

# BOTSWANA Daily News

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## Tswapong and Khwai in dire straits



Heavy downpours on Sunday caused damages and widespread destruction in some areas in Tswapong. Photo: Portia Rapitsenyane



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Three farmers lost 62 goats and 111 chickens in Tswapong

Schools temporarily closed in Lerala and Khwai

37 households affected in Khwai and 21 in Selolwane

Severe flooding, which hit Khwai in the first week of March, has affected 37 households and some residents have been relocated to safer areas. Photo: Esther Mmolai



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# Tswapong count losses after heavy downpours



A tractor attempting to tow a van stuck in the mud in Lerala but also became immobilised following the heavy rains that left roads in the area impassable. Photo: Portia Rapitsenyane

Omphile Ntakhwana  
**LERALA**

As massive rains continue to lash various parts of the country, Lerala and its surroundings have suffered significant damage, with the true extent of the destruction unfolding in the aftermath of flooding.

Speaking in an interview, Ms Mogametsi Ratlale, Community Development Officer I-Extension, Palapye District Council, said three houses in Lerala had collapsed without causing fatalities.

"We have also received various reports of dead livestock," she said, adding that it is mostly reports of goats that drowned in their kraals. So far three farmers have lost a total of 62 goats, 111 chickens, a fence and water melons that have been washed due to the torrential rains in Lerala.

Ms Ratlale stated further that six houses at various ploughing fields in Lerala had collapsed as a result of the continuing cloudburst. With further substantial damage anticipated to both property and livestock.

Ms Ratlale has made call to Lerala residents and the nearby areas to contact her office so that assessments could be carried

out with a view to bringing in interventions where necessary.

Schools in Lerala have also been temporarily closed until the situation improves.

"I would also like to plead with people to exercise caution in areas where there is still a lot of water and urge them to call authorities for assistance," she said, adding that the most affected ploughing fields were the Lephane fields situated along the Majwaneng/Steinberg road.

For his part, Assistant Superintendent Kemang Masoka of Maunatlala Police said heavy rainfall that started in the early hours of Sunday in and around Seolwane had dealt internal roads and homesteads a hard-blow, forcing the police to rescue three people from cattle posts in the area from life-threatening waters.

According to Superintendent Masoka, 10 houses in Mosweu and 42 individuals have been affected, resulting in an estimated P4,000 worth of damage to property.

"In Seolwane, 21 households have been affected, with P8,400 worth of damage reported," he said, adding that Maunatlala was also counting losses estimated to be slightly over P3,200 to date. **BOPA**

## ...as flooding leaves trail of destruction in Khwai

Esther Mmolai  
**MAUN**

The flood situation in Khwai is worsening with about 37 households affected, of which 17 have been relocated to safer places.

Khwai was hit by severe flood early March, displacing families, disrupting access to education, shelter and healthcare services.

In an interview, North West assistant district commissioner, Ms Omphile Mogorosi said more families were rescued from low-lying areas to safer places.

She said the residents were hopeful that the floodwater would subside so that they could return to their normal lives, but the situation continued to worsen increasing the risk of disease outbreaks, among others.

Ms Mogorosi highlighted that the overflowing water had surrounded the village causing significant distress requiring urgent and collective rescue efforts.

She however appreciated the disaster management team for assisting affected families with the necessary relief while ensuring readiness for potential exacerbation of the crisis.

While, some families had been given tents, she said some found refuge at the Trust office.

She further said efforts to resume lessons for 12 Standard 7 pupils was still ongoing, as they wanted to ensure that the learners were not affected as the primary school was still temporarily closed.

In addition, he said the flood situation had also affected some



Khwai Development Trust has pledged its office to accommodate flood victims. Photo: Esther Mmolai

tourism camps operating in the area, adding that Khwai area was a hotspot for safari camps offering everything from luxury tented to guesthouses.

Some camps, she said were surviving the waterflows because they used suspended wooden decks to ensure their structures remained dry while surrounded by water.

Water resource engineer from department of Water and Sanitation, Mr Kesie Marovu pointed out that they were anticipating more possible flooding this year as the water continue to rise in the delta.

All most all the channels across the delta, he said were overflowing due to the torrential rains experienced, noting that as from December to date, Mohembo River water level was high.

He also pointed out that the outflow channels of Thamalakane and Boteti rivers were flowing citing that the flood head along the Thamalakane river reached Borolong plant and since then water levels had been gradually increasing to date.

He pointed out that the flood head along the Boteti channel had reached Makalamabedi bridge in October while the Matsebe and

Xudumo floods head stopped at 12km and 17km from buffalo fence.

"As we anticipate a good hydrological year, our finding underscores the importance of continued vigilance and proactive measures to manage water resources effectively and mitigate potential impacts on communities and ecosystem. As department, we remain committed to our mission of safeguarding water resources and fostering sustainable water management practices for the benefit of all stakeholders," added Mr Marovu. **BOPA**

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# Govt sets up company for schools maintenance

Calviniah Kgauthe  
**LOBATSE**

Government has set up an Education Infrastructure and Management Company, entrusted with maintenance of all government schools.

According to Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka, the company, which would be run by a board, had already hit the ground running to mobilise resources, solicit investment and to strike partnerships for schools' maintenance and was expected to begin works in June.

Ms Kgafela-Mokoka said this when addressing Lobatse Senior Secondary School teachers and non-teaching staff on Monday.

She said ministry was inundated with dilapidated school infrastructure and irregularly maintained schools, hence the formation of a company to take care of school's maintenance and build

teachers accommodation facilities.

While government operated on a tight budget, she said it would consider expansion of classrooms to cater for absorption of more learners as well as create more employment opportunities for teachers and non-teaching staff.

Thus, she said teachers must brace themselves for the work ahead as all learners, who had attained Grade D in the Junior Certificate Education, would be absorbed in the mainstream education system.

She highlighted that the move would pose challenges to the learner teacher ratio, adding that a framework had been put in place on how they would be absorbed into the mainstream education bearing in mind that the country did not have enough senior secondary schools currently having only 34 in existence.

Furthermore, Minister Kgafela-Mokoka reminded teachers and non-teaching staff that government



Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka

was working round the clock to digitalise the education system to improve efficiencies as well as monitor learners work in real time.

She underscored that to augment shortage of resources; there would be dashboards in offices where digitalisation would enable borderless classrooms, adding that teachers would also be empowered online with continuous on the job learning to keep them refined in

skill and delivery aptitude

The minister further expressed concern at the low turnout of teacher registration, saying the initiative was an important resource tool, which would be used to allow teachers to do their job locally and internationally.

She reminded teachers that they had two weeks to register adding that the ministry was in talks with a number of countries to export teachers.

Briefing the minister, Lobatse Senior Secondary School head, Mr Tonny Tautona said the school had 172 staff complement of which 120 were teachers on permanent and pensionable basis supported by seven temporary teachers while the non-teaching staff was 41 permanent and pensionable staff and four temporary employees. He said learners were 1 510 learners of which 579 males were males while the females were 931.

He said while the school was committed to academic excellence,

in 2022 the school achieved 14.11 per cent followed by 17.52 per cent in 2023 and was placed at position 21 nationally amongst the senior schools.

In 2024, he said the school recorded 17.99 per cent moving slightly up to position 19 in comparison with other senior schools. He expressed optimism that the school had an experienced and dedicated team who were aiming to be counted amongst the top 10 schools in the upcoming results.

On the school's challenges, he said they were faced with dilapidated infrastructure, sewerage and drainage, shortage of staff houses, adding that the school required regular maintenance.

In addition, Mr Tautona said the school lacked Internet connectivity as the SmartBots connection was disconnected due to electrical faults and the problem had affected teaching and learning, research and administrative work. **BOPA**

# SSG deployment in Mahalapye strategic

Portia Rapitsenyane  
**MAHALAPYE**

The deployment of the 23 Special Support Group (SSG) unit in Mahalapye symbolised the strength of national institutions and a collective commitment to safeguarding communities.

This was said by Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa at the launch of a contingent of 23 SSG officers in Mahalapye on Monday.

Mr Mohwasa said their deployment was strategic, given the village's location along the North-South corridor, which made it critical for policing operations.

He said they would also assist in responding to specialised incidents and natural disasters when necessary, stressing that their presence was meant to enhance security and not intimidate the community.

"Our people, including children, must see the police as protectors

and partners in building safe communities," he said.

He noted that the SSG already maintained a presence in Palapye, Jwaneng and Orapa, while base camps had also been set up along borders to combat crimes such as smuggling, stock theft, illegal migration and wildlife poaching, particularly in sensitive areas like the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

While the main SSG base remained in Gaborone, Minister Mohwasa said plans were underway to establish a fully-fledged camp in Francistown to strengthen operations in the northern region.

He further assured the nation that despite current financial and cash flow challenges, government remained steadfast in its commitment to maintaining peace, stability and national security.

He emphasised that public security was central to national development, noting that safety and stability were critical in building investor confidence and creating an environment where businesses and opportunities could thrive.



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (right) and Commissioner of Police, Ms Dinah Marathe during the launch of a contingent of 23 Special Support Group officers in Mahalapye on Monday. Mr Mohwasa assured Batswana that despite the current financial challenges, government remained steadfast in its commitment to maintaining peace, stability and national security. Photo: Portia Rapitsenyane

He said as a ministry responsible for governance, peace and security, they remained fully committed to ensuring that the safety of people continued to receive the attention it deserved.

Mr Mohwasa highlighted that government would continue investing in strengthening law enforcement capabilities, including enhancing partnerships within the Botswana Police Service and adopting modern technologies to effectively combat organised crime, criminal syndicates and

emerging cross-border threats.

He further underscored the link between security and economic growth, saying government would continue engaging stakeholders to develop innovative programmes aimed at reviving, transforming and diversifying the economy to create sustainable jobs.

For her part, Botswana Police Commissioner Dinah Marathe expressed appreciation to the Mahalapye community for its collaboration in advancing community policing efforts,

adding that the deployment of the 23 officers would strengthen operations and improve response to crime.

"These officers are trained and disciplined to advance community policing principles and promote public security throughout Mahalapye and its environs," she said.

Commissioner Marathe further acknowledged government for providing the necessary resources to support the strategic deployment. **BOPA**

# Ministry advances digitalisation of education system

Marvin Motlhabane  
**KANYE**

Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka, has announced that the government is actively digitalising the education system to enhance its effectiveness and adaptability.

Addressing teachers at Seepapitso Senior Secondary School in Kanye on Monday, Minister Kgafela-Mokoka explained that the initiative would allow teachers to upload educational content to an online platform, help address student-

teacher ratio challenges and enable the creation of borderless classrooms accessible beyond physical boundaries.

The minister reassured teachers that digitalisation would not threaten their employment. Instead, she said it would require teachers to retool and upskill to align with the evolving curriculum demands and technological advancements.

"I urge you to comply with the ongoing licensing and registration process," she further said, noting that the registration would prioritise them for professional

development and training opportunities.

Minister Kgafela-Mokoka also called on educators to abandon corporal punishment and adopt alternative, positive discipline methods that promoted a conducive learning environment.

Acknowledging persistent challenges, she highlighted the shortage of suitable teacher accommodation, the poor condition of many teachers' houses, and inadequate classroom infrastructure.

However, she affirmed that the ministry, in collaboration

with government and the World Bank, would secure resources for widespread infrastructure development and refurbishment across the education sector.

The project, to be delivered through a Special Purpose Vehicle under a Public-Private Partnership model, is expected to commence delivery in June.

Regarding the appointment of temporary teachers, the minister stated that due to ongoing financial constraints across government, the ministry's current budget could only support their payment for up to five months. **BOPA**

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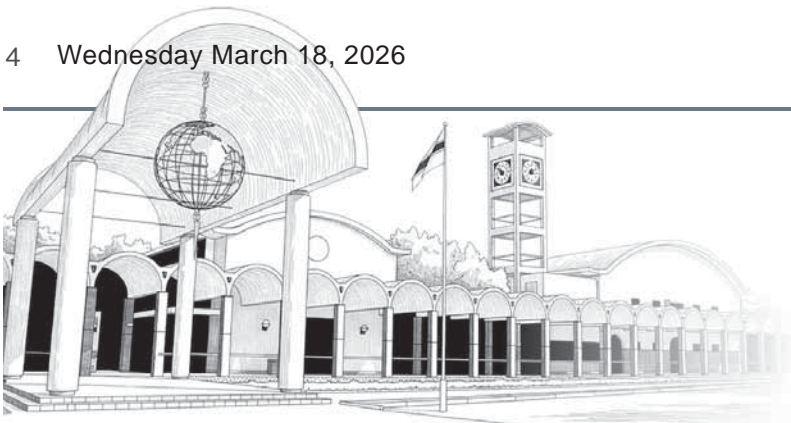
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## PARLIAMENT 2026



Minister of Sport and Arts, Mr Jacob Kelebeng said Botswana aimed to become a global hub for sports, culture and the creative industries, an environment where talent thrived and sustainable economic prosperity was realised.

# Ministry aims to transform country into sport and culture hub

Tebagano Ntshole  
GABORONE

Botswana aims to become a global hub for sports, culture and the creative industries, an environment where talent thrives and sustainable economic prosperity is realised, says the Minister of Sport and Arts, Mr Jacob Kelebeng.

Presenting the 2026/27 budget proposals for the ministry, Minister Kelebeng stated that the upcoming financial year would prioritise sector sustainability, stakeholder partnerships, cultural heritage preservation, growth of the creative industries and sport tourism.

The minister noted that several pieces of legislation would be amended to support such goals, key among them was the Anti-Doping Bill, which advocated for clean sport and the Botswana National Sport Commission Act, which aimed to promote commercialisation, integrity, professionalism and inclusivity while correcting historical imbalances in development.

Furthermore, he said the Cinematography Act, intended to modernise the creative sector, would be presented during the current sitting of Parliament.

Upon its enactment, he said government would establish the National Film Commission to foster a local filming culture.

"This will enable the regulation, professionalisation and commercialisation of film production, distribution and exhibition, thereby stimulating economic activity and enhancing employment opportunities across the creative sector value chain," Minister Kelebeng said.

Meanwhile, the minister highlighted some of the country's achievements during the 2025/26 financial year, amongst them becoming the first African country

to win Gold medal in the 400mx4 relay at the World Athletics Championships.

"Our athletes also won bronze medals at the World Relays and World Athletics Para Championships," he said, adding the country also dominated in the Athletics Junior Under 18 and Under 20 Confederation of African Athletics Championships.

The country also showed growth in Lawn Tennis, with the men's team winning the Davis Cup Africa Group V gaining promotion to the Davis Cup Africa Group IV.

The women's team also did well in the Billie Jean King Cup finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> after losing to Morocco and Kenya in the promotional playoffs, he said.

Ntungamili Raguin at the age of 17 entered the global competition when he made it into the main draw of Grand Slam for boy's single event at the just ended 2026 Australian Open Junior Tennis Championship where he reached top 16.

The men and women national football teams also participated at the Africa Cup of Nations and WAFCON respectively.

Minister Kelebeng said during 2025/26 financial year, his ministry administered P3.7 million to assist Non-profit Governmental Sport Organisations for supporting the Ministry in the delivery of sport programmes and projects that are aligned to the Ministry's strategies to grow sport and stimulate recreation through community sport programmes.

Talking about arts and culture, the minister said 10 472 artistes participated in the National Arts Festival and P17,668,859 was spent as prize money to artistes, for engagement of creative practitioners, as well as service providers across all constituencies.

"Regrettably, due to the current financial constraints facing the country, National Arts Council

of Botswana (NACB) was unable to hold the Regional Festival and National Carnival," he said.

Minister Kelebeng said 57 applicants were funded at a total amount of P4 million out of which 35 have been successfully implemented and 22 were still on-going.

The minister said the District Film Development and Mentorship Programme had commissioned eight full-length films at a total cost of P2.9 million.

He further said the ministry planned to expand NowTV by relaunching it on the Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT) and satellite platforms through local and regional carriers. The minister said P23 million had been earmarked for acquisition of content from 34 producers.

Subsequently, Parliament approved P595 million as recurrent and P122,350,000 for development budget for the next financial year. **BOPA**

## Entities raise P4.5m for flood relief fund

GABORONE

Minister for State President, Defence and Security Mr Moeti Mohwasa has told Parliament that companies and organisations had contributed P4,532,640 to the National Disaster Management Fund, which was established for the flood that occurred between February and March 2025.

Responding to a parliamentary question from Molepolole North MP, Mr Arafat Khan on Monday, Minister Mohwasa said the companies and organisations deposited funds directly into the various commercial bank accounts while some companies made donations in kind to the ministry.

# Dikoloti calls for strategic use of athletes during 60<sup>th</sup> independence celebrations

Tebagano Ntshole  
GABORONE

Good Hope/Mmathethe MP, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, has called on the Minister of Sport and Arts to leverage Botswana's athletic success as the country celebrates 60 years of independence this year.

Dr Dikoloti noted that athletes had propelled the country to greater heights on the international stage and their public image should be central to the celebrations.

The MP, who is also the acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, noted that the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) would also be celebrating its 60th anniversary, thus suggested that the two entities collaborated on joint preparations.

Furthermore, Dr Dikoloti observed that several athletes had proven to be capable farmers and proposed that they be allocated ranches in the future.

He also advocated for the establishment of Schools of Excellence to bolster grassroots development.

MP Galenawabo Lekau of Mogoditshane West called for recognition of athletics coaches and announced that a plot had been identified in Mogoditshane for the future construction of a stadium.

For his part, MP Sam Digwa of Boteti West urged the minister to ensure the completion of the Rakops stadium, which was currently under development.

He emphasised that sport academies must be established nationwide to identify and nurture talent at a young age.

Molepolole North MP, Mr Arafat Khan praised the Kweneng region for unearthing talent but argued that stadium fees should be lowered to prevent teams from incurring prohibitive expenses.

He also called for the refurbishment of the Molepolole Sport Complex, noting the need for a new running track and artificial turf.

MP Taolo Lucas of Bobirwa urged the minister to collaborate with communities to develop sport academies, stating that athletes should be fully supported from a young age rather than only when they turn professional.

He also advocated for sponsorship for lower-league teams, noting that while Premier League teams received assistance, lower-league clubs faced equally

high operational costs.

Additionally, he requested an update on the government's contract with Steve Harvey.

MP Lethogonolo Barongwang of Mogoditshane East suggested that sport be administered by communities to provide opportunities for out-of-school youth.

Meanwhile, MP Motsamai Motsamai of Charleshill inquired about the timeline for a stadium in Ghanzi, noting that the community had managed to develop a field through the Community Constituency Programme (CCP).

Ms Helen Manyeneng, Mmopane/Metsimotlhabe MP, called for the resuscitation of constituency football tournaments to unearth talent and discourage idle behaviour.

She further advocated for increased support for women's football.

MP Motlhamang Moalosi of Nkange noted that his constituency had long been promised the Makwala Stadium and sought an update on the status of the school sport programme following its initial launch.

Ramotswa MP, Mr Boniface Mabeo questioned government's expenditure of P23 million on NowTV, citing a viewership of only 3 000.

He argued that government should avoid interference in the creative industry, suggesting it would develop more effectively on its own.

In response, Minister of Sport and Arts, Mr Jacob Kelebeng, defended the investment in NowTV, stating it provided a vital platform for youth to showcase their talent.

He also highlighted that government continued to support youth-led exhibitions.

Regarding the re-introduction of sport in schools, the minister stated that consultations with relevant stakeholders were ongoing and expressed confidence that the matter would be resolved soon.

He assured MPs that all stadiums currently under construction across the country would be completed.

Minister Kelebeng announced that Botswana was prepared to host the World Athletics Relays during the first week of May.

He described the upcoming competition as a major event and called for the nation's full support. **BOPA**

money contributed by each and how funds were disbursed with a list of beneficiaries stating each by name or organisation and the amount of money they each received with a brief description of the purpose for which funds were used.

The legislator further asked the minister to state what governance, oversight and accountability measures were put in place to ensure prudent utilisation of the fund, including procurement rules, approval processes and beneficiary selection criteria and also to state whether the fund would be independently audited and if so by whom and by which date the audit report would be tabled in Parliament. **BOPA**

# Mogoditshane residents to benefit from BETP

## GABORONE

Mogoditshane residents are set to benefit from the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), despite the absence of projects physically located within the village boundaries.

This was revealed by the Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, while responding to a parliamentary question on Monday from Member of Parliament for Mogoditshane East, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang.

The minister emphasised that Mogoditshane was an integral part of the Greater Gaborone economic ecosystem, making its residents prime candidates for the opportunities generated by the initiative.

Minister Gaolathe clarified that because Mogoditshane was one of Botswana's fastest-growing areas, its workforce and entrepreneurs were well-positioned to tap into several transformative projects located within the Greater Gaborone region, including Lobatse and Thamaga.

"Mogoditshane is indeed one of the fastest-growing villages in Botswana and forms an integral part of the Greater Gaborone economic ecosystem," he said.

He further noted that as economic activity expanded through BETP investments, the resulting labour market and service opportunities would naturally extend to Mogoditshane residents.

The minister explained that the BETP was conceived and structured primarily as a high-impact economic stimulus and structural transformation initiative and its goals included economic resuscitation, value addition, export expansion, import substitution and large-scale job creation.

Minister Gaolathe said the programme was developed following a rigorous analytical framework designed to reposition Botswana toward a diversified, export-driven and high-income economy where every citizen was employed, empowered and fulfilled.

He clarified that project identification and prioritisation under the BETP were guided by economic criteria rather than geographic location.

The criteria he said, included the scale of investment to be mobilised, contribution to GDP growth, potential for large-scale job creation, export development and import substitution potential, strengthening domestic value chains as well as readiness and feasibility for implementation.

He noted that the programme had attracted 6 925 project proposals from across Botswana and internationally and following a rigorous filtration process, 186 high-impact projects were ultimately selected for implementation.

Addressing concerns regarding specific locations, the minister emphasised that BETP projects were not categorised based on geography.

"Approximately 60 per cent of these projects are private sector-driven investments proposed by investors who already possess land, infrastructure, or operational bases in specific areas," he said.

Consequently, he noted that project locations were often determined by where proponents already held assets rather than by a deliberate geographic allocation by the government.

He indicated that the BETP was projected to mobilise over P14 billion in cumulative investment and create more than 500 000 jobs by 2036 across priority sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, financial services, infrastructure, energy and mining.

Parliament also heard that the programme placed emphasis on skills development, industry-led training, apprenticeships and SMME participation and such interventions were designed to ensure that young people and job seekers across the country, including those in Mogoditshane, can access the opportunities generated by the programme.

Mogoditshane East MP, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang, had asked for an appraisal of specific projects earmarked for Mogoditshane to address rising unemployment.

He also sought clarity on targeted initiatives for the village, given its status as the fastest-growing village in the country with a high concentration of unemployed youth.

**BOPA**



*Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale told Parliament on Monday that the ministry was prioritising the expansion of Botswana's diplomatic footprint into the Gulf region, a move aimed at tapping into an area of significant economic influence and capital mobility.*

# Botswana to expand diplomatic footprint

Mmoniemang Motsamai  
**GABORONE**

The Ministry for International Relations has prioritised expanding Botswana's diplomatic footprint into the Gulf region, a move representing a centre of considerable economic influence and capital mobility.

Presenting the ministry's 2026/27 budget proposal on Monday, International Relations minister, Dr Phenyio Butale said by strategically expanding international representation, Botswana can leverage the power of diplomacy to advance national priorities.

In that regard, he indicated that new diplomatic missions were earmarked for Ankara, Turkey, Muscat, Oman and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, along with a Consulate in Dubai.

"These regions present strategic economic opportunities in trade, logistics, energy cooperation and investment," he stated.

Dr Butale also noted that under the current review, the ministry

focused on advancing Botswana's national interests by promoting economic diplomacy initiatives and strengthening the country's image, both domestically and internationally, as a respected, human-rights-centered nation with influence at bilateral, regional and global levels.

He added that the ministry also facilitated high-level strategic engagements across Africa, Europe, the Gulf and the Americas.

"These produced agreements in agriculture, digital transformation and enhanced market access for Botswana beef, while strengthening regional trade corridors, including the Kazungua Bridge Authority," he said.

Parliament also heard that during the current budget cycle, the ministry facilitated several of the President's high-level strategic visits aimed at unlocking economic opportunities, which included visits to neighbouring countries such as South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Further engagements were undertaken with the United States, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Estonia and Hungary.

Dr Butale said outcomes included agreements on agricultural cooperation, digital technology partnerships and improved market access for Botswana beef. Regarding Botswana's participation in multilateralism, Dr Butale noted that President Advocate Duma Boko currently served as African Leaders Malaria Alliance chairperson, while Ms Joy Phumaphi served as the Alliance's executive secretary.

Furthermore, he said the President was appointed the AU Sub-Committee of Heads of State and Government on the African Continental Free Trade Area vice chairperson at the AU Summit held in February this year.

He also told Parliament that through the work of 23 missions abroad, the ministry continued to strengthen protection mechanisms for Botswana seeking opportunities overseas.

Meanwhile, he stated that the past

five years had seen a rising number of Botswana seeking employment abroad, some without proper documentation, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States, thereby increasing demand for consular services.

Regrettably, he said, in some cases, individuals had resorted to fraudulent asylum claims, exposing themselves to heightened vulnerability.

The ministry's proposed budget for 2026/27 amounts to P823.4 million for the recurrent budget, representing an increase of P46.8 million (six per cent), driven by the necessity to sustain current operations, address rising cost pressures and support the expansion of Botswana's diplomatic engagements. Personnel emoluments will be allocated P416.8 million to cover basic salaries, foreign service and other staff-related allowances, as well as remuneration for locally recruited staff at diplomatic missions.

Operational costs would be allocated P127.2 million, directed toward assessed contributions to international and regional organisations, reflecting Botswana's dedication to multilateralism.

An allocation of P248.7 million would be designated for essential utilities, property rentals, maintenance and office supplies critical to maintaining service delivery at headquarters and across missions.

Under the development budget, the ministry had requested P29.2 million.

This includes P3 million for the construction of a Chancery Building and diplomatic apartments in Addis Ababa, P2 million for the renovation and refurbishment of the ministry office building, including a new extension joining Block-A and Block-B as well as P4 million for property renovations in Washington, DC.

The budget would also cover renovations at Botswana missions in Zimbabwe and Pretoria, the Swedish House state guest house, the New York chancery, SSKIA lounge and the State Guest House. **BOPA**

# Mmopane-Mogoditshane taxi routes has no disputes - Atamelang

## GABORONE

Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang has told Parliament that government has not received any disputes reports arising from route demarcations between Mmopane and Mogoditshane in the public transport sector.

Responding to a parliamentary question recently, Mr Atamelang explained that Mmopane was currently served by several designated public transport routes, including Mmopane-Gaborone, Mmopane Block 1, Mmopane-

Ledumang via BBS and Mmopane-BBS.

He further stated that Mogoditshane was also served by several designated routes that terminated at different destinations, as well as transit routes that complemented such services.

Mr Atamelang added that both villages were adequately serviced by local taxis, which operated across the communities and provided additional transport coverage.

"The ministry has not received any reports of conflict regarding the two operating routes," Mr Atamelang said.

He however indicated that

the ministry remained open to addressing any concerns should they arise.

"However, we remain willing to be apprised of any such matters should they arise, with a view to resolving any impending conflict once formally brought to our attention," he said.

Mmopane - Metsimotlhabe MP, Ms Helen Manyeneng, had asked the minister whether he was aware of disputes arising from unclear route demarcation between Mmopane and Mogoditshane in the public transport sector and whether a review of route boundaries was being considered. **BOPA**



# Daily Business

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fuel price hikes  
unavoidable  
-Mantashe

### CAPE TOWN

Fuel price increases are becoming “increasingly unavoidable” as a result of the conflict in the Middle East, South Africa’s Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Gwede Mantashe has warned. Speaking at the Southern Africa Oil and Gas Conference 2026 in Cape Town on Monday, Mantashe said fuel supply chains had experienced disruptions since the onset of the conflict in the Middle East, while the under-recovery on fuel prices had continued to fluctuate. “While questions remain about potential fuel supply disruptions, the reality is that substantial fuel price increases are increasingly unavoidable,” the minister warned. Countries that rely heavily on imports of refined petroleum products remain particularly vulnerable to global market shocks, he said. **Xinhua**

Ethiopia secures  
second spot in Africa  
FDI rankings

### ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia has become the second most attractive foreign direct investment (FDI) destination in Africa, with China being a leading investment partner to the East African country, a senior Ethiopian official said on Monday. Zeleke Temesgen, commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission said this at a panel discussion entitled Ethiopia: The New Investment Destination. Temesgen said the country had attracted a total of US\$18.6 billion in FDI over the past five years, ranking second on the continent after Egypt. “Ethiopia attracted the highest in East Africa and the second highest FDI in Africa, bringing US\$4 billion dollars in the 2024/2025 Ethiopian fiscal year ending on July 7, 2025. This showed a 22.7 per cent increase compared to the previous year, with Chinese companies investing the highest in the country,” he said. **Xinhua**

Libya oil firm  
announces two major  
gas discoveries

### TRIPOLI

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) of Libya on Monday announced two significant gas discoveries estimated at around 1 trillion cubic feet (28.32 billion cubic meters) in offshore waters in the northwest of the country. The company said its foreign partner, Eni North Africa, confirmed the gas reserves after completing exploratory drilling of two wells in adjacent offshore geological structures, 16 km south of the Bahr Essalam gas field, a major source of Libyan natural gas. It added that it was preparing an urgent development plan to connect the two new wells to the Bahr Essalam offshore platform, expecting the two discoveries to contribute approximately 130 million cubic feet (3.68 million cubic meters) of gas per day. **Xinhua**



Competition and Consumer Authority CEO, Mr Gideon Nkala (left) and Letlhakeng deputy council secretary, Dr Delic Sehunwe during a stakeholder workshop recently. Mr Nkala said consumer advocacy groups were well-positioned to guard against unfair and deceptive practices due to their close proximity to local businesses. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

# Advocacy groups vital for consumer protection

Mothusi Galekhutle  
**LETLHAKENG**

A consumer advocacy group can be a powerful tool for promoting fair business practices and protecting consumer welfare.

Competition & Consumer Authority (CCA) CEO, Mr Gideon Nkala, stated during a stakeholder workshop and encouraged community members to establish consumer advocacy groups.

Since CCA staff are limited and cannot adequately reach all custom-

ers on the ground, Mr Nkala said communities should form consumer advocacy groups to help fill this gap.

He added that consumer advocacy groups were well-positioned to guard against unfair and deceptive practices due to their close proximity to local businesses.

Through workshops, the CCA aims to raise awareness and empower communities.

Another official from CAA, Mr Lawrence Mothibi, discussed the obligations of businesses and consumers, noting that the Consumer

Protection Act outlined all consumer rights and responsibilities.

He emphasised that product information, including prices, should be displayed clearly in Pula currency and be visible on every item and safety labels must also be clear.

Mr Mothibi said if a product had been used, it should be clearly marked as such.

He warned consumers to be cautious about entering contracts that might disadvantage them, such as high-purchase agreements.

Mr Mothibi stressed that con-

sumers had the right to receive quality goods and services, also highlighted the importance of consumer education so that people understood their rights and obligations, as well as those of businesses.

He encouraged consumers to first raise any complaints directly with the business before escalating the matter to the CCA.

Mr Ernest Bagopi from CCA said that any consumer advocacy group established should meet the criteria set by the CCA and be officially registered with the authority. **BOPA**

## Bobirwa remains vigilant as FMD risk persists

Manowe Motsaathebe  
**BOBONONG**

Although Zone Seven, which Bobirwa District Council (BDC) falls under, has not yet registered any case of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) as of February 18, the council remains on high alert since the risk has not yet dissipated, council chairperson, Mr Johannes Gaosikelwe says.

The council is bordered by South Africa and Zimbabwe, the two countries where cases of FMD were recorded.

It is against this backdrop that the district is not letting their guard down, with the command center fully operational to coordinate surveillance, response and prevention measures.

“This geographical reality places our district at greater risk of potential disease transmission, particularly through livestock movements across borders,” said Mr Gaosikelwe.

For continuous monitoring and coordinated response to

‘Although some extensive surveillance activities were conducted across the district on February 13 and yielded a clean bill of health for Zone Seven and some initial restrictions having been lifted, the risk has not disappeared.’

the situation, weekly district leadership briefings are held to review updates from district teams.

The council has supported the response by mobilising critical resources to strengthen the frontline and strategic response. The support includes deployment of 13 technical personnel to reinforce operational teams.

Additionally, the council also provided fleet resources such as surveillance vehicles inter alia to facilitate erection of borderline

fence.

“In addition, a low-bed and plant machinery have been placed on standby to respond swiftly to any emergency requirements that may arise during the operation,” said Mr Gaosikelwe.

Although some extensive surveillance activities were conducted across the district on February 13 and yielded a clean bill of health for Zone Seven and some initial restrictions having been lifted, the council chairperson warned that the risk had not disappeared.

“It is therefore critical that we maintain strict vigilance and adherence to veterinary regulations,” he said as he urged farmers to continuously work with veterinary officers, saying continued cooperation, discipline and vigilance by all would protect the vital sector.

On other issues, the chairperson said that the citrus sector continued to position Bobirwa, home to two major citrus projects of Selebi-Phikwe Citrus and Kwadiwa Citrus, as an emerging agricultural hub.

The two citrus projects, the chairperson reported, had satisfied international phytosanitary requirements and were preparing for massive export season starting this month. Lemon exports are expected in a few weeks while oranges export is expected in June.

Additionally, the district is anticipating the establishment of another major citrus project under Lesabokwe Trust. It is expected to extend citrus production to the villages of Robelela and Tshokwe, stretching towards Dikgathong Dam area.

“This project is projected to attract an investment of approximately P500 million and create over 1000 employment opportunities, further strengthening Bobirwa’s position as a key player in Botswana’s agricultural transformation and export-led growth,” the chairperson explained.

Meanwhile, he reported that international market access negotiations with global giants as the United States of America, China, India and Korea, were ongoing. **BOPA**

# Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

## IPAPATSE FA



LELE TSA

659 6315 | 625 0353 | 533 0379 | 297 8237  
261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500



Mme Theo Olopeng (mojeng) le bomme ba bangwe ba le kwa ipelelong letsatsi la mafatshefatshe la bomme kwa Gulubane bosheng. O kgothatitse bomme go ikoketsa dikitso ka go bala, go dirisa maranyane le tse dingwe tse di ka ba thusang go lepalepana le dipheto. Senepe: Goweditse Kome

## Mosadi thari ya setshaba

Goweditse Kome  
GULUBANE

Mosadi o kailwe e le tsala, ka jalo lelwapa le le senang mosadi, rre o gama a ikotelela. Seo se tshalositswe ke Mme Theo Olopeng a ntsha molaetsa ka letsatsi la bomme kwa Gulubane bosheng.

Mme Olopeng a re mme ke motho yo o itlotlang go simolola mo lelwapeng la gagwe, a le boikobo le go tsamaisa dilo ka tlhamalalo. A re mme o godisa bana ka botlalo a ba ruta tlhokomelo ya lelwapa le tlotlo.

“A re ruteng ba ba tswang kwa tlase gore ba nonofe mo tumelong le mo go tsothle tse ba di dirang ka gore Modimo o ba segofaditse gore ba kgone go itirela,” ga tlhalosa Mme Olopeng.

O kgotlhaditse bomme go dira mmogo, ba abelana dikgakololo. O tswetse a re mme o tshwanetse go nna motho wa pelo e e phuthologileng gore a kgone go gola mo botshelong a sena lefufa.

Mme Olopeng a re kabelano dikitso ke konokono ka e ka godisa serodumo sa bomme le seemo sa bone sa itsholelo.

A re mosadi o tshwanetse go ikoketsa dikitso ka go bala, go dirisa maranyane le tse dingwe tse di ka mo thusang go lepalepana le dipheto.

Mme Olopeng o gateletse botlhokwa jwa gore bomme ba ipope, ba nne sethlopha mme ba etele metse mengwe go ithuta mo go bomme ba ba tswetse ka mananeo a farologanyeng go ya go tsaya malebela a ka thusang

go tlhabolola matshelo a bone le go nna dikgantshwane tsa metse ya bone.

Mme Olopeng o rotloeditse bomme go simolola tsa temo ka tshingwana ya merogo e potlana ko morago ga matlo.

Mosimolodi wa Mosadi Letlotlo, Mme Nanzy Chaitezvi a re letsatsi le, le supa maatla le nonofo ya motho wa mme go dikologa lefatshe ka bophara.

A re setlhogo se se reng: Neela go re o boelwe, se supa boamaruri ja gore fa o beeletsa mo go mme le ngwana wa mosetsana, o bona dipelo ka mme e le thari ya setshaba.

A re le ntswa bomme ba lebaganyeng ke dikgwetlho ba tswetse ka go supa bokgoni ka go tlhama, go godisa, go etelela pele le go aga, ka jalo fa ngwana wa mosetsana a fiwa sebaka sa go ithuta go abo go agiwa mmusi wa kamoso.

Mme Chaitezvi o kgotlhaditse bomme go itlhamela ditiro mme ba se ka ba baya mo pusong, ka seemo sa itsholelo se sa letle.

Mogolwane kwa ofising ya bong, Mme Olobogeng Morebodi a re dikgwetlho tse bomme ba kopanang le tsone ke go thaela kemedi mo go tsa sepolotiki le maemo a boeteledipele.

O tshalositse fa bomme ba sa eme ba bangwe nokeng ka e le bone ba tlhophang borre kगतलhanong le bomme ba sa lebelele bokgoni ja bone.

“Go botlhokwa gore bomme ba nne le kemedi gongwe le gongwe gore ba kgone go isa matshwenyego a bone kwa diofising tse di lebaganyeng gore ba kgone go bona dikarabo tse di maleba ka nako,” a tlhalosa jalo.

Maikaelelo a mangwe a letsatsi ne e le ke go rotloeditse borre basetsana go tsaya karolo mo go tsa tekatekanyo ya bong le go thibela kgokgontsho ya bong. **BOPA**

## Ikgapheng go thibela bolwetse jwa diphilo

Esther Mmolai  
MAUN

Bagogi ba motsoko, banwi ba bojalwa phetelela le ba ba tshelang ka malwetse a sukiri le madi a matona ba gakolotswe go itlhatlhoba ka ba le mo diphatseng tsa go ka tsenwa ke bolwetsi jwa diphilo.

Seo se builwe ke ngaka ya diphilo, Dr Seabe Thupa ka letsatsi la mafatshe la diphilo le le neng le tshwetswe kwa kgotleng ya Boseja Route 9 mo Maun ka Mosupologo.

A re bolwetsi jwa diphilo bo borai ka bo sa supe dikai dipe, ka jalo a rotloeditse batho go itlhatlhobela malwetsi a diphilo le a sa tshelanweng gore ba bone kalafi bolwetsi bo ise bo kekele.

“Dipatlisiso di supa fa bolwetsi jo bo ama batho ba le bantsi mme ba sa itse. Mo bathong ba le lesome, a le mongwe o lwala bolwetsi jwa diphilo ka jalo go

botlhokwa gore fa o ile go bona ba botsogo ka bokoa bope fela, o ikopele le gone go tlhatlhoba diphilo,” ga tlhalosa Dr Thupa.

Ka bolwetse jwa diphilo bo le borai, Dr Thupa o gateletse botlhokwa jwa go bo thibela ka go dira ditlathobela tsa madi le motlhapo, go itshidila le gone go itlhatlhobela malwetsi a sukiri le madi a matona, ga mmogo le go ja dijo tse di itekanetseng.

A re go botlhokwa gore batho ba fokotse go ja letswai, mafura a mantsi le gone go fokotsa tiriso ya dipilisi jaaka tsa ditlhabi ka di ka ama diphilo fa motho a di nwa phetelela.

O supile gape fa kwa Maun go le mogote o o feteletseng mme ka jalo a gakolola banni go nwa metsi a mantsi a re fa go padile bogolo ba nwe dilithara tse pedi go ya ko go tse tharo ka letsatsi.

Dr Larona Molatlhegi a re ntswa lefatshe le aparetse ke tlhalelo ya dingaka le bomankge ba malwetse a diphilo, bonnye jo bo

teng bo dira ka natla go somarela matshelo le go isa ditlamelo kwa Batswaneng.

Dr Molatlhegi a re dipalo tsa balwetsi ba diphilo di fekeetsa dingaka, a tlatsa ka gore mo Botswana, dingaka tsa diphilo di lesome fela, tse tharo di mo pusong fa tse dingwe e le tse di ikemetseng ka nosi.

Dr Molatlhegi o supile fa banni ba Maun ba le lesego ka jaana ngogola ka kgwedi ya Moranang, puso e ne ya bula lekalana la diphilo mo kokelong ya Letsholathebe gore ba bone bongaka gaufi.

A re pele ga go bulwa ga phaphosi eo, balwetsi ba ne ba tlamelwa kwa Francistown mme gompiono ba tsaya kalafi gaufi.

Dr Molatlhegi o supile fa ba setse ba thusitse batho ba le 780, bomme ba le 506 fa borre ba le 274. A re balwetsi ba diphilo ba le 47 ba emetse go rulaganyediwa malatsi a go tlhatswiwa diphilo. **BOPA**

## Balemi ba gwetlhiwa go tthagafalela temo

Keetile Bontsibokae  
BOATLANAME

Balemi ba temo ya komelelo ba kgaolo ya Kweneng ba gwetlhiwa go supa lorato, bonatla le tlhokomelo ya maemo a ntlha gore ba kgone go bona thobo e nametsang.

Se se builwe ke moitseanape wa tsa botsogo jwa dijwalo kwa kgaolong ya Kweneng, Rre Thutoetsile Thutoetsile ka letsatsi la go kanoka masimo le go ruta balemi ka tiriso ya menontshane le dichefi kwa masimong a Lekhujwana, kwa Boatlaname.

Balemi ba ne ba rutwa ka mefuta ya mehero le diji tse di nang le seabe mo go kgoreletseng balemi go bona thobo e kgotsofatsang.

“Fa o ka tlogela mohero o diga peo o a bo o dirile mathata. Se se tona ke go lwantsha mohero pele o nna le peo gore o kgone go fokotsa kana go nyeletse mo tshimong,” ga tlhalosa Rre Thutoetsile.

A re mehero e e tlwaesegileng ebile e nna le seba mo go fokotseng thobo ke mmabasete, tlolela, mohero o sethunya se setlha, sethabakolobe le mokhure.

Fa a itebaganya le go lwantsha diji, Rre Thutoetsile o rotloeditse balemi go lema dijwalo tse di farologanyeng paka nngwe le nngwe go thusa go koba diji tse di nnang mo mmung.

A re go fetola sejwalo, go koba diji ka go lemoga fa gole lemilwe sejwalo se di sa se itseng. A re go dira jalo go tsietsa diji segolo

jang tsa losika loo seboko mo di felelang di sule le mae a tsone.

A re mokgwa wa go lema o kabakanya dijwalo o thusa gape go nyeletsa kgotsa go fokotsa malwetsi a dijwalo a iphitlhang mo mmung.

Rre Thutoetsile o tshalositse gape fa gole mosola go lemola ka go thusa go nyeletsa diji le malwetse a ka tswang a saletseng mo letlhakeng, dithito le medi ya dijwalo.

O rotloeditse balemi go tsibogela tiriso ya menontshane, le gone ba e tsenya mo mmung ka nako e maleba.

Le fa balemi ba rotloediswa go dirisa dichefi go lwantsha mehero ka maikaelelo a go tokafatsa temo, Rre Thutoetsile a re balemi ba

inaakanye thata le tse di nang le metswako ya tlhologo tse di ka se keng tsa bolaya ditshidinyana tsa botlhokwa mo go ungweng ga dijwalo jaaka dinotshi.

Balemi ba ne ba rutwa gape ka kapari e e babalesegileng fa ba gasa dikhefi gore di seka tsa amana le mebele kgotsa diaparotsa bone tsa letsatsi le letsatsi.

Mogolwane wa ofisi ya balemi mo Kweneng, Rre Onne Manamisi a re go na le balemi bangwe ba go belaelwang e re ba sena go abelwa peo e tshetsweng dichefi go e babalela mo dijing le malwetse, ba nne pelotshetlha ka go tlhalosiwa fa ba e tlhatswa ba re ba ntsha dichefi, maikaelelo e le go e ja.

O kgadile a sa kgwe mathe ba ba dirang jalo ka gore ke seemo

se se ka amang botsogo le gone go baka dintsho.

Moitseanape wa tiriso ya lefatshe la temo, Rre Goplang Segolame a re go botlhokwa gore balemi ba ithute mekgwa ya go lema masimo a mo mafelong a nang le mokgokolosa.

Mokhanselara wa Boatlaname-Loologane, Rre Ntlhogo Ntsimane o kopile balemi go tsaya temo ka tlhoafalo ka ke yone konokono ya go tsosolosa itsholelo le go direla lefatshe dijo tse di lekanyeng.

A re le mororo bontsi jwa balemi ba ne ba galala gore puso e thusa molemi ka ditsompelo go lema tema e le nngwe, a re se se gakgamatsang ke gore go lemilwe ka boutsana. **BOPA**

## Organisation capacitates individuals on mental health

Kelebogile Taolo  
FRANCISTOWN

Mumzo ProCare Health Clinic recently organised a one-day intensive workshop in Francistown, aimed at training participants in mental health first response and counseling skills.

Speaking at the workshop, Founder and CEO of Mumzo ProCare, Dr Blinkie Oteng, said they targeted first responders who often facilitated open communication, to make individuals feel heard when they were experiencing distress.

She said they had realised that mental health issues were on the rise in various settings including workplaces, schools, churches, and communities.

Dr Oteng, however said what they had realised was that mental health first responders were not counsellors but played a critical role as the initial support for those facing mental health challenges.

"When individuals are experiencing distress, the first person they approach is often not a professional but someone close to them," she said.

As such, she said it was important to capacitate first

responders on how to provide immediate assistance and guidance to help prevent situations from worsening.

"First responders can encourage individuals to seek professional help by suggesting they visit a counselor, psychologist, or doctor to access the necessary services," she added.

One of the trainees, Ms Martha Mbete commended the workshop for equipping her with essential skills.

"The workshop has taught me that I should be ready to offer help whenever possible, be kind and listen, and refer individuals to top professionals because as a first responder, my role is to ensure people receive the necessary support," she stated.

Another participant, Mr Theophilous Ntakhwana, mentioned that the workshop clarified the distinction between mental health and mental illness for him. He noted that mental health was multifaceted and each person's experience was distinct.

Mr Ntakhwana urged young individuals to prioritise their mental well-being and that they should seek help from others when faced with challenges. **BOPA**



Gaborone City Mayor, Mr Oarabile Motlaleng said Plot 4723 situated at Madirelo Industrial Area, which currently houses a dilapidated building, had been leased to Glowing Aces to generate revenue for the council. He said the site would be developed into a modern abattoir facility. Photo: Felicity Male

## Gaborone City Council establishes investment company

Lesedi Thatayamodimo  
GABORONE

Mayor of Gaborone, Mr Oarabile Motlaleng, has announced the establishment of a new council-owned company aimed at unlocking investment opportunities, creating jobs and strengthening the city's revenue base.

Addressing councillors during the opening of the full council session on Monday, Mr Motlaleng said the initiative was introduced in response to prevailing economic challenges and government calls to stimulate economic activity.

He said through the company, the council had begun generating revenue by leasing strategic assets such as market stalls, commercial plots and advertising sites to private investors.

Mr Motlaleng revealed that five plots had already been leased to companies for development across the city. He said the projects included a 25-year lease awarded to Granatum Investments for

Plot 22113 in Gaborone West, where the company planned to manufacture PV-LED solar products.

He said LECO Technology (Pty) Ltd had secured Plot 54382 in the Central Business District for 35 years to develop a 12-storey vertical tower, an arena featuring an ice rink and a central green square. Another company, Temothu Retail, has leased Plot 22114 in Gaborone West for 35 years to establish a manufacturing and distribution facility focusing on fertiliser supply and horticultural support.

"Glowing Aces will develop a modern abattoir at Plot 4723 in the Madirelo Industrial Area, while Apex Fuels has leased part of Lot 14381, known as the Old Mortuary plot in the Gaborone West Industrial Extension I bus rank precinct, for the construction of a fuel depot," he added.

Mr Motlaleng said the developments were expected to stimulate economic activity, attract private sector investment and create employment opportunities.

"Once the lease periods expire, all these developments will revert to the Council, thereby strengthening the Council's long-term asset base and financial sustainability," he said.

Mr Motlaleng said the council continued to face financial

constraints that had affected its ability to consistently meet service delivery obligations.

He said the council had not yet received the government grant for the period January to March 2026, amounting to P97.4 million.

However, the Mayor reported progress in revenue collection, saying the council had so far collected P125.68 million from its P170.02 million own-source revenue budget, representing a 74 per cent collection rate.

He further said a recent property valuation exercise was expected to significantly increase the council's revenue.

Mr Motlaleng said billing for the 2025/2026 property rates was completed in February 2026, and early payments had already begun improving revenue inflows.

Historically, the council collected around P90 million annually from property rates, but with the new valuation roll, revenue was projected to rise to approximately P300 million, representing a 333 per cent increase.

Mr Motlaleng explained that the sharp increase was largely due to the previous valuation that was conducted in 2008 and implemented in 2014, which left many new developments and properties unaccounted for. **BOPA**

## Cordon fence vandalism worries Lotlamoreng

Aobakwe Molefhi  
GOODHOPE

Kgosi Lotlamoreng II of Barolong has expressed disappointment over some individuals who continue to curtail efforts to curb the potential infiltration of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) into the country by vandalising the cordon fence.

He said despite threats posed by FMD to the country's beef sector, some people vandalised the fence meant to control livestock movement.

He made the call on Saturday at a meeting addressed by the acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti. The meeting involved disciplined forces retirees who had pledged their support in the FMD fight.

Kgosi Lotlamoreng II said FMD was not only a challenge for livestock farmers but also a nationwide problem.

He said it was disheartening that some residents, mostly from villages along the borderline were refusing to cooperate and follow protocols.

Dr Dikoloti applauded the members for their patriotism and said with their experience, the fight against FMD would be possible.

He said FMD and stock theft was real, hence the need for concerted efforts.

For their part, the retired officers were concerned that vandalism of the cordon fence was fuelled by illegal crossing at ungazetted points and cross-border crime. **BOPA**



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (centre), Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime director, Ms Botlhale Makgekgenene (left) and UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Wenyan Yang during a two-day workshop on Botswana's National Anti-Corruption Policy and the extractive sector in Gaborone recently. Mr Mohwasa said the review of the draft National Anti-Corruption Policy would enable government to identify sector-specific corruption and demonstrate a bold commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

## Farmers mobilise funds to buy drone

Anastacia Sibanda  
GABORONE

A group of farmers in the Matsheng Cluster in Kweneng District under the emblem of Boatlaname Kgomokhumo Committee have intensified efforts to combat stock theft.

The committee has organised an Easter football tournament to raise funds to acquire a drone for surveillance in their farming area.

Boatlaname Kgomokhumo Committee chairperson, Mr Olebile Molomo said the tournament was designed in a way that it would leave a lasting legacy in the area.

He said the Easter tournament scheduled for Happy Hearts Football Club grounds in Sojwe would feature the host, Happy Hearts, Steady Boys from ShadiShadi, Blue Diamonds from Loologane and Mighty Boys from Boatlaname.

Mr Molomo said the four-team tournament would be an annual event, noting that the committee had also resolved to host a Club Management Workshop on April 4 at Matsheng Junior Secondary School.

He said the course would be facilitated by FIFA accredited Instructor Ashford Mamelodi. **BOPA**

# Arts & Culture

## Ntshonono empowers youth

Keetile Bontsibokae  
**MOLEPOLOLE**

Born in Otse, a village nestled among the hills of Mmalladiepe, Mannyelanong, and the famed Lentswe La

Baratani (Mountain of Lovers), Elsie Ntshonono has grown into one of Botswana's dynamic voices in theatre, education, and broadcasting.

Her journey in stage theatre began in 2001 under the mentorship of Prophet Joel Keitumele alias 'Ntsoro', who introduced her to the foundations of acting, stage discipline, and performance.

"Under his mentorship, I developed confidence and discovered the powerful role that storytelling plays in shaping minds and inspiring communities," Ntshonono recalled.

Her passion for communication deepened under her former teacher, Kristian Mmusi, who trained her in public speaking and debate.

This mentorship sharpened her ability to think critically, engage audiences, and appreciate the transformative power of communication.

One defining moment came when she portrayed the character Beauty, a role that revealed to her that the arts were not only about performance but also about education, storytelling, and empowerment.

This realisation inspired her to script children's literature, write short stories, and produce educational content for television and radio.

Beyond acting and writing, Ntshonono expanded into the corporate space as a Master of Ceremonies (MC) and motivational speaker, using storytelling to inspire diverse audiences.

Her profession as a teacher has been equally pivotal.

"The classroom feels like an audition, not for personal recognition, but for the opportunity to identify and nurture young talent."

"Every day in the classroom feels like an audition, not for personal recognition, but for the opportunity to identify and nurture young talent," she said.

Ntshonono mentors learners in public speaking, debate, talk shows, news anchoring, and

television reporting. One of her proudest achievements she said was coaching students who won first position at the Southern Africa Broadcasting Summit 2025 in Lesotho.

Her creative outreach extends to music education, in collaboration with the Arts Trust Council, encouraging children to explore instruments and performing arts.

She also founded a distinctive day-care and babysitting centre, blending the Montessori curriculum with STEM education and literacy readiness to foster independence and creativity from an early age.

Looking ahead, Ntshonono said she was preparing to launch a children's television talk show, a platform designed to amplify young voices, showcase talent, and develop broadcasting skills.

Ultimately, her journey, from stage theatre to education, broadcasting, and early childhood development, has been driven by a singular vision: to use the arts, education, and media as powerful tools to empower young people, nurture creativity, and help children discover their voices as they shape the future.

**BOPA**



Elsie Ntshonono has grown into one of Botswana's dynamic voices in theatre, education and broadcasting. Beyond acting and writing, she expanded into the corporate space as a Master of Ceremonies and motivational speaker, using storytelling to inspire diverse audiences.

## Grand Palm Resort celebrates 30 years of excellence

Ketshepile More  
**GABORONE**

The Grand Palm Resort in Botswana this year celebrates 30 years anniversary, marking the occasion with a series of lifestyle events kicking off

with a three-part gin experience.

The first event in the series is scheduled for March 28. Celebrated annually around November, the Grand Palm's gin experience is not only a showcase of some of the best gin brands under one roof, both locally and international crafted; it is also a vibrant celebration of fashion, artistry and culture.

Over the years, the event has

hosted some of Botswana's talented entertainers such as Boogie Sid and Brand among others, alongside scrumptious cuisine, making it one of the memorable lifestyle social events to attend.

According to Grand Palm marketing manager Malebogo Motlaleng, the event was designed as a vibrant social gathering where guests could explore premium gin brands, enjoy expertly crafted cocktails and experience live

entertainment in a relaxed outdoor setting.

"The event runs from 3pm to 11pm with guided gin tastings for a limited time from 3pm to 7pm, giving guests an opportunity to sample a curated selection of premium gin products and learn more about mixology and flavour profiles," Motlaleng explained.

To support the three decade commemoration of hospitality and entertainment and lifestyle

experiences at the Grand Palm, some of the leading lifestyle brands such as Collections by BK Proctor, Schwepps, Benju as well as SMC Brands among others will be showcased.

The two additional editions of the three-part series are scheduled for July 18 and November 7, 2026. Tickets for the first event are priced at P200, P400 and P1,500, and are available at the Grand Palm Resort.

**BOPA**

# DailySport

## Francistown to host Four Nation Tournament

Kelebogile Taolo  
**FRANCISTOWN**

Francistown will next week host a football competition dubbed Four Nations Tournament comprising Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The competition which promises to be a thrilling regional showdown, will be played at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium from March 28 to March 31.

Speaking in an interview, Botswana Football Association (BFA) general manager, Monnakgotla Mojaki said preparations were going well and the draw would be March 24.

The aim of the tournament is to give the teams a chance to play at least two matches during the FIFA break as per FIFA guidelines.

It will also serve as a platform for the Botswana team coach to give all players including new ones, an opportunity to have game time.

Mojaki said they chose to play the stated nations since they were tough opponents and top teams with quality players, adding that the tournament might in

future be an annually event.

He encouraged football fanatics to come in numbers and enjoy good play.

Meanwhile, the Zebras Coach, Morena Ramoreboli, has unveiled the preliminary squad for the Four Nations Tournament.

Goal keepers: Ramoreboli called in Thabo Motswagole from Gaborone United, Cedrick Ramojela Tonota FC, Goitseone Phoko Jwaneng Galaxy, Karamelo Kgosisipula Township Rolars and Kenneth Mmoko Sua Flamingoes.

Middlefielders: Theo Kgosikwena - Santa Green, Thapelo Babedi - BDF XI, Tony Mogotsi - Nico United, Tsholofelo Speakson - TAFIC FC, Kamogelo Moloi - Gaborone United, Philip Kaku - Township Rollers, Theo Shadikong - Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Monty Enosa - Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Bofelo Motswagole - Sua Flamingoes, Nonofu Dikutu - Matebele FC, Omphile Ramoagi - Gaborone United, Keitumetse Samunzala - Jwaneng Galaxy, Shaun Theron - TAFIC FC,

Thabo Marumo - Extension Gunners, Gape Thibedi Dinare FC.

Attackers are: Boikobo Matakule - Police XI, Losika Ratshukudu - NK Slaven Belupo, Omphile Phale - Dinare, Thero Bubi - Black Lions, Kotso Radithongwa - Jwaneng Galaxy, Tshepo Keselebele - Jwaneng Galaxy

Thapelo Balatheng - Township Rollers, Thomama Kayaba - Tatic FC, Boikobo Rannyena - BDF XI, Godfrey Tauyatswala - Gaborone United, Morgan Dick - Calender Stars, Mmoloki Galetshetse - Jwaneng Young Stars, Eric Ookame - Mouloud Oujda.

Defenders are: Larona Modisaemang - Jwaneng Galaxy, Thabo Babusi - Orapa United, Tebogo Kopelang - Jwaneng Galaxy, Benson Mosokobanji - Santa Green, Ricky Rathogo - Orapa United, Utlwang Ramakathi - Township Rollers, Tlamelo Kolagano - Jwaneng Galaxy, Botsile Sakana - Orapa United, Tirelo Ratanang - Sankoyo Bush Bucks, Mompoti Tshoganyetso - Sankoyo Bush Bucks, Floyd Motheo - Matebele, Brain Tafhi - Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Botshelo Motsheja - Morupule - Wanderers and Doctor David - Black Lions.  
**BOPA**



Neymar

## Neymar eyes World Cup comeback

**RIO DE JANEIRO**

Neymar has not given up hope of securing a spot in Brazil's World Cup squad after being overlooked for warm-up friendlies against France and Croatia later this month.

The Santos forward marked his return from injury with an assist in the Brazilian club's 1-1 home draw with Corinthians on Sunday. But it did not persuade Brazil manager Carlo Ancelotti to recall him to the national team after an absence of almost two and a half years.

"I will speak about it because it can't be left unaddressed," the 34-year-old former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star told reporters.

"Obviously I am upset and sad not to have been called up, but the focus continues day after day, training session after training session and match after match. We will achieve our objective.

There is still one final call-up to come and the dream continues," he said on Monday.

Neymar, Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 79 goals in 128 international matches, has made just four appearances for Santos this year after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his left knee in December.

He has not played for Brazil since suffering a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in a World Cup qualifier against Uruguay in October 2023, an injury that left him sidelined for more than a year.

Ancelotti told a news conference earlier on Monday that Neymar could still feature at the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada, provided he was fully fit and playing regularly for Santos.

Brazil will begin its World Cup campaign against Morocco on June 13 before facing Haiti on June 19 and Scotland on June 24 in Group C. **Xinhua**



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