setilo
SEROWE

There is hope that the newly formed BOSELE-TSEPAMA Regional Block will attain maximum productivity and prosperity through resource sharing and collaborative efforts among its five member councils. The regional block which comprises Bobirwa, Serowe, Selibe Phikwe, Palapye and Mahalapye, has been established as a strategic response to service delivery challenges and limited resources faced by local authorities. Its chairperson, who is also Selebi Phikwe mayor, Mr Oageng Makgosa, explained that the formation of BOSELE-TSEPAMA was a stepping stone towards attaining inclusive and sustainable development, industrialisation, investment drive, and overall capital creation for all members. Mr Makgosa who was addressing the Serowe District Council meeting recently, said the block was envisioned to break down barriers that had historically led to duplicated projects and inefficient use of public resources. He added that, working in silos resulted in inefficiency and average productivity while collaboration, with pooled strengths would ensure that no council was left behind. Mr Makgosa gave a practical example from the primary health sector to illustrate how the model could work. “If Serowe District was down to three ambulances and was struggling with referrals and timely emergency service provision, while Selebi Phikwe had 10 working ambulances, Serowe could then be loaned an ambulance. This would ensure that patients did not suffer and that service provision did not have any lapses,” he said. The same principle can be applied to heavy machinery, specialist personnel, and even expertise in project management. Mr Makgosa stated that, the block served as a gateway to ensuring that resources were available to all members with the goal of maximum output with minimum waste, an announcement that was met with optimism by

councilors, who described the block as a timely intervention. Manonnye Ward councilor, Mr Baikokobetsi Lorato, said the initiative was a welcome development that would address current resource gaps. He said resource sharing would relieve councils that were currently short of some critical resources and also hoped that the move would expedite commercialisation of council projects and accelerate service delivery to communities. He noted that collaboration would further open doors for trade and investment in the local communities of all member councils, by harnessing the strength of unity with a common goal of prosperity, which would in essence attract investors who want to work with a bigger, more stable regional market. However, some councilors stressed the need for proper governance structures. Moiyabana Ward councilor, Mr Christopher Ramasimong, lauded the development but called for transparency and regular evaluation. “For us to give full backing and adoption to this movement, information sharing and updates must be availed to all members of the concerned councils. We need to know what is being signed off on, with whom, and for what purpose,” said Mr Ramasimong. Patikwane / Mabeleapudi Ward councilor, Mr Nametso Senku, cautioned against possible duplication of efforts between individual councils and the regional block. He proposed that the block undertake asset verification and assessments before any resource sharing took place. He furthermore said that an evaluatory setup to ensure that launched projects were viable and operational was needed. Mr Senku warned that without proper planning, the block risked replicating projects that looked good on paper, launching them but not following through with them and also replicating projects that were already being undertaken by member councils. Doing so he said, would ensure that efforts and public funds were not wasted. **BOPA**

Irrigation project promotes water-smart farming

Tshiamiso Mosetlha
MOIYABANA

In the face of growing water scarcity and the need for more sustainable farming practices, drip irrigation stands out as a game-changing solution for agricultural production. Therefore, farmers and community members have been encouraged to take interest in the drip and sprinkler irrigation system for water conservation. Giving a keynote address at the handing over of Mothamo JSS irrigation demonstration project to the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education at Moiyabana on recently, Tlou Energy HSE Coordinator and Community Liaison Officer, Mr Kelebogile Moathodi said an efficient irrigation system conserved water by delivering precise moisture directly to plant roots, reducing waste from evaporation, runoff, and over-spray. He said drip and sprinkler irrigation preserved water by delivering moisture efficiently compared to flood or

furrow watering method. Mr Moathodi said farming should not be viewed as a part time career, but as an important part of the future, noting that the knowledge and skills students gained through the projects could assist them provide for their families, create jobs and contribute to the country’s development. He said the objective of the project was to establish an integrated irrigation and water conservation demonstration system that improved water use efficiency, cuts operational cost, support agricultural productivity and enhance practical learning at the school and community level. “Let this project become an important part of teaching and learning. Connect what students learn in the classroom with what happens in the field, encourage practical learning, innovation and problem solving. Let students experiment, make mistakes, learn from those mistakes and improve”. Mr Moathodi further appealed to school management, teachers, students, the project committee,

community leadership, parents and agricultural extension personnel to have a role to play in keeping the project functional and productive. Mothamo JSS, school head, Mr Brits Motlogelwa who is also the chairperson of Village Extension Team (VET) in Moiyabana said he came with the idea as a way to improve academic performance at his school, which had consistently recorded poor results and high dropouts rate. He indicated that school results improved when learning connects abstract classroom concepts to real world, hands on problem solving. He said farming naturally applied maths, biology, chemistry, economics and arts, adding that group projects built teamwork, responsibility and leadership. Drip irrigation is not just a farming technique, it is a sustainable solution to the challenges of modern agriculture. By offering precise water and nutrient delivery, it reduces water usage, enhances crop yields, and protects the environment and reduces the cost of water bills at his school. **BOPA**

Botswana and Turkey aim to deepen trade relations

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

Botswana and Türkiye remain committed to expanding bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation.

President Advocate Duma Boko said this during a farewell courtesy call by the outgoing Ambassador of Turkey to Botswana, Mr Ahmet Idem Akay, whom he applauded for a successful tour of duty and urged to continue promoting Botswana's interests.

"Thank you very much for

serving here, for strengthening the relationship, which began in 1981," President Boko said.

He said the decision to establish a resident mission in Türkiye was commendable and a testament to Botswana's commitment to deepening relations, attracting investors and creating opportunities for Batswana. President Boko noted that trade between the two countries had steadily grown over the years, although imports from Türkiye constituted the bulk of trade, while Botswana's exports accounted for a small percentage.

"We look forward to strengthening this relationship, to ensuring that the volume of trade grows exponentially, because it is important for us to cement and deepen this relationship," he said.

President Boko said Botswana had gained significantly from the quality and strength of its relations with Türkiye, resulting in increased interest from Turkish businesses seeking investment opportunities in Botswana, particularly in mining, energy and other sectors.

He also expressed hope for the establishment of a Turkish airline route to Botswana, saying it would improve movement and interpersonal connections while further strengthening relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Akay commended the 45 years of bilateral relations between Botswana and Türkiye and applauded the Government and people of Botswana for their strong commitment to democracy.

He further applauded Botswana's plan to open a diplomatic mission in Türkiye, describing it as one of the milestones of his tenure. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and outgoing Türkiye Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Ahmet Idem Akay during a farewell courtesy call at the Office of the President on Tuesday. President Boko said trade between the two countries had steadily grown over the years, although imports from Türkiye continued to account for the bulk of bilateral trade, with Botswana's exports constituting a smaller share. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

CAAB proposes increase in aviation fees and charges

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

The Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) has proposed an increase and introduction of aviation fees and charges to strengthen revenue generation and ensure continued provision of safe, secure and efficient aviation services.

Speaking during a stakeholder engagement in Maun, CAAB Air Navigation Services director, Mr Colonel Moampe, said the engagement was intended to share insights on the proposed revision of aeronautical fees and charges as well as address stakeholders' concerns.

It was also set to explain how the revised framework could support Botswana's connectivity, tourism and economic development.

"This engagement forms part of CAAB's commitment to transparency and consultation with stakeholders in the aviation and tourism sectors," he said.

With the changes in aviation environment, Mr Moampe said the cost of maintaining aviation infrastructure had increased, technology evolved and international regulatory obligations becoming more demanding hence the proposed increase in charges.

He said that the additional revenue was therefore, required to maintain infrastructure and systems, retain specialised personnel, keep pace with technological developments and ensure compliance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards and other international obligations.

"The review is not simply

increasing revenue but ensuring that the aviation sector has the resources required to maintain a safe, reliable and resilient aviation system," said Mr Moampe.

CAAB's Aviation Navigation Services Operations manager, Mr Oabitsa Molefi, stated that the charges would cover costs associated with fuel-spill containment, environmental protection, hazardous-material management, emergency deployment and clean-up.

He also said that the fees would cover technical evaluation and inspection of proposed obstacle sites, including towers, masts and other structures that could affect aviation safety and obstacle limitation surfaces.

Proposed charges include fuel spill response ranging from P1 500 for spills up to one square metre, P3 500 for one to three square metres and P7 000 for three to six square metres, with an additional P1 000 per square metre above six metres.

Under aerodrome, obstacle and inspection fees, CAAB has proposed a charge of P1 484 for inspection of obstacle establishment sites and P5 068 for inspection upon completion of works for established towers and masts.

A non-refundable P50 000 application fee for an air show permit has also been proposed, which the authority said reflected the operational complexity and regulatory oversight required for air shows.

Wilderness Air - Botswana quality manager, Mr Thabo Mogale, said the proposed increase in charges would negatively affect operators who were already facing challenges relating to service delivery from CAAB.

Mr Mogale said the increases in aviation related costs required careful consideration because they could affect operator's costs and ultimately the viability and competitiveness of aviation operations.

He further suggested that CAAB explore alternative revenue generating opportunities, including introduction of parking fees and other measures to strengthen its revenue base without placing additional pressure on operators.

The stakeholder engagement forms part of CAAB's consultation with industry players on the proposed revision of its aeronautical fees and charges. **BOPA**

Strong judiciary essential for human rights protection

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

Strengthening the country's judiciary system is of paramount importance in fostering a human rights culture and advancing human rights jurisprudence, President Advocate Duma Boko has said.

Speaking during a courtesy call with Clermont Group chairperson, Mr Richard Chandler on Tuesday, President Boko emphasised that a robust judicial system was essential for holding government accountable and protecting the rights and liberties of citizens.

The President said the judiciary was a critical pillar within the broader framework of the rule of law.

He noted that recent forensic audits had revealed systemic failures and shortcomings, hence the need to upgrade judicial institutions to ensure that they were fully equipped to act.

"The institutions that must undertake those actions on the forensics audit must be competent to do so. They must have the

requisite skills, capabilities and integrity to undertake the kind of work that has to be undertaken to snuff out corruption entirely," he said.

He added that civil service reform was equally vital, noting that much of the corruption stemmed from institutional laxity or lack of awareness regarding the gravity of certain administrative decisions, hence the need to tackle issues of corruption head-on.

The President commended Clermont Group for its ongoing support in strengthening judicial capabilities, reinforcing the rule of law, enhancing the nation's legislative drafting framework and assisting the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC).

"We appreciate your collaboration with our teams in reviewing, strengthening and improving our legislation to ensure that it serves its purpose effectively.

We look forward to more cooperation, more assistance and more hand-holding in certain respects in many of these areas. We have declared ourselves to be

a human rights-based system and this has placed many challenges on us," he said.

For his part, Mr Chandler emphasised the group's commitment to partnering with government to uplift livelihoods. He noted that government had a unique position in providing moral, spiritual, economic and social leadership to the nation.

To that end, Mr Chandler observed that effective governance was about releasing the creative potential of individuals, communities and marketplaces for the public good.

He highlighted the importance of developing a capable civil service, robust government architecture and infrastructure as well as streamlined systems and processes designed to nurture the potential of every citizen.

Mr Chandler stated that the Chandler Governance Group was well-equipped with a broad set of skills and competencies to support government in achieving its vision for a strong and prosperous Botswana. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and Clermont Group chairperson, Mr Richard Chandler during a courtesy call at the Office of the President on Tuesday. President Boko said a robust judicial system was essential for holding government accountable and protecting the rights and liberties of citizens. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

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DailyBusiness

Bush encroachment threatens agriculture

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Bush encroachment and declining rangeland conditions remain significant threats to livestock production and community livelihoods in the North West District.

The loss of productive grazing areas reduces the availability of quality forage and increases pressure on remaining grazing resources

and If left unaddressed, this trend threatens to undermine the long-term viability of communal livestock production.

The North West District Council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebitseng, highlighted these challenges on Monday during the opening of a full council meeting.

He welcomed and endorsed the implementation of the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Mitigation in Botswana's Communal Rangelands

Project, which is facilitated by Conservation International.

The project operates in conjunction with the Herding for Health (H4H) model, providing a practical approach to improving rangeland management and livestock production.

Mr Kelebitseng noted that the model had the potential to rejuvenate rangeland conditions while strengthening livestock productivity and community livelihoods.

Currently, the programme is being

implemented in Phuduhudu, where 242 cattle belonging to 30 voluntary farmers have been enrolled.

Additionally, 10 Eco-Rangers have been hired to support the initiative, and community members have received training in animal husbandry.

"A significant step is now underway in Sehithwa, where community engagements are commencing to facilitate the rollout of the program. The emphasis will be on ensuring that communities are not merely beneficiaries of the program but are active participants in determining how their communal grazing lands are managed," he added.

Following the work in Sehithwa, Mr Kelebitseng stated that Shorobe would be the next target area for community engagement and the subsequent rollout of the H4H approach.

This phased strategy will allow lessons learned from initial implementation zones to inform future interventions, thereby strengthening the overall program.

He implored fellow councillors, traditional leaders, farmers, and communities at large to actively support and participate in the H4H process.

He emphasised that the success of the programme depended on community ownership, practical implementation, and a collective commitment to managing rangelands as a shared, valuable resource for present and future generations.

On others, Kelebitseng highlighted that the livestock sector continued to demonstrate significant economic potential, noting that between April and July 2026, a total of 10 260 cattle were slaughtered at the Maun export abattoir.

During the same period, 184,207.80 kilogrammes of beef were exported to the Democratic Republic of Congo, while 252,802.10 kilogrammes were supplied to green zones, including Gaborone, Francistown, and other areas.

The remaining beef was consumed within the local markets of Maun and Kasane.

Furthermore, Mr Kelebitseng praised the ongoing training of farmers in seed production and the promotion of drought-tolerant, open-pollinated crop varieties.

During the period under review, a total of 107 farmers were trained in seed production, with 69 trained in Sehithwa and 38 in Maun. The training was undertaken in collaboration with the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB), Cross Corn, and AF-AFRI.

He also commended the capacitation of 191 farmers on Integrated Pest Management through farmers' meetings, training sessions, and practical demonstrations in areas such as Legothwana, Tsanakona, Chanoga, Gogomoga, Kareng, Sehithwa, and Tsau. Mr Kelebitseng noted that such interventions are vital because farmers need practical knowledge to manage pests and diseases effectively to protect their crops and livelihoods.

He further stressed the critical need for a reliable road network, noting that robust infrastructure was essential to support agriculture, tourism, trade, education, health services, emergency response, and access to key markets. **BOPA**



Botswana Power Corporation CEO, Mr Davd Kgoboko (centre), board chairperson, Prof. Oboetswe Motsamai (right) and other dignitaries celebrating the launch of the 2026-2031 corporate strategy, Atlega in Gaborone on Tuesday. He said Atlega was intended to position BPC as a safer, stronger, more resilient and financially sustainable organisation capable of supporting Botswana's economic transformation and industrialisation agenda. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

BPC targets P25 billion revenue under new strategy

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) is targeting an increase in revenue from approximately P9 billion to P25 billion under its 2026-2031 corporate strategy, Atlega, as it seeks to build a financially resilient and regionally competitive energy organisation.

The new energy surge strategy outlines revenue diversification, expansion of renewable energy and pursuit of new business opportunities as key measures towards achieving the ambitious target.

BPC Strategist and Transformation Manager, Mr Onkgopotse Ramohube, said the strategy was designed to respond to a rapidly changing energy environment and transform the corporation into an innovative, sustainable and future-ready organisation.

The strategy also seeks to strengthen BPC's position in the regional power market, with the corporation aspiring to move beyond its traditional reliance on electricity imports and eventually participate more actively in regional energy trading.

According to Mr Ramohube, strengthening domestic generation capacity and grid reliability, alongside increased renewable energy contribution, could enhance

Botswana's energy security while creating opportunities for regional power exports.

BPC Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Kgoboko, said the corporation had made significant progress under its previous five-year strategy, Maduo 26, particularly in improving the performance of its generation assets.

He said BPC met 67 per cent of the country's electricity requirements from its own generation assets during the previous year, while the figure increased to 86 per cent in the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year.

The improvement, he said, had reduced costly electricity imports, strengthened energy security and eased pressure on the corporation's finances. BPC has also increased its contribution to renewable energy, with 209 megawatts of utility-scale renewable energy now connected to the national grid.

The corporation has further expanded its rooftop solar programme from 40MW to 75MW, with approximately 30MW already installed and operational.

Mr Kgoboko said BPC was working towards a 50/50 energy mix by 2030, while encouraging customers to consider rooftop solar as part of efforts to reduce electricity costs.

Despite the progress, Mr Kgoboko acknowledged that financial

sustainability had not reached the level originally envisaged under the Maduo 26 strategy, making financial resilience one of the key priorities of Atlega. The 2026-2031 strategy therefore places emphasis on financial discipline, efficiency, resource optimisation and revenue diversification, while exploring new energy solutions, partnerships and commercial opportunities.

Beyond financial performance, the strategy identifies five key areas of focus: building an execution-focused and digitally enabled organisation, delivering a reliable electricity grid, achieving zero harm, establishing BPC as a regional power market leader and ensuring financial resilience.

The new Atlega strategy builds on gains made under Maduo 26, including improvements in workplace safety and environmental management.

BPC achieved ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 certifications for the first time in its history, reflecting its efforts to strengthen environmental and occupational health and safety standards.

Atlega, he said, was intended to position BPC as a safer, stronger, more resilient and financially sustainable organisation capable of supporting Botswana's economic transformation and industrialisation agenda. **BOPA**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Regional markets turn farms into export powerhouses

HARARE - Zimbabwe's horticultural exports reached a reported US\$181.7 million in 2025, surpassing the previous peak of US\$140 million recorded in 1999. Blueberries, avocados, citrus and sugar snap peas have helped drive the sector's recovery. Zimbabwe's assumption of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) chairmanship in October provides a platform to pursue the connection of products to reliable buyers, efficient transport and competitive regional value chains. The country will host the 25th COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit in Harare from October 19 to 22, taking over the rotating chairmanship from Kenya. The chairmanship of COMESA will put Zimbabwe at the centre of regional discussions on trade, investment and industrialisation. *New Ziana*

Zimbabwe railways commissions 100 wagons

BULAWAYO - The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) will today, at the Harare Station, commission 100 refurbished wagons and three locomotives under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with ferrochrome producer Zimasco, in a development expected to boost the freight-carrying capacity of the parastatal. In a statement on Monday, the NRZ said the rolling stock had been refurbished through funding provided by Zimasco for the procurement of critical spares and consumables. The NRZ has increasingly turned to PPP arrangements with its customers as one way of restoring equipment to service. The government and the NRZ have consequently been pursuing partnerships and other funding mechanisms to rehabilitate the rail network and increase its ability to support mining, manufacturing and other sectors of the economy. The latest Zimasco arrangement adds to those efforts, with the 100 wagons and three locomotives expected to provide dedicated capacity for mineral transportation, while demonstrating the potential of customer-funded partnerships to complement broader NRZ recapitalisation efforts. *New Ziana*

Airbus delivers first aircraft from new assembly line

TIANJIN - Airbus yesterday delivered the first aircraft assembled at its new Final Assembly Line (FAL) for A320 family aircraft in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin, the second of its kind in both China and Asia. The delivery represents a major milestone in Airbus' industrial footprint expansion in China and across its global industrial system, the company said. Currently operating the largest Airbus fleet in mainland China, China Eastern Airlines first took delivery of an A310, China's first Airbus aircraft in 1985. China, the country with the largest air-travel population, is Airbus' largest single-country market for civil aircraft. Airbus said its fleet share in China has risen from about 20 per cent in 2008 to more than 50 per cent today. According to Airbus' latest Global Market Forecast, China's demand for new passenger aircraft is expected to reach 8,830 units over the next two decades, accounting for more than 20 per cent of the estimated global total of 42 060 units. *Xinhua*

Dikgang

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Ba Sesung ba ipelela peo ya kgosi

Relief Lephutshi
SESUNG

Morafe wa Sesung, e ne ya re bosheng, wa kokoanela kwa kgotleng go ipelela peo ya ga Kgosi lebang Dinake.

Kgosi Dinake, yo o neng a rolelwa morafe Ke Moemela Kgosi yo Mogolwane mo Kgotleng kgolo ya Bagwaketse, Kgosi Kwelagobe Mookodi ngwaga o o fetileng, o tlhatlhama mogolowe e bong Kgosi Basimanyana Dinake yo o tlogetseng tiro ka bogodi.

Fa a ntsha la gagwe Kgosi Mookodi o tlhalositse fa tlhologo ya lefatshe la Botswana e supile fa magosi a lefatshe leno e le one a itseng motheo wa lefatshe jaaka fa magosi a mararo; Kgosi Bathoen I, Khama III, Sechele I ba ne ba tsaya loeto go ya England go kopela lefatshe la Botswana go ipusa.

Kgosi Mookodi a re kgato e magosi a mararo a neng a e tsaya e supile tlhwaafalo ya bogosi mo pusong ya lefatshe.

O supile fa bogosi ka tlhago bo tsamaya ka thomagano a ba a kaya go tlhomagana ga magosi a motse wa Sesung go tswa ka Kgosi Rantana-a Dinake-a Mosimaneotshosa e leng Rraagwe Kgosi Basimanyana le Lebang Dinake.

Go ya ka Kgosi Mookodi, Kgosi Rantana Dinake o ne a le mo pusong ya ga Kgosi Bathoen II, Kgosi Basimanyana Dinake ene a le mo pusong ya ga Kgosi Seepapitso IV fa Kgosi Lebang Dinake a le mo pusong ya ga Kgosi Malope II.

A re kokomana ya ga Rantana Dinake e tlaa sala ka kitso ya gore fa Moeteledipele wa pele wa Sesung, Kgosi Mathiba fa a isiwa kwa motseng wa Mmathethe go ne ga sala motsadi yo ka nako eo e neng e le Rre Rantana Dinake (Mosimaneotshosa) e le moeteledipele wa motse wa Sesung.

A re ka jalo ke sone e e rileng Kgosi Dinake a hulara ga tsena morwae, e bong Basimanyana Dinake.

O tlhaloseditse Kgosi Dinake gore fa a kopane le bagolo mo bogosing, o tla a bo a na le bokaedi jwa motia jo bo tlaa a mo tiisang go busa ka manontlhotlo le ka kemonokeng.

O gakolotse Kgosi Dinake fa a tlaa tshwara ditsheko tsa morafe e seng go o letlanya mme a mo rotloetsa go tsibogela dibuka tsa melao, gore Kgosi a inakanye le go di tlhodumela go nna malala a laotswe go lebagana le dikgetsi ka go farologana mo lekgotleng.

O ne a gatelela bothokwa jwa go nna teng ga bo-rangwanaa-kgosi a re ke bone ditlhomese le mapako fa Kgosi e le pinagare. O tladitse ka gore bo Rralekgotla le bone ba tlaa thusa go tshwaraganela morafe wa Sesung.

O kgadile dintwa tse gantsi di tlhagang fa gare ga malwapa a bogosi a re ditlhabisa ditlhong le go diga seriti sa bogosi.

“Dikgosi, borangwane, boralekgotla le morafe, re tshwanetse ra tshwaraganela go bopa dikgotlana le motse

wa rona”, ga kopa jalo Kgosi Mookodi.

Motsadi go tswa Serowe kwa Kgotleng ya GoTshosa, Mme Sethunya Motswetla o gakolotse Kgosi Dinake fa bogosi bo ilelwa, le gore ke tiro e e bokete thata.

“Kgosi ke thotobolo, matlakala otlhe a latlhelwa mo go ene”; ga

tlhalosa Mme Motswetla a ba a tlatse ka gore kgosi Dinake a nne setilo se a se filweng ke batsadi

A re Kgosi Dinake a solofele go amogela dikgang tse di botlhoko le tse di monate le gore a tshware morafe wa gagwe ka tekatekanyo ntle le go thopha gore motho ke yo o ntseng jang.

Mo godimo ga moo o mo tlhagisitse go re a ithokomele ka jaana bangwe ba tlaa mo rata fa bangwe ba tla seke ba mo rate.

Fa a ntsha la gagwe Kgosi Dinake, yo o diretseng puso dingwaga di ka tshwara masome a mararo le botlhano e le morutabana, o supile fa a tlaa gata

le morafe wa gagwe go tlhabolola motse wa bone ka tebelopele e a nang le yone

O supile fa a lemoga gore motse wa Sesung o saletse thata kwa morago ka ditlhabololo mme a solofetsa gore o tlaa dira ka natla gore o nne mo seemong se se kgalthisang. **BOPA**



Kgosi Basimanyana Dinake (mojeng) yo a tlogetseng tiro ka bogodi morago ga go busa morafe wa Sesung dingwaga tse di lesome le boferabongwe, a na le kgaitسادie yo a mo tlhatlhamang, Kgosi Lebang Dinake kwa moletlong wa go ipelela go bewa mo setilong ga ga Kgosi Lebang Dinake bosheng. Kgosi Dinake o supile fa a tlaa gata le morafe wa gagwe go tlhabolola motse ka tebelopele e a nang le yone. Senepe: Relief Lephutshi

Thobo ya balemi ba Werda le Kokotsha e a nametsa

Cathrine Simane
WERDA

Balemi ba Werda le Kokotsha mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Borwa ba tswetse ka go ntsha thobo e e nametsang ka seo se supagetse mo letsemeng la ngwagwa oo fetileng.

Fa a bua mo letsatsing la ditshupo tsa ditswa-temong, mogolaganyi wa ditirelo tsa temo mo Kgalagadi Borwa, Mme Gloria Komanyana o akgotse maiteko a balemi bao a supa fa ba itomile molomo wa tlase go ntsha thobo ya boleng e bile e nametsa.

Mme Komanayane o galaleditse balemi ba Werda Cluster ka maiteko a ba a dirang a tlatse ka gore balemi bao ba tsibogetse ka dipalo tse di kwa godimo lenaneo la Lemang Dijo mo kgaolong.

O ba kgothatitse go tswelala ba dira ka natla go ngoka ba ba sa ntseng ba le maoto a tshupa go ka inakanya le tsa temo.

O boletse fa maikaelelo a ditshupo tseo e le go rotloetsa balemi go dira ka natla, go ntsha dijjwalo tsa boleng le gone go ba

thusa go bapatsa thobo ya bone.

Mme Komanyane o supile gape fa go le bothokwa go kokoanya balemi go tla go arogana maele le ba bangwe le go ne go ithuta ka methale e e botoka ya temo.

A re balemi ba tshwanetse ba lemoga gore temo ga se go jela fela mo ganong mme ba tshwanetse ba e oketsa ba e leba e kgwebo e e ka ba busetsang dipolelo tse di botoka.

O supile gape fa ditshupo di rotloetsa phadisanyo mo balemeng, a tlatse ka gore morago ga ditshupo tseo, balemi ba tlhwaafale go lema le gone go ruta dikokomana tse di tlang.

A re lefatshe leno le santse le tlhaelelwa ke dijo mme a kgothatse balemi go ntsha ga tshwene ka go oketsa ditema tsa bone gore kwa phelelong ba kgone go jesa Batswana.

Modulasetilo wa Werda Cluster, Mme Marea Batshomi o supile fa ba ikiteile sehuba go tsaya temo ka tlhwaafalo.

A re maikaelelo a bone ke go baya tema ngwaga le ngwaga.

Mme Batshomi a re ngwaga oo fetileng pula e ne e le boutsana,

mme ba ne ba seka ba ipona tsapa ka ba ne ba tsaya sebaka sa go dirisa bokgola jwa dipula tsa ntsha.

O supile gape fa ba kopana le dikgwetlho jaaka bogodu a re dilalome dingwe di a ba thlorontsha ka go ba senyetsa mo masimong.

A re ba thlorontshiwa gape ke diji jaaka podile, diphologotswana di tshwana le masamane le dikgaka.

Mme Batshomi o kopile boeteledipele jwa motse oo go ba ema nokeng ka kopo ya bone ya lefatshe e ba tla isang kwa go ba kabo ditsha.

A re ba beile lefelo lengwe le ba eletsang go tshwara ditshupo tsa bone ngwaga le ngwaga.

A re maikaelelo ke gore mo go lone lefelo leo ba age difalana tse ba tla bolokang thobo ya bone mo go tsone gore ba kgone go jesa setshaba mo lobakeng lo loleele ga mmogo lego rekisa peo.

Mongwe wa baalemi, Rre Pusoetsile Batshomi o tlhalositse fae sale a kgalthegelela temo morago ga go tlogela tiro kwa moepeong wa Aferika Borwa ka ngwaga wa

2020. A re o ne a dirisa dikatso tsa gagwe go ithekela didirisiwa di akaretsa terekere, machine oo silang, mogoma, polantere le tse dingwe le gone go phunya sediba le letamo kwa tshimong.

O supile fa tsotlhe tse di mo diretse go tlala ka diatla ka go ntsha thobo ee melediwang mathe ke ba bangwe ba a tswelletseng ka go ba rotloetsa.

Rre Batshomi wa Werda o ne a tlhalosa fa a lema ngwaga le ngwaga dijjwalo di akaretsa ditloo, manoko, mmidi, dinawa magapu, marotse, le Labalab le merogo mme thobo ya gagwe e akaretsa mmidi le magapu a rekisetsa Puso kwa dikoleng.

A re fa a simolola temo balemisi ba ne ba sa rotloetse temo ya mmidi ba re o tlhoka metsi a mantsi mme ba ne ba lema dinawa fela. Rre Phenyoyaone Keaja, mogolwane go tswa mo lephateng la dijjwalo o gakolotse balemi go tswelala ka tiro e ntle ya go baya ditema.

A re dijjwalo tse di di dirileng sentle di tla isiwa kwa ditshupong tsa Gaborone go phaidisanya le tsa dikagolo tse dingwe. **BOPA**

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Arts & Culture

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☆ FASHION SHOW

Date: 26.09.2026

Venue: Independence Avenue (in front of Civic Center)

Time: 7PM

☆ INDEPENDENCE EVE

Date: 29.09.2026

Venue: National Stadium - Gaborone | Obed Itani Chilume Stadium - Francistown

Time: 3PM

Murals bring colour to Maun public spaces

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Local artists, in collaboration with professional artists from the United States of America, have embarked on a project to transform public spaces in Maun into vibrant outdoor art galleries. They have created colourful murals at identified sites, including Maun Kgotla, Life Centre, Maun Educational Park and Dusty Donkey Restaurant along the airport road. The initiative followed a two-week workshop facilitated by the Okavango Arts Exchange in partnership with Mural Supply Company, focusing on artistic exchange and training local artists in mural and mosaic techniques. In an interview, Botlhe Mauchaza said the training came at an opportune time, noting that travellers were increasingly seeking art tourism and immersive cultural experiences to understand the authentic identity of destinations. She said travellers preferred meaningful stories and local interactions rather than merely visiting famous monuments. “We view mural art as a vital lens for understanding a destination’s

authentic culture and identity. These murals reflect a destination’s unique heritage, history and diversity, offering travellers a deeper and more authentic connection to the community,” she said. Mauchaza said the artworks had transformed some public spaces

into colourful outdoor galleries that told stories of resilience and heritage. She said investment in public art could transform Maun into an art hub while diversifying its tourism product. Mauchaza further noted that Maun

was rich in culture, with diverse ethnic groups that could benefit from their cultural assets, traditions and artistic skills to global markets.



Colourful murals have transformed public spaces in Maun into vibrant outdoor art galleries. The project, facilitated through the Okavango Arts Exchange in partnership with Mural Supply Company, seeks to promote public art and diversify Maun’s tourism offering. Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

The founder of Mural Supply Company and muralist, Manson Lackey, said they saw an opportunity to train local artists through an art exchange programme involving experts from the United States. The initiative, he said, was intended to share advanced techniques in public art, murals and mosaic work. More than 40 artists from across the country benefited from the workshop, which aimed to help artists move beyond raw talent, build strong personal brands and market their work beyond Botswana’s borders. Lackey said the training was also crucial in fostering cross-cultural storytelling and transforming local creatives into professionals. “As a way of giving back to the community, we decided to paint some stunning murals in identified public areas, turning them into vibrant attractions,” he said. He said murals could beautify villages through visually striking paintings while promoting culture and art-focused tourism, which had become increasingly popular. At the end of the training, organisers hosted an open market day to celebrate the residency and showcase the mural artists’ work to the community. **BOPA**

Duo joins forces to make Macheng Bushfire Festival bigger

Samantha Gabaeme
HUKUNTSI

Kgalagadi North District Council and Macheng Bushfire Festival have joined forces to promote arts, culture and tourism, as well as create opportunities for youth empowerment and socio-economic development through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on Tuesday. Speaking during the signing ceremony, council secretary Masaoko Katorah said initiatives such as the Macheng Bushfire Festival had an important role to play as the district continued to position itself as a destination for cultural tourism and community-driven development. He said the festival contributed to attracting visitors to the district, stimulating local businesses and creating opportunities for young people. Katorah said under the MOU, the council, in accordance with its mandate and subject to the availability of resources, would promote environmental conservation initiatives, including tree planting and waste management, while stimulating local economic growth through the participation of local businesses and communities. He said the council would also create employment and empowerment opportunities for youth and local residents, provide the necessary approvals including permits and regulatory

guidance to facilitate the successful hosting of the event, while also facilitating access to the event site and providing basic infrastructure where possible. Katorah added that the council would among others, support coordination, promote the festival through its official communication

platforms to increase awareness and encourage participation, as well as provide technical support. For his part, Macheng Bushfire Festival director, Kabelo Moapare said when the event was launched in 2023, attendance was low, prompting the organisers to explore ways of attracting more

people to the festival.

He said they subsequently identified the involvement of local entrepreneurs and district leaders as key to growing the event and advancing its mandate of promoting tourism in the district. Moapare said the festival had since expanded its tourism focus to include environmental, cultural and adventure tourism.

He said the organisers came up with the idea of promoting pans across the district through races as a way of showcasing the area’s environmental tourism potential. He added that cultural tourism was being promoted by providing a platform for cultural groups representing different ethnic communities in the district to perform during the festival, thereby showcasing and celebrating the district’s diverse cultural heritage.

Looking ahead, he said the festival also intended to venture into adventure tourism, taking advantage of the district’s proximity to several national parks. Moapare stated that the organisers wanted to develop a weekend tourism programme for visitors travelling to the parks. He said the organisers were pleased with the council’s support, noting that the growth of the festival was already beginning to translate into economic benefits. Moapare highlighted that this year’s event had attracted more visitors, resulting in increased business for establishments in the

district.

He said the developments were an indication that the festival was moving in the right direction, as its growth was creating opportunities for local businesses and communities to benefit from tourism. He said the organisers wanted to “sell the diamond of tourism” in Kgalagadi North to a wider audience, with the ultimate goal of positioning the district as a hub of choice for tourists.

Kgalagadi North District Council’s finance committee chairperson Inajame Motlhane said the council welcomed initiatives that brought tangible benefits to the community. He acknowledged that new initiatives often faced challenges in their early stages, and urged the organisers not to be discouraged but to remain focused on growing the festival. Motlhane said the MOU marked the council’s first formal agreement with a non-governmental entity, as its agreements had traditionally been between government departments.

He described the partnership as special because of its direct focus on community development, saying it therefore required transparency and accountability from all parties. Motlhane expressed optimism of the positive outcomes that would result from the partnership between the council and Macheng Bushfire Festival. **BOPA**



Macheng Bushfire Festival director, Kabelo Moapare (left), Kgalagadi North District Council finance chairperson, Inajame Motlhane (centre) and council secretary, Masaoko Katorah during the signing of a partnership agreement between the two entities recently. The agreement aims at strengthening collaboration between the festival organisers and the council for the benefit of Macheng community and the district. Photo: Samantha Gabaeme



How Ntshwarang engineered Kebinatshipi unbeaten run

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

As the curtains fall on an exhausting athletics season, track and field stars worldwide are retreating into a period of rest and introspection. For most, it is a time to dissect failures, nurse nagging injuries and overhaul training blocks. But for Botswana’s quarter-mile sensation, Collen Kebinatshipi, the 2026 post-season review reads less like a critique and more like a historical epic. Ever since capturing gold at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, the 22-year-old sprinter has operated with a consistency. His lethal form has left the global athletics community asking one question: What did he do differently this year? The man holding the keys to the blueprint is his long-time coach, Chilume

Ntshwarang. In an exclusive post-season interview, Ntshwarang said he was proud that the athlete executed a flawless campaign. He said Kebinatshipi finished the 2026 season completely undefeated in the men’s 400m, he said this immaculate streak was forged through uncompromising hard work, resilience, determination and a relentless psychological hunger to achieve more. The plan for global dominance was drafted immediately after Kebinatshipi’s breakthrough global medal in Tokyo. Coach Ntshwarang said the core plan was to remain consistent and demonstrate that they were firmly within the world’s elite 400m conversation, competing exactly like a World Champion every time out. They set out to leave an indelible mark at every single Diamond League meeting they lined up for,

and they did exactly that by turning the world’s premier track circuit into a personal record-smashing tour. Kebinatshipi set the tone early in Asia by cruising to victory at the Xiamen Diamond League with a meeting record of 43.92 seconds. When the circuit moved to Europe, he truly ignited the track at the Paris Diamond League, obliterating both the meeting and the Diamond League records by clocking a staggering 43.54 seconds. The dominance continued in Poland at the Silesia Diamond League, where he claimed yet another meeting record in 43.59 seconds. Then, under the lights of the King Baudouin Stadium, he triggered a triple record explosion at the Brussels Diamond League Final, stopping the clock at 43.40 seconds to reset the Diamond

League meeting and national records simultaneously. The grand finale came just a week later at the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary. Ntshwarang said their approach across the circuit was simply to get better with every single race, adding that while the plan was never to go out chasing times, Kebinatshipi ran them naturally because he felt good and his body was in good rhythm. Though the season ended in European, Ntshwarang said the writing was on the wall before they stamped a passport, pointing back to the early months on domestic tracks as the true catalyst. Kebinatshipi opened his account on home soil by shaking off the winter rust with a 44.50 second run at the Obed Itani

Chilume Stadium in Francistown. Shortly after, he shocked the sprinting community at the National Championships by stepping down to the short sprints tearing through the straightaway to clock world-class 9.89 second in the 100m. Coach Ntshwarang said those domestic performances were early signs of a special season, calling this officially their best campaign yet after shattering the National Record three times. Despite the historic numbers and growing media frenzy surrounding Wayde van Niekerk’s 43.03 World Record, the coach remains focused. Ntshwarang said while he was highly cognisant of the global conversations, the World Record was never the target for his camp. BOPA



Collen Kebinatshipi

Coach Chilume Ntshwarang