DailyNews

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES

Thursday October 20, 2022 No. 194 **https://dailynews.gov.bw**

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Masisi plans teaching



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left) and UNICEF youth advocate, Ms Cathy Mantswe during the presentation of 75 letters from children at State House yesterday. Dr Masisi, a teacher by profession, announced plans to visit several schools once a month both to teach and to experience the challenges articulated by the children in their letters. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

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Government launches Ipelegeng skills development component

By Baleseng Batlotleng

MOGOBANE - The Ipelegeng skills development component will be launched in Mogobane and Otse next Tuesday.

Constituency community projects national coordinator, Mr Mmolotsi Mokotedi said in an interview on the sidelines of a preparatory meeting this week that the overarching aim of the project was to help beneficiaries graduate from poverty by assisting them to secure better employment opportunities or/and to employ others.

To that end the project provided Ipelegeng workers engaged in various projects with occupational, entrepreneurship and life skills. Mr Mokotedi said government had sanctioned the South East District Council (SEDC) to start the pilot project for construction skills development.

"As we implemented a construction and maintenance related project we wanted to utilise the opportunity to skill beneficiaries. When they finish they should be certified on those skills. They should also be capacitated as beneficiaries," he said.

Government had directed for reengineering of the Ipelegeng programme so that it could complement other employment creation and poverty eradication programmes, said Mr Mokotedi.

He said about 18 beneficiaries were trained in six trades of bricklaying, plastering, plumbing, electrical, painting, tiling and carpentry.

He said they had started programme rollout to the rest of the country and commended those local authorities that were already implementing it after identifying suitable projects.

For her part, South East District commissioner, Ms Sebokwane Dikgope applauded government for the new programme, saying it would resuscitate the spirit of self-reliance and promote local empowerment.

She said the revised programme was designed to serve as a poverty alleviation instrument to replace previous drought relief programmes.

She applauded the district for completing the three pilot projects on time. Ms Dikgope also commended government for equipping Batswana with vocational skills, saying it had the potential to create jobs and end dependence on handouts.

Briefing the meeting on the projects, SEDC's chief architectural and building services officer, Mr Khumo James said the first batch of beneficiaries would as part of their graduation and hand over their completed projects, namely two houses in Mogobane and Otse.

The Construction Industry Trust Fund (CITF) was charged with training the beneficiaries. Botswana National Productivity Centre also lectured beneficiaries on mindset change and smart work ethics. ***BOPA***



Some of the beneficiaries of the Ipelegeng Skills Development component pilot project in Mogobane recently. Government will launch the new look programme whose main aim is to facilitate beneficiaries and allow them to go into better employment opportunities. Photo: Baleseng Batlotleng



Minister Molao (left) and other attendees touring Ms Kesegofetse Gora's farm during World Food Day in Tswidi on Tuesday. Mr Molao said it was important to celebrate the day, given the significant role that food played in human sustenance and well-being. Photo: Thato Modiakgotla

No human security without food security - Molao

By Thato Modiakgotla

KANYE - There is no human security without food security, hence concerted efforts by United Nations and even Botswana to address issues of food and nutrition security, says Minister of Agriculture, Mr Fidelis Molao.

Speaking during the Commemoration of World Food Day 2022 in Tswidi, on Tuesday, Mr Molao said it was important to celebrate the day, given the significant role that food played as a basic need for human sustenance and well-being.

He said World Food Day 2022 was being celebrated at a time of profound food security challenges across the world due to COVID-19 pandemic, climate change crisis, biodiversity loss as well as armed conflicts.

However, he said he was encouraged that this year's event called for action through its theme: 'Leave no one behind, better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life for all'.

Mr Molao said even though progress for better nutrition was being made, many people still could not afford a healthy diet, putting them at high risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.

He implored Batswana not to lose sight of long-term sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 -zero hunger through inclusive and sustainable solutions.

Mr Molao said the global goal of achieving zero hunger by 2030 could not be achieved without providing support to small scale farmers, as well as intensifying programmes geared toward rural development.

"In addition to supporting food production through crops and livestock sub sectors, Botswana complements issues of food insecurity through social safety net programmes, whose primary objective is to reduce chronic food hunger, malnutrition and diseases," he said.

He said the procedure should be inclusive, especially to the people who drive food processes, such as farmers, herders, food workers and the fishing community.

"They are at the heart of driving global food production and they deserve to have their voices heard," Minister Molao said.

For better production, he said there was need to modernise processes and technologies, noting that farming should not be taken as a traditional way of living.

"Farmers must be trained to use improved practices, so that they can double their yields," he added.

He said investment and expamsion opportunities existed in Botswana's beef production. "We should step up integration, development and implementation of agricultural value chains," he said.

The minister also highlighted the need to strengthen efforts in working to slow down environmental degradation and climate change effects, adding that this could be done through planting instead of cutting them as well as appropriate use of land.

"The future of sustainable food systems is in our hands, everyone has a critical role in sustainable food production," he said.

Meanwhile, minister of Environment and Tourism, Ms Phildah Kereng said agriculture as the mainstay of the global population was solely based on the environment, therefore it was critical that systems were put in place to attain sustainable environment.

"Let us note that all forms of production occur on the environment, which is the capital to all sectors in the form of land, water and other components," she said.

Minister Kereng said in its work toward a sustainable environment, her ministry had developed and coordinated the implementation of protectionist instruments such as environmental policies and legislations. She said agricultural production inputs being land and water, must be used efficiently to reduce negative impacts on the environment and ensure resilience to climate change.

One such approach, she said was 'ClimateSmart Agriculture' which had the potential to increase productivity, enhance resilience and lower carbon footprint.

"This includes practices such as improving the management of livestock, rangelands and enhancing soil carbons," she said.

Ms Kereng implored Batswana to take cognisance of the increasing adverse impact of climate change on agriculture and other sectors of the economy as the theme dictated that no one should be left behind.

For his part, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Representative, Dr Rene Czudek said the World Food Day was meant to appreciate the good food as well as all heroes who contributed to the production of food.

Dr Czudek congratulated Botswana government's efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, through programmes such as school feeding, poverty eradication, which he said were contributing immensely to the achievement of 2030 agenda, where the country pursues to end hunger.

He said FAO was committed to assisting Botswana in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and land degradation to ensure food security.

"We have had several projects and continue developing some more, in which we work closely with government to safeguard food security," he added.

He encouraged all to take part as it was not possible to end hunger without collective efforts.

During the event, FAO handed over Isuzu D-Max 300 D 4X4, five mobile water bowsers (1000 Litres), 24 bow tents and one printer combined with photocopier, all valued at about P1million to ministry of agriculture to assist in the fight against hunger. ***BOPA***

Finalise choice of district - Autlwetse

By Goitsemodimo Williams-Madzonga

MATHANGWANE - Residents of Mathangwane have been advised to make a final choice between Tonota and Tutume which are earmarked for upgrading to full-fledged districts.

They were also told to submit their decision to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development as a matter of urgency.

The advice was given by Minister Kgotla Autlwetse Tuesday after it emerged that the villagers were still divided on which district they preferred.

Some felt being under Tonota would speed up service delivery because the sub-district had only 12 villages compared to 32 for Tutume.

However, others felt the fewer villages under Tonota had not fared any better in terms of development and therefore preferred to remain under Tutume.

Regarding the anticipated full-fledged district's name, residents said it should maintain Tutume for fear that renaming it might cause divisions.

Taking residents through implementation of the decentralisation exercise, Mr Autlwetse said it would cost government P63 million to upgrade 22 sub-district councils into full- fledged entities.

He said the work would be done in two phases with upgrading of 11 sub-districts per phase.

The exercise included realignment of district boundaries, which would involve survey and mapping of areas and ultimately their gazetting, explained Minister Autlwetse.

He said it was going to be cheaper to upgrade sub-districts which were currently operating in rural administration centres because the infrastructure was already in place.

Minister Autlwetse said in areas where a full-fledged district council and a subordinate structure operated from one place, such as Serowe, Molepolole and Kanye, resources would be moved to new establishments.

In the case of Nata, he said it would continue operating as a service centre until funds had been secured to build offices.

Mr Autlwetse said upgrading of sub-district councils would help reduce red tape and improve service delivery.

He noted that poor service delivery had been a source of many complaints.

Despite government having set up service standards and turn-around times, people were still not served properly, said Mr Autlwetse.

The minister said the new district councils would have their own budget and decisions taken by the council would be sent directly to the ministry. ***BOPA***

President Masisi plans teaching part-time

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has pledged to visit schools around the country once a month and offer his teaching services.

Dr Masisi made the announcement at State House yesterday during the presentation of 75 letters written by children from different parts of Botswana.

Minister of Education and Skills Development, Dr Douglas Letsholathebe, a science and mathematics teacher, promised to join the President in the teaching endeavour.

Marking the 75th anniversary of UNICEF, the 75 letters express the children's visions for the future while others raised concerns about the state of education in Botswana.

Touched by the children's concerns regarding their learning environment, including dilapidated buildings and non-inclusiveness, Dr Masisi said he would visit various schools once a month to teach.

He promised to abide by the education system rules and plan lessons.

By so doing, the President said, he would also be able to get first-hand information on the children's concerns.

President Masisi however said government would do better to address such challenges and implored Minister Letsholathebe to take the necessary action.

He said government would continue ensuring that the education system was inclusive and that no child was left behind.

"I do not want any child to miss the opportunity to learn just because they are from marginalised communities and that they have dropped out of school due to pregnancy or any other reason," he said.

The President said government would train teachers on innovative teaching and learning methods as well as the use of technology.

As a Generation Unlimited (GenU) global leader, Dr Masisi said he was tasked with mobilising resources, securing commitments and promoting the organisation's goals in support of all young people on education, training or employment by 2030.

Working with both GenU and UNICEF, the President expressed commitment to forging partnerships and spurring others towards connecting young people to education, skilling, employment and entrepreneurship.

GenU is the world's first public-private-youth partnership formed by the UN secretary general in 2018 with the mission of providing skills and connecting the world's young people to opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and social impact.

Anchored in UNICEF, the partnership brings together global organisations and leaders including heads of state, CEOs, UN agency chiefs and civil society champions with young people to co-create and deliver innovative solutions on a global scale. ***BOPA***



De Beers Group - global training coordinator, Ms Oarabile Hendricks interacting with visitors to the group's stall in Francistown on Tuesday. The exhibition, the first of its kind for Francistown, was part of the just-ended national business conference activities in line with De Beers' efforts to ensure all Batswana get an opportunity to view and appreciate diamonds. The group also displayed some diamond jewellery. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Botswana speaks for refugees

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Botswana has submitted a number of requests on behalf of refugees to the executive committee of the High Commissioner's Programme 73rd session held in Geneva, Switzerland recently.

Speaking during a media briefing in Gaborone Tuesday, Minister of Justice, Mr Machana Shamukuni said among the requests was for refugee hosting countries to be assisted with cash to give to asylum seekers instead of food parcels.

Cash would enable them to make their own choices instead of getting uniform goods which they might not need, he said.

Mr Shamukuni said he also requested funding for a commercial market for asylum seekers to trade in order to earn income.

He however expressed concern about asylum seekers who moved from one country to another which he said affected resources.

As an example, he said 705 DRC asylum seekers granted protection in Zimbabwe proceeded to Botswana while 70 from Somalia, who were in South Africa, had done the same.

All were still being assessed to see how best they could be assisted, said Mr Shamukuni.

Meanwhile, he said UNHCR had applauded Botswana for strengthening international cooperation in mitigating global development challenges.

The country was also hailed for its open door policy and generosity in hosting refugees since 1978, said the minister.

Mr Shamukuni said Botswana was applauded for showing remarkable support and solidarity with people fleeing to the country.

Botswana, he said, had been doing well in providing health care, basic education as well as dignified shelter for asylum seekers.

Minister Shamukuni said 100 shelters at Dukwi Refugee Camp as well as 20 houses in Francistown were recently refurbished.

"The structures can accommodate families so we do not compromise values of a family," he said. ***BOPA***

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Published by: Department of Information Services.
Plot 37795 Wellie Seboni Drive.
Private Bag BR 139 Gaborone.
Printed by: Government Printing and Publishing Services
Online Edition: https://dailynews.gov.bw **email:** *bopa@gov.bw* **email:** *dailynews@gov.bw*
Circulation 40 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

Shakawe welcomes decision

By Kedirebofe Pelontle

SHAKAWE - Shakawe residents have welcomed the decision by government to upgrade Okavango Sub-district to a fully-fledged district.

The residents welcomed the decision during a kgotla meeting to brief them about restructuring of councils, which was addressed by the Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Sethabelo Modukanele in Shakawe on Tuesday.

However, most residents were of the view that the district headquarters of Okavango be moved to Shakawe from Gumare as was planned.

The assistant minister had earlier on informed residents that Okavango Sub-district was among the 11 that would be upgraded in phase I of the implementation plan.

Mr Modukanele said the aim was to upgrade the existing sub-districts without changing their location since it was cost-effective.

He said upgrading considered factors such as the vastness of the areas, population size, infrastructure and availability of funds.

Mr Modukanele observed that upgrading of the sub-council would help in decentralisation as decisions would be taken in Okavango instead of Maun, which was the district headquarters.

Responding to residents, the assistant minister said the people of Shakawe were at liberty to share their views as government valued consultations.

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Moheto Nyumba of Nganrange expressed a wish for the headquarters to be based in Shakawe as it would serve the people of Okavango better without disadvantaging people on the Eastern side of the Okavango River known as overseas.

In comments, Retired Major Lefedile Andreck said Shakawe was developing faster compared to Gumare, hence it was ideal that it served as the district headquarters.

A resident, Ms Maenga Mbambo also said she was happy about the development to have Okavango as a full district and also suggested that Shakawe be the district headquarters.

In his vote of thanks, the area Member of Parliament for Okavango, Mr Kenny Kapinga observed that the district headquarters were earmarked for Gumare as the existing sub-district headquarters.

However, Mr Kapinga concurred with residents that Shakawe deserved the district headquarters as it was the biggest village in the Okavango.

Mr Kapinga said considering issues of existing structures, as a transitional process, the headquarters could be temporarily based in Gumare. ***BOPA***



Chobe Land Board deputy chairperson, Ms Bwaabo Limbo (left), Mr Chenjekwa (second left), board secretary, Mr Patrick Mutakela (second right) and board deputy secretary, Mr David Stimela at a media briefing on Monday. Mr Chenjekwa said his board attained zero plot application lists in half of the villages in the Chobe District. Photo: Keamogetse Letsholo

Chobe nears zero plot waiting lists

By Keamogetse Letsholo

KASANE - Chobe Land Board will soon have zero plot waiting lists in half of its villages within its jurisdiction.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, Chobe Land Board chairperson, Mr Johane Chenjekwa said so far the board had zero waiting lists in Satau and Parakarungu.

He said after the anticipated land allocation in Kavimba and Kachikau this week, the two villages would add to the areas with zero waiting list.

Mr Chenjekwa expressed hope that other villages in the district such as Pandamatenga, Mabele, Lesoma and Kazungula would have waiting lists cleared in the near future.

He explained that Lesoma was a pressure area, but the land board had since engaged the Ministry of Land and Water Affairs on the issue.

Mr Chenjekwa said while the land board was awaiting the outcome of the ministry engagement, it was in the meantime working hard to generate plots from the open spaces and in-fills.

He said the Lesoma plot application waiting was at over 7 000.

He said in Satau there were 694 plots readily available for allocation, while after this week's allocations, Kavimba and Kachikau would have 373 and 677 readily available plots respectively.

Mr Chenjekwa, who is also the president of the Botswana Association of Tribal Land Authorities (BATLA), said he was elated that other land boards such as Kgalagadi and Ghanzi also had zero waiting lists in some areas of their territories.

He said addressing plot allocation waiting lists would help land boards avoid the long land allocation waiting periods and would also help them prepare for those who recently attained 18 years and became eligible for allocation.

He appealed to Batswana to desist from making land applications in all land boards, but instead apply to their most preferred areas so that land boards could plan better for their waiting lists.

Mr Chenjekwa further encouraged all Batswana, particularly the youth, to apply for plots in Kavimba, Satau and Kachikau as tland was readily available.

He, however, said Batswana should be mindful of the fact that with the current Land Act a person qualified for only one residential plot in one of the tribal territories in the country.

Regarding the production of the Secure Land Titles (SLT), Mr Chenjekwa said the Chobe Land Board had a target of producing 6 269 this current financial year against the national target of 49 600.

He said the board started lodging STLs for registration at the Deeds Office on October 10 and as at October 14, 40 STLs were lodged.

He urged the public to continue registering their plots and that his land board had registered 6 973 plots against a total of 18 452 prospective registrations in the district.

Mr Chenjekwa explained that the Re-enacted Land Act provided that registration would take place for a period of six months effective April 20.

He said the period would elapse on October 20 and it would be upon the Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs to decide whether the penalties for failure to adhere to the provision should be taken against defaulters or not. ***BOPA***

Zimbabwe documents natives

By Thandy Tebogo

LETLHAKANE - As a move to close gaps created by COVID-19 movement restrictions, Zimbabwean Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Batiraishe Mukonoweshuro said his office was on the road to documenting Zimbabwean nationals in Botswana.

He said this during a meeting with Boteti leadership in Letlhakane recently.

He said the aim was to document people through processing of birth certificate applications, passport renewals and international funeral cover registration.

He noted that they would send an investment and trade officer who would engage Zimbabweans in Botswana and Batswana on areas of cooperation.

Mr Mukonoweshuro said they identified possible areas of cooperation between Botswana and Zimbabwe on agricultural produce cross border cooperation and Foot as well as Mouth Disease eradication cooperation.

Boteti council chairperson Mr Molemi Galeragwe said the initiative of ensuring that the people of Zimbabwe in Botswana had proper documents was a welcome development.

He urged Mr Mokonoweshuro to engage the local authorities in Boteti to establish what they have in common and identify areas of cooperation.

For his part, senior assistant council secretary, Mr Christopher Maramaba said they were faced with a lot of challenges, citing issues of Zimbabwean nationals dying in Botswana, incidents of children born locally, crime as well as issues of Batswana students studying in Zimbabwe.

He expressed concern that requirements that should be adhered to when one entered through Zimbabwean border were not known in Botswana.

He cited that there was an incident where a deceased person was kept at the border in Zimbabwe for two days, adding that there was also an incident where a car was impounded at the border because it had no spare wheel.

Kgosi Baruntshi Kegapetswe of Letlhakane said they had realised that since the beginning of 2022 Zimbabweans came into Botswana in large numbers, and it was therefore crucial to devise means of how they could be assisted.

He expressed concern that expectant mothers of Zimbabwean nationals lost their lives during birth as they failed to seek medical help due to fears of being arrested.

Kgosi Kegapetswe requested Zimbabwean officials to state plans they had in place for children born in Botswana, saying they were undocumented since most of them were delivered at home. ***BOPA***

FOR ADS 365 3591 / 365 3592

300 small stock perish in bush fires

By Calviniah Kgautlhe

BOKSPITS - About 300 goats and sheep perished in Bokspits and Struizendam in a ferocious inferno that broke out from the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park last week.

Kgosi Emma Morerwa of Bokspits told *BOPA* in an interview on Tuesday that multiple massive blazes broke out at around 2pm last week Wednesday, killing small stock in farms located near the park.

She said some of the animals were partly burnt and the farmers killed them as there was no hope for their survival.

Kgosi Morerwa said the fire also scorched substantial acres of land, leaving the remaining animals with limited grazing land.

She revealed that some of the surviving animals could not be located, saying they may have been misdirected by the fire.

Kgosi Morerwa lamented the huge losses suffered by the farmers, citing Mr Samuel Matthys, who lost 190 animals, Mr Stephanus Rautenburg, who lost 60 and Mr Christopher van Niekerk, who lost 40.

Kgosi Morerwa said apart from killing small stock, the fire, which subsided on Monday, through the efforts of different stakeholders, caused severe damage to property. She said a vehicle which was parked at one of the farms was burnt down on Friday evening.

Meanwhile, Mr Rautenburg, who has been rearing small stock for 20 years, said the loss was a major setback, adding however that he was fortunate as he was left with 238 goats and 500 sheep.

Acting Bokspits Police Station commander, Assistant Superintendent Paul Bimbo said 123 goats and 53 sheep were reported to have died in the fire, while 23 sheep and three goats were injured.

In the meantime, he said 50 goats were reported missing, adding however that more could have been killed, but not reported to the police.

He appreciated the people of Struizendam and Rappelspan for cooperating in bush fire disaster management efforts.

Supt Bimbo said animals were not the only casualties of the inferno as 350 gum poles, which were to be used to restore the wildlife campsite, was burnt to ashes, adding that five ranches around Bokspits had also been drastically affected.

Struizendam Kgosi Isaac Titus was one of the people whose flock survived the fire as his son heeded the police' warning to the BORAVAST cluster farmers to move their flocks to safety.

Kgosi Titus however said three quarters of his farm was gutted by the bush fire.

He warned people not to engage in practices that could cause veld fires.

He pleaded with the government to consider compensating the affected.

"Most people in the area are living below the poverty datum line and if you are not well off and you lose a lot of animals then you become a destitute, we need help," he said. ***BOPA***



Department of Forestry and Range Resources Kgalagadi District coordinator, Mr Tawana Maunganidze said as at September, about 54 000 hectares of land had been affected by bush fires in Kgalagadi. The recent fires broke out at Two Rivers, Gakhibane, Rappelspan and Khawa. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

Tswapong South to have adequate water supply

By Kabo Keaketswe

SEFHARE - Shortage of water in the Tswapong South area that has been going on for a long time will soon be a thing of the past.

This follows the nearing completion of the connection of Tswapong South villages to Mahalapye phase two water project, which started in November 2020.

The project, which starts in Mahalapye, with a pipe of 400mm, will pump water to Moshopha, 68km from Mahalapye, where a pump station has been set up with a reservoir of 1 500m^3.

During a tour of the Moshopha site, project manager, Ms Delilah Motukwa said the Moshopha pump station had three channels that would be pumping water to Sefhare, Ramokgonami and Pilikwe clusters.

The project, which is 93 per cent complete, Ms Motukwa said, was behind schedule as they encountered challenges such as delayed approval of the environmental management plan (EMP).

She said the contractor had anticipated the EMP to be approved within three months, instead of the six, hence delayed commencement of the project.

Ms Motukwa also noted that excess rock underground was one of the major hiccups when placing pipes, adding that acquiring the suitable type of soil to lay pipes was also a challenge.

Another setback, the project manager said, was that the pipeline also passed through some of the Tswapong fields, where owners had to be compensated, while some cases took long to resolve, hence delayed project progress.

Nonetheless, Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, Dr Kefentse Mzwinila set a deadline for the contractor to have had completed all the works by November 15.

He said government was committed to providing adequate potable water of the required standards to Batswana, hence the need to fast track water projects.

Dr Mzwinila highlighted that the P291m connection of Tswapong South villages to Mahalapye phase two project was one of the developments aimed at improving the lives of Batswana, as it would benefit 18 villages in the area.

He however noted that the envisaged 20-year life span facility would have long started, but due to budgetary constraints it could not. He therefore thanked Batswapong for their patience.

For his part, Sefhare/Ramokgonami MP, Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang commended government for such projects, adding that shortage of water had always been a burning issue.

"I am happy that it is finally happening, we have long waited for such moments as Batswapong," he said. ***BOPA***

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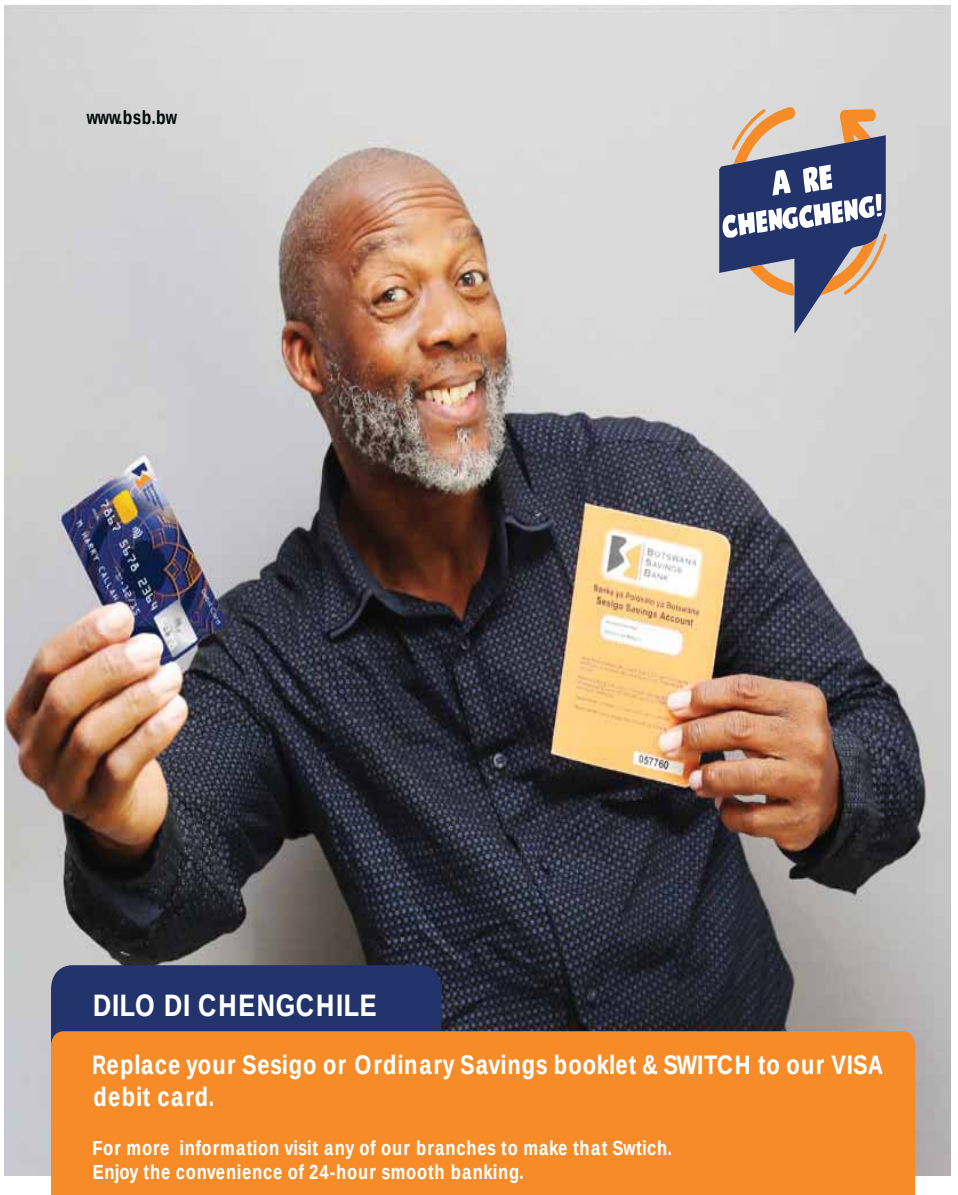

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Farmers want subsidy increased



Farmers attending NDB presentations on the Impact Accelerator Subsidy for horticultural farmers in Lentsweletau recently. Photo: Lindi Morwaeng

Photo: Lindi Morwaeng

LENTSWELETAU - Horticultural farmers in Kweneng have called on government to increase subsidy allocated to the sector through the ongoing Impact Accelerator Subsidy (IAS) fund.

The fund is designed to increase production levels of horticultural products.

Introduced in 2021, the fund is part of an economic response plan targeted at addressing short-term working capital requirements for businesses.

Farmers have since aired their views on how the fund could be improved during a meet and greet session organised by National Development Bank (NDB) in Lentsweletau, Saturday.

During the session, it was clear that challenges facing farmers today were far from over, albeit government efforts towards self-sustenance in the horticultural sector.

Farmers, particularly from Farmers United, a company formed by a group of farmers, said Kweneng District was concentrated with a lot of farmers, thus the P50 million allocated to horticulture was not enough to meet their demands.

They also said a lot of farmers were already in debt from various financial institutions as a result, raising the 50 per cent necessary for one to meet the requirements was not easy.

One of the farmers, Mr Thapelo Setimela said farmers were experiencing a lot of challenges and suggested that government should restructure the packages so that they could be inclusive.

He was of the view that available infrastructural developments on farms be used as collateral and be taken into consideration as a farmer's share of their 50 per cent contribution.

Another farmer, Mr Casim Longman suggested that NDB should look at the entire value chain in the sector, taking into consideration that the landscape had changed.

He said during the COVID-19 pandemic, prices of fertilizers and other inputs shot up.

This, he said, called for the bank to have a fund in place for inputs so that fertilizers and herbicides could be produced locally to beat inflation.

He also said both small and emerging farmers were competing with retailers who were now growing their own crops, which meant that farmers struggled to sell their produce.

He called on government to regulate all these to level the playing field.

However, other farmers were of the view that the fund should be extended to provide working capital as that was one of their major challenges, citing that most of the farmers already in business had infrastructure on their farms, but did not have working capital.

Others cited that NDB should come up with an improved insurance scheme for farmers, saying crop failure was high among them.

Others called for the establishment of an Agri bank to fully cater for farmers' needs.

However, Farmers United board chairperson, Mr Ratsela Molefe applauded NDB for the initiative.

"We are excited with what NDB is doing.

We believe we are moving in the right direction," he said.

He further stated that through their company, they were working towards establishing a distribution and processing centre to make sure that their products were fully utilised country wide.

NDB relationship manager and team leader, Mr Kesego Mokgetse said so far the P20 million disbursed on the fund had already been used up by a total of 239 farmers, the majority of whom were from Kweneng region comprising 109 farmers.

In total, Kweneng farmers used about P9 million of the fund.

He also indicated that NDB had assisted farmers who did not have their share of 50 per cent with P3.5 million to meet the requirement in order to benefit from the fund.

Meanwhile, Mr Mokgetse advised farmers who were financially challenged to approach NDB for assistance and promised that their cases would be looked at on individual merits.

Although he acknowledged farmers' challenges, he said the idea of an Agri bank was commendable, but it presented a lot of challenges.

On the issue of insurance, he said the bank had realised a need to revamp their cover underwriting because farmers felt it was limited in terms of crop coverage.

He, however, said the bank had noted the farmers' concerns and the feedback would be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture to improve the fund. ***BOPA***



Ms Mosweu

Prospects of hosting KP secretariat luscious

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - When the history of diamonds in Botswana is re-written, it goes without saying that a chapter should be reserved to capture the prospects of hosting Kimberly Process(KP) secretariat.

So distinct and captivating would be such an account of how Botswana is not only anxious to protect its diamond industry from the taint of conflict diamonds, but is also lobbying to house the headquarters of the anti-conflict diamond watchdog in Gaborone.

Like the winds that set sails to a windmill, the prospects of hosting the KP secretariat give ascent to the vantage tower from which Botswana envisions to propel towards her aspirations to be the world diamond hub.

The Kimberly Process is the brainchild of Southern African diamond-producing countries that met in Kimberley, South Africa, in May 2000, to stop the trade in 'conflict diamonds' and ensure diamond purchases were not financing violence by rebel movements and their allies.

The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) was then set up in 2003.

It is against the backdrop of the 2003 KPCS agreement that forecasts of Botswana housing the secretariat lies in the horizon and government is determined to leave no stone unturned in ensuring that Botswana become the headquarters of some of the world's leading diamonds producers.

In making its bid, Botswana's message has been centered on the country's diamond story, which dates back to one year post independence era and it is a clear narrative of a country transformed, primarily by harnessing the power of its diamond resources to maintain tight control of its mineral wealth.

It is through the proceeds of revenues generated from diamond mining that government continues to transform the lives of people in more ways than could have been imagined by prehistoric societies across the vast landscape of Botswana.

When lobbying European Union (EU) member states to back the country's bid, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi once said, "The significance of Botswana diamonds on the economy is unlike any in the world; diamonds mean everything to us. Every good story you have heard about Botswana is predicated on the production, safe selling and responsible utilisation of diamonds."

Botswana is not a newbie in hosting organisational secretariats, as it is the current host of the SADC and the expectation is that it can emulate such success even in housing the KP secretariat.

The nation thus awaits with bated breath for the resumption of the Kimberly Process Plenary meeting to be held in Gaborone on November 1-5, where the winner of the Kimberly Process secretariat host bid will be announced.

Currently, only Botswana and China are bidding to house the anti-conflict diamond secretariat watch dog, following Austria's bid withdrawal.

Botswana Diamond Hub deputy director, Ms Susan Matlolela said the prospects of hosting the KP secretariat was luscious as it emphasised government's devotion to protecting the local diamond industry from the blemish of conflict diamonds. Speaking in an interview, she expressed optimism that the upcoming KP plenary meeting would announce Botswana as the deserving host of the KP secretariat because Botswana has since the launch of the Kimberley Process in 2003, supported its mandate in order to protect its diamond industry.

"Our diamonds have, from the onset, been ethically mined and have always been for development and economic growth, unlike in certain cases, where diamond mining has financed civil wars.

The diamonds in Botswana have financed economic growth, and it is this distinction that the government would like to highlight," she said.

She highlighted that Botswana was often hailed as a model of democracy, stability and prudent economic policy in sub-Saharan Africa and that notion was further cemented by the manner in which the country has used its resources for economic benefits and uplifting its citizen's livelihoods, something that Ms Matlolela said could also boost Botswana's bid.

To further guard against illicit mining, she said government had adopted a global certification system that identifies the origin of all rough diamonds and act as the cornerstone of the Kimberley process.

She is of the view that it is fitting for Botswana to house the KP secretariat since the country was the world's largest producer of gem-quality diamonds, in terms of value of output, and the second largest volume producer in the world unlike her bidding competitor, China who does not mine diamonds at all.

"It is worth noting that Botswana's current status as the chair of the KP process, could also give her an edge over China," she said. Ms Matlolela noted that Botswana's chairmanship continued to deliver tangible progress on all of the Kimberly Process priority areas as well as strengthen the implementation and effectiveness of the Kimberly agreements. ***BOPA***

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Roads to be rehabilitated this year - MP

By Esther Mmolai

KARENG - Some roads linking villages in the Ngami constituency will be rehabilitated before the end of the year, Ngami Member of Parliament, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama has told Kareng residents.

Addressing the residents during a kgotla meeting, he said he was concerned about the terrible state of roads in Ngami and that he recently engaged the relevant minister, who promised improvement of some of the roads before end of the year.

Mr Hikuama promised to follow up on the issue as the rainy season was approaching, adding that rain would exacerbate the situation

He cited gravel roads that connected the villages of Nokaneng-Dobe, Tsau-Semboyo, Habu and Makakung-Kareng, among those that needed to be rehabilitated.

On other issues, the MP called on residents to take the education of their children seriously and work hard to improve the learners' performance.

He said achieving academic excellence required a collective approach by all stakeholders.

Mr Hikuama and called on village leadership, the community and other stakeholders to come on board and support schools.

"The low level of learner performance is worrying and we should show interest to ensure this state of affairs is not allowed to continue. We should support our children's studies and shape their future," he added.

Mr Hikuama explained that education was key to success, saying that it could help make the world a better place and allow learners to turn their dreams into reality.

To promote academic excellence in his constituency, the MP has pledged a floating trophy which would be awarded to best performing primary and secondary schools.

The trophy, he said would enhance learning and teaching as well as cultivate the spirit of competition amongst schools hence improve performance.

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Malebogo Mhapa of Kareng had said the state of the roads needed urgent attention and also decried shortage of water in the village.

An official from Water Utilities Corporation, Mr Mokeresete Ramontsho attributed the water shortage to the inefficiency of Semolo reverse osmosis plant, which he said was old and frustrated efforts to supply water as expected.

The plant supplies Bothatogo, Kareng, Sehithwa, Bodibeng, Legotlhwane and Toteng.

Mr Ramontsho noted that the plant was designed to pump 1 080 litres of water a day but it was currently producing only 768 litres.

Vandalism of water infrastructure, he said also exacerbated the situation, fingering some members of the community, who he said destroyed pipes to water livestock.

Mr Ramontsho, however said efforts were underway to rehabilitate the plant as funds had been secured and tendering process was ongoing. ***BOPA***



Kareng Village Development Committee chairperson, Mr Keapoletswe Keapoletswe (centre) has called on the council to speed up relocation at the newly established Qhorotsha settlement. Photo: Esther Mmolai

Veteran broadcaster calls it quits

GABORONE - Today marks the end of an era as the legendry journalist Kesaobaka Kooreng popularly known as KK retires from the public service after 38 years.

In an interview Kooreng, said he started his journalism career as a cub reporter with the *Botswana Press Agency (BOPA)* in 1984 and rose through the ranks up to his current position of chief broadcasting officer with Radio Botswana.

KK has been the head of Radio Botswana News and Current Affairs since 2011 and among his career highlights is leading a broadcasting services team that travelled around the country covering Poverty Eradication Workshops that saw many Batswana wriggling themselves out of the shackles of poverty.

He was first posted to Letlhakane in the Central District village 1984, where he headed the Information and Broadcasting office, working alongside Mr Onaliketso Tlhogokima as a messenger reporter and Bontle Ngwako as a driver/reporter.

During that period he proved to be a proficient writer and one of his bosses, Mr Johannes Pilane never forgot an introduction (lead) of one of his stories. "Letlhakane is susceptible to numerous criminal activities as it is juxtaposed between two diamond mines of Letlhakane Diamond Mine and Orapa," read the lead.

Kooreng said it was at the time when Mr Epena Ngatangue, one of *BOPA* veteran journalist was working in Maun and he had to go for further studies in Cameroon. KK was the nearest to fill his boots and at times it appeared like he was working in Maun.

Kooreng said that was before the discovery of other diamond mines such as Damtshaa and Lucara diamond that had become popular around the world due to the quality and value of diamonds produced there.

He was an all-rounder reporter doing a variety of news stories including police roundups, court, sports, culture and entertainment, politics and business .

It was through his business reporting acumen that he started the Sehalana sa Papadi segment that he subsequently co-hostedwith Kabo Garechaba at Radio Botswana

He extensively covered President Sir Ketumile Masire during local and international trips. In one of those trips, he said, he covered Sir Ketumile when he went to bid farewell to the Commonwealth Family at the Dominican Republic before stepping down from the presidency.

Kooreng also travelled extensively with Mr Mogae and he explained that one of the trips that always jumped to his mind was when he travelled with the President to cover the United Nations General Assembly in the United States of America, following which they travelled to Canada where they observed Parliament in session with its robust debates that at times it appeared to turn violent.

"One of the trips that vividly come to my mind is when I went to cover the All Africa Games in Cairo, Egypt in 1992, mind you this was the first time Botswana participated in the prestigious African event.

The team had in its midst Tsoseletso Magang doing 100m, Wilson Theleso marathon, France Mabiletsa boxing, Camera Ntereke athletics and others," he said.

The team, he said was under the leadership of former Commissioner of Prisons, Mr Joseph Orebotse and Shakes Kebualemang of the Botswana Defence Force, who was taking care of the boxers.

While working at *BOPA*, he said, he had the opportunity to mentor upcoming journalists in the likes of Thebeyame Ramoroka, Gregory Kelebonye, Bester Gabotlale, Chippa Legodimo, Mpho Dibeela and others.

"I remember overhearing Thebeyame Ramoroka interviewing a news source and he kept saying Morena, Monngame, Rraetsho and Sir. After that I called him aside to let him understand that in an interview the interviewer and the interviewee are at par and it is only after the interview that he can use all the synonyms of respect he can think of," he said.

He said Ramoroka took the advice and continued to pass the lesson on to others whenever he got the opportunity.

While with *BOPA*, he said he went for auditions to read the news at Radio Botswana and he did wonders with the Setswana Language, which kick-started his journey with Radio Botswana.

Kooreng was well rounded in news agency journalism having studied at Indian Institute of Mass Communication at Jawahalal Nehru University in New Delhi and proceeded to do a degree in Media/Journalism at the University of Southern Queensland in Australia.

At some stage he was transferred to Serowe as Central District Bureau Chief and while there he proved that he has what it takes to lead.

He was later transferred on promotion to Gaborone, where he became the Head of Radio Botswana News and Current Affairs, a position that he is vacating today on compulsory retirement. ***BOPA***



Mr Kooreng is retiring from the public service after 38 years.



Dr Festus Mogae (right), Mr Kooreng (left) and RB2 staff after Dr Mogae's interview on the Month of Youth Against AIDS at RB2 studios.

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Happy Centenary!

A fantastic 100th birthday to a loyal BBS Bank Shareholder and Customer, Dr. Gaositwe Keagakwa Tibe Chiepe. More importantly a national icon, educator, trailblazer, politician, diplomat and leader.

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Banni ba lela ka tlhaelo ya metsi

Ka Kenanao Ntsimane

SESE - Banni ba Sese ba lela ka tlhaelo ya metsi, boroko jwa badirela puso gammogo le fa ba direlang teng.

Ba roletse mopalamente wa bone, Rre Mephato Reatile matshwenyego ao mo phuthegong ya kgotla ka Mosupologo.

Ba tlhaloseditse mopalamente wa bone gore ba boipelego, balemisi le bakenti ga ba na diofisi tse ba direlang mo go tsone.

Ba re kgaolo ya bone e ikaegile thata ka temo, mme go utlwisa botlhoko thata fa ba lephata la temo thuo ba sena diofisi.

Banni ba re jaanong matlo mangwe a komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse a dirisiwa e le diofisi, selo se ba reng se baya ba komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse ka fa mosing, ka ba itirela letseno la madi ka matlo ao.

Bare selelo sa letlhoko la diofisi se ka arabiwa ka go agwa ga diofisi tse di kopanetsweng ke maphata a puso mo motseng.

Ba ngongoregile gape ka ditsela tse di mo motseng tse ba reng ga di tsamaege bogolo jang ka nako ya dipula.

Banni ba ne ba kopa gore di nne di gopiwa, ba bo ba kopa gape gore kokelwana ya bone e katolosiwe, go nna le lekalana la pelegiso.

Mo go tse di amang lenaneo la Ipelegeng, ba ne ba kopa gore kapei ya borotho e busediwe, ba tlhalosa fa e ne e tokafatsa matshelo a batho.

Le fa gontse jalo, ba lebogetse lenaneo la puso la go agela batlhoki matlo ba supa fa le bone, ba lenwa moro mo motseng wa bone.

Fa a lekodisa banni, Mopalamente Reatile o ba boleletse fa e rile bosheng ga nna le phuthego ya palamente ya tshoganetso e e neng e itebagantse le gore lenaneo la ditlhabololo la setshaba le tsamaalane le palamente.

O ba boletse le ka molao o o tsamaisang di pension, a tlhalosa gore fa mabaka mangwe a patika jaaka bolwetsi le kago, pension e ka dirisiwa go thusa motho mo diemong tsa mohuta oo.

Mogolwane wa Water Utilities Corporation go tswa Kanye, Mme Lesego Ikaneng, o tlhaloseditse banni fa e tlaare mo nakong e e sa fediseng pelo e be letlhoko la bone la metsi le arabilwe.

A re banni ba Sese ba nwa metsi go tswa kwa Magagarapa, a re mme go mo thulaganyong ka gona le tiro e e tsileng go dirwa mo Sese ya go oketsa seelo sa metsi, a re go tlaa okediwa diphaephe tse di gogang metsi go tswa ko Jwaneng go ya kwa Sese, gore metsi a lekane batho. ***BOPA***



Mme Ikaneng a re mo nakong e e sa fediseng pelo letlhoko la metsi kwa Sese le tlaa bo le rarabolotswe.

Komiti ya twantsho borukutlhi e abela leloko

Ka Masego Tabengwa

THEMASHANGA - Maloko a komiti kgolo ya twantsho borukutlhi ya kampa ya sepodisi ya Tshesebe kwa Bokone Botlhaba, ba abetse mongwe ka bone ntlwana ya boiteketso.

Komiti eo, e bopilwe ka maloko go tswa mo metseng e e welang ka fa tlase ga kampa eo ya Tshesebe, mme mo godimo ga go lwantsha borukuthi, e ne ya bona go le maleba go dira pharologanyo mo matshelong a setshaba se e direlang mo go sone.

Ntlwana eo, e e lopileng P4 780 e ne ya rolelwa Rre Tobokani Jackson wa Themashanga mo kwa kgotleng ya motse oo, kgwedi eno e le lesome le bobedi.

Go bolelwa fa Rre Jackson e le mongwe wa maloko a a tlhaga mo setlhopheng sa twantsho borukuthi sa Themashanga, se se bidiwang Takalinga.

Fa a rola ntlwana eo, mothusa mookamela mapodisi a District No. 15, Superintendent Nelson Phuka o ne a akgolela maloko a komiti eo tiro e ntle e ba e direleng.

A re mo dingwageng tse di kwa moragonyana, puso mo go lemogeng fa ka nosi e ka seke ya kgona, ya itela mo bathong le makalana ka bongwe ka bongwe go thusa bangwe ka bone ka fa ba ka kgonang ka teng fa ba lemoga botlhoki bongwe.

Superintendent Phuka a re ka jalo go a itumedisa go bona setlhopha seo sa twantsho borukuthi se gata mo motlhaleng oo, a tlatsa ka gore ntlwana eo ya boiteketso e tla neela Rre Jackson seriti se se mo tshwanetseng.

O tsweletse a re ka jaana Rre Jackson e le leloko la komiti ya twantsho borukuthi, mpho eo e tla mo tiisa moko go direla setlhopha sa gagwe.

Fa a lebisa mafoko kwa go Rre Jackson, Supt Phuka o ne a mo gakolola go tlhokomela ntlwana eo gore a e dirise ka lobaka.

Modulasetilo wa komiti eo, yo gape e leng Kgosi ya motse wa Ramokgwebana, Kgosi Mollen Dube a re e re lentswa komiti ya bone e itebagantse le go lwantsha borukuthi mo tikologong ya metse ya bone, ba bona go tshwanela gore ba tsholetse matshelo a bangwe ka bone ka go ba direla sengwe fa ba lemoga letlhoko.

Kgosi Dube a re ba ne ba dumalana ka bongwe fela jwa pelo gore nngwe le nngwe ya di cluster tse supa tsa kampa eo, ya Tshesebe e ntshe P600 mme mo godimo ga moo, batho ka bongwe ka bongwe gammogo le mapodisi a Tshesebe, ba ba tswe thuso ka fa ba neng ba kgona ka teng.

Ka jalo, kgosi o ne a leboga botlhe ba ba nnileng le seabe mo go thuseng gore ba fitlhelele maikaelelo a bone.

Kgosi Manji Thaba wa Themashanga le ene fela jalo o ne a iteela legofi maiteko ao, a a supilweng ke komiti a re ba dirile tiro e e tshwanelwang ke go galalediwa, a bo a supa botlhokwa jwa go nna le matlwana a boiteketso mo malwapeng.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Rre Jackson o ne a supa boitumelo, a bolela fa tshwaragano ya mapodisi le setshaba e le botlhokwa thata mo ntweng kgatlhanong le borukuthi. ***BOPA***



Nation's founding mother clocks 100

"I have served the country and have handed over the baton to the next generation of leaders. My advice to them would be to always put Botswana and Batswana first. National interest always has to be prime"

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - A week before she celebrates her centenary, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe sits in the comfort of her Gaborone home, legs stretched out into a comfortable sofa.

Having dedicated her life to servicing the nation, most would say she deserves to relax in comfort. Clearly aged, her body not as active as it had been for most of the past 23 years she has lived in retirement, Dr Chiepe is still jovial and able to strike a good conversation.

"It means a lot to me that you are here," she says to members of the press after President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi and his entourage had left. "That the President and his delegation came to visit and wish me well also means that I am still remembered and that pleases me," says Dr Chiepe with a smile.

She goes on to chat and laugh profusely, her demeanour of a woman not incapacitated by old age, but rather enjoying the attention of the younger generation of journalists about her home.

"I have served the country," she continues, and "we have handed over the baton to the next generation of leaders. My advice to them would be to always put Botswana and Batswana first. National interest always has to be prime."

Dr Chiepe says she spends most of her time at home with her helpers and nieces, Kelebogile Lecoge, Sefalana Modisi and Violet Asem. Elders from her church, Trinity Congregational Church, also visit periodically to share the word of God and offer selalelo, Holy Communion.

Born Gaositwe Keagakwa Tibe Chiepe on this day exactly 100 years ago in Serowe to London Missionary Society (LMS) evangelist, Moruti Tibe Chiepe and wife. Dr Chiepe attended primary school in Serowe before completing formal education at Tiger Kloof near Vryburg in South Africa.

Her long-time friend and church mate, Ms Kgopodiso Mokama, wife of the first Motswana to serve as Attorney General and later Chief Justice, the late Moleleki Mokama, picks up the story of Dr Chiepe's life.

"She was raised a Christian as a strong part of the congregational denomination, which prior to independence was organised in the mission churches of the LMS, later renamed the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA)," Ms Mokama says.

The church assisted Dr Chiepe to attend its mission school in Vryburg before she proceeded to Fort Hare still in South Africa for another Christian mission school, where she completed a Bachelor of Science and Post Graduate Diploma in Education.

She furthered her studies, earning a Master's degree at Bristol University in the United Kingdom in 1958, a rarity in pre-independence Bechuanaland Protectorate for not just a woman, but the entire populace where even basic school infrastructure was lacking.

Later conferred with an honourary doctoral degree from Depaul University in the United States, Dr Chiepe served as Botswana's first woman Member of Parliament in 1974. She was Minister of External Affairs (now Foreign Affairs), education and mineral resources until her 1999 retirement.

"When Bechuanaland prepared for independence, becoming a self-governing territory after the March 1965 elections, when the instruments of governance were moved from Mahikeng to Gaborone, Dr Chiepe became one of those who were preoccupied with setting up government machinery for the country," Ms Mokama says.

"She became a pioneer, one of the people who helped shape the Botswana that came to be," she continues. "She served as an ambassador to the United Kingdom and the European states before returning home to be a minister."

Her Christian instruction from childhood helped guide Dr Chiepe throughout her life, Ms Mokama reveals.

"Christian values guided her throughout her life. Even as a politician, her choice of words in campaign and in addressing people were always those that expressed the good virtues she was raised with; not crude, but kind, patient, welcoming and unifying," Ms Mokama relates.

When Gaborone's first mayor, Reverend Derek Jones pioneered Trinity Church at the Gaborone Mall in 1966, Ms Mokama notes that Dr Chiepe, who had been a member of the LMS/UCCSA since her childhood in Serowe, became immediately active.

"Right up until just before the COVID-19 pandemic started, she was always an active member of the UCCSA and its Gaborone Central local church Trinity. Even now, elders visit her for prayers at her home. I recall her and Bakwena Queen Mohumagadi Gagoumakwe Sechele accompanying Rev. Jones and Rev. Alan Lock to the UCCSA Assembly in Peitermarizburg, Natal, South Africa in 1967," Ms Mokama says.

Through the church and the Girl Guides association she led in the 1970s and 1980s, Dr Chiepe was able to serve the community outside politics, Ms Mokama reveals.

"At Trinity Church, we have been part of the Kgaolo 5 church cell, where she would lead us in visiting prisoners to offer gifts and share the word of God, seeking the rehabilitation of criminals. We would also raise funds to buy uniform for underprivileged children," she says.

Dr Chiepe would teach her church mates songs she learnt growing up in Serowe and Tiger Kloof, particularly around the time of 'Thobo' the UCCSA Harvest and Thanksgiving fundraising annual service, Ms Mokama reveals.

"She was not just a churchgoer," Ms Mokama says. "She lived by the values and vows of the church and the Girl Guides movement of being compassionate and of servitude. I can honestly say she has been a great role model for other politicians and future generations."

Ms Mokama concludes by saying that if current and future generations are to learn anything from her, it is to always stay humble irrespective of the position they are holding. She says throughout the years she related with Dr Chiepe she always treated all people with kindness and humility.

As she concludes her eulogy of Dr Chiepe, the words of the wise King Solomon, reputed by Biblical scholars to have authored the Book of Proverbs in the Bible can only come to mind.

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. (Proverbs 31: 29-31). ***BOPA***



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (third left), Dr Chiepe (third right) and some members of her family.

Education: Chiepe's first love

By Baleseng Batlotleng

RAMOTSWA - As with German theoretical physicist, Albert Einstein or French philosopher, Rene Descartes, it is not always easy to compress into a single page the life of someone as decorated as Dr Gaositwe Keagakwa Tibe Chiepe.

On the other hand, it is never optional, especially for someone as industrious as Dr Chiepe.

Born in Serowe on October 20, 1922, Dr Chiepe's life has throughout the years been colourful and full of many firsts.

Today, friends, family and the nation at large is celebrating the centenary of her birth. Without any shadow of doubt, this is poised to go down in history as a celebration of the life of one of the greatest products of the land, who has over decades of her service proven to have been an astute educator and public servant. Besides education, Dr Chiepe distinguished herself as an administrator, diplomat and politician.

Her life's journey through various permutations begins with education, when she first enters through the gates of Khama Memorial School in the then rural Serowe, whereupon over half a century later it again ends with education when she retires from the public service as a Minister of Education in 1999.

In her deepest of souls, Dr Chiepe has always held the belief that everyone had capacity for greatness only waiting to be nurtured.

In some of the archival material Dr Chiepe shared with Botswana National Archives and Records Services, she describes education as her 'first love'.

She credits her mother for all her achievements in that she made sure she received all the education that she had to despite her uncle's attempt to get her married above all else. Dr Chiepe says her mother was a pillar of strength, raising her single-handedly after the passing on of her father in the year she began her schooling.

Dr Chiepe's contribution to Botswana's education system has been hailed by many from all walks of life.

As one of the first indigenous Africans to be appointed to a senior administrative position in the colonial government, Dr Chiepe has been instrumental in the administration of the country's education system.

She served as assistant education officer from 1948 to 1953, education officer with administration and inspectorate duties from 1953 to 1962, senior education officer from 1962 to 1965, deputy director of education from 1965 to 1967 and director of education from 1968 to 1970. She retired from government in 1999 following an illustrious public service career spanning over half a century.

Local historian, Dr Jeff Ramsay describes Dr Chiepe's contribution as multi-faceted. He reckons that Dr Chiepe was a strong aviator of quality education.

"It was education that was the foundation of her career and life. She started off her career as an education officer and moved up the ranks. She was an advocate of quality education and was very instrumental in its delivery. She also had a special interest in seeing that women and girls were educated," says Dr Ramsay.

He adds that Dr Chiepe's academic journey helped drive the ministry ideals and mandate.

He notes that with other reputable educators such as the late former President Sir Ketumile Masire, Mr Ben Thema and Mr Edison Masisi, who were pioneers in their own right, helped shape the foundations of the country's education system.

Dr Ramsay says they played a leading role in the country's educational reform philosophies, which envisioned a developing education system of international standards. He says Dr Chiepe influenced the education system as a vehicle for positive change that would enable Batswana to build a better world.

Further, he reckons Dr Chiepe as a visionary leader who advocated for an inclusive form of education underpinned by the spirit of kagisano(social harmony), something relatively far better than what was offered pre-independence.

"Even her thesis at some point compared our education system to other systems across Africa and that helped come up with ideas that helped drive our own system. Her track record in that regard set her apart from other pioneers," adds Dr Ramsay.

In 1958 Dr Chiepe graduated from the University of Bristol in the UK with a Master's degree with a thesis titled; An Investigation of the problems of popular education in the Bechuanaland Protectorate in Light of a Comparative Study of Similar Problems in the Early Stages of English Education and in the Development of Education in Yugoslavia and Uganda.

Her dissertation promoted the principles of good education back home.

Dr Ramsay observes that at Botswana's independence there were a few people with some form of post-secondary education, hence Dr Chiepe was a major force in laying foundations for a post-independence education system and transition into mass education.

He says the transition was accomplished by the time she made a move to politics.

Dr Ramsay highlights the fact that Dr Chiepe's education ideas were well read and respected even abroad.

"She was a mover and shaker in the education department through to independence.

Cont... page 14



Dr Chiepe being sworn in as the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in 1979.



Dr Chiepe (left), Prof Monica Wilson (third left) and classmates, Jeanette Sello (second left), Violet Nikani (third right), Beatrice Ntloko (second right) and Eunice Kuzwayo at the University of Fort Hare in 1946. Photo: courtesy of Dr Jeff Ramsay



Dr Chiepe (third right) at a graduation ceremony.

Mpuchane, Legwaila reminisce

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - Dr Gaositwe Chiepe was always firm in communicating the country's position without fear or favour regionally and internationally while at the helm of the Minister of External Affairs. Former private secretary to the founding President, Sir Seretse Khama, Ambassador Legwaila Legwaila said Dr Chiepe worked tirelessly in cementing the country's position so much that it 'now commands the respect that it deserves'.

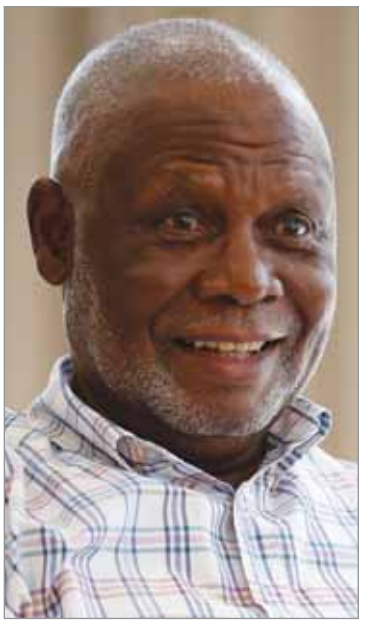
He said Dr Chiepe led the ministry during trying times when the SADC region was troubled by the apartheid regime in South Africa and an influx of asylum seekers. Though faced with apartheid regime challenges, Dr Chiepe allowed political refugees into the country, but never allowed them to bring weapons into the country or used the country as a launching pad, he said.

Ambassador Legwaila said at one point the South African apartheid regime wanted Botswana to sign a non-aggression pact, but Dr Chiepe never bowed to their request, saying Botswana was not at conflict with anyone and therefore would not be in a position to implement the terms of the pact. "During that time, we commanded respect the world over. We were trusted by our partners as we never faulted on our agreements. She had managed to place Botswana high on the world map, small as we were, but we commanded respect," said Mr Legwaila.

Being the first woman to lead the External Affairs ministry, Dr Chiepe was working in an environment dominated by men and she never wanted to be seen as the weakest link. She therefore deserves to be celebrated.

"She was always calm and comfortable even when faced with a storm. She was not like a weather, which changes unexpectedly. Always tough and calm when facing a challenge," he said.

Mr Legwaila recalled that in 1986, after the SA apartheid regime raided Botswana and killed 12 people, Dr Chiepe addressed the UN Security Council on the issue and never minced her words in condemning the attack. She told the council that, "I dressed in black as a sign that my people have been violated".



Mr Mpuchane

"She was educated, time cautious with a strong personality and therefore commanded respect when tackling issues and I respected her for that. She is a good person, good mentor and deserves to leave longer," he said.

For his part, former diplomat Mr Samuel Mpuchane said, "My first contact with Dr Chiepe was in Mafikeng in 1965, after completing my O'level examinations. By then our country was administered from Mafikeng and I had applied for temporary employment while awaiting my admission at the University. I stayed with my cousin who was working in the education department only to discover later on that the bachelor pad where he was housed was at Dr Chiepe's residence."

Upon completing his university studies in 1969, Mr Mpuchane said he was employed by Office of the President (OP) and later went to acquire his Foreign Service training at Makerere University in Kenya and upon his return, he went to represent the country in London at the office of the High Commissioner and coincidentally it was the time Dr Chiepe joined the Ministry of External Affairs. Armed with his credentials on Foreign Service, Mr Mpuchane said he was assigned to orientate Dr Chiepe on her new assignment.

Mr Mpuchane said he also worked with Dr Chiepe at the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs, and it was during difficult times when the country was still building a foundation for its economy.

He recalled that it was in 1982, while still a High Commissioner in London that he accompanied Dr Chiepe to India to attend the funeral of the then Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. The assignment, he said, was the worst that he could remember as they had to witness for the first time, a human body being cremated instead of the usual burial he was used to.

"As I watched the cremation process that was traumatic and trembling, Dr Chiepe was just relaxed, calm as if she did not want to miss any part of the memorable experience," said Mr Mpuchane.

He described Dr Chiepe as an open-minded individual, keen to learn and an intellect in every right and always on top of her game. She interacted well with employees. "She was a professional and a staunch politician, who carried her duties exceptionally well," he said.



Mr Legwaila

"A well groomed woman, who was cautious of what she wears and above all was always focused on doing her job," he said.

Mr Mpuchane recalled one of the incidents where Dr Chiepe's femininity was brought to the fore, during one of the foreign mission assignments in Zimbabwe, Harare where a delegation from Iran came to meet with Foreign Ministers from SADCC. "The members of the delegation who were all men greeted the male ministers from SADCC by shaking their hands and refused to do so with Dr Chiepe as they said it was against their culture/religion to shake a woman's hand," he said.

Mr Mpuchane said since Botswana was a member of the Frontline States in the region, Dr Chiepe was always at the forefront handling conflicts in the region.

He explained that her patience was once again tested during one of the assignments in Mbabane, Swaziland, where she was to meet Swaziland Prime Minister in the morning, but the meeting only started at midnight.

"I was with her and continually getting impatient and calling to enquire as to when the meeting would start. As I was doing this, she was just calm not bothered by the delaying tactics and would remind me that the more you call the more they would see that we are impatient and continue delaying the meeting," recalled Mr Mpuchane.

Other than interacting on the professional platform, Mr Mpuchane said Dr Chiepe was more like an aunt to him, though never or hardly interacted socially. She was a staunch Christian who contributed socially by donating towards education, said Mr Mpuchane. ***BOPA***



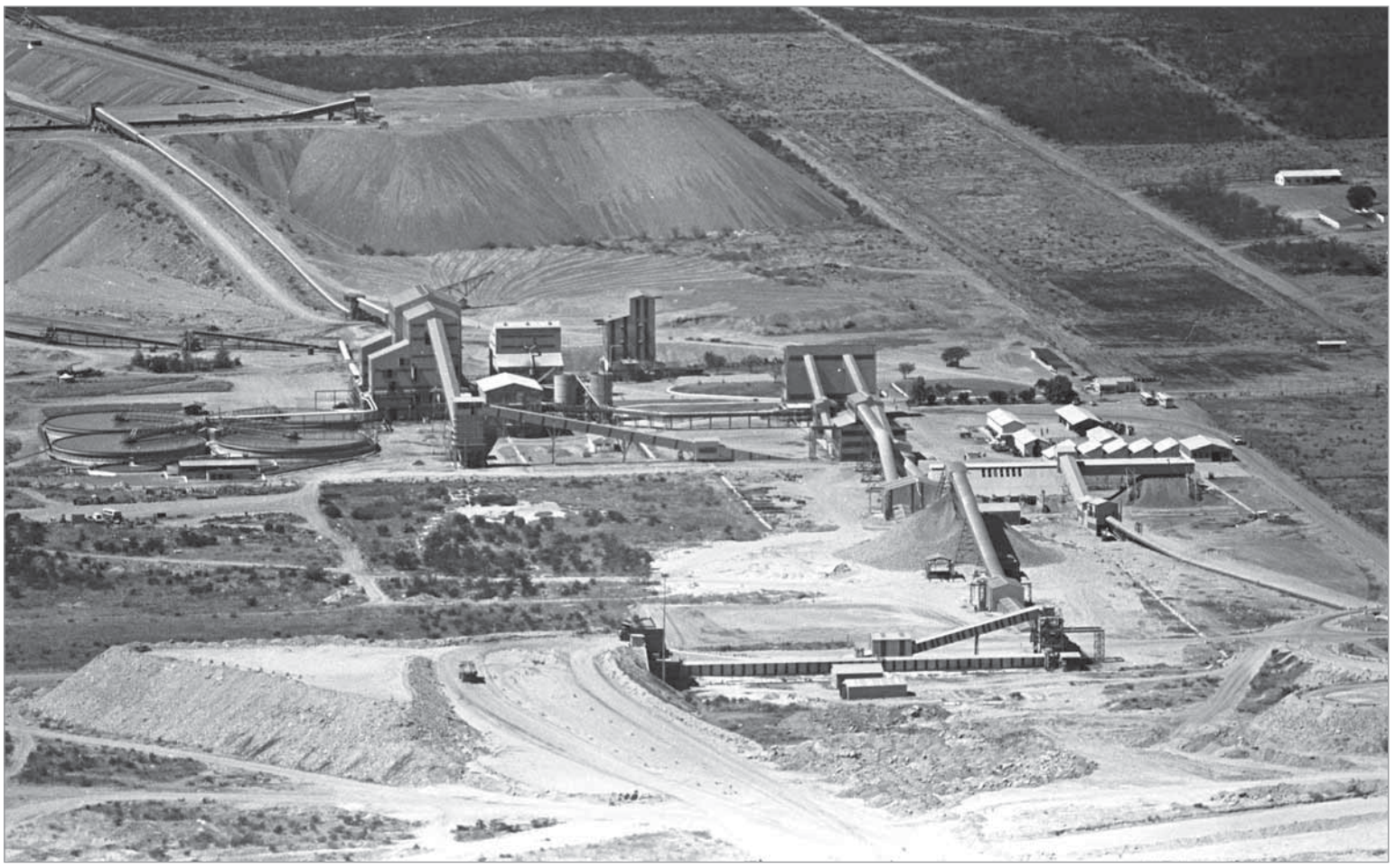
The aftermath of the South Africa raid on Gaborone, which left 12 people dead on June 14, 1985.



The newly appointed ambassador to United Kingdom, Dr Chiepe (second right) and fellow ambassadors bidding farewell to then president, the late Sir Seretse Khama before leaving for their respective missions.

"During that time, we commanded respect the world over. We were trusted by our partners as we never faulted on our agreements. She had managed to place Botswana high on the world map, small as we were but we commanded respect."

Chiepe negotiator of repute



Jwaneng mine

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - As many join Dr Gaositwe Chiepe in celebrating the centenary of her birth today, accolades are also in recognising her as a woman whose professional journey tells the story of an individual who was determined to do good for her people.

Many know her as a woman of many firsts, but less has been said about her as a visionary and principled individual who played a pivotal role in commanding the negotiating teams between government and DeBeers to facilitate Jwaneng exploration, development of the mine and the township.

To date, the Jwaneng Diamond Mine, which boasts of being the richest in the world, remains the cornerstone of the country's economy.

As shared by former government employee, a diplomat now turned businessman, Mr Samuel Mpuchane, the Jwaneng of today is a result of Dr Chiepe's resilience, her dedication and hard work.

"This was a lengthy and protracted negotiation, but she was patriotic and determined on getting what was best for her country," said Mr Mpuchane, who has worked closely with Dr Chiepe at the time when she was at the helm of the Ministry of Minerals Resources and Water Affairs, while he was the deputy permanent secretary.

He said the burning issue during the negotiations was in relation to where the Jwaneng mining township was supposed to be located.

"While DeBeers wanted the township to be located within the mining area like it was the case with Orapa, government on the other hand did not want to hear any of that. I was with her leading the mining and development team committee."



Orapa house

Another notable project that took off during Dr Chiepe's tenure was the construction of the iconic Orapa House, which played a significant role in the sorting and sales of diamonds.

Additionally, Mr Mpuchane said Dr Chiepe's portfolio also included water works and that she led the ministry at a time when the country was in dire need of water and therefore worked tirelessly to provide potable water to most places in the country.

"Development of water works and reticulation was one of the assignments that she handled exceptionally well.

She was equally tasked with power supply and was, therefore, at the forefront of expanding the electrical grid network," said Mr Mpuchane. ***BOPA***

Education: Chiepe's first love

...from page 12

As a senior education officer, she was one of the first few locals who served at the level of senior civil servants at independence. She was in charge of post-independence education," he adds.

Dr Ramsay says as a Minister of Education, Dr Chiepe was committed to public education and did not stand in the way of private initiatives on education.

Dr Chiepe was focused on public schools that sat for Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) while the International General Certificate of Secondary Education was pursued by privately owned schools often referred to as English medium schools.

He says government developed BGCSE given that the Cambridge O'Level School Certificate (COSC) was considered old fashioned and not in sync with the current education trends.

Dr Ramsay, who was Legae Academy principal during Dr Chiepe's tenure as Minister of Education, says they immensely contributed to government for the development of the BGCSE as they already had staff trained internationally for the new curriculum.

He explains that such reform measures were a massive transformation that was achieved under Dr Chiepe's tenure.

In 1998, Botswana began localising the syllabuses and examinations replacing COSC with the BGCSE. A year later the country administered the first BGCSE examination.

Perhaps one of the most recognisable transformations in the education sector that was implemented during Dr Chiepe's tenure was the 1994 Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE) recommendation for the establishment of a semi-autonomous examinations body, the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) which was approved by Parliament in 2002.

Dr Chiepe enrolled for her secondary education at Tigerkloof in 1939 on a bursary as she was the best student in Bechuanaland. In 1947 she graduated from Fort Hare University with a BSc degree and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE), thus becoming the first female Motswana to attain a degree. In 1959, she became the first Motswana woman to attain a post graduate qualification.

She joined politics in 1974 when Botswana's founding President, Sir Seretse Khama, appointed her a Specially Elected Member of Parliament. In 1977 she became an elected member of the house after winning a by-election to represent Serowe South constituency.

From 1974 to 1977 she was Minister of Trade and Industry, 1977-1984 she was appointed Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. From 1984 to 1994 she was the Minister of Foreign Affairs, during which period she served as the chairperson of the Organisation of African Union Council of Ministers. From 1994 until she retired in 1999, she served as the Minister of Education. ***BOPA***

'Chinese modernisation' written into key CPC congress report

BEIJING - Chinese modernisation, a key term defining China's journey to rejuvenation, has for the first time been written into a report to the national congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the world's largest Marxist governing party.

In his Sunday report to the 20th CPC National Congress, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, underscored the 'central task' of the Party, calling for efforts to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts 'through a Chinese path to modernization'.

The Chinese have never been so close to, confident in, and capable of achieving the goal of rejuvenating the Chinese nation, according to the report, which laid out main objectives and tasks for the next five years and beyond.

Chinese modernisation, based on exploration by generations of Chinese people and unique to the country's context, presents a correct path to realising the Chinese dream. It also offers humanity a new choice for achieving modernisation.



BEIJING - ***The Yangpu International Container Port in the Yangpu Economic Development Zone, south China's Hainan Province last year.***

CLEAR VISION, TARGETS

When the Japanese invasion plunged China into peril in the 1930s, a renowned Chinese historian pondered and raised a question that had long perplexed him and his compatriots: Can the Chinese modernise? Today the answer is readily apparent to everyone. The world's second-largest economy has achieved within decades what took the West centuries to achieve.

China has eradicated absolute poverty and finished building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, thus completing the First Centenary Goal.

According to its two-step strategic plan, the CPC will next lead China to 'basically realize socialist modernization from 2020 through 2035,' and 'build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful from 2035 through the middle of this century'.

"As China has embarked on a new journey, it is the perfect time to set out clear direction and targets of Chinese modernisation so that the Chinese people can unite in pursuit of the goal they have been seeking to achieve," Chen Shuguang, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, told Xinhua.

The report outlined China's overall development objectives for the year 2035, which include substantially growing the per capita GDP to be on par with that of a mid-level developed country, significantly enhancing national soft power, steadily lowering carbon emissions after reaching a peak, as well as comprehensively strengthening the national security system and capabilities.

Describing the next five years as 'crucial for getting our efforts to build a modern socialist country in all respects off to a good start,' the report listed the main objectives and tasks for this period, which range from achieving greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology, to further improving the socialist market economy, and enabling China to play a greater role in global governance.

"Setting clearer vision and targets, China is becoming increasingly aware that the modernization it seeks will not be a mere replica of the Western one since the Chinese path works well," said Chen.

UNIQUE PATH

Chinese modernisation contains elements that are common to the modernisation processes of all countries, but it is more characterised by features that are unique to the Chinese context.

Xi said Chinese modernisation is the modernisation of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development.

Experts believe that although modernization theory has its origins in the West, modernisation by no means is equal to Westernisation and there has never been a one-size-fits-all approach to modernization.

"China is underscoring the importance of every country pursuing modernisation through a path that is suited to their own conditions and that their people will accept and support," said Sean Slattery, one of the foreign experts invited to translate Xi Jinping's report to the CPC national congress.

Gao Derong, a delegate to the CPC national congress from the rural areas of southwest China's Yunnan Province, told *Xinhua* that he was impressed by the unique Chinese path to modernisation.

"China's success in mass poverty alleviation over the past years has highlighted one of the key features of Chinese modernisation, which is common prosperity," he said.

"Our modernization benefits everyone in the country instead of just a few."

NEW CHOICE

China's modernization drive came into the spotlight as profound changes unseen in a century are transforming the world, which has once again reached a crossroads in history.

Although the modernisation of the West has created unprecedented material wealth, its path of aggression, colonization and expansion is not viable. This path has also led to problems including a widening wealth gap, waste of resources and environmental damage.

"For other developing countries, Chinese modernisation offers a new choice for achieving modernization, based on their own conditions and more international cooperation, rather than plunder, war and blood," said Yahia Mustafa, who participated in polishing the Arabic version of the report. The 65-year-old Sudanese expert has lived in China for over 20 years. The CPC is clear-minded that building a modern socialist country in all respects is a massive, arduous task.

Warning of various 'black swan' and 'gray rhino' events that may occur at any time, the report said China has entered a period of development in which strategic opportunities, risks and challenges are concurrent, and uncertainties and unforeseen factors are rising.

"Tremendous hard work and unrelenting efforts are required as China strives to realise modernisation," said Li Lannyu, a worker from east China's Jiangsu Province who is also a delegate to the congress.

Xin Ming, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, said building a modern socialist country is a great cause that requires strenuous efforts. "While the future is bright, we still have a long way to go." ***Xinhua***



WUHAN - ***A night view of a commercial street in Wuhan City, central China's Hubei Province, July 2.***

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NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

PLOT 5243 OWNERS hereby inform neigbours of intention to erect boundary wall. Any objection lodge with NEDC Physical Planning Department within 21 days publication date

OWNERS OF PLOTS 978 & 980 Satellite, Francistown are informed of a change of land use on plot 979 from single family residential to multi family residential. For more queries contact 73 341 814 or C.O.F physical planning office on 2416050

KELELO BADUBI, OWNER of a tribal lot, at Setatse lands, Palapye proposed change of land use of Portion C from ploughing field to mixed land use (ploughing field & commercial) of the above mentioned plot. For any enquiries or viewing of drawings contact Palapye Sub-District Council, Physical Planning Department or client's Physical Planner on 72 505 759 within 14 days of this publication.

OWNER OF PLOT 3152 in Tatisiding intends to erect a boundary wall. Contact or visit Tatisiding Sub District Council for any objections 248 9267/ 248 9242

I MAIPELO KOOTLHOBOGE want to change the plot: Tribal lot 6988 from residential to commercial plot. Any objection contact Molepolole physical planning offices or call 76881507.

OWNERS OF PLOTS 966 & 964 Newstands Tatisiding, are informed of a change of land use on plot 965 from single family residential to multi family residential. For more queries contact 73 341 814 or N.E.D.C physical planning office on 248 9444

OWNERS OF PLOTS 9895, 9897 & 9808 Block 3, Francistown are informed of a change of land use from civic & community to commercial on plot 9896. For more queries contact 73341814 or C.O.F physical planning office on 2411050

OWNERS OF PLOTS 21190, 21193, 21192, 21120 & 21200 are informed of a change of land use on plot 21192 Boseja, Maun from single family residential to multi family residential. For more queries contact 73 341 814 or Maun Administration at 686 1844

PROPERTIES

MMANOKO COMMERCIAL PLOT with bachelor pad size 963sqm P180 000 76062282, 72171364

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VACANCIES

A LEADING LOGISTICS company is looking for cross border drivers- extra heavy duty. Job specification 5 years minimum experience driving to the following countries: South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Basic mechanical vehicle knowledge. Send applications to finance@dynamicroad.net. Closing date 25th October 2022.

Young man needed to fill an open vacancy at Agri-Fix Services based in Pandamatenga. The suitable candidate should have experience in pivot and overhead irrigation, tractor mechanics and operating equipment, and management skills. Fluent in English and Setswana. Driver's license added advantage. Send CVs to P.O. Box 1043, Francistown.

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P / Bag 8, Maun, Tel 6862782 on
or before the **04th November 2022.**

Correspondence will be entered into with shortlisted candidates only.

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JOB SUMMARY
Prepare and deliver weekly sermons, maintain a strong professional image reflective of the church mission, work with church boards and advisory councils to determine the direction of the organization, implement programs and events in alignment with the church's mission, carry out community support initiatives such as trips and activities

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CURATOR BONIS' NOTICE

NOTICE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF MEMBERS/CREDITORS OF ALBERT PIET

– UNDER PROVISIONAL SEQUESTRATION

MASTER'S REFERENCE - LQHGB - 000011 - 17

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the First Meeting of Creditors of the above-named insolvent estate will be convened before the Master at Gaborone **High Court in Gaborone at 09:00 hours** on the **15th** of **November 2022.** The meeting will be a virtual meeting one on a platform to be communicated, and the agenda to be discussed is as follows;

- Proof of claims
- Consideration of Curator Bonis' Report
- Remuneration of the Curator Bonis
- Appointment of Trustee
- To consider and pass resolutions if deemed fit
- Any other business

By the Curator Bonis, Jethro Kamutsi
Prestige Business Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Setlhoa Village, Unit 6, Setlhoa Office Park
PO Box 60243 Gaborone

LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE

NOTICE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF MEMBERS/CREDITORS OF KATA INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD

- IN PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATION

MASTER'S REFERENCE – LQHGB – 000010 - 17

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to section 382(1) of the Companies Act 42:01, the First Meeting of Creditors of the above-named company will be convened before the Master at **Gaborone High Court in Gaborone at 09:00 hours** on the **3rd** of **November 2022**. The meeting will be a virtual meeting one on a platform to be communicated, and the agenda to be discussed is as follows;

- Proof of claims
- Consideration of Provisional Liquidator's Report
- Remuneration of the Provisional Liquidator
- Appointment of Liquidator
- To consider and pass resolutions if deemed fit
- Any other business

By the Provisional Liquidator, Jethro Kamutsi
Prestige Business Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Setlhoa Village, Unit 6, Setlhoa Office Park
PO Box 602430 Gaborone

LOST DEED

Notice is hereby given that I intend applying for a certified copy in respect of;

CERTAIN : Piece of land being Lot 6149, Gaborone;
SITUATE : in the Gaborone Administrative District;
MEASURING : 420 m2 (Four Hundred and Twenty Square Metres);
WHICH PROPERTY : is held under Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 462/1990 dated the 30th day of April 1990 made in favour of DAVID TLHALOGANYANG MOKHAI;

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with The Registrar of Deeds within three weeks from the last publication of this notice.

Dated at Gaborone this …….. day of ……2022.

ANGELINAH MOSWEU
c/o Kalake Attorneys
Plot 3475
Gaborone

LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE

NOTICE OF ACCOUNT LYING FOR INSPECTION FOR MAPS HOUSING (PTY) LTD

- IN LIQUIDATION

MASTER'S REFERENCE – LQHGB – 000005 - 21

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that in terms of section 452 (2) of the Companies Act 42:01 the Final Liquidation and Distribution Account of the above mentioned company **will lie for inspection** at the Office of the Master of the High Court, Plot No 54375, Central Business District, Gaborone **for a period of fourteen (14) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Any objection to the estate account may be lodged with the Master within the prescribed period.

Dated at Gaborone this 4th day of October 2022.

By the Liquidator, Jethro Kamutsi
Prestige Business Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Setlhoa Village, Unit 6, Setlhoa Office Park
PO Box 602430 Gaborone

LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE

NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CREDITORS OF SATU INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD

- IN LIQUIDATION

Master's Reference – LQHGB – 000008/20

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to section 382(1) of the Companies Act 42:01, the Special Meeting of Creditors for the above-named company will be convened before the Master at Gaborone **High Court in Gaborone at 09:00hrs** on the **1st** of **December 2022**. The meeting will be virtual on a platform to be communicated, and the agenda to be discussed is as follows;

- Proof of claims
- Consideration of the Liquidator's Progress Report
- Any other business

Claims should be filed with the Liquidator at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting.

By the Liquidator, Jethro Kamutsi
jethrok@prestigebc.co.bw
Plot 75783, Unit 6, Setlhoa Office Park, Setlhoa Village
PO Box 602430 Gaborone

Your monthly window into society



Intensive livestock production fuels ecological crisis

NAIROBI - The shift from animal to plant-based proteins in a rapidly urbanising African continent should inform future efforts to arrest the climate crisis blighting communities and ecosystems, campaigners said Tuesday.

Speaking at a virtual forum organized by World Animal Protection, an international animal welfare lobby, in Nairobi-Kenya, the campaigners stressed that limiting the consumption of eggs, beef and pork will strengthen Africa's resilience to climatic shocks.

Tennyson Williams, regional director for Africa at World Animal Protection, said that intensive livestock production to meet the rising demand for proteins is fueling the triple ecological crisis of climate change, habitat loss, and pollution in Africa.

"Over-reliance on animal proteins has proved untenable in the light of climate change, deforestation, and spread of superbugs hence the need for African countries to explore alternatives that are friendly to nature," said Williams.

Senior policymakers, campaigners, and researchers attending the two-day Africa Protein Summit, convened by World Animal Protection, will discuss dietary habits that can be adopted to boost climate resilience in the continent.

Williams said the inaugural Africa Protein Summit would endorse strategic action plans whose implementation would ensure food systems in the continent could sustain planetary and human health. Rising consumption of animal proteins such as eggs, milk, pork, chicken and beef in Africa's growing metropolises is behind a spike in the emission of greenhouse gases including methane, said Victor Yamo, the Farming Campaigns Manager at World Animal Protection.

Yamo believed mass production of animal proteins was undermining the resilience of Africa's vital ecosystems like fresh water sources, forests, and wildlife sanctuaries besides fueling the spread of drug-resistant pathogens.

According to Yamo, per capita meat consumption in Africa was likely to rise from the current 14 kg to 26 kg annually and might accelerate deforestation, water contamination and anti-microbial resistance.

He called for a shift to organic farming practices, and speedy implementation of policies that strengthen the nexus between animal welfare and planetary health to realize a climate-resilient future for Africa. ***Xinhua***



KATAI - ***A satellite dish provided by Chinese satellite television, Star Times, at Wagagai health centre in Uganda recently. This project is one the fruits of the resolutions of the Forum on China-Africa cooperation Johannesburg Summit held in 2015 in South Africa. Access to information in remote villages in Uganda is a daunting task as one has to walk kilometres to a neighbouring trading centre to find out what is happening in the rest of the country or the world.*** Photo: Xinhua

Cambodia, UNICEF advance efforts to end malnutrition

PHNOM PENH - Cambodia government officials and development partners gathered have vowed to accelerate efforts to end child wasting in the Southeast Asian nation. here at a high-level workshop on Tuesday, vowing, said a joint statement.

In a joint statement released on Tuesday, they said children who suffer from wasting, otherwise known as acute malnutrition, were eleven times more likely to die than well-nourished children, and those who survive often experience lifelong consequences.

Despite progress in reducing stunting since 2014, child wasting has not improved and remains at 10 per cent, the statement said, adding that the government's goal was to halve child wasting by 2025.

The statement said to achieve this goal, an additional US$17.2 million was needed.

Speaking at the workshop, Yim Chhay Ly, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development in Cambodia, vowed to work with all relevant stakeholders to mobilise resources to achieve the self-imposed goal.

"We recognize that food security and nutrition have an important role in supporting human capital development, effective work, economic growth and social well-being," he said.

Anirban Chatterjee, acting representative of the United Nations Children's Fund in Cambodia, said the right to health and development was one of the children's most fundamental rights.

"The challenges of recent years, from the pandemic to global food system disruptions, threaten this right," he said.

"This in turn threatens children's health, ability to learn, and future prospects.

That is why today we all redoubled our efforts to prevent wasting by increasing investment, scaling up multi-sector programme targeting children and women, and strengthening social protection measures to promote and protect child nutrition," Chatterjee added. ***Xinhua***

Cholera outbreak kills 10 in Cameroon

YAOUNDE - Authorities in Cameroon's Far North region on Tuesday declared an outbreak of cholera after recording at least 10 deaths

A total of 113 suspected cases of cholera had been recorded as of Monday, the official media outlet CRTV reported, quoting the region's Governor Midjiyawa Bakari. Bakari made the disclosure during a crisis meeting held Tuesday in Maroua, the region's capital.

Three health districts of the region, including Mokolo where the country's largest refugee camp is located, have been affected by the epidemic, according to health officials in the region. Bakari said the resurgence was due to poor sanitation.

"The mayors, traditional rulers, religious leaders, and everyone must continue to sensitise the population but those who continue not to observe hygienic measures will face hard times," Bakari told reporters at the end of the meeting.

Cholera is a highly virulent disease characterised in its most severe form by a sudden onset of acute watery diarrhea that can lead to death due severe dehydration. ***Xinhua***



AYUTTHAYA - ***A sculpture in a flooded area in Thailand. Authorities in Thailand issued flash flood warnings for eight southern provinces on Monday ahead of more rain expected this week, with areas in nearly 40 per cent of the country's provinces still inundated and dealing with flood waters.*** Photo: Xinhua

UN ramps up aid for Chad flood victims

NEW YORK - The United Nations and humanitarian partners are ramping up aid efforts for more than 1 million people in Chad impacted by flooding, a UN spokesman said on Tuesday.

"The southern part of the country was the hardest hit.

But the flooding also struck some eastern provinces such as in Sila, causing rivers to overflow," said Stephane Dujarric, the chief spokesman for UN secretary general Antonio Guterres.

Flooding has hit 18 out of 23 provinces of the Sahel country. Rising waters completely submerged neighborhoods in the capital, N'Djamena, forcing people to flee their homes, Dujarric said.

Some 465 000 hectares of agricultural land were destroyed, further aggravating the country's critical food insecurity situation.

"We and our humanitarian partners, in support of the government, have delivered food, medicine, tents, mosquito nets, solar lamps and other items to about 200 000 people," he said.

"We are ramping up efforts to mobilise resources to reach more people."

The spokesman said heavy rains started in early July and quickly overwhelmed drainage channels and ponds.

He said that the humanitarian community and the Chadian government's joint flood response plan seeks nearly US$70 million to reach 800 000 people.

But it's only 25 percent funded. Last month, US$5 million were allotted from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund to respond to the floods, said. ***Xinhua***

Matale promotes production, use of biogas

GABORONE - Twenty-nine old Atamelang Matale from Betesankwe in the Southern District, about 110km west of Gaborone is absorbed in building a new biogas digester in partnership with three colleagues.

The new digester, with a size of 30 cubic meters, will be her 20th and so far the largest she has ever built, all using agro-waste, such as cow dung and chicken litter to produce biogas directly used for cooking, heating, and lighting in south eastern Botswana.

"This is the biggest biogas digester I have constructed to date.

The digesters I built before only ranged between 6, 10 and 20 cubic meters in size. This is huge, so we will be camping out here for the three weeks it will take to complete it," she told *Xinhua* in a recent interview.

The undertaking by Matale is a result of her training through the Botswana Biogas Project funded by the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme. The Biogas Project launched in January 2017 sought to promote the production and use of biogas as an environmentally friendly source of energy for farms, households and institutions that produce or have access to agricultural waste.

Matale said being a biogas digester mason has made her financially independent despite the gender discrimination that prevails in the male-dominated construction industry.

Tracey Rukero, a young female biogas digester mason who completed her training last year and has since constructed four digesters, shared similar sentiments.

"Many people don't think we can do the job," she said.

Since 2018, 70 biogas digester masons have been trained by the Botswana Biogas Project in six vocational training centers, 29 per cent of them women. Speaking at a high-level event on climate change in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, in June this year, Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi reaffirmed the nation's commitment to a gradual transition from over-reliance on coal for electricity generation.



Matale working in a biogas digester pit at Betesankwe in Southern District recently.

He drew attention to the need to increase the country's share of renewable energy, and significantly improve the efficiency of the energy system.

The government regards the development of a sustainable and commercial biogas sector as a key mechanism for achieving the reduction of harmful greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and effectively managing agricultural waste, especially from the livestock industry.

In its first nationally determined contribution to the global reduction of GHG in 2010, Botswana pledged to reduce its emissions by 15 per cent by 2030, taking 2010 as the base year. Botswana's GHG emissions make up 5 per cent of Africa's total global emissions, according to the country's Climate Change Policy.

For this commitment to be realised and for biogas to make a plausible contribution to the reduction of GHG, Rukero and Matale's experiences point to the urgent need for mindset change among citizens, some of whom feel that the biogas digester initiative has a bad smell, and producing it means handling dirt.

Matale said the biogas project has been a success already and can go far as it has brought financial relief to Batswana because they are using renewable energy resources to generate energy that is clean and free.

Matale said that during the construction process and at handover, beneficiaries are taught how to feed and operate the digesters.

She, however, explained that the digesters should be carefully maintained and once they run out of energy, they should be fed with new agro-waste such as cow dung in order for them to continue working. ***Xinhua***



Matale (centre) and two colleagues mixing concrete needed to build a biogas digester.



A working biogas digester being fed cow dung and other livestock waste at Gatumo Cattle Post. Photos: Xinhua

Kenya begins livestock exports through Lamu port

NAIROBI - Kenya has begun exports of livestock through the Chinese-built Lamu port, the government said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that 200 cattle and a combined total of 15 400 sheep and goats departed via MV Bunyas Lome shipping vessel for the Salalah Port in Oman.

"The livestock export gives renewed impetus in the utilization of Lamu port as a central cog in international trade by facilitating quick and effective use of sea transport," the ministry said in a statement released on Monday.

The ministry added that the export is especially timely as it comes at a time when drought has ravaged many parts of the country.

"The export offers an opportunity for Kenyan livestock owners to sell their animals to a promising market," it said.

The ministry noted that international sales would also prevent the loss of thousands of animals to the current drought as well as empower livestock farmers.

Kenya inaugurated the first berth of the Lamu port in May 2021, which is part of the Lamu Port South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor.

China Communication Construction Company undertook the construction of the first batch of the port facility that can handle large vessels with a carrying capacity ranging from 12 000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to 18 000 TEUs. ***Xinhua***

Cancer survivors talk of early detection

KIGALI - As the world marks this year's breast cancer awareness month, 47-year-old Rwandan mother Francine Uwumukiza recalls the nightmares she went through when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Despite regular exercises and eating a balanced diet and green vegetables, the mother of three never thought it could happen to her.

"It was not something I imagined, not even in my dreams that I could be a victim," said the resident in Nyarugenge district, on the outskirts of Kigali.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016, but luckily, she has recovered and encourages women to take prevention seriously.

Awareness campaigns on breast cancer are running throughout October in Rwanda, featuring awareness walks and screening women and girls for breast cancer using breast clinical examination.

In 2020, at least 2.3 million women worldwide were diagnosed with breast cancer and 685 000 died from the disease, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Four women are diagnosed with breast cancer every minute and it is projected that the number of breast cancer cases will double over the next 20 years in less developed countries, the WHO said.

In Rwanda, at least 650 patients were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020, the majority of whom succumbed to the disease due to late diagnosis, according to the Ministry of Health.

Breast cancer remains the most common among cases recorded in the east African country, followed by cervical, prostate, stomach and liver cancers.

Talking about her experience, Uwumukiza recalled that it was during a self-check routine when she felt a lump.

She underwent a breast clinical examination which confirmed it was cancer.

"I couldn't believe, and wondered why it had happened to me," she said. Uwumukiza started her chemotherapy at a hospital in neighbouring Kenya's Nairobi as her family had the financial means.

The therapy succeeded and she had surgery to remove the area where the lump was found. She later underwent radiotherapy.

"I think this was one of the most difficult moments in my life because of the excruciating pain," she said.

"As a survivor, I feel proud because I had a second chance to be still alive today." Early detection through periodic breast self-examination gives patients the best chance of survival, Daniel Ngamije, Rwanda's Health Minister said during a recent awareness campaign in Kigali.

"Common symptoms can easily be detected such as a lump in the breast or armpit, swelling of part of the breast, irritation or dimpling of breast skin, pulling in of the nipple," he said. Other symptoms include nipple discharge, including blood, pain in the breast, or redness around the nipple.

Now Uwumukiza's goal is to spread awareness among young women in Rwanda, in particular about the importance of check-ups.

She said other than targeting older women for awareness most times, young women need awareness too.

"We need to teach younger women how to care about their bodies and open up to their parents or doctor when they feel anything strange," she said.

Uwumukiza believes while high cost and lack of developed treatment infrastructure in developing countries is a challenge, ignorance and lack of awareness are the real killers of people.

Delays in screening, diagnosis, and treatment due to a lack of awareness are a challenge, she said.

Health officials said 80 per cent of breast lumps were not cancerous but there was still a 20 per cent chance.

Women are encouraged to have mammograms before the age of 40.

Other Rwandan breast cancer survivors Jackline Musoni and Charlotte Uwimana said the earlier one finds out, the higher the chances of getting cured. "Not checking and ignoring symptoms is deadly."

"With early detection breast cancer heals with strict adherence to health advice," said Musoni. Noting that men can also suffer from breast cancer, Minister Ngamije said Rwanda now has a full capacity of treating breast cancer patients once detected early. ***Xinhua***

Sweden forms new government

STOCKHOLM - The new government of Sweden announced on Tuesday, composed of freshly-elected prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and 23 ministers from the Moderate Party, the Christian Democrats, and the Liberal Party.

The minority government will cooperate on budget and policy matters with the far-right Sweden Democrats, which became the second-largest party in the country's parliament following the September 11 general election.

The new government was announced by Kristersson after delivering his Statement of Government Policy in parliament.

It includes Foreign Affairs Minister Tobias Billstrom, Finance Minister Elisabeth Svantesson, Defense Minister Pal Jonson, Justice Minister Gunnar Strommer, EU Affairs Minister Jessika Roswall, and Energy, Business and Industry Minister Ebba Busch.

Kristersson said in his speech to the parliament that Sweden is 'a country in the midst of several parallel crises,' including organised crime, the energy crisis, soaring inflation, a looming recession, failed integration, and obstacles on the road towards becoming a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

"As such, my message today is an austere one: this is a very difficult situation. And it could very easily worsen considerably," Kristersson said.

But he also said Sweden would once again become internationally known for 'green innovations, world-leading education and research, and new jobs, not riots and shootings." ***Xinhua***



FENYESLITKE - ***A crane remotely controlled with the help of 5G technology, moving a container at the East-West Gate (EWG) Intermodal Logistics Terminal near the village of Fenyeslitke, eastern Hungary on Tuesday. The 5G network required for the EWG project was built by Vodafone Hungary and the network equipment was supplied by Huawei of China.*** Photo: Xinhua

Sudan supports decision to reduce oil production

KHARTOUM - Sudan has declared its support for the recent decision by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its partners, collectively referred to as OPEC+, to cut back on oil production.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has followed up on the consequences of the OPEC+ decision to reduce oil production, the campaign against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the attempts to hold it responsible for the repercussions of the decision," the ministry said.

"Sudan, as a member of the group, stresses that the decision to cut the oil production came with consensus among all member states," the ministry said.

The statement stressed Sudan's support for the Saudi stance that the OPEC+ decision was based purely on economic considerations, aiming to maintain the balance of supply and demand in the oil markets, as well as to limit volatility that does not serve the interests of consumers and producers.

On October 5, OPEC+ announced a major production cut of two million barrels per day (bpd) starting November to bolster oil prices that have recently tumbled over recession fears. The reduction equals around two per cent of this year's global oil production, which is estimated by OPEC at around 100 million bpd.

The OPEC+ decision reportedly sparked US criticism of Saudi Arabia and accusations of siding with Russia, which Riyadh rejected. ***Xinhua***

Kenyan conservationist bags award

NAIROBI - A Kenyan citizen has been selected as one of the winners of an international award for spearheading grassroots efforts to protect iconic wildlife species at the Amboseli National Park, which borders Tanzania.

Daniel Leturesh, a grassroots wildlife conservationist, on Monday won the award from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) thanks to his three decades of protecting the natural habitats of flagship species like elephants and rhinoceros.

Leturesh, who is also the current chairperson of Olgulului Ololarashi Group Ranch that surrounds Amboseli National Park, has proactively engaged communities to preserve wildlife corridors over the past three decades.

"Conservation is hard work, there are many challenges I have faced to win space for animals.

Even now we are in a period of drought but am happy we have managed to get 40 per cent of communal land for wildlife in the Amboseli region," Leturesh said in Nairobi. According to IFAW, Leturesh has been engaging local communities to preserve their ancestral lands and allow the free movement of wildlife in the Amboseli ecosystem.

In addition, Leturesh has secured 26 000 acres for wildlife habitation by persuading 2 600 landowners to lease their land through international and local conservation groups.

Thanks to his relentless campaigns, there has not been fragmentation or harmful development of wildlife dispersal corridors within the Amboseli ecosystem, said IFAW.

Other achievements linked to Leturesh advocacy include the establishment of Kitenden Conservancy which connects Amboseli and West Kilimanjaro wildlife sanctuaries, added IFAW.

He represented a local community that signed an agreement that will see landowners benefit from annual lease fees and ecotourism revenue, according to IFAW.

James Sawyer, the UK director for IFAW, noted that Leturesh's dedication to preserving his native lands for wildlife paved the way for iconic species to thrive amid threats like habitat loss, climate change and poaching.

Sawyer added that Leturesh's innovative wildlife conservation model will help reverse the decline of flagship species that are key to sustaining rural livelihoods through tourism. ***Xinhua***



DENVER - ***Not since 1967 have water levels on the Colorado River system been as low as they are today, and the megadrought in the US southwest reduced hydropower output significantly. According to the US Bureau of Reclamation, low water levels at reservoirs across the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah mean a reduction in hydroelectric production, which dropped 20 per cent for water year 2022.*** Photo: Xinhua

Veld fires kill 18 in Zimbabwe

HARARE - Veld fires in Zimbabwe have killed 18 people this year, with the hectarage burnt up 58.6 per cent from last year, a cabinet minister has said Tuesday.

"The nation is being informed that the year 2022 is showing an upsurge in uncontrolled fire problems threatening the gains made in the past," said Monica Mutsvangwa, minister of information, publicity and broadcasting services.

A total of 5 386 fire incidents have been reported countrywide so far this year, burning 244 227.34 hectares of land, according to a post-cabinet media briefing.

Mutsvangwa said the cabinet had strengthened strategies to manage veld fires, including constituting fire coordination teams at district, provincial and national levels, acquiring modern firefighting equipment and imposing stiffer penalties.

Ten farmworkers were burned to death last week, some of whom beyond recognition, in a veld fire in Esigodini, Matabeleland South Province, prompting Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa to call for the development of a national veld fire strategy. ***Xinhua***

Ethiopia set to resume humanitarian aid services

ADDIS ABABA - Preparations are ongoing to resume humanitarian aid and services in recently captured areas in the conflict-hit northernmost Tigray region.

The Ethiopian Government Communication Service, in a statement issued Tuesday, disclosed that the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) have taken control of the towns of Shire, Alamata, and Korem, pushing back the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

"The government of Ethiopia is carrying out the necessary preparations and will coordinate with the relevant humanitarian agencies to provide humanitarian aid through these areas that have come under the control of the ENDF, including via the Shire Airport," the statement reads.

Noting that the maximum care ENDF has taken thus far has succeeded in protecting civilians from harm, the statement indicated that government forces have "averted the grim scenario some have predicted by echoing TPLF's propaganda."

The government further said in coordination with humanitarian operators, it was making preparations to expand the routes through which humanitarian assistance could be transported.

It said concerted efforts were underway to open the North Gondar route to Shire as well as the Kombolcha-Dessie-Woldiya-Kobo-Alamata route.

The ongoing preparations will also include technical assessments and some of the groundwork needed to restore services to the conflict-affected areas.

The latest announcement came a day after the Ethiopian government vowed to take control of major public facilities in the conflict-hit Tigray region.

It said the measures were necessitated not only by the repeated attacks of the TPLF but also by its active collusion with hostile foreign powers.

"It is thus imperative that the government of Ethiopia assumes immediate control of all airports, other federal facilities, and installations in the region," the Ethiopian Government Communication Service said.

Meanwhile, it reiterated that government forces will endeavor to avoid combat operations within urban areas to prevent civilian casualties, and strict instructions have been given to all combat units to reinforce this commitment.

Humanitarian aid had been heading to the Tigray region after the Ethiopian government and the rebel forces in late March agreed to a conditional cessation of hostilities and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid into the region.

Conflict resumed in August as the Ethiopian government accused the TPLF of resuming fighting.

The situation eventually halted humanitarian aid flowing into parts of Northern Ethiopia. Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation, has seen a devastating conflict between government-allied troops and forces loyal to the TPLF since November 2020, which has left millions in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. ***Xinhua***



NEW YORK - ***UN secretary general's special representative and head of the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, El-Ghassim Wane addressing the Security Council meeting in New York on Tuesday. Wane said progress had been made in the transition and peace process in Mali, but he remained concerned about the security situation in the country.*** Photo: Xinhua

Tanzania to build state-of-the-art referral hospital

DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzania President Samia Hassan says government has set aside about US$2.1 million for building a state-of-the-art referral hospital in the country's western region of Kigoma.

Addressing a public rally after she had laid the foundation stone for the construction of an emergency room and intensive care unit for Maweni regional government hospital in Kigoma region, President Hassan said the referral hospital would not only cater to citizens but also provide medical services for people from neighbouring countries.

Kigoma region, located on the northeastern shores of Lake Tanganyika, one of the oldest freshwater lakes in the world, borders Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"Kigoma region has a huge population and it borders neighboring countries.

It deserves a referral hospital that will serve both local residents and people from the neighboring countries," said the head of state.

She said the new referral hospital will also promote the country's thrust to creating medical tourism. ***Xinhua***

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Thursday October 20, 2022 No. 194

Picnic to create daytime fun

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Botswana's unique acoustic music will once more be celebrated at the Naked Soul Picnic session scheduled for Saturday at Gaborone Club.

The soul picnic session is also expected to create a unique selling atmosphere for patrons as it brings them daytime entertainment experience.

Mpho Sebina's brainchild, the event has been held since 2016 and in 2020, it was held virtually because of the outbreak of COVID-19. The last session was in July at Molapo Piazza.

Featuring Sebina and her friends from South Africa, Msaki and Abidoza as well as local artistes, the Naked Soul Picnic is characterised by live music, which is meant to celebrate Botswana's acoustics.

Sebina said at a press conference Tuesday that the soul picnic sessions were intended to unify Botswana artistes and that they had previously featured some local artistes such as Ntirelang Berman, Shanti Lo, Han C, Daito Seiko and many others.

He said they strove to provide quality sonic music for their revellers in every session, which would be annual.

The event, which has always been an intimate affair with no less than 100 people, will this year accommodate a bigger audience as it will be held in a bigger open space.

Rapula Kegopilwe, one of the organisers, said the session would be held in a bigger space and that small entrepreneurs had been invited to also sell their products at the event.

He said the Naked Soul Picnic sessions were also a platform for young Batswana in the food and beverage sector to not only come and showcase their products at the event, but also sell to patrons.

Artefacts will also be on display.

Kegopilwe further said tickets for the event were limited as they hoped to give their patrons a minimum capacity show, where everyone would be able to freely move around the picnic way.

"It is a limited ticket event and if tickets are sold out on the day of the show, then it will be 'next time' for those who could not get tickets," Kegopilwe said.

Commenting on the promoters' inability to deliver on their promise regarding day entertainment, particularly the delayed performance of headline artistes, Kegopilwe said logistics often determined the issue.

However, he said promoters needed to be more organised in order to give their patrons a memorable experience of their events.

He also said the industry was growing and that there was need to balance experience and business for both patrons and promoters.

He added that if promoters advertised an event as day entertainment, they should deliver on their promise.

Although it would be a day event, Kegopilwe said the show was not tailored for children as it was an alcohol consuming gig.

"However, we will not stop anyone from bringing their kids to the event," said Kegopilwe. ***BOPA***



Organisers of the Naked Soul Picnic, Kegopilwe (left), Sebina (centre) and Jordan Moozy addressing the media in Gaborone on Tuesday. Photo: Gontle Merafhe

Ko Isong series celebrates women writers

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - *Ko Isong* series, a platform where issues of heritage and creativity are discussed can bring people off campus to celebrate heritage, which have been neglected.

Various topics such as archeology and history are mostly discussed in order to raise interest on issues around heritage.

Speaking during the episode held for Botswana women writers in celebration of their creative writing as well as discuss the book, *Botswana Women Write*, the facilitator of the series Fred Morton of Botswana Society said heritage issues had been neglected, therefore the society needed to bring it back.

He further said with the advent of social media misinformation, they believed the *Ko Isong* series episodes were a perfect platform to bring conversations that would prompt discussions with experts in some topics.

Morton also said the series was there to spark interest among young people on issues of heritage.

The series holds various topics every month at the University of Botswana, with relevant people facilitating the topics while engaging the public.

Ko Isong has monthly topics for discussion about Botswana culture.

Botswana Women Write, available at Exclusive Books, is composed of short stories and poems collectively written by various women writers about their life experiences.

Sharing some of their work, a few of the contributors to the book noted that they wrote about life as experienced either by them personally or just general social life experiences.

Keletso Thobega, a journalist contributed two poems meant to address challenges faced by women journalists, especially the working conditions in Botswana.

Thobega said she would soon be releasing her own book made up of essays and poems focusing on women experiences. She is of the notion that women stories were narrated negatively, and through her work, attempted to narrate them positively and inspirationally.

Tumedi Seatholo contributed a story titled *Lilly*, about sex work and said she wrote the story in 1980 though she only managed to publish it recently through work with *Botswana Women Write.*

She derived her inspiration to write from the Bakhurutshe ba Tonota anecdotes.

Some of the contributors are Priscilla Matara with *Voices*, which explores mental health issues, Lilly Ngwenya-Khupe with *The Lump in my Throat*, an anecdote that talks about her hurtful childhood experiences that encroached into her adulthood.

The next *Ko Isong* series session titled *White Lobatse, Segregation in Colonial Botswana*, is scheduled for November 9. ***BOPA***

Miss Botswana crown depicts culture

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE - Miss Botswana 2022 will wear a locally designed unique crown, courtesy of La Calla and KGK Diamond Manufacturer.

The P150 000 worth crown was launched in Gaborone on Tuesday.

Miss Botswana executive director, Benjamin Raletsatsi thanked the brains behind the beautiful accessory

La calla owner and designer of the crown, Caiphas Othomile said the design was inspired by Botswana's main staple food - sorghum, adding that the sorghum head was a way of celebrating the country's cultural heritage.

"The crown incorporates some of the most brilliant and glittering Botswana diamonds," he said.

KGK Diamonds Manufacturer, assistant manager, Siddarth Gothi said he was privileged to have taken part in manufacturing a crown for the finest woman in Botswana.

He said diamonds represented Botswana's dazzling grandeur, adding that the crown also exhibited the characteristics of a natural diamond such as tradition, beauty, love, sparkle and genuine affection.

He wished the 10 Miss Botswana contestants well for the grand finale slated for Saturday at the Fairscape Precinct in Gaborone.

Other sponsors for this year's event are; Development Advance Institute, Lengau Wine company, New Capitol Cinemas, Botswana National Youth Council, First National Bank, Brand Botswana, BCW, BK Proctor, Cresta Marakanelo Limited, Delayna Scott, Nubian Seed, Yardley London, Boitekanelo College, Delmas Jewels, Elements, Botswana Development Corporation and Debswana, among others. ***BOPA***



Miss Botswana 2021 Palesa Molefe (centre) flanked by top 10 Miss Botswana finalists at the launch of Miss Botswana 2022 crown in Gaborone on Tuesday. Raletsatsi said the incorporation of the sorghum head in the design of the crown symbolised Botswana's cultural heritage. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Time Adventure Challenge Sunday

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Time Adventure Challenge is scheduled for Mokolodi Nature Reserve on Sunday.

The event, which is a duathlon relay race with four stages, will feature a 10km trail run, two 15km cycles and a 5km trail run.

Like triathlons, duathlons are the best way to practice race strategy, pacing, nutrition, hydration, and equipment setup for competitive athletes.

"The race is perfect for anyone. They can enter as a team of up to four people, however we do not limit anyone who feels they can complete all four stages as an individual," said organiser, Sandy Kelly.

The annual Time Adventure Challenge hopes to achieve a fun atmosphere for the families whilst raising funds.

Kelly said previously, they partnered with Botswana Disabled Society and built an outdoor gym and basketball court.

He said they also funded various free outdoor gyms around the city through this challenge.

"The aim is to empower communities through sport and promote fitness for everyone through this event," said Kelly adding this was the only cycling and running relay event in Botswana.



Lethokwe participating at a previous cycling challenge. He described Time Adventure Challenge as fun and enjoyable race.

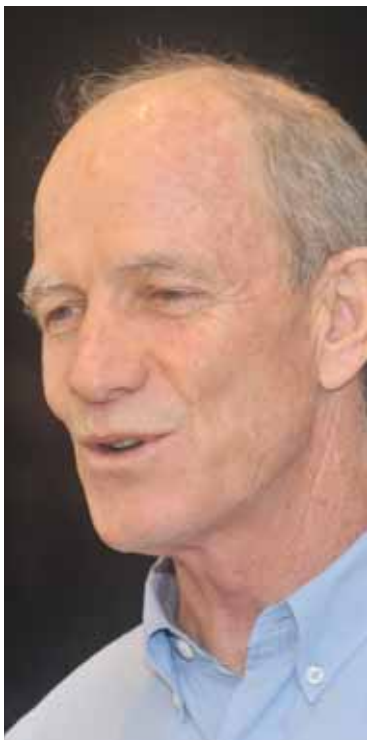
Botswana Cycling Association (BCA) National Mountain Bike (MTB) champion, Gontse Lethokwe, described the race as fun and enjoyable, but also challenging.

"The route trail is more challenging with uphills and small rocks synonymous for Mokolodi Park," he said.

Lethokwe, who is still nursing an injury and not certain of his participation, encouraged teams to register in large numbers to have a more challenging event.

He appealed for more run-bike-run similar events in the cycling community and urged participants to embrace them especially young competing athletes.

"Such events build one's mental toughness and endurance as well as help them focus on an event goal and provide that extra motivation to train," said Lethokwe. ***BOPA***



Kelly

Choupo-Moting turns into Bayern's best man for happy moments

BERLIN - Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting might be what one calls a coach's dream.

While the striker never made it to the very top despite having played in the shirt of Paris and Bayern, the 33-year-old has learned to enjoy the rare moments of happiness in his career.

And maybe more important, over the years, he never seems to run out of magic moments despite having accepted his role as a substitute and off-pitch mood booster.

This Sunday evening, the second-row forward added a new highlight moment when helping the Bavarians to secure a 5-0 victory over league rival Freiburg with him scoring and delivering assists.

It might be one of his values to be ready when the right time has come and calmly react when facing bold comparisons. Following his brilliant performance against Freiburg, he took headlines talking of him as Bayern's new Robert Lewandowski not too seriously. Since the Polish goal machine departed for Barcelona last summer, the issue of missing a box striker kept the club busy.

Former president Uli Hoeness recently said Bayern's team could hardly do without a spearhead, while coach Julian Nagelsmann and sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic changed the teams' tactics after Lewandowski left.

With former Liverpool star Sadio Mane, Thomas Muller, and Serge Gnabry rather inadequately filling the gap, Bayern's coach now pulled out Choupo-Moting as a surprise.

Having to replace space investigator Muller, the evergreen took his chance to please coach and teammates.

The always-good-mood even spoke about his desire to enjoy more playing time but is far from demanding to always start. Nevertheless, until crunch time in the Champions League comes next spring, Choupo-Moting increased his coach's options as Bayern enjoyed the contributions of "the best ball-securer of the football" as Gnabry put it.

No other player is similarly gifted when securing the ball deep in the opponent's defense line and acts as a connecting factor for up-catching colleagues.

The Cameroon-rooted striker triggered enjoyment in his team after, at least for one game, returning to the box-striker tactics. Enjoying the highest appreciation of all players in Bayern's squad due to his social competence, the forward might get additional chances until the start of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

But he won't make Nagelsmann change his general after-Lewandowski approach. Choupo-Moting might drop back into his role as a back-bencher and turn up whenever magic moments emerge. Just as he did in two last-8 duels in 2021 against his former side Paris when scoring twice in Bayern's shirt.

One of these surprising opportunities might as well turn up at the World Cup in Qatar in case German national coach Hansi Flick remembers the man of happy moments when looking for a box striker not disturbing his team's mood demanding always to play. ***Xinhua***

FIFA unveils 2023 Women's World Cup mascot

AUCKLAND - A football-loving penguin was unveiled on Wednesday as the official mascot of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Named Tazuni, the penguin will become a symbol for the tournament.

FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura said, 'today's announcement is a major milestone on the road to the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Tazuni stands for everything which makes the Women's World Cup unique, and her story will resonate with millions of young fans around the world."

Sarai Bareman, FIFA's chief women's football officer, said 'Tazuni is the perfect mascot for this tournament, exemplifying all that is positive about the biggest women's football event ever staged, and our sport-obsessed host nations who are ready to welcome the world.'

Tazuni's first live appearance will be on October 22 at the tournament's draw in Auckland, New Zealand. ***Xinhua***



FLORENCE - ***Chinese volleyball player, Zhu Ting (right), receiving her shirt during a press conference in Italy. Italian volleyball club, Savino Del Bene Scandicci, announced on Tuesday that Zhu will wear No.4 shirt in the 2022-23 season.*** Photo: Xinhua

Daily Sport

Thursday October 20, 2022 No. 194

https://dailynews.gov.bw

Premier league starts but...

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Football lovers are expected to flock different stadia across the country to see what their favourite teams have to offer.

However, the downside is that the premier league will commence without a sponsor.

The recent resignation of the Botswana Football League chief executive officer, Solomon Ramochotlhwane, has compounded the challenges facing football.

Maclean Letshwiti, Botswana Football Association (BFA) president, is a worried man.

He recently read the riot act to the BFL assembly.

He told delegates that they must do the work and do it right.

Letshwiti said his responsibility was to regulate football and to make it conducive for all.

He also warned delegates that failure to professionalise and commercialise football would not be accepted under his leadership.

Letshwiti added that if clubs failed to manage themselves and the league, BFA would be forced to take over the league and run it.

Meanwhile, *BOPA* took to the streets to talk to some football lovers regarding the status of the game in the country.

Obeditswe Nkwane: Our football is in disarray. The league is starting but we don't have a sponsor. As football supporters we are disgruntled and our football is no longer appealing. Last season our football was marred by controversy and litigation after litigation.

Do you think there is any sponsor who will want to be associated with local football? We are no longer attending games and have solace in social clubs.

Kadisa Sengone: The league is going to be boring once again without a sponsor. I don't know why we still fail to lure a sponsor. Is it because of leadership or what? he asked, before noting that sponsors were sensitive.

Ogomoditse Keganegile: Since the COVID-19 lockdowns, I have lost touch with football.

This coming season, it will be important to do things right so that we may go back to the stadiums as supporters. Just like sponsors, we want a fine product that will force us to go to stadiums.

Galaletsang Gojammo: As the league starts, my expectation is that the BFL leadership should lure more sponsorship. The lack of good governance has the potential to chase sponsors away, so let's do things right. ***BOPA***



Letshwiti



Sengone



Gojammo



Nkwane



Keganegile

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