Embracing the Reset Agenda | “Adopting mindset change will result in self-actualisation among our people” President Mokgweetsi Masisi

SADC reviews progress

HARARE - His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi (centre), Zimbabwe President and incoming SADC Chairperson, Dr Emmerson Mnangangwa (left) and Malawi President Dr Lazarus Chakwera at the 44th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government on Saturday. The summit reviewed the progress on the implementation of Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2023 as well as received updates on key issues, such as the region’s peace and security agenda. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi
Botswana applauds Zimbabwe’s resilient manufacturing sector

By Baleseng Baitlloeng

HARARE - Botswana has applauded Zimbabwe for its optimistic manufacturing sector despite challenges such as recent sanctions imposed on the country.

The observation was made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Honourable Dr Lemogang Kvale during a tour of the Southern Accord 24, an DRC Holdings Africa Limited manufacturing plant on the side-lanes of the 44th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of States and Government in Harare on Friday.

“Given what Zimbabwe has gone through in the last few years, the country has been resilient and has built capacity in the manufacturing sector and other sectors to be self-sufficient,” he stated.

He commended Zimbabwe’s achievements, particularly in agricultural production, saying they have been very successful in this regard and are now self-sufficient in wheat and milk production, with surpluses to spare.

Botswana is positioning itself as a destination for investment due to its reputation as one of the most peaceful and stable countries in the region and as a mature industry with the skills and the expertise. We have engaged in discussions with Zimbabwe as a partner in the region thus any potential investor was assured of having made the right decision to invest in a safe place in the region.

The main reason SADC existed was for its member states to thrive and that one of the key priorities was to integrate the region.

“Today here at Schweppes and what we are discussing is how best we can integrate the manufacturing sector. They have the skills and the expertise. We have engaged in discussions as the two countries on how to work together, invest in a citrus production and manufacturing in Botswana,” he added.

Dr Kvale said government’s ambition was to get Botswana good quality jobs and urged the company to support small and medium enterprises in Botswana.

Government wants to create a manufacturing economy and no longer rely on one commodity. Dr Kvale said and added that programmes have been established to support this drive, assisting small to large scale farmers such as the recent initiatives that will improve the increasing herd count and quality.

Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries CEO, Ms Sekai Kuvirika said the Zimbabwe manufacturing sector a highly capable industry and urged Botswana to exploit the potential it had in terms of growth and the expansion and internationalisation prospects.

“Botswana provides a good case for us to replicate as the manufacturing sector aims to expand into rest of SADC region as well as into Africa. Botswana is expanding its manufacturing sector and we would like Botswana to engage Botswana’s participation and both countries’ participation in the AfCFTA market opportunity,” she said.

Ms Kuvirika said Zimbabwe had companies which had been operational for over 100 years and the country had a lot of experience and long history in manufacturing which gave them a lot of capabilities in the sector.

She said the Zimbabwean manufacturing sector had capabilities to provide inputs to the agriculture sector such as agricultural equipment and various inputs into agricultural production.

“We also have the capability to process that kind of produce from the agricultural sector into value added products,” she said.

Ms Kvale said trade facilitation, partnerships and investments were all important for all that to succeed.

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“The two-week exercise dubbed Southern Accord 24, aimed at enhancing capability of the BDF and US militaries in various areas of specialties such as special operations, air capabilities, logistics, disaster response, gender integration in operations and aimed at training as well as combat engineering capabilities training,” said the Minister of Defence and Security Honourable Kagiso Mmusi, who officially closed the exercise and recommended the two nations for successfully co-hosting the Southern Accord 2024 and achieving the set objectives of the exercise.

“This exercise underpins the bilateral relations between our governments, which have deep historical roots,” Minister Mmusi stated. The areas of cooperation, he said encompass multiple sectors, including military engagements that aim to share knowledge and sharpen operational skills.

Furthermore, he highlighted that the military operated under complex security environment therefore it was important for the objectives of this exercise to be tailor made to adequately prepare the military to be able to operate in the contemporary operational environment.

Minister Mmusi assured them that his ministry would see to it that the BDF was appropriately resourced and adequately capacitated in order to deliver on its mandate which could be achieved by conducting exercises of this nature where resources and manpower were committed to share valuable insights in military operations.

“BDF members should consider themselves fortunate for having been allowed to co-host and interact with counterparts from one of the best and most professional militaries in the world,” Mt Mmusi said.

Commander of the BDF Lt General Placid Segokgo commended the US for mobilising resources to support an exercise of this magnitude.

Through the US military, he said the USA government committed immeasurable resources, personnel and expertise on the exercise, adding that the collaboration between the two countries, specifically on defence and security matters had been a constant undertaking since the birth of the BDF.

Lt General Segokgo also emphasised that the successful completion of Exercise Southern Accord 24 was a testament of the steadfast partnership of the two countries highlighting mutual trust and confidence in each other.

He also thanked Southern European Task Force Africa, the Deputy Commanding General-National Guard, United States of America Army, Southern European Task Force Africa, Brigadier John Leblanc and North Carolina National Guard for partnering with BDF in the preparation and hosting of the exercise.

In addition, he thanked the participants from both militaries for their resolute dedication to duty and resilience during the planning and conduct of the Southern Accord 24.

The US Ambassador to Botswana Dr Howard Van Vranken said “through this exercise we have shared the drive to develop our operational and tactical capabilities.”

For this progress to happen, he said it was important to recognise that mutual trust was absolutely essential because “we share values, our multi-party democracies and all volunteer forces are built on the same foundation of professionalism and dedication to our countries,” he added. BOPA

First Lady donates to Diratsame JSS

By Keonoe Majoto

MOSHUPA Unruly behaviour among pupils is among the biggest contributing factors to poor academic results in schools.

Her Excellency First Lady Ms Neo Masisi appealed to Diratsame Junior Secondary School (JSS) pupils in Mosupha on Saturday that continuing to engage in unruly behaviour would prevent them from contributing to the attainment of Vision 2036’s dream of achieving prosperity for all.

Ms Masisi, who donated P15 000 to the school’s fundraising activities for this year’s prize giving ceremony, said without a good education, they would be in no position to help society grow.

Regarding the importance of sport and physical activity, she noted that both were good for overall good health and could also contribute to personal and financial development.

She said sport also built discipline, a trait that she said was necessary for success in life.

Ms Masisi pledged that she would give P1 000 and P500 cash prizes to pupils who would attain Merit and Grade A respectively, during this year’s Junior Certificate Examinations.

Diratsame JSS school head, Mr Phemelo Sejagoso emphasised the importance of good results, saying they prepared pupils for a better life in future.

He also complimented unbecoming behaviour especially by boys, saying the situation was so bad that 11 boys were recently suspended from school due to unruly behaviour.

Mr Sejagoso also informed Ms Masisi that shortage of classrooms was a constraint to effective teaching and learning at the school, noting that they did not have enough classrooms to accommodate the over 560 learners.

Sharing the objectives of the sponsored walk, Ms Grace Ramontsho said it formed part of the fundraising activities for the prize-giving ceremony set for September 13.

Ms Ramontsho said the prize-giving ceremony was an important motivating factor for learners that could help contribute to improvement of results. BOPA

Joint military exercise successful

By Kpetsofalam Botsang

SHOSHONG - Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and United States of America (USA) Military successfully concluded a joint military training exercise held at Taukgolo Ranges near Shoshong.

The two-week exercise dubbed Southern Accord 24, aimed at enhancing capability of the BDF and US militaries in various areas of specialties such as special operations, air capabilities, logistics, disaster response, gender integration in operations, and aimed as well as combat engineering capabilities training.

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Mnangagwa assumes SADC chairmanship

By Baleseng Balotleng

HARARE - President Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe has officially taken over the Chairmanship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), succeeding Angola President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço.

In his acceptance speech, President Dr Mnangagwa committed to advancing the regional agenda to uplift all citizens of the SADC member states.

Dr Mnangagwa said this year’s theme, “Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Economic Transformation”, brought to the fore the role to Unlock Opportunities for regional agenda to uplift all citizens through individual and collective efforts. He said the region continued to experience climate change induced natural disasters which had far reaching negative impacts on human and food security. In light of the lessons learnt, Dr Mnangagwa said investments in transformative agriculture and food systems should be scaled up through robust climate mitigation strategies and resilience building mechanisms.

Giving a maiden address at the summit Namibian President Dr Nangolo Mbumba pledged on working to achieve SADC goals and called for collective efforts in bringing peace to the region. He paid homage to those who paid with their lives in pursuit of peace. He said the re-emergence of attacks in the region remained a challenge that needed to be addressed. He shared the legacy of his predecessor the late Dr Hage Geingob whom he described as having had unwavering commitment to regional integration, peace and economic development.

“I shall continue from where my predecessor left off by remaining committed to the goals and principles of our regional organization and the aspirations of our people. Furthermore, I will tirelessly endeavour to play my part in ensuring that their dreams and hopes for a better future will materialise into a region characterised by peace, unity and economic prosperity,” he added.

Chairmanship: SADC Industrialisation Week

Emmerson Mnangagwa

By Keonee Majoto

HARARE: Zimbabwe President Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa (left) and outgoing SADC chair, Angola President Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço after the official handing over of the SADC chairmanship to the former at the 44th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government on Saturday. President Mnangagwa called on member states to leverage the region’s human and natural resources and industrialisation and innovation towards a higher quality of life of its citizens. Photo: Pheloye Moalosi

MOSHUPA - Value chain development in the agriculture sector remains one of the key vehicles through which Botswana goods and services can find their way into international markets.

His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Khebetswe Masisi said on Friday while officiating Moshupa District Agricultural Show that when engaging in various undertakings within the sector, Botswana should look beyond household economic empowerment and explore avenues for penetrating global markets.

“This approach will elevate agriculture and position it among the country’s top revenue earners,” he stated. He therefore called on farmers across various sub-sectors to align their efforts with government initiatives aimed at revolutionising the agricultural sector saying agricultural activities should not be trivialised, “they must be viewed as businesses capable of transforming the broader economy.”

“When my 10-year tenure of office draws to a close in 2028, I want to leave behind an empowered citizen. And to realise that state of empowerment, each of you should become industrious and shun laziness,” Dr Masisi said, emphasising how engaging in activities within the sector required dedication, tenacity and a strong resolve to stay the course even in the face of challenges.

Towards enhancing the agricultural landscape, President Dr Masisi said SADC should continue with the process that required a high level of knowledge, hence citizens should approach them notably.

Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) Chief Executive Officer Mr. Tseboong said as a national farmers’ organisation they were committed to ensuring that farmers endeavoured to produce beef to enjoy fair access to their services.

He said in addition to safeguarding the interests of the farmer at home, the BMC continued to fight to elevate the sovereignty of its product by ensuring that Botswana’s premium beef remained a force to reckon with in the global beef markets.

Though determined to live up to its mandate, challenges such as ageing infrastructure continued to affect BMC’s efforts and pace to transform and make itself more aligned to farmers’ expectations and aspirations.

He said the recent breakdown of a 20-tonne boiler which had resulted in 2 weeks of full production was a stark reminder that most of their ageing infrastructure had reached the end of its life. Despite the challenges, the CEO said revenue in excess of P400 million was realised by July this year, compared to P331 million during the same period last year.

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Dr Mnangagwa said this year’s theme, “Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Economic Transformation”, brought to the fore the role innovation, modernisation and linkages to further drive the collective development agenda of the region. He pointed out the urgent need to harness innovation for producing goods and services through value addition and beneficiation of the region’s abundant natural and mineral resources.

“The people of the region fought for our liberation and the economic value of our land and its resources,” he stated. “The time is now; we must realise maximum value from our God-given natural endowments,” he said.

President Mnangagwa said the importance of deploying innovative strategies across all sectors of the economies to achieve the realisation of collective development agenda could not be over-emphasised. “This is more so as the Fourth Industrial Revolution continues to impact and transform the way we operate and execute our work. Our SADC bloc cannot afford to fall behind in the new and fast changing frontier of science, technology and innovation,” he said.

He urged member states to align their aspirations with actionable plans as outlined in the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063). Dr Mnangagwa expressed satisfaction with the preceding SADC Industrialisation Week and Investment Forum, which successfully provided a platform for public-private engagement to discuss innovative approaches.

Dr Mnangagwa said institutions of higher learning, academia, scientists and innovators must equally strengthen linkages to further drive the innovation, modernisation and industrialisation of the region.

“In the case of Zimbabwe, we have set up several innovation hubs at all State Universities and related institutions. These have achieved remarkable success in developing a sense of self-belief, skills and competencies. Further, initiatives under the programmes have transformed livelihoods, communities and the economy as a whole, through the production of appropriate goods and services,” he said.

Dr Mnangagwa said SADC could only be modernised and industrialised by its own citizens through individual and collective efforts. He said the region continued to experience climate change induced natural disasters which had far reaching negative impacts on human and food security. In light of the lessons learnt, Dr Mnangagwa said investments in transformative agriculture and food systems should be scaled up through robust climate mitigation strategies and resilience building mechanisms.

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BOPA
Officials emphasise impartiality in election coverage

By Tebagano Ntshole

MOLEPOLOLE - The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) has appealed to Molepolole South electorate to vote for the party’s candidates in the upcoming general elections.

Speaking at the launch of prospective parliamentary and council candidates on Saturday, Francistown South MP, who is also the Alliance for Progressives vice president, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi said the UDC prospective candidate Mr Shima Monageng had the residents’ interests and would bring much needed developments in the constituency if elected.

Mr Mmolotsi said the residents made an error in the last elections as they voted the BDP candidate whom he said had not been vocal about developments in the area.

He said Molepolo was experiencing acute water shortages yet the area MP said there was plenty of water in the village. MP Mmolotsi said the UDC, would introduce a living wage of P4 000 and an average salary of P10 000 and 500 000 jobs in five years. “Under our rule, we’re going to ensure the economy grows at a rate of 10 per cent per annum, and this will support the creation of jobs as well as the minimum living wage,” he said.

For his part, Mr Monageng said it was time there was a regime change as the BDP had run out of ideas.

He said UDC was the only party that could bring positive changes to the lives of Batswana.

By Thandy Tebogo

RAKOPS - Botswana Democratic Party has put programmes and policies in place aimed at uplifting sustainable livelihoods of Batswana. His Honour Vice President Mr Slumber Tsogwane has said.

Mr Tsogwane, who is the party chairman, said on Saturday during a political rally in Motopi that BDP had introduced programmes such as Thuo Letlotlo and Temo Letlotlo to improve livelihoods of Batswana.

Vice President Tsogwane said the BDP-led government had established a development framework aimed at transforming the economy through the employment of technology to ensure that there was productivity.

Mr Tsogwane stated that his party had developed policies, strategies and laws specifically designed for the economic empowerment of Batswana.

He noted that there was an Economic Inclusion Act that enabled active participation of Batswana as key players in the tourism sector.

Mr Tsogwane further stated that implementation of projects listed in the BDP 2019 manifesto was ongoing.

He informed supporters that a unified senior school had been planned for Rakops, noting that a plot was being secured for project take off.

He indicated that as part of efforts to ensure easy movement between villages in Boteti, a 33km road was under construction between Motopi and Makalamabedi.

Mr Tsogwane pleaded with electorate to vote in Mr Otiiretse Kabelele as councillor for Motopi, saying since they had tried opposition candidates, it was time to vote in a reliable leader.

For his part Tsinyane West aspirant Mr Batsweletse Kgagamedi implored the supporters to vote a youthful leader who had vision and their interests at heart.

Mr Kgagamedi encouraged supporters to vote a party that had a reliable leadership.

He stated that the intention was to claim all the wards in Boteti West.

He cautioned them against the tendency of voting an opposition candidate at council level and a BDP candidate at parliamentary level saying they should vote candidates for the same party.

For his part Mr Kabalele pleaded with voters to take him to the council as he had proved himself in all community and party structures.

GABORONE - Public media journalists have been cautioned to tread carefully in their coverage of the general national elections.

Addressing the journalists during elections coverage training in Gaborone on Friday, Director of Information Services, Ms Martha Leshongwane advising them to maintain high level of professionalism.

She emphasised accuracy, and impartiality in the coverage of campaigns, voting and other activities related to elections.

She said as journalists, they had a responsibility to support the democratic processes and development as they were backed by the Constitution.

She said the previous observer missions’ reports were positive on media coverage of elections, hence she encouraged the journalists to maintain the status quo.

“We are here once again to improve. You are advised to be well informed by familiarising yourselves with all important documents – the Constitution, Elections Acts and Delimitation report and other documents,” she said.

Chief Information Officer, Mr Thobekane Ramoroka encouraged journalists to treat candidates equally and fairly.

He advised them to do research and inform themselves about election laws, read about previous elections as well as to understand boundaries of the constituencies they were covering.

“There is nothing embarrassing like an interviewee controlling the interview and dominating the stage because an interviewer has not done his or her homework,” he said.

He told journalists that different regulatory frameworks existed to guide the media’s conduct in elections coverage and that editorial guidelines should be followed.

He advised journalists to avoid bias, inciting, repulsive details, controversy, and to avoid making political statements and opinions.

Acting Broadcasting Services Director, Mr Buyani Zongwane reiterated that public media conduct was very important and therefore he advised journalists to conduct themselves in a manner that would not compromise their work and integrity.

He said elections coverage plan would be shared with all involved in elections coverage and pleaded with them to exercise diligence as elections in their nature were very sensitive.

For his part, Independent Electoral Commission Spokesperson, Mr Ospile Maroba said a total of 1 038 261 of voters had registered to participate in the upcoming general election.

He also said following the delimitation and demarcation exercise, there were 61 constituencies, 609 polling districts were demarcated, and 2 808 local polling stations established while the polling stations in the diaspora were 54.

He sensitised participants on the mandate of the IEC, the country’s electoral cycle as well as the laws governing elections in Botswana.

Journalists were further sensitised on what was expected of them during elections.
No Mpox cases, health ministry remains alert

By Moshe Galagwane

GABORONE - Ministry of Health remains vigilant following the significant threat posed by the ongoing outbreak of Mpox in Africa. This was said by Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Edwin Dikoloti in a statement he delivered in Parliament on Friday on the current status of Mpox in Botswana and the region, specifically touching on the preventive measures undertaken to protect the nation.

Dr Dikoloti said Botswana had, however, not reported any cases of Mpox but neighbouring South Africa had reported 24 cases of Mpox and three deaths. “The close proximity of these outbreaks, highlights the urgent need for increased vigilance within our borders,” said Dr Dikoloti.

He said the symptoms of Mpox included rashes, fever, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, myalgia, fatigue, chill and cough.

Dr Dikoloti said Botswana had, in response to the pressing situation, significantly enhanced its epidemiological surveillance systems.

Given the declarations by WHO and African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) that Mpox outbreak was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the country was actively responding to contain the spread of the disease.

He said Botswana would intensify monitoring and rapid response systems, including border controls, and areas deemed to be of a higher risk of further transmission.

He said public health teams, through the Botswana Public Health Institute (BPHI), were fully prepared to respond at any time.

He added that government through the ministry and other concerned stakeholders, had a comprehensive national response plans developed by WHO and Africa CDC. The Department of Health in Botswana was actively collaborating with international partners, including neighbouring countries, to share data, expertise, and best practices.

“The collaboration is vital for effectively managing any potential outbreaks and minimising their impact on our communities,” he said.

Giving essential advice to the nation on how to protect themselves from Mpox, Dr Dikoloti appealed to the public to practice good hygiene by regularly washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, to significantly reduce the risk of infection.

He further advised the public to stay informed, saying “keep up to date with information from reliable sources such as the Ministry of Health, WHO, and Africa CDC. Staying informed is key to prevention.”

As for treatment options, he said currently, there was no specific treatment available for Mpox. He said patients received symptomatic care like pain management and anti-itch medications to alleviate symptoms, adding such medical assistance was offered in the country at health facilities.

Additionally, he said patients were advised to self-isolate for 21 days to prevent the spread of the virus.

“In addition to this there are two approved Mpox vaccines to prevent the disease. Although Botswana currently remains free from Mpox, it is crucial that we do not become complacent,” he said.

The ministry was fully committed to safeguarding public health.

“We are actively working to secure Mpox vaccines in preparation for any potential outbreak, despite global supply constraints and high demand. We urge all Botswanans to remain vigilant, follow health guidelines and cooperate with our collective efforts to prevent the spread of Mpox,” he said.

Furthermore, Dr Dikoloti said the ministry, in collaboration with key stakeholders, would hold a press briefing this week, to provide more detailed information on their preparations efforts and Mpox surveillance measures. He said the recent surge in Mpox cases on the African continent had led WHO to declare Mpox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

This is mirrored by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) which has classified Mpox as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS),” he said.

Dr Dikoloti said PHEIC was a formal declaration by WHO signifying an extraordinary event that posed a public health risk to other states, through the international spread of disease, was often followed by coordinating a global response.

He said such a declaration was triggered by situations that were serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected with implications for public health beyond the affected states’ borders.

He said the situation may at times necessitate immediate international action and states were legally obligated to respond.

“The primary objective of this declaration, is to catalyse timely, evidence-based action to minimise public health and societal impacts of Mpox, while avoiding unnecessary travel and trade restrictions,” he said.

He said Mpox, previously known as monkeypox, was a viral zoonotic disease that can spread from animals to humans and between humans historically through direct contact, but now through sexual transmission.

Although historically Mpox had primarily affected Central and West African countries, Dr Dikoloti said it had since 2022 spread beyond the said regions.

Parliament 2024
Regulation of deputy sheriffs long due

By Moshe Galagwane

GABORONE - Legislators have urged the government to issue an urgent request to the Ministry of Health, WHO, and Africa CDC, to consider the interest of the public to urgently put in place a legal instrument that will regulate activities and conduct of deputy sheriffs in Botswana.

Debating the Deputy Sheriffs Bill presented to Parliament by Minister of Justice, Honourable Machana Shamukuni on Tuesday, Gabane-Mankodi Member of Parliament and Minister of Defence and Security, Honourable Kagiso Mmusi said the Bill was long overdue and was belated, as it was raising its presentation on a certificate of urgency.

Honourable Mmusi said the Bill would protect the deputy sheriffs as well as guide their actions.

He said such a Bill was also an answer to a public cry where deputy sheriffs were more often accused of looting and using their actions questionable.

“Some people who are in debt are ubuntu people and have provided other valuables and money while trying to settle debt, only to end up being swindled into the situation that they are being unscrupulously swindled by the deputy sheriffs,” he said.

Gaborone Central MP, Mr Tumisang Mangwepape-Healy said there was a lot of wrong doing levelled against deputy sheriffs hence the Bill would protect their work and clients.

“Deputy sheriffs must act accountable and be guided by a legal instrument to ensure that livelihoods and property are protected,” he said.

He added that Bill would ensure deputy sheriffs long due and therefore warranting the Bill would protect their profession as well as their clients.

Mr Balopi said the Bill was a welcome piece of legislation as some were operating unregistered and never traceable as sheriffs, as some were operating unregistered and never traceable after attaching people’s property.

Mr Mnolotsi said some would collect money from those in debt and disappear with it without settling the debt.

He added that Bill would ensure registration and regulation of deputy sheriffs. He said some people were charged interests that were greater than what they owed.

Mr Batoni said it was unfortunate to observe deputy sheriffs pending in trouble for lack of guidance or knowing how to take advantage of innocent people, making them pay far more than what they owed and some were forced to sell their property to cover for high and unexplained debt.

Mr Balopi said that situations was a person would lose all their property and other valuables trying to clear a debt that would remain standing despite such efforts and impoverish them.

Mr Balopi said the Bill would prescribe the conduct of deputy sheriffs, as some were operating unregistered and never traceable after attaching people’s property.

Mr Mnolotsi said some would collect money from those in debt and disappear with it without settling the debt.

He added that Bill would ensure registration and regulation of deputy sheriffs. He said some people were charged interests that were greater than what they owed.

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BOBS certifies NAPRO products

By Esther Mmolai

The company, BOBS, has approved NAPRO products since they had passed all quality assurance tests, adding that the organisation was also in the process of expanding market base, noting that the impact they achieved was testament to protecting the wilderness noting that their success is deeply rooted in the relationships and investments the company has made. The company board chairman, Mr Kabelo Binns said they valued partnerships and collaboration, noting that the impact they achieved was testament to the dedication and passion of those involved in their journey. He reflected on the themes of change, impact and progress which is a guide to farmers on the protection of our forests and the sustainable use of our natural resources.

Partnerships integral part of Okavango wilderness - official

By Esther Mmolai

The company’s greatest strength, he said, lied in the ability to work together, noting that every partner was an integral part of the journey to achieve more than what they could alone. The company had evolved over the years adapting to new challenges and seizing new opportunities but through all that change, their commitment to protecting the wilderness was unwavering as they believed tourism when done responsibly, could be a powerful force. BOPA

Tech and science growth

He gave credit to NARDI for providing high research and innovative solutions. He said NARDI was instrumental in the development of NAPRO products as well as shelf life studies and all tests required for manufacturing. Mr Mothibedi also appreciated financial support from the government to expand the plant and increase production so that NAPRO could spread wings from the government to expedite their plans which made it difficult to find someone to do business with. He added that most small businesses end up hiring someone to do their business in most cases entrepreneurs would not be practical and be part of the company’s greatest strength, he said, lied in the ability to work together, noting that every partner was an integral part of the journey to achieve more than what they could alone. The company had evolved over the years adapting to new challenges and seizing new opportunities but through all that change, their commitment to protecting the wilderness was unwavering as they believed tourism when done responsibly, could be a powerful force. BOPA

BUCKLE UP!
Seatbelts Are For Everyone

BOUNCE!

BOPA - National Agro Processing (NAPRO) products have satisfied all the requirements of the country as the company has been approved for extending our product range so that consumers can be able to buy locally made chakalaka among others. One of the most important changes being made is to increase shelf life to protect the wilderness and stimulate growth of local entrepreneurs and small businesses. The company alone, he said, lied in the ability to work together, noting that every partner was an integral part of the journey to achieve more than what they could alone. The company had evolved over the years adapting to new challenges and seizing new opportunities but through all that change, their commitment to protecting the wilderness was unwavering as they believed tourism when done responsibly, could be a powerful force. BOPA

Market Players empower women

By Naomi Lecpile

One of our primary services, is offering training and mentorship to women who want to start small businesses. We essentially try to up-skill them so that they can be able to enter the market, compete and take their businesses to the next level. We also want them to be eligible for funding because most small businesses end up being rejected for funding because they are high risk,” she said.

She noted that bringing valuable business management skills to women startup entrepreneurs would ensure that no woman was left behind with special emphasis on encouraging women in male dominated sectors. Ms Mokgathi said the programme was a vital tool for achieving gender equality under Sustainable Development Goals emphasizing that for the country to achieve gender equality women must be able to participate fully. She explained that empowering women to come and use the facilities such as meeting rooms and work stations especially those who did not have operating spaces or office space. Furthermore Ms Mokgathi stressed that they found it fit to upskill them because most of them were not operating properly citing that some did not keep records, had no business strategies and plans. Therefore, she said it was vital to upskill them and guide them on how to operate their business using the international best practices. The organisation recently introduced the online tool kit for developing business plans, which would enable them to understand their business plans. This, she said, would also be helpful because in most cases entrepreneurs would hire someone to do their business plans which made it difficult for them. She added that investors, suppliers, financiers and even customers were important.

Mr Mokgathi said, “we want to be practical and be part of the actual drafting of their business plans so that they can understand their business better.”

Beyond training and mentorship, she revealed that the organisation did market access, trade missions and many facilitations to ensure that entrepreneurs were able to access different markets.

“We leverage trade agreements that Botswana was already signatory to, which changes the mindset of our small entrepreneurs to not only focus on the local market but rather consider the international market,” she said.

She further confirmed that the organisation had over 500 business persons subscribed to the database, adding that they enrolled 150 women entrepreneurs and graduated 128. Ms Mokgathi advised the attendees to always think out of the box so that they could be able to expand their businesses.

NAPro sales and marketing specialist, Mr Keontse Mothibedi (right) showcasing products to dignitaries during the NARDI Science Week in Maun. He said BOBS had approved NAPro products since they had passed all quality assurance tests. Photo: Esther Mmolai
VACANCY: DEPUTY MANAGER – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

REF NO: IEC 4/34/11 I (77) DATE: 07/08/2024

VACANCY: DEPUTY MANAGER – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

SALARY: D1 (P386,892.00 – P426,660.00) per annum

LEAVE:
30 working days per annum.

BENEFITS:
- Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and Employee pays 50%).
- Contributory Pension Fund Scheme (Government pays 15% and Employee pays 5%).
- Please note that this position does not attract Scarce Skills allowance.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must be in a possession of a Bachelor’s Degree in Estate Management/Facility Management/Construction Management/Engineering/Building Services or a related field.

EXPERIENCE:
At least twelve (10) years Post Qualification Experience in Estate/Property/Facility Management, two (2) years of which should have been served at D2 salary scale in Government or equivalent level in Parastatal or Private Organisations.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:
To manage and coordinate projects for the maintenance of all buildings in the Independent Electoral Commission.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:
- Develops and reviews facilities management regulations, procedures and requirements.
- Plans and administers the maintenance schedule for buildings within the Independent Electoral Commission.
- Monitors adherence to government regulations and environmental health and safety standards in relation to facilities.
- Undertakes and documents a termly risk assessment of all the buildings and other health and safety checks as directed by the Health and safety regulations.
- Develops and maintains Assets Register.
- Supervises work of contractors in connection with the maintenance and improvement of buildings and building facilities.
- Administers and monitors service contracts in collaboration with Contract Management Office to ensure work is properly performed and processing claims for payment is done.
- Conducts periodic inspections of buildings and evaluates the complexity of any needed repair to determine best solution and job cost.
- Oversees the implementation of approved procedures to ensure the energy efficient operation of assigned buildings.
- Prepares reports on the operational effectiveness of the facilities.
- Prepares budget for the maintenance of all buildings.
- Initiates and manages procurement of any building maintenance needs by the Commission.

KEY COMPETENCIES:
- Working with people
- Adhering to Principles and values

INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION
VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 6 OF 2024
EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the below mentioned position tenable in IEC Head office, Gaborone

APPLICATIONS:
Please provide the following details:
- A cover letter and quote the vacancy circular number.
- Full names and postal address.
- Certified copies of Omang.
- Certified copies Academic Certificates & Transcripts.
- Detailed and updated Curriculum Vitae.
- At least two recent work-related references (Not more than 6 months old).
- In case of serving Public Officers, date of first appointment, present post, salary scale and date of appointment thereto.
- In case of applicants from Parastatal or Private Sector Organisations, please provide a statement of current Salary (either per month or per annum).

IMPORTANT:
- All applications from serving Public Officers should be routed through their Permanent Secretaries (Accounting Officers). Applications not so routed will not be considered.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be responded to. Emailed or faxed applications will not be considered.

Applicants should be addressed to:
Secretary
Independent Electoral Commission
P/Bag 00284
Gaborone
OR
Hand delivered to:
Independent Electoral Commission
Record Management Unit, 2nd floor, Office No. 213
Plot 75739, Setlhoa, Block 10 Gaborone

Closing Date: 21st AUGUST 2024
Got fetola dikakanyo go ka fetlha meberekgo

Ka Catherine Simane

TSABONG

Go fetola dikakanyo le maikhalo go ka sololela lefatshe leno mosola ka go tlhama ditiro. Ke ka moo banni ba Tsabong ba neng ba thulanya ditilio go sekaseka gore ba ka fetola dikakanyo jang go le tsolosa dikgwebo tse dipotlana.

Molomanganya ditlho re Motseta Chwele kwa go dipotlana ya Moshupa. Ke ka moo banni ba neng ba thulanya ditilio go sekaseka gore ba ka fetola dikakanyo jang go le tsolosa dikgwebo tse dipotlana.

Ka Naomi Leepile

MOSHUPA - Bagwebi ba dijo mgo kalongol ya Moshupa ba gatsete bothloukwa jwa go tselela ditshupong tse di go tshwari gwebo tse ditlho ya ngwama mora ba ditlho ya ngwaga o ditlho ya ngwaga.

Gatsete bothloukwa jwa go tselela ditshupong tse di go tshwari gwebo tse ditlho ya ngwaga. Ke ka moo banni ba neng ba thulanya ditilio go sekaseka gore ba ka fetola dikakanyo jang go le tsolosa dikgwebo tse dipotlana.

Ka Naomi Leepile

Thoroughbred.

Western by Pass go tswa 200m la Thoroughbred kwa ditshupong tse temo-thu tse di neng di tsweerwe ka Moshupa ka Mathlhatso. Western by Pass go tswe 200m la Thoroughbred kwa ditshupong tse temo-thu tse di neng di tsweerwe ka Moshupa ka Mathlhatso.

TO PLACE

365 3591 • 365 3620

ADS
By Lechedzani Morapedi

MABESEKWA - The recent coronation of Ms Gorata Sego as Miss RADP 2023, a coveted title in the community development sphere, was a testament to her unwavering commitment to uplifting the marginalised, especially the Basarwa, who are often the target of hurtful stereotypes.

For the Mabesekwa born beauty queen, the road to success was marked with challenges, but her determination was a beacon of hope that lit the way.

Beneath Ms Sego's cheerful disposition lay a spirit that refused to bow down to the limitations imposed by preconceived notions.

Her journey to breaking barriers began with a simple, but profound realisation that her people were more than just the tired tropes of the past.

Ms Sego declared, her voice resonating with pride: “We are a people with a rich history, a vibrant culture, and a hunger for progress. The idea that we are lazy, that we do not care about government assistance programmes is simply untrue.”

She asserted that Basarwa should not be defined by their past, but their potential.

“With the grant, I bought 40 goats and to date there are 78 of them and have already sold 10 to patch here and there whilst at the same time saving to repay the loan part,” she added.

She also bought 10 sheep and three cattle as a way of diversifying her farming business, which she nurtured with the same tender care she would give to a fragile sprout.

Under her watchful eye, they multiplied, her flock growing with each passing year, mirroring the growth of her ambition and determination.

When Ms Sego got rejected in 2021 when she had applied for the Youth Development Fund (YDF), she did not despair. She shouldered on until 2023 when she got funded.

She enrolled with Botswana Red Cross Entrepreneurship course, which helped to enlighten her on the application process.

Ms Sego noted that her farming business was performing well though drought proved to be a challenge.

She said that she was forced to buy feeds for the goats and milk some to feed the kids as some of the mothers did not produce enough milk.

...TO PAGE 13
FRANCISTOWN - Young people are a significant lot with an important role to play in shaping the future of Botswana. This is a demographic group with the energy and creativity that could turn the country’s economic tide. It is for this reason that government has engineered various platforms, services, and products to support their development.

Such include skills training programmes, mentorship opportunities, career guidance services, recreational and leisure services, financial awareness and access to funding for small business ventures.

Others include health facilities offering reproductive health education and services tailor made for young people’s needs.

These initiatives are designed to equip young Batswana with the necessary tools and resources to succeed in today’s competitive world.

Efforts to build business acumen amongst young people are continuing to bear fruit across the country, according to Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, principal programmes officer, Mr Benjamin Rankosha.

He said the ministry had over the years provided business support to youth businesses through Local Enterprise Authority and business consultants, to improve sustainability and growth of youth businesses.

“Several partnerships have been entered into for upskilling youth business start-ups and those already operating,” said Mr Rankosha.

He credited the Youth Development Fund (YDF) for its positive effect in empowering youth entrepreneurs and creating employment for young people, to cushion them against poverty.

“This is evidently reflected in the third Edition of the YDF masterlist, 2021-2022, where 8 972 males and 5 857 females were employed by YDF beneficiaries, a development that has brought changes in their socio-economic status,” said Mr Rankosha.

Mr Rankosha said during the verification exercise of the Top 100 YDF selected successful businesses, it came to light that the programme had been impactful in the lives of beneficiaries as evidenced by majority of businesses that were sustainable beyond grace period and completed servicing the loan.

Among the Top 100 YDF successful businesses, those who indicated annual profit making of P50 000 and above accounted for 52 per cent. Mr Rankosha said, also stating that 59 per cent managed to diversify their businesses and acquired major assets such as property, machinery and other equipment through the fund. BOPA
Botswana Moves Forward

YDF fulfils dream

By Kehumile Moekejo

JWANENG - Serowe-born Kefilwe Mhiti is one young person who appreciates the Youth Development Fund (YDF) for contributing towards not only unearthing her talent, but also creating the much-needed employment opportunities for fellow youths.

A resident of Jwaneng’s Unit 6, she reminisces about her upbringing in the same neighbourhood where she now operates Kefvas Hair Salon from her mother’s residence. Like any average child going through formal education, it never occurred to her that one day she would be operating her own business as compared to the usual nine to five job, which is common among her peers.

However, as fate would have it, the 29-year-old found herself jobless after completing her AAT certificate from Botswana Accountancy College (BAC) in 2016. Her passion and talent for hair plaiting was ignited thereafter, which she used to augment the salary she got from doing temporary jobs with the contractors engaged by Jwaneng Mine.

“I am just a self-taught hair braider. I used to do house calls to braid people’s hair, and over time my clientele base grew and my craft improved,” explains Ms Mhiti in an interview.

The financial management skills she acquired from her tertiary studies helped her open a savings account, which she was dedicated and disciplined enough to use wisely.

Her desire to establish a fully-fledged business motivated her to never lose focus, until she applied for the Youth Development Fund (YDF) in 2020. Her passion and talent for hair plaiting was ignited thereafter, which she used to augment the salary she got from doing temporary jobs with the contractors engaged by Jwaneng Mine.

“I am just a self-taught hair braider. I used to do house calls to braid people’s hair, and over time my clientele base grew and my craft improved,” explains Ms Mhiti in an interview.

The modern, elegant-looking structure that sits at the front of the yard was officially opened in March, after a tedious process of licensing from the council. She is however grateful that she is not subjected to exorbitant rentals that have diminished the dreams of many around Jwaneng. A staunch Christian, Ms Mhiti is also fulfilled that she has managed to create employment for four fellow youths, who operate through the rent-a-chair system.

Even though she says her business is work in progress, she can already see a brighter future emanating from her hard work, and intends to start repaying the loan this year.

Her long-term plans include opening branches in different parts of the country, as well as establishing a beauty academy where she can share skills with like-minded youths.

“I am currently on a self-empowerment journey and I have since been trained and certified on doing nails and make-up. I also plan to broaden my skills on various hairstyles to keep up with emerging trends in the market,” she says.

Nonetheless, Ms Mhiti acknowledges that operating a business at such a tender age is not smooth sailing, as she also has to wear many hats to keep it going.

She attributes her financial discipline to her upbringing, as well as the business management and record keeping skills she learnt from BAC.

She also realises that operating a hair business from a residential area comes with health implications, hence she maintains a clean environment at all times.

“Environmental health issues are a concern in hair business, but I am doing the best that I can to keep the salon and its surroundings clean. I also had to make an additional drain because the salon uses a lot of water, hence we had to separate it from the house,” explains Ms Mhiti.

Nonetheless, she appreciates government’s deliberate decision to allow citizens to establish small businesses from residential areas, albeit within local authority bye-laws and licensing procedures.

Ms Mhiti appreciates that she is able to maintain herself, contribute to the family finances as the first born of four siblings, as well as create the much-needed employment opportunities to other young people.

BOPA
BOBONONG - A maroon trunk-like corrugated iron house stands desolate as some remainder of what used to be a trusted refuge and or shelter that used to house Mr Gaongalele Maedza and his girlfriend at their Kgwatalala ploughing field and farm.

It is replaced by two concrete walled rooms standing a distant apart. The one on the left, a closest neighbour to the corrugated iron house, houses a shower room as part of the attachment.

Just a 9km’s length from the entrance of the yard, home to the farm houses, sits a 98 000-litre water reservoir that feeds from a pumped borehole a few metres into the ploughing field. Far south is the 10 panel solar plant that fires the borehole into filling the P50 000 worth reservoir.

On the west of the farm houses are multiple heads of cabbage readying for the market. About five thousand heads are planted in a 2 500 square metres and blossom freely and greenly under the sun.

Besides the northern block of cabbage is a barren block. Only drying leaves and some sprouting cabbage here and there. It is a reminiscent of the just sold 5 000 heads of the cruciferous vegetable.

Before planting the cabbage this year, Mr Maedza used to grow tomatoes, butternut, green pepper and some watermelon amongst others.

Unlike some young people his age who wallow in self-pity, others testing their mettle in some inconsequential youthful activities that renders them temporary gratification, Maedza plants and waters his dreams through horticultural farming.

For food was ever ready.

I have been planting and have harvested my produce, especially butternut, which I have been planting and have harvested three times before trying out cabbage,” says Mr Maedza, adding that the market for food was ever ready.

Mr Maedza at his farm located at Kgwatalala lands, along Sethophe-Bobonong road. He cut a niche in horticultural production and supplies schools, the informal retail sector and individuals in the Bobiwa area. Photos: Kgotsofalang Botsang

He will then focus on surviving without a loan as he seeks to expand gradually until he cultivates the whole five-hectare farm.

“Plans are afoot to plant over 60 000 heads of cabbage since it is a fast-moving product,” he said, adding that he would sow at intervals so that he keeps selling.

As a young man growing into the horticultural field, Mr Maedza advises other young people to apply for YDF in respect of enterprises they are passionate about. Again, Mr Maedza encourages those who can to also consider other related funding streams to further bolster their dreams.

While he taps on the power of social media to advertise his farming enterprise, Mr Maedza also lauds the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture for their continued referrals.

“The office also helps in marketing our products and they make us aware of various opportunities to exploit,” he said.

As a young man growing into the horticultural field, Mr Maedza advises that it could be dangerous to go around sourcing for too many pieces of advice, especially on the type of vegetables to grow.

As you benchmark you sometimes get some scary testimonials and opinions to the effect that you may end up ditching the idea altogether,” he said.

He encourages other young people to apply for YDF in respect of enterprises they are passionate about. Again, Mr Maedza encourages those who can to also consider other related funding streams to further bolster their dreams.

After being funded through YDF, Mr Maedza exploited the now defunct ISPAAD to erect the 98 000-litre reservoir at the cost of P50 000. He paid P25 000 whilst the government took care of the other half.

Mr Maedza advises that young people should spend their time at production areas to monitor their projects with ease and be hands-on.

Mr Maedza advises that young people should spend their time at production areas to monitor their projects with ease and be hands-on.
Miss RADP shatters stereotypes

FROM PAGE 9

“Miss RADP beauty pageant opened doors of success in my life,” she added. “It is a platform that gives birth to careers of many women who are quite influential leadership gurus.”

The 26-years-old and mother of one, who holds a Diploma in Fashion and Textile, said she liked costume, which course allowed her to explore her sense of fashion and strengthen her capabilities.

“I went to the competition intending to represent my rural village, Mabesekwa and I did exactly that. I was awarded P10000 cash prize and P70 000 directed to my farming project, which is about to commence,” added Ms Sego.

Ms Sego said she recently got awarded a 16-hectare field to help in running her project.

She added that the pageant’s goals and objectives were top-notch,” she pondered.

Bula is hardly ever without obstacles, he says in his creed that Batswana can do it on their own, “Young people should learn about things that do not bring physical features. “Competing was a trailblazing moment for me. I felt much empowered and like I was changing society standards”, said Ms Sego.

Since inception in 2013, as the brain child of former Mahalapye East legislator, Ms Botlogetsile Tsireletso, thousands young women have already participated in this event at settlement, sub-district and district levels.

The pageant has been getting better every year as evidenced by the gems that Miss RADP continued to unearth while the pageant’s goals and objectives had not changed.

Miss RADP is a gender empowerment initiative done under the auspices of the Affirmative Action Framework for remote area communities that was approved by Cabinet in July 2014. BOPA.

Buda’s pharmacy business: Obstacle punctuated success

By Mooketsi Mojalemetho

FRANCISTOWN - Success is hardly ever without obstacles, and only those who endure to the end triumph.

This ancient precept resonates perfectly with 36-year-old Mr Kaone Bula from Kgagadi in Tswapong.

Like many of his peers, Mr Bula burned the midnight oil to get education, but his vision to be self-employed, creating opportunities for others, and being able to extend a helping hand to the less privileged has always put him head and shoulders above the rest.

Mr Bula is an alumnus of the Gaborone Institute of Health Sciences, where he earned a three-year diploma in pharmacy technology from 2006 to 2009.

He did not stop there, as he was, eight year down the line, conferred with a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Health, which he did with IDM College in 2017.

Upon completion, the young technologist applied for a job at Tati River Clinic in Francistown, albeit for a short two-year stint in 2009.

He found it challenging to succeed and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati and become his own boss saw the lad resign the plum post of medication technician landed a job at Tati

He quit Living Waters and joined Medical Rescue Botswana before finally realising his long dream of starting his own business.

He credits his success to the P80 000 loan from the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, which provided a boost to procure more stock and supplies for the newly established venture and ensure its competitiveness with already established pharmacies in town.

Mr Bula’s venture into the pharmacy space is also anchored on his creed that Batswana can run big businesses just as their foreign counterparts, especially companies locals have shied away from undertaking for a long time.

“I wanted to come into that space and have an impact as a Motswana. My dream is to have a manufacturing or even a distribution business. Countries such as Zimbabwe and South Africa are doing it, and we also have what it takes as Batswana to manufacture our own medicines,” he said, adding that opportunities are abound.

The father of three co-directs his company with his wife and is currently running three pharmacies: two named Chidzanani in Francistown and the third one called Nata Pharmacy, a taxing 188 kilometres away in Nata - with more coming.

Pharmaceutical distribution space is the next avenue that Mr Bula will focus on before delving into manufacturing the same.

Currently, the company boasts 20 employees, including Mr Bula and wife.

His nuggets of wisdom to the youth and the general public is that people should not give up on life. In business, he says, one has to be persistent to master the tricks of the trade. “Young people should learn from the best, and in just a space of six months, they should be able to make it on their own,” he said.

Also, according to the youthful Bula, young people should desist from nagging and procrastinating about things that do not bring about desired results, as their lives are in their hands.

Budding Botswana entrepreneurs, he says in his parting shot, should not put all their eggs in one basket. They should also stop the desperation of wanting to amass a lot of money at once by engaging in different ventures.

The trick, he divulges, is to get established in one trade before starting another. BOPA.
Forbes Under 30 Summit provides an opportunity for youth entrepreneurs to learn from one another, build up their initiatives and also seek new avenues for job creation for fellow youth. It also inspires the youth to create commercially viable high-value products and services for the export market.

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

GABORONE - Three months following the last Forbes Under 30 Summit in Gaborone, some of the youth who had the opportunity to attend continue to sing praise and hail His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi for keeping his promises made during his inaugural address as the president in 2019. President Masisi had promised creation of meaningful and sustainable jobs through promotion of public private partnership with local and foreign investors in different key sectors as one of government’s key priorities.

"Young people are the hardest hit by unemployment, and to alleviate the challenge, I commit to prioritise job creation and other empowerment measures during my tenure" said President Masisi. One of the successful stories in this regard is the Forbes Under 30 Summit conducted in 2022 and the first of its kind in the country and the whole of Africa.

Over 600 of the world’s most elite entrepreneurs including 200 from Botswana attended the summit. Its return in 2024 leveraged the power of entrepreneurship to help define the 21st century, create and drive change, revolutionise business and make an impact in various entrepreneurial areas.

The Summit provided another opportunity for youth entrepreneurs to learn from one another, build their initiatives and also to seek new avenues for job creation for fellow youth. It was also to inspire the youth to create commercially viable high-value products and services aimed at the export market.

Some youths who attended the Forbes Under 30 Summit in Gaborone continue to praise His Excellency President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi (left) for fulfilling his promises made during his 2019 inaugural address. With him is Randall Lane, Forbes chief content officer.

Basiami said the summit was a logical step for her commitment towards innovation and growth. It was also an opportunity to network, gather insights and apply what she learnt to her business.

“The summit offered invaluable exposure to global trends, network opportunities and insights from industry professionals. This will undoubtedly empower me to broaden my business perspectives and strategies. I learnt about from some international entrepreneurs could be a stepping stone towards successful collaborations.” she said.

Co-founder partner at Pusoentsi Moreeng Legal, Mr Persival Moreeng said while lack of financing for start-ups remains an issue, some of the youth’s failure to turn their company ideas into reality has a detrimental influence.

However, he is hopeful that initiatives such as Forbes Under 30 Summit will put the youth in the right path towards execution, innovation and growth of their ideas, which will transform the narrative of some of the youth-owned businesses.

Chief executive officer of Tatsands Mining Services, Ms Sheri Gareikitse said she learnt that entrepreneurship was a journey in which one kept getting better through learning and experience. She said through the Summit, she learned that every business idea was achievable as long as one was determined.

“This is a commendable job for the government to have pulled such a Summit. I wish there could be an after summit support system to facilitate mentorship of locals by international industry players through business shadowing,” she said.

Chief public relations officer at the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Mr Fenny Letswili said the summit was one of government’s initiative intended to accord young Batswana entrepreneurs an opportunity to interact and benchmark from other international entrepreneurs.

He said this was also to enable them to play a role towards the economic diversification measures, to aid in transformation of the country to a high income status by 2036 as well as to set efforts to attain measures that supported prosperity for all citizens.

“The summit was an advantage that showcased Batswana entrepreneurs’ potential and positioned them well on the global market and also accorded them networking and possible collaboration means. We are hopeful to reap well from it all,” he said.

BOPA

Tatsands Mining Services CEO, Ms Sheri Gareikitse says she learnt that entrepreneurship is a journey in which one keeps getting better through experience and that every business idea is achievable through determination.
Youth embrace agribusiness as viable economic venture

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Government continues to champion agriculture as a sector that can uplift livelihoods, create sustainable employment and alleviate poverty. In line with this vision, government has introduced various agricultural schemes and opportunities aimed at encouraging Batswana to engage in agriculture. The strategic focus on agriculture is increasingly resonating with the youth, many of whom are beginning to recognise the sector’s potential as a source of job creation and economic empowerment. Instead of pursuing the scarce white-collar jobs, the young entrepreneurs are tapping into abundant opportunities within the agricultural industry.

One such entrepreneur is 39-year-old Kemo Begani from Shakawe, who has capitalized on her horticulture and agro-processing skills. Ms Begani views agriculture as a sector brimming with untapped potential for Botswana’s unemployed youth. She appreciates government’s efforts to make the farming industry more dynamic and attractive by promoting the use of modern technologies, climate-smart practices and sustainable farming methods.

She calls upon her peers to capitalise on government schemes to establish their agricultural enterprises and achieve self-employment. Ms Begani also highlights the impact of the recent import ban on certain agricultural products, noting that the policy had spurred a surge in commercial farming activities, particularly among young people. She commends government for its proactive efforts in building resilience in food supply chains and fostering a reliable domestic production system, which is key to improving food security and self-sufficiency.

However, Ms Begani believes that success in today’s agribusiness landscape requires a shift in mindset among the youth. She notes that many young people are still entrenched in the traditional pursuit of white-collar jobs instead of embracing the entrepreneurial spirit, risk-taking and innovation that agriculture demands. Reflecting on her journey into farming, Ms Begani admits that the decision to leave her full-time job as a senior administrator at Botho University in Francistown was not easy. However, she was inspired by her husband’s passion for farming and his belief in its profitability and sustainability. Together, they relocated to Shakawe in 2020 to fully immerse themselves in horticulture and agro-processing.

Ms Begani says is key to improving food security and self-sufficiency. Photos: Esther Mmolai

Ms Begani expresses her gratitude for the renewable energy equipment she received through the project, noting that its significant impact on reducing environmental emissions. She has also opened her farm to schoolchildren and aspiring entrepreneurs, providing demonstrations on the benefits of solar energy products.

Ms Begani urges the youth to embrace agribusiness, highlighting the vast opportunities it presents for economic growth and self-reliance. As she continues to expand her enterprise, she remains a shining example of how determination, innovation and a shift in mindset can unlock the potential of Botswana’s agricultural sector.
LETlhAKENG - Golden Faith day care and preschool is a dividend of hard work and resilience for 35-year-old Ms Wame Matsime.

Born and raised in Kanye, Matsime was left an orphan when she lost her parents at the age of 5.

“I was raised by my mum’s friend, Ms Bushe Masu until completion of school. She gave me the opportunity to live a decent life.”

Despite being a victim of circumstances, through her enduring power of hope, Ms Matsime survived all odds until she saw light at the end of the tunnel.

It was 2018 when Ms Matsime was fresh from attaining a Diploma in Accounting from Gaborone Institute of Professional Studies (GIPS) when she sought to pursue further studies and she approached a certain Mr Abdullah to help facilitate her to go and study abroad.

“His advice was that there would always be a window to study further while I am still operating a business.”

She heeded Mr Abdullah’s advice and decided to venture into preschool day care in Kanye, but the savings from tertiary school that she used to finance her business by buying equipment for preschool were not enough.

She said it was Mr Abdullah again who came to rescue by helping her to buy some equipment for preschool and paid rent for three months. “That was the grace of God.”

Unfortunately, the place she rented failed to meet the set council requirements for a preschool and all the rental money and expenses for renovations went down the drain.

She said she then learned that there was a home suitable for preschool in Letlhakeng that she could rent and she embarked on a journey to see the place and meet the owner. The rest is history.

She went back again to Abdullah to ask for help and she helped her by paying rent for three months and financed renovation of the place.

The preschool operation started in 2019 with five pupils and one employee, who was a teacher and a cleaner at the same time, while Ms Matsime was manning administrative affairs and the kitchen.

“We would go around the village distributing flyers, which really helped as we came from five to 10 pupils, then from 19 to 25 pupils until we reached 38 and more employees were hired.”

In 2020, the same year that her proposal was funded through the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture, COVID-19 struck and her business was not spared.

She was forced to close shop for a year even though her business was funded with 98 000 through Youth Development Fund.

As lessons resumed a year later, she said the school had nine pupils and some employees decided to abandon her and stand on their own. Thus they poached some pupils from her preschool as they had a database of all contacts.

The Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture funding, she said gave her business a face lift as she managed to buy five computers and 30 modern tables, while the other portion was used for administrative matters.

The fund, she said, helped her to offer services that are not offered by her competitors especially the mostly sought after skills in information technology.

She says plans to build a swimming pool and introduce swimming lessons are at an advanced stage.

She said now the school has 43 pupils with a staff complement of seven employees. Golden faith day care, located at Modimo ward in Letlhakeng admits pupils from the age of two to six years.

Matsime said lack of own plot made it difficult to expand and avoid rentals.

She also explains that some parents claim that there are some government primary schools in Letlhakeng that do not admit children coming straight from private preschool.

They say they are therefore compelled to take their children to spend at least a year at public preschool before being admitted to Standard One, which negatively affects her business.

Golden Faith day care and preschool, located at Modimo Ward in Letlhakeng, admits pupils from the age of two to six years.

Matsime describes Golden Faith day care and preschool as the result of hard work and resilience.

Golden Faith epitome of endurance, power of hope

By Mothusi Galekhutle

Photos: Mothusi Galekhutle
Kapinda urges mindset change in farming

By Kedirelofo Pelonente

SERONGA - Residents of Okavango have been urged to adopt mindset change with regards to agriculture.

Speaking at the Mindset Change Campaign one year anniversary commemoration in Seronga recently, Okavango MP, Mr Kenny Kapinda challenged residents to embrace mechanised farming and do away with donkey draught ploughing which was labour intensive and resulted in lower yields.

Mr Kapinda said mechanised farming was the main source of income for the people of Okavango hence they should value their cattle to get better rewards by selling to the Botswana Meat Commission.

Mr Kapinda advised residents to apply for agricultural programmes such as Temo Letlofo and Thuo Letlofo to improve their farming.

Still on Mindset Change Campaign, Mr Kapinda warned people of Okavango to desist from selling their land.

He said Okavango District had rich land envyted by many hence they should protect their land as it was their great asset and wealth.

He further advised people not to lose their land easily but rather do land valuation if forced by circumstances to sell their property.

A youth representative, Mr Seetso Maenze imploded fellow young people to adopt a positive mindset change to improve their lives.

Mr Maenze said he embraced mindset change and applied funding from Youth Development and Fund, adding that the financial boost helped him to create employment for himself and other people after struggling with unemployment for six years.

A representative of People with Disability, Mr Ndara Die appealed to members of the community to desist from shunning people with disabilities in their families.

He said people with disabilities were also capable of contributing to their communities positively.

Mindset change critical in country transformation - Kgafela

By Mmoinemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - As the country was moving from middle to high income status, Batswana have been urged to ramp up the national change agenda under the National Mindset Change banner.

Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Mmusi Kgafela said during the Mindset Change Campaign one year anniversary commemoration in Mochudi that it was imperative to embrace change.

He said there was need to promote positive self-value in every little task, drive culture of excellence and be in control of all productive economic activities.

In that regard he said the imposed ban on agricultural imports should no longer be imposed by the ministry, but the production of products should create the need not to import.

Mr Kgafela urged Batswana to work hard and be in the forefront of the country’s economic activities and excel in the businesses reserved for them.

He said agricultural products should be good enough to appeal to the local market, rather than importing products available locally.

He regretted that although measures of introducing ban were not meant to protect nascent industries and promote economic self-sufficiency, the move to some extent was not healthy for regional trade protocols.

“As a trade minister I should not be doing that because we have trading partners in the region and are looking to benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area. We need to take control of our own market and be self-sufficient,” he said.

Therefore, urged Batswana work hard to improve their livelihoods, and reduce dependency on imports.

Kgatleng District Commissioner, Ms Kolobetso Sejakgomo said Kgafela made progress in Mindset Change activities, but noted that more still needed to done.

She encouraged Bakgatlwa to use the day to reflect on the achievements and share ideas on that could energise them.

Kgosi Mpho Pone said the Mindset Change Campaign was impactful as evidenced by how some people carried themselves.
2 FARM WORKERS wanted by Aaron Johannes Po Box 40 Ghanzi call: 759846.

FARM WORKER wanted. Mpho Klooselt.SeTse.Lands Box 80 734 Gaborone 73000527

3 FARM WORKERS wanted at Gakuto lands. Apply to Johnson Maswabi at Box 548 Gabane

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNER OF PLOT 1461, White City, Gaborone wishes to change land of use from residential to multi-residential. For any objections contact Gaborone City Council Physical Planning Office on Telephone No: 3657400 within fourteen (14) days of this publication notice.

OWNERSHIP NOTIFIED

OWNERS OF PLOT no: 1952, Mahalapye -FLOWERTOWN wishes to inform neighbours of the intention to erect a boundary wall. Any objection contact Mahalapye physical planning office at 4718600, within 14 days of this publication.

APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has applied for a BAR Licence in terms of section 13 of the Liquor Act (Cap. 43: 11) in respect of the premises situated at PITSANE PHOTOLORE and the Liquor Control Authority has determined that the application shall be heard by Liquor Control Authority on the 13th day of August 2024. Any person who wishes to object to the grant of the licence should within twenty-one (21) days of the last publication of this notice, give notice in writing to the Liquor Control Authority at the above address so that the said ground on which his/her objection is based.

Change of Ownership

Notice for change of ownership No: 1952,within 14 working days.

TO PLACE ADS

365 3592 • 365 3591

Available to public auction shall be deemed to be in accordance with the following conditions of auction:

1. A public auction shall take place at the place and time stated in the Auction Data.

2. The Auctioneer will be an officer assigned by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Public Works.

3. A bid made at a public auction shall be deemed to be in accordance with the following conditions of auction:

4. After each successful bid, the Auctioneers will collect the bidding card relating to the lot(s) sold from the successful bidder and will show it to all the bidders present, unless otherwise stated in the Auction Data.

5. The Auctioneers reserve the right to withdraw any lots from the auction at any time before the completion of the auction.

6. The successful bidder shall not be allowed to inspect any part of the lot at any time after the auction except by arrangement with the Estate Administrator or the Auctioneers.

7. The auctioneer shall be an officer assigned by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Public Works.

8. The auction shall be conducted in the language of the community in which the auction is taking place.

9. The auctioneer shall announce the sale of lots in the community language in which the auction is taking place.

10. The auctioneer shall be responsible for the accuracy of the lot numbers and the descriptions of the lots and shall not be liable for any errors or omissions.

About the job

Medical Sales Representative (ORTHOPEDIC) - Botswana

The Company is based in Gaborone and Francistown is recruiting a Medical Sales Representative to introduce, promote, and actually sell the company’s products to the public and private sector. The ideal candidate must have at least 3 years of experience in the sales of orthopedic/medical sales and must hold a Diploma/Qualification in theater nursing.

To apply please send your CV and supporting documents to employmenth@gmail.com
NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETING FOR THE LATE EMILY CHIPO SALLY RUHUUKWA -
EMILY CHIPO SALLY RUHUUKWA

IN PURSUANCE of Section 31 of the Administration of the Estates Act (Cap 31:03) the heirs and Next of Kin of the deceased persons specified above are hereby invited to attend a Next of Kin meeting on the 19th day of September 2024 at 10:30 hours before Thato L. Dibebela at the Master’s Office, Gaborsone High Court Building.

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

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Masters Reference: ESHEB-000061223

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MRS RUTH BONTLE RABALAGO...noticed to file their claims and pay their debts to the undersigned within thirty (30) days from the date of the last publication hereof.

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

DATED at …… on the …… day of …… 2024

Thato L. Dibeela

Gaborsone High Court Building

PLOT 54513, THE COURT YARD, UNIT 4A, VILLAGE (RIVER WALK), RASETSHWANE ATTORNEYS

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Masters Reference: ESHEB-000537/22

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MRS RUTH BONTLE RABALAGO…on this …… day of …… 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that debtors and creditors in the above estate are hereby required to file their debts and their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days from the last day of publication hereof.

DATED at GABORONE ON THIS 07TH DAY OF AUGUST 2024

THE EXECUTOR

(Wife, K.D Rodgers, C/O)

RASESHWEANE ATTORNEYS

Plot 154/13, THE COURT YARD, Unit 40, Village (River Walk)

P.O Box 6094, G-West - GABORONE

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION | De-bushing and Land Preparation

Issue Date: 19 August 2024 | Closing Date: 23 August 2024 | Time: 1600HRS

1.0 Background:
Milk Afric (Pty) Ltd (“Milk Afric”) is seeking experienced and competent Contractor to de-bush land clear and land prepare for ploughing purposes approximately 50 hectare land across the farm located at Lot 1 Boswelatlou Lobatse.

2.0 Detailed Scope of Work
Milk Afric requires the services and expertise of a contractor to clear the bush and prepare land approximately 50 hectares.

- To-de-bush approximately 50 hectares
- To land prepare for ploughing approximately 50 hectares
- To cultivate the land in preparation for planting

To spread the available chicken manure to be used as fertilised across all tillable land

3.0 Summary of the Project
Milk Afric is looking to produce feed of its own to feed the cattle across the different tillable land. This will assist the farm to meeting nutritional requirements as well as reduce feed costs.

4.0 Information Requirements

Information required to accompany the quotations:
- Company profile and statutory documentation from CIPA.
- List of previous projects undertaken.
- Proposed timelines to undertake the project.
- List of Team including their profiles to be utilised to carry out the project.
- Ability to commence the project on the week commencing 2nd September 2024.

5.0 Submission:
Quotations and supporting documents should be sent to info@addmath.net with a subject ‘Request for Bush Clearing and Land preparation for Ploughing’, not later than 23/08/2024 at 1600hrs CAT.

All questions and queries should be addressed to Davison Charamba at info@addmath.net on Telephone +267 74329289.

Late submissions shall not be considered.

6.0 Evaluation Criteria and Weightings

1. Compliance Requirements

a. All responses that do not meet the compliance requirements shall be disqualified and will not be considered for further evaluation on the technical requirements.

- Certificate of Incorporation
- CIPA Extract
- PPADB registration for Code 303 Civil Engineering Services – Sub Code 03(Infrastructure)
- Tax Clearance Certificate or Exemption thereof

2. Technical Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>I. Pricing</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Timelines</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>III. Proven track record</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>IV. Ability to start the exercise at the earliest time</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Tenderers, who score at least 80% in the Technical Requirements, shall be recommended for the Financial Evaluation.

a. The criteria for evaluating financials will be based on the lowest proposed cost.
INDUSTRIAL COURT

VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 2 OF 2024

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

1. VACANCY: JUDGE OF THE INDUSTRIAL COURT OF BOTSWANA TENABLE IN MAUN (1 POST)

The Industrial Court invites suitably qualified citizens to apply for the post of Judge of the Industrial Court.

Salary scale: F5 (P789,396.00) per annum

Leave: 30 Working days per annum

Benefits:
- Free furnished residential accommodation OR a housing allowance of P13,905/month where there is no official residence provided.
- 90% subsidy for utilities
- Optional Contributory Medical Aid Scheme. (Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%).
- 35% scarce skills allowance
- 15% overtime allowance
- Non-contributory pension
- Robing allowance at P309.00 per month
- Entertainment allowance at P13,589.70 per annum.
- Cellphone and 90% subsidy on cellphone bill
- Chauffer driven motor vehicle.

Qualifications:
To qualify for appointment, the applicant is required by Section 15 (1) of the Trade Disputes Act read with Section 96(2) of the Constitution to:
- Hold or must have held office, as judge of a court having unlimited jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in Botswana, in a commonwealth country or in any country outside the commonwealth which may be prescribed by Parliament or a court having jurisdiction in appeals from such a court; or
- Be qualified to practice as an advocate or attorney in such a court and has been qualified for not less than ten years to practice as an advocate or attorney in such a court.
- Be qualified to practice as an advocate or attorney and has had experience in the teaching of law in a recognised university for not less than ten years.
- Be a chief magistrate who has held that office for not less than five years.
- In addition, a candidate must have intellectual and analytic ability, sound judgment, decisiveness, communication and listening skills, integrity and independence, maturity and sound temperament. Exposure to Trade Disputes resolution or labour law practice is an added advantage.

Main purpose of the Job:
The main duties of a Judge shall include the following:
- Presiding over all labour cases, including appeals from Mediators and Arbitrators
- Hearing all applications brought before the court for determination of any issue, including urgent applications; and
- Any other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Judge President of the Court or His Excellency President of the Republic of Botswana.

2. VACANCY: ASSISTANT REGISTRAR - INDUSTRIAL COURT OF BOTSWANA TENABLE IN GABORONE (1 POST)

Salary scale: E1 (P449 256-P467 436 per annum)

Leave rate: 30 working days per annum

Benefits:
- Optional contributory Medical Aid Scheme (Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%)
- 35% scarce skills allowance
- 15% overtime allowance
- Housing and Upkeep allowance of 2% of Basic Salary
- A contract of 24-36 months with gratuity payable at the rate of 30% upon the expiration of the contract.

Qualifications:
To be considered for appointment, applicants must have at least Bachelor's Degree in Law, complemented by twelve (12) years post qualification experience. A relevant Master's Degree would be an added advantage.

Experience:
Applicants should have served at E1 salary scale in the Public Service or an equivalent position in a Parastatal or Private Organisation for a minimum of two (2) years.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB
Assist in the management and coordination of Industrial Court operations.

CORE DUTIES:
POLICY
- Advises the Registrar on judicial rules, practice and procedures for speedy and affordable resolutions of labour disputes.
- Initiates and facilitates the development and review of policies and procedures for the management of the operations of the Industrial Court.
- Administrates the conditions of service of the Judges of the Industrial Court.

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION
- Implements provisions and regulations of various employment related Acts in accordance with decisions passed by the Court, and facilitates the review and amendment thereof as and when necessary.
- Coordinates the management of court records which include among others: preparation of documents to be included in the court records for onward transmission to the Court of Appeal, filing of pleadings, enrolment of cases for hearing or default judgments, indexing of the Industrial Court rulings and judgments and preparation of relevant documents for assessors and witnesses.
- Facilitates the Court's weekly Circuit Court sessions
- Provides advice and guidance on matters of labour law and Industrial Court procedures to government departments, attorneys, litigants and the general public.
- Coordinates Industrial Court programmes of administering justice throughout Botswana.

ADMINISTRATIVE
- Prepares and submits draft annual recurrent and development estimates to the Registrar for approval.
- Drafts annual performance plans and monitor their implementation
- Assists in the management of human resources; finance and accounts; materials and supplies; and performance improvement function of the Industrial Court.
- Develops strategies for the implementation of government policies

KEY COMPETENCIES
- Deciding and Initiating Action
- Leading and Supervising
- Working with People
- Adhering to Principles and Values
- Managing Vision and Purpose
- Persuading and Influencing
- Analyzing
- Formulating Strategies and Concepts
- Adapting and Responding to Change

Important
Applications should be addressed to:
The Judge President
Industrial Court
Private Bag BR 267 GABORONE

For further information required, please contact Mrs. Charlotte Molapisi (Tel: 365 9327/379) or email bmothobi@gov.bw

Closing date: 30 August 2024
SIMULTANEOUS GROUNDBREAKING OF 28 POLICE STATIONS & STAFF HOUSING

THEME: Fostering Safer Communities Through Enhanced Police Accessibility

Date: 20th August 2024
Venue: GICC
Time: 0900 hrs

Live on Botswana Police Service Facebook page

Key Note Address By
His Excellency, Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi
By Aobakwe Molefhi

MOSHUPA - Twelve contestants who took part in Miss Moshupa District Agriculture Show Pageant have been encouraged to use their talent and contribute meaningfully to their communities. They were advised to be mindful that the youth especially, looked up to the winner as their role model.

Her Excellency First Lady Ms Neo Masisi said this on Friday during the pageant.

Add value to the next person’s life, forming foundations where you could help the needy, Ms Masisi said.

She encouraged the contestants to allow their authenticity to redefine the standards of traditional beauty and reminded all that outer beauty faded with time.

The First Lady said that the good works that the contestants did for the society would last and have a wider reach.

Godirao Kgautlhe emerged the fairest of them all, while first and second princess sashes went to Mighty Morwaagole and Koketso Baipedi respectively.

Outgoing queen Mosa Balesamang encouraged the winners to work well with the pageants organisers, them to carry out their duties with ease and be role models to the pageant’s future aspirants.

Patrons were treated to entertainment by Khoi San and there was also a fashion show where models strut their stuff dressed by local designers. BOPA
Local companies reward athletes

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Debswana, De Beers Global Sight holder Sales and Diamond Trading Company Botswana collectively donated a package of over P2 million to each member of Team Botswana.

All 14 athletes, who represented the country at the just ended Paris 2024 Olympic Games, each received a polished diamond to each member of the technical team each received the treasured stone, a Botswana flag lapel pin studded with diamonds and P60 000.

Speaking during an appreciation ceremony Friday in Gaborone, Debswana managing director, Andrew Motsomi said preparations for 2028 Olympic games to be held in Los Angeles should start now.

“Los Angeles 2028 is just around the corner. We must not allow the standard we’ve set to drop.

Our collective preparation for LA 2028 must begin now,” he said and encouraged the private sector to not only consider but prioritise investing in sport as a powerful enabler for the sustainable socio-economic development of the nation.

Motsomi also pleaded with policymakers and key stakeholders to continue to create a conducive environment that encouraged children and youth to actively participate in sport from a tender age.

“As Debswana, we’ve done our part by sponsoring the Re Ba Bona Ha grassroots sport development programme with a total of P6 million between 2022 and 2024. But these efforts will be in vain without the support and involvement of other stakeholders,” said Motsomi.

In 2022 when Debswana committed P9 million to Botswana Athletics Association, Motsomi said their vision was to deliver athletes for Paris 2024 Olympics and bring home medals that would make every Motswana’s heart swell with pride.

“Today, that vision has been realised in the most spectacular way. We are here to honour 14 of our finest, Botswana’s Olympians, who competed with unmatched zeal and brought home unprecedented glory,” he said.

He however, advised that investment in sport must be anchored in strong governance and regular monitoring and evaluation, to ensure a win-win for all parties involved.

Sharing with the audience about his 200 metre final race, Letsile Tebogo said during the introduction of athletes he did not know what to do and he remembered Chelsea player, Cole Palmer who always celebrated by rubbing his arms as though he was cold.

“Palmer is a very good, that’s why he immediately came to my mind and he is my favourite player,” he said.

Tebogo said he would never forget some lady from the crowd who kept calling out Noah’s name.

“We were eight on the track, at least she should have also called out others.

Well, I took a deep breath, and at the back of my mind I knew I had won against Noah Lyles in the semi-finals, and I just assumed that he was not his normal self, and capitalised on that,” he said.

Meanwhile, Orange Botswana rewarded Tebogo, who is their brand ambassador with P500 000.

Tebogo’s personal coach, Dose Moseimanyane was also gifted P50 000, while the 4x400m relay team received P150 000.

The mobile operator had also supported Team Botswana with over P2 million before the Olympics and the company’s chief executive officer, Néné Maiga said just like the rest of the nation, they were proud of the athletes’ feat.

She said their partnership with the athlete was testament to their commitment of empowering young Batswana athletes and supporting Olympic Games, and their full potential, adding that the victory was not just a win for Tebogo but for the entire nation.

Maiga said the win would be celebrated by generation to come, in Botswana, Africa and the rest of the world.

Furthermore, she said Tebogo had set a new standard of excellence that would inspire other athletes in the country.

“And coach Dose you have shown us that with the right guidance, all athletes can reach the pinnacle of international competition,” Maiga said and also stated that the rewards were not only a celebration of success but a symbol of unwavering support for Botswana sport.

She said at Orange Botswana, they believed that greatness was achieved through a combination of talent, opportunity and support.

Republic of Botswana

NATIONAL CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CELEBRATE TEAM BOTSWANA’S OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AT THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

Gaborone, Botswana - In light of Team Botswana’s remarkable achievements at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, where the team clinched a Gold medal in the men’s 200m race and a Silver medal in the men’s 4x400m relay, the Government of Botswana proudly invites citizens and residents to come together in honouring these exceptional athletes by contributing rewards to our champions.

The historic victories not only highlight the immense talent and dedication of our athletes but also serve as a source of inspiration for many across the nation. In recognition of this momentous occasion, the Government has established a dedicated account with Botswana Savings Bank to facilitate financial contributions aimed at rewarding the outstanding performances of Team Botswana.

The public can deposit monetary contributions directly to;

**Botswana Savings Bank**

Account name: Paris 2024 Botswana Team

Branch code: 70

Account number: 709 0011 7918 001

For all electronic funds transfers, Botswana Savings Bank has accounts with the following banks where the public can make their contribution;

1. **ABSA**
   - Branch: Barclays House
   - Account name: Botswana Savings Bank Branch code: 290267
   - Account number: 080 7136 Reference: 70900117918001

2. **FNB Botswana**
   - Branch: Main Branch
   - Account name: Botswana Savings Bank Branch code: 281467
   - Account number: 622 7623 5358 Reference: 70900117918001

3. **Stanbic Bank**
   - Branch: Fairgrounds
   - Account name: Botswana Savings Bank Branch code: 064967
   - Account number: 906 00009 66490 Reference: 709 0011 7918 001

The public is advised to specify the recipient when depositing into the accounts, whether to an individual, or the team. Every contribution, big or small, will make a difference in supporting our athletes.

Contributions In-Kind

The Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) has been appointed to receive public pledges. The public can download the Pledge Form from BNSC website: [https://www.bnscc.co.bw](https://www.bnscc.co.bw) or contact Ms. Alema Maruping, at telephone number (+267) 367 4000, and email amaruping@bnsc.co.bw.

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Galaxy suffer CAF league loss

By Olekantse Sennamose

GABORONE - A solitary strike in the 5th minute of the first half courtesy of a Willie Stefanus header was enough to give Namibia champions, African Stars, the lead against Jwaneng Galaxy in the first leg of the CAF Champions League first preliminary round at the National Stadium on Saturday.

The game was played in Gaborone due to lack of a CAF accredited stadium in Namibia. Even though they were officially playing away, many were expecting Galaxy to benefit from the actual home ground, but the Samba Boys, as African Stars are fondly known, were the better side in the first half, ensuring to close any danger avenue by Galaxy.

They seemed to have done their homework well on Galaxy as they closed down danger man, Thabang Sesinyi for the better part of the game, ensuring he does not even sniff the final third.

In a post match interview, Galaxy coach, Morena Ramoreboli indicated that despite the loss, their performance was not that bad. “We are obviously disappointed with the result, but looking at the overall performance we were not that bad in all the areas of the game except the defense,” he said.

He indicated that going into the second leg, they would not need to fix much except in that area. “We were poor defensively and they ensured to take advantage of that and put us under pressure, but we will take the positive into the second leg in that we were better in the second half,” he said.

Ramoreboli said the game was still very much alive as Galaxy was experienced in coming from behind.

Even though he said he took a gamble by introducing about four of his new signings he was happy with the way they executed themselves.

Ramoreboli started Galaxy returnee, Benson Mangolo and introduced Onkabetse Makgatau, Olebogeng Ramote and Lesotho international, Neo Mokchane in the second half.

The winning coach, Ronnie Kanalelo said even though his side was good in the first half, they were let down by poor execution in the final third.

“We will need to be more precise in that area because we lacked the final punch, otherwise all the areas were fine,” he said.

Kanalelo said one key area they managed to overcome Galaxy with was closing down their wingers, forcing them into playing a short game.

“By closing their wingers, we forced them to try and penetrate us through the middle, which is not their strength. Nevertheless, they are a good side and have better and more experienced players in continental football,” he said.

The Samba Boys will remain in Gaborone to await the final leg.

Meanwhile, in the CAF Confederations Cup, Orapa United played to a one all-draw away to Forester FC of Mauritius. The goal was scored by Oarabile Sekwai.

Orapa United will host Forester FC for the second leg.

Orapa United will face either Dynamos FC of Zimbabwe or Zesco United of Zambia, if they progress to the second preliminary round.

Mangolo (right) battling it out with African Stars’ Paulus Audhibila during CAF Championship League encounter in Gaborone on Saturday. African Stars won 1-0. Photo: Gobotsang Lesego

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