

BOTSWANA


Daily News

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“We must mobilise the resources required to implement the joint preparedness and response plan. We are actively engaging to determine our pledge, which we will communicate in due course,”
President Boko



President Advocate Duma Boko during a high-level virtual meeting of African Heads of State and Government and development partners on the Ebola outbreak yesterday. President Boko said Botswana remained committed to working with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the World Health Organisation, member states and partners to protect the health and wellbeing of its people. He also reaffirmed the country's solidarity with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda as they responded to the ongoing Ebola outbreak. The meeting was convened by Africa CDC and the African Union. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

STORY PAGE 3

Assessment of FMD-affected farmers starts

The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs has instructed all District Councils in Foot and Mouth Disease affected areas to start a full assessment and registration of farming communities and livestock-dependent households hit by the outbreak.

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School Feeding Programme advances despite supply delays

Marvin Motlhabane
KANYE

The School Feeding Programme is being implemented fairly across Kanye District, despite ongoing challenges, particularly delays in the supply of key food commodities by suppliers. The delays have affected both teaching staff and learners.

Briefing a full council session in Kanye on Monday, Kanye District Council Chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgositlhebe said all schools have so far been supplied with sorghum meal, UHT milk, and tea, while some schools have partially received beans and samp.

On a positive note, the Council has received P6,531,500 for the feeding programme in the first quarter.

This allocation will enable the reinstatement of fruits and vegetables supply in Term 2, while procurement of Lethafula would continue until the end of June 2026. Mr Kgositlhebe provided an update on the 2025 BGCSE results, themed: A Story of Contrast and Transition.



Kanye District Council chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgositlhebe during a full council meeting on Monday. He said all schools had so far been supplied with sorghum meal, milk and tea, while some schools had partially received beans and samp. Photo: Courtesy of Kanye District Council

Seepapitso Senior Secondary School achieved a credit pass rate of 13.71 per cent, representing a slight decline of 0.79 percentage points from 14.5 per cent in 2024.

The school's national ranking

slipped from position 28 to 29.

While acknowledging that the outcome fell short of expectations, Mr Kgositlhebe urged stakeholders to view the results in context. The 2025 cohort was the first to sit

for examinations under the new Outcome-Based Education (OBE) curriculum, which was introduced amid significant challenges, including shortages of essential resources.

He described the results as a reflection of systemic transition rather than outright failure.

Despite the overall pass rate, the Seepapitso Secondary school recorded outstanding results in several subjects: Physics 90.7 per cent, Art 89.0 per cent, Chemistry 83.5 per cent, and Biology 75.5 per cent. Strong performances were also noted in Religious Education (71.0 per cent), Literature (69.4 per cent), Physical Education (67.4 per cent), and Scientific Mathematics (57.5 per cent).

"These figures demonstrate that our school possesses the capacity to produce high-quality academic outcomes when learners are adequately supported," Mr Kgositlhebe said.

Updating the council on the Ministry's flagship Project Bula Buka, Mr Kgositlhebe said 65 learners who obtained a Grade D in their Form three examinations

have been profiled for academic pathways.

In the Kanye District, he said 15 learners (nine from Kanye, three from Moshupa, one from Phitshane Molopo, one from Thamaga and one from Mabule) have been placed at the Kanye Education Centre.

They underwent induction on April 23, 2026 alongside their parents to familiarise themselves with the centre's rules and regulations.

Mr Kgositlhebe said classes would run Monday to Friday for four hours daily, starting at 9am adding that feeding and stationery funds had been allocated. He said four out of five required teachers for core subjects being English, Mathematics, Science, and Moral Education, have been engaged.

However, he said the part-time Setswana teacher declined the offer due to other opportunities and recruitment remains a challenge as regions compete for the same pool of qualified educators.

The remaining profiled learners were expected to be channeled into the vocational pathway once placements are finalised. **BOPA**

Moswaane challenges Tatisiding to drive rural industrialisation

Kelebogile Taolo
TATISIDING

Embracing rural industrialisation and forming community cooperatives can change the outlook of communities and spur economic transformation at village level.

Addressing a community development symposium in Tatisiding on Monday, Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane urged Tatisiding residents to consider the idea of industrialisation and community cooperatives with respect to the production of the goods they consume daily.

Mr Moswaane said rural industrialisation entailed intensifying local production of goods and services that people used on daily basis and was a good way of unlocking business opportunities.

"At the core, every person needs three things; food, clothing and shelter. Look at any budget, national or personal! Your salary buys food, clothing and shelter. That is business for someone else, or it can be business for you," he said.

Mr Moswaane said the key question for Tatisiding was about identifying what was needed, and deciding on how it could be produced by the community for its own benefit.

He said Tatisiding having evolved from village status to a peri-urban area, and with its strategic location near Francistown, its residents should capitalise on the situation by similarly evolving in terms of

how they ran their local economy.

He challenged residents to consider the production, locally, of food, clothing, building materials, medicine and technology products, saying that those could effectively anchor local businesses.

To achieve this, he called for the formation of Development Trusts, cooperative societies and community-owned companies to run factories and create employment.

Giving examples, Mr Moswaane said communities could, through Village Development Committees and Development Trusts, own businesses dealing in the production of goods such as cement, bricks, roofing materials, window frames and tiles.

On agriculture, he said community farms were needed to achieve food security and reduce imports. As such he implored residents to look into crop farming with a bias towards horticulture.

He said if they could build factories, residents could farm and process vegetables and fruits such as potatoes, beetroots, onions, tomatoes, watermelon, oranges and mangoes.

He said the livestock sector offered opportunities in feedlotting, meat processing as well as poultry and game farming, which he said could also be successfully undertaken through community trusts.

Mr Moswaane further pointed to manufacturing and processing of cleaning detergents including bath soap, washing powder and toilet paper.

He said the packaging of dried foods such as beans, rice, salt and fruits was another avenue that



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane (third right) and Tatisiding residents visiting the CEDA stalls at the Community Development symposium on Monday. He said collaborations and partnerships through cooperatives would unlock business opportunities. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

"By producing what we consume, we keep jobs, money and skills in our communities. Through rural industrialisation, we will feed our own people and build Botswana from the ground up."

locals could pursue.

"The goal is to shift our mindset and make business our priority. By producing what we consume, we keep jobs, money and skills in our communities. Through rural industrialisation, we will feed our own people and build Botswana from the ground up," he said.

However, residents welcomed the minister's vision but raised concerns over land and other

services.

Mr Ronnie Boitshepo contended that though the assistant minister's ideas were intriguing, lack of access to land would hamper the village from implementing them.

He said many residents did not have land or plots hence it would be difficult for them to start cooperatives without a place to operate from.

Another resident, Ms Margaret

Nkomo appealed for more services to be brought to Tatisiding, saying their unavailability locally forced villagers to travel to Francistown.

"We need basic services here. For banking, healthcare and some government offices, we still travel to the city. It costs time and money," she said.

For her part, District Commissioner for North East, Ms Wame Samapipi said the symposium served as a platform to inform and educate residents of Tatisiding on new government policies and programmes.

Ms Samapipi also noted that the symposium also showcased opportunities for economic empowerment, job and wealth creation as well as to strengthen engagements between government and residents and to promote citizen participation in national development.

The symposium brought together village leaders, youth groups and local entrepreneurs to discuss strategies for sustainable growth. **BOPA**

Assessment of FMD-affected farmers starts

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According to a ministry press release, FMD and related control measures have significantly disrupted livestock production, marketing activities, household incomes and livelihoods, causing considerable hardship for farmers and herders.

The exercise aims to establish the scale of the outbreak's impact and build an accurate database of affected persons. The information will help government determine the extent of losses and hardships and support evidence-based decisions on future relief and support interventions.

The release says that the success of the exercise depends on accuracy, credibility and completeness of the information collected. District councils have been directed to conduct the process in a transparent, fair and inclusive manner to ensure all affected individuals are identified and registered.

Affected individuals and communities are urged to cooperate with council officials and provide accurate information to facilitate the process.

Given the urgency and the need to provide timely assistance, councils are expected to prioritise the exercise and deploy necessary resources for its successful implementation. **BOPA**



Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe (right) and Ntlo Ya Dikgosi chairperson, Kgosi Malope II during a dinner for Dikgosi in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Gaolathe said government would soon meet with members of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi to discuss the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme and gather their views and ideas on the initiative. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Boko calls for united front against Ebola

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
GABORONE

President Advocate Duma Boko has called for urgent political, financial and technical support to contain the Ebola outbreak currently affecting the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

Speaking during a high-level virtual meeting on Tuesday, President Boko said Botswana stood in solidarity with affected countries despite having no recorded Ebola cases.

The President joined other African leaders in reaffirming commitment to combat the outbreak, emphasising collective action, resource mobilisation and regional cooperation.

"Infectious diseases know no borders. No country can confront Ebola alone. The outbreak is an ominous reminder that our collective security depends on our collective action," he said.

The meeting sought to align political leadership, financial commitment and technical response under a joint preparedness and response plan valued at US\$518 million. Leaders urged high-level engagement to unlock resources and ensure pledges translate swiftly into action on the ground.

President Boko commended the African Union, Africa CDC, World Health Organization and other health partners for their swift, coordinated response in mobilising African and international solidarity.

He underscored the importance of protecting frontline health workers, calling them critical to the success of response efforts. He also stressed enhanced cross-border collaboration to strengthen surveillance systems, share information and ensure uninterrupted movement of essential supplies and personnel.

"We must mobilise the resources required to implement the joint preparedness and response plan. We are actively engaging to determine our pledge, which we will communicate in due course and very soon," President Boko said.

Through investments in disease surveillance, workforce development and public health preparedness, Botswana is ready to work with SADC countries to eliminate the Ebola threat, he added.

President Boko reiterated that African nations were 'strongest when they work together', saying unity and cooperation remained essential to protect the health, safety and well-being of the continent's people. **BOPA**

Education key to transformational agenda

Chendzimu Manyepedza
SELEBI PHIKWE

Education is a vital pillar supporting Botswana's ambitions for national transformation, says the Minister of State for Defence and Security.

Speaking during a celebration of top achievers at Morula Private School in Selebi Phikwe, Minister Mohwasa emphasized that sustainable development requires educated, skilled, and innovative individuals who can adapt to rapid technological advancements.

He assured that the government will continue to prioritize education and human capital development, empowering learners to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

He praised the collaboration between parents and teachers in nurturing learners with the skills required to unlock new opportunities.

Highlighting the school's outstanding results, the Minister noted that seven learners achieved scores of 48 points in the Cambridge IGCSE examinations.

Additionally, the primary school level recorded a 100% pass rate, yielding 17 As, 11 Bs, and only one C. He stated that this achievement reaffirms the dedication of both educators and parents.

Beyond academic excellence, Minister Mohwasa stressed that education was fundamental in shaping character and values.

He urged learners to focus on their studies to build the personal responsibility, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning necessary to become principled members of society. Morula Private School Head, Mr Alan Corfield, echoed Minister Mohwasa's sentiments, noting that Botswana was navigating a historic transition from a resource-based economy to

a modern, knowledge-based one.

He stated that the impressive academic progress of students at the school was a promising indicator of the transition.

Mr Corfield also acknowledged the transformative impact of artificial intelligence (AI) but urged students to exercise caution and discernment.

"While AI can simulate various intellectual functions, it lacks the intrinsic qualities that define humanity, such as empathy, compassion, and the innate drive to protect those who are vulnerable," he said.

He advised students to remain anchored to the principle of botho, a philosophy of interconnectedness and humanity while pursuing their educational goals in the digital age. He encouraged them to carry forward the spirit of compassion and ethical responsibility, which he described as essential for a balanced society. **BOPA**

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Govt deploys Ikageng workers to support FMD control efforts

GABORONE

Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs has deployed an additional 1 050 Ikageng Workers to support critical disease control activities in villages across Ramotswa, Good Hope and Tsabong.

A press release from the ministry says the deployment follows outbreaks reported in

the North East District (Disease Control Zones 3c-Maitengwe and 6), Good Hope District (Zone 11), and Kgalagadi District (Zone 13), which threatens Botswana's livestock industry and its international trade status.

Moreover, the release says, to contain the spread of the disease and facilitate the recovery of the country's FMD-free status in unaffected regions, the Ministry

of Lands and Agriculture has embarked on a project to establish a Containment Zone.

The initiative is designed to rapidly isolate affected areas while protecting livestock populations and safeguarding the national economy.

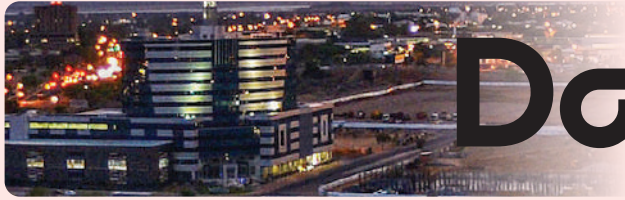
It also stated that the Ikageng workforce will be engaged in a range of activities essential to the establishment of the

Containment Zone, such as clearing bushes along cut lines, drift fences, and road fences, constructing new fences that will form the boundary of the proposed containment zone, picketing and demarcating designated areas and assisting in the removal of cattle from border and high-risk areas.

The workers will be deployed across 15 villages within the

Ramotswa, Good Hope, and Tsabong Districts, with 70 workers assigned to each village.

The Ministry affirmed that it continues to work closely with Local Authorities, communities and stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of disease control measures and urged the public to cooperate fully with all FMD prevention and containment efforts. **BOPA**



DailyBusiness

Minister for State, President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa says proper consultations on the Selebi Phikwe Citrus Project desire to expand operational land will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders. The minister said this on Monday during a tour of the Selebi Phikwe Citrus Project.



Consultation on project expansion critical

Chenzimju Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE

Proper consultations on the Selebi Phikwe Citrus Project management's desire to expand the operational land will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders involved, says the Minister for State, President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa.

He said this on Monday during tour of the Selebi Phikwe citrus

project, which sought to appreciate the project's contributions towards job creation and economic diversification in the Selebi Phikwe region and beyond.

He underscored the crucial role of stakeholder engagement in the success of the citrus project and acknowledged that while the project's top-brass was keen on expanding its operational land to enhance its capabilities, stakeholder engagement was key.

Mr Mohwasa therefore underscored that the government

remained committed to involving all relevant stakeholders in meaningful consultations, stating further that the collaborative approach would foster dialogue and address any concerns with a view to reach mutual benefit of all parties involved.

He acknowledged the significant role of the project in creating employment in the Selebi Phikwe region and surrounding areas, noting that currently, more than 300 employees were on a permanent basis in addition to

temporary staff.

He expressed gratitude that the project did not only foster economic diversification but positively impact the broader national economic landscape.

"The project significantly supports government's ongoing efforts to create sustainable employment opportunities in the region that has experienced adverse effects due to the closure of the BCL mine, which once served as the economic backbone of the community," he said. **BOPA**

Mohwasa unpacks insourcing policy

Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE

The government's insourcing policy is a strategic reform designed to improve public service delivery, create decent jobs for citizens and reduce long-term dependence on private contractors.

Speaking in an exclusive interview on Botswana Television, on Tuesday, the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said the policy was conceived after government identified persistent challenges associated with outsourcing critical services, including rising costs, poor accountability and concerns over the welfare of workers employed by private contractors.

He said the policy sought to bring selected services previously outsourced to private companies back under direct government management, thereby enabling the state to exercise greater control over service quality whilst ensuring workers received improved employment conditions.

By doing so, he said government also aimed to afford citizens an opportunity to enjoy stable and secure jobs that came with; pension benefits, career progression opportunities, financial stability and access to credit and medical aid benefits.

The decision to pursue



Minister for State President, Defence and Security Mr Moeti Mohwasa

insourcing, he said was informed by years of experience with outsourced services across government ministries and departments. While outsourcing has initially been adopted as a cost-saving measure aimed at improving efficiency, the minister said government assessments revealed that the expected benefits had not always materialised.

Mr Mohwasa said government found itself spending substantial amounts on contracts while workers delivering the services often earned low wages and had limited job security.

In some instances, he said service disruptions and disputes between contractors and employees negatively affected the delivery of essential public services.

Therefore, he said the insourcing

policy was developed as part of broader public sector reforms intended to ensure that public funds delivered maximum value while protecting workers from exploitative labour practices.

"At the heart of the policy is government's commitment to creating sustainable employment opportunities for Batswana. Under the arrangement, workers previously employed by contractors are gradually absorbed into government structures, giving them access to improved terms and conditions of service, including better job security and employee benefits," he said.

The insourcing policy, the minister said aligned with government's broader socio-economic objectives of reducing unemployment, tackling income inequalities and promoting decent work.

He also noted that by becoming direct employees of government, workers gained greater stability and were better positioned to contribute meaningfully to national development.

Additionally, he said the move also strengthened morale among employees, which in turn improved productivity and service delivery. Beyond labour concerns, Mnister Mohwasa said government believed insourcing would enhance accountability and operational efficiency within the public sector.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Reserve bank cuts policy rate to 30% as inflation steadies

HARARE - The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) on Tuesday reduced its bank policy rate to 30 per cent, down from 35 per cent, amid low and stable inflation.

The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) aligns the policy rate with a structural shift in inflation dynamics, rather than easing the monetary policy. RBZ Governor John Mushayavanhu said going forward, the MPC would continue to calibrate the monetary policy stance on a meeting-by-meeting basis based on the evolution of macroeconomic fundamentals. The central bank remains vigilant to emerging risks and stands ready to support the country's inflation and growth objectives, Mushayavanhu said. The rate cut comes as Zimbabwe's annual ZiG inflation maintains a downward trend, falling from 95.8 per cent in July 2025 to 4.4 per cent in May 2026. Meanwhile, U.S. dollar inflation has hovered around 2 per cent since the beginning of this year. **Xinhua**

Mozambique Central Bank drafts AI rules for financial sector

MAPUTO - Mozambique's central bank is drafting regulations on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the country's financial system to strengthen oversight and address technological risks, Central Bank Governor Rogerio Zandamela said on Tuesday. Speaking at the opening of the 17th Scientific Conference of the Bank of Mozambique in Matola City, Maputo Province, Zandamela said AI was increasingly visible in financial institutions, decision-making processes and people's daily lives. "Artificial intelligence is no longer confined to laboratories, universities or major technology companies," he said. According to Zandamela, the planned regulations aimed to create clear rules to ensure AI tools were used safely, transparently and responsibly, while respecting consumers' rights. **Xinhua**

Kenya coffee exports to hit 55 000 metric tonnes

NAIROBI - Kenya's coffee exports are projected to rise to 55 000 metric tonnes in 2026 from 52 000 in 2025, driven by favorable weather conditions, a government official said on Tuesday. Henry Kinyua, advisor on crops and value chains in the Executive Office of the President, told journalists in Nairobi that ongoing government interventions to boost agricultural productivity and maximise earnings were steadily stabilising the market for one of the country's leading export commodities. "Kenya is experiencing favorable rainfall patterns in major coffee-growing regions, which has supported improved yields," Kinyua said. He said elevated global prices have strongly incentivised smallholder farmers to increase investment in their farms. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

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'Tshwaragano konokono mo twantshong lehuma'

Keetile Bontsibokae
KOPONG

Go dira dikgwebo tse di tshwaraganetsweng ke nngwe ya ditsela tse di ka thusang go tshamela banana ditiro.

Mopalamente wa Lentsweletau/Lephepe, Rre Tshenolo Bogatsu a re go tshwaragana ke sengwe sa dilo tse a di rolelang hutshe segolo jang mo nakong e lethoko la ditiro le kokonelang banana.

A re go kopanya megopolo go ka thusa banana go simolodisa dikgwebo tse di nonofileng go tshamela ba bangwe ditiro le gone go fokotsa lehuma.

Rre Bogatsu, yo o neng a buisa banana kwa Kopong ka Mosupologo, a re o dumela fa setshwarwa ke ntsa pedi se se thata, ka jalo o gwethile banana go itlhotlhora lehuma ka go ikopanya mme ba bule dikoporase.

"Re a bona gore gompieno lehuma le le ntsi mo bananeng ka go sa tshole go na le bokgoni jwa gore puso e ka ba hira botlhe, jaanong ke gore ba lebelele gore mo dikgaolong tsa bone go na le eng se ba ka se dirisang gore ba intshe mo lehumeng," ga bua Rre Bogatsu.

Mopalamente a re fa banana ba dira kgwebo tsa dikoporase go motlhofo gore ba ka thusiwa ka madi e bile go nna motlhofo gore kgwebo ya koporase e itsetsepele ka gore ba bo ba kopantse dikitso le diatla tsa bone go e tsamaisa go sena matsapa a kalo.

"Fa re rekisa gole go ntsi re sena baphadisanyi go nna motlhofo gore re bone mmara o o bulegileng go na

le fa rotlhe re ipuletse ka bongwe ka bongwe," ga tshalosa Rre Bogatsu.

Mogolwane wa lekalana kanoko dikgwebo wa Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) go tsweng Gaborone, Rre Tefo Keotsositse a re ba ikemiseditse go thusa ka botswapelo botlhe ba ba eletsang go dira mealo ya dikgwebo.

A re ba ba thusa gore ba kgone go tsamaelana le dithuso tsa madi a mananeo jaaka tsa lekalana la CEDA le a mangwe.

Mookamedi wa lekalana la CEDA kwa Molepolole, Rre Phepo Samson a re ba na le mananeo a faphegileng a lebaneng dikoporase.

Rre Samson o ne a sedimose tsa ba dikoporase go tlhodumela thekiso ya koko ya Setswana ka a re e na le dipelo tse di kwa godimo.

A re dikgwebo tse dingwe tse di ka dirwang ke ya dijo tsa dikoko le matlhabelo le ya matlo a boroko a hirisiwang.

Rre Samson a re go na le dikgwebo tse di faphegileng tse eleng tsa bomme tse madi a tsone a sa busiweng ka jalo a kopa bomme go ikopanya go dira dikgwebo tseo.

Mogolwane wa ofisi ya bong le banana kwa Lentsweletau, Rre Duncan Madiabaso a re ba na le mananeo a ka thusang banana go tsena mo dikgwebong.

Le fa go ntse jalo, Rre Madiabaso a re banana ba maoto a tshupa go tsiboga go tla go kopa thuso. A re dikgoro tsa ofisi ga gagwe e butswa ka jalo banana ba gololesegile go tla go ikopela dithuso.

BOPA



Mogolwane wa mapodisi a Takatokwane, Superintendent Douglas Khumalo a re ba dirisa maano otlhe a a ka thusang mo patlong ya ngwana, go akarediwa sefofane sa tlhoo-tomo.

Letsholo la go batla ngwana le tsweletse

Puseletso Kenyaditswe
TAKATOKWANE

Mapodisi a Takatokwane a kopa setshaba go ba batlisa mosimane wa dingwaga tse di lesome le bongwe wa Takatokwane, yoo saleng a timela kgwedi eno e tlhola garataro.

Mogolwane wa mapodisi a Takatokwane, Superintendent Douglas Khumalo, a re mosimane yoo, o timetse a na le ba bangwe ba ya merakeng.

A re o ne a kgaogana le ba a neng a na le bone ba sena go goroga kwa merakeng ya bone, fa e ne a fetela kwa go wa bone wa Nyatsane.

Rre Khumalo a re dipelaelo ke gore o ne a fosa tsela e fapogelang kwa morakeng wa bone, ka jalo a tsena ka ga reitse.

A re e rile batsadi ba bona a sa goroge, ba mo tsaya motlhalo, mme ba lemoga fa a fapogile ka tsela e sele.

O tshalositse gore mo letsatsing le le latelang, batsadi ba ne ba tswelela ka

letsholo la go batla ngwana.

O tshalositse gore motlhalo wa ngwana yo timetseng o ne wa tsena ka morago wa Kwetla, kwa e rileng ba goroga teng, mosimane wa moraka oo, a tshalosa fa a mmone, mme a ikaya fa a le patlong ya mahupu.

Supt Khumalo a re morago ga go timelelwa ke motlhalo ka a ne a tsamaetse kgakala kwa go leng sekgwa, batsadi ba tsaya tshwetso ya go ikuela kwa go ba sepodisi sa Takatokwane, kgwedi eno e le supa.

O tshalositse fa motlhalo wa gagwe o bonwe la bofelo gaufi thata le lefelo la diphologolo la Khutse Game Reserve, a supa fa jaanong o sa bonale ka go le sekgwa se se kitlanyeng.

A re letsholo la go batla ngwana le tsweletse, a tlatsa ka gore banni ba Takatokwane ba ba tshologile mokgosi.

Supt Khumalo a re ba dirisa maano otlhe a a ka thusang mo patlong ya ngwana yo, go akarediwa sefofane sa tlhoo-tomo. **BOPA**

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Stakeholders rally behind new GBV programme

Lindi Morwaeng
MOLEPOLOLE

Development partners have pledged support for Botswana's newly launched National Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Programme, describing gender-based violence as one of the country's most pressing development challenges that requires urgent and coordinated action.

Speaking at the High-Level Development Partners Forum held in Gaborone on Tuesday under the theme: Working Together to End Gender-Based Violence in Botswana, United Nations Resident Coordinator Wenyan Yang said that despite Botswana's notable progress in advancing gender equality, gender-based violence continued to undermine development gains and social progress.

Ms Wenyan acknowledged Botswana's achievements, including legal reforms that have strengthened women's rights and the progress made towards gender parity in education. However, she noted that the persistence of GBV remained a major concern affecting families and communities across the country.

"Gender-based violence is not only a human rights violation, but also a profound barrier to sustainable development, social cohesion, and economic progress," Ms Wenyan said.

She noted that the newly launched programme adopted a "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approach inspired by the global Spotlight Initiative.

This framework brings together the government, development partners, civil society, academia, the private sector, and local communities to tackle the root causes of violence while strengthening support systems for survivors.

The programme focuses on four key pillars; strengthening laws, policies, and institutions prevention by addressing harmful social norms and promoting women's economic empowerment, improving protection and response services for survivors, supporting civil society organisations and women's movements.

Ms Wenyan called on development partners to maintain and, where possible, increase their support for Botswana's anti-GBV efforts.

"We must ensure that our words and commitments today translate

into real change in the lives of people across Botswana," she urged.

Also addressing the forum, European Union Ambassador to Botswana and SADC, Ms Petra Pereyra, described gender-based violence as a societal crisis that threatened Botswana's development aspirations.

She emphasised that the high prevalence of GBV alongside low reporting rates highlighted the urgency of strengthening prevention and response mechanisms.

"These numbers are not abstract data. They represent real lives. They represent mothers, daughters, sisters, partners, and friends whose safety, dignity, and potential are being systematically undermined," Pereyra said.

Ms Pereyra affirmed that the European Union fully supported Botswana's multi-sectoral response to GBV and would continue to contribute through political advocacy, technical expertise, civil society support, and private sector engagement.

Furthermore, she called on the government to sustain the political will that drove the development of the programme, urging authorities to ensure full implementation backed by adequate resources, clear timelines, and robust accountability mechanisms.

Speaking on behalf of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Programme Specialist for Youth and Gender, Ms Kagiso Molatlhwa, said the programme was modelled after the Spotlight Initiative—a global effort launched in 2017 to eliminate violence against women and girls.

She noted that available data continued to paint a worrying picture, underscoring the vital need for stronger collaboration among stakeholders.

Ms Molatlhwa shared that regional data from 2018 showed Botswana's lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence among women aged 15 to 49 stood at 37 per cent, placing the country among the most affected in Southern Africa.

The statistics showed Botswana recording higher prevalence rates than South Africa (24 per cent) and Namibia (27 per cent), while Zambia and Lesotho stood at 41 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.

She observed that stakeholders were still largely referencing 2018 statistics, which highlighted an urgent need for stronger data generation and evidence-based programming to better inform interventions and policy decisions.

In addition Ms Molatlhwa stated that the programme adopted a whole-of-society approach similar to Botswana's successful response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, uniting government institutions, development partners, civil society organisations, academia, the private sector, the media, and local communities.

"The problem of gender-based violence is too complex for any one institution to solve alone. Everyone has a role to play," she said.

The forum culminated in the

signing of the National Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Programme by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs, Ms Natasha Rampa, and United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms Wenyan Yang.

The signing marked the formal adoption of the framework and launched coordinated efforts to mobilise resources and partnerships for its implementation.

Stakeholders at the forum expressed optimism that the programme will successfully strengthen coordination, improve services for survivors, and accelerate efforts to prevent violence before it occurs. **BOPA**



European Union Ambassador to Botswana and SADC Ms Petra Pereyra



United Nations Population Fund, programme specialist for Youth and Gender, Ms Kagiso Molatlhwa at the High-Level Development Partners Forum in Gaborone recently. She said the National Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Programme was modelled after the Spotlight Initiative, a global effort launched in 2017 to eliminate violence against women and girls. Photos: Tshoganetso Mokowe



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs Ms Natasha Rampa



United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms Wenyan Yang

Moagi invoked right to remain silent - DCEC official

Bonang Masolotatse
GABORONE

Former Minister of Minerals and Energy, Lefoko Moagi, declined to explain how he came into possession of a company bank card loaded with P4.6 million, the Gaborone Regional Magistrate Court heard on Monday.

Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) investigating officer, Mr Ndiye Ndiye, told the court that Moagi exercised his right to remain silent when questioned about the card.

"I interviewed him and he opted to remain silent," Mr Ndiye said before Regional Magistrate Mr Mareledi Dipate in a case where Moagi faces corruption and money laundering charges.

Mr Ndiye said the former minister's silence denied investigators an opportunity to establish why he possessed a bank card belonging to a company that conducted business with the ministry he headed.

As a result, he said, the only inference he could draw was that

the arrangement may have been linked to corrupt activities, given the relationship between the company and the ministry.

The court heard that Moagi was neither an employee nor a director of Wise Creatives Pty Ltd, New Energy Pty Ltd, or Ryders Pty Ltd, companies that share the same directors.

Mr Ndiye further testified that neither the companies nor Bank Gaborone, which issued the card, had reported it missing or stolen.

Responding to questions from state prosecutor Mr Ambrose Mubika, the investigating officer said investigations found no evidence that any of the three companies were registered as banking institutions.

He also told the court that approximately P1.8 million of the P4.6 million loaded onto the card had been spent by the accused.

Under cross-examination by defence attorney, Mr Tengo Tubadiri, Mr Ndiye agreed that tenders were scrutinised through various stages before reaching the minister.

The investigating officer also acknowledged that Moagi was within his constitutional rights to remain silent during questioning.

Mr Ndiye further testified that Moagi did not declare any interest in the companies when submitting his asset declarations to the President and the Ethics and Integrity Directorate.

According to the declarations examined during the investigation, Moagi disclosed a P4 million loan with CEDA, loans amounting to about P300,000 with FNB, a P30,000 credit card facility and ownership of three farms.

The court heard that New Energy Company Pty Ltd and Ryders Pty Ltd were allegedly granted prospecting and exploration licences while Moagi served as minister.

Investigators allege that Moagi later received a bank card from Wise Creatives Pty Ltd, whose directors are linked to both New Energy Company Pty Ltd and Ryders Pty Ltd. **BOPA**

Arts & Culture

GIMC Afro Tech aims for inclusivity

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

DJ Kabila will make his first appearance in Botswana on June 30, at the Gaborone International Music and Culture (GIMC) afro tech event, scheduled to take place at the GICC marquee.

GIMC Afro Tech resumes after a year, with Don Julio as the main sponsor of the intimate up-tempo music show.

DJ Kabila, who is wheelchair bound will perform at the GIMC Afro Tech stage alongside some of Botswana's afro tech ladies such as Osaka Sun, Kutlo Scope, Ms J, Kele Megano and Bo Kettle.

"We are about inclusivity and support for the marginalised groups; women, youth and disabled artists," said curator of the event Karabo Mokhawa in an interview.

Mokhawa urged revellers to attend in large numbers saying their attendance was support to marginalised groups and recognition to them to make a living from their talent. Also, on the decks will be Argento Dust from South Africa and Botswana's Hapex Guru, Teaz, Benny T and Morris.

According to Mokhawa, the GIMC Afro Tech could not take place in the previous year due to struggles with dates as well as bringing in new artists. "Our priority is to keep the series fresh by introducing new DJs and not have the same artists over and over," he said excited about the winter edition which he said is a favorite as fewer events happen during this time of the year.

Of the event venue, Mokhawa said the marquee at the GICC was preferred for its intimate aura and the place being central.

"The marquee fits the size and atmosphere required for GIMC intimate gatherings while keeping attendees close to the city amenities," he said. He added that the event offers hotel accommodation packages bundled with premium VIP tickets. **BOPA**



Bo Kettle is one of Botswana's afro tech female DJ's.

South Africa Youth Day features voices on unity

JOHANNESBURG

Moving between the Hector Pieterse Museum, the Nelson Mandela National Museum and the Desmond Tutu House on Youth Day, young African visitors reflected on the legacy of the 1976 Soweto Uprising and what it means for a generation grappling with unemployment, inequality and social division today.

Observed annually on June 16, this year's Youth Day carried special significance as South Africa marked the 50th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Uprising, when thousands of Black students took to the streets to protest discrimination under apartheid-era schooling and to demand dignity and equal education. For many young people visiting the heritage sites, however, commemorating the past was also a way to reflect on the challenges confronting their generation today.

"Honoring this day means we cannot ignore what is happening in our communities today," said 23-year-old Sinelizwi Baloyi from Dobsonville. "If those students fought for dignity, then we must also stand against xenophobia and division."

Like Baloyi, many participants believed that Youth Day was not only a time to remember the past,

but also an opportunity to reflect on the responsibilities facing young people today. Some also pointed to the direct connection between extreme economic hardship and rising social tensions, warning that frustration must not be misdirected at vulnerable groups.

"We are all struggling in different ways. Poverty should push us to work together, not to turn against foreign nationals who are also trying to survive," said 25-year-old Lungelo Cetywayo from Pimville.

Others said the anniversary also provided an opportunity to reflect on the values that united young people during the 1976 uprising.

"Back then, young people stood together despite their fear. Today, we need that same unity to fight injustice in all its forms, rather than fighting each other," said Thembaletu Dlamini from Protea Glen. The message resonated not only with South African participants, but also with young visitors from elsewhere on the continent.

A visitor from Zambia, who came to the Hector Pieterse Museum with his family, said the experience carried deep emotional weight.

"Coming here with my children helped us understand the sacrifices made in 1976. It is a powerful reminder that young people

everywhere must value unity and learn from history so that the same mistakes are not repeated across Africa," he said.

Similar views were shared by other African youth visiting the site, who used the milestone anniversary to call for greater continental solidarity.

A young visitor from Kenya, Mndeni Majola, noted that African youth faced shared struggles regardless of borders.

"Whether we are from South Africa, Kenya, or anywhere else on the continent, we face the same challenges: unemployment, inequality, and a lack of opportunity," Majola said.

"We must stop dividing ourselves and start building Africa together. Unity is no longer optional; it is necessary for our survival and progress."

Similar views were expressed by visitors from Zimbabwe, who argued that divisions among Africans would only weaken the continent's future.

"If we are divided by nationality, we lose strength. But if we unite, we become a powerful force for change. The future of Africa depends on how young people choose to work together today," said Mageshi Nkomo, a young visitor from Zimbabwe. **Xinhua**



Hapex Guru will also be on the decks.



DJ Kabila will make his first appearance in Botswana.

All set for BDF Karate Open

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Preparations are at advanced stage for the inaugural Botswana Defence Force Karate Open Championship planned for Saturday at the UB Indoor Sports Arena.

The tournament spokesperson, David Hubona said it was open to all the different Karate style in the country. Hubona said the objective of the tournament was to provide emerging and seasoned karatekas with a competitive platform to test skills and elevate sportsmanship standards nationwide.

He said registration was ongoing and was confident that competition would reach its intended target by attracting the desired numbers of participants and reviving the sport of karate.

Hubona said BDF alone would be represented by athletes from its seven karate clubs from different barracks, adding that the open karate championship would attract athletes from all

other clubs and institutions across the country.

Therefore, he said it was promising to be a highly competitive day displaying high levels of competition, discipline and sportsmanship.

Furthermore, he said the championship would feature different age groups and categories, creating opportunities for both emerging and seasoned karatekas, to showcase their talent and sharpen their techniques for future international competitions.

“The championship will create a vital platform for upcoming athletes, administrators, and coaches alike to prove their mettle,” he said.

Hubona said the tournament had extended invitations to other countries, but declined citing short notice.

Following the event in Botswana

Karate Association’s national team selection, Hubona emphasised the need for athletes to maintain fitness through regular competitions.

Therefore, he said the BDF Karate Open Championship aimed to provide an essential platform, ensuring selected athletes remained match-ready for upcoming international duties.

He said winners would be rewarded with medals and trophies.

However, he said they were pleading with sponsors to come on board and be part of the historic event. **BOPA**



Botswana Defence Force (BDF)'s inaugural BDF Karate Open Championship at the UB Indoor Sports Arena on Saturday will see athletes and coaches proving their mettle.