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Wealth democratisation ideal for economic growth



President Advocate Duma Boko (right), Botswana Stock Exchange board chairperson, Ms Neo Mooki (left) and Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (second row centre) during a High Level Business Engagement Forum in Gaborone yesterday. President Boko said there was need to reduce economic inequality and increase shared wealth by avoiding creation of huge amounts of wealth for a small number of people. Photo: Phenyio Moalosi

Committee revival crucial for child protection

By Goweditswe Kome

RAMOKGWEBANA

Statistics show that cases of rape and defilement were currently at

188 in the North East District.

Speaking at a workshop on men against defilement recently, North East District Council social worker, Ms

Moitshephi Dibotlhale advised on resuscitation of the child protection committees in rural areas as issues relating to child welfare were unbearable in the

district.

Ms Dibotlhale said in addition to defilement cases, there were cases of negligence and those of children in need of care and protection.

Tshesebe Police station commander, Superintendent Mothusi Phadi said it was important to protect children from sexual abuse.

Supt Phadi said the workshop was aimed at engaging men in the fight against defilement and sexual abuse of minors.

He said the workshop was also focused on raising awareness, educating participants about legal, psychological, social impacts of defilement and empowering men to take proactive steps in preventing and addressing the issue of defilement.

Supt Phadi said one of the objectives of the workshop was to educate participants on the nature, causes and consequences of defilement.

"It is also to raise awareness about the legal implications,

penalties associated with defilement and promote a culture of protection coupled with respect for minors," he said.

The other objective, he said, was to provide tools and strategies for recognising, preventing, responding to defilement and foster a supportive community of men committed to ending defilement.

"Introspect as men, as to how you might have handled your niece in an uncompromising way or what you said to them and how they responded," he said, adding that they should look at what their conscience said to them.

Ms Sesafeleng Dijeng from Directorate of Public Prosecution said parents were mostly required when it came to giving evidence of what they had seen happening, what happened or what they have heard.

This, she said, would assist the magistrate or anyone making a decision on the case to give a proper judgement.

BOPA



Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele (second left), Assistant Minister, Mr Justin Hunyepa (left), permanent secretary, Prof. Nelson Torto (second right) and BQA CEO, Prof. Botsalano Mosimakoko during the minister's visit to the institution in Gaborone on Monday. Minister Maele said the ministry had constituted a board that would address the state of affairs at BQA.

Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Ministry appoints board to resolve BQA issues

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - The poor state of affairs at Botswana Qualification Authority (BQA) has compelled the Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele to constitute a board that will work toward resolving the issues.

During a meet and greet session with BQA staff, management and stakeholders in Gaborone on Monday, Mr Maele said his ministry was aware of the internal and external problems at BQA, having received several complaints from the organisation and its stakeholders.

"We have constituted a board, that will commence work once vetting of members has been completed. We are in the final stages," he said.

He said there was no coherence at the institution.

Among the issues raised by the staff representative, Mr Thuto Bagwasi, included salary review, organisational review, contracts of employment, inconsistency of condition of service, payments of additional responsibility allowance, suspension of subject matter experts, suspension of services and ceasing benchmarking activities.

Mr Bagwasi said the

suspension of the use of subject matter experts in BQA processes had contributed to lack of quality in the education and training providers.

"The quality of the National Credit Qualifications Framework has been compromised as a result of this suspension because it was done as cost saving measures and pushing the numbers over quality at the expense of prospective students," said Mr Bagwasi, adding that the effects of this decision would be felt in years to come as BQA Act and Regulations have been contravened.

Furthermore, Mr Bagwasi said the Authority had stoped benchmarking activities with other regional and international peers, as a result leaving BQA isolated from the world especially on its core mandate.

He also said BQA had been barred from participating in SADC activities as requested by member states.

This, he said had made the authority to lag behind and further isolated in developments regarding the National Qualifications Framework and quality assurance.

Responding to the staff's grievances, Mr Maele said consistency was key on condition

of service for staff welfare.

"The document for condition of service is sacred and need to be respected or we will have arbitrariness and biasness," Mr Maele said.

He advised that acting positions should be filled if the employee was qualified and performed the task diligently as required. He said if the employee was able, they should be confirmed, or sent home if they were unable to perform their duties well.

He reminded BQA staff and management that their mandate spoke to the economic growth of this country, and that government relied on them.

The minister said they needed to be able to assess and accredit the right people and organisations or they would find themselves oversubscribed and in trouble. He said he had received complaints on corruption activities at BQA, and therefore advised and encouraged them to work on that.

To address issues and clean up at BQA, minister Maele said they would give the board three months and thereafter give the minister a brief on what they had achieved; and subsequently give them another three months to attend to any outstanding issues.

BOPA

By Naomi Leepile

TSABONG - Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services will continue to come up with strategies, programmes and policy initiatives to ensure that the ultimate objective of providing equal access and efficient justice for all is accomplished.

The Minister, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana said during a consultative meeting in Tsabong on Monday.

He said the purpose of the meeting was to bring services to the people as well as to create public awareness and education on the ministry's new policies and commitments.

He emphasised the importance of teamwork and open communication, stating that the ministry's goal was to ensure that all had access to justice and all departments worked together efficiently.

Mr Ramaotwana said the ministry's primary goal was to manage offenders in a safe, secure and humane environment and provide opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration, which was facilitated by the Botswana Prison Service.

He said the function of the Ombudsman was to provide remedies for administrative injustices and human rights violations. To this end, he said the Ombudsman was mandated by the law to investigate human rights violations by ministries, departments, agencies and the private sector.

On issues of human trafficking, Mr Ramaotwana said his office was handling many cases, adding that women and girls were at a

much higher risk of becoming victims of human trafficking.

The minister urged the community to be aware of businesses that were often complicit in labour trafficking and also be informed of what was actually going on in the countries where they were offered jobs.

The ministry has already started public campaigns and capacity building for district and community leaders, villages with close proximity to borders.

Encouraging parental involvement on issues of defilement and child trafficking the minister highlighted the importance of collaborating with various stakeholders like teachers, social workers and police.

During the meet and greet session at Tsabong Prisons Service, the minister urged both prison officers and inmates to work together especially in rehabilitation of inmates.

He encouraged the inmates to never give up and to take the rehabilitation programmes seriously so that they could benefit them the time they leave the prison to join society.

Mr Ramaotwana further acknowledged the officers' resilience and commitment, assuring them that the ministry would work towards resolving the issues raised.

For his part, Kgosi David Toto of Tsabong urged the minister to consider decentralisation to improve service delivery in the district, adding that most of the times people go to Gaborone for high court services which was expensive and time consuming.

BOPA

Ramaotwana emphasises access to justice by all

Wealth democratisation ideal for economic growth

By **Thato Mosinyi**

GABORONE - The democratisation of wealth and resources is ideal for maintaining a sound and sustainable economic growth for the betterment of livelihoods.

Addressing a High Level Business Engagement Forum in Gaborone yesterday, organised by Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), President Advocate Duma Boko spoke of the need to reduce economic inequality and increasing shared wealth

by avoiding creation of huge amounts of wealth for a small number of people.

“We have an economy that has presented the nation with jobless growth and minimal growth over the years, hence the need to reimagine the country’s economic status and democratise wealth,” said President Boko.

He said those at the low margins of the country’s economy ought to be recognised and their economic social status uplifted through creating an economically inclusive government that would

strive to enrich them.

“It is disheartening that majority of Batswana are still living below the poverty line with no decent jobs to enable them to play a meaningful role in the country’s economic growth,” President Boko observed and described poverty as a violation of human rights that government should acknowledge.

He thus reaffirmed his commitment to fight poverty.

“We are a country of divided citizenship, those who access dilapidated public services and the well-off elites. I therefore, make a pledge to the less privileged members of the society and the country as a whole that I will fight for, promote and uphold Batswana’s fundamental rights, which is the right to decent living conditions and the right to be treated with dignity and respect,” he said.

To ensure that every citizen is treated with dignity and respect, President Boko made an appeal to the business community to come on board and offer decent jobs with decent wages.

He said he would always unapologetically speak of the P4 000 minimum living wage because it marked and defined the lowest level that people must subsist at and not below.

President Boko explained that economic data marshalled by leading economists indicated that adequate reward of the workforce would translate to excellent staff retention.

“Aside from the fundamental human rights preset, it also makes so much economic sense to pay and pay well because when you reward labour, you minimise absenteeism and substantially raise the levels of productivity therefore, there is every reason to pay P4 000,” President Boko added.

He applauded BSE for bringing in to the mainstream of the economy, those on the down side through the pronouncement of the SME fund establishment, a bold move in forging a durable sustainable partnership that would fast-track the much needed democratisation of wealth.

President Boko further underscored the importance of policy reforms aimed at creating a more competitive and investor-friendly business environment saying, it was government’s vision to speed up the economic transformation agenda.

He emphasised government’s commitment to facilitate domestic and foreign investment through streamlined regulatory frameworks and targeted incentives as well as the significance of strategic partnerships between the public and private sector as catalysts for sustainable economic growth and job creation.

Government is dedicated to fostering innovation, enhancing infrastructure and leveraging Botswana’s unique economic strengths to drive long-term prosperity, President Boko said. **BOPA**



Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi is expected to launch the Bonno National Housing Programme in Mabutsane’s Molwaagale Ward tomorrow.

Bonno Housing scheme launch tomorrow

By **Khumile Moekejo**

MABUTSANE - The Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi is expected to officially launch the Bonno National Housing Programme in Mabutsane’s Molwaagale Ward tomorrow.

The launch follows the announcement by the minister when presenting the Committee of Supply Statement for the 2025/2026 Consolidated and Development Fund Estimates to

the ongoing Parliament session.

Government has committed to provide 100 000 housing units in five years under the programme, through partnership with the private sector.

Apart from providing affordable and decent housing to Batswana, the revamped scheme is also intended to give beneficiaries a variety of house plans to choose from.

“The revamped programme, which is named Bonno National Housing Programme, will focus on inclusivity and commitment to the provision of dignified living conditions for Batswana.

The programme will also be improved by embracing modernised housing designs and technologies in line with current trends and best practices in the housing sector,” minister Onneetse Ramogapi had said.

In his Budget Speech delivered last month, the Vice President and also Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe communicated the government’s commitment to realigning the low income housing programme with national priorities.

“The government of Botswana reaffirms its commitment to ensuring access to shelter as a fundamental human right.” **BOPA**



Newly appointed Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) CEO, Mr Aupa Monyatsi (left) and board chairperson, Ms Neo Mooki after delivering her speech during a High-Level Business Engagement Forum in Gaborone yesterday. Ms Mooki said in an effort to boost economic growth, BSE would launch a dedicated Small and Medium Enterprise Fund aimed at enhancing access to capital for small and medium-sized enterprises. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

BSE proposes SME fund

By **Thato Mosinyi**

GABORONE - The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) will this year launch a dedicated Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Fund that will enhance access to capital for businesses that fall in that category.

The BSE board chairperson, Ms Neo Mooki announced during the High-Level Business Engagement Forum in Gaborone yesterday, saying the initiative was aligned with Botswana’s broader economic diversification agenda of fostering business growth and strengthening local entrepreneurship.

She said the fund would serve as a catalyst for business expansion, innovation, and operational sustainability.

Leveraging on the success of the BTC shares which propelled ordinary Batswana into ownership of shares, Ms Mooki said BSE was keen on listing SMEs to ease dependence of such entities on government funding.

Ms Mooki noted that the BSE understood its role in assisting government’s efforts to diversify the economy, adding that there was need to democratise wealth. Owing shares she said should not be reserved for a select few hence the need to create community based retail options to ensure wealth creation through capital markets.

“I also commend government for recognising the potential the BSE has to help drive the much needed economic turn around which will be powered

by diversifying away from diamonds,” she added.

Ms Mooki said the BSE was not just a platform for trading shares and bonds, but was also a podium for economic transformation and a place that entrepreneurs, SMEs, cooperates and government should utilise to raise capital.

With a market capitalisation of over P750 billion and 32 listed companies, Ms Mooki said the BSE was the ideal place to raise capital.

She said the BSE was profitable owing to Botswana’s capital markets being strong and robust, thus pleaded with many SME’s to list with the stock exchange for their own growth and job creation.

“We have a vision to attract multi national capital to fuel our economic growth and transform the BSE into a truly Pan-African financial hub and become the premium capital rising hub for Africa,” she said.

To achieve the aforementioned vision, Ms Mooki indicated the BSE was expanding access to the debt market to allow Batswana and multi national investors to fully participate in the markets.

Office of the President chief of staff, Dr Oupa Tshoko said collaboration between government and the private sector was a significant driver of sustainable economic development.

Dr Tshoko expressed government’s commitment to drive economic transformation which he said required assistance from the private sector. **BOPA**

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Briefs

Government addresses Bots Veg Dikgathong compliance issues

Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs has taken action regarding alleged violations of labor laws at Bots Veg Dikgathong farm in the Kudumatse-Dovedale corridor. Minister Maj. Gen. Pius Mokgware said that labour inspection officers were dispatched to assess compliance. The inspection uncovered several areas of non-compliance, including the lack of written contracts, insufficient protective clothing, and a shortage of portable toilets for workers. Following these findings, the employer was advised to implement the recommendations outlined in the labour inspection report. A subsequent follow-up revealed that the employer had complied with the necessary corrections. Minister Mokgware said the farm was now adhering to the minimum wage order. However, concerns regarding sanitation and the potential risk of infectious diseases remain. To address these issues, the employer has committed to procuring additional portable toilets and ensuring that all employees had access to potable water. Maj. Gen. Mokgware emphasised the ministry's commitment to prioritising labour inspections in the agricultural sector to protect vulnerable groups, including children, farm workers, and migrant employees. MP for Shoshong, Mr Moneedi Bagaisamang, questioned the minister about the poor working and living conditions reported at farms in the Kudumatse-Dovedale area, particularly at Bots Veg Dikgathong farm. He also asked if the minister was aware of issues of non-compliance with payment standards set forth by labour laws and the risks posed by inadequate sanitation.

Ministry plans to enhance execution of Children's Act

Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education is working on mechanisms intended to enhance the execution of instruments meant to protect children. Responding to a question in Parliament, Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Dr Nono Kgafela-Mokoka noted that mechanisms would be premised on the Children's Act of 2009, which advocated for a multi-sectoral approach to ensuring the best interest of the child was met. She said that even though the primary responsibility of taking care of children during weekends and school holidays remained with their parents and guardians through the support of community structures and law enforcement agencies, the ministry intended to educate parents and the communities on child welfare and education issues, as well as the Children's Act. She said they were working on holding consultative meetings on child protection, enhance the concept of collective responsibility by all in child protection as espoused by the Children's Act. Additionally she said some of the impending mechanisms included taking parents who neglect their children to task, ensuring availability of child protection structures and services in all villages, as well as clarifying the role of community leaders in monitoring child welfare. The minister further noted that engaging community stakeholders in planning and executing child welfare services through local government structures, developing and enhancing character building programmes for children and identifying recreational facilities for use by children in all communities were some of the mechanisms her ministry was working on. Furthermore, Dr Kgafela-Mokoka noted that they intended to develop and enhance character building educational programmes and life skills for children such as Connect With Respect, which is a gender-based violence prevention programme, and Peer Approach to Counselling by Teens (PACT). She said empowering parents and children by strengthening circles of support programmes and enhancing Parent Child Communication programmes and involving children in decision making, implementation and monitoring of such programmes were also part of the plan. Kgatleng West MP, Dr Unity Dow had asked the minister about protective programmes the ministry was considering, owing to the fact that children were most vulnerable during weekends and school holidays.

Tender for Tashata school maintenance at adjudication stage

The tender for maintenance of Tashata Junior Secondary School is expected to be awarded between April and May this year, Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education Dr Nono Kgafela-Mokoka has said. She noted that the tender, which was for a holistic maintenance entailing ceilings, plumbing, doors and power among others, was at adjudication stage. She said the school was not maintained in the previous financial year due to budgetary constraints. The Minister was responding to a question from Tati East MP, Mr Tlhabologo Furniture who had asked for an update on the state of the school and when maintenance would be done.

Legislators call for greater ICT reach

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - Members of Parliament (MPs) on Monday called for the country to invest in improved Information Communication Technology (ICT) reach across the country, to boost service provision, research and innovation in the country.

Commenting on the Ministry of Communications and Innovation 2025-26 budget proposal presented to the National Assembly by the portfolio Minister, Mr David Tshere, MPs said low bandwidth was affecting internet connectivity countrywide.

Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale said research had found that the usage of smart phones in Botswana was high, and effort needed to be made to improve the availing of public services through mobile telephony.

Dr Butale said there was a need to conduct an evaluation of state owned enterprises, including those under purvey of Ministry of Communications and Innovation, and transformed to be more efficient.

He lent his support to the proposal for a National Scientific and Research Council, which Minister Tshere had alluded to in his presentation.

Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware said Botswana

should explore opportunities of participating in ICT value chain through engaging in the manufacturing of some digital appliance components.

He said Botswana should take advantage of the demographic divide of having a mostly young population who could be exposed to ICT entrepreneurship training in order for the country to participate in the fourth industrial revolution.

Major General Mokgware said the use of technology could assist with efficiency, citing the example of drones which could be used for patrolling borders and anti-poaching activity.

Opposition whip, Maun West legislator Mr Caterpillar Hikuama emphasised investing in a highly reliable internet connectivity across the country to ensure that even in the most remote areas could access the internet.

Nkange MP, Mr Motlhaleemang Moalosi added that the communications ministry was vital to transform the country's economic circumstances, and should be strategically equipped to play such a critical role.

He called on government to support the University of Botswana to develop software systems such as enterprise resource planning (ERP) in order to save the money spent on government and state enterprises procuring from external companies.

He supported research funding, which he said was the basis for innovation and the production of knowledge systems.

Shoshong MP, Mr Moneedi Bagaisamang called for the construction of post offices in the villages of Mokgenene, Poloka, Moralane, Mosolotshane and Ikongwe to allow residents to better access services.

Additionally, he asked the ministry to work on improving the access to the internet in his constituency, to remedy the current situation that he said denied residents access to critical digital services including banking.

Thamaga/Kumakwane MP, Mr Palelo Motaosane said the post office in Thamaga was in a poor state, and called for the construction of a new one that would also house Botswana Savings Bank, an initiative he said had been in the pipeline for long.

He asked government and BotswanaPost to review the salary structure and conditions of service of postal officers.

He said they were currently overworked and underpaid, and do not receive sufficient incentives such as staff housing.

Mr Motaosane commended former president Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi for initiating the process that eventually led to the recent successful launching of Botswana's first satellite, BOTSAT-1. **BOPA**



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Kethhalefile Motshegwa told Parliament that the process to upgrade Shaikarawe Primary School to a fully fledged school had commenced.

Shaikarawe upgrade process commences

GABORONE - Efforts to establish a new primary school in Tobera have spanned the last three National Development Plans (NDP), from NDP 10 to the current NDP. Responding to a parliamentary question on Monday, Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Kethhalefile Motshegwa, confirmed that he was aware of the community's pressing need for improved educational facilities.

Despite recognising this need, Mr Motshegwa expressed

disappointment that funding for the project had not been secured due to competing priorities. "The process to upgrade Shaikarawe Primary School to a fully-fledged school has already commenced," he stated. The minister said community consultations regarding the proposed upgrade took place on March 7, 2025.

During these meetings, residents were informed about the plan to enhance Shaikarawe Satellite Primary School into a fully operational school. Looking

forward, Mr Motshegwa indicated that the ministry, in conjunction with the Okavango District Council, plans to submit a proposal for the project under NDP 12. Okavango East MP, Mr Gabatsholwe Disho, had asked the minister about specific plans for building a new primary school in Tobera, a project that has been included in two to three development plans.

He had also asked when Shaikarawe Primary School will be upgraded to a fully-fledged primary school. **BOPA**

'No plans to construct Hukuntsi-Ncojane Road'

GABORONE - Due to budgetary constraints, there is currently no plans to design and construct Hukuntsi-Ncojane road and access roads at Zutshwa, Ngwatle, Ncaang, Hunhukwe, Monong, Xhaa and Ukhwi roads, says Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae.

In a recent parliamentary session, Mr Salakae said the ministry was aware of the poor accessibility to Xhaa, Hunhukwe and Maake villages, adding that they would continue maintenance of the roads by dry grading.

He said spot improvement of some sections would also be considered, funds permitting, citing that the ministry last maintained the Hukuntsi-Zutshwa Road by dry grading of a 20km road section in December 2024.

The activity was concentrated on sections with soft spots and the ministry was currently onsite

performing spot improvement since the February 10, 2025, targeting the same section, he said. Mr Salakae said the activity was planned to be completed in mid-March 2025, adding that the Ngwatle-Ukhwi road section however was graded in June 2024 and planned for dry grading in May 2025.

In addition, he said Hukuntsi-Monong road was last maintained by dry grading in January 2025 while the Monong - Ngwatle section was graded in July 2024. He said, currently, the Ministry does not have a budget to upgrade the Phuduhudu -

Inalegolo-Kokong to a paved road as it was not included in the current Transitional National Development Plan.

Nevertheless, Mr Salakae said the ministry would continue to maintain the road every quarter through dry grading, adding that their records indicated that there were 159 vehicles allocated to several departments in various villages in Kgalagadi North.

"It must however be noted that departments keep moving the vehicles to other areas as they see fit and fleet register constantly changes. Out of these vehicles, 42 per cent are currently down

mainly due to mechanical faults," he said.

This according to Mr Salakae was due to shortage of funds to procure parts by different departments for their repairs, adding that departments mostly affected were Ministry of Health, Botswana Police Service, Department of Wildlife and National Parks and Ministry of Education.

Mr Reason Lekutlane, MP. Kgalagadi North had asked the minister to apprise Parliament on his intentions to design and construct both main and access roads in his constituency. **BOPA**

Construction of new school progressing well

GABORONE - Construction of a new primary school in Kopong to deal with high student enrolment congestion in the area is progressing well.

The assertion was made by Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa when responding to a question in Parliament on Monday.

He said the construction commenced in August 2024 and the project was progressing well as planned. "This new primary school would reduce congestion and over population across Kopong schools," he said.

He told Parliament that he was aware that a number of schools in Kopong which included Letsholo and Molefhe Primary Schools were oversubscribed.

At Molefhe primary he said, 10 classes were currently taught in the open adding that the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs through Kweneng District Council prioritised the construction of an additional primary school at Kopong under the Transitional Development Plan II of 2023/2024 to 2024/2025 and was approved with other priorities.

Additionally, he said a proposal for construction of staffrooms at all Kopong Primary Schools inclusive of Molefhe Primary School would be submitted for consideration under National Development Plan 12 (NDP12).

The minister was responding to a question by Lentsweletau/Lephepe MP Mr Tshenolo Bogatsu who wanted to know if the minister was aware of the high student enrollment of 1 265 at Molefhe Primary School in Kopong, that 10 classes were permanently taught in the open and that Molefhe Primary school does not have a staffroom. **BOPA**



Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae said due to budgetary constraints, there was currently no plans to design and construct Hukuntsi-Ncojane road and access roads at Zutshwa, Ngwatle, Ncaang, Hunhukwe, Monong, Xhaa and Ukhwi roads.

GABS now fully operational - Tshere

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - Government Accounting and Budgeting System (GABS), which has been encountering challenges over the past few years has been fixed and is now operating at full capacity, the Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr David Tshere has said.

Presenting his ministry budget estimates before the Parliamentary Committee of Supply on Tuesday, Mr Tshere said GABS had encountered technical challenges that significantly impacted its performance and thereby disrupting payments across all government ministries, departments and agencies.

"Notwithstanding the above, I am pleased to inform this honourable committee that these challenges were successfully addressed in December 2024. Since then, the GABS has been operating at full capacity, accommodating over 20 000 users without any need for user rationing, which was previously required.

This achievement was made possible through collaboration between the government technical team and Oracle experts," Mr Tshere said.

Additionally, Mr Tshere informed Parliament that his ministry was undertaking a software upgrade to enhance the stability and efficiency of GABS, and other efforts are underway to assess other critical systems, amongst them the Vehicle Registration and Driver Licensing, to improve their efficacy.

Mr Tshere said government sought to accelerate the enhancement of digital infrastructure, which he said is the basis for industrial development and the transformation of the economy as a whole.

"The outcomes of digitalisation we envisage to achieve are efficiency, increased productivity, increased revenues for government, businesses and individuals, creation of opportunities for all and employment creation," Mr Tshere said. After October 2024 general

elections, the ministry was redefined from Communications, Knowledge and Technology to Communications and Innovation through the Government Notice No. 742 of 2024, Mr Tshere revealed.

He said their focus has been based on bridging the digital and data divide and achieving universal access to communication services as well as improving Botswana competitiveness and connectivity to the rest of the world as enshrined in the ICT Maitlamo Policy of 2009 and SmartBots Strategy, 2020-2022.

"To achieve meaningful impact, we shall endeavour to digitalise government services and make them accessible everywhere, anywhere and anytime, and catalysing the same in the private sector," Mr Tshere said.

He revealed that over the years, the primary focus had shifted towards broadband services, and Botswana had performed well with mobile broadband penetration reaching 100 percent, while 95 percent of the population

now had access to mobile high-speed broadband.

Also, he explained that government had recognised the need to urgently transform state owned enterprises into high performance organisations, which would entail a review of the institutions to improve their governance and operational efficiency.

Mr Tshere said his ministry oversees five state owned enterprises (SOEs) where government was the sole shareholder. These are Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet), Botswana Post, Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) and Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI).

He said the ministry also had under its ambit, a private company, Botswana Telecommunications Corporations Limited (BTCL) where government has a 51 per cent shareholding. "My ministry has already started the process of reviewing operations and membership of board of governors for all its SOEs with a view to re-aligning them to the vision of the new government.

This process is being conducted in collaboration with Public Enterprises Evaluation and Privatisation Agency (PEEPA) and will be completed by 31st March 2025," Mr Tshere said.

He further revealed that BotswanaPost was in the process of applying for a banking licence, partially fulfilling government's mandate of improving the quality of life of Botswana and developing an indigenous bank. **BOPA**

Mogoditshane health centre underway

GABORONE - Ministry of health plans to construct Mogoditshane health care centre with a bed capacity of 30, under the Transitional National Development Plan 2023-2025.

In response to a parliamentary question on Monday, Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise said the facility would also consist of Outpatient Department, an elderly day care centre and

maternity unit.

He however said the ministry had further planned to upgrade the facility into a primary hospital in the future as phase two of the project, provided funds permitted.

Dr Modise said the project would be delivered through the Development Manager model, which he said was currently at the design stage.

"It is worth noting that, all DM projects are currently being reviewed" he said. He further said the review that commenced mid-January was expected to take a period of 40 days, adding that the ministry would be informed and guided by the outcomes of the review on the way forward.

"Nevertheless, implementation of the project would be subject to availability of funds" he

emphasised.

Mogoditshane East legislator, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang, had asked the Minister of Health, if they would consider building a primary hospital in Mogoditshane, under the backdrop that Mogoditshane was the largest village by population and that available health facilities were servicing neighbouring villages. **BOPA**

Kanye council in budget shortfall

By Mr Marvin Motlhabane

KANYE - As the Kanye District Council looks forward to the 2025/26 financial year, it has proposed a recurrent budget estimate totalling P174 million.

This includes approximately P166 million stemming from the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) alongside P8 million generated from its own income. Kanye District Council chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgosithebe presented the budget figure on Monday, noting a significant decrease of P2 million from the previously approved budget of P176 million for the 2024/25 fiscal year.

This reduction reflects a decline of 1.14 per cent.

Mr Kgosithebe emphasised

that this reduction meant the council must adapt to reduced financial resources, highlighting the urgent need to intensify the implementation of revenue maximisation strategies, enforce cost containment measures, and explore ways to diversify their own income sources. He said key revenue collections were expected to arise from staff housing rentals, tender fees, trade license fees, and the Matimela Fund. However, Mr Kgosithebe expressed concerns over the council's current financial state, which had seen a deficit in several recurrent budget allocations.

He specifically pointed out that the Destitution Relief funds were facing a deficit of about P615 000.

This shortfall, he noted, was

largely due to an increasing number of clients enrolled in the destitution programme and adverse conditions stemming from limited rainfall and severe weather experienced throughout 2024.

Mr Kgosithebe highlighted a pressing economic concern: the

current unemployment rate in the country, which stands at 23.38 per cent. He stated that this rising level of unemployment posed a significant threat to national security and needs to be addressed urgently.

To combat this challenge, he said

the new administration planned to devise innovative strategies aimed at reducing unemployment, including aligning educational programmes in tertiary institutions with industry demands to better prepare graduates for available job opportunities. **BOPA**

Tanzania registers over 2 000 investment projects

DAR ES SALAAM - The Tanzanian government has registered 2 099 investment projects worth around US\$25 billion from March 2021 to February 2025, an official has disclosed.

Gerson Msigwa, the chief government spokesperson, told a news conference in the country's Coast region that the projects were registered through the Tanzania Investment Center during four years of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration.

"The 2 000 plus registered projects created 539 488 jobs for local people," said Msigwa, also the permanent secretary in the

Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports. According to Msigwa, 1 982 of the 2 099 registered investment projects had been launched.

Meanwhile, 476 programmes were joint ventures, 719 projects were owned by Tanzanian investors, and 904 projects were owned by foreign investors.

He noted that 45 per cent of the registered projects were in the manufacturing sector and attributed the surge in investment registrations to the favorable business environment fostered by President Hassan's administration. **Xinhua**



Style Up by Tumie shop assistant, Ms Kimberly Gomolemo at work in Gaborone yesterday. The shop owner, Ms Tumelo Kapurua said the business had been in operation since 2016, offering clothing to individuals and bulk purchase for those looking to resell or start their own enterprises. She noted that her business distinguished itself from the rest by providing stylish and quality pieces at affordable prices. While the store initially specialised in second hand clothing, it has since expanded to include brand new items to serve its customers. Photo: Tshepo Gombo

Policy makers advocate for removal of trade barriers

ADDIS ABABA - Experts and policymakers have called on African countries to address persistent challenges and trade barriers to improve food security on the continent.

They made the call on Sunday during a continental meeting on food security organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) under the theme of "Food Security and Cross-Border Trade: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities Amid the Implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)" at the UN Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Noting the urgent need for a more coordinated regional strategy to fast-track Africa's quest for food security, experts and policymakers emphasised the critical need to boost intra-African trade by removing existing trade barriers.

Addressing the meeting, Farayi

Zimudzi, sub-regional coordinator for Eastern Africa at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, warned of the pressing food security challenges posed by Africa's low agricultural productivity and rapid population growth.

"Increasing investment in research and development, particularly in high-yield crop varieties and improved livestock, must be prioritised.

It is imperative that our agricultural production systems keep pace with population growth," Zimudzi said. Noting that the global food system was facing increasing pressure from various shocks, resulting in exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition, the UNECA said there were severe challenges in Africa, where 20 per cent of the continent's population faced undernourishment.

The continental meeting also highlighted that the AfCFTA - an important mechanism to

boost intra-African food trade, particularly in processed food products can provide a rapid pathway to greater food security. Estimates by the UNECA suggest that the intra-continental food trade could increase by more than 60 per cent by 2045 if the AfCFTA is fully implemented.

Underlining the urgent need to address the widening food trade deficits among African

countries, Andrew Mold, acting director of the UNECA Office for Eastern Africa, highlighted notable improvements among some countries that have recently emerged as leading food exporters. Mold called for the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices to drive Africa's quest to achieve food security.

He further said it was essential to embrace technological

advancements and innovations toward transforming food systems in Africa.

The meeting, which was held on the margins of the 57th session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, explored the current state of food security in Africa, the potential impact of the AfCFTA on food security, and the state of intra-African food trade. **Xinhua**

Kenya, IMF to start talks on lending programme

NAIROBI - Kenya and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have resolved to begin formal talks on a new lending programme, and the IMF will engage with the Kenyan authorities going forward, according to a statement issued on Monday.

Led by Mission Chief Haimanot Teferra, an IMF team visited Kenya from March 6 to 14 and reached

an understanding with Kenyan authorities that the ninth review under the current Extended Fund Facility and Extended Credit Facility programmes will not proceed.

"The IMF has received a formal request for a new programme from the Kenyan authorities and will engage with them going forward," Teferra said after the conclusion of

the visit.

During the visit, Teferra said the IMF engaged with the Kenyan authorities on recent developments and the macroeconomic outlook.

The IMF has projected that Kenya's economy will grow by 5 per cent in 2025, while the country's National Treasury has expected a growth rate of 5.5 per cent. **Xinhua**

Court order prevents appointment of Mabolwe kgosi

By Manowe Motsaathebe

MABOLWE - The existing court order that bars bogosi in Bobirwa and the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs from appointing a headman of record (kgosana) or holding consultations regarding the vacant post at Mabolwe, ties the hands of authorities from replacing the late kgosi Join Ngala.

The late Kgosi Ngala, 78 then, took government to court, after his contract was not renewed when it elapsed in September 2020. The matter dragged on from September 2020 until kgosi Ngala died three years later.

Since his death, the village has been operating their traditional affairs without a substantive kgosi, with kgosi Isaya Madema of Semolale presiding on their pressing issues.

In addition to Mabolwe and his village of Semolale, Kgosi Madema also presides over traditional matters in Gobojango where Kgosi Keabetswe Mokgethi is currently on suspension on alleged forgery.

Speaking during a kgotla meeting by area Member of Parliament in Mabolwe, Monday, Kgosi Joel Masilo told residents that his office was barred from addressing their calls for replacing the late Kgosi Ngala due to the prevailing court order.

“Our hands are tied as the court order is still in effect, but I sought clarification and guidance from our parent ministry while also informing them about your situation here,” Kgosi Joel said.

He pleaded that the matter be resolved expeditiously as it put a strain on Kgosi Madema who is now presiding over three villages, a task deemed overwhelming to a kgosi who operates without an official vehicle.

“This is a legal matter yet to be resolved... the state counsel and the late kgosi’s legal representative have to finalise this matter and advise the ministry on the next course of action since the complainant is, unfortunately, no more,” Kgosi Joel said.

Meanwhile, Kgosi Joel implored mephato to continue discharging their community policing duties with dedication, as when they first assumed their duties responding to the then rampant cross-border livestock rustling. It is reported that some members of mephato are warring over allowances and control of the traditional community policing groups.

“You volunteered upon realising that you were losing your livestock to cross-border theft,” Kgosi Joel said and added that mephato executed some immense duties.

He said that some members of mephato in Gobojango who had threatened to and actually withdrew from mephato have since taken up their positions after being addressed.

“We held heart-to-heart talks with them and reminded them of the importance of their selfless volunteerism when we resuscitated mephato at a time when there was no stipend... they understood us and took up their roles,” he said.

MP for the area, Mr Taolo Lucas rallied mephato, dikgosi and all the stakeholders into ironing out the existing differences saying no ego should be bruised in the process.

“If mephato are still considered to be under Ipelegeng, which is under the ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, then the portfolio minister has been speaking unequivocally about Ipelegeng workers earning P2 500 upon completion of the processes.

This means mephato, too, will earn the


P2 500 in question,” MP Lucas said.

He called for the ministries of State President, Local Government and Traditional Affairs and Lands and

Agriculture to formulate regulations that will guide mephato because in his view, “without regulations anyone can do as they please”. **BOPA**



Kgosi Joel Masilo told Mabolwe residents that his office was barred from addressing their calls for replacing the late Kgosi Join Ngala due to a prevailing court order.



Botswana's CBM Industry: Poised to Become Southern Africa's Energy Hub

Botswana is on the brink of a transformative energy shift, poised to emerge as Southern Africa's leading gas supplier through its vast coal bed methane (CBM) gas reserves. With Botala Energy's Serowe Project alone boasting an estimated 7.1 trillion cubic feet of gas, the nation is primed to fuel industrial growth, strengthen regional energy security, and establish itself as a significant player in the liquefied natural gas (LNG) market by converting CBM from gas to liquid. CBM reserves held by other companies further highlight Botswana's immense untapped potential.

The country's CBM development draws parallels with Queensland, Australia, which has become a global leader in LNG production. Over the past two decades, Queensland has attracted more than US\$35 billion in investment and now generates over US\$40 billion annually from domestic sales and LNG exports.

Experts suggest Botswana could replicate Queensland's success by prioritising investments and infrastructure development and facilitating strategic partnerships. This opportunity is amplified by South Africa's looming gas shortage, projected to begin in mid-2027. Sasol's announcement that it will cease supplying gas from its depleting Mozambiquan onshore fields by that time has left the region with limited immediate alternatives.

While Queensland's CBM development was driven by LNG supply agreements with China, Korea, and Japan, Botswana possesses unique advantages: a substantial gas market in neighbouring South Africa and growing demand from mines in especially Zambia and the DRC. Botala Energy is strategically positioned to meet these needs through its phased Serowe gasfield development, using scalable and proven LNG production units and strategic LNG sales agreements. With all necessary environmental, planning, and mining approvals secured, the project is ready to commence production.


“Botala will build on its investment to date, and milestone achievements. With Government and private sector support, Botswana can emerge as the region's primary gas supplier,” stated Kris Martinick, CEO of Botala Energy.

Development of Botswana's CBM sector could yield transformative economic benefits: an estimated US\$3-5 billion in investment over the next 10-15 years; creation of 15,000-25,000 direct and indirect jobs; an annual GDP boost of US\$2-3 billion; and substantial growth in industries such as construction, logistics, engineering and marketing.

To seize this opportunity, industry, with Government understanding and support must focus on infrastructure development such LNG plants, pipelines and related infrastructure; strategic partnerships to attract financing and technical expertise; regulatory enhancements to streamline decision making; and introducing incentives to attract global investors.

By building on Queensland's experiences and achievements, Botala Energy is aiming to supply gas to South Africa and beyond from mid-2027 onwards. With rising regional demand, a favourable investment climate, and abundant untapped gas resources, Botswana is poised to redefine Southern Africa's energy landscape.

The journey ahead will require visionary planning, substantial investment, and committed government support, but the potential rewards for the nation and its people are significant.



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POSITION AVAILABLE

SEND YOUR CV

Francistown Academic Hospital, under Indus Healthcare, is a leading healthcare facility delivering world-class medical services. We are seeking candidates to join our team in the following positions:

- MEDICAL OFFICER**

Qualifications:

- University Degree in Medicine.

Experience:

- A minimum of 2 years' experience as Medical Officer
- Experience in a Private Hospital will be an added advantage

Job Purpose: Coordinate the provision of preventative, curative and rehabilitative health care services

Key Performance Areas:

- Provide timely clinical health services to patients to ensure quality health care.
- Provide health education and counseling to the FAH Clients to improve health and prevent diseases.
- Establish links with a range of primary and secondary health care providers and develop initiatives to enable patient-centric, coordinated care that meets the needs of individuals.
- Manage the implementation of quality improvement efforts to improve clinical performance and maintain compliance to highest standards of quality and service.
- Develop an emergency response plan for effective and efficient emergency response

- PHARMACIST**

Qualifications:

- Degree in Pharmacy

Experience:

- A minimum of 5 years' experience as Pharmacist, two years of which should have been served as a Pharmacist In Charge
- Experience in a Private Hospital will be an added advantage

Job Purpose: to ensure adherence and compliance to facility SOP's, Policies and procedures.

NB: Applicants should include the following information:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified true copies of academic and professional certificates and at least two work related references
- Valid Botswana Health Professions Council (BHPC) registration
- Identification Document

Interested candidates who meet the above requirements are encouraged to send their **applications** to:
Email: hrmanager@fah.co.bw
Subject Line should clearly indicate the position applied for.

Closing Date: 28th March 2025
 Francistown Academic Hospital is an equal opportunity employer. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted



Greater Francistown DHMT community health nurse, Mr Johnson Taruvinga (left) and district Malaria focal person, Ms Utlwanang Modise in Francistown. Ms Modise said they had recorded 10 Malaria cases, one local and nine imported as of the 2024/25 Malaria transmission season, which commenced last year October. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Francistown registers 10 Malaria cases

By Lefika Maruping

FRANCISTOWN - Francistown Health District has reported 10 Malaria cases, one local and nine imported as of the 2024/25 Malaria transmission season, which commenced in October.

Francistown District Health

Management Team (DHMT) District focal person, Ms Utlwanang Modise explained in an interview that seven of the imported cases originated from other countries while two were imported from other districts within the country.

“The local case was identified at Itekeng Clinic, involving a patient from Area W, who had not travelled outside Francistown in the past 42 days,” she added.

Ms Modise said Greater Francistown DHMT had made significant strides toward Malaria elimination, thus achieving a notable reduction in cases over the years.

She further noted that the sporadic nature of malaria cases demanded unwavering vigilance, especially in regions like Francistown Health District.

Ms Modise said they had strategies put in place for the health district preparedness for the Malaria season.

She stated that in Francistown District, every confirmed Malaria case was entomologically and epidemiologically investigated.

Ms Modise said the thorough approach aimed to identify the source of infection and implement strategies to prevent further transmission.

“Rapid Diagnostic Testing is employed to ensure swift and accurate diagnosis, followed by treatment in line with national Malaria treatment guidelines. Healthcare workers also receive continuous training to enhance their proficiency in diagnosing and managing Malaria cases effectively,” she added.

Furthermore, Ms Modise said recognising the pivotal role of community involvement was essential, and said that educational initiatives had been launched to raise awareness about Malaria prevention, symptom recognition, and the importance of prompt medical consultation.

“Schools and workplaces are reached to instill a culture of prevention within the district. Moreover, collaboration with faith-based organisations and traditional leaders has been established, uniting various societal sectors in the fight against malaria,” she said.

She encouraged people to adopt preliminary precautions to minimise the risks of being infected with Malaria.

Also, she urged people to seek medical advice to determine the necessity of preventive antimalarial medications, especially before travelling to areas with high Malaria prevalence.

Ms Modise said they must also wear long clothing, particularly during peak mosquito activity periods, at dusk and dawn as well as to remove stagnant water from containers around living areas to disrupt mosquito-breeding sites.

She said they should also consult a healthcare provider immediately if symptoms such as fever, chills, or flu-like illness developed after potential exposure. **BOPA**



13 March 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration, Submission of Returns for Tender Awardees and Payment of Tax Liability

The Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) wishes to inform all taxpayers who have been awarded tenders and have issued invoices or received related payments that VAT tax compliance verifications are ongoing. It has come to light that there are instances of non-compliance with value added tax (VAT) registration, submission of tax returns and associated tax liabilities as regulated by the **Value Added Tax Act [Cap. 50:03]**.

Immediate Actions to Take:

Affected taxpayers are kindly advised to:

1. **Register for VAT:** If their respective turnover over a period of 12 months exceeds or is anticipated to exceed the compulsory VAT threshold of BWP 1,000,000.00 and are not yet registered for VAT purposes, please visit nearest BURS office or contact us to initiate the VAT registration process.
2. **Submit Outstanding Returns:** Ensure that they submit all outstanding VAT returns without further delay.
3. **Address Nil and Under-Declared Returns:** If they have submitted undue nil VAT returns or have under-declared true VAT chargeable in the VAT returns, to contact the nearest BURS office to review and amend the VAT return submissions so made.
4. **Pay Outstanding Taxes:** Settle any overdue tax liabilities promptly to avoid additional penalties and interest.

BURS is committed to assisting all taxpayers in fulfilling their tax obligations and ensuring full compliance with the revenue laws. Failure to comply with the revenue laws attracts both civil and criminal liability. As such, taxpayers are encouraged to faithfully fulfill the obligations placed on them.

If you need assistance or have any questions regarding your VAT status, please visit your nearest BURS office or contact our Call Centre @ 17649.

Thank you





Some of the vehicles impounded by the police at Kazungula One Stop Border Post. The vehicles are all South African registered. Photo: Portia Ikgopoleng

Kazungula police impound 19 stolen vehicles

By Portia Ikgopoleng

KAZUNGULA - Kazungula police have registered 19 cases of cross border motor vehicle theft since 2023 to date.

In an interview with *BOPA*, Kazungula Police Station commander Superintendent Peter Masole said all the motor vehicles were stolen from South Africa.

He said of the two Toyota Fortuners impounded recently, the culprits had switched South African registration numbers to Botswana ones.

Supt Masole said the vehicles were discovered at Kazungula One Stop Border Post in transit to Zambia and other countries in Central, East and West Africa.

He stated that South African nationals were mostly involved in these crimes while only two Batswana were arrested in the 19 cases.

He disclosed that all the cases were prosecuted at Kasane Magistrate's Court, seven cases of which reached judgment.

He said the vehicles commonly stolen were Toyota Fortuner, Toyota Hilux, Range Rover and Mercedes Benz.

Supt Masole indicated that they worked hand in hand with South African Police in their

investigations, who furnished proof that indeed these vehicles were stolen.

He said most of the stolen vehicles enter the country through Tlokweng Border, adding that declaration and search of vehicles upon entry were not as stringent as at exiting the country.

He pointed out that some criminals presented false information about their trips, alluding that they were entering Botswana to visit families or shopping in Gaborone.

Supt Masole revealed that one law enforcement officer stationed at Kazungula was embroiled in cross border smuggling of stolen motor vehicles.

He revealed that the said officer was detained in police custody awaiting arraignment at Nata Magistrate's Court.

He observed that motor vehicle theft syndicates were recruiting officers to provide them with inside information for seamless execution of their crimes.

Supt Masole condemned this behaviour by law enforcement officers as it tainted their reputation, adding that police officers were guided by ethics and a code of conduct that every officer has to adhere to. *BOPA*

Council chair updates on social benefits

By Relief Lephutshi

KANYE - Kanye District Council (KDC) started full council meetings with the delivery of the Council chairperson's speech at Tomela on Monday.

Amongst the many issues presented by the chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgosithebe, are the social benefits.

He highlighted the benefits as the Old Age Pension (OAP) with 6 901 beneficiaries, 6 901 Destitute Cash Allowance (DCA), 51 World War Veterans (WW II V), while the Disability Cash Transfer (DCT) has 461 beneficiaries.

DCT programme comprises of various groups receiving P830, P550, P850 and P700.

He said that payments are disbursed to the beneficiaries through an agent called Sandulea Telcom.

He highlighted that it is outsourced on contract on behalf of the Botswana Government.

"Contractors deliver payments to the beneficiaries' wards or dikgotla and by the use of Point of Sales machine at some shops on monthly basis," he said.

He stated that the government is committed to increasing the number of pay points to include major shopping outlets like Shoppers and Spar shops in Kanye.

He said that this would reduce the congestion that occurs at Mahikana and Taukobong wards and added that the beneficiaries

would be able to get their dues at their earliest convenience.

He pointed out that, as a way of improving the department's service delivery, it has interlinked with the Omang office and this has assisted with automatic termination of a reported deceased beneficiary hence cleansing the payroll on time and the process enhances appropriate budget.

"In cases where the deceased is not reported at Omang office and our office, we cleanse the payroll after a period of six months," he added, further highlighting that registration of beneficiaries is also dependent on the Omang system as it is in possession of the legal information required.

On destitute housing, Mr Kgosithebe said the district has embarked on providing quality housing to the underprivileged persons.

He stated that since 2022/2023, the district was awarded 21 houses, 19 of which are complete and handed over while four are ongoing.

He said the four ongoing projects range from 25 per cent to 95 per cent at Mhiko, Lorolwane, Gasita and Kanye.

"Outstanding projects were delayed due to challenges of relocation and difficulty in sourcing artisans (bricklayers) residing in those respective villages," he said.

He said the Council is facilitating with direct payments for materials and intensive monitoring of projects.

All the projects are anticipated to be complete by end of May. *BOPA*

Maun internal roads project to commence

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The much awaited 25km Maun internal roads project will commence on March 24 for a duration of 21 months, says the North West District Council chairman, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng.

The project comprises of 10km-tarred roads and 15km paving. Ground breaking for the project was performed last October at Matlapana.

It is expected to cost P41 617 894.50, which includes compensation for those that will be affected.

Delivering a speech during a full council session on Monday, Mr Kelebetseng said the completion date of the project is expected to be December 19, 2026.

He said that kgotla meetings had already been held in Disana ward where some of the properties were going to be affected.

He noted that meetings with individual property owners started February and still ongoing.

Mr Kelebetseng said the project consists of 11 roads with a total length of 24.766km, which would

be implemented in two phases.

"Roads site handover was done on March 13 at Maun Lodge and the works were located at Boseja South, Boseja North, Matlapana, Old Disana, New Disana, Sedie, Moeti East, Boronyane, Tsanekona 1 and Thamalakane North wards," he said.

However, Mr Kelebetseng said poor road infrastructure in the district had been worrisome and noted that some continued to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance.

On other issues, Mr Kelebetseng updated the council on the recurrent budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

He said that government departments including councils relied heavily on Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to deliver services and the last quarter of the financial year was a hard one as the RSG was cut by over P14 million, representing 20 per cent of the approved RSG for the financial year.

That, he said, had led to the council not providing services as expected as they had to reprioritise with what they had.

He revealed that the council had managed to collect revenue amounting to P4 579 708.24 against a budget of P11 439 530 representing 40 per cent.

"You will agree with me that we are performing badly when it comes to revenue collection and we have to find ways of maximisation of revenue collection," he stressed.

Mr Kelebetseng also updated on the disaster situation in the district following the heavy rains experienced across the country since late last year.

He said the North West District experienced heavy rains between the month of December and February, which resulted in floods. Mr Kelebetseng pointed out that a total of 128 houses from 19 villages and wards in Maun were affected by floods and strong winds, which led to destruction of houses, especially those made of mud, blowing away of roofs and damaging household items.

He said the district through the Disaster Management Team, managed to respond rapidly to affected individuals, who were provided with psychosocial support, food and tents. *BOPA*



Kgosi Kgositse Sebele 1 o bolokilwe kwa mabilteng a dikgosi tsa Mokwena mo Molepolole ka Tshipi. Dibui ka go farologana ba mo kaile fa e ne e le motho yo o lerato, a le dinyao e bile a rata dilo tse di tlhamaletseng. Senepe: Lindi Morwaeng

Kgosi Sebele o bolokilwe

Ka Lindi Morwaeng

MOLEPOLOLE - Kgosi Kgositse Sebele 1 yo o tlhokafetseng kgwedi eno e le lesome le motso morago ga go lwala ka lobaka, o bolokilwe ka Tshipi kwa mabilteng a dikgosi tsa Mokwena kwa Molepolole, a le dingwaga di le masome a supa le boferabobedi (78).

Dibui ka go farologana di kaile Kgosi Sebele e ne e le motho yo o lerato, a le dinyao e bile a rata dilo tse di tlhamaletseng.

Erile fa a gopola ditiro tsa gagwe, mogolowe ebong Kgosi Kgositse Sebele 1 o tlhalositse fa monnawe e ne e le motho yo o tlhaga e bile a kile a bereka mo sepodising sa Botswana, mme ka jone bonatla jo jwa gagwe, a kgona go thapiwa mo karolong ya sepodisi e e faphegileng mme a felela e nna mongwe wa ba ba neng ba tlhokomela Tautona wa ntlha wa lefatshe leno, Sir Seretse Khama.

A re e ne ya re morago, Kgosi Sebele a ya go bereka sepodisi sa Afrika Borwa kwa meepong, mme ya re a boela gae, a bereka kwa Financial Service ka lobaka, e le mokgweetsi pele fa a ya go direla kwa kgotleng kgolo ya Bakwena e le mothusa Kgosi ka ngwaga wa 1984 fa Kgosi Kgositse Sebele e ne e le motshwarelela bogosi jwa Bakwena ka nako eo.

A re thulaganyo eo e diragetse

sehularong sa ga Kgosi Bonewamang.

Morago ga phatlha e e tswa, Tautona wa pele, Sir Seretse Khama, o ne a dira thulaganyo le Kgosi Bathoen yo e neng e le moeteledipele wa kganetso wa phathi ya BNF ka nako eo, gore Kgosi Kgositse Sebele a tle go tshwarelela setilo sa bogosi jwa Mokwena ka e ne e le mo-tsaya karolo mo dipolotiking.

O kaile fa kwa morago go ne ga bulega phatlha e nngwe mme Kgosi Sebele a thapiwa go nna mothusa Kgosi kwa kgotleng kgolo ya Bakwena ene e le mothusi wa gagwe.

A re o berekile sentle thata le morwarraagwe mo morafe o tlaa gopolang gore ka nako eo, ba ne ba lwantshana thata le botlhoka tsebe mo motseng gore ba tsholeletse serodumo sa motse kwa godimo.

A re dilo tse dingwe tse ba di fitlheletseng ka nako eo ke go simolodisa kago ya leobo le lesaka la kgotla morago ga go tsaya malebela kwa ga-Ngwaketse gore kgotla e senoge.

Kgosi Kgositse Sebele o supile gore ka nako ya bone, ba ne ba simolodisa tsamaiso ya gore ditsheko di kwalwe, bosupi bo bolokiwe.

A re ba dirile jalo ka tshwaragano le dikgakololo tsa ga ramolaomogolo wa nako eo, Rre Phandu Skelemani.

O tseletse ka go supa gore

maiteko a bone a go kwala ditsheko a ne a felela a tsala tsamaiso e nngwe ya go tsisa basekisi ba ba tlhokomeleng ke sepodisi sa kgotla le tsamaiso ya go phutha dikoloto .

Kgosi Kgositse Sebele a re ba kgaogane le merero ya bogosi ba sutela Kgosi Kgari Sechele III fa a tlhonga mo setilong ka ngwaga wa 2002.

Go tloga foo a re Kgosi Sebele o ne a tswela a dira mo makgotleng a Setswana kwa Gaborone go fitlhela a tlogela tiro ka bogodi a ya go nna molemi morui.

Mopalamente wa Molepolole Borwa, Rre Shima Monageng, le ene o mo kaile e le motho yo o neng a le lorato yo o eleletsang batho dilo tse di molemo.

Kgosi Kgari Sechele III a re Kgosi Sebele e ne e le motho yo o neng a rata go tshaga thata, a rata go nna a itumetse le fa ntswa a ne a tle a nne bogale.

Kgosi Sebele ke ngwana wa bosupa wa ga Kgosi Kenalekgosi-a-Kebuhula-a-SebeleI-a-Sebele II-a-Motswasele-a-Seitlhamo-a-Motshodi mo kgotleng ya Kgosing kwa Molepolole le Mme Mothusi-a-Simon-a-Kekgonengile-a-Tebele-a-Seitlhamo-a-Motshodi kwa kgotleng ya Botlhajana kwa Molepolole.

O tlogela bana ba le babedi, mosimane le mosetsana le mosadi. **BOPA**

Seabe sa kereke se tshwanetse go bonala

Ka Cathrine Simane

MAUBELO - Kereke e tshwanetse ya dira ditiro tsa bobelotlhomogi le tse di supang lorato mo setshabeng.

Moruti Peter Solomon wa kereke ya Seventh Day Adventist Church (SDA) kwa Tsabong o buile se ka Matlhatso jaaka kereke ya Sabata (SDA) e ne e abela sekole se se botlana sa Ikaneng kwa Maubelo ditilo di le masome a matlhano e le tsela nngwe ya go tsenya letsogo mo go rotloetseng thuto.

Moruti Solomon a re kereke e tshwanetse ya nna sekao mo go tlhomamiseng gore ditiro tse di molemo di bonwa mo go bone jaaka go aba se ba nang naso go tswa mo boteng jwa dipelo go thusa fa go tlhaelang teng.

A re kereke e tshwanetse go tlhokomela, go aga, go boloka, go nonotsha le go bopa setshaba ka go ba atumetsa gaufi le Morena le go ba rerela mafoko aa molemo ka seo se ka ba fa tsholofelo mo botshelong.

Moruti Solomon o supile fa ba tswa kgakala le sekole sa Ikaneng ka go bopa bana go nna le botho, maitseo, poifo Modimo le go nna le maikarabelo a a eletsegang mo setshabeng.

A re mpho e ba e ntshitseng ke tsela nngwe ya go tiisa le go tsosolosa botsalano gareng ga sekole le kereke.

Moeteledipele wa banana mo kerekeng ya SDA, Mme Tebogo Motswete, o ne a re ditso tsa kereke eo di supa fa Matlhatso mo bekeng ya boraro mo kgwedding ya Mopitlo a seegetswe fa thoko e le wa Global Youth.

Mme Motswete o ne a tswela ka gore e ke tsela nngwe ya go rotloetsa basha go dira ditiro tsa bobelotlhomogi tse di bopaganyang le go tlhabolola setshaba le gone go ba rerela mafoko a a molemo a a ka tsisang pharaloganyo mo matshelong a bone.

A re ba ne ba thulanya ditlhogo morago ga go lebelela matlhoko a sekole se se botlana sa Ikaneng mme ba bona go le botlhokwa go reka ditilo gareng ga tse dingwe gore bana ba kgone go ithuta ka tshosologo.

Motshwarelela mookamedi wa lephata la tlhokomelo ya bana le thuto go tswa kwa

moding kwa Kgalagadi, Mme Margret Koko, o ne a tlhalosa fa ka ntlha ya letlhoko le le ntsi mo lephateng leo, baeteledipele ba ne ba kua mokgosi go kopa thuso mo dikhampaning, maphata aa ikemetseng le a puso, dikereke le setshaba ka kakaretso go le ema nokeng.

Mme Koko o ne a tswela ka go tlhalosa fa morago ga go kua mokgosi, Botswana ka go farologana, dikhampani le bagwebi ba ne ba ema ka dinao go thusa dikole ka go farologana, selo se ba se opelang legofi thata.

O ne a galaletsa thata mpho e e abilweng ke kereke ya SDA a supa fa ka ntlha ya tlhalelo ya madi, lephata le sa kgone go fitlhelela maikaelelo a lone a go tsenya didirisiwa tsotlhe tse di lekaneng mo dikoleng ka go farologana.

Mme Koko o ne a gwetlha ba-tsaya karolo go tswela ka mowa oo wa go tsaya karolo le go nna le seabe mo go tsa thuto mme a kopa gape gore le ba bangwe ka bongwe ka bongwe ba ikgethele sekole kana bana go ba tlhokomela.

Mogokgo wa sekole sa Ikaneng, Rre Watson Jacobs, o ne a tlhalosa fa ba tswa kgakala ba tshwaraganye le kereke ya Sabata mo go ageng le go bopa mme a lebogela tiro e ntle e ba e dirileng ka e le maleba ka gantsi bana ba senya didirisiwa tsa sekole.

Mo go lone letsatsi leo, mogokgo Rre Jacobs o ne abela baithuti ba basetsanyana ba le bararo ba ba dirileng go tlala ka diatla ka go tsaya letshwao la ntlha mo maduong a ditlhathobo tsa lekwalo la bosupa ngwaga o o fetileng, madi a a kanang ka P200 mongwe le mongwe wa bone go tswa mo go mogokgo wa pele wa sekole seo, Rre Fannuel Mmereki, e le tsela nngwe ya go ba tiisa moko.

Mokhanselara wa Maubelo/Mc Cathy's Rust, Rre John Lentshikang o ne popotha legetla kereke eo a supa fa ba thibile phatlha ka jaana go na le letlhoko le le ntsi thata mo dikoleng gammogo le tlhalelo ya matlo a barutabana.

Rre Lentshikang o ne a gwetlha dikereke tse dingwe go tsaya malebela mo kerekeng ya Sabata ka ba supile mowa wa go aba. **BOPA**

Rwanda cuts diplomatic ties with Belgium

KIGALI - Rwanda on Monday severed its diplomatic relations with Belgium and ordered all Belgian diplomats to leave the country within 48 hours.

"The government of Rwanda today notified the government of Belgium of its decision to sever diplomatic relations, effective immediately. Rwanda's decision has been taken after careful consideration of several factors,

all linked with Belgium's pitiful attempts to sustain its neocolonial delusions," Rwandan foreign ministry said in a statement.

Belgium has consistently undermined Rwanda, both well before and during the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in which Belgium has a deep and violent historical role, especially in acting against Rwanda, the

statement said. "Today's decision reflects Rwanda's commitment to safeguarding our national interests and the dignity of Rwandans, as well as upholding the principles of sovereignty, peace, and mutual respect. All Belgian diplomats in Rwanda are required to leave the country within 48 hours," the statement said.

In compliance with the Vienna Convention, Rwanda will assure

the protection of the premises, property, and archives of the Belgian diplomatic mission in Kigali," the statement added.

In response, Belgium described Kigali's move as "disproportionate" and said it will take similar measures.

"Belgium regrets the decision of Rwanda to cut off diplomatic relations with Belgium and to declare Belgium's diplomats

persona non grata," Maxime Prevot, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, European affairs and development cooperation of Belgium, said on social media.

"This is disproportionate and shows that when we disagree with Rwanda, they prefer not to engage in dialogue.

Belgium will take similar measures, the convocation of Rwandan charge d'affaires a.i, declaring Rwanda's diplomats persona non grata and denouncing our governmental cooperation agreements," Prevot said.

Belgium has been critical of Rwanda's alleged involvement in the conflict in the eastern DRC, particularly its reported support for the M23 rebel group, an accusation Kigali denies.

After resurfacing in late 2021, the M23 has taken control of territories in the eastern DRC, including regional hub Goma.

On Monday, the European Union announced sanctions on Rwanda military commanders over the country's alleged support for the M23 rebellion, a move endorsed by Belgium at the EU level.

In February, Rwanda suspended its development cooperation with Belgium. As such uncertainty loomed over a planned direct negotiation between the DRC government and M23 rebels, that was scheduled for Luanda, Angola, yesterday.

The negotiation that was supposed to be brokered by Angolan President Joao Lourenco, did not materialise after the M23 rebel group released a statement on Monday that the talks "have become impracticable."

"Successive sanctions imposed on our members, including those enacted on the eve of the Luanda discussions, severely undermine direct dialogue and make any progress impossible," said the M23, referring to the sanctions announced on Monday by the European Union against certain M23 leaders and Rwandan military commanders, including M23 political leader Bertrand Bisimwa.

Tina Salama, the DRC presidential spokesperson, told the media that the DRC delegation, which was supposed to leave for Luanda late Monday, would still make a trip despite the M23's no-show.

"The DRC delegation will indeed respond to the invitation of the mediator, President Lourenco, in Luanda this Tuesday," said Salama.

The DRC has accused Rwanda of supporting the M23, while Rwanda says the DRC military has allied with the Rwandan rebel group Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, which is accused of involvement in the 1994 genocide.

The M23 called earlier on DRC President Felix Tshisekedi to make an unequivocal public declaration committing to direct negotiations. The DRC government has consistently considered it a red line to sit at the same negotiation table with the rebels, who have seized large chunks of land in the eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu.

"Never, ever, as long as I am president of the DRC, will I have in front of me the delegation of the M23 or the AFC there ... to negotiate," Tshisekedi said in an interview in August 2024. *Xinhua*



Rwanda president Paul Kagame



Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Cooperation Maxime Prevot

Chinese enterprises donate to flood victims

LUSAKA - Chinese enterprises operating in Zambia donated supplies to support victims of the floods that have affected the country during the 2024/2025 rainy season.

The donation handover ceremony held at the offices of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit in Lusaka, Zambia on Monday, included food supplies such as maize meal, rice, sugar and cooking oil, while non-food items included disinfectants, blankets, mattresses, protective gear and other essentials, valued at about US\$ 42 000 and a cash donation of about US\$ 7 000.

Zambia vice president Mutale Nalumango, Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Zambia Wang Sheng, and officials from the Zambia Chinese Association attended the ceremony.

Wang said China shared the pain of the flood victims, which prompted the decision to provide relief support, and China stood ready to offer further humanitarian assistance within its capacity.

"With similar flood challenges at home, we in China deeply empathise with the pain and loss suffered by the Zambians.

We are taking action and stand ready to provide more humanitarian assistance within our capacity in a timely manner," he said. He said since the establishment of diplomatic relations 60 years ago, the two countries have stood by each other and offered support in times of need.

During the COVID-19 and cholera outbreaks, China was among the first countries to assist Zambia in combating the diseases, Wang said, adding that this support reflected the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership announced by the two heads of state and China's commitment to building a community with a

shared future for mankind.

He said the donation exemplified the commitment of the Chinese community and businesses in Zambia to fulfilling their social responsibilities, which have always been among their core values.

Nalumango commended China for its support, saying it would significantly ease the suffering of the victims.

Ramaphosa expects report from expelled envoy to US

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa confirmed on Monday that the expelled Ambassador to the United States Ebrahim Rasool was returning to South Africa to brief him on recent developments.

"Ebrahim Rasool will be back soon. The US State Department has ruled that he is no longer acceptable in the United States. I will wait for a full report from him," Ramaphosa stated.

Speaking at the Bana Pele Early Childhood Development (ECD) Leadership Summit in Johannesburg, Ramaphosa reiterated South Africa's commitment to engaging with the US government, describing Rasool's expulsion as a minor setback in bilateral relations.

The expulsion came after Rasool addressed a webinar recently organised by the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, commenting on the Trump administration. "What Donald Trump is launching is an assault on incumbency, those who are in power, by mobilising a supremacism against the incumbency at home and I think I have illustrated abroad as well,"

The support is a testament to the cordial relations that have existed between the two countries for the past 60 years, she said. According to the vice president, the floods have claimed four lives, displaced many people, particularly in Lusaka, and impacted other parts of the country.

Zhang Jian, president of the Zambia Chinese Association, said the donation was part of ongoing

efforts by Chinese enterprises to bring hope to those in need in the affected areas and demonstrated the genuine care and compassion of the overseas Chinese community.

The Chinese community in Zambia would continue to fulfill its responsibilities through concrete actions, he said, adding that every donated item reflected their deep concern for the affected people. *Xinhua*

Rasool said.

Ramaphosa said that they had taken note of the United States' concerns with his remarks.

"We have noted the displeasure

of the United States with regard to remarks made by Ambassador Rasool. Engagements with the US government are ongoing," he said. *Xinhua*



South Africa president Cyril Ramaphosa

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ACCOMMODATION

1) WANT TO RENT 2 or 3 bedroom house in Block 6, 7 and 8 for commercial purposes i.e. a Spa. Call: 72 992 380.

AUTOMOTIVES

NOTIFICATION TO THE General Public regarding change of ownership vehicle registration B 576 ANP. Any rejections regarding change of ownership contact: Black Giant (Pty) Ltd 71810402/77316868

FARM WORKERS

FARM WORKER WANTED at Dikgatlhong. Cell 72385076 or 77845775 P O Box 404820 Gaborone botshelokahuma@yahoo.com

LOOKING FOR GENERAL farm worker in plantation, Lobatse. Box 456, Lobatse. Charles Andries Christian Steinberg. +267 75685084, +267 73487299. Closing date 04.04.25.

I'M LOOKING FOR a farm worker in Modipane Address P.O Box 99 Modipane, Contact No. 77492390

IM LOOKING FOR 2 farm worker at Mmadinare Kelele ward cattle post Morere along Shashe River Masea Mpoto P O Box 472 Cell number 71 713 660

HERDBOY WANTED IN Kalamare, Moholwane cattle post. Apply to P O Box 402918 Gaborone, ASAP or call 72 193 006

FARM WANTED, MATEBELE Village. Box 25 Oodi. 72530664/73151300

2 FARM LABOURERS wanted at Goodhope Box 50272 Gaborone 71 653 305

I NEED 4 farm workers in Ntshokwe Maboane area. Call 71729331/72843147.

FARM MANAGER WANTED at Mmatseta. Contact 73 122 012.

FARM WORKERS WANTED Kgatleng Box 3475 Gaborone 71704774

MISCELLANEOUS

ADVERT FOR DEPOT. Chibuku Depot Plot 10967 Block 7 Francistown. Contact: 77036545/76398467

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

I MATHOGONONO MOKAA, owner of plot 7540 at Tlokweng, Maratang ward, wishes to change land use from single residential to multi-family residential. Any objection should be forwarded to Tlokweng District Council physical planning office at telephone number +267 3695000 within fourteen days of publication of this notice.

NEIGHBORS OF PLOT 2850 Block 7 Mogoditshane are informed of our intension to change our plot usage from residential to daycare centre. For objection contact : Mogoditshane Planning.

NEIGHBORS OF PLOT 2951 Gasiko, Gabane are informed of our intention to change plot usage from residential to multi residential. For objection Contact Mogoditshane Planning Unit.

CHANGE OF LAND use. Mmoloki Paul owner of multi-residential plot in Toteng, proposes to change to self-catering accommodation. For any objections contact Northwest District Council Physical Planning Department for any queries within fourteen (14) days of publication.

TSHEPISO KGAKOLE, OWNER of plot no.6323 of Ranfurwa, Tlokweng intend to change land use from single to multi-residential. Anyone objecting to the intent, should indicate in writing or contact Tlokweng Sub-District Council, physical planning Office, or myself at 71 376 609

VACANCIES

PRODUCTION MANAGER WANTED at Thabakgosi Investment. Should have a Diploma in Production Management/ Business Administration. Please forward your application to: thabakgosi@gmail.com or hand deliver. Contact: 5999768/ 71627875. Closing date 5th April 2025

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
NGAPENG SAMUEL SASEBOLA	ESHFT-000302-23	20-05-2025	0900HRS	SARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2025

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends applying for certified copy of Deed of transfer no. 1576/2005 dated the 29th day of July 2005 made in favor of Bonolo Dintho in respect of the below mentioned property, namely

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 4485, Ghanzi

SITUATE : In the Ghanzi Administrative District

MEASURING: 593 Meter Square (Five hundred and ninety-three square meters)

All persons objecting to the issue of such copy are hereby requested to lodge such objections, in writing with Register of Deeds, Private Bag 0020 Gaborone within (3) weeks from publication of this notice dated at Maun on the 7th day of March 2025.

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS Administrative of Estates Act [Cap.31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administrative of Estates Act (Cap.33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of the High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/ Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
FUMANI DICK	ESHFT-000354-24	14-05-25	0900HRS	SARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2025

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administrative of Estates Act (Cap.33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of the High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/ Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
BAME MAKOKO	GFHFT-000452/22-23	18-06-2025	0900HRS	RAMPHA

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2025

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

Ref: ESHGB 000882/24 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late COLLEEN THERESE GARBERS who died at Bokamoso Private Hospital, Mmopane, Kweneng District, in the Republic of Botswana on the 02nd day of June 2024.

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.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

KEVIN GRAHAM GARBERS (EXECUTOR)

c/o OSEI-OFEI LEGAL

Attorneys for the Executor First Floor, Unit 18, Kgale Mews, Gaborone International Finance Park, P O Box 26546, GABORONE Tel: 390 8293 / 71 31 91 04

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Wanted Technical Sales Manager

Manufacturing and marketing company of fomo products, plastics, spices and sauces needs a technical sales manager to coordinate procurement and marketing in Botswana. Candidate should know the technical aspects of the fomos and plastic industry

Graduates with over 15 years of experience in this field with their own vehicle and valid driving license and excellent rapport with wholesalers and retailers may confidently apply to P O Box 47041 Gaborone.

Deadline 1st MAY. Only qualified candidates will be contacted

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administrative of Estates Act (Cap.33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of the High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/ Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
OAKANTSE MATHABE	ESHFT-000859-24	21-05-2025	09000HRS	SARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2025
.....
MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS ADMINISTRATION OF Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased	Person Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
ALFRED LEAGETSE	ESHFT-000086-25	20-05-2025	09000HRS	SARM

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2025
.....
MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN ESHFT 000156-24

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
IN THE ESTATE of the late **GAPE RAYMOND GANETSANG -ESHFT 000156-24** who died at central District on the 26/12/2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of where return the undersigned within 30 days after the publication hereof

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 17TH DAY OF JULY 2024

EMILY NKHENYI GANETSANG Executor Dative P O Box 1643 Selebi Phikwe	LAME SALLY G GANETSANG Executrix Dative P O Box 50369 GABORONE	AND TO: Master of the High Court Private Bag F13 FRANCISTOWN
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN; that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of lost Title Deed No. MA 83/2021 dated 29th January 2021, Made in favour of Phemelo Leonard Tshukudu in respect of the lost

CERTAIN: Piece of land being Lot 26879 Mogoditshane
SITUATE: Mogoditshane (Cadastral 89) in the Bakwena Tribal Territory
MEASURING: 785M² (Seven Hundred and Eighty-Five Square Meters)
HELD UNDER /DEED NO: MA 83 2021 Dated 29th January 2021

All persons having objections to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same with the Registrar of Deeds for Botswana at Gaborone within three (3) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

Applicant:
Name: Phemelo Leonard Tshukudu **Address:** Box 329 Gabane

PUBLIC NOTICE

DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR GRAVEL AND PIT SAND MINING AT SEMARULE LANDS NEAR MOLEPOLOLE

In fulfillment of Section 7 (2) of the EA Act of 2011, notice is hereby given for the intent to undertake a Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of proposed gravel and sand mining at Semarule Lands near Molepolole.

Project Description: SWAY TECH (Pty) Ltd intends to mine gravel and pit sand at a plot measuring 2.16 hectares at Semarule Lands on the outskirts of Molepolole along the Molepolole-Thamaga tarmac road.

Project Proponent: SWAY TECH (Pty) Ltd: Contact person: Mr. Bobby Mathe, P.O. Box 51, Molepolole, Botswana. Contacts: email: bobbymathe@swaytech.co.bw Cell phone: 72 557 084 or 73 964 472

Possible Positive Impacts

- Availability of gravel and sand for construction
- Creation of employment opportunities

Possible Negative Impacts

- Vegetation clearance
- Soil stripping
- Possible waste management challenges at borrow pit site

Date and venue for public meeting:

Venue	Date	Time
Seherelela Kgotla	31 March 2025	0900HRS

All comments and enquiries regarding the above proposed project may be sent to the addresses below:

The Project Manager
Hageisa Investment (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 80539 Gaborone, Botswana
Mobile: 71 784 466

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE PUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN ESHFT 0000-461-23

FIRST AND FINAL DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT : DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 14TH DAY OF MARCH 2025

IN THE ESTATE of the late **MR BOTHO DICHABA-ESHFT 0000-461-23** who died at A33 ROAD PANDAMATENGA, CHOBE DISTRICT ON THE 7TH JULY 2023.

NOTICE IS HEREBY First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the Chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court Francistown for period of twenty-one (21) days from the date of the second publications thereof.

GAONE RUTH DICHABA
EXECUTOR DATIVE
P O BOX 214
SHASHE
71612122/72929259

AND TO: MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT
PRIVATE BAG F13
FRANCISTOWN

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETING FOR THE LATE

LYDIA BULALA - ESHGB-000145/25

IN PURSUIT of Section 31 of the Administration of the Estate Act {Cap 31:01} of the heirs and Next of Kin of the deceased persons specified above hereby invited to attend a Next of Kin meeting on 15th day of May 2025 at 1100 hours at the before-Felicity S Segweni at the Master's Office, Gaborone High Court Building

At the respective meeting, the next of kin meeting are to recommend person(s) to be approved as Executor(s) / Executrices Dative, identify beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to the estate of their deceased relative.

Job Title: Biomedical Engineer
Company: Applied Medical Solutions

About Us: Applied Medical Solutions is a leading provider of medical laboratory equipment and services, dedicated to enhancing the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery. Our team is committed to innovation and excellence in the medical field.

Position Overview: We are seeking a highly skilled and motivated Biomedical Engineer to join our team. The successful candidate will be responsible for installing, servicing, and maintaining medical laboratory equipment at various healthcare facilities. This role requires technical expertise, problem-solving skills, and a commitment to customer service.

Key Responsibilities:

- Install, calibrate, and maintain medical laboratory equipment.
- Conduct regular maintenance checks and troubleshooting equipment issues.
- Provide technical support and training for healthcare professionals.
- Ensure compliance with industry standards and safety regulations.
- Collaborate with the sales team to provide technical insights and support.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Biomedical engineering, Clinical Engineering, or any related field.
- Proven experience in installing and servicing medical laboratory equipment.
- Strong technical skills and knowledge of medical device standards.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Willingness to travel to various healthcare facilities as needed.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary and benefits package.
- Opportunities for professional growth and development.
- Supportive and dynamic work environment
- Access to cutting-edge technology and equipment.

How to Apply: Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume and a cover letter detailing their relevant experience and qualifications to info@appliedmedical.co.bw by 4/04/2025.

Join us at Applied Medical Solutions and be part of a team that is making a difference in the healthcare industry!

KITSISO GO SECHABA

TSHEKATSEHO YA SEEMO SA TIKOLOGO MABAPI LE GO EPIWA GA MMU WA KAGO LE MOTLHABA MO KGAOLWANENG YA SEMARULE MO TIKOLOGONG YA MOTSE WA MOLEPOLOLE

Ka maikaelelo a go netefatsa molawana wa Tshomarelo Tikologo wa ngwaga wa 2011, temana 7 (2), kitsiso e, e ntshiwa jaana e le maikaelelo a go dira tshhekatsheko ya seemo sa tikologo mabapi le go epiwa ga mmu wa kago le motlhaba mo kgaolwaneng ya Semarule mo tikologong ya motse wa Molepolole.

Tlhaloso ya tiro: SWAY TECH (Pty) Ltd e na le maikaelelo a go epa mmu wa kago le motlhaba mo setsheng sa selekanyo sa 2.16 hectares mo kgaolwaneng ya Semarule mo tikologong ya motse wa Molepolole go bapa le tsela e e tswang Molepolole go ya Thamaga.

Beng ba Tiro: SWAY TECH (Pty) Ltd: Contact person: Mr. Bobby Mathe, P.O. Box 51, Molepolole, Botswana. Contacts: email: bobbymathe@swaytech.co.bw Cell phone: 72 557 084 or 73 964 472

Ditlamorago tse di siameng

- Go nna teng ga mmu o o ka thusang mo kagong le mothaba
- Go nna teng ga mmereko

Ditlamorago tse di sa siameng

- Go rengwa ga ditlhare
- Go gotlhega ga mmu
- Mathata a a ka nnang teng a taolo ya matlakala mo lefelong la tiro

Dinako le mafelo a diphuthego tsa morafe ke:

Lefelo	Letsatsi	Nako
Seherelela Kgotla	31 March 2025	0900HRS

Dikagelo mabapi le kitsiso e, di ka romelwa kwa aterseng e e latelang:

The Project Manager
Hageisa Investment (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 80539 Gaborone, Botswana
Mobile: 71 784 466

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Lioness Ratang rising music star



Now based in South Africa to further her music career, Catherine Ratang Moitshepi aka Lioness Ratang said her songs were more than just a genre but a reflection of her journey.

Photo: Courtesy of Lioness Ratang

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE - Catherine Ratang Moitshepi, aka Lioness Ratang's journey in music began long before she ever stepped into the depth of her upbringing with the rhythmic pulse of music.

In a recent interview with *BOPA*, the 23 year-old described her sound as fusion of soul and South Africa's Master KG-style beats, a style that reflects both her roots and growth as an artist.

Now based in South Africa to further her music career, Moitshepi shared that her songs were more than just a genre; they were a reflection of her journey.

She explained that her stage name, Lioness Ratang, held deep significance, symbolising the struggles she had faced and the resilience that shaped her.

"I've been through a lot, but I refused to let my struggles define me. Instead, I let them shape me into the artist I am today," she said. Her breakthrough came with the release of *Nako Tsele*, featuring Casswell P, which has amassed 3.9 million views on YouTube. She always had faith in the song's success.

"I was expecting it," she admitted. "I had too much faith in

it because it was deeply personal, inspired by my own experiences."

The lioness from Rasesa shared that *Nako Tsele* carried a powerful message about relationships.

Moitshepi also credited social media for playing a crucial role in her journey.

"Honestly, if it wasn't for social media, I don't know where I'd be right now," she confessed.

Currently, she has 39 900 monthly listeners on Spotify, and her tracks on SoundCloud have received thousands of plays, with songs like *Ngeke* and *Gae* particularly popular.

She acknowledged that social media gave her a platform, a voice that reached beyond her struggles, allowing her to connect with people who saw their own stories reflected in her lyrics.

Her journey hasn't always been smooth. There was a time when she had no bookings, and the silence became overwhelming.

"There was a moment when I cried out, and people heard me," she recalled. That moment of vulnerability, she said, became a turning point, reminding her why she started and why music mattered.

When asked about her biggest dream, she expressed her desire

to collaborate with South African DJ and record producer Kabza De Small.

But beyond that, she hopes her music taught people something meaningful. As an artist who believes in collaboration, she has upcoming releases with Lesotho musician Ntate Stunna and South African musician Busta 929.

She has also worked on *Oe Phihlile*, featuring Makhadzi and Lowsheen. Other collaborations include *Show Me*, featuring Josiah De Disciple, Omit ST, and Murumba Pitch. Throughout her career, she has already performed at major events in Botswana and recently took the stage at the Big Bonanza Birthday Celebration by Choppies Botswana.

One other great achievement is that she has signed with new management this year, DV Talent Local Producers, which consist of Daisy Tshoswane and Leago Mogano. Moitshepi draws inspiration from life, both her own and the stories of those around her.

For her, music is not just a career; it is a mission, a way to heal, to connect, and to remind the world that no matter what they are going through, they are not alone. *BOPA*

Live jazz experience captivates audience

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - A ground breaking jazz experience presented on Sunday night at Mo's Open Table in Gaborone's Fairgrounds Precinct proved a hit with the capital city's music enthusiasts.

Live performances tampered with DJ sets delivered a one of a kind entertainment.

The event, live broadcast on *Gabz FM* and *Duma FM* and also live streamed online saw

an audience that filled the venue enjoy an evening of live music and a local playlist of jazz classics.

Organised by All Things Musical, a local music establishment dedicated to promoting Botswana's cultural music heritage through curating events and branding, the "Breezing Featuring WDP and Friends" concert was tailored as Botswana's first multi-platform jazz celebration.

All Things Musical Director and WDP band leader, Leroy

Nyoni revealed that the event highlighted the role of terrestrial radio in propelling the jazz art form while embracing other models such as online platforms.

He said similar multi-channel syndication had demonstrated remarkable impact worldwide, citing the BBC Proms, which similarly intergrates live radio broadcast with digital streaming, reaching millions globally, offering sponsors an opportunity to leverage on the broader audience engagement to market their brands.

"Likewise, the HeartRadio Music Festival leverages a combination of live radio and online video streams, significantly boosting sponsor return on investment. In Africa, initiatives such as the MTN Music Video Awards have also extended reach through similar means," Nyoni revealed.

In addition to traditional Botswana jazz classics from the likes of Nono Siile and Lister Boleseng being played in DJ sets in between the live performances, the audience got to savour the headline performance by WDP providing live music. Lead vocalist, Debbie with a T, belted out tunes that seamlessly blended

with fellow vocalist and drummer Nyoni, as well as Lereko Almond Lesole on bass and Thero Seleka on guitar.

WDP provided live jazzy renditions of some of the country's popular classics ranging from Franco's *Ke Lela Le Lona* to

Scar's *My People*.

Other bands that performed on the night were the Botswana Society for Jazz Education Junior Band as well as Grow to Black Collective plus a local curated playlist by Mohumi Modise and The Big O. *BOPA*



Botswana Society for Jazz Education performing at the Breezing Featuring WDP and Friends Jazz event in Gaborone on Sunday.

Photos: Teko Letsholo



Botswana Society for Jazz Education vocalist, Tumisang Mattheissen (left) and All Things musical director, Leroy Nyoni after the performance.

Committee reviews women league, maps way forward

By Marvin Motlhabane

KANYE - The Southern Region Football Association (SOFA) chairperson has urged clubs to maintain professionalism and prepare adequately for upcoming fixtures.

Speaking during the Southern Women's Football League committee meeting held on Saturday, SOFA chairperson, Matthew Mmono said the league's development hinged on their collective effort.

He also encouraged all clubs to collaborate in fostering women's football across the nation.

He also stressed the significance of the meeting in the growth of women's football.

The meeting, which was attended by representatives from the league's 10 clubs, the regional referee chairperson, and members of the Southern Region Football Association executive committee,

evaluated the first round of the 2024/25 season and discussed future plan.

The first round of the league commenced January 18 and concluded on March 15.

The meeting agreed that matches that were not played due to various factors, including natural disasters and unforeseen circumstances, be scheduled within the two weeks.

For matches that were not played because certain teams failed to honour their fixtures, it was decided that such teams must submit reports to SOFA for a disciplinary hearing.

A regional disciplinary committee was established to review the cases and propose appropriate measures.

The meeting also provided financial updates regarding grants to be distributed to each team at the end of the first round.

Jwaneng Diamond Mine has sponsored the league to approximately P100 000. **BOPA**



Orange sponsorships and events coordinator, Cynthia Kgaodi (left), Botswana Football Association (BFA) competitions committee member, Thandie Malebang (centre) and BFA head of competitions and operations, Olebile Pilara during a draw of the last 16 teams of the Orange FA Cup in Tlokweng on Sunday. Photo: Pheny Ramatu

Draw pits giants against lower division teams

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Botswana premier league heavyweights have avoided each other in the Orange FA Cup last 16 draw, with Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Sua Flamingoes, Matebele FC and Orapa United all handed home draws against lower division sides.

For many fans, the beauty of the FA Cup lies in its raw unpredictability leading to David-vs-Goliath encounters that become the stuff of legend, as the competition unites clubs from every tier of the football pyramid, creating moments where minnows take on titans.

Famed for producing thrilling

'giant-killings' and memorable upsets, the Orange FA Cup last 16 captures the essence of the underdog spirit.

Undoubtedly, the blockbuster tie between Jwaneng Galaxy and Blue Stars FC will indisputably headline the last 16 showdown.

The defending champions will meet Blue Stars, who play under the Ghanzi Regional Association Division 1 league, in a David vs Goliath showdown.

The Stars proceeded to the last 16 round with a 3-1 victory on penalties against Debswana First Division side, Eleven Angels following a 0-0 stalemate in open play, and they will be hoping to perform another giant killing heroics in their own backyard against a star-studded Galaxy side.

The betting odds are undoubtedly in Galaxy's favour buoyed by both their premier league and CAF Champions League experience.

Galaxy has a reputation of being perennial winners and it is on the backdrop of this that they will be hopeful to add another trophy to their wide range of collections. In another last 16 fixture, crowd pullers, Mochudi Centre Chiefs have been pitted against Tswapong Regional League Division 1 team, FC Palapye who proceeded to the last 16 following a 1-0 win against former premier league campaigners, Motlakase Power Dynamos while Chiefs eliminated Masitaoka with a same score line in the last 32.

Another mouth-watering encounter is expected when on-form Sua Flamingoes takes on Kazungula Young Fighters.

A daunting task awaits Sua Flamingoes as the Chobe regional football champions have already caused an upset in the Orange FA cup with the elimination of Debswana South First Division side, City Polar to reach the last 16. Meanwhile, in other fixtures, Notwane will play Holy Ghost while Orapa United will face Taung Young Strikers.

Matebele FC will play host to MR Highlanders and VTM will host Hukuntsi-based Sand Diamonds.

The venues and dates for all the last 16 games are yet to be announced. **BOPA**

Championship promotes Taekwondo

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - The 2024 edition of the 6Series Taekwondo Championship final was not only to promote Taekwondo but to also cultivate world-class athletes in the country.

This was said by Botswana Taekwondo Federation (BTF),

Boleng Sedimo on the sidelines of the championship, which was held in Gaborone over the weekend.

"We have five affiliated clubs, all based in Gaborone, being New Era, Powerhouse, Mighty Lions, UB and Regent Hill Taekwondo clubs," he said.

He said the championship was a

success as there was a promising attendance, particularly in the cadet category, which dominated the event with the majority of athletes.

That, he said reflected the bright future for Taekwondo in Botswana.

Even though, the event went well, he said they face

numerous challenges including inadequate athlete equipment, funding issues and inconsistent attendance due to injury.

"To address these challenges, we invite sponsors to support our upcoming 6Series tournament, which will commence in June until December.

Sponsorship will be crucial in overcoming our current obstacles and ensuring the continued growth and success of Taekwondo in Botswana," Sedimo said.

BTF president, Tumelo Mapila, thanked athletes, officials and the BTF executive for their unwavering dedication and participation in the sport.

Mapila said the officials' professionalism and commitment were crucial in ensuring the smooth and successful execution of the tournament.

He said their efforts in maintaining the highest standards of fairness and sportsmanship were deeply appreciated.

Mapila said the BTF executive facilitated the championship and fostered growth and success of the sport through their visionary leadership, dedication and restless efforts.

"You have provided the platform for our athletes to showcase their skills and for our community to come together in celebration of this beautiful martial art," he said.

Mapila said the championship was also made possible by the support of sponsors, which was invaluable in ensuring the well being and performance of athletes. **BOPA**



Buhle Itumeleng (left) landing a kick on Oesi Bonang during Botswana Taekwondo Championships in Gaborone on Saturday. Itumeleng won 2-0 in the women cadet category. Photo: Gothusang Lesego



Botswana National Sports Commission board chairperson, Marumo Morule during the 44th Botswana Sports Awards nominees launch in Gaborone on Monday. He applauded the nominees for contributing to the legacy of excellence in sport. The awards will be held at Fairgrounds Holdings in Gaborone on April 5.
Photo: Gothusang Lesego

BNSC presents awards nominees

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - The Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) has unveiled 44th Botswana Sports Awards nominees with karate, chess and tennis leading with a number of nominations.

The Sportswoman of the Year award will be contested by Lethabo Sekano of karate, Naledi Marape from chess and Oratile Nowe of athletics, while the Sportsman of the Year award will see Letsile Tebogo from athletics coming face-to-face with Ross Branch of motorsport and Karabo Motlhanka of

cricket.

Losika Motswagole of karate, Malak Macheng of tennis and Natilie Banda of chess will tussle for the Junior Sportswoman of the Year award.

In the Junior Sportsman of the Year category, there is Prince Ngwako of karate, Ernest Kumevu from athletics and Ntugamile Raguin of tennis.

Women kata senior team, cricket men's national team and 4x400m men's relay team will contest for the Team of the Year award.

Three formidable coaches, Podungwane Lesole of chess, Kebonyemodisa Mosimanyane

of athletics and Ofentse Bakwadi of karate will fight for the Coach of the Year award.

A very tough competition is anticipated for the Umpire of the Year award where Dorothy Okatch of basketball, Emmanuel Kgaboetsile of badminton and Gaone Poane of tennis will slug it out.

Sport Administrator of the Year award will be contested for by Moses Bantsi of athletics, Khoanyane Sello of judo, and Kudzani Motswagole of table tennis while the Non-Citizen of the Year award nominees are William Matike of judo and Sumod Damodar of cricket.

The National Sport Association of the Year nominees are the Botswana Swimming Sport Association, the Botswana Chess Federation and the Botswana Table Tennis Association.

Meanwhile, the awards ceremony will be held in Gaborone on April 5.

BNSC chairperson, Marumo Morule said the upcoming Botswana Sports Awards was not just an event, but also a platform to celebrate collective achievements and pave way for future generations of athletes.

"Let us commit to nurturing talent, supporting our sports programmes, and inspiring our

youth to dream big," he said.

He said BNSC board was committed to supporting athletes and promoting sports at all levels.

"We understand that our success relies on collaboration among government entities, sports associations, private sector partners, and most importantly, the community," he said.

Morule further said it was evident that all the stakeholders could cultivate an environment where athletes could flourish. This, he said, included investing in training facilities, providing access to coaching and ensuring that the youth engaged in sports from an early age. **BOPA**