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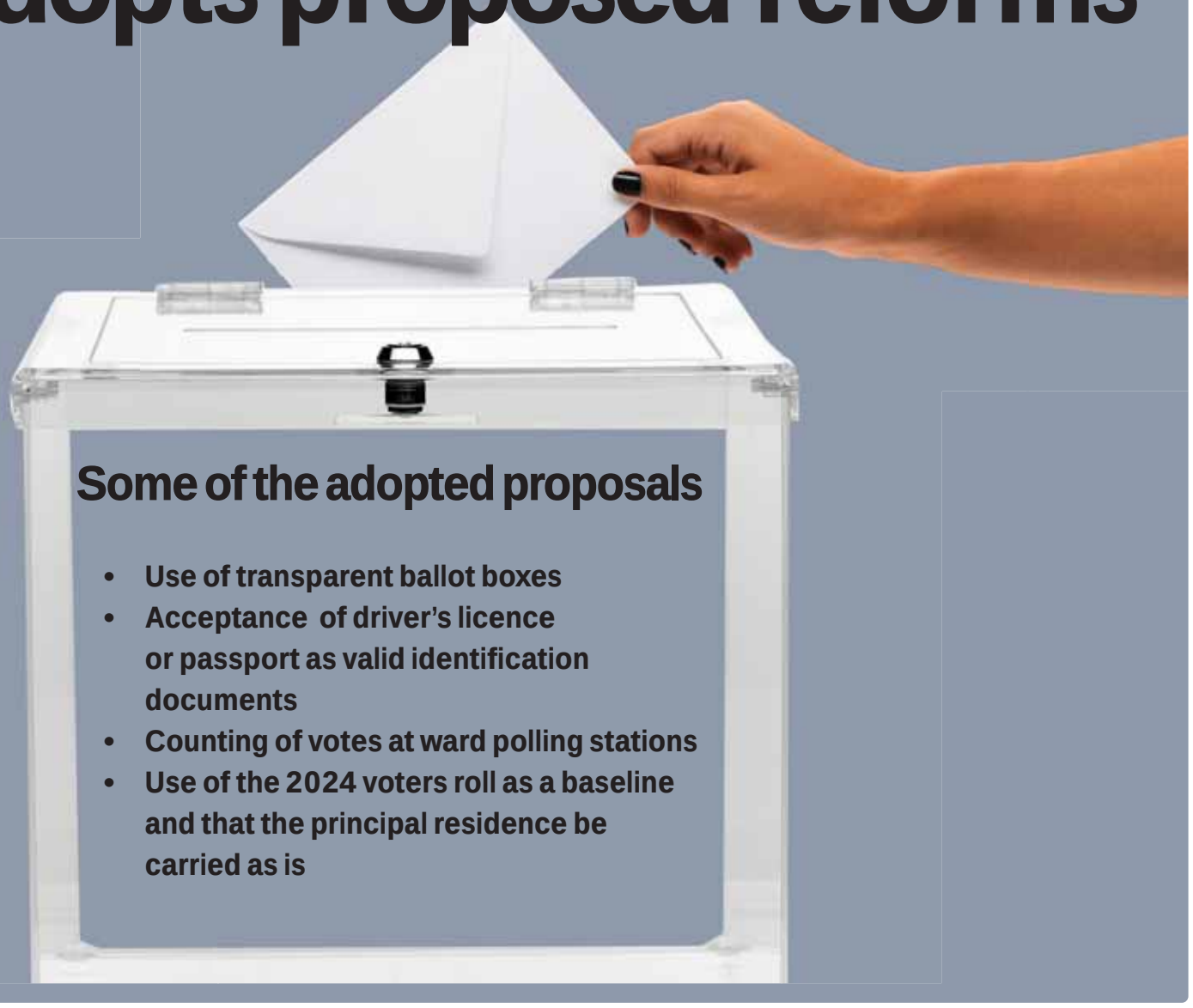

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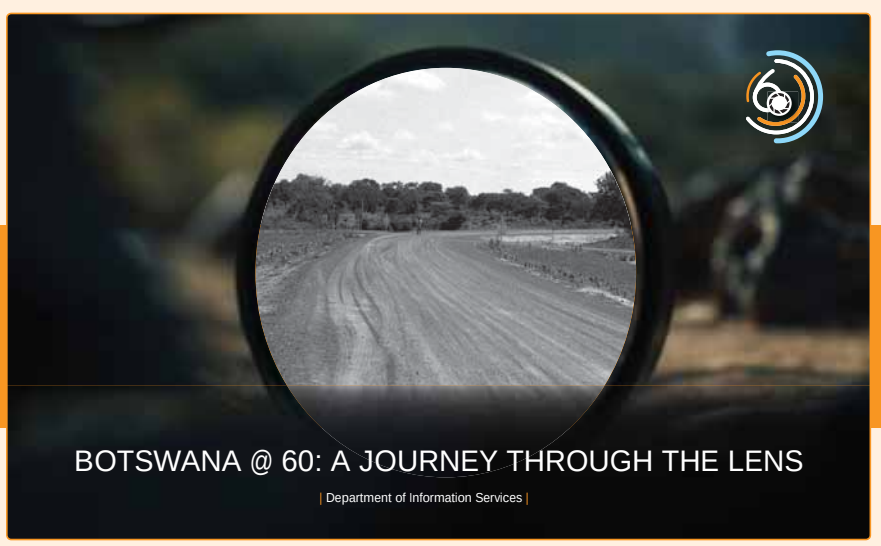

Diagnofirm campaign targets men over 45 years

Kelebogile Taolo
FRANCISTOWN

Diagnofirm 2026 prostate cancer campaign targets men aged 45 years and above who have not undergone a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test within the previous 12 months.

In an interview, Chief executive Officer and medical director of Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories (DML), Dr Mohammed Chand said the targeted age group was selected because the risk of prostate cancer increases with it.

He said International medical guidelines recommended that men at increased risk begin discussing prostate cancer screening with their healthcare providers from approximately 40 to 45 years of age, depending on individual risk factors.

"We have chosen the 12-month criterion to prioritise men who have not been tested to ensure that our campaign reaches as many eligible individuals as possible", he said emphasising that every man must have a PSA test annually.

PSA is a protein produced by the prostate gland, and its test measures its concentration in the blood. Family history, Dr Chand said is also key in assessing prostate cancer citing that men whose fathers or brothers had the disease especially at younger age, are at higher risk.



Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories Dr Mohammed Chand

As Botswana joins the rest of the world in commemorating Men's Health Awareness Month this November, Dr Chand urged to take proactive steps to protect their health and go for prostate cancer screening.

He said prostate cancer was one of the most common cancers affecting men worldwide and November is internationally dedicated to raising awareness on prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and other men's health issues.

The month, he said represented much more than an awareness campaign, it is an opportunity to encourage men to take proactive steps towards protecting their health.

"Awareness must translate into action and it is not enough to simply tell men about prostate cancer, but we should also make it easier for them to access healthcare services and make informed decisions about their health", he added.



> "The challenge with prostate cancer is that it frequently develops without any noticeable symptoms in its early stages and we need to change our approach to healthcare in Botswana. Rather than waiting for people to become ill before seeking help, we must encourage preventive healthcare, appropriate screening and early intervention"

Dr Chand further explained that prostate cancer developed when abnormal cells begin growing uncontrollably in the prostate gland, a small gland found in men that forms part of the reproductive system. While some prostate cancers grow slowly, he said others can be aggressive and spread to other parts of the body if not detected and treated appropriately.

However, according to Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN) 2022 estimates from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men in Botswana with approximately 159 new cases and 76 deaths estimated for that year.

Although, Dr Chand cautioned that those were estimates rather than confirmed national case counts emphasising that more complete and updated data is needed to accurately determine how quickly the disease is increasing. What concerns him particularly, he said is the broader issue of late cancer diagnosis in the country as last year February, the Ministry of Health highlighted that approximately 70 per cent of cancer cases were being diagnosed late.

According to Dr Chand, the statistics demonstrate a major challenge within the healthcare system highlighting that it was unfortunate as many men only seek medical assistance when they begin experiencing symptoms and by that stage, some cancers may already have progressed.

He attributed that to fear, lack of awareness, financial difficulties, cultural attitudes and the perception that if someone feels healthy, there is no reason to visit a doctor.

"The challenge with prostate cancer is that it frequently develops without any noticeable symptoms in its early stages and we need to change our approach to healthcare in Botswana. Rather than waiting for people to become ill before seeking help, we must encourage preventive healthcare, appropriate screening and early intervention".

Dr Chand further advised that early detection of clinically significant prostate cancer could make a tremendous difference to treatment options and patient outcomes.

One of the most important messages men should understand, he said that early prostate cancer often has no symptoms, and a man can feel perfectly healthy while changes are developing in the prostate.

However, he stated that there are some symptoms that should never be ignored citing difficulty in urination or a weak urine stream, frequent urination particularly at night, blood in the urine or semen, pain or discomfort during urination, persistent discomfort in the lower back, pelvis or hips, and unexplained weight loss or persistent bone pain which may be associated with more advanced disease.

Even though the symptoms do not necessarily mean someone has prostate cancer, Dr Chand said they could also be caused by other conditions such as an enlarged prostate or infection. ***BOPA***

Tati Town Clinic launches measles campaign

Eunice Mosupiemang
TATI TOWN

Tati Town Clinic has launched an integrated measles campaign aimed at boosting children's immunity against measles while raising awareness among parents about the importance of vaccination and other child health interventions.

The campaign, which runs from 16 to 20 November, 2026, also includes Vitamin A supplementation and deworming is targeting children aged between six and 59 months.

Speaking in an interview, Tati Town Clinic Registered Nurse, Ms Dineo Mangolo, said the measles-rubella vaccination campaign is intended to strengthen children's immunity, as some children might not develop sufficient protection after receiving the routine two doses administered at nine and 18 months.

"Even after receiving two doses, not every child is able to develop the level of immunity required. The third dose is therefore intended to boost their immunity and increase the number of children who are fully protected," she said.

Ms Mangolo said the campaign targeted children aged between nine and 59 months for the measles-rubella vaccine, while Vitamin A supplementation was for children aged six to 59 months. Deworming targets children aged 12 to 59 months. She said further that the clinic has set a weekly target of 270 children for the measles-rubella vaccine, 220 for deworming and fewer than 250 for Vitamin A supplementation.

> The measles-rubella vaccination campaign is intended to strengthen children's immunity, as some children might not develop sufficient protection after receiving the routine two doses administered at nine and 18 months.

Ms Mangolo said howeer that there are no confirmed measles cases in Tati Town and that the clinic has received most of the required supplies, including vaccines and vaccine carriers, adding that additional supplies were available to cater for children who might come from outside the area. Ms Mangolo said the campaign has started at the clinic in full throttle with plans to extend services to a nearby preschool in Tati Town this week.



Tatitown clinic registered nurse, Ms Dineo Mangolo (left) administering the 3rd dose of measle rubella vaccine to a child during the Integrated Measles Rubella Vaccination campaign launch in Francistown on Monday. Ms Mangolo said children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated while Vitamin A Supplement and Albendazole (deworming) were given to children aged 6-59 months and children aged 12-59 months respectively. The campaign ends tomorrow. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

She has therefore urged parents to bring their children's Child Welfare Clinic cards when visiting the clinic, noting that duplicate cards or copies issued by health facilities could also be used for documentation.

Addressing concerns about vaccine safety, Ms Mangolo assured parents that the vaccines were safe, although children could experience mild side effects such as fever, pain at the injection site, nausea, abdominal pain and vomiting, something she stated parents were informed about during vaccination.

Meanwhile, a parent, Ms Katlego July, said it was important for parents to respond whenever health officials called on them to bring their children for vaccination.

She said parents should understand that protecting children's health was their responsibility and should not wait until a child showed signs of illness before seeking preventive health services. "Parents should bring their children when they are advised to do so by health officials. They should know what is best for their children and not wait until the child starts showing signs and symptoms before taking action," she said.

Another parent, Ms Tiny Montsho, who brought her grandchild for vaccination, encouraged other parents and guardians to take advantage of the campaign, saying immunization helped protect children against diseases. ***BOPA***

All Party Conference adopts proposed reforms

Baleseng Batlotleng
GABORONE

Political parties have been applauded for their commendable progress on the proposed electoral reforms and the commitment they have shown in the process.

Speaking at the All Party Conference (APC) convened on Tuesday in Gaborone, Minister for State President, Defence and Security Mr Moeti Mohwasa said democracy in Botswana had lasted because at very critical moments political leaders had reasoned together across party lines and agreed on rules that governed how they competed.

He said at their first meeting in August, all registered political parties had come together and agreed to put forward proposed reforms to the Electoral Act.

Minister Mohwasa said they had agreed to prioritise reforms that did not require a constitutional amendment so that they could make meaningful progress within a realistic timeframe.

He said parties submitted their proposals as agreed and also agreed that a technical team be established to examine and refine the proposals.

"The technical team did that work. It consolidated the submissions into a single coherent set of proposed reforms, which were tabled before conference at our second meeting on 2 September 2026," he said.

"At that meeting, parties asked for more time to go back to their decision-making structures and to make further written submissions," he added.

Mr Mohwasa said since electoral reforms were not something any leader should commit to without the mandate of their party, hence the conference had agreed to allow parties to duly consult; after which the majority then made their submissions.

On the purpose of the conference convening again, he said that was meant to allow it to consider further submissions received from political parties on the consolidated reforms and to reach agreement on the proposed packaging of non-constitutional reforms.



Botswana National Front members, Dr Stephen Modise (left), Mr Moses Bantsi (centre) and Real Alternative Party member, Mr Clark Lerubisi at the third All Party Conference meeting on electoral reforms in Gaborone on Tuesday. Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said they had agreed to prioritise reforms that did not require a constitutional amendment so that they could make meaningful progress within a realistic timeframe. Photo: Felicity Male

Further, he said it convened to finally resolve that the finalised reforms be submitted to the Attorney General to draft the necessary amendments to the Electoral Act.

He said government, being deliberate and resolute about electoral reform, remained fully committed to the process.

"We will carry the outcome of this conference forward faithfully and without delay.

I thank the technical team for its work, the Secretary of the IEC and his officers for their support, and the officers of my ministry who have coordinated this process. Most of all, I thank the political parties for their patience, their contributions and their continued good faith," he said.

Political parties convened for the conference which seeks to provide a platform for dialogue, strengthen cooperation and address issues of national importance.

The gathering brought together different political voices to exchange views, seek common ground and explore possible solutions to the country's challenges. Some of the resolutions adopted after the conference were among others; the use of the 2024 voters roll as a baseline and that the principal residence be carried as is.

It was agreed that the driver's licence or passport system be interfaced with Omang and be used for voter registration and that political parties should be provided with access to the verified electronic voters roll.

The conference rejected the introduction of electronic voting and electronic counting of ballots and agreed that transparent ballot boxes be introduced. ***BOPA***

Green future for Gamodubu landfill

Booster Mogapi
GAMODUBU

Government plans to transform the overcapacity Gamodubu landfill into a green-energy and recycling hub and promises long-awaited relief to residents plagued by years of toxic smoke, fires and health hazards.

Addressing a kgotla meeting on Tuesday, Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, announced that the overhaul followed a benchmarking exercise at a recent waste management plant in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Minister Motshegwa revealed that a memorandum of agreement had already been reached to develop a modern waste management plant on-site to segregate waste and prevent future fire incidents.

He noted that the transformation would turn the facility into an economic hub and unlock opportunities in waste recycling, agriculture, manufacturing and green-energy electricity generation to help diversify the economy and create jobs.

However, he acknowledged that while the ministry pursued the long-term vision, immediate intervention was critical.

Following recurring fire outbreaks, with 23 incidents recorded since 2017, it was evident the landfill posed environmental and health hazard to the community.

The minister emphasised the urgent need to equip the facility with the necessary resources for swift operational responses and to put precautionary measures in place to prevent further blazes.

He reminded residents that the landfill was never established to bring hardship to their community, though development projects can unfortunately bring unintended consequences. He urged them to remain hopeful, noting that government would provide immediate assistance while the long-term initiative took shape. He reaffirmed government's commitment to environmental protection, public safety and stronger waste management systems.

He further explained that the 18-year-old regional facility serviced the Kweneng, Tlokweng, Gaborone, Kgatleng and Mogoditshane districts, resulting in massive waste volumes that required faster segregation.

Through the Lephephe Accord, he said, the five districts must collaborate to supply emergency equipment and establish proper coordination for emergencies.



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa has announced the overhaul of Gamodubu Land Fill following a benchmarking exercise at a recent waste management plant in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Minister Motshegwa said a memorandum of agreement had already been reached to develop a modern waste management plant on-site to segregate waste and prevent future fire incidents.

> "Waste should not just be treated as waste, authorities must revolutionise the landfill's use and embrace recycling to build the economy."

"Waste should not just be treated as waste," he said, adding that authorities must revolutionise the landfill's use and embrace recycling to build the economy. He revealed that between 2019 and 2024, the site received 74 700 tonnes of waste against a designed capacity of 65 000 tonnes, an anomaly he said must be addressed as quickly as possible.

He also pointed out that countries with the cleanest cities and villages succeeded because they enforced robust waste management plans that incentivised residents to keep their environments clean.

Gamodubu Village Development Committee (VDC) chairperson, Ms Baratang Simon explained the toll that the landfill had taken on villagers since its inception.

Ms Simon said the challenges included stray dogs killing livestock and recurring fires emitting thick and foul-smelling smoke that posed serious health risk. She added that runoff water from the dump carried worms and dark sludge and endangered children who might play in or ingest the contaminated soil.

She also recalled a 2014 fly infestation originating from the landfill that disrupted village life and threatened public health. Furthermore, she noted that the road connecting the village to the A12 was in a dilapidated state and worsened significantly during the rainy season and required urgent attention.

Some residents echoed the chairperson's concerns but welcomed government's initiative. However, the demanded swift implementation, stating that they had suffered enough.

One resident, Mr Aobakwe Lesolame expressed disappointment that the council had failed to act on a 2018 performance audit report on the landfill from the Auditor General while residents continued to suffer. He argued that had the report's recommendations been followed, the facility would be operating under a model that protected both public health and the environment.

Another resident, Mr Kabelo Motlapele, asked whether the landfill could be relocated to the back of the village, explaining that prevailing winds currently blew directly from the site into their homes, leaving residents overwhelmed by bad odours.

Giving a vote of thanks, Member of Parliament for Molepolole South, Mr Shima Monageng, acknowledged that Gamodubu residents had endured years of hardship due to the landfill. He assured them that the new government was determined to find lasting solutions to the longstanding problems facing Batswana, urging residents to remain hopeful and confident that relief had finally arrived. ***BOPA***

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MPs raise concerns over poor service delivery

Bonang Masolotate
GABORONE

Molepolole North MP Mr Arafat Khan has called on the government to prioritise improved livelihoods and efficient service delivery, saying Batswana expect tangible results rather than political explanations.

Contributing to the State-of-the Nation Address (SONA) debate on Tuesday, Mr Khan said citizens continued to face shortages of medicines, forcing some to move from one health facility to another in search of medication. He said government could not continue blaming its predecessor but had to rise to the occasion and save lives. Mr Khan called on government to be transparent about the achievements of the national state of public health emergency, saying he took comfort in President Advocate Duma Boko's assurance that the situation would normalise.

He also urged government to ensure that all health facilities operated 24 hours, arguing that sickness did not respect operating hours.

On water supply, Mr Khan said Molepolole had endured shortages for more than a decade, but the government had already floated a P3.66 billion project to address the challenge, which was also expected to create more than 1,000 jobs. He said the last plot allocations in Molepolole were made in 2006, but government had allocated 2 500 plots, with a further 2 700 expected before 2029.

Mr Khan also raised concerns over delays in issuing secure land titles at the Mogoditshane Sub-Land Board, overcrowding in schools and delays in issuing national identity cards and driver's licences, which were often attributed to system failures.

He questioned why such technical challenges appeared to be peculiar to the public service. Meanwhile, Gabane/Mmankgodi MP, Mr Kagiso Mmusi, said it would be inaccurate to suggest that the economy had collapsed when the UDC assumed power.

He said the new administration had inherited a stable economy experiencing cash flow challenges due to reduced demand for diamonds, a situation worsened by COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdowns.

However, he said the diamond market was showing signs of improvement, with the economy beginning to recover. Mr Mmusi said Mmankgodi village also faced shortage of water and medicines, and urged Government to address the challenges.

He further sought clarity on the A10 dual carriageway project, saying there had been no updates on its status, the appointed contractor or the expected commencement date.

On security matters, Mr Mmusi said the payment of retired Botswana Defence Force (BDF) soldiers and the enrolment of Special Constables into the Botswana Police Service had been initiated by the previous administration, adding that the UDC government had only overseen the third enlistment of Special Constables.

He expressed disappointment that gender-based violence, despite being a national crisis, had not featured in the SONA.

Mr Mmusi commended government for increasing its stake in De Beers from 15 per cent to 30 per cent, but questioned the source of funding for the acquisition, saying Parliament had not been informed. Tati West MP and Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa, described the SONA as hopeful and urged MPs to unite in advancing national development beyond political party affiliations.

He said MPs should support initiatives that improved people's lives, regardless of which administration introduced them.

On education, Mr Hunyepa said schools across the country were in a poor state, adding that the Education Infrastructure Management Company (EIMC) project had come at the right time. He described President Boko's proposed English breakfast programme as a worthy initiative that should be embraced, saying it would improve learners' nutrition across schools.

He said the menu would comprise food sourced from local farmers. Mr Hunyepa also raised concern over indiscipline in schools and urged parents to instil good behaviour in their children. In his constituency, he said schools were oversubscribed, forcing some learners to seek placement in neighbouring villages.

He appealed for an additional primary school, particularly in Masunga. He also highlighted congestion of trucks at the Ramokgwebana Border Gate, calling for the provision of adequate parking space and ablution facilities. *BOPA*

Moswaane advocates reforms to protect local businesses

Lindi Morwaeng
GABORONE

Francistown West Member of Parliament, Mr Ignatius Moswaane, has called for legislative reforms to protect citizen-owned businesses, strengthen industrialisation and create opportunities for young people, warning that the economy risks remaining dominated by foreign-owned enterprises if local businesses are not adequately supported.

Contributing to debate on the State-of-the Nation Address (SONA) in Parliament on Monday, Mr Moswaane said Botswana needed to review its laws and policies to create a fair business environment in which local enterprises could compete and grow.

He expressed concern over the influx of foreign-owned businesses selling what he described as counterfeit or substandard products, saying this made it difficult for local businesses to compete and undermined the country's industrialisation ambitions.

"We must protect Batswana businesses," he said, urging Parliament to consider legislation that would safeguard citizen-owned enterprises. Mr Moswaane cited a former arrangement, which he recalled was in place around 2003, that restricted wholesalers from selling directly to consumers and required them to supply retailers instead.

He said the arrangement had since been abandoned, allowing wholesalers operating under the guise of supermarkets to compete directly with smaller retailers. He argued that this had contributed to the closure of many citizen-owned businesses and called for a review of regulations governing wholesale and retail trade.

He further said the importation of counterfeit goods discouraged local manufacturing, as domestic factories struggled to compete with cheap imported products.

Mr Moswaane said meaningful citizen economic empowerment should go beyond reserving business opportunities for locals, arguing that it should enable citizen-owned companies to grow to a level where they could employ foreign workers.

Turning to youth development, he proposed that Form Three students who did not proceed to Form Five, as well as Tirelo Sechaba participants, should be allowed to enrol directly in vocational training programmes at brigades and technical colleges.

He described the current structure of Tirelo Sechaba as unproductive, arguing that young people completed the programme without obtaining certificates or clear pathways into further training and employment. He also raised concern over the underutilisation of brigades, which he said were operating below capacity because of lecturer shortages.

He attributed some of the staffing challenges to the discontinuation of recruiting foreign lecturers and called for intervention to address the shortage of teaching personnel in vocational institutions. On workers' welfare, Mr Moswaane urged employers to increase the minimum wage by at least P500 annually, saying regular adjustments were necessary to improve workers' living standards.

He further called for clear targets and faster disbursement of funds under the Youth Development Fund, arguing that eligible young people should not face lengthy delays in accessing support to establish businesses.

Mr Moswaane also urged Parliament to address the rising number of suicides, noting that financial hardship and poverty were among the factors contributing to the problem. He proposed that citizen-owned companies be granted amnesty in relation to their obligations to the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA).

On the role of Parliament, Mr Moswaane called for greater institutional independence, saying the legislature should exercise authority over its own affairs and decision-making rather than appear to operate under the supervision of a government department. He observed that, just as the Executive and Judiciary exercised independence, Parliament should also be empowered to manage its affairs and ensure that members received decent salaries. He said strengthening Parliament's authority was essential for the institution to fulfil its constitutional responsibilities effectively. ***BOPA***



Francistown West Member of Parliament, Mr Ignatius Moswaane, has called for legislative reforms to protect citizen-owned businesses, strengthen industrialisation and create opportunities for young people, warning that the economy risked being dominated by foreign-owned enterprises if local businesses were not adequately supported.

Ministry moves to address teacher aide shortages

GABORONE - The Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education is working on measures to address delays in hiring temporary teacher aides and clear assessment backlogs.

Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa, said the ministry engaged teacher aides and caretakers on both temporary and permanent terms to support teaching and learning, but faced operational challenges arising from delays in learner assessments and budgetary constraints.

He said plans were underway to employ permanent teacher aides to ensure continuity of support for learners throughout their stay at schools. Mr Hunyepa said the ministry was also addressing the low rate of learner recommendations for support through the training of additional educational psychologists, outsourcing assessment services to independent private practitioners and conducting nationwide diagnostic and psycho-educational assessments.

The assessments were being conducted through walk-in services and regional outreach activities to improve access and ensure learners received appropriate interventions.

He was responding to a parliamentary question by Nkange Member of Parliament, Mr Motlhaleemang Moalosi, who wanted to establish whether the ministry was aware of widespread delays in recruiting temporary teacher aides and the impact on service delivery to learners.

Mr Moalosi also asked whether the ministry intended to recruit permanent aides to ensure learners retained consistent support throughout their schooling.

He further raised concern that some learners who required assistance went through the entire education system without being assessed, owing to low assessment recommendation rates, and that what measures were in place to ensure timely assessments and interventions. *BOPA*

At least 181 relocation beneficiaries await compensation

GABORONE

At least 181 beneficiaries of the Maun International Airport relocation project are still awaiting compensation, with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure seeking an additional P8.3 million to settle outstanding claims.

Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang said the ministry was finalising a project memorandum to request P8,377,938.20 to compensate the remaining 154 beneficiaries whose payments were yet to be made.

Responding to a question in Parliament from Maun East Member of Parliament, Mr Goretetse Kekgonegile, Mr Barongwang said the assessment of properties affected by the relocation was completed in November 2005, with reports received by the then Department of Civil Aviation in May 2006 from the Department of Lands.

He said beneficiary payments commenced in November 2006 and that the project had 1 477 beneficiaries, who were relocated to Disaneng. Mr Barongwang explained that an internal audit conducted by the then Ministry of Transport and Communications in 2017 identified 297 beneficiaries who were still owed compensation.

Of these, 116 have since been paid through the Office of the Master of the High Court, leaving 181 outstanding beneficiaries. Of the outstanding claims, 27 are to be settled through the Master of the High Court, while 154 are to be paid by the ministry.

He attributed the delays to several challenges, including the deaths of some beneficiaries, difficulties in retrieving records from the Department of Lands in Francistown and Tawana Land Board, and challenges in tracing beneficiaries who had relocated from Maun.

Other factors included insufficient funds, prolonged consultations among stakeholders and some beneficiaries' failure to meet Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements, resulting in payments being withheld.

Mr Barongwang said consultations involving Tawana Land Board, the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana and the Office of the Master of the High Court were ongoing to expedite the outstanding matters.

He urged beneficiaries to fulfil the required KYC procedures, saying the ministry and CAAB had engaged them on the matter.

He said the payment date would depend on approval of the project memorandum seeking additional funding.

Regarding payments through the Office of the Master of the High Court, he said 143 beneficiaries had been referred for payment, of whom 116 had been paid, while 27 remained outstanding. He explained that some of the pending claims involved minors, while other beneficiaries had not submitted applications to claim their entitlement. *BOPA*



At least 181 affected residents of the Maun International Airport relocation project are still awaiting compensation, with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure seeking an additional P8.3 million to settle outstanding claims. Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang, said the ministry was finalising a project memorandum to request P8,377,938.20 to compensate the beneficiaries.

Govt clarifies legal basis for SLT requirement

KANYE

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has confirmed that Ngwato Land Board management recently resolved to accept applications for the transfer of tribal land rights only when accompanied by a Secure Land Title (SLT) registered in the name of the original landholder.

Responding on behalf of the Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, to a parliamentary question by Boteti West MP, Mr Sam Digwa, on Tuesday, Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe, said the ministry was aware of the administrative decision. He said the requirement was intended to ensure that land transfers were properly documented, legally traceable and registrable under the applicable land registration framework.

Mr Mathoothe emphasised that the measure sought to protect both the original landholder and the transferee from potential disputes arising from incomplete land records, rather than inconvenience members of the public.

On the legal basis for the requirement, he said Section 23 of the Tribal Land Act, 2018, provided that no person may occupy land granted under the Act unless the Registrar of Deeds has issued a Deed of Customary Land Grant.

He also cited Section 13 of the Tribal Land Regulations, 2020, which requires a Land Board or Subordinate Land Board, upon authorising the transfer of customary land rights, to submit a signed resolution and supporting documents, including the Deed of Customary Land Grant or SLT, to the Registrar for registration.

Mr Mathoothe said the SLT requirement was therefore a legal obligation applicable to all Land Boards under the framework that came into effect on April 20, 2022.

He clarified that no specific directive had been issued authorising Land Boards to adopt resolutions governing the processing of land transfer applications. He maintained that Land Boards were obliged to safeguard the interests of both parties by ensuring that land records were complete.

He added that members of the public had continued to be assisted in connecting utilities through the use of Land Board resolutions. Addressing concerns about service delivery, he acknowledged that interventions introduced by the Ministry, including Land Labs coordinated by BETP teams, high-performance War Rooms and targeted legislative amendments, had yet to meet public expectations.

He said comprehensive land management reforms were being prepared for presentation to Parliament.

The reforms were expected to introduce progressive legislation and fundamentally transform land administration and management, including the registration and issuance of Secure Land Titles.

On turnaround times for issuing SLTs, Mr Mathoothe admitted that the initial target had proved unattainable due to challenges relating to data readiness, legal impediments and a shortage of legal resources required for the conveyancing process.

However, he said parallel interventions were underway to address the production bottlenecks, adding that the ministry would issue a further statement updating the public on remedial measures in due course. Mr Digwa had asked whether the ministry was aware of Ngwato Land Board's decision, whether other Land Boards had adopted similar requirements, the legal basis for the measure and what action the minister intended to take in response to public grievances. ***BOPA***

Crime under control in Tloaneng - Mohwasa

GABORONE

Crime in Tloaneng and surrounding areas remains under control, with official statistics showing a decline, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa has said. Responding to questions in Parliament on Tuesday, Mr Mohwasa acknowledged community concerns about illegal sand mining, stock theft and cable theft but maintained that government was implementing measures to strengthen crime prevention and police visibility.

According to statistics presented to Parliament, illegal sand mining cases stood at zero in 2024, one in 2025 and zero so far in 2026. Stock theft cases remained unchanged at four annually over the same period. BPC cable theft cases, however, increased from three in 2024 to 16 in 2025 before declining to six so far in 2026. Mr Mohwasa said the Botswana Police Service would continue strengthening policing strategies to sustain police visibility and suppress crime.

He said police presence in the area was being reinforced through regular motorised and foot patrols, targeted operations and community policing initiatives, with additional support from the Special Support Group deployed in Mmankgodi.

However, he acknowledged that resource constraints had prevented the allocation of a dedicated police vehicle to Tloaneng Police Post. He said the area currently relied on two vehicles stationed in Gabane. On efforts to improve regional policing infrastructure, Mr Mohwasa announced that the newly constructed police station and staff houses in Mmankgodi would be officially opened on November 24. The facility forms part of a national project involving the construction of 28 police stations and is expected to support surrounding communities, including Tloaneng.

Addressing concerns about inadequate office accommodation, Mr Mohwasa clarified that police officers were not sharing premises directly with the Village Chief but occupied a two-bedroom office structure with separate entrances.

He said Tloaneng would be considered in future infrastructure development plans, subject to the availability of funding, but could not provide a specific timeframe for improvements.

Mr Mohwasa was responding to questions from Gabane/Mmankgodi MP, Mr Kagiso Mmusi, who had sought clarification on whether the ministry was aware of rising crime and security concerns in Tloaneng and surrounding areas, particularly illegal sand mining, BPC cable theft and stock theft.

Mr Mmusi also asked about measures to improve police mobility and response times, particularly through the provision of a dedicated vehicle and operational resources for the police post. He further raised concerns about the adequacy of office accommodation, arguing that shared facilities could compromise privacy, confidentiality and service delivery. The MP also sought a definitive timeframe for addressing the resource and infrastructure challenges facing the police post. *BOPA*

No immediate plans for satellite school in Kaduwe

KANYE

The construction of a satellite school in Kaduwe is not provided for under the current National Development Plan (NDP 12) or District Development Plan (DDP 9), Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa, has told Parliament.

Responding to a question from Jwaneng/Mabutsane MP, Mr Omphemetse Kwapa, on Monday, the Minister said Kaduwe was predominantly designated for agricultural production, hence no school project had been included in the existing national or district development plans.

However, Mr Motshegwa said the district was undertaking a profiling exercise to establish the population size, prevailing needs and appropriate social services required in the area.

He said should the assessment establish the need for a satellite school, the project would be considered for inclusion during the mid-term review of NDP 12 and DDP 9.

The Minister explained that Kaduwe lands were situated approximately 20 kilometres west of Jwaneng Mine and were primarily set aside for arable agriculture.

Ploughing fields have been allocated to community members, most of whom originate from Kanye, Sese, Mahotshwane and, to a lesser extent, Mokhomma. He said residents traditionally occupied the area for seasonal cultivation and livestock rearing. Over time, however, some people working in the area brought their spouses and dependants, resulting in the establishment of permanent households and a gradual increase in population.

This has transformed Kaduwe from an area primarily intended for agricultural activities into an informal settlement, necessitating an assessment of its social infrastructure and service needs. Mr Kwapa had asked the Minister to state when a satellite school would be constructed in Kaduwe. ***BOPA***



DailyBusiness



Botswana Travel and Tourism Expo is set to return to Kasane from November 23 to 27, marking the premier tourism showcase comeback following a one-year hiatus. About 60 local operators and over 45 international buyers are expected to participate at the Expo. Photo: Portia Keetile

Botswana Travel and Tourism Expo returns

Portia Keetile
KASANE

The Botswana Travel and Tourism Expo (BTTE) is set to return to Kasane from November 23 to 27, marking the premier tourism showcase's comeback following a one-year hiatus.

This development demonstrates Botswana Tourism Organisation's (BTO) ongoing commitment to sustain a key platform for tourism promotion, industry collaboration and global market access.

BTO public relations officer, Mr Samuel Lephalo, said the expo positioned Botswana as a competitive international tourism destination while creating tangible opportunities for local businesses by linking domestic tourism enterprises with global travel agents.He stated that an approximated 60 local operators and over 45 international buyers were expected to participate with the aim to achieve meaningful business engagements, increased destination exposure, new market opportunities, and stronger partnerships.

Mr Lephalo underscored that BTTE was designed to bridge the gap between local tourism businesses and international markets.

"By bringing international buyers directly to Botswana, BTO creates opportunities for local operators, including SMEs, to establish valuable business relationships without the significant costs associated with participating in overseas trade fair," said Mr Lephalo.

The event will help ensure that smaller and locally owned enterprises are not left behind, since it is a platform to showcase the diversify of Botswana's tourism footprint beyond Chobe and the Okavango Delta that linked emerging cultural heritage, and nature-based operators with international buyers to foster job creation and inclusive community participation.

Reflecting on the 2024 BTTE edition, Mr Lephalo noted that it attracted a total of 126 Botswana-based tourism enterprise operator of whom 62 participated in a survey aimed at determining the return on investment (ROI) of the expo.

He revealed that, each operator had scheduled an average of 12 business-to-business (B2B) meetings with international buyers prior to the expo and out of all the meetings, nine were successfully held, and translated to 75 per cent success rate.

Mr Lephalo stated the B2B engagements saw 93.7 per cent of local operators established an average of eight business leads, with six expected to convert into concrete deals on site or post event translating to an estimated average annual return of P1.79 million per business.

"The success of the BTTE is far beyond attendance figures, its impact is measured by concrete commercial results, new trade agreements, investment leads, increased bookings, and expanded global market access for citizen-owned tourism businesses," Mr Lephalo said.

He said BTO was focused on reinforcing ties with traditional markets in Europe and North America, while also eyeing growth across Asia and the African continent. "We are particularly interested in trends such as sustainable tourism, authentic cultural experiences, adventure tourism, wildlife experiences and high-value, low-volume tourism to help diversify Botswana's tourism offering and expand its international reach and remain competitive in an increasingly dynamic global tourism industry," said Mr Lephalo. ***BOPA***

Campaign targets youth unemployment

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

In an ultimate response to youth unemployment, job recruitment platform JobPoint.ai and Gabz FM have launched the 60 for 60: Adopt & Empower campaign.

The innovative humanitarian initiative, is a call for 60 paid, three-month internships across 60 local corporates while commemorating the journey toward Botswana's 60 years of independence.

By framing youth unemployment as a collective national call as opposed to just a statistical challenge, the campaign highlights the influence of public-private partnerships to address the profound transition gap between graduation and corporate placement.

In an interview recently, JobPoint.ai business development manager, Mr Boago Jackson, highlighted that the campaign challenged businesses to build sustainable job pipelines for economic development.

"We are calling on organisations to move beyond passive observation and actively participate as mentors, building an enduring pipeline for economic development. This programme is designed to balance clear benefits for both the host organisations and job seekers," Mr Jackson stated.

He said the programme delivered significant immediate relief from workplace entry barriers to create significant value for job seekers.

"When the economy shrinks, job opportunities become scarce and long gaps in employment can make it harder for jobseekers to land future roles. Consistent use of JobPoint.ai removes those barriers," he added.

Unpacking the benefits, he stated that the selected candidates would step into real working environments where they would receive mentorship, build specialised skills and secure financial gain through guaranteed monthly allowances, provided by the host organisation.

He further expressed that concurrently, employers received an optimised pathway to cultivate a pipeline for future leadership.

While JobPoint.ai manages the technical backend of the recruitment process, Gabz FM serves as the campaign media enabler.

"As participating companies fund a three-month allowance for interns, Gabz FM matches that financial investment with equivalent advertising value across its broadcasts, including interviews, live reads and jingles," said Gabz FM sales executive, Mr Leatile Mokete.

Mr Mokete reiterated that the station drove public engagement by hosting weekly live intake windows to solicit direct pitches from unemployed youth, graduates and local vendors across Botswana to access the platform.

60 for 60: Adopt & Empower aims to transform Botswana's 60th independence milestone from a ceremonial celebration into a tangible investment in the nation's workforce.

According to Mr Jackson, by pairing media reach with digital recruitment, the initiative offered a benchmark for how the private sector could bridge the divide between academic qualification and workplace readiness, aiming to prove that the one of the most sustainable ways to honour 60 years of nationhood was to equip the next generation to build the next 60. ***BOPA***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Afreximbank urges intra-African settlement to cut trade costs

GABORONE - Africa loses more than US$5 billion a year in settling intra-African trade in foreign currencies, an executive of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) said Monday, calling for wider adoption of a regional payment system. Haytham El Maayergi, executive vice-president of the Global Trade Bank at Afreximbank, made the remarks in a keynote address at the opening of the three-day Afreximbank Trade Finance Seminar and Compliance Forum 2026 in Gaborone. He urged countries yet to join the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), which settles payments in local currencies across more than 30 African countries, to onboard. He noted that intra-African trade grew by 5.5 per cent in 2025 but still accounts for only about 14 per cent of Africa's total trade. Fifty countries have ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, but only 12 are actively trading under it. Bank of Botswana Governor Lesego Moseki also pointed to PAPSS as a way to support intra-African commerce, stressing that its success depends on central banks working together on oversight, anti-money-laundering safeguards and interoperability. ***Xinhua***

Namibia seeks to expand value-added exports to EU

WINDHOEK - Namibia is seeking to expand domestic industrial production and export more value-added goods to the European Union (EU), a senior government official said Tuesday. Speaking at the opening of the Namibia-EU Trade Workshop in Windhoek, Jerobeam Shaanika, executive director of the Ministry of International Relations and Trade, said Namibia had yet to make full use of its preferential access to the European market. Under the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, Namibia and other participating SADC countries enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market for qualifying exports, subject to rules of origin and applicable quality standards. ***Xinhua***

Zambia breaks ground on first vaccine plant

LUSAKA - Zambia on Tuesday broke ground on its first vaccine manufacturing plant in Lusaka, marking a step toward domestic production of essential vaccines and greater health security. The plant will be developed by ZAMVAX, a joint venture, with a 60-40 equity split between the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the investment arm of the Zambian government, and China's Jijia International Medical Technology Company Limited. The first phase of the project will establish an oral cholera vaccine fill-and-finish facility with an annual production capacity of about 20 million doses. A subsequent phase is expected to introduce local antigen production, enabling end-to-end cholera vaccine manufacturing. ***Xinhua***

Dikgang
PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

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261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500

Ba kopiwa go tsaya boloko jwa koporase

Portia Rapitsenyane
PALAPYE

Modulasetilo wa GaMmangwato Industrial Development Committee, Rre Bonang Morapedi, o kopile banni ba kgaolo ya Palapye go nna maloko a koporase e e tlaa simolodisiwang ya GaMmangwato Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society.

Kopo e, e dirilwe kwa phuthegong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke Kgosi Khama IV bosheng, go lekodisa morafe ka koporase e go tlhalositsweng fa e le ya kgaolo ya GaMmangwato.

Mogopolo wa go e simolodisa o dule ka kgosikgolo wa GaMmangwato Kgosi Khama, mme e tlaa akaretsa dikgaolo tsa GaMmangwato tse di akaretsang Serowe, Palapye, Mahalapye, Bobirwa, Boteti, Tutume le Tonota.

Rre Morapedi o tlhalositse fa koporase e se ya Bangwato fela, merafe e mengwe e e mo kgaolong ya GaMmangwato ka matsalo, boagedi, ka nyalo le ka go nna le dikgwebo, e amogelesega.

GaMmangwato Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society e tlaa itebaganya le go tlhabolola matshelo a banni, gore ba seka ba baya mo pusong fela, go direla banana ditiro le go tsosa itsholelo go itebagantswe le tsa mehama e e farologaneng e tshwana le temothuo, tsa meepo, maranyane, ngwao, bojanala le tse dingwe.

Rre Morapedi o supile fa koporase e e tlaabo gape e itebagantse le go dira ditirelo tse di ka romelwang kwa mafatsheng a mangwe, go dira dipoelo, ka tshwaragano le ba na-le-seabe ba ba farologaneng.

A re go re motho e nne leloko la koporase, o tshwanetse a ntshe P200 yo o duelwang gangwe fela le Pl 000 e le wa diabe. O tlhalositse fa Pl 000 wa diabe go ka diriwa thulaganyo ya go mo duela otlhe ka gangwe kana, motho a mo ntsha mo ngwageng.

Rre Morapedi a re morafe o tlaa dirisanya le dikomiti tse di tlhomilweng mo metseng yotlhe gore go nne motlhofo go ikwadisa go nna maloko le go ntsha madi a diabe. A re dikgosana mo metseng ka go farologana ba filwe setlamo sa go tla ka maloko a le lekgolo mongwe le mongwe wa bone.

A re ba tsweletse ka go tsaya malebela kwa dikhamphaneng tse di setseng di le teng di tshwana le ya Botala Energy mme fa go ka nna le ditumalano, bontlha bongwe jwa madi a a kgobokantsweng a ka reka diabe kwa khamphaneng eo, e e kwadisitsweng kwa Australian Stock Exchange.

Modupadibuka go tswa kwa lephateng la dikoporase, ka fa tlase ga lephata la Papadi le bogwebi, Mme Irene Sebinanyane, o kopile banni go nna maloko.

A re koporase ya ntlha mo lefatsheng leno go tlhamiwa ke ya Swaneng ka 1964, e e rileng e tsweletse ya wa mme ya pepetlediwa go tla go tsena mo nakong eno e bile e dira sentle.

O lebogile Kgosi Khama go tla ka mogopolo wa go simolola koporase a supa fa e tlaa bo e na le dipalo tse dintsi, tse di tlhokiwang mo kgwebong .

Mme Sebinyane a re maloko a tlaa bona dipoelo fa go tlhoafetswe, ka go se na ditiro mme fa go dirilwe koporase e e kalo, e ya go remelela mo go tlhameleng banni ditiro mme letseno le le tlaa diriwang, le boele mo dikgetsing tsa maloko.

Mme Sebinanyane a re kwa lephateng la dikoporase ba itsheegile ka seane se se reng, 'moroto o esi ga o ele' ka fa ba ka dira mmogo ba tsile go dira tiro e tona. O kopile banni go tsosolosa sekoporase sa bogologolo mme ba ikaegile ka diphetogp tsa segompieno.

A re o solofetsa gore mo nakong e khutshwane ba tlaabo ba ntshitse setlankana sa GaMmangwato Multi -Purpose Cooperative Society, mme ba tlaa gagamatsa gore sepe se maloko a se tsentseng mo teng se sireletsege le koporase e atlege.

Mme Sebinyane a re banni fa ba tlaa rutiwa mo go tseneletseng gore sekoporase ke eng le gore go nna leloko la koporase go raya eng. ***BOPA***

Bogodu jwa leruo bo gomagometsa go kgobera ledula

Aobakwe Molefhi
MAKOKWE

Kgosi Lotlaamoreng II wa Barolong ,a re mafatshe a Botswana le South Africa a tshwanetse go tsibogela bogodu jwa leruo kwa metseng e e bapileng le molelwane.

Kgosi Lotlaamoreng a re fa go ka seke ga tsibogelwa bogodu jwa leruo, ledula le le renang magare ga mafatshe oo mabedi le tlaa amega, a supa fa nako e gorogile gore mafatshe oo mabedi a fetole ka fa a ntseng a dira dilo ka teng, go itsa go supana ka menwana ka tshenyo e e diragalang, segolo jang mo Botswana.

O buile se fa a ne a bula semmuso dipuisanyo tsa sepodisi sa Botswana le South Africa ka Labobedi kwa Makokwe.

Sepodisi sa Botswana se ne se laleditse sa South Africa go tswa ka maano a go lwantsha bogodu jo bo apesitseng barui ba metse e e gaufi le molelwane kobo ka letshoba.

Kgosi Lotlaamoreng a re go tlhabisa ditlhong go bo se se diragala ka gore merafe e, ke masika mme gona le bangwe mo Botswana le kwa South Africa, ba go lebegang ba ipopile setlhopha ka maikalelo a go tlhorontsha barui.

O supile fa mo bogompienong magodu a ba dirisa dikapaditshwantsho tse di fofang (drones) mme e bile go belaesega fa e le tsone di ba kgontshang go tsietsa mapodisi. Seemo se, a re se ka fenngwa fela fa mafatshe oo mabedi a ka tsaya tshwetso ya gore mafatshe a tshwaragane fa go nna le letsholo la itshireletso.

O tsweletse a tlhalosa gore mephato e e tlhamilweng go lwantsha bogodu bogodu jwa leruo, ba tshwanetse go bereka mmogo ka ke bone nako e ntsi ba lemogang fa gona le mathata.

Kgosi o tlhalositse gore ba tshwanetse go nna le megala e ba ka itshwaraganyang le ba sepodisi ka dinako tsotlhe.

Kgosi Lotlaamoreng a re o setse a kile a leka go bua le ba ofisi ya mafatshe a sele gore bone ele ba bogosi ba letlelelwe go ya South Africa go ya go kopanela meakanya le dikgosi jaaka bone go bona gore seemo seo seka fenngwa jang.

Mo boemong jwa mophato wa South Africa oo itebagantseng le twantsho bogodu jwa leruo, Rre Thabo Mabe le ene o ne a supa fa seemo seo seba tshwenya thata jaaka ele barui ba ba ruetseng gaufi le terata ya molelwane.

A re sebe sa phiri ke gore mapodisi a South Africa ga ba bonale fa ba Botswana ele bone go lebegang ba tshwere phage ka mangana bale nosi.

O kopile gape gore lefatshe la Botswana le emise gone le letlelela babelaelwa go emela tsheko kwa ntle ga kgolegelo, segolo jang fa ba fitlhetswe ka merwalo.

Fa atswa la gagwe moemedi wa mophato wa Botswana Rre Tshepo Ketlhaetswe o supile fa go tlhokega gore mephato eo mebedi e nne seopo sengwe.

A re ba ntse ba leka go bereka ka bongwe ka bongwe mme seo ga sea ba tswela maduo.

O tsweletse a kopa le dikgosi tsa metse ya bone gore di emise go kgaoganya mephato, a re gona le dikgosi dingwe tse maikaelelo a tsone e leng go thuba mephato eo.

Ba sepodisi sa Botswana ba supile fa dipalo di supa gore go simolola ka ngwaga wa 2023 go fitlha mo nakong eno go setse go utswilwe dipodi dile 2734 mme ba kgona go bona dile 213, dinku dile 637 go bonetse dile 68 fa dikgomo tsone dile 140 mme ba bone fela dile 30.

Deputy Divisional South, Rre Nicolas Kadiatla a re ba setse ba lemogile ditsela tse magodu ao a tsamayang ka tsone mme ba inaakantse le go tla ka maano ago tshwara dilalome tseo.

O kopile barui go tlhatlhela leruo la bone le go netefatsa gore le babalesegile fale tlhatlhetswe ka jaana dilalome tseo di tsaya diruiwa le mo masakeng tota. ***BOPA***



Banni ba Palapye kwa phuthegong e e neng e biditswe ke Kgosi Khama IV le GaMmangwato Industrial Development Committee go ba lekodisa ka tse di amang koporasi eo bosheng.
Senepe: Portia Rapitsenyane

Mapodisi a tlhotlhomisa dintsho tse pedi

Kedirebofe Pelontle
GUMARE

Mapodisi a Gumare a tlhotlhomisa dintsho tsa bana ba le babedi ba dingwaga tse pedi le bone, ba ba tlhokafetseng morago ga gore ntlo e ba neng ba le mo yone e kape kgabo ya molelo.

Fa a bua mo potsolotsong, mogolwane wa sepodisi kwa Gumare Superintendent Chenamo Orateng o tlhalositse fa tiragalo eo e diragaletse kwa masimong a Qurube gaufi le Gumare ka Matlhatso mo mosong, mme ngwana wa mosimane wa dingwaga tse pedi le wa mosetsana wa dingwaga tse nne ba ne ba shela mo ntlong e agilweng ka letlhaka.

Supt Orateng a re ditlhotlhomiso tsa ntlha di supa fa nkuku wa bana bao wa dingwaga tse masome a supa le bone a ne a tshuba ditlhare tse di dikologileng masimo e le tsela ya go laola motsamao wa ditlou tse a reng di baka tshenyo mo dijalong, mme ka go tlhoka lesego tlhase ya molelo ya tlolela kwa matlong a mararo a bonno a agilweng ka letlhaka, a bana ba neng ba le mo go nngwe ya one.

O supile fa ditlhotlhomiso tsa ba sepodisi di tsweletse, mme direpa tsa bana bao di santse di letetse tlhatlhobo ya ba bongaka kwa setsifaditseng sa kokelo ya motse wa Gumare. ***BOPA***

Marathe donates food hampers



Police Commissioner, Ms Dinah Marathe (right) handing over donations worth over P20 000 from Botswana Police through North West Women Network to Prisons deputy commissioner, Support Services, Mr Lethata Manne (left) and Kgosi Tawana (second left) in Maun on Tuesday. Ms Marathe said the donation was aimed at restoring the dignity of inmates. Photo Esther Mmolai

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

For inmates, incarceration is accompanied by separation from loved ones, strained family relationships, emotional distress and limited access to support systems.

Others may have come from backgrounds characterised by poverty, neglect, violence or social disadvantage. These circumstances do not excuse criminal conduct but they remind people that meaningful rehabilitation requires an appreciation of complex human realities that can influence behaviour and shape individual choices.

Botswana Police Commissioner, Ms Dinah Marathe made the remarks during the handing over of groceries and toiletries worth over P20 000 to Maun and Boro State Prisons by Botswana Police North West through its Women's network in collaboration with the business community.

Said the donation demonstrated that the responsibility for building a safer, more caring and cohesive society extended beyond the boundaries of any single organisation or entity. Botswana Police Service, she said recognised that its responsibility to society does not begin and end with the prevention, detection and investigation of crime.

"Our broader mandate requires us to contribute to the conditions that make communities safer, strengthen public confidence in law enforcement and support partnerships that address the underlying factors associated with criminal behaviour.

It is in this context that today's initiative assumes particular significance. Through this gesture, we reaffirm that effective policing must combine the firm enforcement of the law with compassion, social responsibility and meaningful engagement with the communities we have been entrusted to serve," she added.

Ms Marathe said the approach was firmly aligned with the strategic direction of Botswana Police Service under its Corporate Development Strategy V (CDS V) 2026–2030, which advanced their vision of becoming a law enforcement agency of repute and their mission of delivering innovative and community-centred policing services for a safe and secure Botswana.

Through the strategic pillars of Safety and Security, Quality Workforce, Efficient Processes and Resourcing, she highlighted that they seek to strengthen their capacity to deliver policing services which were responsive to the needs of the people.

Central to that transformation is the recognition that sustainable public safety cannot be achieved through law enforcement interventions alone. It requiresed strong community partnerships, preventive approaches and coordinated institutional responses that addressed both immediate manifestations and underlying drivers of crime.

In that regard, Ms Marathe said community policing, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes of Botswana Prison Service were closely interconnected.

Community policing, she said sought to prevent crime by building trust, promoting collective responsibility and addressing the social conditions that contribute to offending.

"Prison rehabilitation and reintegration programmes complement these efforts by preparing offenders to return to society with improved attitudes, life skills and a renewed commitment to lawful conduct.

The success of these programmes has direct implications for community safety. When a former offender is successfully reintegrated, supported to rebuild family relationships and empowered to pursue a responsible and productive life, the likelihood of reoffending can be reduced .".

The commissioner further said as an institution, they recognised the importance of working with Botswana Prison Service, social welfare institutions, traditional and religious leaders, families and community structures to create an environment in that rehabilitated offenders could reintegrate responsibly.

Communities, Ms Marathe said must remain protected, but they must also be prepared to support genuine transformation rather than perpetuate rejection and stigma in ways that may undermine successful reintegration exercise.

Prisons deputy commissioner, Support Services, Mr Lethata Manne expressed appreciation for the generosity demonstrated by Police Women Network saying the donation would indeed make a difference in the lives of the inmates.

He also encouraged inmates to take advantage of the rehabilitation and skills offered in prison so that they could apply them to make a living when they are released and eventually have the spirit of giving as well. ***BOPA***

'El Niño effects threat to drivers health'

Aobakwe Molefhi
SKILPADSHEK

El Niño phenomenon has become one of the pressing challenges of the time, Lobatse deputy district commissioner Dr Malebogo Rathedi has said.

She said this at a joint campaign awareness against El niño by the border management authorities representatives of the trans Kalahari secretariat, government officials, and Truck drivers and operators at Skilpadshek port of entry in South Africa on Friday.

She said extreme temperatures could affect human health, increase risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. She said roads and transport infrastructure were also exposed to climate-related risks, which could disrupt the movement of people and goods.

"We must therefore recognise that climate change is not merely an environmental issue; it is a public health, economic development and human safety concern," she said.

Dr Rathedi said the response must therefore be proactive, coordinated and focused on saving lives.

She said that truck drivers undertake long-distance journeys, sometimes travelling for extended hours, crossing several borders and spending long periods in queues while waiting for clearance and processing, saying these conditions, combined with extreme heat, fatigue, limited access to water and inadequate rest, could expose drivers to serious health and safety risks.

Dr Rathedi opined that an exhausted, dehydrated or unwell driver was not only at risk personally but may also pose a danger to other road users.

She therefore said truck drivers must never be overlooked because they were important contributors to the economy by keeping the supply chains moving, facilitated regional trade and ensuring that essential goods reach ed communities.

She said stronger collaboration between border authorities, government departments, the Trans-Kalahari Corridor Secretariat, transport companies and other stakeholders must identify practical ways of improving conditions under which drivers operate, particularly during periods of extreme heat and prolonged border delays, adding that there is need to strengthen awareness and access to health services.

Furthermore, Dr Rathedi said transport operators and employers must promote responsible driving practices by ensuring that drivers have adequate rest, observe driving-hour requirements and were not placed under unnecessary pressure to meet delivery schedules at the expense of their health and safety.

The district commissioner also encouraged border management institutions to continue exploring coordinated processes that reduced unnecessary delays and prolonged exposure to harsh weather conditions, saying where possible, access to drinking water, shaded waiting areas, sanitation facilities and appropriate emergency medical assistance should be prioritised.

Acting port commander of Skilpadshek Ms Kgomotso Madisakeng concurred that truck drivers were important contributors to the economy and therefore must be taken care of.

She said the issue of long queues which often led to drivers spending days by the port entrance waiting to be cleared and processed must be addressed.

She said all stakeholders must identify practical ways of improving these conditions such as ensuring that there was pre-clearance of goods by customs agents before reaching the port entry.

Truck drivers lamented that waiting long periods in queues and with no access to clean water and ablution facilities puts their lives at risk. ***BOPA***



Truck drivers said they were sometimes forced to queue for days under scorching heat due to delays at ports of entry. At a joint campaign awareness against El niño at Skilpadshek port of entry in South Africa recently, Lobatse deputy district commissioner Dr Malebogo Rathedi said extreme temperatures could increase risk of dehydration, exhaustion and heat stroke. Photo: Aobakwe Molefhi

Arts & Culture

Tsietso looks beyond Miss Icon International

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

For Mitchell Tsietso (21), representing Botswana at the Miss Icon International pageant in Jakarta, Indonesia, was more than a beauty contest; it was a journey of resilience, self-discovery and an opportunity to showcase the country's identity on the international stage.

The Tsabong-born beauty queen emerged fourth runner-up at the grand finale held on November 13 at Balai Sarbini Hall in Jakarta, marking a significant milestone in her pageantry journey.

Tsietso international journey began after she was crowned Miss Icon Botswana on September 20, 2025.

Although the achievement fulfilled one of her long-held dreams, she said the crown came with responsibilities that required dedication, discipline and considerable preparation.

"My Miss Icon journey officially began when I was crowned Miss Icon Botswana. It felt like a dream come true because representing my country internationally had always been on my bucket list," she said.

She explained that preparations extended beyond rehearsals and wardrobe arrangements, as she also had to work on personal development, stage presence, communication skills and advocacy initiatives through Pageant Empire Botswana.

Tsietso said there were moments of uncertainty when she questioned whether she would raise enough money to travel, but support from her parents, family, friends and well-wishers kept her going.

She particularly acknowledged her parents for making sacrifices to ensure that she was adequately prepared, recalling how they once travelled late at night to Metsimotlhabe to collect one of her outfits. Their commitment, she said, reminded her that she was not pursuing her dream alone.

Arriving in Jakarta was an emotional experience because she carried Botswana's flag, culture and national pride with her.

The pageant activities, including the sashing ceremony and interactions with delegates from different countries, exposed her to diverse cultures and perspectives.

Tsietso said the friendships she developed with fellow contestants became one of the most memorable aspects of the competition, as they shared experiences, ambitions and lessons despite their different backgrounds.

Beyond the competition, she used the international platform to promote Botswana's traditions, values and welcoming spirit.

Through her Empowered Crown initiative, she focused on orphans and vulnerable children.

She said every child deserved love, care, dignity and an opportunity to succeed, adding that her initiative sought to create awareness, encourage community involvement and inspire children to believe in their future.

Despite the demands of pageantry, Tsietso also balanced her responsibilities as a third-year student at Botho University, where she studies cybersecurity and risk management. She said the experience taught her discipline, time management and the importance of remaining committed even when responsibilities became overwhelming.

Interestingly, she found a connection between her academic field and pageantry, explaining that cybersecurity promoted awareness and protection, while her public platform allowed her to educate young people about digital literacy and online safety.



Tsabong-born beauty queen, Mitchell Tsietso emerged fourth runner-up at the Miss Icon International pageant grand finale held in Jakarta, on November 13 marking a milestone in her pageantry journey.

Reflecting on her transformation, Tsietso said the young woman who was crowned in September 2025 was different from the one who returned from Jakarta.

She maintained that her experience had taught her that success was not always measured by winning but also by personal growth and the ability to overcome challenges.

"Your background does not disqualify you, your circumstances do not define you, and your dreams are not too big," she said.

Looking ahead, Tsietso is hoping to complete her degree, establish herself in the technology industry and expand her advocacy work.

She also hoped to develop cross-cultural initiatives connecting young people from different countries through mentorship, education and community outreach.

She wants to be remembered as a young Motswana woman who carried her country with pride. ***BOPA***

Enterprising trio sets up photo studio

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Three young entrepreneurs in Kanye are proving that delivering world-class creative services does not require relocating to the capital city.

Lefika Itshokeng (28), Theo Mbise (24) and Agisanyang Mosase (28) are the driving force behind Ultimate Lens Media, a rapidly growing local photography, branding and design studio.

Having started out as mobile photographers in 2019 with limited resources, the trio officially opened the doors to their permanent physical studio in January 2026.

Speaking in an interview, Itshokeng explained that securing adequate start-up capital was their biggest initial hurdle.

He noted that the team successfully raised the necessary funds before taking the strategic leap into a permanent space.

"For us, January 2026 was not just about opening a shop. It was about turning seven years of experience, sacrifice and planning into something tangible," Itshokeng said.

He said Kanye residents frequently travelled to Gaborone for professional creative services that could easily be offered locally, therefore stepped in to fill the market gap and grow alongside their community.

Despite their structured roles and growing clientele, Itshokeng highlighted that being young entrepreneurs came with the persistent challenge of age-based skepticism from potential clients who questioned their experience.

"We also understand that credibility is not something you demand; it's something you earn over time," Itshokeng stated, adding that they remained patient and let consistent, professional quality speak for itself.

To keep their partnership strong and avoid creative clashes, the trio holds weekly Sunday meetings to review finances, business performance, challenges and upcoming projects.


Theo Mbise (left), Lefika Itshokeng (right) and Agisanyang Mosase (not in picture) are the driving force behind Ultimate Lens Media, a growing local photography, branding and design studio in Kanye. Photo: Courtesy of Ultimate Lens Media

He emphasised that they separate personal feelings from business decisions to maintain discipline, mutual respect and accountability.

Today, having a dedicated studio has opened up new possibilities.

It allows for controlled indoor lighting, diverse backdrop arrangements, family portraits and model portfolios, completely eliminating the weather and location constraints of their earlier mobile days.

By combining photography with graphic design, signage and printing, they offer clients a comprehensive, one-stop creative hub where an image can be captured, edited and incorporated into a larger corporate branding project.

Looking ahead, Itshokeng revealed that the team plans to expand into corporate and event videography while actively mentoring upcoming young creatives.

He also expressed hope for greater networking platforms and institutional support for talented artists operating outside Gaborone, noting that rural businesses equally deserve quality media services.

"Ultimately, we do not just want to build a successful photography studio. We want to build a legacy that demonstrates what young people can achieve when they combine creativity, discipline, teamwork and entrepreneurship," Itshokeng concluded.

While Itshokeng manages business administration and logistics, Mosase drives creative direction, branding, printing and signage and Mbise serves as the lead photographer handling shoots and editing.

Mbise explained that before every shoot, he takes time to understand what the client wants to communicate, paying close attention to small details, expressions and the surrounding environment.

"Sometimes the best photograph isn't necessarily the one where everyone is perfectly positioned. It is the one that captures a genuine emotion or an unforgettable moment," Mbise said, adding that they strive to preserve memories rather than just create images.

Mosase noted that a corporate client often require a structured, clean approach, whereas a family portrait called for a relaxed and warm atmosphere.

"We believe that good customer service starts long before the camera comes out. It starts with how you communicate with someone and how you make them feel," Mosase explained, emphasising the importance of listening. ***BOPA***

DailySport

Zebras face final test in AFCON qualifiers



Alford Velaphi of Botswana (right) blocking James Bogere of Uganda from gaining ball possession during an electrifying CAF Africa Cup of Nations 2027 qualifiers game in Gaborone on Tuesday night. The match ended with a 1-1 draw. Photo: Phenyo Ramatu

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Pressure is mounting on the national senior men football team, the Zebras to qualify for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

This follows a fourth consecutive draw in the qualifiers. They drew one all against Uganda on Tuesday evening at the National Stadium.

The Zebras' aim of topping the group and qualifying for the AFCON final is on the verge of collapse.

Two games now remain at home for the Zebras to win and get the maximum points to make it 10 points and see if they will make it to the next continental showpiece.

On Tuesday night, after getting a lead in the closing minutes of the match through substitute Godfrey Tauyatswala, the Zebras, yet again failed to protect their lead, allowing the visitors to getting an equaliser in the 86th minute.

The Zebras were an inch away from recording their first victory in Group H before defender Tebogo Kopelang's own goal settled the game to a 1-1 draw, cancelling Tauyatswala's 74th minute goal and silencing the jubilant crowd that had parked the stadium.

The result leaves Botswana third in Group H with four points from four matches, one point behind Libya and one ahead of bottom placed, Tunisia.

Despite the setback, Coach Thaloba Nthaga described the match as good performance, saying the team has played well even though failing to secure all three points.

He urged Batswana not to lose hope, saying the team would now shift its focus and work hard to secure qualification for the continental tournament.

Uganda is leading the group with six points but has already qualified automatically as co-hosts, leaving Botswana, Libya and Tunisia competing for the remaining qualification place.

Looking at the current standings, all the three teams are in a position to qualify, based on how they perform on their last two matches.

Botswana are scheduled to host Libya on March 24, before welcoming Tunisia four days later.

Both fixtures offer the Zebras an opportunity to improve their position against the teams they are directly competing with for qualification.

The challenge for Botswana is to address their inability to turn matches into victories.

Meanwhile, Botswana's Under-23 side, the Young Zebras, have been eliminated from the 2027 CAF U-23 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers after suffering an 8-0 aggregate defeat to Guinea.

The Young Zebras lost 7-0 in the return leg in Guinea on Tuesday. ***BOPA***

Vunani commits P1m to women sports awards

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Vunani Fund Managers has increased sponsorship of the Botswana Women's Sports Awards to P1 million, extending the partnership with a further four years, from 2027 to 2030.

The renewed commitment marks an expansion of the company's support for the awards, which began in 2023 as an initiative aimed at addressing gender disparities in sport and improving recognition of women's achievements and contributions to the sporting fraternity.

Speaking at the launch of the fifth edition of the awards, Vunani Fund Managers chief operations officer, Vanessa Moseki said the increased investment demonstrated the company's confidence in the vision, leadership and sustainability of the initiative.

Vunani initially supported the first edition with P40, 000 before becoming the title sponsor for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 editions, committing P600, 000 over the three-year period.

Moseki said the partnership has enabled the awards to grow into an important platform for recognising women athletes, coaches, administrators, officials and other contributors to sport, while inspiring the next generation of women.

The awards, established by Inside BW Sports, were introduced against the backdrop of ongoing gender inequalities, where women's achievements and contributions have not always received recognition and rewards commensurate with their efforts.

Over the past four editions, the initiative sought to celebrate excellence while encouraging greater corporate investment and support for women's participation and development in sport.

The latest development comes as the awards broaden their scope to include women in the arts, with the initiative now known as the Vunani Annual Botswana Women's Sports and Arts Awards.

The expansion will introduce categories recognising women in visual arts, music, theatre, film, literature, cultural management and journalism, while the existing sporting categories will remain unchanged.

Under sport, the awards recognise achievements through categories such as Sportswoman of the Year, Sportswoman of the Year with Disability, Young Promising Athlete, Volunteer of the Year, Administrator of the Year, Team of the Year, Coach of the Year and Sports Journalist of the Year.

Other categories include the HeForShe Champion Award, Courage Award and Champion for Equality, which recognises organisations investing in the development of women and girls in sport.

The awards founder, Kesego Okie, said the inclusion of the arts was intended to extend the recognition platform to women working across different creative disciplines, in line with the broader mandate of the Ministry of Sport and Arts.

The National Arts Council of Botswana has also been brought on board as a stakeholder in the expanded initiative.

The fifth edition is scheduled for March 5 next year, with the date selected to align with activities surrounding International Women's Day, observed annually on March 8.

Okie said the economic benefits extended beyond award recipients, creating opportunities for suppliers, young people involved in event logistics and businesses within the creative industry.

The initiative has also received support from various corporate organisations, including Absa, DTC Botswana, Orange Botswana and other private sector partners.

Okie called on more companies to support the awards, noting that sustained partnerships were important in growing the initiative and increasing its impact on women in sport and the arts.

The expanded awards mark a new phase for the initiative, with organisers seeking to strengthen recognition, broaden participation and demonstrate the value of investing in women's contributions across sport and the creative sector. ***BOPA***