

# Daily News

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THAT  
INFORMS  
AND  
EDUCATES

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## Business

Restocking, compensation for Bobirwa farmers starts

Page 6

## Dikgang

Ba Selebi Phikwe ba itepatepanya le seemo

Tsebe 10

## News

The Year That Was

Pages 11-14

## Arts & Culture

Comedian Mdala Ka Tje relishes big stage

Page 22



# Energy security integral to dev.



Acting President Mr Slumber Tsogwane (centre), Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Lefoko Moagi (right) and MP for Ghanzi South, Mr Motsamai Motsamai during the Ghanzi Strategic Fuel Depot groundbreaking ceremony in Chobokwane on Saturday. Mr Tsogwane said the event paved way for the beginning of the development of the first 30 million litres storage tanks planned for completion in December 2024. The Acting President said the P1 billion infrastructure would enhance local fuel availability, affordability, accessibility and reliability. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

STORY PAGE 3



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'leaving no one behind'

# Tsogwane condoles with Kgathi family

By Manowe Motsaathebe

**BOBONONG** - The Kgathi family has been implored to emulate and pass onto the young generations the good lessons their mother, Ms Kgomotso Kgathi taught and lived by before her death.

Conveying his condolences to the family in Bobonong on Friday, Acting President, Mr Slumber Tsogwane noted that

Ms Kgathi, who died December 11, was a nucleus of the family who also doubled as a fountain of knowledge and source of wisdom to her family.

The late Ms Kgathi was also lauded as a glue that bonded the family together, ensuring that every member of the family understood where they fit in the lineage.

Although the family was saddened by the death of

their mother, Mr Tsogwane said the deceased had left the family tonnes of inheritance of knowledge, love and roots to find solace in.

"She did not only unite us as family, but taught us love and it is imperative that we remain a united front as we plant all these good deeds to our younger ones," said the Mr Tsogwane, who explained that she got to know the deceased through her son

and former minister of defence, justice and security Mr Shaw Kgathi.

Mr Tsogwane said that he met Mr Kgathi while in the teaching profession before they both joined politics as Botswana Democratic Party members.

"We know that we are next in this journey and before we depart we should ensure that we leave some great legacy behind. The legacy of love, unity and proper upbringing of children who will share family values amongst other things," said Mr Tsogwane.

Welcoming Mr Tsogwane and his entourage, Dr Letsholo Kgathi said the family was saddened by the death of their mother who bound the family together.

However, the family found solace in that they reaped invaluable lessons from her whilst still alive, according to Dr Kgathi.

"She had gone to see her doctor in the morning for some medical checkup, but would later collapse and die around lunchtime the same day," said Dr Kgathi.

Departed at 97, the family had expected their source of wisdom and calm to reach a 100 years as they kept digging in from her wealth of life experience.

Born on March 19, 1926 in Bobonong, Ms Kgathi was the first born of kgosi Selamolela Malema and Ms Moshia Malema. She married Mr Morake Kgathi in 1940 and the couple was blessed with eight children.

"Mosadimogolo ke motho yo o godisitseng le go tlhokomela batho ba ba farologaneng; ba lesika le ba eseng ba lesika ka lerato le legolo thata," reads an excerpt from her obituary, which states that she raised and helped raise relatives and other people with love. **BOPA**



*Mr Tsogwane (right) and Mr Kgathi during the former's visit to the Kgathi family in Bobonong on Friday, to relay his condolences following the death of Mr Kgathi's mother. Mr Tsogwane who was accompanied by deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Pono Moathodi, described the deceased as a loving mother, whose legacy, lessons and values should be honoured and carried forward. Ms Kgathi was laid to rest on Saturday. Photo: Yobe Shonga*

## Kaudwane police post boost to security - minister

By Mothusi Galekhutle

**KAUDWANE** - The completion and handing over of Kaudwane Police Post is a boost to the security around the area and Khutse Game Reserve.

Built at a cost of over P1.2 million, Kaudwane Police Post comprises community service centre, consultation room, records management office, holding cell as well as post commander and deputy commander offices.

The facility is connected to a solar system, equipped with a backup generator, air conditioned and was handed over alongside a Toyota Land cruiser on Friday.

Minister of Defence and Security, Mr Kagiso Mmusi expressed confidence that it would improve security in Kaudwane and the vicinity as well as service tourists visiting Khutse Game Reserve.

Mr Mmusi said delivery of the post was testimony that Botswana cared to preserve peace and tranquility.

He said that the facility would help combat livestock theft rife in the area and Gender Based Violence.

He reflected that facilities like this should be a refuge for women and children who continued to live in fear hence said, the community should not despair but come forward to report any form of abuse.

The minister emphasised partnership between police and community, as an effective weapon in combating crime.

Mr Mmusi said that as much as government remained steadfast in resourcing the police, the onus to provide quality service was upon police officers.

During the current and next financial year, government plans to build 28 police stations

including staff houses with an aim to ensure that police officers reside near police stations, Mr Mmusi said.

He said the police were well resourced to protect and maintain security of the country and its citizens hence were duty bound to provide quality service.

Giving a project overview, acting police commissioner, Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane said strategically located, Kaudwane Police Post would not only serve the community but would also service tourists visiting the Khutse reserve and ensure the safety of wild animals in the reserve.

He said the project which started in 2020 experienced delays and government was compelled to part ways with the initial contractor and Galley Holdings was engaged to complete it.

He said despite the fact that the project was delayed and delivered late, it was delivered within budget.

Staff complement of Kaudwane police post, he said comprised six officers being a sergeant, three constables and two special constables.

Area MP, Mr Tshoganetso Leuwe expressed gratitude to a decision to build a police post in Kaudwane and pleaded with government to consider building police stations in other area within the constituency.

Mr Leuwe called for the intensification of the stock theft unit, saying its launch in Letlhakeng recently brought hope to farmers.

Kgosi Tsholo Segwaba of Kaudwane said the facility would help curb lawlessness and urged the community to report all forms of crime.

He said the vehicle would make the police mobility easy. **BOPA**

## Mmusi urges churches to embrace mindset change

By Baleseng Batlotleng

**MMANKGODI** - Churches have been urged to embrace the mindset change agenda and rely on the power of prayer to achieve the impossible.

Speaking at the graduation and ordination ceremony of the Mmankgodi Ministerial Fraternal on Saturday, Minister of Defence Mr Kagiso Mmusi said he was impressed to see a new batch of graduands from the Christian Haven School of Ministry.

He urged other aspiring pastors to seek qualification as government required qualified pastors.

"Education enlightens and I must say I'm extremely gratified for our graduates. 18 people will change this village. Giving people proper education is the first step towards developing them," he said. Mr Mmusi advised graduands to lead their different

congregations with responsibility. Christian Haven School of Ministry is an online Bible college offering theology, ministerial studies, pastoral counselling and leadership development.

Administration officer at the college, Pastor Alice Mwanza said they trained people so that they impart their ministerial duties diligently.

She said Christian Haven School was online, accredited in Zimbabwe and offered certificate, high diploma and degree courses.

Pastor Dr Michael Motswakadikgwa encouraged graduands to excel in their ministries.

He emphasised professionalism and implored the graduands to emulate Apostle Paul, who laid a foundation as an influential figure of the apostolic age.

"We need to be qualified and sharpen our knowledge to excel in our ministry. The primitive

mentality should not reverse our efforts to change our mindset. God has laid grace upon our lives we have to apply our knowledge," he said.

Chairperson of the Mmankgodi Fraternal said it was not easy when they first planned to enrol the pastors but they persevered.

He applauded Minister Mmusi, who is also Gabane/Mmankgodi Member of Parliament for assisting with registration funds.

He said they took 18 pastors on board and urged them to serve God and their folk and to be submissive to the church leadership at all times.

A graduand, Pastor Betty Monnawatladi applauded the college, saying she worked tirelessly and learnt a lot during her course of study.

She said she learnt to embrace the Pentecost and urged congregants to invite the holy spirit into their lives. **BOPA**

# Govt appreciates elderly people - Tsogwane

By **Kabo Keaketswe**

**KEDIA** - Government will continue to strive for the betterment of lives of the elderly people in the country through improved programmes such as the old age pension, popularly known as Tandabala, Acting President, Mr Slumber Tsogwane has said.

Speaking at an event of appreciating elders in Kedia on Saturday, Mr Tsogwane said as the economy continued to grow, government would in future revise the pension for elders to earn more.

Mr Tsogwane, who is also Member of Parliament for Boteti West, said old people had contributed a lot in the development of the country before and after independence, hence the need to recognise and appreciate them.

He encouraged elderly people to frequently seek medical attention since government had made health services accessible freely by all, adding that would ensure a prolonged life.

Mr Tsogwane cited the newly established Kedia Clinic as some of the efforts made by government

to improve health services in the country.

He also highlighted that Botswana was known for being a democratic country, therefore it was important that elderly people imparted that education to the younger generation.

With policy making, Mr Tsogwane said the country leadership would always engage elders before implementation because government deemed such cohort wise.

For his part, a nurse in charge of Kedia, Mopipi and Mokoboxane clinics, Mr Eric Sigweni said the idea of recognising and appreciating elderly people through Christmas gifts or lunch was incepted in 2018 by the health staff in the area.

Upon the realisation that the elderly people fell within the vulnerable bracket in the country, Mr Sigweni said they decided on the annual Christmas lunch.

He noted that the event, held at the clinic, was also an opportunity for elders to access health services as many seldom visited health facilities. At the event pensioners were tested for hypertension and diabetes among other diseases. **BOPA**



**Acting President Tsogwane (right) giving out blankets during a luncheon hosted in honour of the elders in Kedia on Saturday. He said government would continue to strive for the betterment of lives of the elderly people in the country through improved programmes.** Photo: Pheny Moalosi

# Energy security integral to sustainable development

By **Malebogo Lekula**

**CHOBOKWANE** - Acting President, Mr Slumber Tsogwane has allayed fears that, acute limited fuel storage could pose a risk to the country's sustainable development.

Officiating at Ghanzi fuel depot ground breaking ceremony at Chobokwane on Saturday, he said the National Energy Policy indicated that Botswana was completely reliant on imports of refined petroleum products from neighbouring countries mostly, South Africa.

"The over-reliance on a single source and a single route could pose a high risk to the security of fuel supply as it has been witnessed in the past, when there was prolonged fuel supply shortage", he said.

Mr Tsogwane said the National Vision 2036 sought to achieve prosperity for all, in the context of transitioning to a high income economic status hence the need to recognise the sustainable environment pillar that identified energy security as one of the critical components essential for socio-economic development.

He said the construction of a P1 billion infrastructure with a carrying capacity of 60 million litres would enhance local fuel availability, affordability,

accessibility and reliability.

He applauded Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) on its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for demonstrating tenacity and ability to deliver on major key strategic government projects that would effectively manage fuel supply in the country to drive economic activities.

He explained that the strategic storage capacity for liquids stood at approximately 18 days of national consumption against the international standard for strategic storage capacity of 90 days.

Mr Tsogwane mentioned that commercial buffer stock currently stood at less than five days of national consumption against the preferred minimum of 14 days.

He indicated that with Ghanzi fuel depot government was seeking to reach the 90 days mark. The Acting President further applauded BOL for fostering partnerships to launch Citizen Empowerment Programme (CEEP) that he said would support the entry of citizen owned oil companies.

He implored citizen-owned companies, to ensure compliance with requisite standards and requirements for transporting fuel for effective and efficient deliveries in a safe and sustainable manner.

Additionally, he said

construction of the facility would open up opportunities for employment within Ghanzi and surrounding areas as it was anticipated to create 400 jobs during construction phase and about 15 more at the time of commencement of the operations of the depot.

He implored communities to consider the opportunity as a gateway to venture into businesses that complemented the ecosystem of economic growth in Ghanzi District.

Giving the background to the project, BOL chief executive officer, Mr Meshack Tshekedi said the facility was strategically located along the Trans Kalahari highway on the Mamuno border route 45km of Ghanzi and 30km from Chobokwane.

He said the organisation was targeting the western part, which contributed 10-30 per cent of the total volume of fuel imported into the country.

The infrastructure development, he said comprised construction of a 60 million litre bulk petroleum storage depot, administration offices, staff houses, road loading and off-loading gantries, a tank farm and other associated infrastructure investment worth P1 billion.

He said the project was anticipated to be completed after

12 months with a minimum expectancy of 50 years once the depot was operational.

Mr Tshekedi said the project, procured through Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, comprised four phases and some components would be awarded to citizens' contractors.

He said contractor one would be for civil and building works that had been awarded to 100 per cent citizen contractor, Estate construction at the value of P183 million.

The commencement period is scheduled for January 2024 and the project is expected to complete by September 2024

Contractor two would focus on tanks fabrication and erection works, which he said was at adjudication stage and upon completion, the works would take nine months and a special scope for subcontracting to citizens would be mandatory.

The third contractor's scope of work would entail electrical and instrumentation works, which Mr Tshekedi said was under procurement and was to be done by March 2024 with works expected to be completed by December 2024.

He said mandatory subcontracting to citizen owned companies was to the maximum of 40 per cent and provision of

services like drilling of boreholes were completed by Tlou drilling while power would be sourced from Botswana Corporation.

Mr Tshekedi said BOL was committed to ensuring successful delivery of projects through constant monitoring.

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Willy Morris, applauded government for delivering on national projects through which he anticipated more economic activities that would uplift communities' livelihoods.

Member of Parliament for Ghanzi South, Mr Motsamai Motsamai, applauded BOL's efforts to improve the country's capacity on energy security.

He said the project would create employment opportunities for locals and boost the economic status of the district.

In closing, Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Lefoko Moagi applauded President, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi for his visionary leadership to transform the country's economy into a high income status.

He implored stakeholders to align their goals and objectives with the government aspirations towards achieving Vision 2036.

He cautioned contractors against delays, urging them to deliver projects on time, within scope and within budget. **BOPA**

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# End inequalities - Segokgo

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE - The core of the national budget is to uplift livelihoods.

Minister of Communications Knowledge and Technology, Mr Thulagano Segokgo said when addressing staff during the ministry's end of the year session at Duma Grounds on Friday.

He said the country faced social inequalities, hence the ministry spending should be skewed towards uplifting livelihoods and supporting local businesses, adding that the ministry had been doing well in supporting locals, hence there was a need to continue the good work.

Mr Segokgo said he had received accolades on the role played by the ministry in uplifting livelihoods.

He said supporting local businesses and fellow Batswana was the only way to grow the country's economy.

He said the economy would not grow through growing the public sector, but rather through helping the private sector to grow.

He said supporting locals' economy would also inspire other

Batswana to venture into business. Mr Segokgo said through innovation and technology, more lives would be impacted, adding that the country was moving towards making technology gadgets easily accessible to all as a way of contributing to human development and bridging the digital accessibility gap.

Further, he said the ministry achieved a lot this year, such as construction of a bio digester at Gothibamang Primary School in Letlhakeng and facilitating an intellectual property workshop for secondary schools and business enterprises.

Other achievements included the launch of village connectivity initiative (SMART Bots).

"While we celebrate success, we need to own up to some challenges, our biggest challenge has been the GABS system, the ministry and stakeholders are working round the clock to [solve the problem]," he said.

Mr Segokgo expressed hope that the system challenges would be addressed sooner, and further implored the staff to reflect on what needed to be improved in the coming year. **BOPA**



Mr Leletisitswe (left), Africa CDC representative, Mr Isaac Zulu (centre) and Dr Matji during handing over of cold chain equipment to the assistant minister in Gaborone recently. Mr Leletisitswe said the equipment was the backbone of any vaccination programme, as it ensured that vaccines that were given to the population maintained good quality. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

## Africa CDC donates P1m worth of cold chain to Botswana

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - The most remote and hard to reach areas of the country will benefit from the

cold storage equipment donated by Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

The equipment include cold boxes, vaccine carriers, ice

packs, ice lined refrigerators and generators worth over P1 million.

Receiving the equipment, Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Sethomo Leletisitswe expressed gratitude to the Mastercard Foundation for donating the equipment through the Africa CDC saving lives and livelihood initiative.

He noted that during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa CDC initiative contributed significantly to the vaccination coverage of the country when the health system was overwhelmed and fatigued from prolonged response activities.

He said the initiative provided the much needed recourse under the Ntlo le Ntlwana integrated vaccination campaign, adding that it was aimed at ensuring that the hard to reach population and those who could not leave their houses to vaccine sites were not left behind.

He also noted that it served as a vaccination catch up for children who missed their under five vaccines.

Mr Leletisitswe also said the collaboration had continued and that in September a local laboratory was designated as a World Health Organisation (WHO) collaboration centre.

He further said Africa CDC saw it fit to donate a genomic sequencing machine to the laboratory.

The assistant minister also said the country had made deliberate efforts to strengthen its emergency, prevention, preparedness and response structures through the support of the Africa CDC.

He added that Botswana was grateful for the collaboration and that it was in line with the country's national health priorities as well as President Mokgweetsi Masisi's Reset Agenda.

Handing over the equipment, UNICEF country representative, Dr Joan Matji said the equipment would ensure that vaccines were delivered to the most remote and hard to reach areas of the country.

She also said UNICEF was happy to capacitate health workers who would be managing the cold chain equipment. **BOPA**

## Selebi Phikwe enjoys Christmas high tea

By Kgotsotalang Botsang

SELEBI PHIKWE - Christmas came early for Selebi Phikwe women as they were treated to a high tea courtesy of *Woman to Woman* magazine.

The event was held at Cresta Bosele Hotel on Friday under the theme: Empower Her, the Power in Me and You.

The magazine, which strives to empower and embrace women who make a difference in people's lives, grouped women from various disciplines to celebrate Christmas and to inspire and empower other women to take advantage of available business opportunities to improve their livelihoods.

Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms Beauty Manake urged the women to make a difference wherever they were and to do the best they could to transform their lives for the better.

Ms Manake told other women that her current position did not come on a silver platter and that she had to sweat.

She urged the women folk to borrow a leaf from her and pursue their dreams, noting that after quitting her job to venture into business, she encountered challenges, but defied all the odds to make her enterprise thrive.

Ms Manake urged the women to take advantage of available opportunities in the SPEDU region and venture into viable businesses, noting that the citrus project had the potential to develop many value chains.

For her part, Prophetess Judith Thomas of Fruit of Life Ministries urged women to group themselves and embark on sustainable business projects that could change their lives for the better.

She also urged women to support

each other through information sharing and other means, adding that negative talk, gossip and frustrating others was exacerbating societal problems and impacted negatively on the economy.

She advised women to seek the guidance of God for them to achieve their dreams.

Selebi Phikwe Hospital official, Dr Dayana Palai relayed information on the importance of mental health to overcome challenges. She said women were often plagued by symptoms such as anxiety, depression, insomnia and anger.

She said they should not seek

to be perfect as they were only human, but to live one day at a time and to love themselves more.

"If you are not married or do not have children, you are not less of a woman," she said.

The women were each given goody bags to pamper themselves during the festive season. **BOPA**



Ms Manake (right), Prophetess James (left) and Dr Palai during a Christmas high tea hosted by Woman to Woman magazine in Selebi Phikwe on Friday. Ms Manake urged women to form cooperatives and take advantage of available opportunities in the SPEDU region. Photo: Kgotsotalang Botsang

## Botswana, India envoys consult

GABORONE - The fourth session of the Foreign Office Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Botswana and those of India took place in Gaborone on Thursday.

A press statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the meeting afforded the two Ministries an opportunity to deliberate on issues of common

interest as well as appreciate progress made in the various areas that Botswana and India cooperate in such as the trade and investment, health, tourism and education sectors.

"Botswana and India established diplomatic ties in 1966; India opened its diplomatic Mission in Botswana in 1987 and in 2006 Botswana opened its

Mission in India," the statement said.

The consultations were co-chaired by the acting permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Clifford Maribe and India's Ambassador to Botswana Puneet Kundal, additional Secretary for East and Southern Africa and the Ministry of External Affairs. **BOPA**

# Transport connectivity key to LLDCs survival

GABORONE - Transport connectivity is a lifeline for the socio-economic survival of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) says the Global Chairperson of the Group of LLDCs and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Lemogang Kwappe.

Dr Kwappe was addressing a two-day ministerial meeting of the LLDCs in Yerevan, Armenia, on 14-15 December.

A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says Dr Kwappe was delivering a statement on the theme, 'Enhancing equitable, affordable and inclusive transport connectivity as a driver for sustainable and resilient economies'.

The theme highlighted achievements and challenges that LLDCs faced in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action that would be drawing to an end in 2024.

Dr Kwappe says it is crucial to transform landlocked countries

into landlinked countries and emphasised the important role of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for LLDCs in boosting economic growth and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Hence he encouraged continued support and increased investment in transport connectivity for both hard and soft infrastructure.

The Minister also appreciated the progress made by LLDCs on the expansions and upgrading of rail, road, ports, air transport and closing missing links within LLDCs.

He added that transport connectivity was a major challenge for LLDCs, saying on average, these countries pay more than double of what the transit countries incur in transport costs.

He also said it takes a longer time for LLDCs to send and receive merchandise and other essential commodities from

overseas markets, which further compounds the cost of transport.

Dr Kwappe said exorbitantly high transport costs erode LLDCs' competitive edge, discourage investors and reduce economic growth. Thus creating unfavourable terms of trade and hindering the growth of the economy and achievement of sustainable development.

Therefore, he stressed the importance of expanding transport infrastructure, which demanded very high investment, far beyond the capacities of the LLDCs and the transit countries.

He said to address the challenges facing LLDCs, there

was need for more integrated international cooperation and continuous and dedicated efforts from all the LLDCs, in a more coherent and coordinated manner to develop and maintain quality, affordable, accessible, resilient and sustainable transport infrastructure and transit systems.

He called for phasing out of cumbersome and prolonged transit procedures and simplified border measures to increase transport efficiency and encouraged the use of information technology to increase productivity at the corridors.

Dr Kwappe also called for enhanced infrastructure financing capacity, as well as leveraging new and innovative financing sources and new funding mechanisms, including blended finance and green bonds to expand private-public partnerships and infrastructure financing for LLDCs.

The minister also stressed the need for the timely holding of the ministerial meeting in the lead up to the third UN Conference on LLDCs to be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 18-21 June 2024, which will adopt a new programme of action for the next decade. **BOPA**

## Minister Moagi urges employees to adapt to evolving demands

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

GABORONE - Minister of Minerals and Energy Mr Lefoko Moagi has emphasised the importance of maintaining an optimistic outlook in the workplace.

Mr Moagi was speaking at the ministry's achievements celebrations recently.

He expressed the need to surpass the expectations of various ministerial stakeholders and adapt to evolving demands in order to remain relevant and provide diligent service.

Further, Minister Moagi highlighted the significance of adopting a fresh perspective in the workplace, as it enabled officials to stay aware of stakeholders' evolving needs.

He stated, "To exceed our stakeholders' expectations, we must embrace a mindset change and develop innovative approaches. Our aim is to create an environment that fosters growth in the minerals and energy industries."

Furthermore, Minister Moagi emphasised the importance of not only being compliant but also proactive and critically analysing the issues at hand to achieve significant milestones.

"The ministry aims to cultivate a work environment that not only meets stakeholder expectations but also promotes continuous

growth and addresses challenges innovatively," he said.

He acknowledged a few of the ministry's achievements in the energy sector, such as agreements with BURS for petroleum collection, connecting Kgatleng and Borolong villages to the national grid to eliminate power outages caused by load shedding, and the commissioning of Bobonong and Shakawe plants.

In the mineral sector, he said notable achievements included improved Mineral Potential Fraser rankings, the introduction of the Minerals Policy in Braille, the successful FACETS conference, and increased employment opportunities in mining.

Despite the challenges faced by ministry officials throughout the year, Minister Moagi expressed satisfaction with their resilience and seamless collaboration across various industries. He encouraged introspection and innovation in overcoming these challenges.

Mr David Kgoboko, CEO of Botswana Power Corporation (BPC), also emphasised the importance of maintaining teamwork within the various ministry sectors.

He viewed teamwork as an ongoing strategy that contributed significantly to the country's development and prosperity. **BOPA**



Public service employees in Kgatleng during Ms Macholo consultative meeting in Mochudi recently. The meeting was part of the nationwide DPSM tour to apprise public service employees on progress on the implementation of collective labour agreements, review of Public Service Act, e-services as well as Mindset Change initiative. Photo: Mmoniemang Motsamai

## Government reviews labour laws

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - Government is working towards aligning and harmonising labour laws and policies in order to avoid contradiction, the Director of the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM), Ms Gaone Macholo, has said.

Addressing public employees in the Kgatleng District in Mochudi on Wednesday, Ms Macholo said currently, there were four laws that administered the public service: the Employment Act, Trade Unions Disputes Act, Trade Unions Organisations and Employers Organisations Act and Public Service Act.

Ms Macholo said some policies should be consolidated to form a new document that would replace the 1996 general orders and be aligned to the Public Service Act after completion of its review.

She said labour laws should be aligned to international labour standards as they were used interchangeably, or cross referenced. "Sometimes one contradicted the other, hence they should be harmonised to produce conditions of service, she said.

She appraised the meeting that there had been an ongoing project to undertake a holistic review of labour laws with a task team that comprised the tripartite bodies to align provisions of these laws with other employment and labour legislations and bring them to conformity with International Labour Conventions that provide for sound labour relations.

"We have a committee that DPSM engages with which includes trade union federations and Business Botswana," she said.

She also said the recommendations of the committee would be presented to Parliament and it is hoped that the laws would be in place by March 2024 or anytime thereafter.

Ms Macholo called on public service employees to embrace the Mindset Change campaign and to instil a high performance culture and close all lapses in the public service.

She advised them to memorise the Public Service Charter and to implement the priorities of the Reset Agenda especially digitalisation that calls for paperless approach to work,

stating that already pay-slips were digital, hence other services should also go digital.

"It is important that in your work place, you should display the service standards," she added. "The service standards make you accountable to the people you serve because they hold you accountable."

The meeting was also informed about the proposed upcoming changes that include Public Service Remuneration Policy and review of the public service salary structure which are to be completed in the 2023/24 financial year.

A private labour consultant, Dr Amin Khan, presented the Remuneration and Salary Structure recommendations that entail moving from a narrow bandwidth to fan shaped structure to cater for those who reach the ceiling by rewarding performance when there are no vacancies to progress to.

He said the proposed fan shaped structure was ideal for creating room for growth and it provided for a competitive pay structure that linked pay to performance to pay. **BOPA**

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## Beware: FMD outbreak in South Africa

By **Thato Modiakgotla**

**RAMATLABAMA** - Farmers along the Botswana and South Africa border have been warned against their livestock crossing the boundary because of the

outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in South Africa.

Addressing kgotla meetings in Tlhareselele and Ramatlabama last Thursday, Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Kefentse Motshegwa said the

disease was likely to spread to Botswana if farmers did not take precautionary measures.

He urged them to keep their eyes on their cattle all day and to kraal them at night so that they did not get the opportunity to

cross to South Africa as it had been happening in the past.

He advised them to ensure that their livestock had enough water and feed in kraals as they would have no reason to travel long distances.

Dr Motshegwa also urged farmers to brand and ear tag their livestock, adding that unbranded cattle would be regarded as stray animals.

Also, he informed farmers that their cattle, which would be identified in South Africa would not be allowed to return and would be killed and owners compensated P700 per cow.

He also informed them that veterinary officers would regularly test livestock for FMD, especially those along the border.

Dr Motshegwa urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure that the disease did not spread to Botswana.

He noted that FMD would negatively affect the economy and that livestock prices would drop as well as some countries boycotting Botswana beef.

Good Hope District Commissioner (DC), Mr Rapetse Mathumo said FMD could negatively affect lives and that farmers needed to work together to ensure that the disease did not spread to Botswana.

Mr Mathumo also urged farmers to ensure that their family members and relatives did not cross to South Africa at ungazetted areas as they could bring the disease to Botswana.

The DC also pleaded with farmers to ensure that the fence dividing the two countries was not vandalised after its construction.

For his part, Kgosi Mosowabudi Letshikgwana of Tlhareselele complained about the destruction of the border fence by thieves, and said they stole cattle in Botswana and drove them to South Africa.

He urged farmers to take care of their animals so that they did not cross the border fence.

Kgosi Letshikgwana said they had a team that patrolled the border fence and repaired it where it had been vandalised.

He requested government to assist them with equipment and material that they would use for repairs.

Kgosi Johane Leshomo of Ramatlabama said their area was close to South Africa and that the disease could easily spread to Botswana. He requested residents to follow all precautionary measures to avoid spreading the disease to Botswana.

Residents of both villages thanked the officials for having acted swiftly before the disease could spread to Botswana. However, they decried the poor state of the border fence, saying their cattle moved freely between the two countries due to shortage of water and pasture.

Residents also noted that cattle from other districts were present in their area as there were no fences in-between. **BOPA**



*Dr Sebonego (left), District Commissioner Mathumo (second left), Dr Motshegwa (right) and other Good Hope District officers inspecting the dilapidated border fence at Ramatlabama where livestock from both countries drink. Dr Motshegwa assured residents that the border fence would be repaired and urged them to look after their cattle so that they did not cross to South Africa. Photo: Thato Modiakgotla*

## 'Posa'it to enhance services'

By **Bonang Masolotatse**

**GABORONE** - BotswanaPost's latest innovation, Posa'it is more than a technology marvel, but demonstrates the organisation's effort to push boundaries and redefine industry standards.

BotswanaPost chief executive officer (CEO), Mr Cornelius Ramatlhakwane said this when he launched the new product recently.

He said it is a comprehensive financial technology application, which offered both postal traditional services and other diversified ones.

Mr Ramatlhakwane said the all-inclusive application housed BotswanaPost services and its other applications such as PosoMoney and DigiPost.

"The application targets individual users, hawkers and street vendors. It also enables users to easily access services such as paying for their BotswanaPost insurances, subscriptions, electricity, renew vehicle licenses and performing traditional post office transactions including renewal of mailboxes," he said.

He added that the application also enabled merchants to access a host of transactions and earn a commission for selling BotswanaPost services. "This new application is a true vision of Botswana Post to innovate and execute for sustainable growth," he said.

He further said the organisation continued to devise

strategies to avail services to the public without having to visit their offices and therefore, their commitment to technology remained unparalleled.

"Through digitalisation, BotswanaPost aims to diversify its online services to positively impact good customer services.

Digital transformation empowers our customers to seamlessly enjoy these services with unparalleled ease," he said. He said in recent years, the organisation had revamped its digitalisation efforts as illustrated by digital platforms it had provided to access services by its clients. **BOPA**

## Entrepreneurs with disabilities graduate

By **Gaolethoo Kgatitswe**

**GABORONE** - A group of entrepreneurs with different disabilities recently graduated from an intensive entrepreneurship development training programme offered by Local Enterprise Agency (LEA), Norsad Capital and Botswana Council of Disabilities (BCD).

The training programme was intended to empower them to start and grow their businesses.

Three organisations partnered to provide training tailored specifically for entrepreneurs with disabilities.

They were inducted on essential business skills, financial management, marketing and business planning.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, LEA capability development officer, Mr Mompati Baiphethi explained that it was the first group of people with disabilities that they got to work with.

He said 21 entrepreneurs with

disabilities graduated from the programme and that another eight were their workers at LEA.

One of the trainers, Mr Justice Majaga said the one-week course challenged attendees

on entrepreneurship and to distinguish their personal goals from their business goals.

He said participants received personalised guidance and mentorship from experienced professionals in the field.

One of the graduates, Ms Barati Ramontsho said the programme was life changing and that it had given them the confidence and skills to transform their businesses into success. **BOPA**

## Restocking, compensation for Bobirwa farmers starts

**GABORONE** - The restocking and compensation of Bobirwa farmers who were affected by the cross-border livestock rustling is expected to commence with immediate effect and the likely duration of the exercise is four months, the assistant minister of Agriculture Mr Molebatsi Molebatsi has said.

Mr Molebatsi told Parliament that a total of 958 farmers were eligible for the livestock

restocking relief programme.

This followed a comprehensive assessment and verification of all applications received during phase I and phase II exercises.

He said the livestock restocking relief programme comprised 2 827 cattle, 97 bulls, 367 sheep, 4 890 goats and 296 donkeys for all eligible beneficiaries in Bobirwa.

The assistant minister also explained that the total cost of the relief programme was P36

408 460.

Breaking it down, he said P21 098 600 was for livestock, operational costs at P12 million and a 10 per cent contingency of P3 309 860.

Mr Taolo Lucas of Bobonong had asked the minister to update parliament on progress made in the restocking and compensation of Bobirwa farmers and the likely duration of the exercise. **BOPA**



# MAKORO BRICK

Private Bag 62 Palapye, Botswana

Tel: 492 0626 Fax: 490 0044

E-Mail: hr@makoro.co.bw

Website: www.makoro.co.bw



## EXTERNAL ADVERT: VACANCY CIRCULAR NUMBER 4 OF 2023

Applications are invited from suitably and self-motivated, energetic, dynamic, confident, results driven and innovative qualified persons for the below post tenable at Makoro Brick & Tile Plant in Palapye.

### INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN X 3

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** Responsible for electrical maintenance, installations and repairs to the Plant

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Diploma in Electrical Engineering or Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.
- Driver's Licence.
- At least 10 years of relevant work experience in the Fully Automated Plants in Quarry / Brick Industry or Heavy Plant Industry.
- Should be registered with ERB.

#### MAIN DUTIES

- Install, maintain and troubleshoot electrical systems including installing conduit and wirings, motors, instrumentation, recording devices, starters and temporary wiring setups;
- Diagnose and correct electrical malfunctions so as to maintain equipment in a state of operating effectiveness;
- Maintain and repair plant instrumentation;
- Develop wiring diagrams as necessary;
- Use precision instrumentation such as voltmeter, ammeter, merger, wattmeter;
- Repair, maintain, test and calibrate instrumentation an equipment of various types including flow meters, thermocouples, HMI, laboratory and Kiln control instruments, loop controllers, PLC and process control and related networks and various other forms of electrical / electronic equipment;
- Perform preventative maintenance and predictive maintenance on electrical devices and other equipment;
- Be familiar with Allan Bradley PLC, trouble shooting, programming and installation
- Conduct daily safety risk assessment on routine and non-routine job tasks.

### MAINTENANCE FITTER & TURNER X 4

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** To install, service and repair industrial machinery and equipment

#### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct preventative maintenance, scheduled machinery services and conduct repairs in case of breakdowns on machinery and equipment to ensure maximum machine efficiency and reliability.
- Apply safety procedures and conduct inspections to ensure compliance with Botswana mining regulation standards to prevent personal injury and damage to machinery and equipment.
- Conduct housekeeping practices [cleaning and organising] within prescribed areas and on machinery and equipment to ensure a clean and safe working environment.
- Complete ISO and other relevant documentation [into machinery and equipment] to ensure effective record keeping.
- Repair and maintain machinery and equipment, and also assist where required, in order to ensure the optimal efficiency of the Services at the required specifications to the factory.
- Apply trouble shooting and problem-solving techniques to enhance machine efficiency and reliability.
- Installation and commissioning of pipe-work as required by the factory.

#### QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:

- Qualified Fitter & Turner with minimum N3 or equivalent.
- Minimum 5 years of experience in a related position and industry.
- Must be able to communicate efficiently verbally and in writing.
- Able to work effectively as part of a team.
- Adapt to new ideas/methods, display flexibility in work pattern when required
- Work on own initiative with minimum supervision.
- Must be able to be on Standby.
- Experience with Clay brick making will be an added advantage but not a necessity.
- Repairs, overhauls, maintains and services drive trains and final drives, hydraulic transmissions, power take offs, tracked vehicle suspension and steering;
- Practices workplace safety.

### SPECIALIST IN HEAVY DUTY DIESEL MECHANIC X 2

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** To provide hands on general maintenance and engine overhaul of the company fleet of machines and trucks.

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Cambridge / O'level Certificate.
- National Trade Certificate (NTC 3) / N1 Certificate in Motor Mechanics.

- Driver's Licence.
- Over 10 years' experience as a Diesel Fitter Mechanic / Foreman in a Manufacturing/ mining or heavy plant industry.
- Knowledge of hydraulics, gear boxes, pneumatics important.
- Extensive knowledge in Heavy Duty Diesel Engines.

#### MAIN DUTIES

- Manages the general maintenance of the all equipment and machines.
- Co-ordination, planning and scheduling with other departments i.e. production department to ensure timely availability of maintained machinery and trucks to achieve the production and delivery targets.
- Coordinating cooperation with other departments for efficient maintenance of machinery and vehicles cross checking of checklists, machinery and vehicles before dispatching for operation.
- Thorough knowledge of hydraulics, gear boxes, pneumatics important.
- Trouble shoots
- Coaching ability on preventive & predictive machine and vehicle maintenance by maintaining employee safety and morale of creating safe working and efficient working environment.
- Establishing Trainings needs and support for the workers & Associate Staff members.
- Driving stability, cost reduction, and systemic improvement of the workshop operations.
- Maintaining proper employment levels through assistance at selecting, interviewing, training and disciplining of personnel.
- Achieve results while working under a busy workshop i.e. long hour, weekends and paid public holidays
- Coordinate ordering of spares for both yellow machines and trucks.
- Supervises staff and give technical advice on machines and trucks break downs. Fixing and ensures their availability throughout the month
- Processing of vehicle insurance claims
- Managing and maintaining ware and tare of the fleet

### PROJECT MANAGER X 1

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** To oversee the planning, implementation, and tracking of specific short- and long-term projects (new plant) being implemented.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Cambridge / O'level Certificate.
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and ERB License
- Computer literate, AutoCAD Certificate and MS Project Certificate and know how to prepare work programme / schedule.
- Must have knowledge in Quantity Surveying, Design and Calculation of Structural Engineering Works.
- Driver's Licence.
- Reference of completed projects in the past 5 years.
- Minimum 10 years' experience in Building Construction and Projects Management.

#### MAIN DUTIES

- To define the scope on the project in collaboration with senior management.
- Creates a detailed work plan which identifies and sequences the activities needed to successfully complete the project.
- Develops a schedule for project completion that effectively allocates the resources to the activities.
- Reviews the project schedule with senior management and all other staff that will be affected by the project activities; revises the schedule as required.
- Execute the project according to the plan and monitors the progress of the project and make adjustment necessary to ensure the successful completion of the project.
- Monitors and approves all budgeted project expenditures
- Manages all project funds according to established accounting policies and procedures.

Ensures all project deliverables are on time, within budget and at the required level of quality

### MECHANICAL DRAUGHTSMAN X 1

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** To prepare details working diagrams of machinery and mechanical devices, including dimensions, fastening methods, and other engineering information.

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Cambridge / O'level Certificate.
- Diploma / Bachelor Degree in Design Mechanical Drafting (Computer Aided Drafting),
- Driver's Licence.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office required.
- At least 2 years' experience in Auto CAD latest or lower version 2D and 3D.

- Experience in customise industrial machine designed, mechanical parts, fabrication, for semiconductor, automotive and other relative industrial machine and material handling.

#### MAIN DUTIES

- Develop detailed design drawings and specifications for mechanical equipment, dies / tools, and controls, using computer assisted drafting (CAD) equipment.
- Coordinate with and consult other workers to design, layout, or detail components and systems and to resolve design or other problems.
- Review and analyze specifications, sketches, drawings, ideas, and related data to assess factors affecting component designs and the procedures and instructions to be followed.
- Compute mathematical formulas to develop and design detailed specifications for components on machinery, using computer-assisted equipment.
- Position instructions and comments onto drawings.
- Modify and revise designs to correct operating deficiencies or to reduce production problems.
- Specify material, dimensions and processes for fabrication on drawings.
- Lay out and draw schematic, orthographic, or angle views to depict functional relationships of components, assemblies, systems, and machines.
- Confer with supplier's representative to review schematics and answer questions pertaining to installation of systems.
- Draw freehand sketches of designs, trace finished drawings onto designated paper for the reproduction of blueprints, and reproduce working drawings on copy machines.

### MILLWRIGHT TECHNICIAN X 3

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** Overseeing, assembling, maintenance and servicing of plant equipment.

#### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Diagnosing deficiency and defects in the performance of crushers, extruders, convey belts, mixers, gearbox etc. and do all repairs
- Align and calibrate machinery and equipment parts as required for efficient and safe operations
- Dismantle equipment when required for repairs/ transportation and reassemble it at the appropriate time.
- Read and interpret blue prints and detailed repair drawings related to production equipment and machinery.

#### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Diploma in Mechanical/ Electrical or equivalent
- Apprenticeship in Millwrighting or 5 years in a maintenance environment

### FARM WORKER X 4

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** To carry out general farm duties at Makoro Brick & Tile.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Junior Certificate, drivers licence an added advantage
- Must be able to read/speak English
- Must be able to work long hours
- Must be able to work during the weekends and public holidays

#### MAIN DUTIES

- General farm maintenance and up keep.
- Must be able to prune trees and cultivate in the garden of ploughing field.
- Must have understanding of chemicals used in farming i.e., fertilizers and pesticides.

**All applications should be addressed to:**

The Human Resources Manager  
Makoro Brick & Tile (Pty) Ltd  
Private Bag 62 Palapye  
Or can be send via Email: hr@makoro.co.bw

**If you do not get response within 7 days of the closing date know that your application was unsuccessful.**

**Closing Date: 07/01/2024**



# Parliament 2023

## Serame presents supplementary estimates

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Botswana's economy continues to decline owing to ongoing geopolitical tensions, which have resulted in global inflationary pressures and weak demand for diamonds.

Presenting the supplementary estimates of expenditure from the consolidated and development

## Ministry assists in repatriation

GABORONE - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its consular services assist with the repatriation of Batswana who have died abroad whenever the deaths are reported to the diplomatic missions.

Answering a question in Parliament, the Assistant Minister for State President Mr Dumezweni Mthimkhulu said the office was aware of the eight reported cases of Batswana who died and were buried in foreign countries.

"Accordingly, Batswana are assisted to repatriate deceased family members for proper burial in Botswana. Assisting families of a Motswana who dies abroad is integral to the consular services provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," said Mr Mthimkhulu.

He said when death was reported to the relevant mission, the ministry engaged the family of the deceased to provide the necessary support in line with the regulations of the foreign country.

He said in a case whereby the family of a Motswana who has died abroad wished to be assisted, the family would be required to appoint a local representative in the respective country to facilitate the repatriation of the body.

He said depending on the country where the body was, the family of the deceased would among other documents be requested to produce the passport of the deceased, death certificate, certificate of non-contagious (non-epidemic) infection, conveyance of dead bodies form, burial order from the family, embalming certificate and the import/export permit from Botswana Unified Revenue Services

Gaborone Bonnington South MP, Mr Christian Greeff had asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs if he was aware that there were many Batswana who died and were buried in foreign countries and that some Batswana were longing for their loved ones to be repatriated into the country for proper burial.

**BOPA**

funds on Thursday, the Minister of Finance, Ms Peggy Serame said the effects of drought have also added to the slow growth profile.

"This has negatively affected government revenues which in turn affected the size of budget allocations," she said.

Ms Serame said the approved budget for the current financial year was P60.3 billion for ministerial recurrent budget and P21.01 billion for the development budget.

She said the proposed supplementary estimates on the other hand amounted to P1.42 billion, which she said was requested by nine ministries and one extra ministerial department.

She said reasons for requesting supplementary funds by the various ministries included catering for adjustments of salaries, basic salary allowances, overtime, service charges and C-band salary arrears payments among others.

Ms Serame further explained that her ministry would use part of its requested supplements for payment of 40 per cent of seasonal loans for rain-fed farmers across the country, who obtained loans from CEDA and the National Development Bank (NDB) through the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme.

"This will relief farmers from the effects of crop failure due to drought for this cropping season following the declaration by government of the 2022/23 as a drought year," she said.

Ms Serame said part of the funds would establish and kick-start weather-based crop insurance scheme of the recently launched Temo Letlotlo.

Ms Serame also talked about supplementary feeding to primary school children and vulnerable groups at health facilities, saying additional funds towards such were necessitated by increased prices in food commodities such as beans.

She noted that other entities that needed additional funds included AirBotswana, which she said was still struggling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as passenger numbers had not yet picked up.

"The situation was also worsened by the continued rise in aviation fuel prices, which have more than doubled from the pre-COVID period. This continues to hinder the airline's recovery and growth," she said.

Ms Serame also explained that the proposals for supplementary estimates under the development budget would be sought from slow spending projects through development budget reallocation, which effectively means that it will not increase the 2023/24 annual budget provision. The supplementary estimates are currently before Parliament for debate. **BOPA**



Minister Mokgethi said there was no signed agreement between Botswana and Zimbabwe on the use of national identity cards to cross the borders. She said President Masisi and Dr Mnangagwa discussed facilitating free movement between the two nations using national IDs during the recent Kusi Ideas Festival.

## Use of IDs between Botswana, Zimbabwe not formalised

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - There is no signed agreement between Botswana and Zimbabwe on the use of National identity cards (IDs) to cross the borders.

Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Ms Annah Mokgethi clarified in Parliament on Thursday, that the formality of using National IDs to cross the border between Botswana and Zimbabwe had not yet been arrived at.

Ms Mokgethi said it was not wrong for presidents to share what they viewed as of importance to their nations, more so that it was within the development agenda of the continent.

Presenting a statement, Ms Mokgethi assured Batswana that processes and procedures would be undertaken before implementation could take place.

More importantly, Ms Mokgethi said upon adoption of acceptance of regulatory standards, the two countries would enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Ms Mokgethi emphasised that issues of concern must first be attended to before such an initiative could be undertaken.

She said the decision would take into account security measures of the IDs as well as border management control, stability, traceability of migration patterns as well as economies and beneficitation on the use of IDs as travel documents.

Responding to a question from Francistown West Member of Parliament, Mr Ignatius Moswaane who had asked on the security and precautionary measures to be considered, Minister Mokgethi said prior to finalising such an agreement, an impact assessment study (security assessment) would be part of what would be done at the initial stage of the discussions.

She assured Mr Moswaane and other legislators that no deal was struck yet. Francistown South MP, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi indicated that Francistown was already overwhelmed by influx of Zimbabwe nationals even before the ease of movement agreement, resulting in a serious challenge on among others health facilities and other services provided by the city.

Mr Mmolotsi said it was

important to consult and get the views of the communities in localities like Francistown and North East as they would be directly and negatively affected by the development.

He said the decision would have implications on the lives of the people in Francistown with the likelihood of increasing criminal acts.

Ms Mokgethi advised that the agreement be guided by the framework of the law as it was allowed by the Immigration Act. She said due diligence would be done prior to making a final decision.

Even though it was a good idea, Ms Mokgethi assured that a decision would be subject to a thorough assessment.

She said SADC was working on regional integration with free movement being a priority area and that Botswana was at the forefront.

Pursuant to the African Union Agenda 2063 on free movement of people in the continent and the Pan African Forum for Migration and the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement initiative, Ms Mokgethi said Botswana continued to explore opportunities to facilitate movement of people, goods and services.

Ms Mokgethi said one strategic move to enable and operationalise the initiative was to use the ID as a travel document in bilateral arrangements with SADC countries, which were amenable to the concept.

As such, Ms Mokgethi said in February, Botswana entered into an agreement with Namibia regarding the use of national identity cards of the two countries to cross their borders.

She said the move had eased movement of individuals, groups of people, business communities and frequent travelers of both countries.

"Ease of doing business, visits to relatives, travelling for various reasons has improved," she said.

Ms Mokgethi said President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi and his Zimbabwe counterpart, Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa explored free movement between Botswana and Zimbabwe during the recent Kusi Ideas Festival panel discussion. Dr Mnangagwa made comments acknowledging

and appreciating the discussion he had with President Masisi on facilitating free movement between the two nations using national IDs.

However, Ms Mokgethi hastened to indicate that the agreement was in principle, adding that the officials and technocrats would advise accordingly towards working out an arrangement as to how the proposed easing of movement would be carried out.

Ms Mokgethi said in two of his kgotla meetings, President Masisi had shared his desire to approach Zimbabwe and initiate the discussion on the use of IDs of the two countries to cross the borders.

Should the leadership of the two countries formalise the idea, Ms Mokgethi said all necessary consultations, processes and communication would be done with the relevant stakeholders both in Botswana and Zimbabwe.

"As the Ministry responsible for migration, civil and national registration, we have observed various reactions from members of the public as well as from social media locally, regionally and far afield on this matter. We have found it fit to put this matter into perspective," she said.

She said the background to the use of IDs to cross the borders emanated from the desire to facilitate free trade, movement of people, goods and services in line with the aspirations of free trade agreement in Africa.

Ms Mokgethi said AfCFTA encouraged free movement of goods and services, enhanced by free, safe, secure, orderly and regular movement of the people of Africa. "As a nation, we need to leverage on free, orderly and regular movement of people within the region to facilitate our economic growth. The African Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want, has identified free movement of Africans as the strategic pillar that can harness and enhance economic growth," she said.

Therefore, Ms Mokgethi said Botswana continuously explored options and possibilities of facilitating free movement through the use of national IDs as a document for travel. She said the arrangement between Botswana and Namibia was living up to expectations. **BOPA**

# Enhanced withdrawals exempted from tax

GABORONE - Government has found it worthwhile to allow for total exemption from income tax, the whole of the enhanced withdrawals that are allowed under the Retirement Funds Act 2022.

Answering a question without notice in Parliament, Minister of Finance, Ms Peggy Serame said as such the amendment of the Income Tax Act, which was under consideration would impact positively retiring members of pension funds or Batswana.

"In this regard, publishing of the Bill which has already been drafted will be fast-tracked so that it can be tabled at the earliest opportunity," she said. The object of the Bill, Ms Serame said was to amend the Income Tax Act to increase the tax-free threshold applicable to pension fund commutable amounts from 33.33 per cent to 50 per cent.

The Bill, she said also sought to increase the tax-free threshold

applicable to gratuity and severance payments from 33.33 per cent to 50 per cent. It will also increase the tax-free threshold applicable to retrenchment packages from 33.33 per cent to 50 per cent.

This includes allowing deferred pension members to access their pension funds to settle medical bills tax-free and allowing 50 per cent exemption to deferred pension amounts accessed by members to settle loans, she said.

Ms Serame said the ministry was aware of the outcry by Batswana due to exempting, in part, the amounts allowable for withdrawals under the Retirement Funds Act 2022 hence the decision to amend the Income Tax Act to align it with the Retirement Funds Act 2022. On whether consideration would be made exempting pension income from taxation, she said the ministry was currently holistically reviewing taxation laws and would consider

exempting pension income from income tax.

She further noted that consultancy on the Botswana Pension System was undertaken through the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority to assess the effectiveness and adequacy of the system.

"It looked at ways to better inform the response to the public outcry," she said.

She said the report which was under consideration by the ministry, was received in July and some of the recommendations require engagement with other ministries.

Tati West MP, Mr Simon Moabi had asked the minister if she would consider amending the Income Tax Act to allow for exemption from tax for the enhanced withdrawal provisions under the Retirement Funds Act, 2022.

He also wanted to know if the minister was aware that Batswana

did not get the full benefits for the improved encashment as long as the provisions for the Income Tax remain unchanged since part of the amounts withdrawn were used to pay income tax.

He further enquired about the study that the minister had promised to undertake to enhance withdrawals for other pensioners than deferred ones as is currently the case. **BOPA**



Minister Serame has told Parliament that the amendment of the Income Tax Act, which was under consideration would positively impact retiring members of pension funds.

## Parliament passes National Assembly Salaries and Allowances Bill

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - Following the appointment of a standing committee on the remuneration of Members of Parliament, Councillors, specified officers and Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Parliament has without amendments passed the Bills in relation to what has been recommended by the former Judge Monametsi Gaongalelwe led commission.

The three bills: National Assembly (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 23 of 2023), Specified Officers (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, (Bill No. 24 of 2023 and Ntlo Ya Dikgosi (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, (Bill No. 25 of 2023 were presented by Minister for State President Mr Kabo Morwaeng on Wednesday.

However, Maun West Member of Parliament Mr Dumelang Saleshando had at the committee stage proposed that clause 2c of the National Assembly Bill proposing for the president to have a constituency allowance to be deleted.

The clause proposed that the State President be entitled to constituency allowance of P232 544. 16 per annum.

Mr Saleshando argued that the president was not entitled to a constituency allowance as he does not have a constituency.

Mr Saleshando added that the president's trips were fully catered for by government in terms of transport, food, accommodation and fuel therefore he didn't need to have a constituency allowance.

He also stated that in the past he held the same view concerning Specially Elected Members of Parliament getting constituency allowance as they do not have constituencies.

Opposing the proposed deletion of the clause from the Bill, Mr Morwaeng said the president was an ordinary Member of Parliament and therefore was entitled to what was offered to other MPs.

He also added that the decision was taken by a standalone committee that was appointed

to review the remunerations of politicians and Ntlo ya Dikgosi, therefore their observations and decisions were not influenced by politicians.

Ghanzi South MP, Mr Motsamai Motsamai was of the view that the clause could have referred to the proposed remuneration as 'responsibility allowance' not constituency allowance since a president did not have one.

Mr Motsamai said the president was well taken care of as his trips were well-funded and resourced by government.

However, the Bill was passed without any amendments as the proposed deletion of the clause by Mr Saleshando was defeated by a vote.

Twenty-three votes were against the proposed change, 12 supported the deletion of the clause, one abstained and the other held a conflicting view.

Earlier on when tabling the bill for first reading, Mr Morwaeng said the National Assembly (Salaries and Allowances) Amendment Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 23 of 2023) was published on December 13 and should be heard as a matter of urgency in accordance with Standing Order 72.3.

He said the Bill should be considered during the current session of Parliament and not during the February session in 2024, thereby moving that the Bill be heard and proceed under a certificate of urgency.

Mr Morwaeng had explained that the Bill had not matured as it was published in the Government Gazette on December 13.

Selebi Phikwe West Member of Parliament, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse said since the review was done by an independent commission, whatever that was suggested must be taken as it was.

He supported that it be presented under a certificate of urgency.

Leader of the House Mr Slumber Tsogwane said it was unfortunate that some legislators were against the Bill being passed under a certificate of urgency even though they had been advocating for an increase in their salaries.

Mr Tsogwane said the issue was a collective decision by legislators.

He said what was contained in the Bill would not be altered and was only brought before Parliament to be passed or rejected.

Palapye MP, Onneetse Ramogapi supported the Bill's urgency, more so that its contents were done by an independent commission, and did not doubt its contents.

Mr Ramogapi said presenting the Bill on a certificate of urgency was motivated by the fact that the standing committee submitted its report late. **BOPA**

## Temo Letlotlo implementation starts

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - All the 61 000 farmers registered for the new crop production programme, Temo Letlotlo are urged to engage with crop production officers effective Friday, to receive coupons for the purchase of seeds, fertilizers and other requested ploughing implements.

Giving an update on Temo Letlotlo in Parliament on Friday, the Assistant Minister of Agriculture, Mr Molebatsi Molebatsi added that those who have applied to be assisted with tractors and other ploughing implements must equally engage with mechanisation officers to be assisted accordingly.

Mr Molebatsi said the issuance of coupons for collection of seeds to all farmers registered under Temo Letlotlo started on Friday and that the supply of seeds and fertilizers was done by Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB).

He said an arrangement would be made with registered farmers to collect fertilizers at the Dikgotla of their respective villages.

Mr Molebatsi noted that all farmers were registered through a digitalised system, therefore making it efficient to pay among others, suppliers of seeds, fertilizers, tractors and other ploughing implements.

He said all the registered farmers would be notified through such

a platform and should, therefore, engage crop production officers to be assisted.

Mr Molebatsi said Temo Letlotlo aimed at boosting the country's food basket was informed by lessons learnt from the defunct Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD).

The assistant minister noted that Temo Letlotlo was more result-oriented and it provided mandatory insurance to guard against challenges of among others natural disasters and would have a weather guide.

He said with the support of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, his ministry had secured an additional 106 vehicles and 28 drivers for execution of Temo Letlotlo.

Mr Molebatsi said the additional vehicles would be available from December 18 until January 31, 2024 to fast-track the implementation of the programme

Mr Molebatsi said the micro-scale component would cater for farmers who would be cultivating a maximum of four hectares for household security.

He said the component, which was 100 per cent subsidised would also cater for certified destitute persons, adding that more than 30 000 farmers were registered under the component.

He added that large-scale farmers, including groups and

clusters, would be assisted to get insured loans through the National Development Bank.

He said the programme brings with it enablers such as fencing material to ensure that crops were protected from damage by animals.

Mr Molebatsi said Temo Letlotlo had registered 274 seed suppliers, 264 agrochemical suppliers and 3 074 tractor suppliers.

To speed up the uptake of the programme, Mr Molebatsi said his ministry would advertise and engage an additional 600 crop production officers.

Commenting on the presentation, Leader of House Mr Slumber Tsogwane appealed to the nation, especially the farming community to take advantage of the programme and improve the current situation of food supply.

Mr Tsogwane said Temo Letlotlo was aimed at resuscitating the agriculture sector.

"I believe Batswana will positively respond to the programme. We must ensure that each household is food sufficient and strive to feed the region," he said.

Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament of Selebi Phikwe West, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse said agriculture contribution had dropped to about two per cent.

He said currently agriculture took about six per cent of the country's annual budget. **BOPA**



## Borre ba kopiwa go tsaya boikarabelo

**Ka Booster Mogapi**

MOLEPOLOLE - Mopalamente wa Molepolole Borwa, Rre Kabo Morwaeng o supile fa tshwaragano e le bothokwa e bile e ka fenyang bothokwa, borukhuthi le kgokgontsho.

O buile jaana ka Matlhatso kwa metshamekong ya kgwele ya dinao e e neng e tshwaretse kwa mabaleng a Lewis, a re Molepolole ke motse o motona mme ditiragalo tsa one di batla popagano gore di fengwe.

O ne a kopanetse koo le maloko a mokgatlo wa Bakwena Taxi Association go tsibosa setshaba ka dikgang tsa dipolao tse di diragalang kwa Molepolole.

A re bokopano joo bo tlaa nna ngwaga le ngwaga ka bo nnile mosola go bo bo phuthile batsaya karolo ba ba ka thusang go anamisa molaetsa wa maitsholo a a amogelesegang mo setshabeng.

Rre Morwaeng yo gape e leng Tona wa Ofisi ya ga Tautona a re mogwanto wa bone wa mo mosong ke tsela ya go romela molaetsa kwa setshabeng gore ba emise kgokgontsho ya bong, tiriso bothlaswa ya nnotagi, dipolaano tsa baratani le tsa boraboko.

O supile fa mokgatlo wa bakgwetsi ba dipalame tsa setshaba o le kgatlanong le dipolaano.

Rre Morwaeng a re mo malatsing a Keresemose jaana, gantsi dikgang tsa borukhuthi, dipetelelo le dititeo tsa bomme di a gola mme borre ba tshwanetse ba eme ka dinao go sireletsa bomme, go tsaya boikarabelo jwa go lwantsha kgokgontsho le go tsaya karolo mo go emiseng dikgang tseo.

O kgadile borre ba ba bolayang bomme a re ba senya leina le go ba diga seriti.

Rre Morwaneg a re go itseela molao mo diatleng ga se selo se se siameng mme batho ba tshwanetse go fa sepodisi le molao sebaka sa go tlhohomisa dikgang le go athola ba ba molato.

Moeteledipele wa Botswana Taxi Association, Rre Lekgoa Balopi ene a re ba itse tse di ntseng di diragalela motse wa Molepolole mme ba lela le bone e bile ba rapela gore Modimo a ba fe kgomotsotso.

A re tiro ya bone ya setshaba ga e a robalelwa ke ditlhokwa mme ba tshwenyegile ka bakgwetsi ba dipalame tsa setshaba ba ba tlhaselwang ke dirukhuthi ka go ba kopa thuso ya go isiswa golo gongwe mme ba tselewe madi le dikoloi.

Rre Balopi a re dipolaano tse di ntseng di diragala kwa Molepolole di ngomola le go phatlola pelo, mme dilo tseo di tshwanetse tsa ema ka tshwaragano ya morafe le sepodisi.

A re mokgatlo wa bone ga o bolo

go kopa ofisi kwa mapalamelong a dikoloi tsa setshaba mme nako kgolo ke eno.

Mogolwane wa mapodisi a Borwa, Senior Assistant Commissioner Harrison Digobe o lebogetse bokopano joo ka bo supa fa ba ikemiseditse go lwantsha borukuthi. O kopile Bakwena gore a dikgang tsa maloba di fete mme ba simolole dilo sesha.

A re Batswana ba tshwanetse go tlhologanya gore lefatshe le tsamaisiwa ka molao mme tiro ya sepodisi ke go diragatsa molao ntle le go kgorelediwa.

Rre Digobe a re sepodisi ga se kake sa kgona go diragatsa molao se le nosi, se tlhoka thuso ya Batswana.

O tsibositse bakgwetsi ba dipalame tsa setshaba go ba loma tsebe fa ba belaela gore ba pegile batho ba ba tshotseng dithoto tsa bogodu.

A re kgokgontsho ya bong e dirwa thata ke borre mme a ba kopa gore ba tlotle Modimo ka ke ene a ba fileng boikarabelo jwa go nna re.

O laetse bakgwetsi ba dipalame tsa setshaba go obamela melao ya tsela le go kgweetsa ka kelotlhoko mo malatsing a Keresemose.

Kgosi Lawrence Mhaladi ene o supa fa Modimo e le ene a ka ba thusang go lwantsha dikgang tse di ba aparetseng.

A re ditiro tsa borukhuthi le dipolaano di diga motse seriti mme seo se ka fedisiwa ke go dira mmogo, go gakololana le go buisana gore tsela pedi go tsewa efe. Kgosi o supile fa a sa itumelele tiroso bothlaswa ya maranyane ke banana ba ba rogang baeteledipele.

**BOPA**



Tona Mmusi (mojeng) a amogela dimpho tsa dijo mo boemong jwa morafe wa Fikeng go tswa mo go Moruti Dr Ntsebele ka Labotlhano. Tona Mmusi o ne a le kwa kgotleng ya Fikeng go semolodisa lenaneo la Cattle Chasing Patrols semmuso. Senepe: Baleseng Batlotleng

## Kereke e abela ba Fikeng dimpho

**Ka Itumeleng Naane**

FIKENG - Go ne go le boitumelo kwa Fikeng jaaka ba kereke ya The City Of Revelation Healing ba ne ba abela banni dimpho gore le bone ba tle ba je letsatsi la matsalo a Morena monate.

Kereke e itshwaragantse le bogogi jwa motse ba ne ba abela banni dijo tsa Keresemose, mo godimo ga moo ba oketsa ka ditilo di le masome a mararo go abela kgotla ya Fikeng.

Dimpho tseo di abilwe ka Labotlhano kwa Mopalamente wa Gabane/Mankgodi Tona Kagiso Mmusi a neng a semolodisa semmuso lenaneo la Cattle Chasing Patrols.

Lenaneo le, le itebagantse le go tla ka methale ya go bona gore banni ba kgaolo eo ba ka tshidisiwa jang le diruiwa go sena kgotlhang, ba lebile one maele a gore ba ka iphemela jang mo go tsone le go babalela matshelo a tsone.

Tona Mmusi o supile fa go tlhabolola matshelo le go itlama ka

kgang tsa Cattle Chasing Patrols, e le maitlamo a motho mo bonosing, a simolotse pele ka go tlhologanya moonoo le telopele ya lenaneo la Mindset Change.

A re tlhabologo e tla pele mo mothong, a supa gore le ntswa ditlhabololo di ka go fitlhelela, fa dikakanyo di sa fetoga, ditlhabololo tseo di ka seke di go tsele mosola.

Fa a atolosa maikaelelo a letsatsi, Archbishop Dr Samuel Ntsebele wa Kereke ya The City Of Revelation Healing a re maikaelelo magolo a go abela banni ba Fikeng ke go imolola puso morwalo le go thusa mo letsholong le puso e le boloditseng la go tlhabolola matshelo mo metse selegae.

O supile fa letsholo la tlhabololo matshelo e se maikarabelo a puso e le nosi, mme go le mo magetleng a mongwe le mongwe yo o nang le bokgoni go tsenya letsogo go thusa go nonotsha itsholelelo le go tlamela ba ba dikobo dikhutshwane.

O ne a gatelela gape gore ba ba nang le bokgoni jwa go itshetsa ba seka ba leba fela mo pusong go

ba tlhamela ditiro mme ba dirise bokgoni jwa bone go itlamela le go ikagela bokamoso jo bo botoka.

“Go bothokwa go dirisa bokgoni jwa lona go itshetsa.”

Kgosi Kenneth Letlole wa Fikeng o ne a akgola a bo a rotloeta kereke go tselela ka go abela ba ba tlhokileng lesego mo botshelong.

O ne a rotloetsa morafe go itlhokomela ka malatsi a Keresemose mme a kgothatsa borre go tsaya tshwetso le boikarabelo ka botsogo jwa bone.

“Borre sepatela ga se a direlwa bomme fela.”

E re dikgang di eme jalo, go solofetsweng phadisanyo magareng ga ditlhopha go tswa Fikeng, Tloane, Mmokolodi le e mengwe.

Metshameko e e tlaa tshwarwa malatsi a le mararo ka malatsi a boitapoloso, e le tsela ya itloso bodutu le go fema dikotsi tsa tsela tse di bakwang ke maeto a maleele batho ba lebile go ya maitisong kana metshamekong ya kgwele ya dinao kwa mafelong a a kgakala.

**BOPA**

## Ba Selebi Phikwe ba itepatepanya le seemo

**Ka Kgotsafalang Botsang**

SELEBI PHIKWE - Go lwantsha tiriso ya ditagi e e ileng magoletsa mo toropong ya Selebi Phikwe le metse e e mabapi, mapodisi a toropo eo a tlaa simolodisa mokgatlo o o tlaa itebaganyang le bothata jo, ngwaga o o tlang o simologa.

Mokgatlo o tlaa akaretsa ba sepodisi, dikereke, makalana a a ikemetseng ka nosi le ba-na-le seabe ba bangwe.

Mookamela kgaolo ya sepodisi ya No.10 Senior Superintendent Agreement Mapeo o tlhalositse mo tshimolodisong ya letsholo la go lwantsha tiriso bothlaswa ya bojalwa, ditagi le tse dingwe mo kgaolong ya No.10 e e akaretsang dikgaolo tsa Selebi Phikwe, Mmadinare le Bobonong ka Labone.

Senior Superintendent Mapeo o

tlhagisa bothle ba ba rekisang ditagi le ba ba di dirisang gore mokgatlo o, o tsile go tsena ntle le ntlwana o dupa fa ditagi di fitlhlileng teng.

A re e le ba sepodisi ba tshwenyegile ka dikgang tsa tiriso ditagi tse di tseletseng ka go golela pele, a tlhalosa fa go tswa ka 2022 go fitlhelala 2023, mapodisi a setse a gatisitse dikgang di le 123 tse mo go tsone go tlhohomisiwang babelaelwa ba ba fa gare ga dingwaga tse 15 go ya kwa go tse di masome a supa le bothlano.

A re go a sita go fitlhela bagolo ba amega mo dikgannyeng tse ntswa e le bone ba tshwanetseng go kgalema.

Rre Mapeo a re mo malatsing a a masome marataro kgatlanong le borukuthi le dikotsi tsa dikoloi, ba sepodisi ba kopa setshaba go tswa mo borukuthing, go fetola boitshwaro le go ema kgatlanong le dikotsi tsa tsela.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Kgosi Mark Thipe wa kgotla ya Ikageleng o kopile morafe go tshwaragana le mapodisi go ntsha ditagi mo malapeng ka go loma mapodisi tsebe.

A re morafe ke one o itseng batho ba ba rekisang ditagi ga mmogo le ba ba di dirisang ka gore ba tswa mo malwapeng.

Kgosi Thipe o kopile morafe go fetola dikakanyo le go fetola ka fa ba dirang dilo ka teng go tla ka methale e mesha ya go lwantsha tiriso ya ditagi.

Fa a latlhela la gagwe, mokwaledi wa toropo ya Selebi Phikwe Rre Montshwari Matseka o solofeditse fa khansela eo le yone e tlaa thusana le ba sepodisi go lwantsha tiriso ya ditagi gore Selebi Phikwe e nne toropo e e nang le kagiso e bile e babalesegile.

O lebogetse ba sepodisi go bo ba ikemiseditse go ntsha ditagi mo

kgaolong e, a tlatsa ka go re ditagi di ama matshelo a batho le itsholelo.

A re khansela le yone e tshwenyegile ka dipalo tse di tseletseng ka go gola tsa tiriso ya ditagi, a rotloetsa banni ba Selebi Phikwe go tshwaragana le mapodisi go lwantsha mamba wa ditagi.

Rre Orateng Ramoswang yo o kileng a tshwakgolwa ke bojalwa, a re nnotagi fela jaaka ditagi e na le ditlamorago tse di senyang botshelo jwa motho.

A re o ne a anwa go fetisa selekanyo e bile maitshwaro a gagwe a sa eletsego mo setshabeng.

Rre Ramoswang o tlhalosa fa go ne go le thata go tlogela dino mme ka a ne a na le maikemisetso a felela a fetotse botshelo jwa gagwe go nna jo bo eletsegang, a rotloetsa bothle ba ba ka fa tlase ga kgatelelo ya bojalwa le ditagi go tswa mo go tsone gore ba tsele botshelo jo bo botoka. **BOPA**

# 2023

THE YEAR THAT WAS

## In Business, Healthcare, Arts & Sports

# How economy performed in 2023



*President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (fourth left), Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Lefoko Moagi (third left), Jindal Steel and Power chairperson, Mr Naveen Jindal (fourth right) and other dignitaries appreciating the 300MW Thermal Power Plant model during the official groundbreaking ceremony at Mmamabula.*

**By Marvin Motlhabane**

GABORONE - Beyond intense negotiations, 2023 birthed a strategic U-turn which saw government reaching a new sales agreement with De Beers Group, which will run for the next 10 years.

This by far proved to be the biggest milestone achievement for Botswana across its economic mainstay, with the mining licences for Debswana mines renewed and running for a further 25 years from 2029 until 2054.

The outcome of the agreement was the increase of government's entitlement, through the Okavango Diamond Company, in the Debswana production, from 25% to 50%.

This was envisaged to fast-track the cutting, polishing and manufacturing of jewellery, locally, thereby, ensuring provenance and branding of diamonds.

In addition, the agreement would also result in Botswana receiving P1 billion each year for 10 years, which would be deposited into the Diamond Development Fund, and would accumulate to P10 billion and be invested in local projects.

To the latter, a number of sightholder companies came forth to provide exceptional skills transfer and training in the processing of diamonds among young people, something that is expected to see Botswana benefiting from the diamonds value chain.

In line with this development, government further stirred market-oriented economic policies to support growth while attempting to diversify the economy away from diamond mining. This, however, proved fairly challenging due to Botswana's small domestic

market, substantial skills gap, and volatile business cycle.

The economic growth slowed in 2023, owing largely to the impact of monetary tightening by the central bank, with marginal support provided by the agricultural sector.

Notably, hopes for growth acceleration throughout 2024-27 remain, particularly driven by the services and mining sectors.

The year saw Botswana being ranked sixth out of 28 countries in the Absa Africa Financial Markets Index, making the country suitable to attract both local and foreign direct investment.

The Absa Africa Financial Markets Index is a valuable tool for measuring the state and robustness of financial markets across African countries.

The Minister of Finance, Ms Peggy Serame said the index provided insights on development and integration of financial markets across Africa, adding that it was essential to have a comprehensive understanding of the progress being made in this area, as financial markets played a critical role in promoting economic growth and development.

The negative impact of COVID-19 on the economy has been easing in recent months with a slight shift in economic growth.

Significant decisions were made by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to maintain inflation within the objective range of three to six percent, from an average of 12.2 in 2022.

This saw the upward adjustments in administered prices and associated second-round effects contributing to high inflation, as stipulated in the October 2023 BoB Household Indebtedness Survey Report.

The Monetary Policy Rate

(MoPR) was, therefore, increased by a cumulative 151 basis points to 2.65 percent in 2022 to anchor expectations for the desired low levels of inflation across 2023.

Towards economic diversification, Botswana took an over-drive mode to establish itself as the destination of choice for hosting Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE).

As a result, numerous events hosted thousands of international participants across the country through strategic conferences bringing diversity of spin-offs for several sectors including hotel and hospitality, retail and transport.

This year had a total export commodities largely from the

mineral sector, particularly diamonds, copper-nickel, and silver, all of which accounted for 92% of total exports contribution.

The government's decision to restrict the importation of selected vegetables and fruits in 2022 started bearing fruits across 2023, with a decline of the fresh produce import bill from P634 million in 2018 to P183 million in 2023.

The ISPAAD programme came to an end and was replaced by Temo Letlotlo initiative, which will effect during the 2023/24 ploughing season.

With this programme, the government aims to sustainably improve food security in the country, through two components being household food security and national food security.

The household security component was set to assist micro scale farmers with 100% subsidy and it targeted the farming population with no wage or monthly income of up to P2 500, whereas, the national food security component targeted small, medium and large scale individual farmers, as well as groups and clusters.

Furthermore, the year saw a total of 1 750 dairy cattle female sexed semen being purchased and 1 000 of them have been sold to dairy farmers.

In respect of conventional semen, 500 straws were purchased, out of which 100 were sold to dairy farmers. Moreover, the year saw government committing to importing 162 breeding live beef, of which 141 were bulls and 21 heifers.

These were bought to improve

the country's genetic quality and ultimately increase the national herd.

Upon negotiations concluded in September 2022, the year 2023 saw government raising a budget support loan of approximately US\$100 million from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund. The loan has been solicited to support government's Programmatic Economic Resilience and Green Recovery Programme.

According to the Minister of Finance, the overall objective of this budget support loan was to fund government's efforts through the strengthening of its pandemic and crisis response, addressing the regulatory constraints for private sector recovery as well as building the foundations for a sustainable green economy.

Toward local developments, new funds investment rules were launched and excited the pension industry. PFR2 as commonly known, this rules would effectively result in the increase of the pensions' domestic investment limit to 50% of total asset value over a five-year period.

Across the energy sector, government entered into a 30-year strategic agreement with an independent power producer, Jindal Energy Botswana for a 300 Megawatts Power Plan, with scope to expand to 600 Megawatts.

The agreement entailed the opening of a new coal mine and power station in Mmamabula and the ground-breaking ceremony was conducted on October 6. **BOPA**



*President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (centre), Minister of Finance, Ms Peggy Serame (left), Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Lefoko Moagi (second left), De Beers CEO, Mr Al Cook (second right) and Mr Neo Moroka during a courtesy call at the Office of the President. President Masisi thanked Mr Cook and his team for the manner in which they handled the negotiations, saying Botswana was much prouder of De Beers and the partnership than were before.*

# Botswana model of excellence in Primary Healthcare

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Primary Health Care (PHC) is one of the most essential packages in the health services, Minister of Health Dr Edwin Dikoloti said when unpacking PHC, adding it was all about managing illnesses.

He said PHC was aimed at preventing illness, promoting health and managing illness, and that it included all aspects of health, be it mental, physical, or any other.

In his statement Dr Dikoloti stressed the need to access a health facility even when one did not feel sick, but just for medical check-up and screening, so that if, by chance, there was a hidden disease, it could be diagnosed, "be treated early before becoming even more serious and be a threat to one's life.

He said PHC catered for all people from the day of birth, adding that children must be immunised to prevent diseases and promote health. For that reason, there has been oral vaccination against polio, World Hearing Day encouraging ear check-up and oral health, including African Vaccination Week in which children went for any missed vaccination.

Dr Dikoloti said by attaining quality PHC, Botswana would have achieved universal health coverage and people would receive essential health services they needed, as well as be ready to face whatever health issues that may come their way.

Striving to achieve United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals for 2030 on universal health coverage, Botswana hosted the 73rd session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Committee (RC73) for Africa in Gaborone.

The RC73 conference coincided with WHO Diamond Jubilee Celebration, which saw at least 500 health delegates attending – including 47 Health ministers from across Africa to discuss health promotion matters and learn best practices from each other.

The event saw former ministers of Health Joy Phumaphi, and Sheila Tlou share their experiences from their time in office.

Botswana got an opportunity to share its success stories, HIV/AIDS and attainment of target surpassing UNAIDS targets of 95 95 95 to 95 98 98, as well as challenges in the health sector.

Botswana and stakeholders were called to focus on the 5-2-2- to achieve 100-100-100 so that HIV was totally eliminated from Botswana.

Minister Dikoloti chaired the summit and Dr Matshediso Moeti was awarded the Presidential Order for Meritorious Service Award during the meet.

Cases of mumps (Makidiane) measles and rubella were detected in the country and the ministry worked around the clock to normalise the situation. In an effort to transform the health care services and improve the landscape of Botswana, Sidilega Private Hospital in Gaborone established a lifesaving procedure of Bone Marrow

Transplant facility.

Clinical Haematologist Dr Elizabeth Botsile said the bone marrow transplant services being the first of its kind in Botswana, was a way to bring scarce services and deliver high standards and quality care services in the country. Radiation Oncology Centre was also launched at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (SKMTH).

In the quest to fight Gender Based Violence, abuse of drugs and HIV/AIDS, City to City prevention campaign took a more resolute stance in the fight against such ills.

City to City Campaign project manager, Mr Kaone Ramontshonyana said the war against drugs and spread of HIV/AIDS were on the rise and it was evident that the nation was on the losing end, therefore said it was a sign that a lot more needed to be done to raise awareness, and thus called upon the nation to stand together and fight against all these.

Amidst all the diseases, mental health was one particular ailment that seemed ignored over time, but it has since taken a centre stage of the health sector.

"Without a good mental health there is no good health," echoed by Ms Charity Kennedy of Botswana Network of Mental Health who said mental health is a reminder to prioritise taking care of self, with empathy, compassion.



*Rightreverend, Dr Celestino Chishimba during Ms Molefhe's funeral in Gaborone. She was recognised for her outstanding contribution to the health sector and nursing profession in particular and one of the clinics in Gaborone, Julia Molefhe Clinic is named after her.*



*First Lady Neo Masisi (right), UNAIDS executive director, Ms Winnie Byanyima (centre) and Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng as the First Lady was being appointed UNAIDS Champion for the empowerment and engagement of adolescent girls and young women in Botswana.*



*President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (centre), First Lady Neo (second left), Vice President Slumber Tsogwane (left), Africa Centre for Disease Control director general, Dr Jean Kaseya (second right), WHO regional director for Africa, Dr Matshediso Moeti (right) and African Ministers of Health at the 73rd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa Meeting in Gaborone.*

She called upon people to break the stigma surrounding mental health and create a better world for all.

She said depression and stress were real, and urged the public to go for counselling services to avert social ills including suicide.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) remain a great threat, with excessive alcohol consumption, fatty and salty food intake and lack of exercise fingered as

factors contributing significantly to NCDs. Botswana have been therefore urged people to protect themselves against NCDs, and reminded that physical activity improves mental health, physical and social health and well-being across all ages.

First Lady, Neo Masisi became chief walker at various events including the 73WHO Regional Committee for Africa dubbed "Walk the Talk" in a bid to fight NCDs.

She reflected on the fact that NCDs were silent killers, adding 41 million people around the world die each year, which is equivalent to 74 percent of death globally and that of all NCDs deaths, 77 percent deaths happen in low and middle income countries.

She said everyone knows someone suffering from NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes and therefore called on African nations to be focused on fighting NCDs.

"Walking does not only promote health, but is a response to some significant societal, environmental, mental including the physical challenge," she said, adding that physical exercise goes a long way towards saving lives and ensuring healthy lifestyles.

On the other hand, Minister Dikoloti stressed the importance to teach children to be infused with information about NCDs with "catch them young" so that they learn about NCDs early enough, and promoted a healthy diet. The ministry encouraged 10 000 steps every day.

The ministry also launched an Airborne Lifeline Foundation, which would see specialist flying services to remote areas in the morning and getting back to their duty stations later.

E-lockers services were also launched, an initiative by FHI360 in partnership with the ministry of health and Botswana Post will see chronic medication being accessed 24 hours a day, with flexibility of choosing a time most convenient for collection in Main Mall and Mogoditshane.

## CANCER

The country was painted pink as Botswana commemorated Breast Cancer Day.

Stakeholders were therefore urged to unite in fighting cervical cancer Ms Masisi said cervical cancer mortality statistics revealed that globally a woman dies of cervical cancer every two minutes, and therefore it was important that stakeholders worked hard to eliminate it.

Ms Masisi said statistics reveal that cervical cancer was one of the leading causes of death in women in Sub Saharan Africa, accounting for 76 000 every year.

She called for action across the region, driving the message of unity, action and possibility of eliminating cervical cancer and saving the lives of women across the globe.

Topical and critical challenges was when Botswana experienced shortage of medicine, the outcry which Minister Dikoloti said was a result of COVID restrictions.

Donations of contraceptives and PPEs were received from Chinese government, and UNFPA, BAYLOR – Botswana donated oncology medicine. Mission for Motions donated 90 tons of various medications through facilitation of Botswana Baylor Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence Trust.

Botswana AIDS Impact Survey (BAIS) 5 survey findings were released, and Vice President Slumber Tsogwane said Botswana was on track towards ending HIV/AIDS epidemic. The year also saw First Lady Ms Jane Masisi appointed as one of the only two UNAIDS Champions in Africa.

Veteran nurse and esteemed health worker Ms Julia Molefhe passed on. She was recognised for her outstanding contribution to the health sector and nursing profession in particular and one of the clinics in Gaborone is named after her.

As the festive is upon the nation, people are requested to donate blood and continue spreading the message against NCDs, HIV/AIDS and road accidents. **BOPA**

# Arts & culture - 2023 entertainment review

GABORONE - Another year in the books, another collection of memories to tuck away in the world of showbiz of the year 2023.

As the year ends, we take a look back at the year that was in 2023. Film... The year was a progressive one for the film industry with the Botswana International Film Festival (BIFF) hosted for the first time with a super opening at the Three Dikgosi Monument.

The BIFF streamed 83 films from various creatives in countries from regions of Africa, Europe and Americas, bringing together film experts such as Mykel Parish, Moabi Mogorosi, Sam Ngwenya, Obed Emvula, Loreley Yeowart, Ralph Kgabanyane and many others.

The young aspiring filmmakers had an opportunity to engage with experts and got insight on various film elements to develop, enhance and grow their craft to the global standard required and find their voice as Batswana in the film industry.

The festival also saw Botswana's short film, Partly Cloudy and Hot, bagging an award for Kaone Kario as the Best Actress.

Partly, Cloudy and Hot has also been making headlines across the world.

Culture... Botswana recently hosted the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee on 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Kasane.

ICH is a practice, representation, expression, knowledge or skill recognised by UNESCO to be part of a place's cultural heritage.

President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi indicated at the session that ICH forms a part of the core of the social identity markers and therefore should be safeguarded. Communities were encouraged to list their elements and increase their community inventory.

Botswana has inscribed three elements to be part of UNESCO list needing urgent safeguarding in the past years;

Earthenware pottery making skills (dinkgwana), dikopelo folk music of Bakgatla-ba-Kgafela and Seperu folk dance and associated practices. Television and theatre... Steve Harvey finally shared his plan for the long anticipated Family Feud Botswana series.

The American media mogul came into the country beginning of December to launch Btv's Studio 4, where the magic will be happening.

During his Town Hall with President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, Steve Harvey said the launch of Family Feud Global would also be launched in Botswana in the near future.

Pula Musical, a theatre production by Mophato Dance Theatre, invaded South Africa at the South Africa State Theatre in Pretoria. It was a dream come true for the local stage performers.

They gave their soul and skills to the Mzansi audience thrilling not only fans but also captains of the industry.

Multichoice Botswana launched My Botswana Plate, Botswana Top 5 music videos on DStv channels. Local television station, Ytv also launched a channel on Multichoice Botswana. Music... Botswana's creatives

made impact on the international stage, with collaborations and record signings with some of the acclaimed music gurus.

DJ KSB signed a recording deal with Master KG's Wanita Mos, and had collaborations with many of South Africa's acts within the stable.

ShiversBW also a DJ, collaborated with Rhythmic Elements' Mackenzie. The young Afro Tech maestro is also working with Black Motion on their upcoming album to be released next year.

The MTN Bushfire festival in eSwatini fielded Botswana's sensational Amapiano DJ, Casper The DJ. The young lad set the MTN BushFire on fire and left a mark on the biggest Southern Africa music festival.

Not only did Botswana creatives set the international scenes with their presence, they also took their brands outside the country and expanded.

WhySoGroup, an initiative by Ban T, which has livened Gabs City with the WhySoFriends event, expanded to South Africa.

The brand delivers the WhySoStudents every last Thursday of the month in South Africa with Botswana as well as South Africa acts. Fashion...

The youthful fashion brand Glotto, rocked the New York Fashion week ramp earlier in September. Also BK Proctor Collections held its first ever fashion show to celebrate their five-year milestone in the industry. Deaths... The entertainment industry suffered a blow with the death of Mponang 'Gong Master' Ketshabile. The traditional song and dance maestro passed after a short illness, leaving a void in the traditional music space.

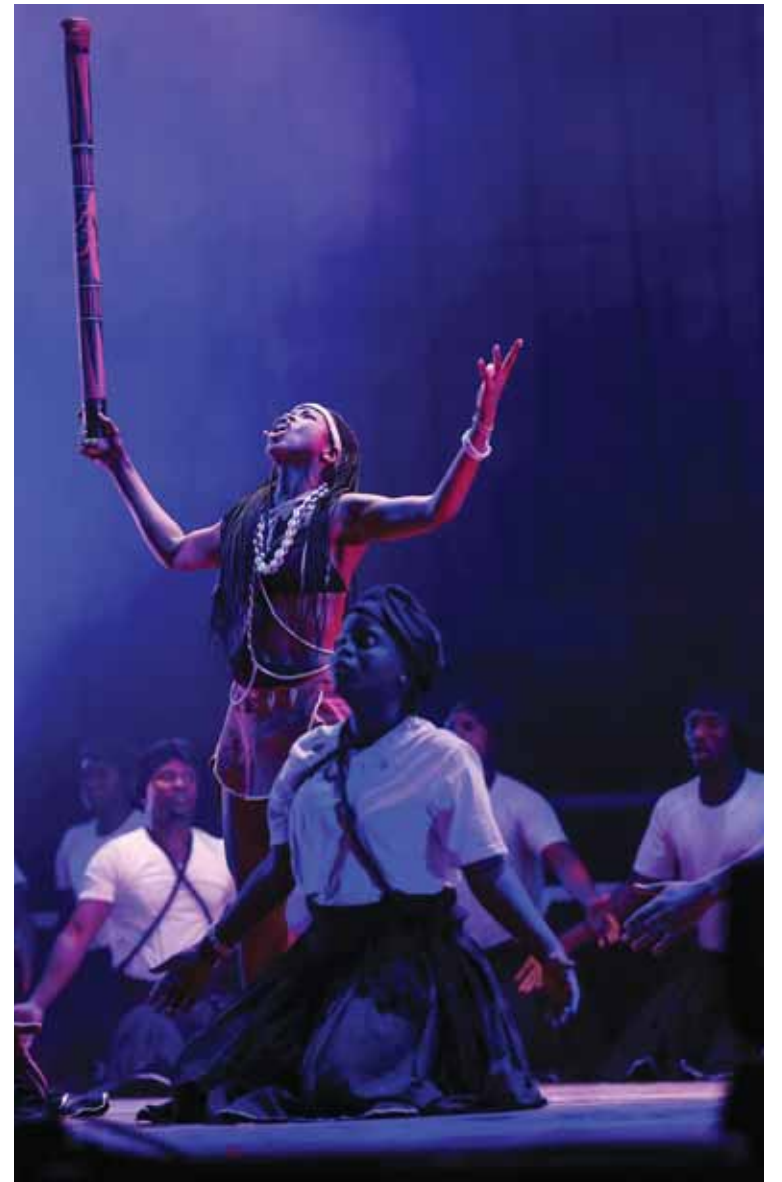
Stephen Rahman, the owner

of various entertainment clubs in Gaborone and around Botswana, also met his demise this year. Rahman was not only an entertainment club owner but he played a role in the growth of night life in Gaborone.

Regionally, in South Africa the entertainment industry lost Kiernan 'AKA' Forbes and recently Bulelwa 'Zahara' Mkutukana. May their souls rest in peace. Happy safe holidays... see you all in 2024 as we continue to vibe and grow the entertainment industry!!!!



*Tawana ya Koma paying his last respects to his late father, Gong Master at the funeral in Digawana. The entertainment industry suffered a blow with the death of Gong Master, who left a void in the traditional music space.*



*Mophato Dance Theatre's Lone Motsomi who plays the part of Mmapula - the rain maker, performing with other members during the Broadway production Pula. Pula Musical invaded South Africa at the State Theatre in Pretoria.*



*President Masisi (left), Btv news anchor, Gaona Dintwe (centre) and Harvey during a townhall conversation with the President at the launch of Btv Studio 4 in Gaborone. Harvey said they would host Family Feud Botswana and would also create a studio to record Family Feud Global in Botswana.*

# Year 2023 full of positives in sport

GABORONE - The year 2023 was full of roller coaster emotions for Botswana sport, but the negatives for once were eclipsed by the positive.

## Track and field

The year started on a sombre note after the 2012 London silver Olympic medalist Nijel Amos

was banned after testing positive for a prohibited substance, metabolites of GW1516. He missed the Budapest World Championships and he will miss the Paris 2024 Olympics after he was banned for three years.

In May, the country hosted a successful Botswana Golden Grand Prix, which attracted a lot of international athletes amongst them Canadian Andre De Grasse and American sprinter, ShaCarri Richardson. In the same meet, Letsile Tebogo sent the stadium into a frenzy as he stormed to a 200 metres

Person Best time of 19.87 beating the likes of De Grasse, Aron Brown from Canada and Liberian Joseph Fahnbuller.

In July Tebogo broke Frankie Fredericks' record 200 metres men record set in 1996, as he stopped the clock in 19.50 seconds. He continued with his good performance at the World Championships held in Budapest, Hungary, as he became the first African to win a medal in 100 metres, and become the first Motswana to ascend to the podium at the World Champs, winning a silver in 100 metres and a bronze in 200 metres.

The nation had expected that the medal tally will increase but unfortunately Bayapo Ndori

was injured in the 400 metres semi-finals.

## The Mares

Confusion nearly rocked the women's football national team, after their coach Gaoletlhoo 'Ronaldo' Nkutlwisang, was relegated to second assistant coach. Mohambi Saulos, who was roped in as the head coach, was shown the door after the team's poor performance in the Olympic qualifiers. Alex Maletle has since been appointed interim coach.

The Mares made history by qualifying for the WAFCON 2024 to be held in Morocco next year. This will be the second time the team will be competing at the WAFCON after they participated for the first time last year. The Mares beat Kenya with an aggregate of 2-1 to qualify.

## The Zebras

Botswana Football Association (BFA) parted ways with gaffer Mogomotsi Mpotse and hired

French man, Didier Gommès Da Rossa. The is a ray of hope after BFA hired Da Rosa who won the hearts of Batswana in a World Cup qualifier game, when Zebras won 1-0 against the high placed Guinea.



*Lekorwe has made a positive impact in the region in table tennis. He scooped a silver medal at the 2023 International Table Tennis Federation Southern Africa Hopes and Challenge Week.*

## Table tennis

The Botswana Table Tennis Association closed the 2023 calendar by successfully hosting the Phoenix Assurance International Open Championship, which saw Renelwe Lekorwe again hoisting the country's flag high finishing second in the Under-11 category. The BTTA also hosted a successful elective Annual General Meeting (AGM) where the BTTA president Kudzanani Motswagole retained his position unopposed.

Meanwhile, the BTTA renowned umpire Rita Sebele was on the other hand flying high the country's flag as she was engaged in international officiating engagements.

Sebele was in October 10-14, 2023 invited to officiate at the World Table Tennis (WTT)

Contender tournament in Doha, Qatar. She also officiated the WTT Feeder Series on October 15-19, still in Qatar.

Despite hosting various tournaments as a way of growing the sport, the BTTA has made a remarkable mark in youth development. Through the Re Ba Bona Ha centres and other youth development initiatives, the BTTA appear to be doing well in developing athletes for the future.

The programme saw young athletes taking part in some regional competitions, with the Sensational 11-year-old Lekorwe making a positive impact in the region.

Despite dominating the junior cadre locally, Lekorwe also made his mark outside the country finishing second at the South Africa Open Championship in October.

The BTTA Under-11 team also scooped three medals at the 2023 International Table Tennis

Federation (ITTF) Southern Africa Hopes and Challenge Week, which concluded on December 1,

2023 in Windhoek.

The quartet of Lekorwe, Tinashe Dzvaka, Tshogfatso Buisanang and Boitlamo Nkele scooped silver and two bronze medals.

In the boys' category Lekorwe finished second scoping the silver medal while Dzvaka

finished fourth getting bronze. On the girls' side, Nkele finished overall in third scoping a bronze while Buisanang finished fifth. Based on the successful hosting of international tournaments and youth development initiatives, ITTF Africa has granted



*Tebogo*

Botswana permission through the BTTA to host the Africa Youth Championships on July 15-21, 2024.

The Africa Youth Championship will be followed by the Commonwealth Youth Championships, which will also be hosted by the country on July 23-28, 2024.

Botswana Volleyball Federation (BVF) The Botswana Volleyball Federation (BVF) has despite lack of sponsorship made efforts to revive the sport with funding from its coffers.

The move saw the sporting code hosting a successful tournament, BVF Cup held between September and October 2023, which was won by BDF VI men while Police VI won the women's final.

The tournament qualified the top four teams in both men and women for the Zone VI Club Championship ongoing in Lesotho. Another tournament, the Golden Cup Tournament, was held in November 2023 and was won by Police VI women and Kutlwano men teams respectively. The tournament was also used as a training event by clubs that represent the country at the ongoing Zone VI senior club volleyball championship in Lesotho.

The BVF also engaged more on the development of beach volleyball, with the duo of Jack Boifang and George Chiswaniso from Police VI volleyball club doing exceptional well as they represented the country at club and national team regional engagements.

Recently (November 2023) the duo represented the country at the Zonal Beach Olympic qualifiers in Mozambique where they got third position qualifying for the last round of the qualifiers.

In one of their past engagements, Boifang and Chiswaniso represented the country at the Africa Nations Cup in Morocco in July 2023 as well as the Zone VI beach volleyball tour in Maputo, Mozambique, in March.

## Cycling

2023 will go in the books of the Botswana Cycling Association (BCA) as well as the local riders, after the Executive Committee, the president and Secretary General Kagiso Potongwane and Game Mompe attended the UCI congress, a first for the BCA. The congress was held in Glasgow, Scotland, at the same time with the World Championships, which also saw young Matlhogonolo Bothole participating at the Championships, a first for Botswana.

For the first time ever, Dimension Data Route 73 MTB challenge was won by female and male local cyclists, Gontse Lethokwe and Lebopo Kono as overall winners. The historic win saw Lethokwe banking P13 000 as Elite overall winner and Kono bagging P9 500.

Cycle4Life Cycling Club, ushered a woman leader. The development is not only an achievement for Cycle4Life, but the cycling community as a whole as this is a first for the cycling sport. This has been seen as an accomplishment as more women and girls have been encouraged to participate in the cycling sport, and this could further cheer them on.

The annual Nedbank Desert Dash in Namibia, a 397km one night MTB race through the

Namib Desert saw Cycle4Life club cyclists and others participating yet again and this time they were determined to finish the challenge

and get medals. This was the second time local cyclists entered and participated at this mentally challenging race. Last year they failed dismally to complete the course, but this year they went in prepared and learnt from their experience last year.

For the riders, it was a good year as the year was a competitive one in the cycling community as seasoned and semi-professional riders competed in both local and regional races.

## Cricket

2023 was a good year for Botswana cricket with both the male and female senior national teams producing good performances on the international stage. The Baggy Blues as the men's national team is affectionately called, won the 2023 Africa Cricket Association (ACA) T20 Southern and Central Region Qualification Tournament held in South Africa in May. They cruised to big victories in all their four matches, overwhelming Eswatini by 107 runs, Malawi by 100 runs, and Mozambique and Mauritius by seven wickets respectively. Batsmen such as captain Karabo Motlhanka, Thatayaone Tshose, Vino Balakshrinan posted impressive half centuries in the tournament, while Dhruvkumar Maisuria led the charge in the bowling department. Winning the tournament ensured that they progressed to the ACA Africa T20 finals, which are being held in Benoni, South Africa from 11th-19th December, 2023.

The competition is the national cricket tournament for all associate members from the African continent. The Baggy Blues started the finals positively with a 38 runs victory over Ghana. The Baggy Blues, however, had a less successful outing at the Continental Cup T20

Africa held in Uganda in June, where they won only two of their seven matches.

The women's team affectionately called the Herons, produced performances of grit and determination to reach the final of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's T20 World Cup Division 2 Qualifiers held in Botswana. They beat Lesotho by 173 runs and Malawi by five runs to finish second in their group, and qualify for the semifinals where they beat Sierra Leone by 17 runs. They lost to Kenya by nine wickets in the final. Their top two finish, however, ensured that they progressed to the ICC Women's T20 World

Cup Division 1 Qualifiers in Uganda from 9th-17th December, 2023. They, however, lost their matches against Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

## Swimming

Botswana Swimmers in 2023 competed in a lot of international competitions, although they did not win medals in some instances but they recorded their Personal Best times.

## Netball

The Botswana Netball hosted the Africa Netball Cup which had Kenya, Namibia, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Zambia women teams while men's teams were from Botswana, South Africa

and Kenya. Kenya was crowned women champions after beating Namibia in a game that was fiery while South African men walked away with gold after beating Kenya. **BOPA**



*The Mares made history by qualifying for the WAFCON 2024 to be held in Morocco.*

# 'Donkey death rate sign of difficult year ahead'

By **Thamani Shabani**

TONOTA - Deputy Chief of Tonota, Kgosi Pogiso Sekoko has decried the death of donkeys in the village as a worrying development as it indicates that the area may be in for a difficult year ahead.

Speaking in an interview following the recent rains, Kgosi Sekoko explained that history had shown that the death of donkeys was often a tragic sign that drought conditions were already taking a toll.

"Donkeys are particularly vulnerable to drought, as they are not able to survive on water alone and require a large amount of vegetation to meet their nutritional needs. This is a worrying development, as it indicates that the area may be in for a difficult year ahead," said Kgosi Sekoko.

He explained that donkeys, which are known for their resilience and adaptability, were often the first animals to succumb to drought conditions.

"Their demise is a harbinger of the difficulties to come as it is a signal that the region's water and vegetation resources are reaching critically low levels," he said.

However, Kgosi Sekoko advised farmers not to despair and take the initiative to prepare for the ploughing season by taking advantage of the early rains.

He said with harsh weather conditions and high temperatures becoming common, it was vital for farmers to take advantage of any opportunities to maximise their yields.

Kgosi Sekoko called for self-reliance amongst farmers, which he said was also important, as it highlighted the need for communities to be able to provide for themselves without relying solely on outside sources.

He said despite the forecast of below-normal rainfall, farmers in Tonota were hopeful that the early rains would result in good yields.

One of the farmers, and

a member of the Tonota West Farmers Association, Mr Keitshekile Majoo also underscored the need to take advantage of the early rains.

However, he said what has delayed farmers to cultivate their land was the newly introduced Temo Letlotlo programme, adding that a number of farmers had registered with National Development Bank (NDB) to be assisted with ploughing equipment but the bank had not yet released funds.

He decried that the soil would soon lose moisture due to the hot weather conditions if the process by NDB to assist farmers is delayed any further.

Mr Majoo encouraged the farmers who are able to plough to do so early as that would not only promote food security, but also resilience in the face of climate change.

Mr Majoo's observation is that by ploughing early, farmers would take advantage of the longer growing season, which can lead to bigger yields.

Tonota senior district crop production officer, Mr Gositang Kangangwane advised those who have reaped and received a minimum of 10mm rainfall to consider ploughing again to take advantage of the current rains.

Mr Kangangwane explained that Botswana's arid climate and limited rainfall present a unique challenge for farmers, who must be particularly strategic in their approach to agriculture.

"The lack of a robust rain system makes every drop of water precious, and every square inch of land vital. Even a slight change in rainfall patterns can have a major impact on crops, and farmers must constantly adapt to the ever changing conditions," he said.

Tonota ploughing area experienced about 24 millimetres of rainfall over the past weekend, Meteorological Services has noted, and it is a significant amount of rainfall in the area known for its arid climate and limited rainfall. **BOPA**



*Kgosi Sekoko says the death of donkeys in Tonota is a worrying development as it indicates that the area may be in for a difficult year ahead.* Photo: Thamani Shabani

## Four settlements to become conservancy villages

By **Esther Mmolai**

MAUN - North West District councillors have endorsed the proposal to declare four settlements into community conservancy villages.

The settlements include Ditshiping, Daunara, Xaxaba and Quqao and councillors were of the view that the conservancy model would specifically address issues faced by the communities and improve social cohesion.

Commenting on a report from the District Development Committee (DDC), which recommended the declaration of the four settlements into conservancy villages, councillors were happy to learn that the model would benefit the indigenous people who would be able to understand better why it was important to conserve native flora and fauna.

While they welcomed the model, councillors stressed that the report should include their submissions before it is sent to the relevant ministry.

"This conservancy model is a step in the right direction and it will indeed benefit the affected communities in all aspects of life," said Cllr Lekonne Masoko

of Shashe Ward.

The model, he said would aid in sustainable natural resource management, wildlife conservation, poverty alleviation, economic development and local governance.

Cllr Kebareeditse Ntsogothlo of Khwai/Mababe also welcomed the proposal and said the conservancy village model was becoming more common in developing nations.

He appealed to DDC to consult the affected communities so that they could understand how the model worked and what it required to ensure successful implementation.

When presenting the proposal on community conservancy settlement, principal physical planner, Mr Lesang Setimela explained that conservancy settlements were anchored around the indigenous people found in that specific area.

He said their areas had defined boundaries with defined governance management structures where communities had the right to manage and benefit from wildlife.

"Conservancies are legally recognised, geographically defined areas established by

communities that have united to manage and benefit from wildlife and natural resources. The main income streams for community conservancies are photographic and hunting tourism, and each conservancy has a land use management plan," he added.

Mr Setimela further noted that the final draft of the 2023-2043 Maun Development Plan had identified an area earmarked for Maun Conservancy area, and by virtue of it falling within such area implied that it was befitting to establish the settlement as a conservancy settlement.

He added that the North West District full council had since recommended that a conservancy area be declared, followed forthwith by in-depth land use and management plan before implementation.

The concept, he said was in line with the aims of the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme of achieving biodiversity.

He also allayed some councillors' fears that the model might change ownership of the area and restrict residents' rights.

The conservancy committee, he said, would develop terms of reference and the in-depth land use management plan to guide on how the model would work. However, he requested for funding for benchmarking in countries where the model was working successfully.

Deputy principal from Botswana Wildlife Training Institute (BWTI), Ms Omphile Samapodisa concurred that the model had been embraced by some neighbouring countries and it compensated people in co-existence with wildlife.

She added that the model was in line with the CBNRM programme, which focused on providing incentives for communities to take responsibility for managing natural resources sustainably. **BOPA**

## High Court suspends appointments

By **Khumile Moekejo**

KHAKHEA - The Lobatse High Court has suspended the appointment of Khakhea Chief's Representative, Kgosi Kebualemang Kutlase and Headman of Records Mr Johnson Morotsi, pending the outcome of an ongoing legal battle concerning the posts.

The duo, who were appointed and confirmed to the respective positions in February, have been removed from office through a

court order issued on September 20.

Addressing Khakhea residents on Thursday, Senior Chief's Representative, Kgosi Kwelagobe Mookodi explained that the court ruling emanated from a court case in which five residents had notified the High Court of their pending appeal challenging the minister's decision to appoint and confirm the duo.

The applicants, Fetumba Motsholopi, Sereiwa Sehanhale, Setswamorago Batsheng,

Mamaki Lekgoa and Kabolele Kesenkilwe, also indicated that they represented the Khakhea community.

Kgosi Mookodi noted that in the interim, the residents would get services from neighbouring villages of Kutuku and Itholoke.

He also urged them to avoid victimising the applicants for exercising their rights as Khakhea residents.

"I urge you to remain calm and await the results of the court case, which will be instrumental

in mapping a way forward. You should also desist from pointing fingers at each other or victimising the applicants in the case in order to preserve peace in the community," he said.

He said government has since applied for the reversal of the court order, and the case was scheduled for February 21 at the Lobatse High Court.

Kgosi Mokgala Mosesane of Itholoke reiterated that Khakhea residents should keep the peace and respect the applicants. **BOPA**

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## FARM WORKERS

**HERD BOY WANTED** at Mai Sale Tonota. Seikaego S. Maeke. Box 142, Francistown. 71 768 634

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**VACANCY: FARM LABOUR** at Mokala lands, Paje. Contacts 71647880 / 77 191 843.

**LOOKING FOR A** farm worker, lady preferred. Age 30-45 years. Contact 75 905 682.

**FARM WORKER/MODISA** wanted at Borolong near Francistown. 73116496

**HERDBOY WANTED AT** Ratshweu lands. Contact 76 119 246.

## NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

**OWNER OF PLOT 4686** Tlokweg wishes to erect a boundary wall. Contact Tlokweg Council, Physical Planning Unit or 71804791 for queries

### FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

Master's Ref: ESHGB - 0000250/23

IN THE ESTATE of the Late REBABEDI OATHOTSE who died at Sekgoma Memorial Hospital, Central - Serowe District, Botswana on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

THE FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT in the estate will lie open for inspection at the offices of the Master of the High Court at Gaborone for a period of **twenty-one (21) days** from the date of publication hereof.

Any objection to the Estate Account may be lodged with the Master.

DATED at .... On the .... Day of .... 2023

The Executrix Thato Rebabedi  
P O BOX 242, Moiyabana  
Tel: 71244958

### APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed No: T978/2017 Dated 13<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2017 Made in favor of ONE COMPANY (PTY)Ltd

CERTAIN: PIECE OF LAND BEING LOT 2788  
SITUATE: PITSANE IN THE BAROLONG TRIBAL AREA  
MEASURING: 2438.805 M<sup>2</sup>  
HELD UNDER BAROLONG TRIBAL LAND

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing to the Registrar of Deeds, PRIVATE BAG 0020 GABORONE within three(3) weeks of the last publication of this notice thereof.

DATED AT ..... ON THIS ..... DAY OF .....

APPLICANT

### LIQUOR ACT (Act NO.9 of 2004)

Form 2  
(reg.3 (1))

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has applied for a Distributor Liquor Licence in terms of section 13 of the Liquor Act (Act NO.9 of 2004) in respect of premises situated at **Plot 16141 Dabo House, Blue Jacket Street, Francistown.**

And the Liquor Control Authority has determined that the application shall be heard by the Control Authority on the ..... day of ..... 20.....

Any person who wishes to object to the grant of the licence should **within 21 days** of the last publication of this notice, give notice in writing to the said Control Authority of his intention to oppose the application and state the grounds on which his objection is based.

Pululudzani Sally Thomba Smarts  
Address: P. O. Box 2813, Francistown | Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED INTENDS TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF DEED No: FT 582/2010 DATED ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2010 MADE IN FAVOUR OF DINTLE MOTSAMAI IN RESPECT OF

CERTAIN: PIECE OF LAND BEING LOT 19424, FRANCISTOWN  
SITUATE: IN FRANCISTOWN EXTENSION 27;  
MEASURING: 371m<sup>2</sup> (THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY ONE SQUARE METERS);

DATED AT TLOKWENG ON THIS 05 DAY OF DECEMBER 2023

APPLICANT: DINTLE MOTSAMAI

### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's reference: ESHGB - 000615/23

IN THE ESTATE of the late JEREMIAH SOLOMON MODISE who died at Plot 61431 Maruapula, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the 01<sup>st</sup> day of August 2023.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all Debtors and Creditors of the above-mentioned Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within **thirty (30) days** after the publication hereof.

DATE AT GABORONE ON THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2023

The Executor  
David Mxolisi Modise  
C/O Briscoe Attorneys  
P.O. Box 402492,  
GABORONE

Tel No: 395 3377  
www.briscoe.co.bw

The Executrix  
Daphne Kgaleitso Briscoe  
C/O Briscoe Attorneys  
P.O. Box 402492,  
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**NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION**

**OWNER OF PLOT 4674** Kopong intends to change land use from single family residential to multi-family residential. Any objections call 71 888 663.

**OWNER OF PLOT 6834** Mmaratanang Tlokweg wishes to change from single residential to multi-residential. Contact Tlokweg Council Physical Planning Unit or 71 804 791 for queries.

**OWNER OF PLOT 455** Ramankhung intends to change land use from single family residential to commercial (bar). Any objections call 71 888 663

**OWNER OF PLOT 75928,** Tsholofelo wishes to build a double storey and boundary wall. Contact Gaborone council physical planning unit or 71804791 for queries..

**VACANCIES**

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**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Deed No: T253/2015 Dated 19<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2015

Made in favor of **ANIKIE KEANOLE MOPIPI-KORWE**

**CERTAIN** : PIECE OF LAND BEING TRIBAL LOT 61  
**SITUATE** : KOPONG IN THE BAKWENA TRIBAL TERRITORY  
**MEASURING** 1329 M2  
**HELD UNDER** KWENENG LAND BOARD

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing to the Registrar of Deeds, **PRIVATE BAG 0020 GABORONE** within three(3) weeks of the last publication of this notice thereof.

DATED AT \_\_\_\_\_ ON THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT

**NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETING**

ESTATE LATE MATHUBA MATHOBELA MATSONKE – ESHGB000825/23

**IN PURSUANCE** of Section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap 31:01), the heirs and Next of Kin of the deceased persons specified below are hereby invited to attend meetings at the office of the Master located at Gaborone High Court on Thursday the **2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2024 at 0830 hours.**

All the respective meetings, the next of kin are to recommend person(s) to be appointed Executor(s) Executrices Dative, identify beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to the estate of their deceased relative.

For more information concerning the deceased person's estate, please contact the **Masters Office at 3718083, 3718343 or switchboard 3718000.**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

Master's Reference: *ESHGB-000504-23*

IN THE ESTATE of the late **KEMAKETSE SEITSHIRO** who died at Bokamoso Private Hospital, Mmopane, Kweneng District, Botswana on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED at Gaborone on this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of December 2023.

The Executor  
Cynthia Mogakise Seitshiro  
P O Box 55, GABORONE  
TEL: 75692333

**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED INTENDS TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF DEED No: **FT 615/2010 DATED ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2010** MADE IN FAVOUR OF **DINTLE MOTSAMAI** IN RESPECT OF

**CERTAIN:** PIECE OF LAND BEING LOT 11891, FRANCISTOWN

**SITUATE:** IN THE FRANCISTOWN ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT;

**MEASURING:** 662m<sup>2</sup> (SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY TWO SQUARE METERS);

DATED AT TLOKWENG ON **THIS 05 DAY OF DECEMBER 2023**

APPLICANT: **DINTLE MOTSAMAI**

**INSURANCE SALES REPRESENTATIVES REQUIRED**

To market insurance products for **Botswana Life, Hollard and Metropolitan Life**

- Should have at least a certificate of proficiency in Insurance
- Should be 25 years of age and above
- Should be passionate about sales
- Should have good interpersonal skills
- Should be willing to travel
- Possession of a driving licence is an added advantage
- Two or more years experience

**In return the company offers good commission rates, group life and funeral coverage, inhouse training and other production based incentives and rewards**

**TRAINEE SALES REPRESENTATIVES**

To learn and start a career in insurance sales and marketing

- Should be 25 years of age and above
- Should have a minimum of O level certificate
- Should be able to communicate well in English
- Team player
- Sales experience and qualification an added advantage.

If you meet the above and willing to join us kindly send your application including CV and copies of certificates to [absoluteinsurance2019@gmail.com](mailto:absoluteinsurance2019@gmail.com) on or before **15 January 2024**

**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED INTENDS TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF DEED No: FT 529/2010 DATED ON THE **13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2010** MADE IN FAVOUR OF **DINTLE MOTSAMAI** IN RESPECT OF

**CERTAIN:** PIECE OF LAND BEING LOT 18338, FRANCISTOWN

**SITUATE:** IN FRANCISTOWN EXTENSION 27;

**MEASURING:** 681m<sup>2</sup> (SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHTY ONE SQUARE METERS);

DATED AT TLOKWENG ON **THIS 05 DAY OF DECEMBER 2023**

APPLICANT: **DINTLE MOTSAMAI**

**IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT FOR THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT HELD AT VILLAGE** H/W BUSANG  
CASE NO: **CCMVL 000147-23**

In the matter between;

**YOUR FRIEND (PTY) LTD t/a GABZ FM** **Plaintiff**

and

**HOLIDAYS BOTSWANA (PTY) LTD** **Defendant**

**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE**

**TO: HOLIDAYS BOTSWANA (PTY) LTD** a company duly incorporated in accordance with the company laws of Botswana, and whose full and better particulars are to the Plaintiff unknown.

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** by summons issued out of this Court, you have been called upon to give notice, within 10 days after publication hereof, to the Clerk and to the Applicant/Plaintiff attorney of your intention to defend (if any) in an action wherein the Applicant/Plaintiff claims;

- a) Payment of the sum of **P38, 499.97;**
- b) Interest thereon at the rate of 10% from 30 April 2019 until date of final payment;
- c) Costs of suit;
- d) Further and/or alternative relief.

**TAKE NOTICE FURTHER THAT** if you fail to give such notice, judgment may be granted against you without further reference to you.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS **12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.**

**OLSEN LEGAL,** APPLICANT/PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS, **PLOT 7828, MARUAPULA,** (OPP CONSTITUENCY OFFICE) GABORONE, **P.O BOX 1605, GABORONE** (REF: PO.YRF-021)

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ZIMBABWE HELD AT HARARE**

CASE No. HC3463/23  
Ref. HC 1972/23

In the matter between:

**RASHELL MUSIYAMBIRI (Nee MTANDAVARI)** **PLAINTIFF**

And

**RAPHAEL DOMBORASHE MUSIYAMBIRI** **DEFENDANT**

**SHORTENED VERSION OF SUMMONS AND DECLARATION**

**TO:** The Defendant named above;

The Plaintiff named above instituted proceedings against you at the High Court of Zimbabwe at Harare on the **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023,** claiming an order for a decree of divorce as set out in her declaration attached to the summons.

**If you wish to oppose this action you must;**

1. Enter appearance to defend with the Registrar of the High Court of Zimbabwe at Harare **within twenty (20) days** after this publication, and
2. Notify the Plaintiff or her Legal Practitioners, in writing at the address given below of your entry of appearance to defend.

**If you do not enter appearance to defend, the Plaintiff's claim will be heard and dealt with by the High Court as an unopposed and without further notice to you.**

DATED AT HARARE ON THIS .... DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

Plaintiff's address of service is care of her Legal Practitioners, Makiya and Partners Legal Practitioners, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Beverley Court, No. 100 Nelson Mandela Avenue, Harare. C/O



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**Kwadiwa (Pty) Ltd**

t/a Kwadiwa Game Lodge & Resort  
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 Private Bag 62, Palapye  
 Tel: (+267) 76 475 132  
 info@kwadiwaranch.com / www.kwadiwaranch.com

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Applications are invited from suitably and self-motivated, energetic and innovative qualified persons for the below post tenable at Makoro Brick & Tile.

**FARM WORKER x 4**

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** To carry out general farm duties at Makoro Brick & Tile.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- Junior Certificate, drivers licence an added advantage
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- Must be able to work long hours
- Must be able to work during the weekends and public holidays

**MAIN DUTIES**

- General farm maintenance and up keep.
- Must be able to prune trees and cultivate in the garden of ploughing field.
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**All applications should be addressed to:**

The Human Resources Officer  
 Makoro Brick & Tile (Pty) Ltd  
 Private Bag 62 Palapye  
 Email: hr@makoro.co.bw

*If you do not get response within 7 days of the closing date know that your application was unsuccessful.*

**Closing Date: 07/01/2024**



We are recruiting teachers

**Head of School**

The Head of School is to ensure the wellbeing of students and achieve the school's enrolment objectives. Your scope of activity will include:

- Leading outstanding teaching and learning throughout the primary years, Reception to Secondary school.
- Ensure proper staffing, quality curriculum development and recruiting of students.
- Providing training and feedback to teachers regarding effective curriculum and classroom practices.
- Collaborating, organising and communicating effectively with all stakeholders.
- Ensuring the thorough understanding and implementation of the policies and procedures of the primary phase and the whole school.
- Actively research and discuss new innovations, theories, practices and methodologies in relation to education and educational management.
- She/He is responsible for the child safeguarding and safety, welfare, academic achievement, staff performance, daily management, business and financial management, staff development.

The applicant must have extensive experience in international schools as well as experience on the continent. The candidate must have been an IB Head of Department or Coordinator - with knowledge of Cambridge, and has a minimal Master's degree at a world-recognised university and an education qualification (advanced degrees preferred). The candidate must have IB certifications and an expert in child safeguarding.

**Primary School Teachers**

From January 2023 Enko Botho International School welcomed students from Reception all the way to Standard 6. Our school offers the Cambridge curriculum from Early Years to IGCSE. The ideal candidate will actively educate the whole child by meeting the learning needs of every student in their care.

**Qualifications**

Applicants must hold relevant qualifications of teaching (ideally a minimum of 3 years of experience) and should have experience teaching in an international school setting.

**Secondary School Teachers**

The school combines the Cambridge IGCSE and the IB Diploma curricula in a 6-year programme. For this purpose, we are recruiting teachers. Teachers (Form 1 through IGCSE) are to contribute to the international academic learning model of Enko Education through the teaching of the IB and Cambridge programmes.

**The following teachers will be considered:**

- Art | Physics | Biology | Chemistry | ICT | Curriculum Leader | Physical Education/Sports | Setswana | History | English | Business Studies/Enterprise | Mathematics | French | Geography

**Qualifications**

The applicant must hold relevant qualifications of teaching (3 years of experience minimum) and should have experience teaching international curricula.

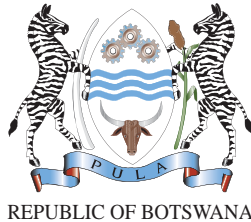


To apply please scan or use the link below | Closing Date: 31 Dec 2023

<https://www.enkoeducation.com/careers/>

NB: Correspondence will only be made with shortlisted candidates.

Enko Botho, Plot 60114, Block 7, Gaborone, Botswana



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**ETHICS AND INTEGRITY DIRECTORATE**

**REMINDER**

**SUBMISSION OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, INCOME, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**WHEN ARE DECLARATIONS MADE?**

**As per the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act No. 12 of 2019**

Within 60 days after appointment or assumption of office or taking an oath of allegiance before the National Assembly.

Every 24 months after the first declaration.

Within 30 days where, a declarant had made a declaration and subsequent to that the value of his/her interests, income, assets and liabilities is reduced or increased by a minimum value of P200, 000.00.

A declarant shall continue to declare for 5 years after leaving office.

*Promoting and reinforcing integrity and accountability in public office*

# Massive winds sweep through villages

By Goweditse Kome

TSAMAYA - Massive winds have swept through the villages of Tsamaya, Mabudzane and

## Chobe records decline in road accidents

By Portia Ikgopoleng

KAZUNGULA - Churches and other stakeholders have been commended for uniting in prayer against calamities, a move which has contributed to Chobe District recording a decline in road accidents this year compared to the previous year.

So far, the police recorded 2 745 speeding offenses against 3 662 in 2022, hence the spirit of prayer should carry on every day at home, offices and churches.

Acting officer commanding District No 7 Assistant Superintendent Agrippa Gambule said this at the roadside prayer service against road accident, HIV/AIDS, GBV and other calamities at Kazungula recently.

He said four lives were lost this year from fatal accidents whereas last year 11 people died from fatal accidents.

Furthermore, he pointed out that drunken driving offenses also declined with 111 this year against 158 last year.

Pertaining to public transport operating without permits, he noted that police registered 83 cases in 2022 and 85 in 2021.

On a positive note Supt Gambule stated that police had not registered any offenses since last year of children not buckled up appropriately in their seats.

He implored motorists to stay vigilant on the road and take rest along their trips whenever they were fatigued.

Senior Manager, Injury Prevention at Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund Mr Tlhabano Mmusi stated that road accidents were mostly caused by unpleasant behaviour on the road.

He said MVA Fund had intensified campaigns to raise awareness against road accidents since Easter Holidays, with the slogan, *Imagine life without you*, so as to cultivate a mindset change in people's behaviour.

Mr Mmusi said road accidents left many families broken due to loss of breadwinners or a loved one, hence it was imperative for people to always adhere to road safety rules.

He indicated that road accidents tend to rise over the Christmas holidays due to people travelling home or vacation.

Kgosi Bakwena Balemogeng of Kazungula said prayer was a pillar that Botswana should depend on at all the times.

"Mindset change has to be adopted in our everyday lives even when we drive our cars," he said. **BOPA**

Siviya on Thursday night, leaving scores of people homeless.

In an interview after visiting the affected villages on Friday, North East District Commissioner (DC) Mr Gobe Macha said his team would assess the affected areas and provide necessities such as accommodation and other priority needs.

Tsamaya Primary School, local businesses such as hardware,

retail stores, homesteads and other structures were affected as the winds blew away their roofing.

At the time of going to press, affected villagers were still having their properties being either affected or damaged as torrential rains were still pouring.

Mr Macha stated that his office was still awaiting report of the affected homesteads, businesses and other structures to

be forwarded to headquarters for assistance.

One of the affected residents of Tsamaya, 64 year-old Mr Petrus Moesi said the ordeal happened around 7pm on Thursday evening while they were at home.

"I may need food as the combo I bought recently was affected and soaked in the water," he said adding that all bedding and other clothing were also affected by the

rain.

Mr Moesi said although roofs were carried away, they were left with one room in which he and other three people managed to squeeze themselves.

North East District DC's office, disaster committee, social workers and all village structures are on alert to provide all possible assistance to assist those affected.

**BOPA**



*Classrooms at Tsamaya Primary School were some of the structures that were affected by the massive winds that swept through Tsamaya on Thursday. Businesses such as the hardware, retail stores, homesteads and other structures were also affected. Photo: Goweditse Kome*

## Community involvement critical in land management

By Portia Ikgopoleng

KASANE - Communities play an integral part in achieving sustainable land management and natural resources conservation.

This was the opinion of different speakers at an inception workshop for Botswana Sustainable Miombo-Mopane Landscape Management project in Kasane on Friday, attended by stakeholders from government, NGOs, farmers associations, dikgosi, Community Based Natural Resources Management Organisations.

Giving a project overview, national project coordinator, Ms Dineo Gaborekwe stated that the project promoted integrated management of Miombo-Mopane landscapes in Chobe and Tutume-Mosetse sub basins,

which would be achieved through implementation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) interventions designed to attain Land Degradation Neutrality targets.

She indicated that Botswana had targets aligned with Global Sustainable Development Goals, to end and reverse deforestation to combat climate change.

Ms Gaborekwe stated that the Miombo-Mopane landscape faced challenges of land degradation due to expansion of agricultural land, collection of firewood by cutting down trees and livestock grazing land.

She said the project office intended to craft policies to incorporate into land use management plans and offer capacity building of forest

extension services for the two districts.

Ms Gaborekwe highlighted that the workshop intended to lay groundwork and spark conversation with all stakeholders in Chobe District in order to pave way for the technical work that would follow.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) environment project officer, Mr Lesika Basalumi said the objective of the project was to reverse, avoid, and reduce land degradation to attain sustainable land management.

He said FAO partnered with government through ministries of agriculture and that of environment and tourism, to offer technical support while Global Environmental Facility (GEF) financed the project at a cost of P66 982 900 (US\$ 5 million).

Mr Basalumi pointed out that the project would come up with activities aimed at enhancing productivity of the land, which would include restoration aspect in order to reverse land degradation. He stated that through sustainable natural resources, there would be an improvement in food production that would combat hunger in these areas.

Mr Basalumi said this is a regional project because there are six countries in the SADC region covered by the dry land ecosystem known as Miombo-Mophane landscape,

He added that consultation with community leaders was an important component to help champion and rollout the project to their respective communities who co-existed with natural resources. **BOPA**



Military officers who participated in the recent SADC communications exercise code named 'Dipuisanyo' which gathered the military, police and civilian representatives from 10 SADC member states. The exercise was meant to come up with ways to synchronise military radios from different SADC member states for them to communicate seamlessly.

# SADC prioritises information transfer

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - The ability for commanders to give instructions to soldiers in response to an ever-evolving tactical environment has always been an integral component of military operations.

The operations depend more on this continual information transfer between troops and base stations to share critical messages, make strategic calls and share important data.

However, given the risks that such communication may be intercepted, owing to nowadays' advanced technologies, it becomes even more difficult when the operation involves multiple countries that deploy a wide array of technology and techniques.

No doubt the subject dominated the recent SADC Communications Exercise (COMMEX) code named 'Dipuisanyo' which literally means discussions.

The purpose of the exercise, which was held in Botswana from July 24 to August 4, was primarily to determine different methods through which military radios can communicate seamlessly.

In an interview, Botswana Defence Force (BDF)'s Brigadier General Joseph Mathambo acknowledged that emerging security challenges called for improved communication interoperability.

In that regard, Brig. Mathambo said the training communication exercise that gathered together the military, police and civilian representatives from 10 SADC member states, was crucial for the region's allied forces to come together for training and to learn from each other.

He said the sanctioning of SADC COMMEX was agreed by the committee of the region's defence commanders after realising challenges that required configuration of equipment for secure mode operations.

"This was purely a communication exercise that was organised after they realised that there were challenges in communication, especially on interoperability of equipment for voice and data in the absence of standard operating procedures due to different communication

gadgets," he added.

Brig. Mathambo indicated that the experimental exercise sought to create a homogenous approach to communication that allowed everyone to talk in a secure mode so that tactical and operational plans could not by any possible means be intercepted by enemies.

Initially, he said communication radios of different member states operated in an open mode and could

be predisposed to interceptions by enemies during operations

During the official opening of the two-week exercise that was held in different areas; Gaborone, Kanye, Lobatse and Oodi, Brig. Gen. Oreeditse Tsamaase underscored the need for commands and forces to respond to crisis with regionally organised interventions such as the COMMEX exercise.

He said the ability to seamlessly

communicate was part of the SADC regional integration agenda and was more important to regional economic communities such as SADC as it allowed the contingents an opportunity to test their capability in staging events of huge magnitudes.

He hailed SADC for staging the exercise, which he said was important for the armed forces operatives within the SADC brigade mission structures.

Brig. Tsamaase said the preparedness of the SADC Standby Force would allow for effective continental Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) role for peace support operations as envisaged by the declaration of the 9<sup>th</sup> African Union Special Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security.

During the exercise, SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs director, Professor Kanu Theletsane, stressed that Exercise Dipuisanyo was meant to prepare commands and forces for operations in peace, crisis and conflict situations.

He said COMMEX exercise should build on the lessons learnt during operations such as the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) and increase interoperability, allowing SADC to train to the

same standards and easily join international security campaigns combatting terrorism and other global security challenges.

"This quick 'plug-in' ability is a much sought after skill in a multinational campaign when reacting to emerging security challenges," he said.

Prof. Theletsane observed that it was through COMMEX that SADC could deliver the training and exercise elements for the Readiness Action Plan, ensuring that SADC had the capabilities to plan, prepare, deploy and sustain forces during operations.

Through the exercise, he said SADC would be able to deal with a wide array of challenges, among them effects of subversion and terrorism, grand military manoeuvre, conditions of chemical warfare to the battlegrounds of cyber and information, intricacies of tribal rivalries and unpredictable and autocratic political leaders.

"In the same way, we undertake efforts to enhance the Full Operational Capability of the SADC Standby Force, in this case, through the successful conduct of Exercise Dipuisanyo," he noted.

Prof. Theletsane said the exercise would help the region increase heightened conflict resolution capability status for the entire African continent.

The two-week exercise brought together military, police and civilian representatives from 10 SADC members: Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The SADC created its Standby Force, also known as the Standby Brigade, in 2008 to respond to regional crises.

It became fully operational in 2017.

The force is one of five regional forces that contribute to the African Standby Force, a continental peacekeeping force established by the African Union and designed to restore peace and act to prevent the spread of instability from one country to another.

In 2021, it was deployed as a counterinsurgency mission to support Mozambique in fighting insurgency in the country's Cabo Delgado region. **BOPA**



Prof. Theletsane (left) and Brig. Mathambo during the official closing of COMMEX training.



Brig. Mathambo (left) handing over the Operational Order to COMMEX force commander, Col. Taruvinge Farayi (right) during the beginning of Exercise Dipuisanyo. With them is COMMEX deputy director, Brig. Felix Kaluxa from DRC. Photos: Mmoniemang Motsamai

# 'Revitalise primary healthcare'

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - There is need for the health sector to revitalise the primary health system, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Professor Oatlhokwa Nkomazana has said. She made the appeal during the ministry meet and greet consultative meeting in Gaborone on Thursday.

Prof. Nkomazana said primary health care was the most cost effective care and would manage 80 per cent of the health challenges in the country.

She also said it was not only good for poor countries but best for people of every nation.

She said it took a strong, resilient and sustainable health system to deliver a healthy nation.

She said it was also on the health system to empower the communities to be able to produce a healthy nation.

She said the revitalisation of the health care would be voiced by the recipients of the care.

She further said part of the strategy was decentralisation which meant that the ministry would be responsible for national policies, standards and direction.

Prof. Nkomazana said implementation would be where service would be provided.

She said they were looking into being adequately organised by developing community health workers. She added that community health workers would spot things early and once empowered would avert complications.

She further said efficiency was key hence 14 years ago, a decision was made to develop primary health care specialists in terms of doctors and family nurse practitioners.

She said over time, the health system had not mapped out how to get the most out of the primary health care specialists.

She said part of the thinking was how to ensure how the specialists worked optimally and were properly facilitated and resourced to be able to provide primary health care.

She also said the best primary health care could not look out for all the health problems of any nation.

Prof. Nkomazana also said even if they were to get primary health care functioning excellently, they would still have 20 per cent, which needed to have other means of care.

She further said one of the losses in the area of care was referral system in the specialized health services.

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mr Moses Keetile said it was vital to meet and deliberate on an array of health pertinent health policy issues as well as reflecting on the past collaborations with the aim of creating new ones.

Mr Keetile said they met to strengthen partnerships to bring strategic health partners.

He said the meeting presented an opportunity for Ministry of Health and partners to chart way forward on the best mechanisms to adopt for effective and strategic stakeholder collaborations. **BOPA**



WHO representative, Dr Juliet Bataringaya (left), Prof. Nkomazana (centre) and Mr Keetile during a stakeholder meeting in Gaborone on Thursday. Prof. Nkomazana said one of the ministry's top priorities was to revitalise primary health system to ensure that the public received proper services.

Photo: Gothusang Lesego

## Rwanda secures US\$268m to confront climate shocks

KIGALI - Rwanda has secured US\$268 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to confront climate shocks, the Ministry of Finance has said on Friday.

The funding, approved on Thursday under the new Standby Credit Facility, will also be used to boost balance of payments, the ministry said on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

According to IMF, Rwanda's commitment to building a resilient and greener economy

was commendable and required to be sustained.

Enhancing social protection programmes, improving human capital accumulation and promoting private sector-led economic diversification will be critical to navigate challenging times and advance living standards."

"Maintaining the momentum on Resilience and Sustainability Facility-supported climate-related reforms including green taxonomy will help close adaptation gaps and increase

resilience to climate-induced shocks."

The IMF noted that Rwanda demonstrated its ability to catalyse additional climate finance and promote collaborations between the public and private sectors during the recent 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. It said that despite the challenging environment, Rwanda's progress on the climate agenda 'remains exceptionally strong.' *Xinhua*

## WHO chief reiterates call for ceasefire in Gaza

GENEVA - World Health Organization (WHO) director-general, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus has reiterated his call for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Dr Ghebreyesus made the appeal at an annual press conference organised by the Association of Accredited Correspondents at the United Nations in Geneva.

The director-general hailed as 'significant' the resolution

adopted at the special session of the WHO Executive Board on the health situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, which called for immediate, sustained and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief in Gaza, including medical personnel.

The resolution also called on Dr Ghebreyesus to continue reporting on the public health implications of the crisis, to assess the mental health impacts of the crisis, to

increase technical and material assistance and to strengthen the health agency's work with partners. However, these tasks are almost impossible in the current circumstances, Tedros said.

"The only real remedy is an immediate ceasefire," he said.

This year, there were over 1 200 documented attacks on health workers, patients, hospitals, clinics and ambulances, across 19 countries, resulting in nearly 700

deaths and over 1 100 injuries, according to the head of WHO.

Dr Ghebreyesus denounced attacks on health as a violation of international humanitarian law, saying health must never be a target.

More than 18 700 Palestinians have been killed amid the ongoing Gaza conflict since October 7, with 70 per cent of them women and children, the health ministry in Gaza said on Thursday. *Xinhua*



"Productivity levels have failed us,  
and only we can resolve that anomaly"





## Han-C rules music awards yet again

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Hanceford 'Han-C' Magapatona continued to reign supreme as he once again dominated the music awards, this time around, those of the Botswana Music Union (BOMU).

Held at Royal Aria in Tlokweng on Saturday, Han-C made a clean

sweep with four awards. He won album of the year with *Tears of Joy*, best male and best single alongside DJ KSB for *Maloba* and best Afro Pop for *Tears of Joy*.

The Mahalapye-born musician has had a good 2023 both at home and the international stage.

Last month, he won big at the Yarona FM music awards,

walking away with three awards. He was also recognised internationally at the African Muzik Magazine Awards (AFRIMMA) with a nomination under best male Southern Africa.

To end the year on another good note, Han-C bagged a nomination for the Kora Awards under the best male artist-African Urban Music category.

Wanita Mos boys, DJ Ngwazi and DJ KSB also emerged winners, affirming the BOMU best international award presented to Master KG, who is their record label owner.

DJ Ngwazi won best Amapiano album for *Moratwa*, song of the year for *Eloyi* as well as best music video for *Eloyi*. DJ KSB walked away with best single alongside Han-C for *Maloba* and best dance album for *Maloba*.

Another talented musician, Samantha Mogwe took home

best collaboration alongside Mpho Sebina for *Marang* and best R&B for VII. The best newcomer award went to Sinnoh who was discovered during the Department of Broadcasting roadshow last year.

Some of the talents such as Enny Kumar walked away with best female, Tehillah winning best group/duo, Team Distant won most played song on radio for *Colder than water* and Vee Mampezy won best CBRT callertunes for *Dololo*. **BOPA**



Han-C accepting his award for best male during the 12<sup>th</sup> BOMU Awards in Gaborone on Saturday. He also won best single and best Afro-pop awards.



Samantha Mogwe (left) and Mpho Sebina after the duo received the award for best collaboration during the awards. Samantha also won best R&B award. Photos: Tshoganetso Mokowe

## Comedian Mdala Ka Tje relishes big stage

By Baleseng Batlotleng

RAMOTSWA - Social media funny man and aspiring stand-up comedian, Onkgopotse Mugende, popularly known as Mdala Ka Tjeludo or simply Ditori Tledi Siras, is savouring the chance of breaking into the big stage.

Speaking after his sold out performance in Lesotho recently, Mugende said his act in Lesotho, his first ever performance outside the country was special as it meant his craft was being recognised beyond local shores.

It was an adventurous experience and is now looking into rubbing shoulders with international acts in the mould of Trevor Noah, Dave Chappelle and Chris Rock among other delightful jesters.

"Before my act in Lesotho, I didn't have the gusto because

of making a debut on the international stage and mainly because of the language barrier," he added. Mugende said he knew he had a lot in his plate, but credits his good command of Sepedi, which is remotely close to Sesotho.

"I am a Kalanga by birth, I speak and think in Kalanga, now imagine making jokes in Kalanga, translating to Setswana and then finally English, it was going to be a mammoth task," he said.

Mugende took to the stage and spoke Setswana heavily laced with Kalanga much to the delight of the sizeable crowd that had filled the room. He created a lasting impression, established a relationship and fed his audience with what it wanted to hear.

After the impressive reception in Lesotho, Mugende travelled to Zambia to represent his comedy

stable Major Moves at the ZED Laugh Festival.

He recorded equal success in a



Mdala Ka Tjeludo

closely contested two-days show hosted by Zambian funny man Hubert Mumba, better known by his stage name Chingliz. The show attracted comedians from Lesotho, South Africa, Zimbabwe and eSwatini.

Mugende said even though he was not making satisfactory waves locally in the comedy scene, he had found a new lease of life outside the country. He believes his goal of breaking into the international stage was falling into place.

The Tutume born comedian joined Major Moves Comedy in 2017 after being recruited to try his luck in standup comedy by DJ Gee Spot.

He became the host of Major Moves comedy shows, especially the first Friday shows at the then Masa Square Hotel. After making an impact on stage, Mugende hosted the GIMC

comedy segment and the Maun International Arts Festival.

COVID-19 attacked while he was at the peak of his career and everything screeched to a halt. By his own admission, he hit a wall and it was mentally and emotionally draining.

He however continued with his Facebook page videos and did a few adverts for BURS.

He even introduced the famous tagline 'Lisela Wena,' which became an instant hit with his diehard fans.

Immediately after that Mugende decided to rebrand and underwent introspection.

Mid 2023, he hit the ground running with Major Moves once again and hosted the Heavyweight International Comedy festival, which was the launching pad for his international stardom dreams. **BOPA**

# KatKim cheerleading squad ends year on high

By Taboka Ngwako

GABORONE - KatKim Delight Dance team celebrated their cheerleading squad for the stellar performance displayed during the 2023 national cheer and majorettes championships.

Despite being in their infancy in cheerleading, KatKim started in grand style with their members causing a frenzy locally and in the region.

Botswana cheerleading federation president, Neo Selwe said their affiliate, KatKim cheerleaders were trailblazers in their own right and deserved to be celebrated for their hard work and resilience following their triumph at the national championships, which were held on December 2.

"The journey to the top was no easy feat for KatKim cheerleaders, who demonstrated dedication and teamwork throughout the season," Selwe said during an appreciation ceremony in Gaborone on Saturday.

Selwe said the appreciation ceremony was more than just a celebration of victory but it was a demonstration to the power of dedication and commitment to excellence that KatKim cheerleaders had displayed.

However, Selwe acknowledged the challenges faced by the Botswana Cheerleading Federation, hindering their ability to continue providing a positive and empowering experience for local youth.

"Cheerleading is more than just flips and high-flying stunts, it is a sport that builds character, instills discipline and I urge organisations to come on board to support our sporting code as we continue on our journey to inspire younger generations to pursue their dreams with determination," she said.

For her part, KatKim Delight Dance co-founder, Katlego Matheakgomo and a member of the cheerleading squad, said the win was a testament to the hard work and perseverance of her coach and team mates.

"We faced challenges head-on, supported each other every step of the way, and truly embodied the spirit of teamwork and sisterhood and I could not be prouder," she said.

In addition to their national triumph, the founders and siblings of KatKim Delight Dance, Katlego and Kimberly Matheakgomo, secured top honours at the Africa

championships in Durban on July 5.

They clinched the first position for freestyle pom and a commendable second place for hip hop doubles, bringing home two medals; a gold and a silver.

**BOPA**



*KatKim cheerleading squad performing during their appreciation ceremony in Gaborone on Saturday. The cheerleading squad was recognised for bagging gold and silver medals at the Africa Championships in South Africa recently. Photo: Felicity Male*

## BNSC reviews athletes scholarships

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) will start to sponsor athletes to overseas universities after a thorough analysis of their

prospects to succeed.

Speaking at the association's annual general meeting on Saturday, BNSC chief executive officer, Tuelo Serufho said the decision was reached after realising that most athletes

sponsored through the elite scholarship and the Zebra Funding often failed to make the cut at universities they were sent to.

He said they had realised that the standard was often high and

that local athletes failed to make the cut, 'even to lower community teams'.

Serufho said it forced athletes to focus only on the education component of the scholarship and that some even failed to even make it academically.

On other issues, Serufho informed member associations that the commission's master plan on the development of its land was 70 per cent complete and that the first draft had been received and reviewed by management.

He promised the assembly that they would be engaged in January to give feedback on what the consultant suggested.

He noted that the consultant had suggested apportioning the land for various uses such as office space, residential, medical centres, but with the chunk of the land reserved for sport.

He, however, said it would be impossible for each code to have its own piece of land and that some indoor codes would be housed under one roof, noting that they had more than 40 affiliates.

The commission's chairperson, Marumo Morule said plans were underway to refurbish the Masunga Sports Complex and that the project would cost P2.5 million. He urged associations to utilise the stadium after completion to avoid turning it into a white elephant.

He said the commission would also spend another P2.5 million to develop volleyball and football pitches at Radisele.

On other issues, Morule reminded associations of their duty to pay annual subscriptions, saying most affiliates had been defaulting.

Meanwhile, the affiliates elected Botswana Softball Association president, Katlholo Mosimanegape and Botswana Fencing Association secretary general, Kelebogile Maplanka as representatives of the National Sport Associations in the BNSC board. The two will, however, be vetted by Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture before assuming the positions. **BOPA**



*Serufho said Botswana National Sport Commission would start to sponsor athletes to overseas universities after a thorough analysis of their prospects to succeed. He said the decision was reached after realising that most athletes sponsored through the elite scholarship and the Zebra Funding often failed to make the cut at universities they were sent to.*

## Luton defender suffers cardiac arrest

LONDON - The Premier League game between Bournemouth and Luton on Saturday was suspended halfway through the second half with the score 1-1 after Luton defender Tom Lockyer collapsed on the pitch with a cardiac arrest. Lockyer received attention from paramedics for several minutes on the pitch before being sent to the dressing room.

He was then carried off on a stretcher, with supporters of both teams giving him an ovation and was later reported to be 'alert and responsive' in the tunnel.

Manchester City's title hopes suffered another setback as they surrendered a 2-0 lead at home to Crystal Palace, who took a point with a 95<sup>th</sup> minute goal from Michael Olise after a wild challenge by Phil Foden.

Things looked to be running

to script after Jack Grealish put City ahead in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute, and the points looked safe when Rico Lewis made it 2-0 in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute.

Jean-Philippe Mateta gave Palace hope when he slid home with 15 minutes left and Olise kept his calm to make it 2-2 right at the end.

Sheffield United threatened to deepen Chelsea's crisis as they held Mauricio Pochettino's side 0-0 at halftime, but second half goals from Cole Palmer and Nicolas Jackson gave Chelsea a relatively comfortable win.

Newcastle United's task against Fulham was made much easier when Fulham striker Raul Jimenez was sent off for a wild challenge midway through the first half of their game at St James' Park.

Although Fulham kept it 0-0 at

halftime, second half strikes from Lewis Miley, Miguel Almiron and Dan Burn got the home side comfortably over the line.

Everton coach Sean Dyche enjoyed a happy return to face his former club as his side inflicted a 2-0 defeat on Burnley at Turf Moor. First half goals from Amadou Onana and Michael Keane lifted Everton seven points clear of the bottom three as they created the best chances, despite Burnley controlling most of the ball. On Friday night, Tottenham ramped up the pressure on Nottingham Forest boss Steve Cooper with a 2-0 win at the City Ground.

Dejan Kulusevski assisted Richarlison for Tottenham's opener on the stroke of halftime and then took advantage of a Matt Turner error to score the second in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute. **Xinhua**

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## School sport resuscitation vital

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - There is an urgent need to resuscitate school sport to help the country stay competitive at all levels.

This was said by the chairperson of Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC), Marumo Morule on Saturday during the commission's annual general meeting.

Morule said deep reflection

on possible solutions to the issue was needed. He argued that the main challenge was lack of funds.

He added that they had requested about P60 million to deal with the challenge, but only got P10 million and that it would be received in batches.

He said the community also needed to be engaged as they were stakeholders, adding that the stalemate has had a negative effect on many sporting codes

such as athletics and football.

Morule said despite the challenges, BNSC was committed to bringing back school sport.

He also said they were currently piloting with a few associations to establish development centres in 16 districts, and that the feedback they got was positive.

"Equipment for each pilot sport has been bought and distributed, and the main challenge has been

finding volunteer coaches in the concerned areas," he said.

He appealed to sporting codes to assist in guiding BNSC to address the challenge.

For his part, BNSC chief executive officer, Tuelo Serufho said the stalemate started when the Ministry of Education said it was unsustainable to give out P80 million annually in associated teachers' allowances.

Serufho said they engaged teachers' unions on the issue

and submitted a proposal of P40 million towards teachers' allowances, but that the unions cheapest counter proposal was P200 million and the highest P800 million.

He said there was no chance of an agreement because P200 million was the whole annual budget for the commission and P800 million the budget for the whole ministry.

He, however, said negotiations were ongoing. **BOPA**



BNSC board; chairperson, Morule (left), vice chairperson, Tebogo Lebotse-Sebego (second left), member Colonel Botsang Tshenyego (right) and other board members at the commission's annual general meeting in Gaborone on Saturday. Morule said absence of school sport had hindered the development of sport in general in the country. He said there was urgent need to come up with a solution to the problem. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

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