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Botswana, India share democractic values

Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse (left) welcoming India High Commissioner, Mr Bharath Kumar Kuthati at his office during the latter's courtesy call in Gaborone yesterday. The meeting served as a platform for both nations to explore and deepen parliamentary and bilateral relations. During the meeting, Mr Keorapetse emphasised the strong foundation of the two nations' relationship, noting that it resonated deeply because Botswana, a multi-party democracy, shared principles with India. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

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Ministry, UNICEF tackle unemployment

By Thuso Kgakatsi

HUKUNTSI - Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Ms Lesego Chombo, has raised concern over findings that many young people remained unemployed, not because of a lack of skills, but due to difficulties in navigating the job application process.

Speaking at a Youth Employability Training workshop recently in Hukuntsi, she said the programme aimed to empower youth with essential skills to thrive in the world of work and contribute to national development.

“The training will teach you how to do interviews with confidence, how to write a compelling CV,

and how to present yourself with professionalism and etiquette,” she said.

The training was hosted in partnership with United Nations Children’s Frund (UNICEF) under its Generation Unlimited (GenU) initiative, a global multi-sector programme that seeks to ensure that by 2030, every young person was either in school, learning, training, or employed.

Ms Chombo said the initiative focused on connectivity, entrepreneurship, skills for employment, and social impact, noting that while some youth would enter the job market, others were expected to create opportunities through entrepreneurship.

“True leadership is about lifting others as you rise,” she told the participants, while also reminding them that their dreams were valid and attainable.

She said that youth unemployment remained a tough challenge that government could not tackle alone, hence partnerships with UNICEF, sister ministries, the private sector, and the youth.

She further urged youth to understand that they were not only job seekers, but were also nation builders who should seize every opportunities.

The minister also highlighted existing skills gaps in the economy and noted that government was strengthening the Technical and

Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system to align with national priorities. She encouraged young people to take advantage of training opportunities relevant to their communities and the country at large.

“Sometimes one skill, one training or one opportunity can open door of opportunities.

Ms Chombo shared that since June, the ministry rolled out a training in Good Hope, Shoshong, and Mahalapye, with Hukuntsi being the latest stop.

She said that plans were underway to extend the programme to Tsabong, Bobonong, and Tonota, as part of efforts to ensure that rural areas were not left behind.

“Youth in rural areas deserve the same training, access, and preparation as those in the city,” she emphasized.

“At the close of the training, participants were assured they would be added to a dedicated WhatsApp group, where continuous job and training opportunities would be shared,” she shared

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Merapelo Tshweneyagae highlighted the pressing challenge of high unemployment in the district, noting that no major projects were initiated in the past five years.

He said the absence of factories and limited number of shops in

the area worsened shortage of job opportunities.

Kgosi Tshweneyagae said contribute to social challenges such as alcohol abuse, unplanned pregnancies, and gender-based violence.

“These challenges have had a major impact on the future of our youth as they grow up in disgruntled families,” he said.

He commended the ministry for the workshop, which he said came at the right time, as most youth currently were employment.

He said teaching young people essential skills such as CV writing would improve their chances of finding employment.

Beyond that, he said the programme would empower them create jobs for themselves and others.

Kgosi Tshweneyagae linked the initiative to the government’s ongoing National Economic Transformation Programme, which called for citizen-driven ideas to propel the nation forward.

He commended Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs for selecting Hukuntsi among the villages to benefit from the training, urging participants to approach it with seriousness and commitment.

“Such opportunities come once in a lifetime. Use them wisely for your own benefit and that of your community,” he said. **BOPA**



High Commissioner of Botswana in Namibia, Mr Phemelo Rankoro (left), Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae (second left), administrator of Gchwhihaba Resources Company, Mr Moagi Ntukununu (second left) and Namibia Minister of Works and Transport, Mr Veikko Nekundi during a recent tour to appreciate the Xaudum iron ore project and establish the possibility of doing business about the project. Photo Esther Mmolai

Countries strengthen economic ties through Xaudum Iron Ore project

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The Xaudum iron ore exploration project is poised to transform the economies of Botswana and Namibia, strengthening their ties and solidifying their place in the international market.

This was a sentiment shared by Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae and his Namibian counterpart, Minister of Works and Transport, Mr Veikko Nekundi, following a recent tour of the project’s warehouse at the Maun International Airport.

Both ministers praised the project, located near Shakawe, for its commercial potential, emphasising the need for robust support to bring it to fruition.

Minister Salakae said he was excited about the project, noting ‘it looks like God’s eyes are now facing Africa, especially Botswana.’

He noted that the project underscored the urgency for both nations to build a railway line from Botswana directly to Namibia’s Walvis Bay.

The minister also highlighted

the project as demonstration to Africa’s rapid progress in regional integration, as the new trade corridor could facilitate the transport of commodities to Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Katima Mulilo.

“Africa is waking up and seeing the reality that we need to do something to better the lives of our people,” Mr Salakae said, emphasising that such projects were key to community development, skills transfer and economic growth.

He added that while government was clear on the path forward, financing remained a challenge, and hence exploring a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to leverage the private sector.

For his part, Minister Nekundi echoed the sentiments, calling the project strategically important for both nations.

He stated that it would enable extensive collaboration on logistics, with the iron ore being transported to the international market via the Walvis Bay Port.

“With our collaborative efforts and with our sisterly strategic relations, the iron ore shall be

transported to the international market through the Walvis Bay port,” he said.

He also noted that Namibia was already at an advanced stage of developing the Trans-Zambezi railway line, which would link Grootfontein to Katima Mulilo via Divundu, just 35 kilometres from Shakawe. He said the railway would be crucial for connecting Botswana to the port.

Meanwhile, Mr Moagi Ntukununu, an administrator for Gchwhihaba Resources Company, which is registered on the Canadian Stock Exchange, provided an update on the project.

He confirmed the discovery of 441 million tonnes of iron ore at Shakawe.

He said the company was currently in the exploration phase, with some of the ore stored at the Maun warehouse.

He added that they had been exploring since 2006 and were now conducting studies that would lead to the mining phase.

He also expressed hope for the railway line that would connect Shakawe to Namibia and eventually the DRC. **BOPA**

By Thamani Shabani

TATISIDING - Member of Parliament for Tati East, Mr Tlhabologo Furniture has emphasised that amending laws to impose harsher penalties for gender-based violence (GBV) is not an effective solution, rather, education stood out as the crucial strategy to tackle this pressing issue.

Speaking at the second annual Tatisiding crime prevention expo recently, Mr Furniture argued that, while Parliament had the authority to enact laws, their severity will not reduce the incidence of GBV without comprehensive public education on the topic.

“Education is vital,” Mr Furniture stressed, adding that it was essential to inform the public about the dangers of GBV and its repercussions on individuals and society.

He reiterated that merely increasing penalties would not address the root causes of GBV, which required a collaborative effort from all stakeholders.

Mr Furniture highlighted that GBV is a complex issue that necessitated collective action for meaningful change.

“Democracy calls for fairness, but simply enhancing penalties may worsen the problem instead of resolving it,” he said.

He said research had shown that informing and educating the population was paramount in the ongoing global search for effective solutions to GBV.

Mr Furniture also praised community initiatives like the Tatisiding crime prevention expo for fostering safety, noting that such efforts often resonated with

the community than government-led initiatives that may not address local concerns.

He urged other villages in the Tati East constituency to emulate the proactive approach of the Tatisiding business community in establishing similar initiatives.

In her remarks, Divisional Commander (North), Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, Tamapo Nthoiwa discussed the security challenges faced by Tatisiding, including housebreakings, burglaries, GBV-related crimes and drug abuse.

He emphasised that crime prevention is a shared responsibility, requiring active involvement from the entire community, not just the police.

“As we work together, we must remember that our combined efforts can yield positive results,” said Mr Nthoiwa, assuring residents that the Botswana Police Service remained committed to innovative crime prevention strategies.

Mr Nthoiwa characterised GBV as a significant violation of human rights and a major barrier to lasting peace and development, with serious long-term implications to the society.

Earlier, Kgosi Simon Kgageng of Tatisiding voiced concerns over rising crime rates in his village, attributing the issue to its proximity to Francistown, a city known for high crime rate.

He encouraged residents to collaborate with law enforcement to address these challenges.

The expo, organised by the Tatisiding business community in partnership with residents was themed: Working together to create a safe community against crime. **BOPA**

Public education crucial in GBV fight

Botswana, India share same principles of democracy

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - India and Botswana have continued to maintain a strong and cordial relationship since establishing diplomatic ties in 1966.

The enduring partnership, built on shared values and mutual respect, was highlighted during a courtesy call from India's High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr Bharath Kumar Kuthati, to the National Assembly Speaker, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse, yesterday.

The meeting served as a crucial platform for both nations to explore and deepen their parliamentary and bilateral relations.

During the meeting, Mr Keorapetse emphasised the strong foundation of the two nations' relationship, noting that it resonated deeply because Botswana, a multi-party democracy, shared principles with India, the world's largest democracy. He highlighted the extensive cooperation between the two countries in several key areas, including trade, investment and health, particularly the pharmaceutical sector.

He added that Batswana patients were often referred to India for specialised medical procedures, such as organ transplants.

He also noted the significant educational ties, with many Botswana students pursuing studies and capacity-building programmes in India.

In addition, he said the two countries had a history of cooperation in cultural exchanges, sport and defense.

Mr Keorapetse underscored the importance of the relationship owing to Botswana's ongoing political transition and its commitment to safeguarding its democratic principles.

He said the country's legislators were determined to uphold constitutional mandate by legislating for the peace and order of the country, providing oversight of the executive and representing their constituents.

He further expressed his vision to transform Botswana's Parliament into a high-performing and independent institution, adding that a well-resourced and well-capacitated

legislature was thus essential for such transformation.

"I see India as a key partner in this effort and the two countries can collaborate on capacity-building workshops covering parliamentary processes, communication and legislative roles," he said.

Also, he highlighted the need to invest in research and development to turn Parliament into a 'learning organisation' that empowered both Members of Parliament (MPs) and their staff.

In that regard, he said they were looking into providing training for parliamentary staff to ensure that they could fully support the MPs.

However, the Speaker expressed concern about Botswana's current economic challenges, particularly the downturn in the diamond industry, which had historically been the country's economic mainstay.

"While India has been a significant consumer of Botswana's diamonds, the current situation provides an opportunity for government to diversify its economy away from its dependence on mineral revenues.

In his remarks, High Commissioner Kuthati reaffirmed that India and Botswana's strong bilateral relations would continue to grow.

He said his government and private sector were ready to assist Botswana in overcoming its current economic challenges.

He indicated that cooperation could be strengthened through various ministries, including Trade and Entrepreneurship, Minerals and Energy and International Relations.

He also said he was optimistic about the future of the partnership, noting that there was a lot that the two governments could do together across various sectors, including parliamentary collaboration.

He welcomed Botswana's initiative to send administrative staff to India for training and capacity-building courses. **BOPA**



Ghanzi MP, Mr Noah Salakae (left) performing the groundbreaking for the P1.5 million 14 market stall units in Ghanzi on Monday. Mr Salake said the informal sector contributed significantly to many economies therefore it was crucial to build decent structures that would increase productivity.

Photo Malebogo Lekula

Sandfire mine to build P1.5 million market units

By Malebogo Lekula

GHANZI - Government recognises informal sector's role in reducing unemployment and abject poverty.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony of the P1.5 million 14 market stall units in Ghanzi on Monday, area MP, Mr Noah Salakae said that informal sector contributed to the economy, hence the need to establish decent structures.

These structures, he said, would help businesses to be more productive and ultimately grow the economy.

Mr Salakae who is also the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, applauded collaboration between Ghanzi District council and Sandfire Motheo Copper Mine to build market stalls, which he said, created a safe and secured spaces for informal traders

He said government was faced with fiscal challenges, which might result in delayed service

delivery.

Therefore, the MP implored private sector to assist where possible, to revitalise the informal sector.

Mr Salakae shared with residents the plan to turn Ghanzi into a city, emphasising that the township would need financial assistance for developments such as streetlights electrification and completion of the district stadium.

Head of Sustainability & Corporate Affairs at Sandfire Motheo Copper Mine, Mr Phologo Gaumakwe, said the company was committed to developing and changing the lives of people in the area of their jurisdiction.

Mr Gaumakwe said the market stalls project would be constructed in three phases.

Presently, he said the tender had been awarded to Mabeloingries contractor and was expected to be completed within a period of three months.

In an effort to empower women,

Mr Gaumakwe said the tender has been awarded to a female contractor to boost women in a male dominated field.

In addition, he said the stalls would add in aesthetics to the shopping complex to attract tourists.

Kgosi Annah Rankho, called for community active participation on district's projects saying it would foster ownership as well as increased knowledge on the economic benefits of such projects.

In his remarks, Ghanzi District Council Chairperson, Mr Thabiso Keadile, commended Sandfire Motheo Copper Mine for its gesture to provide decent and safe shelters for the informal sector.

He implored street vendors to utilise stalls for good benefit and desist from embarking on selling illicit drugs. Mr Keadile said that bye-law enforcement officers would exercise full responsibilities to ensure compliance. **BOPA**

Gaolathe represents Botswana at TICAD 9

GABORONE - Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe will lead Botswana's delegation to Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) in Yokohama, Japan, from August 20 to 21, 2025.

A press release from the Office of the President says TICAD, co-organised by Japan, the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and the African Union, provides a platform for dialogue on Africa's development agenda, with a focus on strengthening partnerships that advance investment, innovation and sustainable growth.

This year's theme: Co-Create Innovative Solutions with Africa, as per the release, underscores the role of collaboration in driving



Mr Ndaba Gaolathe

economic growth, stability and social progress.

"For Botswana, the conference aligns with national priorities in economic diversification, human capital development, infrastructure and regional

integration under African Continental Free Trade Area," states the release.

While in Japan, the release says Vice President's official programme will include; a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Shigeru Ishiba, discussions with the President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Toyota Group.

The release further states that Mr Gaolathe's programme will also include; strategic engagements with leading Japanese companies and investors, a high-level bilateral meeting with UNDP leadership and active participation in TICAD plenary sessions and business forums.

Additionally, the release says

Mr Gaolathe will also showcase Botswana at the Japan External Trade Organisation Business Expo, promote investment opportunities in priority sectors, including agriculture, healthcare innovation, diamond beneficiation, renewable energy, infrastructure and Information and Communications Technology.

"Through these engagements, Botswana seeks to attract investment, expand trade partnerships, foster skills development and create sustainable jobs. The Vice President is expected back on August 25.

During his absence, the Ministry of Communications and Innovation assistant minister, Mr Shawn Ntlhaile will serve as the Ministry of Finance acting minister. **BOPA**

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'Tax returns filing critical'

By **Thamani Shabani**

FRANCISTOWN - About 80 per cent of small and medium enterprises (SMMEs) incur penalties due to late or non-filing of tax returns.

Speaking during a one-day women empowerment workshop in Francistown recently, Absa Bank Botswana's tax manager, Mr Oreeditse Matheope underscored the importance of meeting tax returns filing deadlines, not just to evade penalties, but to establish credibility and discipline within their financial practices.

He pointed out that companies facing delisting often had a history of tax payment defaults, urging business owners to prioritise maintaining valid tax clearance certificates.

He further pointed out that higher tax contribution was a reflection of a thriving business, rather than a cost to be avoided.

"Many business owners attempt to evade tax, mistakenly believing it to be a drain on their resources. They overlook the fact that these taxes are public funds essential for driving national development," he said. In light of Botswana's current financial challenges, he asserted that tax revenue played a pivotal role in the country's recovery efforts. He also stressed the necessity of diligent record keeping for business survival.

Mr Matheope also advised against mixing business funds with personal expenses, highlighting how some owners might use business capital to cover family groceries. This practice, he said, undermined financial discipline and accountability.

In addition to tax matters, Absa's legal advisor, Mr Keletso Tebele, encouraged participants to familiarise themselves with relevant laws.

He noted that legislation such as the Copyright Act was designed to protect their business interests, though many owners often

overlooked such protections.

"The Copyright Act provides both moral and economic rights that you hold as creators," he explained, urging those who lacked understanding to seek the expertise of legal professionals in drafting their copyright frameworks.

Mr Tebele also covered other legislations pertinent to business owners, including regulations on personal data and the newly implemented family responsibility leave within the Trade and Dispute Act. **BOP**



Absa Bank Botswana legal advisor, Mr Keletso Tebele (left) sharing a light moment with Ms Providence Moyo of Divine and Procure manufacturing company at the Absa women empowerment workshop in Francistown recently. Women entrepreneurs were briefed on among others, the importance of tax filing record keeping and Copyright Act.

Absa boosts businesses ahead of Dithubaruba

By **Lindi Morwaeng**

MOLEPOLOLE - Small businesses, participating in this year's Dithubaruba Cultural Festival, have been urged to strengthen their financial management skills and position themselves for long term growth.

This follows a business workshop held in Molepolole recently, organised by Dithubaruba Cultural Festival organisers in partnership with Absa Bank Botswana, the main sponsors of one of the country's biggest cultural event.

Speaking during the workshop, Dithubaruba coordinator, Mr Power Kawina said the session sought to assist businesses to improve their operations, learn from past mistakes and build networks ahead of the annual festival.

In addition to organising the festival, he said organisers found it critical to capacitate small businesses many of whom were long-term partners of the event.

"Absa as a partner has played a key role in providing support to our service providers.

This workshop is part of our commitment to help them capitalise fully on their services and sharpen their businesses going forward," he said.

Participants received training on financial literacy, with Absa Molepolole Branch Manager Ms Kelebonye Pelonomi sharing practical tips on how to grow their enterprises through responsible financial management.

Absa Business Banking official, Mr Bakang Letshele also encouraged entrepreneurs to open business accounts, highlighting that proper banking habits contributed to one's financial

history and creditworthiness.

"If you are in business, it is important to open a business account. We have different accounts tailored for various needs.

Depositing your earnings in a bank account before spending improves your cash flow and builds a financial track record that makes it easier to access credit," he said.

The initiative was warmly welcomed by attendees, among them, Mr Mooketsi Maruping, who said the workshop was timely and demonstrated the organisers' desire to see entrepreneurs thriving.

He said Dithubaruba organisers

were not just after profit instead they try to include everyone in the community.

"I hope other districts will learn from this example," he said.

For her part, Ms Patricia Mokoka, who runs a food business, described the workshop as an eye opener.

She noted that many small business owners often shied away from approaching banks due to negative perceptions, opting instead for micro-lenders who charged higher interest.

"Through this session, we realised that banks are not

something to be feared. Absa has also introduced mobile point-of-sale machines, which will help us transact safely during the event, especially now that many people no longer carry cash," she said.

Meanwhile, Mr Kawina said preparations for the cultural extravaganza were well underway, with small business stall tickets already sold out leaving only corporate stalls available.

He added that a Dithubaruba Symposium would be held on August 28 as a prelude to the festival followed by a Heritage Walk on August 30. **BOPA**

Investment arm to boost council revenue streams

By **Chendzimu Manyepedza**

SELEBI PHIKWE -The Selebi Phikwe Town Council (SPTC) is working toward the establishment of an investment arm intended to boost the council's revenue streams and promote sustainable development.

Speaking during the town's special full council session, deputy town clerk for Corporate Services, Mr Eric Botshelo said preparations for the full registration of the investment arm were underway, with the completion of the process expected in November.

He said the initiative was timely, as local authorities were seeking innovative avenues to reduce dependence on government subsidies for service delivery.

"This investment arm represents a significant step toward enhancing the revenue streams of SPTC. It is

not solely focused on immediate financial gains, but rather aims to establish a strong foundation to support future sustainable development," he said.

He said the investment arm would strategically invest in various sectors, thus positioning SPTC as a proactive local authority capable of capitalising on opportunities that would strengthen the local economy and encourage long-term sustainable growth.

"Its focus will be to cover multiple sectors, including industrialisation, agriculture, and infrastructure development, among others.

Through strategic partnerships with the private sector, SPTC aims to create opportunities that would stimulate economic activities in the town," he said. Furthermore, he noted that the investment company would adhere to corporate governance principles to ensure

accountability and transparency.

Nominated councillor, Mr Dimpho Mashaba praised the decision to create an investment arm, describing it as a positive step in the right direction toward financial independence.

He said the initiative would reinforce community development, particularly in areas such as public health and infrastructure, among others. Meanwhile, Clerk of the Selebi Phikwe Town Council, Mr Lawrence Mokotedi announced the establishment of three new committees; Education, Health and Human Resources.

He noted that the committees, along with the existing ones, would align with the government's mandate and would be tasked with enhancing governance, council operations, transparency, and accountability, among other democratic ideals. **BOPA**

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GHANZI**

Bomme ba mapodisi ba abela Moyalekanda

Ka Kedirebofe Pelontle

IKOGA - Bomme ba Mapodisi mo kgaolong ya Gumare ba abetse monni wa Ikoga, Mme Oreeditse Moyalekanda dimpho bosheng.

Dimpho tseo, di akaretsa dijo le didirisiwa tsa go tlhapa.

Seo, se tla morago ga gore ntlo ya gagwe e jewa ke kgabo ya molelo.

Fa a bua kwa tirong ya go aba dimpho, Kgosi Sarefo Mombeko wa Ikoga, a re o leboga maiteko a bomme ba mapodisi ka go thusa ba lelwapa la ga Mme

Moyalekanda, ba ba wetsweng ke seru.

Kgosi Mombeko a re mapodisi ga ba sa tlhola ba itsewe fela ka go tshwara badira melato.

Mothusa mogolwane wa mepodisi a Gumare, Assistant Superintendent Jerry Sabata a re dimpho tseo di rulagantswe ke bomme bao ka mokgatlho wa bone wa Police Women Network o o itebagantseng le go thusa setshaba le go rutuntsha bomme go ikemela mo botshelong.

ASP Sabata a re setshaba se tshwanetse go bona mapodisi e le basireletsi, ka jalo ba tshwanetse go tshwaragana le bone go lwantsha borukhutlhi.

Modulasetilo wa Gumare Police Women Network, Sergeant Omphile Kgobero, a re ba bonye go le botlhokwa go thusa Mme Moyalekanda ka go mo abela dimpho ka a ne a setse a iphotlhere.

Sgt Kgobero a re dimpho tseo ba di kgonne ka go kokoanya madi ba thusiwa ke bomme le borre ba mapodisi mo kgaolwaneng ya Gumare. **BOPA**



Bomme ba Mapodisi mo kgaolong ya Gumare ba abetse monni wa Ikoga, Mme Oreeditse Moyalekanda dimpho. Kgosi Sarefo Mombeko wa Ikoga, a re o leboga maiteko a bomme ba mapodisi ka go thusa ba lelwapa la ga Mme Moyalekanda, ba ba wetsweng ke seru. Senepe: Kedirebofe Pelontle

Bobedi bo a sidilega

Ka Puseletso Kenyaditswe

LET LHAKENG -Mapodisi a Letlhakeng a tlhotlhomisa tiragalo e mo go yone mme wa dingwaga tse di masome a matlhano le bone, a supang fa a tlhabilwe ke rre wa dingwaga tse di masome a mane le bosupa ka sengwe se se bogale mo lethekeng le mo lerameng kwa Ditshegwane ka Tshipi.

Mo potsolotsong, mothusa mogolwane wa mapodisi kwa Letlhakeng, Assistant Superintendent Lekopanye Molwantwa, o tlhalositse fa rre yoo le ene a ne a ya go ipega kwa mapodising a supa fa mme yoo a mo tlhabile mo letsogong, mme mapodisi ba ne ba ba isa kwa kokelwaneng ya Letlhakeng, kwa ba neng ba alafiwa ba bo ba gololwa.

A re tiragalo eo e diragetse kwa kgotleng ya Motsamai kwa Ditshegwane.

Rre Molwantwa o tlhalositse gape fa ditlhotlhomiso tsa mapodisi di tswetsetse, a bo a gakolola Batswana gore molemo wa kgang ke go buiwa.

O kopile batho gore e re fa ba na le kgang ba e bue, mme fa ba sa utlwane, ba kope bangwe go ba letlanya, kana kgosi le one mapodisi tota. **BOPA**

Maphata a naya baithuti maele

Ka Grace Sebape

LOBATSE - Baithuti ba mophati wa boraro ba sekole sa Pitikwe kwa Lobatse ba gakolotswe go tlhwaafalla dithuto tsa bone go baakanyetsa bokamoso jo bo galalelang. Mosimolodi wa kgwebo ya Tile Mate kwa Lobatse, gape e le moithuti wa pele wa sekole sa Pitikwe, Rre Tumelo Sedirwa, o dirile thotloetso eo bosheng jaaka baithuti ba ne ba rulaganyeditswe dithuto tsa go ba fa lesedi ka ditiro, e le tsela ya go baakanyetsa isago.

Rre Sedirwa a re sekgele mofufutso wa phatla, ka jalo o tlhaloseditse baithuti gore thuto ke konokono mo botshelong mme e bile e botlhokwa ka gore ke yone e thusang go tsaya ditshwetso tse di maleba ka tiro e moithuti a ka eletsang go e dira. Maikaelelo magolo a letsatsi, e ne e le go tlhagoalela baithuti tsela ya go sekaseka dithuto tsa tiro tse ba

Ka Portia Rapitsenyane

PALAPYE - Beng ba dikgwebo ka go farologana, ba rotloediswa go rurifatsa gore dikgwebo tse

‘Dirang dikgwebo tse di thaegileng’

ba di simololang di na le ditirelo tsa boleng go tswa kwa moding gore di tle di fitlhelele maikaelelo tsone.

Ba ne ba gakololwa ke mogolwane wa kanamiso mafoko go tswa kwa Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS), Rre Peter Mpete kwa Palapye ka letsatsi le le neng le rulagantswe ke ba Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) go arogana le bagwebi ka ditirelo tsa maphata a a farologaneng a a thusang dikgwebo.

Rre Mpete a re mogwebi o tshwanetse a dire se se nang le boleng kwa tshimologong ya kgwebo gore bat la ba bone maduo a a nametsang.

A re boleng mo kgwebong bo thusa fela thata ka bo kgotsofatsa modirisi wa ditirelo le tsholofelo tsa gagwe mo go se a se rekisetswang.

O supile gape gore go botlhokwa gore mong wa kgwebo a dire ka natla ka nako tshotlhe go kgotsofatsa ba ba tsayang ditirelo kwa go ene.

Rre Mpete o ne a rotloetsa beng ba dikgwebo go tila go ntsha ditirelo tsa boleng jo bo sa tshwaneng.

A re kgwebo ga e a tshwanela go ntsha ditirelo tse di siameng mo nakong e nngwe mme e ntshe tse di senang boleng mo nakong e nngwe a supa fa mogwebi a tshwanetse go tshepiwa ka nako tshotlhe.

O supile fa mogwebi a

tshwanetse a tlhatlhobe boleng jwa ditirelo tsa gagwe gangwe le gape gore ba ba tsayang ditirelo mo go ene ba mo tshepe.

A re kgwebo e e nang le ditirelo tsa boleng ke yone e e ka ipharologanyang le dikgwebo tse di senang ditirelo tsa boleng.

Rre Mpete a re boleng jwa tse mogwebi a di rekisang mo dikgwebong ga go kadiwe ka matlho, mme go nale thulaganyo ya go ditlathlloba.

O ne a gakolola bagwebi go emisa go kgabisa tse ba gwebang ka tsone ka kwa ntle fela mme mo teng di sena boleng a supa fa le mo teng di tshwanetse di kgotsofatse moreki.

A re bagwebi ba tshwanetse ba ele tlhoko gore kwa bofelong, tshwetso ya se mogwebi a se rekisang kana a gwebang ka sone se bona theko.

O ne a supa fa Batswana ba na le bokgoni jwa go ntsha dilwana tse di nang le boleng mme ba tlhoka go ititaya ka thupana.

Rre Mpete o ne a rotloetsa gore e re ba bula dikgwebo ba ele tlhoko kgang ya go tshwara badirisi ba ditirelo tsa bone sentle ka le yone e le mmangmang mo kgwebong e bile e ka tsholetsa kgwebo.

O ne gape a rotloetsa bagwebi go tsaya sebaka go tsenelela dithuto tse di farologaneng tse di itebagantseng le go ntsha dilwana tsa boleng tse di dirwang ke ba BOBS, gore ba kgone go tlhabolola dikgwebo tsa bone. **BOPA**

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GIMC: More than just entertainment

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Leapfrog Advertising will once again host the Gaborone International Music and Culture (GIMC), with the 11th edition scheduled for September 5-12.

The week-long event will feature various activities across Gaborone.

GIMC's strategy is to promote the role of arts and culture in economic development and job creation.

By supporting the local creative industry, the event aims to contribute to the country's economic growth.

GIMC's various creative events had also had an economic benefit for the value chain, including fashion, hair, makeup, catering, hospitality and transportation, laying a solid foundation for the cultural and creative industry.

Beyond benefitting the value chain, GIMC has increased tourism and created opportunities for local artists and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs), boosting the city's socio-economic impact.

"GIMC has significantly

influenced Gaborone's tourism by enhancing the city's cultural appeal, boosting local businesses and positioning Botswana as a vibrant cultural destination in Africa," said the event organiser, Fish Pabalinga in an interview.

Since inception in 2014, he said, GIMC had supported local artists and vendors and provided opportunities for over 200 performers.

He added that the event also donated to NGOs to enhance community welfare and indirectly promoted sustainable tourism by improving living standards.

"This aligns with Botswana's tourism model, which emphasises community-driven economic benefits," Pabalinga said.

Like any large-scale event, he said GIMC faced its share of challenges, especially financial ones.

Pabalinga noted that while some corporations had stepped in to support the event, more could be done.

"We encourage corporates to support the arts so that we can grow the audiences and improve skills on both the technical and creative aspects of the arts," he said.

Another challenge, he said was resource mobilisation because an event of such magnitude required significant money to put together and deliver successfully.

Nonetheless, he said they were committed to giving patrons their money's worth.

"Event planning is not easy, you have to be focused on delivering a good product for your patrons, despite the many challenges you encounter.

It is not an easy business, as such perseverance and focus are

important," he added.

Meanwhile, as GIMC returns for its 11th year, it promises to be more than just a series of events.

The event is set to kick off with a fitness challenge, where enthusiasts can enjoy an invigorating three-hour training session featuring

pilates, yoga, zumba and aerobics on September 5 at Grand Palm.

September 6 will feature #JazzOnTheLawns at Bojanala Waterfront, followed by the Champagne Picnic at Wagga Gardens on September 7.

GIMC poetry is scheduled for

BotswanaCraft on September 9 while GIMC comedy will be hosted at Avani Hotel on September 11.

The week-long GIMC activities conclude with a Clap and Tap concert on September 12 at Boipuso Hall. **BOPA**

Gospel artiste receives international recognition

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE – Motswana gospel artiste Gaone Selebo has once again captured the spotlight, earning a nomination at the United Kingdom's (UK) Women's Worship Gospel Music Awards (WWGMA) 2025.

This achievement follows her recent win at the American Gospel Choice Music Awards (CGMA) on June 26, where she scooped the Radio Announcer of the Year award.

Selebo has now been nominated under the Discovery Female Artist of the Year category for the 7th instalment of the WWGMA, set to take place on August 23.

"The aim of these awards is to celebrate and appreciate women in the gospel music fraternity globally," Selebo explained, adding that it could only be through God's greatness that she received this recognition.

She admitted she had been content with her earlier CGMA nomination and was "blown away" upon receiving the email confirming this new honour.

Selebo described the nomination as an attestation to her brand's growing visibility and appreciation in the UK.

The awards are organised and adjudicated by a board of directors actively involved in the music industry, who make all final decisions without public voting.

"Knowing this warms my heart and makes me want to penetrate that market," she shared.

As for attending the awards in person, Selebo revealed that it might prove difficult as she had not yet secured sponsorship.

She expressed hope that government could develop emergency funding for creatives in such situations, noting that

the support would go a long way in advancing the entertainment industry, which she described as still in its infancy. **BOPA**



Gaone Selebo



Fish Pabalinga

Eyes on Saleshando, Moshaoa

...as J30 tournament heats up

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Following the end of the journey for other Botswana players in the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J30, all eyes will be on Seabo Saleshando and Rethabile Moshaoa as the duo head into their next matches today.

Saleshando and Moshaoa will take the court against Asher Shimbarashe of Zimbabwe and Angelique van der Walt of South Africa respectively.

This comes after an impressive start, as young tennis players made their mark at the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J30.

Both Moshaoa and Saleshando advanced to the second round of the tournament, bringing pride to the nation and showcasing the promising future of the local players.

Moshaoa joined Saleshando as the second player from the country to proceed to the second round after a dominant

performance, while Saleshando secured his spot with a strong showing on Monday. Their victories highlight the growing talent in the local sport and set a positive tone for the remainder of the tournament.

Moshaoa advanced to the second round of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J30 girls' singles after a decisive victory over Zimbabwe's Noleen Mavondo, winning 6-1, 6-0, yesterday.

In a post-match interview, Moshaoa shared her strategy, saying "during the first set, I managed to set myself up with powerful serves, and my opponent's short balls gave me more opportunities to attack." It would seem that her aggressive style of play put Noleen under pressure throughout the match.

"The moment I sat back and didn't attack, she felt comfortable, not knowing I was building up points and waiting for the right opportunity to pounce," she explained. Moshaoa also noted that a swift return to her strong serves from the first set helped her secure the win.

In another highly anticipated match played yesterday, local player Katlego Regoeng was pitted against Dehan Van Deventer, the first-leg champion of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J30 boys' singles. Despite a valiant effort that had earned him a fan following, Regoeng, known as 'Cat-Man,' was defeated 6-0, 6-0.

Regoeng was however, not discouraged by the draw, stating that he knew what to expect. He said he had prepared for the match with his coach, focusing on tactics. "We knew how to beat the opponent, and we knew it wouldn't be easy to play against him. I was physically fit and mentally ready for everything," he said.

He admitted to feeling nervous at the start of the match, which caused him to miss a step, but he was able to adapt. "I knew the tactics, but I was not able to execute

them. But I was happy with how I played and I learned a lot and will take a lot of positives from this match," he added.

Cat-Man, however, expressed concern that other local tennis players were not performing well in the tournament, adding that most of them were not mentally ready. "I think we are afraid of some players.

Once we hear their names, we start panicking. But it is a process, as we grow with the game, we will come to the party," he said.

Nevertheless, he believed that with the Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) continuing to host major events, it would help build the players' confidence. He expressed his plans to compete in the J60 tournament in Gaborone in October, where he expects to do better.

In other matches yesterday, South Africa's Jamie Roux defeated Kgosi Tomeletso 6-1, 6-0 and Martin Seetso lost 6-2, 7-6(2) to South Africa's Nhlakanipho Ngwenga. **BOPA**



Zimbabwe tennis player, Nollle Mavondo (left) and Rethabile Moshaoa after battling it out in the girl's singles match during the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors second leg in Gaborone yesterday. Moshaoa won 6-1, 6-0 and proceeded to the second round. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo