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Daily News

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Ndingililo Gaoswediwe

GABORONE

Botswana's recognition as a global conservation success story faces a critical challenge on how to sustain its remarkable biodiversity and tourism industry while ensuring the safety and livelihoods of its people.

Speaking at a three-day International Parliamentary Roundtable on human-wildlife coexistence in Gaborone on Monday, Mr Gabatsholwe Disho, chairperson of the wildlife, tourism, natural resources and climate change committee, stressed that the nation stood at a pivotal moment requiring urgent, inclusive action.

Botswana's achievements in protecting wildlife, he said, especially its elephant population

of over 132 000 - the largest in the world - had garnered international acclaim.

However, this success has intensified human-wildlife conflicts, marked notably by crop destruction, livestock predation and safety risks.

Districts like Ngamiland, Chobe, and Ghanzi are experiencing escalating tensions as wildlife ventures beyond protected areas into communities, exacerbated by

climate change-induced droughts and habitat shrinkage.

Mr Disho said that farmers lose thousands of hectares of crops annually to elephants and other species, pushing households into food insecurity.

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Mr Gabatsholwe Disho

SKTH better placed to ease congestion at Princess Marina

Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE

As the healthcare system grapples with shortage of medicines and staff challenges, the continued

support and engagement from both the public and medical community are essential in improving managing health crises effectively. Recently, President Advocate Duma Boko embarked

on spot checks at Princess Marina Referral Hospital and Sir Ketumile Teaching Hospital (SKTH). During his tour of SKTH President Boko emphasised the importance of the hospital

in alleviating the congestion currently faced by Princess Marina Hospital.

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Sound parenting key to raising responsible children

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Sound parenting remains the foundation for raising responsible children who will one day become pillars of their families and society. This was the central theme delivered by Kgari Sechele II Senior Secondary School head, Ms Baaitse Kebobone during a recent parents workshop.

Held under the theme :Parenting a 2026 Candidate for Academic Excellence, aimed to unite parents, educators, and stakeholders in a collective effort to transform the school into a center of excellence.

Ms Kebobone reassured attendees that learners progressing to senior secondary school were not destined to fail the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE). She emphasised that the students were rigorously assessed and selected by the Ministry of Education after completing their Junior Certificate (JC).

“Any Form Five learner who fails the examination does so by choice,” Ms Kebobone said, asserting that students are capable but may not be putting in sufficient effort.

She expressed confidence that



Parents, teachers and stakeholders during a workshop held at Kgari Sechele II Senior Secondary School recently. Photo: Keetile Bontsibokae

school would silence critics who doubt the potential of students from Molepolole, asserting the school’s ambition to become a benchmark of academic success. Ms Kebobone likened learners to diamonds needing polishing to reach their full potential.

She highlighted the impressive rise in academic performance, noting that the school improved from position 20 in 2021 to 16 in 2022, then climbed to third place in 2023, narrowly slipping to fourth in 2024. She remains optimistic about leading the national rankings in the forthcoming BGCSE results.

The focus of Kgari Sechele

II school, according to Ms Kebobone, is on nurturing learners academically and behaviourally. She stressed the importance of collaboration between parents, teachers, and learners, as a united effort could yield success.

Pastor Ms Bonolo Mmereki-Bunns of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) also contributed to the workshop, aiming to equip parents with essential skills for raising well-rounded children.

She defined a well-rounded child as one whose upbringing enabled them to face life’s challenges without succumbing

to destructive behaviors. Ms Mmereki-Bunns warned parents against irresponsible conduct, highlighting that children often imitate their parents’ lifestyles. She urged parents to embody decency and integrity in their actions.

“A child’s character must be built at home. A child taught trustworthiness grows into a responsible adult,” she said.

Discipline and boundary-setting were also focal points of her address, as she noted the necessity for children to understand acceptable behaviour. She cautioned against negative peer influence, which could lead

to bullying, substance abuse, and immoral behaviour.

Ms Mmereki-Bunns encouraged learners to report misconduct, emphasising that silence allowed unacceptable behaviour to flourish.

Additionally, she advised parents not to shy away from correcting their children, pointing out that neglecting discipline could foster indiscipline.

She encouraged families to seek help when relationships become strained, reinforcing her message with a quote from Proverbs 22:6:

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” **BOPA**

Malope lauds President engagement with Dikgosi

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

Chairperson of the Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Malope II has hailed the recent consultations on the establishment of Constitutional Court as a significant milestone in Botswana’s democratic journey.

Speaking at the opening of the fifth meeting of the fifth Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Malope II emphasised government’s initiative to engage traditional leaders in this important dialogue, which he described as a commitment to inclusive governance and transparency.

Initiated by President Advocate Duma Boko, the discussions aimed to provide Dikgosi with a clearer understanding of the court’s intent and its potential long-term implications for the nation.

On behalf of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Malope II commended the President for shedding light on such a sensitive issue.

“The engagement not only offered much-needed clarity but

also fostered constructive insights among members,” Kgosi Malope II said. He pointed out that the members expressed the desire for more future engagements and urged the government to ensure that t Ntlo Ya Dikgosi is consulted during the initial stages of relevant bills to facilitate thorough deliberations.

Moreover, he highlighted that these consultations underline the cordial relationship between traditional leadership and the democratic state, recognising the crucial role that traditional leaders play in shaping national principles.

The meeting will take two weeks and features an extensive agenda of briefings and legislative business. A key highlight in the first week will be an address from Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe.

During the sitting, Ntlo Ya Dikgosi will receive seven specialised briefings from various government ministries and parastatals. Briefings will include updates from the National Planning Commission on the



Ntlo Ya Dikgosi chairperson, Kgosi Malope II (left), President Advocate Duma Boko (centre) and Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa during a consultative meeting with Ntlo ya Dikgosi. Kgosi Malope II said government’s decision to engage traditional leaders on the Constitutional Court reflected a commendable commitment to an inclusive governance and transparency.

Indeed, members expressed a desire for more such engagements in the future. They implore and urge government to ensure that Ntlo Ya Dikgosi is always consulted during the conception stages of certain bills to allow for profound deliberations

National Development Plan 12, the Ministry of Water and Human Settlement on the Bonno Housing Scheme, and the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture regarding Foot and Mouth Disease.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health will provide updates on the National Health Insurance, while the Forensic Audit Task Force will discuss forensic audits. The Industrial Court is also slated to brief members on court operations and new developments.

In the second week, Ntlo Ya Dikgosi will focus on legislative oversight, where members are expected to consider 122 questions and four motions submitted by various Dikgosi. **BOPA**

Butale urges envoys to drive economic diplomacy

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
GABORONE

Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale has urged envoys to position themselves at the forefront of Botswana's efforts to secure economic dividends in an increasingly competitive global environment while upholding the new government's commitment to human rights, resilience, agility and quality service delivery.

Speaking during the inaugural induction programme for newly-appointed Ambassadors and High Commissioner Designates in Gaborone on Monday, Dr Butale urged them to embrace a modern, inclusive and development-oriented approach to diplomacy as they prepare to assume their postings abroad.

The induction programme was designed to onboard envoys recently appointed by the President and equip them with the skills and knowledge required to effectively represent Botswana

in the international arena.

He congratulated them on their well-deserved appointments, noting that they would serve as representatives of the President and custodians of Botswana's national interests in their respective jurisdictions.

Dr Butale underscored that staff on boarding, empowerment and welfare remain central to the ministry's priorities, describing the induction as a critical exercise in preparing envoys for the complex and evolving demands of diplomacy.

The induction, he said, provided foundational knowledge on foreign policy, diplomatic practice, culture, protocol and international engagement.

"The timing of this induction is particularly important as it comes just before you assume your posts," he said, adding that it will help ensure alignment with Botswana's foreign policy objectives.

Dr Butale stressed to the envoys the need to align diplomacy with national development priorities, government policies and Vision 2036.

He called for a shift from



High Commissioner and Ambassadors designate recently appointed by President Advocate Duma Boko at an induction course hosted for envoys by Ministry for International Affairs in Gaborone on Monday. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

traditional state-centric diplomacy towards a more strategic, inclusive and multi-layered approach that supports economic transformation.

"Diplomacy must not only be viewed as a tool of statecraft, but as a strategic instrument to drive trade, investment, social and cultural exchanges, diaspora engagement and overall national development," he said.

He further highlighted emerging diplomatic approaches such as digital diplomacy, science diplomacy and research-driven engagement, noting that those were critical in responding to complex global challenges and advancing national interests.

The minister challenged the envoys to bring fresh ideas and innovative approaches that will help deliver on the government's commitments to Botswana.

"These include transforming Botswana into a modern and inclusive economy, empowering citizens and creating jobs, strengthening transparent governance and social justice as well as advancing technological

and sector-specific reforms.

Dr Butale further encouraged participants to approach their roles with a renewed mindset, remain informed about Botswana's development challenges, global trends and craft creative, forward-looking solutions.

"Your practice as diplomats starts here," Dr Butale said, adding that in the international arena, "you will be required to uphold Botswana's principles of democracy, sovereignty and peaceful cooperation, a task that will test your professionalism, resolve and character."

Dr Butale wished them success in their assignments and future endeavours, particularly during their tenure at the ministry.

Sharing the same sentiments, Botswana's ambassador to Belgium and Head of Mission to the European Union and Dean of the Botswana Diplomatic Corps, Ms Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba called on the newly appointed envoys to uphold the country's long-standing values of democracy, peace and multilateral cooperation as global politics grow increasingly fragmented.

Ms Masire-Mwamba said the world was marked by power rivalry, climate shocks, technological disruption and weakening respect for international law.

She nevertheless said despite those challenges, Botswana believes Africa was assuming a more strategic global role.

She said Botswana, though small in size, carries significant diplomatic credibility due to its commitment to the rule of law, peaceful coexistence and development.

"Botswana aims to act as a constructive middle power, using multilateralism as a survival strategy rather than a luxury," she said.

She emphasised that Botswana's steady and trusted voice can continue to broker compromise and contribute meaningfully to global peace and cooperation.

Ms Masire-Mwamba urged envoys to protect national interests, engage cooperatively and promote Botswana's successful democratic record, including its smooth 2024 leadership transition. **BOPA**

SKTH better placed to ease congestion at Princess Marina

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The President identified that one of the primary challenges at Princess Marina was the congestion in accessing the pharmacy, coupled with shortage of staff. These observations, he said were pivotal in understanding the hospital's operational difficulties.

SKTH medical physicist Ms Kohler Fulu, raised an appeal to the public regarding the need for

regular health checks to facilitate early detection of cancer. Fulu highlighted the struggles faced when patients seek medical attention too late. However, she stated that 'some patients report early, and if you look at their medical card, you will realise that they had been in consultation with the doctors.'

Ms Fulu pointed out that the most prevalent form of cancer in Botswana was cervical cancer, but noted a rising incidence of prostate and breast cancer as well.

Despite having advanced machinery for cancer treatment, the hospital faces significant obstacles due to delayed diagnoses. Ms Fulu expressed a concern for the radiotherapy center.

"Our cancer machine is one of the best worldwide, and my biggest plea is that it should remain intact. We don't want to face a situation where funding issues jeopardise its maintenance," she said.

Additionally, Mr. John Gobotswanng, pharmacy manager noted the cooperative relationship they maintained with Princess Marina Referral Hospital and other private medical facilities to ensure the availability of medicinal commodities as needed. **BOPA**

Botswana strives for sustainable coexistence

...from page 1

Livestock losses due to predators such as lions and hyenas further undermine rural economic and social stability. These conflicts, Mr Disho said had also led to tragic human injuries and fatalities, underscoring the urgent need for effective mitigation measures.

He called for stronger policies and community participation, including fair compensation schemes, wildlife corridors, and land-use planning that balances ecological needs with human safety.

Mr Disho reaffirmed parliament's commitment to revitalising the Community-Based Natural Resource Management Bill, empowering local communities as active partners in conservation and tourism. He stressed that addressing climate change's role in conflict requires an integrated approach across sectors.

Moving forward, he advised the country's leadership to prioritise evidence-based policies, inclusive development, and innovative solutions to foster sustainable coexistence.

Ultimately, Mr Disho urged a shared national responsibility in protecting wildlife while safeguarding the dignity and livelihoods of the people.

In her opening remarks, acting Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Helen Manyeneng underlined Botswana's distinguished conservation record, notably

hosting the world's largest elephant population of approximately 140 000.

She stressed that wildlife was integral to Botswana's identity, tourism, and global reputation.

However, she acknowledged the complex reality that many communities lived in close proximity to wildlife, which presents significant challenges.

Ms Manyeneng pointed out that predators like lions and hyenas threaten livestock and livelihoods, while herbivores such as elephants frequently damage crops and infrastructure, causing economic and safety concerns.

Over the past three years, the department recorded 25 672 human-wildlife conflict incidents, resulting in 28 deaths and 51 injuries, mostly from elephants.

She said that these figures represent real families and communities affected daily.

While Botswana has compensation mechanisms for losses, she said the rising costs and incident frequency strain available resources, adding that human-wildlife coexistence was a governance challenge that spans conservation, land use, climate resilience and community development. Ms Manyeneng stressed on the importance of balanced, sustainable policies and highlighted the role of parliamentarians as vital links between citizens and the state, tasked with crafting informed, long-term solutions through dialogue, legislation and oversight.

Dr Jonathan Murphy, head of the Inter Pares programme at International IDEA said that the Inter Pares initiative is EU's flagship parliamentary development project aimed at strengthening democratic institutions worldwide.

He explained that the programme promoted inclusive democracy through peer-to-peer exchanges, regional cooperation, and capacity building, driven by the priorities identified by partner parliaments such as Botswana, Sri Lanka and Zambia. These priorities he said, often intersect with global challenges like gender equality, youth participation and environmental protection.

Dr Murphy highlighted that Inter Pares supports parliaments in becoming more effective, transparent, and accountable, enabling them to respond to complex issues through legislation, oversight, and stakeholder engagement.

He underlined that the programme's demand-driven nature ensures that partner parliaments shape activities aligned with their unique needs, fostering sustainable institutional development.

He also pointed out that the programme's work embodies the spirit of South-to-South and triangular cooperation, fostering shared learning across regions. **BOPA**

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Trump threatens to impose 200 % tariff on French wines

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump said on Monday that he will impose a 200 per cent tariff on French wines and champagnes. Responding to a reporter about French President Emmanuel Macron declining to join the “Board of Peace” initiative he proposed, Trump said: “I will put a 200 per cent tariff on his wines and champagnes, and he will join, but he doesn’t have to join.” **Xinhua**

Uganda dried chilli peppers make first export to China

SHANGHAI- A batch of dried chilli peppers from Uganda has recently passed customs in Shanghai, marking the first export of Ugandan dried chilli peppers to China after gaining market access in the country. The 11 tonnes of dried chili peppers entered China via sea transport through the Waigaoqiao port area in Shanghai, the municipal customs authorities said on Monday. Customs officials collected samples for inspection and confirmed that the agricultural products were free from pests, mold and impurities. According to Shanghai Customs, in 2025, the value of agricultural products imported through Shanghai ports from Africa reached ¥10.03 billion (about US\$ 1.43 billion), marking a 25.3 per cent increase compared to 2024. From 2021 to 2025, Shanghai ports cumulatively imported African agricultural products valued at ¥39.21 billion. **Xinhua**

Tanzania tourism generates record US\$4.2billion revenue

DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzania’s tourism industry generated US\$4.2 billion in revenue in the year ending October 2025, the highest in the country’s history, according to the Bank of Tanzania. A sharp increase in international arrivals drove the strong performance, the central bank said in a report. Official statistics show that Tanzania welcomed about 173 000 more foreign tourists between January and November 2025 than in the same period of the previous year, bringing total arrivals to about 2.09 million, a nine per cent year-on-year rise. Opening a wildlife stakeholders’ meeting in the capital Dodoma on Saturday, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Ashatu Kijaji described the sector as solid and vibrant. She highlighted international recognition, including the Africa’s Leading Destination and World’s Leading Safari Destination awards, and the right to host the World Tourism Awards in December 2026. **Xinhua**

‘American importers bear the brunt of US tariffs’

BERLIN - The costs generated by US tariffs are borne almost entirely by American importers and consumers rather than foreign exporters, a German study found on Monday, challenging claims by the US administration that the burden falls overseas. The study, based on more than 25 million US import shipment records with a total value of roughly US\$4 trillion, found that US customs revenues rose by about US\$ 200 billion in 2025.

‘The claim that foreign countries pay these tariffs is a myth. The data shows the opposite: Americans are footing the bill.’

However, foreign exporters absorbed only around 4 per cent of the tariff burden, while the remaining 96 per cent was passed on to US buyers, according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW).

“The tariffs are an own goal,” said Julian Hinz, head of trade policy research at the IfW.

“The claim that foreign countries pay these tariffs is a myth. The data show the opposite: Americans are footing the bill.”

The study found that exporters did not lower prices to offset the higher tariffs.

Hinz said tariffs effectively function as a consumption tax on imported goods, with the costs ultimately absorbed within the United States, while also reducing both the variety and volume of products available on the US market.

The findings come as US

President Donald Trump escalated trade tensions over the weekend in a dispute involving Greenland, announcing that from February 1, Washington would impose an additional 10 per cent tariff on

imports from eight European countries, including Germany. The IfW warned that higher tariffs would have negative long-term effects on all sides, squeezing profit margins for US businesses and

driving up prices for consumers, while exporters to the United States would see declining sales and increasing pressure to seek alternative markets. **Xinhua**



DINQXI - A vendor preparing local cuisine in her stall at a Spring Festival shopping market in Anding District of Dingxi City, northwest China's Gansu Province, on Monday. The Spring Festival shopping market opened its doors at the potato trading centre and will run until Chinese Lunar New Year's Eve. The marketplace drew tens of thousands of visitors on the opening day, with agricultural specialties, local delicacies, children's entertainment, Qinqiang opera performances and intangible cultural heritage experiences. There were also hundreds of social media influencers broadcasting the bustling market via live-streaming, and collaborating with on-site vendors to promote local high-quality agricultural products. Photo: Xinhua

China unveils policy package to encourage private investment

BEIJING - China’s Ministry of Finance (MOF) on Tuesday released a package of measures to spur private investment and consumption, including a special guarantee programme for corporate lending and interest subsidies for personal consumption loans.

This special guarantee programme, with a total scale of ¥ 500 billion (about US\$ 71.42 billion), is aimed at supporting private investment by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, according to official documents jointly released by the MOF and several other departments.

Implemented through the National Financing Guarantee Fund over a two-year period, the programme will cover not only medium- and long-term loans, but also financing needs related to daily operations, such as factory expansion, shop renovations and working capital.

Meanwhile, the ministry will roll out a loan interest subsidy policy for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, covering newly issued fixed-asset loans and funds provided by the government’s new policy-based financial instruments from Jan. 1.

The policy will focus on key industrial chains and their upstream and downstream sectors, as well as producer services.

Interest subsidies will be set at 1.5 percentage points per year, with a maximum subsidy period of two years. The loan amount eligible for subsidies will be capped at ¥50 million per borrower, with the maximum interest subsidy per borrower set at ¥1.5 million.

The policy will initially be implemented for one year, with the possibility of extension based on actual conditions. In a move to bolster consumption, the MOF on Tuesday also optimised and

extended existing interest subsidy policies for loans to business entities in the service sector and for personal consumption loans to the end of 2026.

The service-sector loan subsidy policy, notably, has expanded coverage to digital, green and retail sectors, with the maximum loan amount eligible for subsidies per borrower raised from ¥1 million to ¥10 million and the subsidy cap increased to ¥100 000.

The personal consumption loan subsidy policy will include credit card installment services, removing sectoral restrictions. In addition, the MOF has improved its loan interest subsidy policy for equipment upgrades.

The updated policy expands support from loans used solely for equipment purchases to equipment upgrades, and incorporates eligible technology innovation loans newly issued from 2026. **Xinhua**

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Mogwebi wa dikoko kwa Monarch, Mme Nthabiseng Motswetla, o tshabiseditse dikoko tsa gagwe mo ntlung ya bonno ka nakwana morago ga pula e e neleng ka mashetla kwa Francistown ka Labobedi beke e e fetileng. Mogwebi ka ene, Mme Masego Pule a re o latlhegetswe ke dikoko di le 2 500 le dikgetse tsa dijo tsa dikoko di le 40 Tlhakole ngogola, a boa gape a latlhegelwa ke tse 170 le dikgetse di le 7 ka Sedimonthole, fa Mme Motswetla ene a re a latlhegelwa ke dikoko tse 198 le dikgetse di le 8. Senepe: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Dipalo tsa tiriso bana botlhaswa di a gola

Omphile Ntakhwana
SEOLWANE

Mo ngwageng oo hetileng, go kwadisitswe dikgang di le masome a matlhano le bosupa tsa go dirisa bana botlhaswa ka go tlhakanela dikobo le bone mo kgaolong ya Tswapong. Se se builwe ke mopalamente wa Tswapong North, Rre Prince Maele, yo gape e leng tona ya lephata la thuto e kgo lwane kwa phuthengong ya kgotla kwa Seolwane bosheng. “Ka 2024, go kwadisitswe dile masome a mararo le botlhano, mme mo

ngwageng wa 2026, Hirikgong a simologa go ya go tsena a le lesome le bobedi, go setse go kwadisitswe di le thataro,” go bua Rre Maele. A re gape go swabisa nko go feta molomo gore batsadi bangwe ba bipe dikgang tsa bana ba ba dingwaga tse di kwa tlase ba ba imileng. A re gape dikgang tsa go itseela kobo ka dikgoka, tiriso ya ditagi le nnotagi le tsone di a tshwenya. Ka jalo, o kopile batsadi go ema ka dinao go lwantsha dikgang tse ka di senyetsa bana bokamoso.

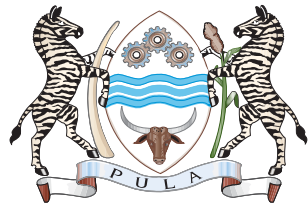
Rre Maele o tsweletse a re le dikgang tsa go thubetsa, tiriso botlhaswa ya ditagi le nnotagi le tsone di a tshwenya.

Rre Maele o ne a akgolela sekole sa Seolwane maduo a lekwalo la bosupa. O kopile banni ba Seolwane go nna podimatseba morago ga go tthagoga ga bolwetse kwa tlhako le molomo kwa South Africa. “A re nneng poti matseba go tla kanamo ya bolwetse jo mo garona. Kgaolo ya rona e bapile le South Africa ga mmogo le Zimbabwe, ka jalo, emang ka dinao le nne malalaalotswe.” Fa a tswa la gagwe, modulasetilo wa komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse, Rre Peter Motaleng, o tshwaetse ka matshwenyego a go tlhoka boroko ga badirelapuso mo motseng. O supile fa go sena dijo kwa dikoleng ga mmogo le ditilo le ditafole, a re dikago le tsone di onetse di tlhoka go ntshafadiwa. “Re wetswe ke seru sa dipeba, di ja magapu, mabele mo ditshimong tsa rona, re kopa ba lephata la temo ba re thuse.” **BOPA**

Kefilwe Selotlegeng
MAHALAPYE

Banni ba kgaolo ya Shoshong ba rotloeditswe go dirisa mananeo a puso go godisa mhama wa temo-thuo. Thotloetso e o, e ntshitswe ke mopalamente wa Shoshong, Rre Moneedi Bagaisamang, a buisa phuthego ya kgotla kwa motseng oo ka Mosupologo. A re puso e tsweletse ka go loga maano a go tlhabolola temo thuo, ka jalo o rotloeditse batsena phuthego go dirisa mananeo jaaka la Lemang Diyo le A Di Tsale go oketsa thobo le dipalo tsa leruo. Mo go tse dingwe, Rre Bagaisamang a re puso e tla dira ditlhabololo di le mmalwa ka lenaneo la ditlhabololo la bo lesome le bobedi (National Development Plan 12) mo Shoshong. Dingwe tsa ditlhabololo tseo, di akaretsa kago ya diofisi tse di kopanetsweng tsa makalana a puso ka go farologana, mapalamelo a dipalamo tsa setshaba mo Shoshong, le tse dingwe tse di tla dirwang mo metseng ya kgaolo ka go farologana. Le fa go ntse jalo, Rre Bagaisamang a re tlhalelo ya madi ke sekgoreletsi se segolo mo go se puso e ikaelelang go se dira go godisa itsholelo le go tokafatsa matshelo a batho ka kakaretso. Ka jalo a re puso e tsweletse ka go ngoka babeletsi ba ba tla thusang go diragatsa maitlamo a yone. O tlhalositse gape fa Bonno National Housing Programme, le le thusang go agela batho bonno jo bo eletsegang, le tsweletse sentle. Gape, a re lenaneo la Ikage le tla a simolodisiwa ka ngwaga wa madi wa 2025/2026 o rogwa, mme e bile dikatso di okeditswe go ya kwa go P2 500. Fa a ntsha pego ya komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse wa

Shoshong, modulasetilo, Mme Gaone Bosenogile a re o tshwentswe ke gore dikago tsa dikole di onetse. A re gape, baithuti ba ba mo lenaneong la tshipidi tonto la go ipaakanyetsa mophato wa ntlha, ba tlhalelwa ke matlwana a borutelo, selo se a reng se a tshwenya. A re le fa seemo sa metsi se tokafetse mo motseng, go santse go nale mafelo mangwe a metsi a sa gorogeng kwa go one. Kgosi Felix Kgamane wa Shoshong a re ba tlhorwa boroko ke dikgang tsa dipolaano, a tlatsa ka gore borukuthi jwa kgokgontsho bo kwa godimo, mme bo akaretsa thata dikiteo segolo bogolo, batswa-setlhabelo e le bomme. A re le fa borre ba lejwa jaaka basireletsi mo malwapeng, go a tshwenya go bona ba fetogile dilalome tse di kgokgontshang bomme le bana. Kgosi Kgamane o kopile morafe wa Shoshong go dira maitlamo a go simolodisa ngwaga o moshale o bopagane, o le seopo sengwe go tlhabolola motse. Le fa go ntse jalo banni bangwe ba ne supa fa ba baba lebadi ka jaana ba tswa kgakala ba solofediwa ditlhabololo, mme di sa diragadiwe. Mongwe wa banni, Rre Montshiwa Theo a re o tshwenngwa ke seemo se se maswe sa tsela e gokaganyang Shoshong le Mahalapye. A re le fa e tshetswe sekantiri, ga e tsamae ga ele dikhuti, le gore e hupeditse ke ditlhare tse di mo matlhakoreng a yone, ka jalo seo se le borai ka go se motlhofo go bona leruo le le ka bakang dikotsi. O kopile gore seemo sa tsela e se tsibogelwe e ise e gape matshelo a batho. Rre Theo o kopile gore ditanka tsa matlakala tse di neng di beilwe mo thoko ga ditsela di busediwe ka di ne di thusa go laola matlakala le go somarela tikologo gore e nne phepa. **BOPA**



Republic of Botswana

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of Botswana recognises the importance of a free, independent, and ethical media as the backbone of democracy and as such seeks to solidify those commitments by establishing a legal framework that fosters press freedom, journalistic integrity, and responsible reporting and information dissemination. As such, the Government appointed a Task Team/Force in March, 2025 to review and reform existing media laws and such other laws that may adversely impact on media freedom, ensuring they uphold press freedom, access to information, and accountability.

Following its appointment, the Task Team has since submitted the Media Legislative Review Report and the Draft Media Bill. Consequently, the Government wishes to consult the general public/nation further on the Draft Media Bill and its pronouncement especially on the establishment of the Media Regulatory Council in Botswana, setting out its governance, membership, functions and funding model to ensure sustainability. The proposed framework combines self-regulation within a statutory framework, to safeguard media freedom of expression while maintaining accountability, respect for human rights and ethical standards to eliminate inaccurate reporting and violation of other persons rights across both traditional and digital media.

You may access the **Draft Media Bill** at https://dailynews.gov.bw/dailynews_pdf or visit the **Office of the District Commissioner** in your jurisdictions, **MISA Botswana and Editors Forum Offices**. Furthermore, you are requested to submit your comments through the following platforms:-

- **Email/Electronic:** to bgmotsamai@gov.bw and gubanabotlhe@gov.bw
- **Post Mail:** Ministry for State President, Defence & Security. Private Bag 001, Government Enclave. Gaborone.
- **Physical Address:** Hand Delivery Submissions to Ministry for State President, Defence & Security. Finance House Building. Khama Crescent Street. Gaborone West Ext. 9. Government Enclave.

The Deadline for the submissions is the 10th February 2026.

Constitutional Court elicits mixed reactions

Keith Ket
SEROWE

The existence of a Constitutional Court will not only help develop Botswana's constitutional democratic system but will also strengthen or enhance the judicial process.

Presenting a strong case for the establishment of a Constitutional Court before a full council session in Serowe on Monday, Assistant Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Mr Augustine Nyatanga described the court as a specialised institution that interpret the nation's constitution, ensuring laws and government actions align with fundamental principles, protecting human rights and upholding the rule of law.

Furthermore, he said the ongoing nationwide consultations spoke volumes on government's commitment to embrace the 'voice of the people' and that the collective opinion of the majority held authority for issues pertaining to national interests.

To this end, Minister Nyatanga said there would be a referendum in the near future for the public to vote for or against the establishment of the Constitutional Court – an exercise that would determine whether Botswana want it or not.

He reiterated that government wanted the establishment of the Constitutional Court to deal with human rights issues, pointing everybody within the territory of Botswana should be free.

In addition, he said everybody in the country should be entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, including life, liberty, security, protection of the law and freedom of conscience, expression and assembly, regardless of race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed, or sex, hence the need to establish such a court.

“If we are not cognisant of people's rights as the leadership, that might incite violence thus disturbing peace and threatening national security.”

He said the hierarchy of courts in Botswana was structured from the highest appellate authority, the Court of Appeal down to customary courts, adding the



*Assistant Minister of Justice and Correctional Services
Mr Augustine Nyatanga*

Court of Appeal was currently the highest in the country and is the final arbiter of all legal matters.

Therefore, he said there was a huge backlog of cases at the High Court, exceeding a thousand cases, thus necessitating the move to establish a Constitutional Court that would expedite the disposal of cases revolving around human rights.

He said the High Court had unlimited jurisdiction and therefore establishing a Constitutional Court would accord the country the opportunity to adequately deal with burning issues within a short space of time.

However, commenting on the Constitutional Court establishment, some councillors expressed divergent views, with most councillors giving its proposed introduction a thumbs up.

Councillor Kebakgale Kutuso of Kgosing ward wondered where government would get the money to fund the establishment of the court in an ailing economy.

Mr Kutuso said challenges in the health and education sectors were more pressing hence government should instead be channelling money towards the procurement of medicines and the renovation of dilapidated school infrastructure.

He was of the view that paying judges was expensive and thus implored government to prioritise needs, arguing there were more pressing issues than the Constitutional Court.

Councillor Nametso Senku of Mabeleapodi said the Constitutional Court was a good initiative but that its timing was off as there were more pressing issues at the moment that required attention.

He said considering the budgetary constraints, this was not the appropriate time to establish the Constitutional Court. **BOPA**



National arts council appoints new board

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

To strengthen strategic direction and oversight capacity, the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACB) has announced the appointment of its new council board members.

The board will be chaired by Prince Monna, with members;Tebogo Matebesi, Mpho Sebina, Gakeesi Tlhabiwe, Molatedi Kgotla, Vincent Rapoo, Kopano Mantswe, David Abram, Kesegofetse Oaitse and Njiramanda Mbewe. The members bring a wealth of expertise in arts and culture, creative industries, policy, governance and strategic development.

Commending the Council on the development and congratulating the newly appointed Board, creative industry advocate and brand manager Zenzele Hirschfeld said the sector was hopeful that the new Board would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience.

“As a sector, we have always emphasised the need for industry experts to lead the Council, as many challenges stem from a lack of governing policies and structures,” Hirschfeld said.

However, she raised concern over the gender composition of the Board. With two women and eight men, she noted that the sector needed to be more intentional about gender equality and balance in leadership positions.”

Meanwhile, creative industries consultant Seabelo Modibe challenged the new board to prioritise development and implementation of the Arts Council Regulations by December. He further urged the board to ensure the registration of the council’s affiliates by the same period and to convene inaugural annual general meeting by early to mid-2027.

“For me, your performance will be measured by these,” Modibe stated on his Facebook handle.

In a statement, NACB said the appointments reflected the council’s commitment to promoting excellence in the arts and culture sector, supporting creative development and advancing Botswana’s cultural agenda.

Recently, the council also appointed Gaokgakala Lemmenyane as its Chief Executive Officer. Lemmenyane is a seasoned arts administrator, cultural policy specialist and resource mobilisation strategist with over 15 years of leadership experience across the creative sector, academia, government and international institutions.**BOPA**



INTRODUCING NACB NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Tebogo Etsile Matebesi
Board Member



Prince Monna
Board Chairperson



Mpho Sebina
Board Member



Njiramanda Mbewe
Board Member



Kesegofetse Oaitse
Board Member



Molatedi Kgotla
Board Member



Gakeesi Tlhabiwe
Board Member



David Abram
Board Member



Kopano Mantswe
Board Member



Vincent Phemelo Rapoo
Board Member

China discovers earliest texts on horses from Warring States Period

BEIJING

Chinese researchers have found the earliest known literature on horses via bamboo slips dating back over 2 000 years to the Warring States Period (475 BC-221 BC).

The discovery was announced at a press conference at Tsinghua University in Beijing on Monday.

The Research and Conservation Center for Unearthed Texts at Tsinghua University recently compiled five bamboo texts related to horses. According to

researchers, these were currently the earliest systematic texts discovered in China concerning equine appraisal, veterinary treatment, training and guidance.

Shi Xiaoli, an associate professor at the center, said the Warring States Period marked the peak of chariot warfare in ancient China, when horse riding and charioteering were considered essential skills for noblemen.

Yet, practical details regarding such techniques were previously only sparsely recorded in surviving ancient texts.

“The release of one of the texts, which detailed how to guide horses, fills a gap in the literature on equestrian techniques from the Warring States Period and even broader ancient Chinese history, offering significant documentary value for studying ancient horsemanship,” Shi noted.

“Horses held an extremely high status in ancient times,” said Huang Dekuan, director of the center.

Huang pointed out that advances in horse domestication, breeding, herding and guidance

had directly enhanced ancient transportation and military capabilities, influenced cultural exchanges and civilisational development, and reflected a country's military strength and productive forces; all embedded with rich political and cultural significance.

“This newly discovered collection holds important value for research into Warring States equine appraisal, animal husbandry history, zooarchaeology and veterinary history,” Huang added. **Xinhua**



BTA earns accolades for hosting excellence

The Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) has been commended for its ability to put the region on the map by consistently hosting high-profile international tournaments.

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

In an interview, Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) vice president, Jonas Alberto Junior said Botswana had become a reliable hub for elite competition. That followed events recently hosted in the country which included the Davis Cup, ITF J100 and the ITF/CAT Southern Africa Junior Championships.

Alberto Junior said BTA had been a standout representative for Southern Africa since last year.

“They have been increasing the number of events and we know it is not easy to put a successful tournament together. We are happy Botswana continues to deliver,” he said. He added that he was impressed by the huge player turnout for the Southern Africa Junior Championships, saying it was big record for CAT.

He also extended his gratitude to the national associations across the zone for their commitment to sending athletes to Gaborone.

Again, he said the level of competition, particularly among the Under-14 players, signalled a bright future for the sport.

He further said the quality of play was a result of solid development structures.

“We have witnessed 11-year-old players competing in the Under-14 category and performing exceptionally well. That alone is a clear indication that nations have invested in grassroots development, which will elevate the level of competition across Africa,” he noted. As the Zone V president, Alberto Junior said he believed that such robust structures would eventually produce athletes capable of representing Africa on the world’s biggest stages, including the ATP Tour and Grand Slams.

To sustain the momentum, he called for continued collaboration including, among others, joint training camps for regular sessions for elite players to train together, knowledge exchange to give coaches the opportunities to share expertise as well as increased competition to keep players match-ready. **BOPA**



Jonas Alberto Junior

Obenne retains global Sport for Life honour

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Botswana’s astute sport administrator, Molefhi Obenne has once again put the country in the spotlight after being named the 2025 Sport for Life Global Facilitator.

The accolade recognises exceptional leadership and impact in using sport as a tool for education, inclusion and community development worldwide.

This marks Obenne’s second consecutive award, a remarkable achievement given that he is only in his third year as National Coordinator and

Master Facilitator.

He is currently ranked third overall globally among seasoned Sport for Life facilitators from Timor-Leste, Cape Verde and Portugal.

The Sport for Life programme was officially launched in Botswana in June 2022 under the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC), with Obenne promptly appointed as the National Coordinator.

Since then, the programme has steadily expanded its footprint, positioning Botswana as a strong contributor within the global Sport for Life network.

In 2025, the programme deliberately focused on secluded and hard-to-reach areas, including Lerala, Matsiloje, Nata, Kasane, Maun, Shakawe, Charleshill, Tsabong and Oliphant’s Drift, to ensure that children and young people often excluded from structured sport and

life-skills programmes were not left behind. Such strategic focus yielded strong results.

During the year, 11 Sport for Life courses and one Train-the-Trainer programme were successfully delivered. A total of 191 participants were trained, representing 96 per cent of the annual target.

Gender inclusion remained a priority, with 78 female participants, the programme achieved 78 per cent of its female enrolment target, maintaining a participation ratio of 39 per cent female to 61 per cent male in adherence to Olympic ideals regarding gender equality.

The programme also made progress in the inclusion of marginalised groups, with five participants living with disabilities, reaching 50 per cent of that inclusion target. At community level,

Sport for Life engaged 1 725 children through multi-sport events, achieving 86 per cent of the annual target.

Beyond the numbers, the programme continued to use sport to promote leadership, responsibility, teamwork, and positive social behaviour, while strengthening local capacity through trained facilitators and educators.

In an interview, Obenne noted that the award was a reflection of collective effort, adding that the achievement belonged to the communities, schools, facilitators and young people who believed in the power of sport to transform lives.

With Botswana now firmly established on the global Sport for Life map, Obenne’s back-to-back recognition underscores the growing impact of grassroots sport development in the country and highlights the potential of sport as a driver of social change. **BOPA**