

Business
Cattle herd increase
needs strategy
Page 6

Dikgang
'Boikarabelo ke
jwa botlhe'
Tsebe 7

**Arts&
Culture**
Atsile dazzles
on global stage
Page 9



e-Learning to foster employee growth



Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (left) and Directorate of Public Service Management director, Ms Gaone Macholo during the launch of Botswana Public Service College e-Learning programme in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Mohwasa said the platform would give public officers access to continuous professional development and ensure that they were equipped with knowledge to improve performance.
Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Market dynamics call for transformation

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - The Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship has reaffirmed commitment to building a diversified, resilient, and regionally integrated economy powered by connectivity and innovation.

Speaking during the Botswana Economic Forum held in Gaborone on Tuesday, Minister Tiroeane Ntsima, emphasised that Botswana stood at a pivotal moment in its development journey.

Mr Ntsima said while diamonds once fueled massive national progress by funding schools, hospitals and major infrastructure, the shifting dynamics of the global diamond market had underscored the urgency of economic transformation.

“Our future cannot depend on one commodity,” he said, calling for a new economic model driven by technology, regional integration and value creation across sectors

Mr Ntsima said Botswana’s geography was reimagined as a land-linked country because it

was strategically located at the crossroads of Southern Africa.

He said Botswana’s geography must be reimagined, describing the country as “land-linked” due to its strategic location at the crossroads of Southern Africa.

With improved trade corridors and harmonised policies, Botswana aims to position itself as the most reliable and efficient trade, logistics and investment gateway connecting fast-growing markets in Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia and beyond.

The two-day summit, held under the theme: Infrastructure, Trade Corridors and Connectivity: Unlocking Botswana’s Comparative Advantage,” underscored the critical role of infrastructure.

The minister noted that infrastructure extends beyond roads and bridges to encompass access to opportunity, investment and shared prosperity.

He indicated that government was driving connectivity across three fronts, being physical connectivity: through roads, railways, and modernised border

operations, digital connectivity: through broadband infrastructure and e-government systems as well as institutional connectivity: through harmonised regulations and streamlined trade processes

Together, he said, these elements will unlock Botswana’s comparative advantage.

Mr Ntsima urged the private sector to intensify investment and collaboration, stressing that while government can create an enabling environment, it is private innovation and capital that will ultimately drive transformation.

Progressive Institute CEO, Mr Mmoloki Mmolotsi said Botswana’s next development era is centered on citizen empowerment,

inclusive growth, technological progress and stronger global engagement cannot be built on a narrow economic base.

Mr Mmolotsi said the world is rapidly changing, and the economy must adapt with courage and urgency.

“Diversification is no longer an option; it is an economic necessity, a national obligation and a generational responsibility.”

He said the forum’s theme called on Botswana to embrace purposeful and accelerated transformation.

To secure a prosperous future, he said the country must industrialise more boldly, diversify consistently, digitise rapidly, innovate fearlessly and compete effectively on the

global stage.

He noted that countries previously dependent on limited economic pillars are now expanding into renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, logistics, digital commerce and the creative economy—sectors Botswana too must pursue.

Mr. Mmolotsi said the forum, attended by delegates from Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the Americas, was designed to support this transition by aligning policy direction with business realities, connecting investment opportunities with capital and turning national aspirations into concrete, actionable strategies. **BOPA**

SADC platform for harmonisation of regional policies

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - The Southern African Development Community (SADC) continues to serve as a platform for harmonising regional policies, pooling resources and addressing shared development challenges in areas such as trade, infrastructure, security and governance.

Speaking at the launch of the SADC Communication, Awareness and Visibility Strategy 2025–2030 in Gaborone on Tuesday, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Ms Angele Makombo N’tumba, said the organisation empowered member states to collectively achieve goals that would be difficult to realise individually.

Ms N’tumba said one of SADC’s objectives was to build a regional community where citizens were able to connect, collaborate and benefit from a shared vision of a better future.

Since its establishment in 1980, she noted, SADC had developed a robust policies and instruments that continued to deliver transformative outcomes across the region, enhancing trade, streamlining systems, facilitating mobility and

uplifting communities.

She emphasised that SADC’s regional instruments were powerful engines of transformation with tangible impact on citizens’ lives.

She highlighted the SADC Mobile Money Guidelines, introduced in 2024, which are helping member states harmonise regulation and expand access to financial services.

The initiative, she said, was especially transformative for women, youth and informal traders who have historically been excluded from formal banking.

“By supporting mobile money, SADC is modernising finance and ensuring that opportunity reaches every corner of the region,” she said. However, Ms N’tumba cautioned that SADC’s achievements risked going unnoticed without effective communication. She said the new Communication, Awareness and Visibility Strategy for 2025–2030 was crafted to deepen public understanding of SADC’s origins, mandate and impact, ensuring its messages reach diverse audiences across member states.

“This strategy embraces our region’s rich linguistic, cultural and social diversity, and ensures visibility of women, youth, persons

with disabilities and marginalised communities,” she added.

SADC partner and Head of Economic and Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Botswana, Ms Simone Goertz, said clear communication of goals, policies and achievements enables regional organisations to build trust, enhance transparency and strengthen engagement with citizens, stakeholders and international partners.

She said communication acted as a bridge between institutional frameworks and the lived realities of the people they serve.

In a globalised world where narratives shape perceptions, strategic communication is vital to counter misinformation, promote inclusivity and reinforce regional solidarity, she noted.

“When SADC launches its Communication, Awareness and Visibility Strategy 2025–2030 today, it aims at tackling the complexity of these challenges,” Ms Goertz said.

She added that the strategy was designed to strengthen connections between institutions, member states, citizens and stakeholders, reinforcing collective identity and regional unity. **BOPA**



Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeane Ntsima (right) and Ghanzi District Council chairperson, Mr Shane Keadile at the inaugural Botswana Economic Forum in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Ntsima laid out a vision focused on infrastructure development, strong trade corridors and improved connectivity. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Rising cases of school dropouts worrisome

By Aobakwe Molefhi

GOOD HOPE - Good Hope District Council chairperson Mr Gofaone Nkwane has expressed worry about the high number of school drop-outs in the district.

In his address to Good Hope full council session on Monday, Mr Nkwane said 22 dropouts were recorded during the second term out of which, two were due to pregnancy, 15 desertions, two due to ill health while three were due to truancy.

He said this was despite continued and sustained interventions by schools, which included engagement with parents, dikgosi and social workers.

Mr Nkwane said the most affected schools included Gopong primary, Montshiwa and Molopo junior secondary schools together with Good Hope Senior Secondary school.

“Molopo JSS has recorded a high number of 15 dropouts, with 12 cases attributed to desertion,”

he said.

He further said that in terms of academic performance, results remained below expectations especially at secondary school level.

Mr Nkwane revealed that end-of second term results indicated that primary schools achieved an average of 67 per cent (ABC) junior schools 18.2 while Good Hope senior recorded 7.5 per cent.

Even though the sub region continued to provide targeted support, he said it was evident that the involvement of parents in their children’s education remained a key contribution to their success.

Furthermore, the chairman indicated that there was an alarming rise in teenage pregnancy, defilement and rape cases, calling on all to take a firm stand against such injustices.

In second term, the number of teenage pregnancies has risen by 17 cases, incidents of defilement by 21 and only 8 cases have been reported, Mr Nkwane revealed. **BOPA**



German Embassy head of economic development cooperation, Ms Simone Goertz (left), SADC deputy executive secretary, Ms Angele Makobo N’tumba (centre) and SADC head of communication and public relations, Ms Barbara Lopi at the launch and orientation of the SADC Communication, Awareness and Visibility Strategy 2025-2030 in Gaborone on Tuesday. Ms N’tumba encouraged SADC communicators to be innovative and enhance the visibility of the region. Photo: Felicity Male



Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse (third left), Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung Botswana resident representative, Mr Thilo Schone (second left), legislators, dikgosi and other dignitaries during the constitutional review capacity training in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Keorapetse said the constitution was due for review as it had to appeal to social, economical and technological changes to remain responsive to modern challenges. Photo: Teko Letsholo

MPs undergo constitutional review capacity training

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - In a bid to deepen Botswana's democracy, strengthen its institutions and ensure that the Constitution of Botswana continues to serve the evolving needs of its people, Members of Parliament are attending a three-day capacity building workshop on the constitutional review which started Tuesday in Gaborone.

The workshop will delve into presentations and discussions on different types of constitutional reviews, drafting, debating, finalising the Constitution (Amendment) Bill as well as reflecting on lessons from the 2024 Constitutional Review Process, among other topics.

In his keynote address, Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse, said the Constitutional Review was the most important democratic project of time, which, if done properly, could put the nation back on a path of democratisation, away from regression and could fast-track Botswana into democratic consolidation.

"Botswana's constitution has served us relatively well, thus laying the foundation for a peaceful, democratic, and forward-moving nation," said Mr Keorapetse.

He reminded MPs that the constitution was at the apex of an interconnected legal ecosystem comprising ordinary legislation, judicial interpretation, customary law and international treaties, that when aligned, created legal certainty, predictability and stability.

"True independence requires constitutional and institutional reforms to secure financial and administrative autonomy," he said.

He appealed to MPs, to deepen the constitutional literacy, commit to a participatory process with their constituents, think systematically

and prioritise strengthening of democracy.

He also advised them to strive to build cross-party consensus, bipartisanship and uphold high standards of excellence during the upcoming constitutional review process.

"As a nation, we deserve a world-class constitution that will serve

generations to come," he said.

For his part, Clerk of the National Assembly, Dr Gabriel Malebang, said Botswana's Constitution, adopted at independence in 1966, remained one of Africa's most stable and respected constitutional documents.

However, Dr Malebang said there was need for constitutional

reform in order for the constitution to reflect the new realities in society, politics, economy and technological advancements changes Botswana had undergone.

"Constitutional reform is not an admission of failure. It is a sign of maturity, responsiveness and democratic strength," he said adding that key reasons

for reform included evolving governance standards, institutional strengthening, clearer power definitions, improving the changing social realities such as gender equality and digital transformation, an improved constituency engagement as well as enhanced legitimacy and citizen trust. **BOPA**

e-Learning to foster employee growth

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - Government, through the Botswana Public Service College (BPSC), has launched an online Learning Management System (LMS), which aims to transform the country's public service into a modern, efficient and citizen-centred institution.

Officiating at the launch in Gaborone on Tuesday, Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said as a milestone in the transformation of Botswana's public service, the LMS was meant to empower and upskill eligible public service employees through accessible and high impact online courses.

Mr Mohwasa said the newly launched BPSC's e-Learning platform was not a departure from national priorities, but a concrete delivery step toward more accountable and responsive governance.

The online courses, he said would help enhance leadership, service delivery and institutional excellence in the public service.

For the past 12 months, he said government had emphasised modernisation of state institutions, arguing that effective governance required more than incremental change.

"We entered office with a strong

undertaking to transform, not to tinker, but to modernise and not maintain the status quo," he said.

He added that the online courses would help equip the public service to respond to the demands of a digital and knowledge-driven economy.

As part of a broader national reform agenda, Minister Mohwasa said the e-Learning platform also formed part of a legally grounded human-capital development framework aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and securing long-term national prosperity.

He expressed delight that the BPSC would continue to drive public service training through a modernised and digitally enabled delivery model.

He said the initiative would also offer public officers access to flexible and cost-effective professional development regardless of location.

"It will bridge skills gaps, improve service standards and ensure coherence in public sector training. As technology and the world of work evolve, we must embrace innovative methods of learning that are flexible, inclusive and cost-effective," he added.

In her welcome remarks, Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) director, Ms Gaone Macholo said the LMS was expected to address long-

standing challenges in government operations and improve the overall efficiency of public services.

Ms Macholo called for collective effort by all stakeholders to ensure the success of the online programmes.

She said by adopting technology solutions, like the BPSC's e-Learning platform, government also aimed to embrace cost-effective methods to boost agility and improve service delivery across all ministries.

"This initiative is opening doors we did not think were possible many years ago. The innovation is expected to bring significant change to the public service sector," she said.

She thanked Minister Mohwasa for officiating the launch, saying it reflected a sign of government support for the project.

She also commended the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education assistant minister, Mr Justin Hunyepa, for being a key partner in the efforts leading to the programme's development.

Furthermore, she thanked the permanent secretary in the Ministry for State President, Ms Goitsewang Morekisi for having been instrumental in driving the initiative forward, calling for continued collaboration as its implementation begins.

In her remarks, Ms Morekisi also

hailed the initiative, describing it as critical to improving public service efficiency.

BPSC acting executive director, Ms Boineelo Lobelo said the programme's objective was to democratise access to professional development opportunities, empower officers at all levels and make learning flexible, inclusive and sustainable.

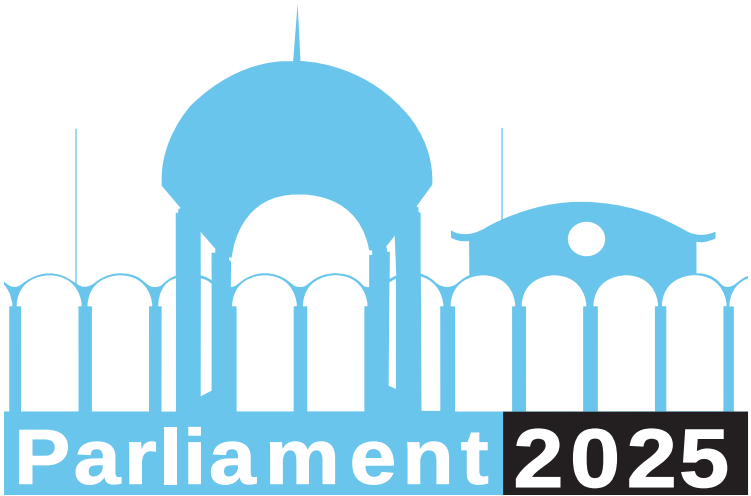
Ms Lobelo said the programme was a product of strategic collaboration between DPSM, BPSC and the World Bank, all working toward a unified vision for a smarter government.

So far, she revealed that a total of more 4 000 officers had enrolled on the e-Learning platform.

Thus, she expressed gratitude that the programme would ensure public officers had access to continuous professional development, regardless of their geographical location.

"This e-Learning platform will strengthen our human capital and enhance institutional capacity, across the entire public service," she added.

The LMS is now open for online registration. Currently, the system offers four online courses including governance for State-Owned Enterprises, fundamental of governance, professional soft skills and modern public service: human capital practices. **BOPA**



Govt promises realistic, attainable - Nyatanga

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - Government has set attainable goals that will be achieved within five years in office, the Assistant Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Augustine Nyatanga has said.

Delivering his response to the State-of-the-Nation Address in Parliament on Monday, Mr Nyatanga, who is also the Mahalapye East MP, said government had deliberately set high targets in order to inspire all to work towards much improved living standards.

He said there were many opportunities for job creation and broadening the national economic base, but these required better implementation of projects, within the set timelines.

Mr Nyatanga said there had been a paradigm shift in the Botswana Prison Service, as there were psycho-social activities and projects that included food production, geared towards the rehabilitation of prisoners.

As part of the human rights based approach to governance, marginalised groups, indigenous communities such as the Basarwa, as well as refugees, women and the youth should be included in national development plans, Mr Nyatanga said. On issues affecting his constituency, Mr Nyatanga called for the improvement of internal roads and storm water drainage systems in Mahalapye and Mookane, which were not in a good state, and become worse and a hazard to road users during the rainy season.

He said villages such as Palla Road and Mookane were struggling with water provision, and called on the government to address the situation.

Mr Nyatanga added that the construction of a stadium and sports facilities in Mahalapye would assist in addressing social ills such as juvenile delinquency and crime, as the youth could be refocused on sports development and participation.

Member of Parliament for Okavango West, Mr Kenny Kapinga, said contrary to what Umbrella for Democratic Change leaders said, their party in government had set unachievable goals that would be hard to realise in five years.

Also, he said the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme would require P388 billion to be implemented by the time the 12th National Development Plan (NDP 12) was realised, which

he said was unrealistic given the country's economic circumstances and capacity.

Rather, Mr Kapinga urged the government to prioritise a few potentially high benefit niche projects whose implementation could be feasible over the duration of NDP 12.

He also said that after one year in government, the value system of the governing party should be easily reflected.

The MP said, instead of championing pro-poor values they voiced in the opposition trenches, he had noticed flamboyance and opulence being reflected in the conduct of the UDC in government.

He called for the construction of a good quality road to link the villages in his constituency, adding that the only tarred road appeared as if it was located in a war zone, hence required quality roads to linked villages such as Nokaneng-Gumare, Gumare-Sepopa, Sepopa-Mohembo among others, to be constructed within time, budget and the right standard. **BOPA**

Agriculture key to easing economic pressures

GABORONE - The country's over-reliance on one commodity, diamonds, has put it on a dangerous trajectory, says Lentsweletau/ Lephephe Member of Parliament, Mr Tshenolo Bogatsu.

The MP, who was making his contribution to the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) on Monday,, said the country's failure to diversify led to the current economic difficulties. He said agriculture remained the answer to improving the country's fortunes, amid the economic challenges.

Mr Bogatsu said the country could get food, clothing, and medicines, among other things, from the sector, and in the process create jobs and economic opportunities. Mr Bogatsu noted that Botswana continued to import food, although it had the capacity to feed itself.

He said people between the ages of 20 and 60 years should be empowered to produce food, adding that the concept of education with production should be inculcated in learners from primary school. Mr Bogatsu also said that there was a need to adopt new methods of farming, as the country could no longer rely on rain-fed agriculture. He called for deliberate efforts to

Land policy allows exceptional allocations

GABORONE - The prevailing Botswana Land Policy allows exceptional allocations and these have been made through destitute housing programme and others which are delivered or have been delivered through the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

Answering a question in Parliament on behalf of Minister of Land and Agriculture, Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi said the Self-Help Housing Scheme Agency was one such and the Bonno initiative fit in the scope.

He said in aid of speeding the construction of and access to housing by, among others, people who needed accommodation, but might not have the capital to undertake the underlying development, the ministry had asked the land boards to facilitate the Bonno National Housing Programme, by allocating land to the Government of Botswana. Such land he said would subsequently, be sub-leased to the investors identified by the Ministry of Water

and Human Settlement.

To date 24 508 plots and 524 98 hectares have been availed for the Bonno National Housing Programme by the different land boards, said Mr Ramogapi.

He said that the land boards did not allocate the plots and land to the companies, but to the government and the ministry responsible for Bonno National Housing Programme, would then identify investors, who would sub-lease the plots for the development of the housing units as per their agreement.

The allocation of plots for the Bonno National Housing Programme while running parallel to plot allocations, was a government priority programme which was one of the key promises of the government, to provide 100 000 houses, Mr Ramogapi explained.

He said that a plot was a pre-requisite to housing therefore, where a programme existed that would deliver the end product, being shelter, that programme was given priority in terms of land.

In the process, and recognising that others do, or may have capacity to undertake their own developments, Mr Ramogapi said that the ministry of Land and Agriculture was concurrently working on a quick process of allocating plots. "As we speak, all board secretaries of the 12 main land boards are meeting in Gaborone to help with recommendations that will improve the administrative process," he explained.

In so far as those recommendations are concerned, and to the extent that they affect skills, personnel and enhanced process- management, Mr Ramogapi said that the ministry intended to course the required changes in the next two months, in respect to laying the foundation.

Gabane/Mmankgodi MP, Mr Kagiso Mmusi had sought clarity on how many plots had been allocated so far across the country, which companies benefited, and what mechanisms were in place to ensure that long-waiting applicants also receive timely consideration. **BOPA**



Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi said to date 24 508 plots had been availed for the Bonno National Housing Programme by different land boards.

bring amenities such as roads and electricity to farms and hailed the government's intention to increase cattle herd to five million.

Also, he said Botswana was an unequal society, thus the distribution of the country's wealth should address the inequality. The MP said the distribution of national wealth overlooked the reality on the ground that some communities were marginalised, and treated all as equals.

The setup disadvantages marginalised communities, as they remain on the periphery, Mr Bogatsu said and called on the government to be intentional in addressing disparities that existed between communities and stop treating all as equals.

Mr Bogatsu said that human resource was the most valuable resource of every economy, adding that the government should see how Batswana in the diaspora could contribute to national development.

Tswapong South Member of Parliament, Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang, cautioned the government not to set targets it could not attain. He said the government had, among other things, promised to revamp the healthcare sector, strengthen

the corruption-busting agency; Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, within 100 days, but that had not happened.

Also, he said the government was silent on those who persecuted others during the previous regime.

Dr Gobotswang said the government criticised the previous regime for buying cattle from the USA, yet it was buying cattle from Brazil. He said the envisaged increase of the national cattle herd was bound to fail due to organised livestock theft. He also said there was a need to change attitudes towards Gender-Based Violence and violence against women and children.

Dr Gobotswang however, appreciated the government for introducing indigenous languages on national television and radio, saying he was in favor of a law that established such.

Molepolole North MP, Mr Arafat Khan, said the Umbrella for Democratic Change victory in Kgalagadi South by-election indicated that Batswana trusted the UDC and hoped it would fulfill its promises. Also, he said Molepolole faced a severe shortage of water.

He however, said that the community appreciated the

increase in old age pension, increase of students' allowance, and were hopeful that others would be implemented in due time.

Mr Khan said the land board in Molepolole last allocated plots in 2014, which had led to a long waiting list, situation that needed to be addressed because there was land that could be used for village expansion.

He said the land board should work on its service standards, because it took long to change land use, transfers, and obtain secure land titles, among other things.

Mr Khan also said Molepolole was in need of a befitting police station.

Schools in Molepolole need renovation, Mr Khan said and added that Motswasele Junior Secondary School should be turned into a senior school.

He said currently, students from Molepolole went to Mogoditshane and Good Hope senior schools because the sole senior school in the village could not admit all of them.

Furthermore, Mr Khan thanked the Ministry of Sport and Arts for reducing the fees that teams had to pay to use Molepolole Sports Complex. **BOPA**

Modise takes oath as Kgalagadi South MP

By **Pako Lebanna**

GABORONE - Having emerged triumphant after what appeared to be a grueling electoral contest between five candidates, Mr Tokyo Modise was sworn in as the new Member of Parliament (MP) for

Kgalagadi South on Tuesday. The winner of the Kgalagadi South by-election that was held on Saturday, subsequent to the death of former area MP, Dr Micus Chimbombi, July last year, Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) representative, Mr

Modise took the oath of allegiance prescribed under Section 71 of the Constitution. Speaking to **BOPA** after being sworn in, Mr Modise said he had been warmly welcomed to the August House and was eager to get to work towards ensuring the voice of the Kgalagadi South constituents was heard in the legislature. “I am very pleased to be a part

of this assembly and to represent our constituency, although it comes after the unfortunate passing away of our former MP Dr Chimbombi. I would like to continue the good work that he did, and I am pleased that I have been welcomed by all the MPs who were present from either side of the house,” said Mr Modise. Having overcome the initial

faux pas of first raising his left hand during the oath ceremony, being advised by the parliamentary legal counsel to instead use his right hand as was procedure, Mr Modise said he managed to settle as he listened to the ongoing State-of-the-Nation Address debate. “The legal team advised that I had to use my right hand and that was an early sign that people here understand to err is human and they are here to help me understand the procedures, and I hope to learn quickly,” said Mr Modise. On the issues relating to his constituency, Mr Modise said he was particularly concerned about stock theft and cross border crime, which he said afflicted pastoral farmers in his area. “We are an area which has great potential in livestock and small stock rearing, and we could contribute to the increase of the national herd as prioritised by the President Advocate Duma Boko. I believe the criminal justice system should assist us, and roads should be paved along the Molopo River so that we are able to have the community assist the police in patrolling along the border,” Mr Modise related. He said his victory showed that Batswana still had trust in the UDC government. **BOPA**



The Clerk of the National Assembly, Dr Gabriel Malebang swearing in newly elected Member of Parliament for Kgalagadi South, Mr Tokyo Modise in Gaborone on Tuesday. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Ministry pays over P1.2 million monthly office rentals

GABORONE - The Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs (MYGA) pays P1,262,630.50 per month in rental fees for its headquarters building. Portfolio minister, Ms Lesego Chombo told Parliament on Monday, when responding to a question from Tati East MP, Mr Tlhabologo Furniture. Minister Chombo said that the the ministry’s headquarters was an eight floor building of which the first floor was currently only partially occupied, and the number of vacant offices fluctuating since April. “The offices were vacated by officers who relocated to the Ministry of Sport and Arts in varying batches over the period,” she said and further explained that the monetary value of the unoccupied space had also varied over time.

next year. She stated that the ministry of youth was working closely with the landlord and the Department of Lands, to ensure compliance with lease conditions as they implemented the planned office reallocations. Mr Furniture wanted to know the amount the ministry paid for office rental per month, number of floors in the building and those that were unoccupied, how much the ministry was losing due to the anomaly and whether it was not premature for the ministry of sport to vacate the building. **BOPA**

“The latest assessment places the cost of 20 vacant offices measuring 867 square metres at P92,127.50 per month. Previous unoccupied offices and corresponding amounts were therefore lower,” she added. Ms Chombo said that the ministry of sports made its own decision to relocate, which she believed was done in consultation with the Department of Lands, the authority responsible for government office accommodation. To mitigate space inefficiencies caused by the partial vacancy, Ms Chombo said MYGA had been re-organising its office layout, to prioritise the newly established Department of Youth and new units such as Extension Services. Additionally, she said the ministry had resolved to relocate its Gaborone District Office from the annex building to the first floor of the headquarters. “This is meant to accommodate the ministry in one building for purposes of sharing resources. The relocation of Gaborone District is planned to take effect by the end of November,” said Ms Chombo.

By **Pako Lebanna**

GABORONE - Government should exercise caution in implementing economic transformation and social support policies, in order to ensure the country’s spending does not outweigh the revenue being generated by the state. This was said by the MP for Kgatleng East, Mr Mabuse Pule in his contribution to the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) debate on Tuesday. He said while Batswana could be excited by more social spending and plans for an economic transformation, questions should be asked if the economy could sustain such heavy spending over time. “While we commend President Advocate Duma Boko’s government for its compassion in increasing pensions, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) student allowances, we must also confront the uncomfortable question: At what cost, and with what plan to sustain it?” said Mr Pule. He said his political organisation, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) had, for over almost six decades in governemnt laid the foundation for a sustainable national economy through prudent management of the country’s finances. “When the BDP assumed office in 1966, Botswana was counted among the poorest nations in the world, with barely any infrastructure, a small educated population, and an economy almost wholly dependent on cattle and foreign aid. Yet, through prudent management, peace, and an unshakable commitment to democracy and accountability, our party transformed Botswana into a stable, upper-middle-income country, admired across Africa and beyond for its governance, economic stewardship, and respect for the rule of law,” said Mr Pule.

While admitting that the country had failed to diversify its economic base and faced shrinking revenue from its diamond revenue mainstay, Mr Pule still insisted the country was able to chart a new path forward through the foundations laid by the BDP in government. “Today, even as the economy faces turbulence, shrinking diamond revenues, global price pressures, and unemployment, we continue to benefit from the foundations laid by successive BDP governments: the roads that connect our villages and towns, the hospitals and schools that serve our people, the stable institutions that safeguard our freedoms, and the macro economic prudence that has preserved our currency and our creditworthiness,” said Mr Pule. He called on government to establish a Fiscal Responsibility and Social Impact Review Committee, “an independent, technocratic body tasked with evaluating the affordability of major social commitments,” saying there were comparable models to benchmark on in Mauritius set out to protect future generations from unsustainable debt. He further recommended that government establish a National Livestock Genetic Improvement and Climate Resilience Centre, as a partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and private breeders, to coordinate all breed importation, research, and farmer training. On his constituency issues, Mr Pule called for the reconstruction of the Mmamashia-Modipane road, construction of the Malolwane-Mmaphashalala and Mochudi-Modipane roads, and constant maintenance and dry grading of the road linking the villages of Dikwididi, Mochudi, Matebeleng and Morwa. He further said the construction of the Dikwididi Police Station and upgrading of Modipane Clinic were also critical. Minister of Health, and specially

elected MP, Dr Stephen Modise in his contribution said, a human rights based approach to governance and broadening development plans to be inclusive for all have been demonstrably visible since the Umbrella for Democratic (UDC) assumed the governance of the country late last year. Dr Modise said at the core of the UDC developmental plans was inclusivity, and this was reflected in the 12th National Development Plan and the Botswana Economic Transformation Plan. He added that in laying to rest Mr Pitseng Gaoberekwe at his ancestral home, the Central Kalahari Game Reserve last December after a protracted battle between the state and the indigenous Basarwa community, government displayed its commitment to human rights and compassion that had hitherto been missing in the nation’s governance. He said the UDC was working to address the challenges they inherited after taking over the reins of government from the BDP which he said had left a legacy of an undiversified economy, failed education system, dilapidated classrooms, a demoralised and underpaid workforce, as well as clinics and hospitals that were not well maintained. He said President Advocate Duma Boko had given Batswana hope through the SONA, with P200 million to be set aside for investing in the creative sector, the proposed construction of a rehabilitation centre in Serowe, introduction of a 30 per cent reduction in water and electricity tariffs, and the increment of the old age pension scheme among others. Dr Modise said the government was working on corrective measures to address “decades old” challenges that had been besetting the health sector, and ensuring continued supply of medicines to patients across the country. “Just this past Wednesday we signed a Memorandum of

Understanding with the Republic of India which would help with more access to medicines and medical supplies that our people need. India is a powerhouse when it comes to medicines and medical commodities, manufacturing and distribution. Our cooperation with them will help us in the medical supply area,” said Dr Modise. He said the government was working on gradually achieving universal health coverage for all the people in the country. Speaking on the same day, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Mmopane/Metsimotlhabe MP, Ms Helen Manyeneng encouraged the youth to take advantage of government’s intention to support Technical and Vocational Education and Training, by enrolling at brigades and other vocational institutions. She said Botswana enjoyed an abundance of sunshine and the country would benefit from the move towards solar energy, and she called for it to be utilised to assist farming communities and cooperatives in the outskirts of Gaborone to modernise their farming. Ms Manyeneng also said roof top solar power should be introduced in schools, clinics and cooperatives as the current electric grid transmission lines feeding these vital institutions occasionally fail. She said her constituency being close to the capital was faced with an increasing population, which led to schools such as Metsimotlhabe, Mmopane, Tau Manthe and Serameng primary schools having more pupils than their normal carrying capacity. She thus called for more primary schools to be built in the Mmopane/Metsimotlhabe community, to address the situation as well as the challenge of pupils from farming villages such as Mmamhiko and Gamononyane currently having to travel long distances to school. **BOPA**



Mr Cletus Ncube



Mr Timothy Samoxa

‘Cattle herd increase needs strategy’

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Some farmers in Ngamiland believe increasing national cattle herd is possible if the government can expand and strengthen extension services to production centres.

The government had of recent set an ambitious target to augment the national herd from an estimated 1.7 million to five million.

During interviews on Tuesday, farmers in Ngamiland noted that intensified extension services, which facilitated practical training and timely technical support was the way to go to reach five million head and beyond.

They concurred the move could results in healthier, more productive and high quality animals.

“I strongly believe that as farmers, we can help the government achieve the set target of five million provided the veterinarians become visible in

production centres.

In most cases, a lack of sufficient veterinary services in production areas makes it difficult for farmers to access the technical-know-how needed in productive farming,” said Mr Timothy Samoxa, who is the chairperson of Gumare Farmers Association.

Currently, he said majority of the farmers, especially those leaving in far flung, had limited access to veterinary services, something he said affected production.

“Some of us value cattle farming and work hard to try and enhance productivity,” he said.

However, with the region prone to livestock disease outbreaks particularly Foot and Mouth, Mr Samoxa has called on government to consider handing over the responsibility of the maintenance of the buffalo fence to farmers’ associations.

Poor condition of the cordon fences, he said was a ticking time-bomb to the farming community and needed regular maintenance to keep diseases such as Foot and Mouth at bay.

Another farmer from Hainaveld ranches, Mr Cletus Ncube, is also in agreement that to augment the national cattle herd needed robust extension services.

Achieving success in the cattle farming industry, he believed required sound strategy and dedication from both the farmers and veterinarians.

“A proactive health management plan is the cornerstone of successful cattle farming so that calving rate should be higher,” he said.

Furthermore, Mr Ncube advised farmers to embrace the ever evolving farming landscape to be succesful in their farming endeavours. **BOPA**

Digitalisation pushes international trade - WTO

BEIJING - Former director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Pascal Lamy has expressed optimism for today’s globalisation, saying the international trading system still offers opportunities for developing economies in the services sector.

“If you look at volumes of international trade, they are still expanding. There is no regression,” Lamy, who headed the WTO from 2005 to 2013, said at a dialogue event at Peking University in Beijing over the weekend.

“What we have is a different globalisation from the previous system, a slow expansion of

international trade.”

He noted that digitalisation and the trade in services were still pushing international trade.

“Trade in goods is now growing less rapidly than trade in services, and a lot of these trading services rely on the digital infrastructures and data transmission.”

The booming service trades continue to bring new chances for developing economies that used to benefit mainly from global trade in goods.

“There is ample room, notably in services, which is relatively the under-developed part,” Lamy told *Xinhua*.

According to the WTO, world trade in goods and commercial

services, on a balance-of-payments basis, expanded by 4 per cent to US\$32.2 trillion in 2024, following a 2-percent decline in 2023.

Trade in goods rose by 2 percent while services grew strongly by 10 percent. The share of services in global trade increased to 27.2 per cent, its highest share since 2005.

The global business community has increasingly recognised China’s sustained efforts to open its services sector, widely seen as a market of immense potential. According to China’s Ministry of Commerce, China’s total services trade volume surpassed US\$1 trillion for the first time in 2024,

ranking second globally.

The country established a nationwide negative list management system for cross-border trade in services in 2024. It also vowed to increase export credit insurance support for services exports and to optimise its visa policies for personnel of foreign-invested enterprises, people engaged in sci-tech research, and high-level talent coming to China.

In certain pilot free trade zones, overseas residents can now open securities or futures accounts to engage in businesses such as securities investment consulting or futures trading advisory services. *Xinhua*

Badiri ba tlhatlhelelwa ka tsa botsogo

Ka Grace Sebape

LOBATSE - Mogolwane kwa lephateng la lefatshe le temothuo kwa kgaolong ya Borwa Botlhaba e e akaretsang Lobatse Dr Vincent Kgathi a re botsogo le boitekanelo di na le dintlha di le tharo tsa botlhokwa go akaretsa sedumedi, boitekanelo jwa mmele le botsogo jwa tlhologanyo.

Dr Kgathi o buile jalo ka Labotlhano kwa Lobatse jaaka badiri ba lephata leo ba ne ba tshwere letsatsi la boitekanelo ka maikaelelo a go rotloetsa botsogo jo bo siameng mo tirong.

O boletse gore maikaelelo a letsatsi, ke go rotloetsa tshwaragano le tirisano ya badiri mo lephateng le gone go fiwa dithuto ka tsa tiriso ya madi.

Batsena letsatsi ba ne ba rotloetswa gape gore ba dirise ditlamelo tsotlhe tse ba di tliseditsweng gaufi, le gone go batla dikitsa tse di farologaneng.

Mogolwane go tswa kwa ofising ya mopalamente mo Lobatse Rre Moagedi Bathai, a bolela gore badiri ba tseye ka tlhwaafalo go inakanya le go itepatepanya le malwetse a a sa tshelanweng, a tlatsa ka gore malwetse ao, a ka thibelwa, le gore go na le kafa motho a ka tshelang ka teng.

Rre Bathai o boletse gore batho botlhe ba tshwanetse go tsaya letsatsi la boitekanelo ka tlhwaafalo ka le le mosola mo lephateng, le badiri ka bongwe ka bongwe, a re dithuto di ka thusa go fokotsa bokete jwa mmele, go rotloetsa boitekanelo, go fokotsa matshwenyego, le go oketsa botsogo ka kakeretso.

O tswelletse a bolela gore dipatlisiso di supa gore lenaneo la boitekanelo mo tirong le atlega thata ka go thusa badiri go fetola ka fa ba akanyang ka teng ka botsogo jwa bone, ka mananeo a a rotloetsang boitshwaro jo bo

bo faphegileng jwa botsogo mme phelelong go godise lephata.

Rre Bathai a re badiri ba nna nako e ntsi mo tirong, mme ke sone se go leng botlhokwa gore go atolosiwe mananeo a.

O tswelletse a tlhalosa gore boitekanelo bo akaretsa mmele, tlhologanyo le mowa a re ke tsone tse di supang gore motho o tsogile jang. A re fa badiri ba itumetse ba ntsha maduo a maemo a ntlha.

Rre Bathai o boletse gape gore malwetse a a sa tshelanweng a baka dintsho, e bile a matshosetsi mo tebelopeleng ya lephata e maikaelelo a yone e leng go jesa lefatshe le go nyeletsa lehuma.

Mo go tse dingwe, o boletse gore setlhogo sa letsatsi: Botsogo le Pabalesego, Tshwanelo le Boikarabelo, se supa fa go tlhokega gore badiri ba nne le botsogo jo bo siameng go re ba ntshe maduo a a nang le bokao jo bo rileng mo lephateng, a tlatsa ka gore mongwe le mongwe o tshwanetse a tsaya boikarabelo jwa botsogo jwa gagwe.

E rile a ema badiri ka lefoko, ngaka ya botsogo jwa legano go tswa kwa kokelong Athlone Dr Lorato Siwela a re malwetse a legano e kanna go bola meno mo go bakiwang ke sukiri, go tshologa madi mo marinining, le go sa tlhapa dijo mo menong.

O tswelletse a tlhalosa gore go na le monko wa legano o o bakiwang ke gore meno ga a tlhokomelwe sentle a tlatsa ka gore meno kgotsa legano le tlhapiwa gabedi mo letsatsing morago ga dijo.

Sergeant Eva Mogapele go tswa Lobatse Police mo ofising ya Bong le Pabalesego ya bana, o tlhalositse gore tlhakanelo dikobo go sa dumalanwa ke molato, mme a rotloetsa gore batho ba buisane. O kaile gore dikgang tse ditshabelela thata borre mme ka jalo a a rotloetsa gore ba ikgaphe. **BOPA**



Rre Russ Letsebe (mojeng)wa kgaolo ya sepodisi ya Lobatse, a neela ba maphata a itshireletso ditaelo bosheng morago ga gore Tautona Advocate Duma Boko a bolotse letsholo la Operation Pabalesego.

Senepe: Calviniah Kgautlhe

‘Boikarabelo ke jwa botlhe’

Ka Calviniah Kgautlhe

LOBATSE - Ratoropo wa Lobatse, Rre Aron Ganakgomo a re go botlhokwa gore mongwe le mongwe a tseye boikarabelo jwa go ipabalela le go babalela ba bangwe segolo jang ka nako ya malatsi a boitapoloso.

Re Ganakgomo o tlhalositse se mo potsolotsong le **BOPA** morago ga tshimolodiso ya legato la bobedi la letsholo le le tshwaraganetsweng ke maphata otlhe a itshireletso la Operation Pabalesego. Ratoropo ga mmogo le banni ba ne ba kopanetse kwa Woodhall Community Hall kwa Lobatse ka Labotlhano go lebelela mo setshwantshong jaaka Tautona Advocate Duma Boko a ne a bolotsa letsholo leo.

Are go a tswenya go bo dipolaano tsa batho di tswelletse ka go oketsega, mme e bile seemo se thobaetsa.

Ka jalo o ne a tlholosa botlhokwa jwa go hema diphapang, a bo a gakolola botlhe go ithuta go laola boitsholo le go ikgalemela fa diemo tse di bakang tshakgalo ee feteletseng di tla, go itsa seemo se se ka raelang motho go dira phoso.

“A re nneng le malatsi a boitapoloso a a nang le kagiso go sena ope yo o gapelang yo mongwe botshelo,” a gakolola.

O gateletse botlhokwa jwa go dirisanya sentle le ba itshireletso, e bile a tlatsa ka gore ba ka kgona tiro ya bone fela fa ba ka bona thuso le thotloetso go tswa mo setshabeng.

Fa a ama kgang ya kgokgontsho, Ratoropo Ganakgomo o gakolotse banni gore go botlhokwa go emisa kgokgontsho ya bong mo malwapeng, le gone go emisa go dirisa ditagi tse di borai mo botsogong jwa tlhologanyo ka jalo a re mongwe le mongwe o tshwanetse a tsaya boikarabelo.

Jaaka fa malatsi a boitapoloso a tsena, mme bangwe ba ya magaeng, o rotloeditse banni go dira ntebele ke go lebele e le tsela nngwe ya go lwantsha borukutlhi.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Mookamela mapodisi mo kgaolong ya borwa Israel Tuelo a re Operation Pabalesego II, ke maiteko a puso a go eteletsa tshireletsego ya setshaba kwa godimo. Rre Tuelo o ne a tlhalosa gore Puso e itlamile go ntsha ditlamelo tsotlhe tsa itshireletso go lwantsha borukutlhi. Ka jalo, a re

go botlhokwa gore setshaba se ba eme nokeng ka dinako tsotlhe go thusanya go lwantsha borukutlhi.

O ne a supa jalo gore ngogola tiro e, e e neng e tshwerwe e le lantlha e tsamaile ka bokgabane mo dikgaolong tsotlhe tse a di okametseng.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o boletse fa ba ne ba tshwenngwa ke bagwebi ba nnotagi ba ba neng ba rekisa go fetisa dinako tse di beilweng ba tlola molao.

Go itsa gore seemo seo re boelele, Rre Tuelo a re ba setse ba kile ba epa pitso ba nna moriti le beng ba dikgwebo tseo go ba fa dikgakololo.

O ne a supa gape gore ngogola bakgweetsi mo ditseleng ba ne ba itshwere sentle e bile go na le tirisano mmogo. Letsholo le, le tlaa wela kgwedi ya Firikgong a le marataro. **BOPA**



Mookamela mapodisi mo kgaolong ya borwa Israel Tuelo

advertise with us



ask marketing office
Gaborone 365 3500

Visit our facebook page



DailyNewsbw



Call us
365 3500

Atsile dazzles on global stage

By Keetile Bontsibokae

MOLEPOLOLE - Tears of joy streamed down the tiny face of Atsile Badubi as she was announced the 2025 Mini Miss Icon



Lyn Rose Masame came third in the 2025 Miss Preteen Icon International pageant.

International winner during the grand finale held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on Saturday. Born eight-years-ago in Bobonong, Crown, now a Standard Three pupil at Sebele I Primary School in Molepolole, dazzled the international audience as she confidently graced the big stage, draped in a Botswana-branded scarf. The predominantly white crowd erupted in cheers as she showcased her modelling talent. Her victory marked a historic milestone, becoming the first African child to win the Mini Miss Icon International title. Her mother, Dr Ogaufi Masame, expressed immense pride, noting that this had been her daughter's first international exposure. "She did wonders," she said. Another young contestant, Fidelmah Mfho, represented Botswana in the Little Miss Category, bravely pushing

through stiff competition while flying the national flag high. In the Preteen Category, Botswana's Lyn-Rose Masame also shone, finishing 4th to secure the position of Miss Preteen Icon International 3rd Runner-Up. Masame is a Form 4 learner at Kweneng International Secondary School in Molepolole. Miss Teen & Preteen Universe Botswana coordinator, Karabo Moeti, said the organisation was over the moon with the girls' achievements. "We are proud of Crown, Lyn-Rose and Fidelmah for representing our country with dignity and excellence," he said. He further said it was a momentous occasion for Botswana and hoped it inspired a new generation of Batswana to pursue their dreams and passions. Moeti highlighted that the success stemmed from the girls' hard work, dedication, and teamwork, supported by committed families, trainers and mentors. He revealed that the team travelled without sponsorship,

with parents, friends, and the Miss Teen Universe Botswana organisation pooling resources to make the trip possible. "Despite lack of funds, we were not demotivated. We went the extra mile to ensure our dream of representing Botswana came true," he added. He noted that this was not Botswana's first participation at the Mini Miss Icon International and Miss Preteen Icon International competitions. Last year, one contestant participated in the Preteen category. While, Botswana had not achieve this level of success, he said participants had consistently shown great promise. This year's achievements, he said, demonstrated the organisation's growth. Meanwhile, Moeti also pointed out that earlier this year, three other young girls competed in

Indonesia and performed well. He said Lelelntle Kerebotswe got third place in the mini category), while Larona Chaina settled for second place in the little category and Peo Magapa got second position in the preteen category. He also announced that Moso Ditirwa would soon represent Botswana at the Miss Preteen Africa International competition in South Africa. Moeti said the Miss Preteen Universe Botswana organisation's mandate was to promote diversity, global humanitarian causes, culture, tourism and to nurture confidence and responsibility in young girls. He also said the Miss Preteen Universe Botswana grand finale would be in December 6, where new queens would be crowned to represent Botswana in next year's competitions. **BOPA**

Monkey King opera debuts in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO - A new opera based on the classic Chinese novel, *Journey to the West* made its world premiere at the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco recently, presenting the *Monkey King* to audiences through a blend of Eastern and Western artistic traditions. *Monkey King*, with music by composer Huang Ruo and a libretto by playwright David Henry Hwang, was commissioned by San Francisco Opera in partnership with the Chinese Heritage Foundation of Minnesota. The opera will run through November 30. Adapted from the opening chapters of Ming Dynasty writer Wu Cheng'en's *Journey to the West*, the opera chronicles the early exploits of the Monkey King, or Sun Wukong. Performed in both English and Chinese, it weaves opera, dance and puppetry into the story of the stone-born monkey who challenges the gods of the seas and heavens in his pursuit of immortality. Running about 2 hours and 20

minutes, the production combines centuries-old techniques with modern innovation. Traditional Chinese shadow-puppet methods appear alongside digital mapping projections, creating a visual language that connects historical forms with contemporary stage design. Costumes also reflect this fusion: several chorus outfits draw from traditional patterns while incorporating street-art elements made possible through 3D printing. The score mirrors this blend by pairing Western symphonic instruments with traditional Chinese ones such as the pipa, Chinese opera gong and small crash cymbals. Calling the *Monkey King* 'Asia's supreme superhero', Huang Ruo said the character's appeal reached far beyond China. *The Monkey King's* adventures awaken in him an understanding of true power which leads to his self-enlightenment," he said, voicing hope that the new opera would always appear in any 'turbulent' time as 'a positive light'. San Francisco Opera General

director Matthew Shilvock said the production continued the company's long-running commitment to cultural exchange. "I am so proud that San Francisco Opera is bringing this operatic 'Monkey King' to life," he said, calling it a privilege to present 'one of the great stories of Chinese literature on the American opera stage'. To deepen audience engagement, San Francisco Opera and community partners are hosting a range of cultural activities during the performance run. The opera house features hands-on experiences and an art exhibition showcasing works inspired by the *Monkey King* legend, along with opportunities for traditional Chinese calligraphy and themed photo sessions. Additional events, including panel discussions, puppetry workshops, film screenings, exhibitions and an outdoor public marketplace, extend the world premiere beyond the stage and into the wider community. **Xinhua**



Atsile Badubi, an eight-year old Sebele 1 Primary School pupil was crowned the 2025 Mini Miss Icon International at Phen Phnom in Cambodia on Saturday. Photos: Courtesy of Next Generation Icon Pageant

Raguin J60 run continues



Botswana tennis player, Ntungamili Raguin in action against Nithin Padmanabhan of India in the boys singles at the J60 tournament in Gaborone yesterday. Raguin won 6-0, 6-1 and proceeded to the next round. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE- Botswana’s finest tennis player, Ntungamili Raguin, has sailed through to next round of the the ITF J60 tournament after winning in straight sets against India’s Nithin Padmanabhan by 6-0, 6-1 at the ongoing event held at the National Tennis Centre in Gaborone on Wednesday.

It was clear from the first set that Raguin would not settle for less, as he dominated and forced errors from his opponent.

Raguin was also more aggressive and did not hold back.

Playing closer to the baseline and taking the ball early was what separated him from his opponent.

His serves have also improved since the last Davis Cup as they were more precise and faster, making it difficult for Padmanabhan to gain any traction.

His competitor, Padmanabhan was slow in the first set, which may have been attributed to the fact that he was accustomed to the slower pace of a clay court.

However, he was better in the second set after acclimatising to the court, but it was too late, as he only found his rhythm when the score was already 4-0.

In a post-match interview, Raguin said he was happy with his performance, adding that it was a decent match against a good player.

He said despite the score line, his opponent played well and challenged him to be alert throughout the sets.

“I am pretty happy with my performance because first rounds of a tournament are always tough, and winning my first game is a morale booster on its own,” he said.

He explained that his plan was to put more balls in the court and hit them with energy, stating his intention was to go all the way in the tournament.

Padmanabhan said he learnt a lot, adding that playing against Raguin was an eye-opener.

He added that Raguin was a good and aggressive player who did not give him breathing space.

Padmanabhan also reiterated that the court was not so friendly to him, given that he was used to playing on clay court. **BOPA**

BAA welcomes World Athletics nomination

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana continues to make strides and receive recognition in the world stage, as the World Athletics has nominated Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) for the Member Federations Award. Botswana will compete for the prestigious award with Ecuador, China, New Zealand, Spain and USA.

The winner will be announced on World Athletics’ platform on November 28 during the World Athletics Awards 2025.

BAA acting president, Oabona Theetso said the federation was happy with the recognition, as

they will not only be representing Botswana but Africa as well.

He said the nomination was also a clear demonstration that the country was doing something right in athletics.

Given the requisite resources and support, he said BAA could even do more, as they were currently producing world class athletes with the limited resources.

He said shortage of infrastructure remained a challenge as it thwarted most of their initiatives aimed at developing athletes.

Another challenge was the increasing cases of anti-doping rule violations, which he said

if not nipped in the bud, they would threaten the future of Botswana athletics. According to World Athletics, the Member Federations Award recognises a member federation that has distinguished itself in its accomplishments throughout the year and, as a result, positively contributed to the growth and profile of the sport.

Botswana has been nominated after its sterling performance the World Athletics Championship that were held in Tokyo.

According to the World Athletics, Botswana’s athletes delivered historic performances that elevated the country’s profile on the global stage.

Collen Kebinatshipi became world champion in 400m and helped Botswana win gold in the 4x400m men’s relay team. .

The collective triumph reflected the success of Botswana’s long-term investment in talent development and high-performance programmes.

World Athletics further says Botswana’s year was characterised by exceptional performance, both individual and collective, backed by robust coaching, sound federation management and athlete support systems. Additionally, the country proved its ability to combine discipline, innovation and teamwork. **BOPA**