

# BOTSWANA Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES



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# Botswana advances discussion on labour reforms



International Labour Standards and Labour Law specialist, Ms Amanda Mejia Canadas (left) and Botswana Commissioner of Labour, Ms Veronica Moloko at the Tripartite Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Six International Labour Standards Identified for Ratification in Gaborone on Monday. Ms Moloko said ratification of the conventions were critical in improving workplace standards and aligning the country with regional and international labour expectations. Photo: Felicity Male

Lesedi Thatayamodimo  
**GABORONE**

Botswana has taken another step toward strengthening labour rights and workplace protection through a high-level technical workshop focused on the ratification of key international labour conventions.

The two-day workshop, convened with support from the International Labour Organisation, brought together government officials, trade unions, employers and social partners to discuss conventions identified by the Southern African Development Community as priorities for member states.

Speaking during the workshop in Gaborone Monday, Commissioner of Labour, Ms Veronica Moloko said Botswana was now ready to advance discussions on labour reforms and international obligations.

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**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MATAMELA C. RAMAPHOSA**  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**DUMELA**  
**WELCOME TO BOTSWANA**

20 - 21 MAY 2026



# Mohwasa calls for private sector involvement

Khumile Moekejo

**JWANENG**

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa has called on the private sector to collaborate with the government in its development agenda.

He made the appeal recently when touring Jwaneng police station, which is getting a facelift through the Ikageng Public Works Programme, in collaboration with Dulux Botswana and Jwaneng Technical College.

He said owing to budgetary constraints, the government could not manage to drive service delivery alone, hence the need for private businesses to play a role.

He applauded Dulux Botswana and other stakeholders who were committed to investing in community development and corporate social responsibility.

“We applaud Dulux Botswana and other companies who are

playing their part, we are grateful for this gesture and we urge others in the private sector to emulate them and give back to the communities they operate within. The government cannot manage all these on its own, particularly in the midst of the current economic challenges,” he noted.

Mr Mohwasa noted that the Botswana Police Service was an integral part of society and therefore there was need to provide a conducive working environment and accommodation for the officers to enhance service delivery.

He also said such projects undertaken under the Ikageng programme were testament to the government’s commitment to improving the lives of the people.

Explaining the scope of the project, Jwaneng District Commissioner, Mr Goleba Kgari said painting the police station was the first project to be done through the Ikageng programme, which kick-started two months ago in Jwaneng district.

He said it marked the beginning of other community development initiatives intended to also up skill members of communities.

Notwithstanding, Mr Kgari acknowledged that the programme experienced teething challenges.

“We started Ikageng programme two months ago, and as expected we experienced some challenges in the beginning. Currently, most people who were adopted from the Ipelegeng programme are either semi-skilled or have no skills, so the overall objective

of the programme is to equip beneficiaries with skills which could develop their lives within the wider market,” he noted.

He further noted that other projects were on the pipeline, and that plans to construct a holding cell at the police station were at an advanced stage.

Kgosi Segale Letshele of Jwana Customary Court said improving the aesthetic of the police station would go a long way in improving service delivery at the police station.

“We are thankful to Dulux Botswana for this gesture, Jwaneng as a diamond town should be sparkling and painting the police station will enhance our image. We expect police officers to perform optimally but they need a conducive working environment for that,” he noted.

He also appreciated that the Ikageng programme would bridge the skills gap and contribute towards addressing unemployment, which is currently a concern among the youth. **BOPA**

## Parliament reform drive to strengthen democracy

Lorato Gaofise

**GABORONE**

Parliament has launched a reform programme aimed at transforming the legislature into a stronger, more autonomous and high-performing institution capable of advancing democracy, accountability and national development in Botswana.

The reform process is being implemented through a new cooperation framework involving the Botswana Parliament, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Giving an overview during the opening of a five-day Parliament Capacity Building Workshop in Gaborone, CPA programmes manager Avni Kondhia said the cooperation agreement between the CPA, IPU and Parliament demonstrated Botswana’s determination to reposition its legislature as an autonomous institution able to effectively fulfil its constitutional responsibilities of legislation, oversight and representation.

“Botswana’s legislature is expected to continue progressing through reforms necessary to keep the country at the forefront of democratic excellence,” she added.

Ms Kondhia described Botswana as one of the CPA’s longstanding and valued partners, adding that the reforms could position the country’s Parliament as a model institution within the Commonwealth.

To strengthen transparency, accountability and institutional effectiveness, for the benefit of citizens represented by parliament, Ms Kondhia said over the next two years, several core activities would be implemented.

“The CPA is very happy to support this ambitious agenda and alongside the IPU, we are confident that the work done as part of the agreement will serve as a beacon of good governance within the Commonwealth,” she added.

Meanwhile, IPU senior programmes officer Laurence Marzal said parliamentary reforms

should be led and owned by Parliament itself, while organisations such as the IPU and CPA provided technical support, comparative experience and expertise rather than prescribing reforms.

Among the major reform priorities identified are strengthening the parliamentary service, improving institutional support systems and enhancing independent budget analysis capacity to build a more professional and independent legislature.

She said parliamentary autonomy was the foundation upon which accountability, effective representation and institutional credibility were built, as it enabled parliament to manage its own affairs, administration, resources and expertise without undue interference.

She stressed that democratic governance required more than elections, arguing that strong democracies depended on parliaments that were autonomous, effective and capable of independently managing their administration, resources and expertise.

She added that democracy and parliamentary development were continuous processes requiring constant adaptation and improvement, expressing optimism that Botswana’s Parliament was moving in the right direction as it pursued institutional reforms aimed at strengthening democratic governance.

Held under the theme: Enhancing Parliament’s Capacity to Advance Democracy, Accountability and Development Outcomes,” the workshop brought together Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff and governance experts to develop a roadmap for institutional transformation.

The workshop discussions would focus on key areas identified through recommendations from the CPA Democratic Benchmarks Assessment, with activities over the next two years aimed at improving transparency, accountability and institutional effectiveness for the benefit of citizens. **BOPA**



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (centre) and other dignitaries touring Jwaneng police station, which is getting a facelift through the Ikageng Public Works Programme, in collaboration with Dulux Botswana and Jwaneng Technical College. He called on the private sector to collaborate with government in its development agenda. Photo: Khumile Moekejo

## Roadshow welcome initiative for remote communities

Leticia Nnokotema

**TSABONG**

In a bid to bridge the gap between urban and remote learners, tertiary institutions across Botswana have embarked on the annual Tertiary Institutions National Roadshow aimed at bringing higher education opportunities closer to students in remote communities.

The nationwide outreach programme commenced on May 4 and is expected to conclude on May 26.

The initiative seeks to ensure that learners from disadvantaged and far-flung areas have equal access to information regarding tertiary education, sponsorship opportunities and career guidance.

Through the outreach programme, institutions travel directly to villages and towns across Botswana to engage students and parents on various academic programmes and application procedures.

Held under the theme: Together for the Future: A One-Stop Gateway to Tertiary Education, the outreach programme emphasised collaboration among tertiary institutions in ensuring that learners across the country had easy access to information on higher education

opportunities.

Speaking during the roadshow in Tsabong, the event’s coordinator, Ms Evah Mogotsi highlighted that many students in remote areas struggled to access information due to long distances from urban centres, limited Internet connectivity and financial constraints that made travelling to cities difficult.

Therefore, she described the outreach tour as an important step toward ensuring that no learner was left behind regardless of geographical location.

The event stakeholder engagement officer, Mr Tefo Sephiri said the programme provided face-to-face interaction with institutions, allowing learners to ask questions directly and receive immediate assistance with applications and career choices.

Students, he said were also encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to explore different career paths and understand admission requirements for various institutions.

Mr Sephiri emphasised career guidance as a critical tool in helping learners make informed decisions about their future studies and professions.

He stated that the initiative was

further expected to inspire learners from disadvantaged communities by exposing them to opportunities they may have previously believed were beyond their reach.

Mr Sephiri noted that bringing institutions directly to distant areas restored hope and motivated students to work toward achieving their educational aspirations.

Mr Joshua Thebolo, the logistics coordinator advised learners, preparing to transition from secondary school to tertiary education, to begin researching career opportunities early, remain focused on their studies and seek guidance whenever necessary.

He further encouraged learners to believe in their abilities and take advantage of opportunities brought closer to their communities through initiatives such as the national roadshow.

He highlighted that parental involvement played a crucial role in motivating students to pursue higher education and make informed decisions about their future.

Mr Thebolo further applauded parents for their commitment toward supporting their children’s academic aspirations despite challenges associated with distance and access to information. **BOPA**

# Traditional fibre grains power foods

Gontle Merafhe  
GABORONE

Kopong-based, Kika le Motshe, founder, Mr Tshenolo Mothebeng, has spoken highly about the health benefits of traditional fibre rich foods.

Speaking to BOPA on the sidelines of the Gaborone Bonnington South Constituency Lifestyle and Culinary Medicine Health and Wellness Expo, Mr Mothebeng said pounded maize, sorghum and millet provided the body with the fibre needed by the gut while also curbing non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Mr Mothebeng said traditionally, food was pounded to separate the chaff from the grain, but nothing went to waste, resulting in healthy lives and less NCDs.

*"Gape golo mo go roloetsa botsogo. Go thuga, go setla, ke karolo mgwe ya go itshidila mmele,"* loosely translated, "Pounding is a body exercise that aides good health."

He said the company produced at a small scale of about 20kg of samp and sorghum on a normal working day.

"I am not competing with the market. I am actually competitive in terms of quality production as I retain the bran needed by the body, whereas the regular market is for processed food without fibre. I am not profit oriented because I am looking at the health of Batswana," Mr Mothebeng detailed.

Mr Mothebeng said most of his product consumers were elderly people who lived with NCDs especially those with diabetes.

He said as the expo was his debut and hoped to receive more customers because those who visited the his stall showed interest in his products.

Meanwhile, nutrition specialist, Dr Galase Ramolefhe-Mutunwa, of

Celebrate Heritage Nutrition Clinic in Gaborone explained that the clinic was open to all, be it referral or walk-ins and did house calls as well.

"You can actually call us to come to your house. We teach self-care. The most important thing is to empower an individual to take care of themselves," she explained.

Dr Ramolefhe-Mutunwa said they empowered people with knowledge to understand the package information and how to use it to improve their lifestyle.

She also indicated that Celebrate Heritage Nutrition meant that they endorsed people feeding on what the environment offered thereby, and also guiding on what the market offered that could be worth one's nutrition.

"It is my dream to see people knowledgeable about their nutrition. Children in the rural areas eat greens which urban children do not. We were raised a certain way. I wonder if we feel we missed out on something and we are overdoing things in the name of, we love our children. Imagine if the child was to grow up seeing only vegetables and fruits in the house. That is what they would eat. They look up to us," she advised.

She said they would be teaching mindful eating, where dinner time was designated for eating because passive eating might cause overeating that resulted in overweight, diabetes because "we are not mindful at the dinner table."

Dr Ramolefhe-Mutunwa said there was a need to discipline children, to reduce their chances of getting lifestyle diseases at a young age.

She also said lifestyles affected children since at times mothers were forced to get back to work soon after giving birth.

This she said parents resort to giving their babies formula that could have negative effects on the children.

Member of Parliament for Gaborone Bonnington South and Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe said the constituency aspired to achieve greatness.

"No adult nor child in this constituency should be without education. Education to aspire and to live a healthy life. It is pleasant to see the people of this constituency gathered to receive education on their own health and welfare," he said.

Mr Gaolathe said the Expo had attracted medical practitioners in the form of doctors, to guide and teach on health, culinary medicine and lifestyle.

He said community members needed to know where to find help and know who to turn to. **BOPA**



*Dijo Tsa Kika founder, Mr Tshenolo Mothebeng (left) showcasing his products to Gaborone Bonnington South residents during the Lifestyle and Culinary Medicine Health Expo on Saturday. He explained that his products, the pounded maize, sorghum and millet were traditionally processed using a mortar and pestle to promote healthy, natural eating among Batswana. Photo: Pheny Ramatu*

## Botswana advances discussion on labour reforms

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Among the conventions under consideration are Convention C-190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work, Convention C-169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, Convention C-155 on Occupational Safety and Health, Convention C-187 on the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health, the 2014 Protocol on Forced Labour and Convention C-122 on Employment Policy.

She said the conventions were critical in improving workplace standards and aligning the country with regional and international labour expectations.

In addition, she said Botswana

continued to report progress on ratification efforts through SADC mechanisms.

Botswana Federation of Trade Unions representation, Ms Gaebepe Molaodi emphasised the need for stronger protection for workers, arguing that decent, safe and fair work remained a fundamental right.

"We are here because the promise of decent, safe and fair work is not merely a goal, it is a fundamental right," she said.

Botswana Doctors Union chairperson, Dr Kefilwe Selema also called for faster implementation of labour reforms, saying workers often waited too long to benefit from policies designed to improve working conditions.

Business Botswana CEO, Ms

Tumi Mbaakanyi noted that safe and healthy workplaces contributed directly to economic growth and business sustainability.

"As much as we are profit-driven, we also put the wellbeing of workers at the forefront," she said.

ILO official, Mr Alexio Musindo noted that Botswana's most recent ratifications were completed in December 2022, when the country ratified Convention No. 81 on Labour Inspection and Convention No. 129 on Labour Inspection in Agriculture.

Mr Musindo stressed that ratifications should not be viewed as the final step, but rather the beginning of a broader implementation process requiring policy alignment, enforcement and accountability. **BOPA**

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# DailyBusiness

## CEDA launches revamped Poultry Suite

Mpho Mosojane  
GABORONE

The Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) has launched a revamped financing programme called the 'Poultry Suite,' a targeted and policy-driven initiative designed to transform Botswana's poultry industry across the entire value chain.

The new financing offering seeks to increase local poultry production, reduce dependence on imports and strengthen food sovereignty. Through the initiative, Botswana aims to increase annual poultry meat production from the current 52 million kilograms to more than 70 million kilograms.

According to CEDA Caretaker Chief Executive Officer Khalala

Mokefane, the programme is expected to finance about 269 poultry farmers and support the establishment of three new hatcheries.

The projections are expected to generate more than 18.26 million ready-for-slaughter chickens and significantly reduce the country's reliance on imported processed poultry products, which currently sitting at approximately P96 million annually.

Mr Mokefane said the figures demonstrated both strong domestic demand and untapped opportunities for local value addition, employment creation and foreign exchange retention. Mr Mokefane further assured the public that CEDA was prepared to relax some financing conditions to enable broader participation in the sector.

Special financing considerations will be extended to women, youth and persons with disabilities through lower equity contribution requirements, extended grace periods and enhanced mentorship support.

However, Mr Mokefane stressed that aspiring beneficiaries would need to demonstrate commitment, discipline and improved technical capacity to qualify for funding.

"As a start, record keeping is non-negotiable in managing credit risk. We will provide training and mentoring support, however Botswana must also play their part," he said.

Launching the initiative, Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Tiroeane Ntsima said the Poultry Suite was



Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeane Ntsima (left) and assistant minister, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe at the launch of the revamped Poultry Financial Suite in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Ntsima said the revamped programme sought to increase local poultry production, reduce dependence on imports and strengthen food sovereignty. Photo: Felicity Male

designed to address structural barriers that have historically limited citizen participation in the sector.

He noted that the poultry industry remained highly concentrated, making it difficult for new citizen-owned enterprises to enter and compete meaningfully.

He also said to ensure citizens participate and thrive across the poultry value chain, government has responded through the revamped Poultry Suite.

Mr Ntsima said as part of

government support measures, community-based poultry producers would also gain market access through the National School Feeding Programme, valued at more than P1 billion. The programme is expected to provide guaranteed off-take arrangements for local producers and help build confidence within the commercial farming sector.

Following consultations with producers, retailers, hatcheries, feed manufacturers, financial institutions and veterinary professionals, CEDA developed six tailor-made financial products aimed at correcting structural imbalances and scaling the poultry industry into a viable export-oriented sector.

Currently, Botswana relies on only two broiler hatcheries, two layer hatcheries and 21 licensed abattoirs, highlighting limited and unevenly distributed infrastructure.

To address this gap, the Poultry Abattoir and Processing Product Line will support the expansion of slaughtering and processing facilities across the country.

The Poultry Suite includes financing solutions covering the full production chain, from technical pre-project investment and hatchery development to abattoir construction and processing facilities.

Implementation will be undertaken through two financing models: equity or joint ventures for high-impact infrastructure and large-scale processing projects, and structured financing pathways for small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and community-based farmers. BOPA

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Botswana sees benefit in China zero-tariff policy

**GABORONE** - Botswana government sees China's zero-tariff policy as big opportunity to grow exports

Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship on Tuesday said that China has removed import tariffs on qualifying products from Botswana from May 1, which is a big opportunity for Botswana businesses to grow exports and create jobs. In a press release, the ministry says the removal means Botswana products can now enter the China market without additional tax costs, making it easier and cheaper for local businesses to sell goods in one of the world's biggest markets. The release highlights some of the prime sectors, including beef and livestock products, processed food and horticulture products, leather and textile products, as well as arts and crafts. To ensure seamless trade facilitation, the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) has activated immediate customs procedures. BURS is currently adapting its systems to fast-track documentation, clear export paths, and issue the required rules of origin certification for China-bound cargo, said the press release. The ministry urged manufacturers, farmers and entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by this market. China's zero-tariff policy has been extended to 53 African countries holding diplomatic relations with China and took effect on May 1. Xinhua

## Suluhu calls for Africa cooperation on nuclear energy

**DAR ES SALAAM** - Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan has called for stronger cooperation among African countries and international partners to advance peaceful and sustainable nuclear energy development across the continent, according to a statement issued Tuesday by the Directorate of Presidential Communications.

Addressing the Nuclear Energy Innovation Summit for Africa (NEISA 2026) in Kigali, Rwanda, President Hassan described the summit as an important platform to help Africa move 'from ambition to implementation' in developing reliable and sustainable energy systems. Hassan said Africa's economic transformation depended on affordable and sustainable energy capable of supporting industrialisation, mining, transport modernisation and digital infrastructure development. She said Tanzania's growing electricity demand, driven by industrial expansion, urbanisation and digital transformation under the Tanzania Development Vision 2050, required diversified long-term energy solutions. Xinhua



The revamped Poultry Suite is expected to finance about 269 poultry farmers and support the establishment of three new hatcheries.

# Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

## IPAPATSE FA



LELE TSA

659 6315 | 625 0353 | 533 0379 | 297 8237  
261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500



Mogolwane wa mapodise a Serowe, Senior Superintendent Poloko Oteng o rotloeditse batho ba ba imetsweng ke dikgweltho tsa botshelo go kopa thuso le dikgakololo go na le go tsaya tshwetso ya go ipolaya. O ntshitse kgakololo eo, morago ga gore a bege fa ba tlhotlhomisa lesa la monna yo o dingwaga tse di masome matlhano le bobedi yo go belaelwang a ikgapetse botshelo ka go ikaletsa.

## Go ikgapela botshelo go ketefalela ba masika

Tshiamiso Moseitla  
**SEROWE**

Mogolwane wa mapodise a Serowe, Senior Superintendent Poloko Oteng o rotloeditse batho ba ba imetsweng ke dikgweltho tsa botshelo go kopa thuso le dikgakololo go na le go tsaya tshwetso ya go ipolaya.

Rre Oteng a re go ikgapela botshelo go sena le fa ele molaetsa

ope go tlhalosa modi wa mathata go tsisa ketsaetsego ka gore ba masika ba sala ba ipotsa dipotso.

A re fa gongwe go ipolaya motho yo a neng ba losika le ba lelwapa ba ikaegile ka ene.

Ka jalo, Rre Oteng o kgotlhaditse gore batho ba nne ba tsibogela mathata ka go batla tlharabololo le go sidilwa maikutlo go na le gore motho a ikgapele botshelo.

Rre Oteng o ntshitse kgakololo

eo, morago ga gore a bege fa mapodise a Serowe a tlhotlhomisa lesa la monna yo dingwaga tse di masome matlhano le bobedi (52) yo go belaelwang a ikgapetse botshelo ka go ikaletsa wa kgotla ya Mpatshweu kwa motseng wa Thabala ka Sontaga.

Le fa go ntse jalo, a re ba tswelitse ka go tlhotlhomisa se se ka tswang se bakile gore monna yo, a ikgapele botshelo ka a sa tlogela molaetsa. **BOPA**

## Dirisang ditsa-tlholego go tlhama ditiro

Omphile Ntakhwana  
**MAJWANENG**

Batswana ba rotloeditswe go dirisa di tsatlholego go itshetsa le go tso-solosa itsholelelo.

Fa a bua kwa phuthengong ya kgotla, e e neng e buisiwa ke ba lephata la tshomarelo tikologo le Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) e maikaelelo e neng e le go fa pego ya tshekatsheko ya tikologo (Botswana National Ecosystem Assessment Report), Professor Wame Hambira o supile fa tiro ya go kgobakanya pego, e simolotse ka 2022 mme e wela mono ngwaga.

Prof. Hambira o supile fa ba ne ba sekaseka diemo tsa ditlhopa tsa di tsatlholego di le thataro, e bong, dithaba, makgobokgobo, dikgwa, dikaka, temo-thuo le majang.

Fa a bua ka diteng tsa pego, Prof. Hambira a re ba itemogetse gore boleng jwa makgobokgobo bo fokotsegile ka 20 per cent.

“Dikgwa tsone di fokotsegile boleng ka 33 per cent,” Prof. Hambira a supa abo a tlatsa ka gore, boleng jwa temo-thuo le bone bo fokotsegile, mme e seng mo go kalo kalo. O tlhalositse fa dithaba le tsone di fokotsegile boleng ka selekanyo se se ka fa tlase ga 2 per cent, fa dikaka le tsone di fokotsegile mme e se mo go kalo kalo.

A re phokotsego e, e bakiwa ke phetogo ya loapi e e sa tsepamang sentle, leuba, metsi a mantsi a a tlang go sa solofelwa le tiriso e e botlhaswa ya di tsatlholego.

Prof. Hambira a re ditshakatsheko di kaile fa kitso ya setso ya go

tlhokomela di tsatlholego e nyelela.

“Kitso e, e tlhoka go fologela kwa dikokomaneng tsa rona, le fa go supegile fa banana ba sena kgatlhego mo go yone. Mme, re tshwanetse go bona methale ya gore ga e nyelele,” Prof. Hambira a gakolola.

A re tlhotlwa ya di tsatlholego e kwa godimo, mme ke nako ya gore go tlhamiwe dikgwebo tsa tlhotlwa.

“Sekai ke tee ya Rooibos ya lefatshe la Afrika Borwa,” Prof. Hambira a supa, a tlatsa ka gore go ka dirwa dikgwebo tsa mafura a a apayang, melemo, ditlolo, didirisiwa tsa kago le dilwana tsa ntlo.

Go na le maungo a go ka dira mofine le majalwa a farologaneng, Prof. Hambira a kaya.

A re dilo tse di ka dirwang di ntsi, mme se pego e se dirang gape ke go gakolola puso go fetola melao mengwe, go rutuntsha ka mafaratlhatlha le go gwetlha mebaraka. Prof. Hambira a re gore mohama wa di tsatlholego o atlega, dikgweltho di tshwana le go bona madi, kitso le tse dingwe, di tshwanetse go rarabololwa.

Rre Lesego Seakanyeng, go tswa kwa lephateng la tshomarelo tikologo o supile fa maikaelelo a pego e le go kokoanya tshedimosetso ya motheo, go sekaseka diemo tsa di tsatlholego.

“Re ne re lebile matshego a le mararo, ba dira melawana (policy makers), botegeniki (science) le go dira (practice),” Rre Seakanyeng a tlhalosa a bo a tlatsa ka gore tshekatsheko e tsile ka tumalano ya mafatshefatshe ya di tsatlholego. **BOPA**

## Mopalamente o kopa gore madi a setshaba a dirisiwe sentle

Omphile Ntakhwana  
**SELEKA**

Mopalamente wa Tswapong Borwa o kopile gore madi a setshaba a dirisiwe ka kelelelo.

Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang a re dibui ka go farologana, ba ba neng ba bua kwa phitlhong ya tautona wa pele, Dr Festus Mogae, ba supile fa a ne a le matsetseleko mo go diriseng madi a setshaba.

“A re itshekatshekeng Batswana betsho, re direng dilo sentle,” Dr Gobotswang a gakolola fa a ne a buisa phutho ya kgotla kwa Seleka, Tumasera.

Dr Gobotswang a re, go simolola fela kwa dikomiting tsa ditlhabololo tsa motse go ya kwa go goromenteng yo motona, a madi a setshaba a seka a gopelwa.

A re lefatshe le tlhoka babusi ba ba tshwanang le Dr Mogae, go babalela ebile ba gana go senyetsa setshaba.

Fa a bua ka NDP12, Dr Gobotswang o supile fa kgang kgolo mo kgaolong e le diemo

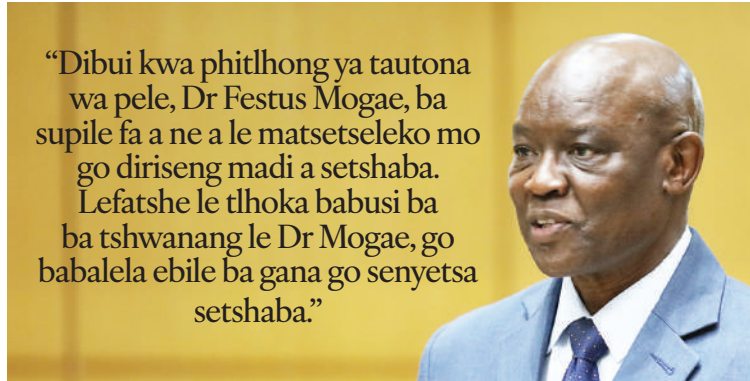


Dr Festus Mogae

tsa dikole.

“Seemo ga se fetoge ebile, o kare go senyegela pele. P1.3 billion ke madi a gotweng re tlaa baakanya dikole, mme a mannye, ga a kake a lekana,” Dr Gobotswang a supa a bo a tlatsa ka gore, kgaolo e solofetse go le gontsi mo leananeong le.

Dingwe tsa ditsholofelo tsa kgaolo ya Tswapong Borwa ke sekole se se golwane, khansela



Mopalamente wa Tswapong Borwa  
Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang

“Dibui kwa phitlhong ya tautona wa pele, Dr Festus Mogae, ba supile fa a ne a le matsetseleko mo go diriseng madi a setshaba. Lefatshe le tlhoka babusi ba ba tshwanang le Dr Mogae, go babalela ebile ba gana go senyetsa setshaba.”

ya kgaolo e e tletseng le lefelo la metshameko gareng ga tse dingwe.

Dr Gobotswang a re banni ba kgaolo ya Tswapong Borwa ba seka ba ikata tlhogo ka go touta gore ditlhabololo tse di tshwanetse go agiwa mo metseng efe.

“A re tshepheng ba ba rutetsweng tiro ya go ala mealo e ka gore, fa re ka re rona banni re di toute, re tsile go gotlhogotlhana e

be re palelwa ke go tshwaragana,” Dr Gobotswang a gakolola.

Fa a bua ka ditsela, Dr Gobotswang o supile fa goramente yoo tlhokomelang ditsela a supile fa a tlaa baakanya dingwe tsa ditsela, go rotloetsa kgalagano mo kgaolong.

Ditsela tse di akaretsa ya Seleka-Mokobeng, Seleka-Rrammai, Seleka-Ramokgonani, Pilikwe-Maape le Moshopha-Shakwe

gareng ga tse dingwe.

A re go a lebosega gore goramente o mosha o dumalana le banni ba Tswapong gore ba tshwanetse go akola meamusu ya noka ya Limpopo, mme ka sekgwama sa puso se santse se sa ema sentle, kgang ya teng e santse e eme.

“Re batla go baya masimo le rona gaufi le noka e, re batla go tshwara ditlhapi, re dire le bojanala. Mme ke tsholofelo ya rona gore fa seemo sa itsholelo se tokafala, re baakanye kgang e,” Dr Gobotswang a supa.

A re gore Batswana ba tshwanetse go kopa go akola meamusu ya noka ya Limpopo go a swabisa.

Dr Gobotswang a re nako e gorogile gore kgaolo ya Tswapong Borwa e tlhame ditiro ka go fetola merogo le maungo (agric processing).

“Re tlamega go ema ka dinao gore bana ba rona ba bone mebereko,” Dr Gobotswang a kgothatsa. **BOPA**



One of the National Cleaning Campaign coordinators in Francistown, District Commissioner, Ms Chabongwa Matseka during an interview on Monday. She commended the small business community for embracing the campaign. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

## District Commissioner praises informal sector

Kelebogile Taolo  
FRANCISTOWN

The informal sector in Francistown has been lauded for its dedicated involvement in the National clean-up initiative. Francistown District Commissioner, Ms Chabongwa Matseka commended the sector for rising to the occasion to keep the city clean since the start of the national clean-up campaign.

Speaking in an interview on Monday, she noted that since the campaign's inception, members of the informal sector, including hawkers and street vendors had been consistent in taking part in the monthly clean-up activities.

She also mentioned that several stakeholders were also stepping up with contributions, such as providing resources like refuse bags, gloves and dustbins.

However, Ms Matseka urged more entities to join the effort, emphasising that teamwork was essential for the success of the initiative.

As the main goal of the project is to create cleaner environments and enhance local surroundings, Ms Matseka indicated that Francistown leaders convened with stakeholders to develop strategies and identified hotspots, which needed collaboration, such as the bus rank.

However, she pointed out that though Francistown's monthly clean-up campaign was beginning to yield visible improvements, there was still a need for greater public awareness to sustain the momentum.

"Since it began, there has been a slight improvement. Streets and public spaces in certain areas of the city are noticeably cleaner, and community involvement is gradually increasing," she noted.

Despite progress, Ms Matseka called for continuous public education due to low participation levels.

"The turnout does not meet our expectations; people come in small numbers due to social obligations like funerals and

weddings on Saturdays, which is why clean-ups need to be scheduled for mornings," she explained.

Ms Matseka therefore, encouraged community members to start by cleaning their immediate environments at home and work.

Another issue she highlighted was the persistent problem of garden waste, which she said was not disposed carefully.

Additionally, she addressed concerns regarding individuals who relieved themselves in public spaces and urged members of the community to refrain from such behaviour.

The national clean up campaign is an initiative by President Advocate Duma Boko and is undertaken every second Saturday of the month. So far the campaign is nearly six months since its inception. **BOPA**

## African airlines push for collaboration to tackle industry challenges

JOHANNESBURG

African airlines have called for stronger cooperation to tackle rising operating costs, regulatory fragmentation and other challenges facing the continent's aviation industry.

The call was made at the 14<sup>th</sup> Aviation Stakeholders Convention held in Johannesburg from Sunday to Tuesday, which brought together airlines, regulators, airport authorities, financiers, and aviation solution providers from nearly 50 countries.

Abderahmane Berthe, secretary general of the African Airlines Association, said African airlines were operating in an uncertain global environment marked by geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, rising costs, currency pressures, aircraft availability constraints and infrastructure gaps.

Africa's aviation industry remains fragmented, with multiple regulatory frameworks and restrictive bilateral air services agreements, Berthe

said, adding that collaboration is no longer optional but necessary.

"The ambition is to build an African aviation industry that connects this continent affordably and safely. That ambition requires partnerships built on mutual commitment and empowerment, and it requires profitability," he said.

Matshela Seshibe, acting chief executive officer (CEO) of South African Airways, said African airlines needed to work together to achieve sustainability and long-term competitiveness.

He cited the 2021 memorandum of cooperation between South African Airways and Kenya Airways as an example of airline collaboration, saying the agreement had helped the two carriers share customers traveling between their hubs in Johannesburg and Nairobi.

George Kamal, acting group CEO of Kenya Airways, said African countries should invest more in aviation infrastructure and further liberalise air transport across the continent. **Xinhua**

## Tutume council to stabilise operations with grant

Goitsemodimo Williams  
-Madzonga

TUTUME

The P65.6 million Revenue Support Grant (RSG) received by the Tutume District Council for the first quarter of the 2026/2027 financial year will enable the local authority to stabilise its primary operations.

Speaking at the opening of Tutume District Council full council session on Monday, council chairperson Mr Tabona Masole said while the grant would allow the council to carefully stabilise its primary operations, the cost-containment measures in place would be enforced in order to enable the district to continue fulfilling its primary mandate.

Mr Masole said although government remained committed to its developmental interventions, prevailing economic headwinds were slowing down the execution of district plans.

Regarding the ongoing Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) crisis, he said the outbreak continued to pose threat to livelihoods of the farming community and the broader agricultural economy.

He said in order to confront the crisis, the district had hosted the acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti, adding that engaging with him had brought about a deeper understanding of the current FMD outbreak and the ongoing government interventions.

Nevertheless, Mr Masole said there was hope that collectively the battle for FMD would be won especially if all adhered to preventative measures.

Furthermore, the chairperson

highlighted that despite the economic challenges, government has introduced two transformative national frameworks; being the National Development Plan 12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP). He said the two transformative national frameworks had the potential to reshape Botswana's economy and reposition the country for long term, sustainable growth.

The programmes, he added, were deliberately designed to transition Botswana away from an overdependence on diamonds by accelerating diversification across key sectors including agriculture, tourism, mining beneficiation and manufacturing as well as innovation, transport and logistics.

Mr Masole further highlighted that through NDP 12, government was prioritising infrastructure development, village connectivity, water security, modern education system, health services and youth empowerment to ensure that growth reached rural areas and that no Moptswana got left behind.

Simultaneously, he stated that BETP sought to unlock private sector growth, attract investment, stimulate entrepreneurship and support local production, leading to the creation of sustainable jobs for Batswana in particularly the youth.

"These frameworks are not merely policy documents, they represent a national call to action," he said.

He also said government aimed to restore productivity and strengthen work ethics, which would result in building a resilient economy capable of withstanding global shocks such as fluctuating diamonds markets. **BOPA**

## Zimbabwe polytechnics strengthen technical skills training

HARARE

Eight polytechnic colleges in Zimbabwe will benefit from a technical exchange and skills development partnership with a Chinese tertiary institution following the signing of a cooperation agreement in Harare on Tuesday.

To implement the programme, the Tertiary Education Service Council (TESC), which manages Zimbabwe's polytechnics and vocational colleges, China's Ningbo Polytechnic University and Huayou Cobalt, a Chinese lithium mining and processing company, signed a tripartite cooperation agreement. The cooperation agreement also includes the joint establishment of the Sino-Zimbabwe Engineering Technology Academy and the China-Zimbabwe Silk Road Teacher Capacity Building Center, which will be housed at Harare Polytechnic in the capital.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Simeliszwe Sibanda

said the collaboration would guide partnerships in skills development, technology transfer and facilitate industry-academia linkage.

"This is a significant milestone as we strengthen the bilateral relationships between our two countries within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, which seeks to connect nations through infrastructure, trade, and human capital development," said Sibanda.

TESC secretary Tafadzwa Mudondo said the partnership would drive cultural exchange, technology and knowledge transfer, joint curriculum development, joint publication and certification and joint talent identification.

Mudondo said students would be trained on the latest technology and processes aligned to real industry standards and would gain qualifications recognised in both Zimbabwe and China. Wu Xiang Peng, president of Ningbo Polytechnic University, said the programme would serve as a platform for nurturing talent and developing high-quality technical skills. **Xinhua**

# Arts & Culture

Afro jazz icon, Shanti Lo (right) performing during a media briefing for his upcoming concert, Shanti-Lo: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: A Legacy in Music, in Gaborone on Tuesday. The milestone event, scheduled for May 30 at Botswanacraft, will celebrate his 25-year journey in the music industry marked by resilience, cultural impact and musical evolution. Photo: Tshoganetso Mokowe



## Legacy in Music billed for May 30

Benita Magopane  
**GABORONE**

Afro jazz icon Shanti Lo is marking 25 years in the music industry with a Legacy in Music event billed for May 30.

The event, which will take place at Botswana Craft will feature celebrated Afro jazz artist Lebo

KM as well as A Re Yeng hit vocalist Galaletsang Phutietsile for a day of distinct blends of African rhythms ranging from Afro pop, Afro jazz and Afro soul, showcasing vocal style and prowess from 12 noon until late.

For Shanti Lo, 25 years in the music industry marks a deeply personal journey characterised not only by success, excellence, resilience, evolution and cultural impact, but also by grief, endurance and transformation.

From as early as 2001, when he heard his song playing on radio for the first time, to scooping the Jazz Album of the Year award in 2012, Shanti Lo has remained a consistent and influential voice, bridging generations through music rooted in authenticity while evolving with contemporary sounds over

the years.

However, somewhere along the way, the jazz maestro recounted the loss of close friends, managers and supporters, including former Botswana president Festus Mogae and media personality Kgomotso Tshwenyego, with whom he worked as a judge on My Star Talent Show in 2014.

“Amidst these many losses, we still remain here, honouring the past while embracing the future.”

“Amidst these many losses, we still remain here, honouring the past while embracing the future,” said Shanti Lo.

For his part, Shanti Lo’s music producer, Daniel Njoronga, said the concert would offer an in-depth view of the developed artist Shanti Lo and how he has become the class-act performer he has always been.

Commenting on the use of advanced technology such as artificial intelligence, Njoronga advocated for originality in the music-making process, arguing that producing music in real time while collaborating with human counterparts is what gives authentic meaning to artistry.

He also emphasised the importance of keeping live concerts alive, noting that the physical interaction between artists and audiences during performances surpasses the experience of listening to music through phones or digital platforms. **BOPA**

China showcases space film and AI innovations

### SOFIA

China showcased its achievements in space exploration, artificial intelligence and scientific cooperation at this year’s Sofia Science Festival, which concluded on Sunday at Sofia Tech Park after four days of exhibitions, lectures and interactive events.

One of the festival’s major attractions was screenings of SHENZHOU 13, China’s first 8K movie filmed in space. Based on the six-month orbital mission of the Shenzhou-13 astronauts aboard China’s space station, the film showcased panoramic views of Earth and intimate scenes of life in orbit.

The project was filmed using fully domestically developed 8K ultra-high-definition cameras, marking a milestone in China’s space-based filmmaking capabilities.

China’s participation in the festival also extended to advanced medical technology. In a keynote lecture titled ‘Intelligent Hybrid Operating Room,’ Wang Lei from the Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences introduced Bulgarian audiences to international innovations in artificial intelligence-assisted surgical and interventional operating rooms.

He also presented the latest Chinese research integrating operating room systems, robotics and surgeon information technologies. Speaking at the event on Saturday, Chinese Ambassador to Bulgaria Dai Qingli highlighted the expanding scientific and technological cooperation between China and Bulgaria in recent years.

“From the vastness of space to the frigid Antarctic, from frontier sectors such as quantum information and artificial intelligence to areas close to people’s daily lives such as agriculture and health, scientists and engineers from China and Bulgaria are joining hands in an increasingly wide range of fields,” she said.

According to the organiser, the Beautiful Science Foundation, the festival aims to promote science and technology through discussions, demonstrations, workshops and interdisciplinary events connecting science and art, while bringing together leading Bulgarian and international researchers.

**Xinhua**

# DailySport

## Babitseng promises to deliver on both roles

Anastacia Sibanda  
GABORONE

May 17 will forever be engraved in the hearts of local football lovers as winds of change blew in the direction of Botswana in respect to leading football in the Southern Africa region.

The ushering in, unopposed, of the Botswana Football Association (BFA) president, Tariq Babitseng to the top seat of the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) sent a clear message that the region believes in him.

Further to that, Babitseng re-wrote history as the second Motswana to ever lead COSAFA after the late Ismail Bhamjee, who was the inaugural COSAFA president and was at the helm of the organisation from 1992-2000.

Known for his subtle art of leadership, it is expected that the new president will drive robust grassroots development in the region.

Addressing a press briefing on Tuesday, Babitseng said he would not relinquish his position as BFA president, but made an assurance that he would make sure that both positions received the attention that they required.

He said since the inception of COSAFA in 1992, the organisation had always been divided, but on Sunday during the elective congress, unity prevailed as evidenced by the unanimous voice of members during the elections.

Babitseng said a decision was made before the election to look among members of the leadership who were in attendance as to who would be best suited to steer the organisation and that it was then that he was identified as ideal for the presidency role.

He said his election has demonstrated to the African continent that COSAFA, the biggest zone in Africa, was indeed united, and added that as leadership, they would ensure that going forward, that same spirit of oneness prevailed.

Zooming in on the work ahead, the COSAFA president said there was need to restructure and re-organise their tournaments as well as the development structure.

"As the new leadership, we have agreed that what we have been seeing in past years where countries would send development teams to COSAFA senior tournaments has to end," he said.

Babitseng said the COSAFA tournament would be aligned with the FIFA calendar so that countries could send proper national teams, which he said would help make the tournament competitive.

Furthermore, Babitseng said the organisation's headquarters would remain in South Africa, adding that it would be now based in Sandton where it would also house CAF and FIFA office. **BOPA**

COSAFA and Botswana Football Association (BFA) president, Tariq Babitseng (right) and BFA acting general secretary, Kago Mosinyi, addressing the media on football development and governance matters in Gaborone on Tuesday. Babitseng said he would not relinquish his position as BFA president, but assured stakeholders that he would ensure both roles received the attention they required.

Photo: Pheny Ramatu



**LONDON** - A hopeful Arsenal fan holding a banner reading '22 years of waiting ends this season' during the English Premier League (EPL) football match between Arsenal and Burnley at the Emirates Stadium on Monday. Arsenal were crowned EPL champions after the match between Bournemouth and Manchester City ended in a draw Tuesday. Photo: Xinhua

## Uganda to play Tunisia, Libya and Botswana in AFCON qualifiers

KAMPALA

Uganda has been drawn with Tunisia, Libya and Botswana in Group H of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

The draw was conducted Tuesday in Cairo, placing the Cranes in a competitive group ahead of the continental tournament, which Uganda will co-host with Kenya and Tanzania from June 19 to July 17, 2027.

Uganda head coach Paul Put welcomed the draw, saying the qualifiers would offer valuable competitive experience even though the Cranes had already secured automatic qualification for the finals as co-hosts.

"Playing in the qualifiers with teams like Tunisia, who will play in the FIFA World Cup, Libya and Botswana will be a great opportunity," Put told Xinhua.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are guaranteed places at the finals, but will still take part in qualifying.

Only one additional team will qualify from any group containing one of the three host nations.

The qualifiers, featuring 48 teams divided into 12 groups, will begin in September 2026.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the finals.

The other teams from the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations taking part in the qualifiers are Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda and Eritrea. **Xinhua**