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PALEKA wants
board out

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Botswana, Qatar
explore strategic ties



Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima (left) welcoming a delegation of businessmen from Qatar at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone yesterday. The delegation is in the country to establish partnership for major development projects. While here, they will meet different ministries and key stakeholders such as State Owned Enterprises and CEOs across different sectors of the economy. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

FORENSIC AUDIT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

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Landfill mismanagement sparks public outcry

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

RASESA - Residents of Rasesa, Pilane, Morwa and Bokaa are up in arms over the mismanagement of Pilane landfill.

In a recent kgotla meeting addressed by Kgatleng District Council chairperson, Mr Thabo Komane, they said toxins produced from the constant fires at the landfill were a serious health hazard.

They said the black and dense smoke that the waste disposal facility produced on a daily basis

found its way into their houses even with windows closed, polluting the air they breathed and therefore compromising their health.

“We cannot continue waking up to black dense smoke that finds its way into our houses even when we have closed our windows,” said Rasesa Village Development Committee (VDC) chairperson Ms Semakaleng Letsholo. Ms Letsholo said residents were demanding answers about the persistent fire outbreaks at the landfill and its

continual use despite it having been a nightmare to their lives for a long time.

She said they had long suggested closure of the landfill because the fires were left unattended for extended periods, arguing also that the landfill was an eyesore to road users of the A1, one of the country’s busiest roads.

Mr Selelo Ketshabile, also of Rasesa said landfill operations had degenerated to the level of a dumping site with the resultant consequences of scavengers scrambling for food items, at times resulting in accidental fires. He suggested that there should be firebreaks to create a barrier and control fires in the event of outbreaks.

In his response, Mr Geoffrey Koodirile, director of Envesys Services, a company contracted to maintain the landfill said they were equally concerned about rampant fire outbreaks at the landfill. Mr Koodirile said initially they had thought

that the fires were caused by a mixture of gases produced by decomposition of waste, but had since realised that some of the fires were human-induced.

He alleged that people who scavenge for food items had destroyed the perimeter fence of the facility and had also resorted to setting fires deliberately so that they could salvage metals from the landfill after burning waste.

Mr Koodirile conceded that the fires at the landfill posed a health hazard both to employees of the company and to residents staying in the vicinity of the landfill.

Mr Koodirile promised residents that the company would continue to reinforce security at the landfill as well as to strengthen firefighting systems.

Council chairperson Mr Komane, shared his roadmap with residents, citing among his priorities plans to improve storm water drainage in the district, a development that he said had started as the water drainage

masterplan was long drafted and awaited implementation.

He also said the council was working tirelessly to improve its revenue in order to augment funds from the consolidated fund.

Mr Komane informed residents about Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), an initiative that he described as a paradigm shift in the execution of government development plans, projects and programmes and that it was designed to deliver more impactful projects

In that regard, he urged residents to identify three high potential projects that would deliver jobs and turn around rural economies, and he encouraged them to look for those in areas such as financial services, manufacturing and energy.

Mr Komane also told residents that the Ipelegeng programme was temporarily suspended to be reviewed, adding that VDC guidelines would also be subjected to review. **BOPA**

Police warns learners against criminal activities

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Maun Station Commander has expressed concern over the persistent involvement of some learners in criminal activities.

Addressing students at Tshwaragano Junior Secondary School on Monday, Superintendent Joseph Lepodise, said such behaviour posed a significant threat to the learners’ future.

He thus urged them to desist from such activities and instead focus on their education.

He highlighted that the police were disturbed by increasing reports of learners engaging in crimes such as theft, drug dealing and use, bullying, sexual activities and robbery.

“These actions often lead to serious consequences, including suspension or expulsion from school,” said Supt. Lepodise.

He added that some learners absconded from school to engage in social ills, while others carried dangerous objects like knives, axes, screwdrivers and spears to school and engage in fights.

He cited a case from last year where a learner at one of the schools stabbed another with a knife during the examination period. “This incident affected the learner’s education because he was arrested to answer for the offense,” he said.

Supt. Lepodise further noted that some learners had joined gangster groups and urged them to protect their future by desisting from criminal activities.

“This is the opportune time for self-reflection and to make choices that will shape your future instead of investing your time and energy in negative things that will destroy your lives. You should focus on your studies and avoid all things that can ruin your educational career,” he said.

Learners were warned against bad peer groups that could entice them into using drugs and alcohol.

They were also advised to be assertive and avoid temptations. Supt. Lepodise said it was disturbing that some learners, especially those from economically challenged

families, were targeted by drug lords to be triggered into selling and using drugs while the drug lords’ own children were busy with their studies.

The police chief also urged learners to always report to the police and seek guidance when they faced challenges. He said they should be disciplined and respect school authorities to become responsible citizens in the future.

Supt. Lepodise also blamed some parents for failing to teach their children moral values, noting that moral values helped children understand what was right and wrong, shaping their character and personality.

In addition, he said children who practiced moral values were more likely to become responsible and contributing members of society. “Some learners have engaged in sexual relationships and this can negatively impact their academic performance,” he said.

Sub-Inspector Segopolo Lefatshe of the Gender and Child Protection Unit also concurred that the involvement of learners in criminal activities was worrisome.

He called on them to stay away from antisocial vices and instead pursue careers that would enhance their personal development.

He urged learners to heed the message and avoid being either culprits or victims of crime. “You should avoid bars and clubs under the pretext of playing snooker because that is a significant distraction from studying,” he said.

Mr Lefatsshe also called on parents to mold their children into responsible citizens, noting that some learners were easy targets and got involved in criminal activities such as dealing in drugs.

The school head, Ms Lynette Setumo, thanked police for addressing learners on issues of concern. She expressed concern over indiscipline among learners, such as absenteeism and the rivalry of gangs in the school who teamed up with people outside the school to engage in fights. **BOPA**



Rasesa North councillor, Mr Rutang Mooketsane (left), Kgatleng District Council chairperson, Mr Thabo Komane (centre) and former Morwa councillor, Mr Opakile Setlhabi following a kgotla meeting in Morwa on Monday. Mr Komane addressed residents about his roadmap, status of landfill, review of Ipelegeng and Village Development Committee term office as well as the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme. Photo: Mmoniemang Motsamai

Councillors reject attempt to oust chairperson

By Portia Rapitsenyane

PALAPYE - Councillors in the Palapye district have dismissed a motion of no confidence brought forward by Tamasane councillor, Mr David Ikanyeng against Palapye District Council (PDC) chairperson, Mr Kabo Ketshogile.

A total of 19 councillors supported the motion while 17 rejected it.

According to the local government standing orders, for the motion of no confidence to pass, two thirds majority of councillors should have voted for the motion.

In this case 24 councillors should have voted for the motion for it to pass. This however

means that councillor Ketshogile will continue as the council chairperson since the votes failed to reach the two thirds majority.

Earlier when tabling the motion, councillor Ikanyeng said that the chairperson was failing to bring unity amongst political wing and the administrative wing.

He said the chairperson had extended the duration of council meetings in February and May beyond reasonable limits, which had placed a strain on the council finances.

Mr Ikanyeng, however moved that the council expressed no confidence in the chairperson of PDC and that the chairperson be removed from the office with immediate effect in accordance

with the law and standing orders.

Some councillors therefore supported the motion saying the chairperson had failed to unite them as the councillors, and never consult them on issues of concern.

They also said the council chairperson was unable to foster unity among council members and lacked leadership in bringing the council together, adding that they had lost trust in his leadership.

Some councillors however rejected the motion saying they saw nothing wrong with Mr Ketshogile’s leadership. They said Mr Ketshogile united them and performed his duties to the best of his ability and as expected. **BOPA**

Minister prompts residents to unlock farming wealth

By Relief Lephutshi

GOPONG - Residents of Gopong have been urged to position themselves to tap into opportunities found within the agricultural sector.

Addressing the residents on Monday, Good Hope/Mmathethe Member of Parliament, Dr Edwin Dikoloti encouraged them to seek for water sources to drive agricultural production in the area so as to draw maximum benefits from the sector.

Dr Dikoloti who is also acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture said the availability of water for agricultural production was vital as it could help ensure sustainable means of livelihood for residents, which would extend even beyond producing for domestic consumption.

“Wherever possibilities of getting water are, efforts should be made to utilise them by drilling boreholes and building dams,” he said, emphasising that water for production purposes could help drive self-sustenance as well as alleviate unemployment.

He said as the nation was preparing to get into industrial hemp production, residents of Gopong should ready themselves to delve into the sub-sector once production was permitted and rolled out.

The acting minister also implored residents to fully utilise their land, describing it as a valuable gift with the potential to turn around their fortunes.

The Good Hope/Mmathethe legislator cited the Mmadinare Cooperative Society, saying it had prudently used its land by

leasing it out for citrus fruits production, thereby making it one of the richest societies in Botswana.

He therefore urged Gopong residents to consider following the same route with regards their own land. In addition, Dr Dikoloti said the Gopong area had the most versatile cactus specie in the country, and he encouraged them to explore how best they could maximise on its availability in their locality.

In the bid to cultivate and

encourage the spirit of self-sustenance, the MP gifted residents with potato shoots for them to grow at their homes.

He said potato production had been identified as a potential money spinner, hence residents must use growing the shoots as a platform of learning the basics of potato production so that they could scale up production in future and also stand a better chance to benefit from any government support that could become available in future.

Gopong deputy chief, Mr Moatlhodi Kgwakgwe expressed gratitude for Dr Dikoloti’s efforts aimed at encouraging the evolution of agriculture in the area.

Kgosi Moatlhodi said Dr Dikoloti’s acts of availing certified maize seeds and distributing fruit trees to people in the constituency spoke to his commitment to seeing agriculture once again become one of the main sources of livelihood in the area. **BOPA**

Govt moves to revive economy - Mmolotsi

By Mooketsi Mojalemotho

FRANCISTOWN - Batswana have been called upon to exercise patience as the government is working round the clock to breathe life into the ailing economy.

Member of Parliament for Francistown South, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi, said this when addressing a kgotla meeting in Somerset West ward on Tuesday.

He assured residents that several austerity measures and pieces of legislation had been enacted to inject life into the struggling economy.

The Value Added Tax Amendment Bill, the Digital Services Bill, and the Cannabis Bill were among the foremost pieces of legislation that were debated and passed by the winter Parliament.

The bills, according to Mr Mmolotsi, targeted a range of economic, technological as well and adjustment of tax frameworks to regulate emerging digital industries to derive the much-needed revenue for the country.

“The economy is in a bad state due to the zero demand and sales of the natural diamond that had been dealt a hard blow by synthetics,” he said, expressing hope that things would improve for the better, given the measures put in place.

He said, for instance, that the government had incorporated direct sales of diamonds into the traditional arrangement of

selling via auctions and contracts, something he said had the potential to augment sales and earn revenue for the government.

Additionally, Mr Mmolotsi, who is the Minister of Environment and Tourism, said concerted efforts had been put in place to ensure supplies of drugs at health facilities.

He cited the recent adoption of a motion calling on the government to prioritise the country’s health crisis through the mobilisation of funds.

On other issues, Mr Mmolotsi was hopeful that the envisaged opening of mines in the city of Francistown would help create employment for the local masses.

He relayed that the government would, through the Employment Bill that was deemed progressive by parliamentarians during the recent session, help promote decent work, safeguard workers’ rights and improve their welfare and keep at bay wanton disregard and violation of workers’ rights by some employers.

Commenting, Somerset West residents decried the gross disservices they suffered at the hands of the Francistown labour office.

They also raised concerns about growing incidents of crime and mayhem that emanated from certain drinking holes in the location.

Some of the residents welcomed the envisaged opening of mines and called for transparency once recruitment started. **BOPA**



Heads of Departments during a meeting addressed by Office of the Ombudsman in Letlhakeng recently. Legal investigator, Ms Thato Kebotse advised accounting officers to practice fair administration by making right decisions to reduce cases of maladministration. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

Administrative fairness hinges on sound decision - official

By Mothusi Galekhutle

LETLHAKENG - Accounting officers have been advised to practice fair administration by making right decisions.

If administrative custodians made decisions according to the book, cases of maladministration would be significantly reduced.

It is against this backdrop that a legal investigator from office of the Ombudsman, Ms Thato Kebotse emphasised that decisions should be based on policy and merit.

Additionally, Ms Kebotse who was addressing district heads of departments in Letlhakeng on Monday, called on accounting officers to adhere to the Ombudsman’s recommendations.

She noted that compliance was expected because these recommendations were based

on evidence gathered during investigations.

She the Ombudsman would ‘name and shame’ those who disregarded the recommendations by writing a special report to Parliament.

Ms Kebotse explained that the Ombudsman acted as a mediator between government and complainants regarding alleged issues.

The Ombudsman, she said was neither legal representative for complainants nor defender of the government.

Regarding human rights matters or violations, she stated that the Ombudsman had the authority to refer cases to court for enforcement.

Ms Kebotse also mentioned that the Ombudsman had the power to initiate investigations on its own accord.

Earlier, another legal investigator, Mr Moreri Katholo outlined the Ombudsman’s mandate, explaining that it investigated maladministration within government entities and human rights violations across all sectors.

He clarified that their focus was on human rights enshrined in the constitution, specifically sections 3 - 15.

He added that the Ombudsman did not handle criminal cases, matters before the courts, corruption cases, or issues involving other countries.

Mr Katholo said the typical turnaround time for resolving a complaint was six months, but more complex cases may take longer.

The investigators also addressed a Kgotla meeting in Letlhakeng. **BOPA**

DailyNews

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Libya gives debt law thumbs up

TRIPOLI - Libya's eastern-based House of Representatives, the Parliament, on Tuesday approved a public debt law during a plenary session in Benghazi, parliamentary spokesperson Abdullah Blehig said on Facebook.

The approval followed extensive discussions and incorporated recommendations from the parliament's Finance Committee, though some MPs objected to certain provisions, Blehig said.

The law, with an aim to regulate borrowing policies and ensure fiscal transparency, establishes a special account to create a debt repayment reserve and prohibits administration borrowing, both domestic and international, unless authorised under the provisions of the approved law.

It came amid Libya's worsening economic crisis, rising public debt, and challenges from fragmented financial management.

Libya remains divided since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled former leader Muammar Gaddafi, split between the UN-recognised Government of National Unity in Tripoli and an eastern-based administration. *Xinhua*



Members of PALEKA community trust took to the streets on Tuesday to protest against alleged maladministration, poor governance and lack of consultation by the board. Photo: Portia Ikgopoleng

PALEKA wants board out

By Portia Ikgopoleng

KAZUNGULA - Members of the Pandamatenga-Lesoma-Kazungula (PALEKA) Community Trust on Tuesday protested against the trust's alleged maladministration, poor governance and a lack of consultation by the board.

The concerned group marched from Kazungula mall to PALEKA offices in Kazungula where they were denied entry due to the premises being locked.

In an interview, the taskforce team chairperson, Mr Skhumbuzo Meshack, accused the current board of refusing to vacate office despite having been elected as an interim board in December 2023.

He said during an annual general meeting (AGM) that was held in June, the community attempted to oust the board through a motion of no confidence, but that act was deemed unconstitutional as procedure was not followed because a notice had not been issued to that effect.

He explained that following the AGM, the Trust's members engaged a legal advisor who drafted a notice aimed at calling a special general meeting where a vote of no confidence against the board would be tabled.

However, he indicated that PALEKA board then approached the High Court to contest the notice, questioning the legitimacy of some of its signatories.

This, he stated, caused an uproar from the members who resorted to embarking on the protest to seek answers from the board.

Mr Meshack, who also accused the board of disregarding the voice of the community by awarding contracts to investors without consulting the people, added that the taskforce team had delivered a petition to the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi on August 8 to mediate on the disputes surrounding the trust.

Responding to the allegations, PALEKA trust board chairperson Mr Kabuzu Kabuzu expressed that the board was within its constitutional right to make decisions on behalf of the

community especially when they were under a tight timeline to award contracts.

He pointed out that the board had reached out to the community following the AGM in June in order to resolve pending matters and reach reconciliation, a proposal which he said the community declined.

Moreover, he stated that the concerned group, which staged the protest did not inform the board about its planned actions as they only saw the news on social media.

Equally, Mr Kabuzu said the board was awaiting the decision of the High Court to permit the trust to hold a special general meeting, which he said was likely resolve many issues. *BOPA*

Canada CPI rises to 1.7 per cent in July

OTTAWA - Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.7 per cent year over year in July, down from a 1.9 per cent increase in June, Statistics Canada said Tuesday.

Gasoline prices led the slowdown in the all-items CPI, falling 16.1 per cent year over

year in July, said the national statistical agency.

Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.5 per cent in July, matching the increases in May and June, said the agency.

According to the agency, prices for food purchased from stores rose at a faster pace in July, with

confectionery prices up 11.8 per cent and coffee prices up 28.6 per cent, contributing to the increase in grocery prices.

The agency added that unfavourable weather conditions in growing regions led to higher prices for the primary ingredients

used to produce these food products. The CPI rose 0.3 per cent month over month in July, said Statistics Canada. *Xinhua*



VANCOUVER - Customers at a supermarket in Canada on Tuesday. Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.7 per cent year over year in July from a 1.9 per cent increase in June, Statistics Canada said on Tuesday. Photo: Xinhua

IN THE ESTATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

ESHFT 000038/25

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of the late Jackson Mbeha-ESHFT 000038/25 who died at Kazungula, Flowertown Chobe District on the 17th August 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned **within 30 days** after the publication hereof.

DATED AT KASANE THIS 19th OF AUGUST 2025.

NTWALA MBEHA | Executor Dative
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APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST TITLE DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer No. **3147/2008** dated **9th day of December 2008** made in favour of **FEEDWELL INVESTMENTS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED** in respect of the following property:

CERTAIN : Piece of land being **Lot 57, Gaborone;**
SITUATE : in the Gaborone Administrative District;
MEASURING : **1982m²** (One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Two Square Metres);

Any person having objection to the issue of such copy is hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds **within three (3) weeks** from last publication of this notice.

Piyush Sharma
ATTORNEYS & Co. NOTARIES
CONVEYANCERS • TRADEMARK & PATENT AGENTS

PLOT 6358, KGWALE ROAD , BROADHURST
P O BOX AD 34 ADC GABORONE
(PS/gs/ 18280)

AKHEEL JINABHAI & ASSOCIATES **MCL** **DRIVING SUCCESS THROUGH LEGAL STRATEGY**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of **Deed of Fixed Period State Grant No. 1713/2003** dated the **19th day of August 2003** made in favour of **MOTLHOKOMEDI MACK BOME**, in respect of the below mentioned property, namely;

CERTAIN: Piece of land being Lot 34189 Gaborone
SITUATE: In the Gaborone West Extension 36;
MEASURING: 642 m² (Six Hundred and Forty Two Square Metres);
WHICH PROPERTY: is held under Deed of Fixed Period State Grant **No. 1713/2003** dated the **19th day of August 2003** made in favour of **MOTLHOKOMEDI MACK BOME**;
SUBJECT: to the reservation and conditions contained in the aforesaid Deed.

All **persons objecting** to the issue of such copy are hereby requested to **lodge such objection in writing** with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020, Gaborone **within 3 (Three) weeks** from the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 18TH DAY OF AUGUST 2025

AJA House, Unit 2, Matante Mews Tel: (+267) 316 3125 Fax: (+267) 316 3125
Plot 54373 CBD, Gaborone Email: info@aja.co.bw
P O Box 20575, Gaborone Botswana Web: www.aja.co.bw
Partners Akheel Jinabhai
Consultant Partner Mark McKee | Obrien Brindl (F I Ab)
Associates: | Juwairiyah Maher | Khalid Khan | Lesedi
Kgakolole | Gerata Major | Lefika Nkolonyane | Ame Rindo

LOST TITLE DEED

AKHEEL JINABHAI & ASSOCIATES **MCL** **DRIVING SUCCESS THROUGH LEGAL STRATEGY**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Notarial Deed of Sub-Lease No. MA 18/2001 dated the **15th day of January 2001** made in favour of **GALAXY ENTERPRISES PROPRIETARY LIMITED**, in respect of the below mentioned property, namely;

CERTAIN: piece of land being Lease Area No. 829-KO;
SITUATE: on Portion 82 (a Portion of Portion 65) of the Farm Forest Hill No. 9-KO in the South East Administrative District;
MEASURING: 232 m² (Two Hundred and Thirty-Two Square Metres);
WHICH PROPERTY: is held under Notarial Deed of Sub-Lease **No. MA 18/2001** dated the **15th day of January 2001** made in favour of **GALAXY ENTERPRISES PROPRIETARY LIMITED**;
SUBJECT TO: all such conditions as are contained in the aforesaid Lease.

All **persons objecting** to the issue of such copy are hereby requested to **lodge such objection in writing** with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020, Gaborone **within 3 (Three) weeks** from the last publication of this notice.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 4TH DAY OF JULY 2025

AJA House, Unit 2, Matante Mews Tel: (+267) 316 3125 Fax: (+267) 316 3125
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Kgakolole | Gerata Major | Lefika Nkolonyane | Ame Rindo

LOST TITLE DEED

PRESS REALEASE

Statement and Clarification on Minerals Development Company Botswana (Proprietary) Limited’s (“MDCB”) Relationship with Minergy Coal (Proprietary) Limited (“Minergy”)

- MDCB has, of late, become aware of conveyed misunderstandings from some members of the public regarding its relationship with Minergy. This communicate seeks to provide clarity regarding the same.
- A crucial aspect of MDCB’s mandate is to grow the mining sector through strategic investments and to facilitate the development of Botswana’s mining and minerals sector, among others. It was in the execution of this mandate that MDCB engaged with Minergy and provided certain convertible and non-convertible facilities. This followed extensive due diligence exercises to assess the viability of the business case presented by Minergy in each instance.
- Over time, MDCB (as “Lender”) and Minergy (as “Borrower”) entered into various convertible and non-convertible facilities in terms of which MDCB provided loan facilities totalling approximately BWP 997 476 423 (inclusive of principal, capitalised fees, and accrued interest as of 30 June 2025). These loan facilities were secured by diverse collateral instruments, including a mortgage bond over Minergy’s Masama Coal Mine (“Masama”), prescribed rights to the in situ unmined coal, deeds of hypothecation over all movable assets, as well as guarantees.
- At present, MDCB is not a shareholder of Minergy. The cited loan facility agreements do not reflect a legal or contractual undertaking on MDCB to advance any fiduciary, legal, strategic, technical, advisory, and/or governance support to Minergy. However, given that Minergy is a meaningful investment in the Botswana coal eco-system, MDCB has, and continues to support Minergy beyond the remit of its aforementioned contractual role. This stems from MDCB’s optimism of Minergy’s medium to long-term recovery due to, among others, the following key considerations:
 - The growing electricity consumption in Botswana and the Southern Africa region underscores the urgent need for reliable, cost-effective energy sources in the market.
 - The quality of the coal mined at Masama is high-grade and suitable for various beneficiation projects, thermal power plants, and the growing export market.
 - Masama has an abundance of coal resources with an estimated life of mine of over 100 years.
- MDCB acknowledges the logistical, coal price volatility, and other market constraints faced by Minergy. It is, however, MDCB’s considered view that with the right support, Minergy can turn the tide, generate positive returns, and contribute significantly to Botswana’s economic trajectory.
- MDCB assures the public that it is closely monitoring the challenges at Minergy (including those sustained by its employees and key contractors). To this end, the appropriate engagements with the relevant stakeholders will continue to be pursued, where feasible, to aid in the resolution of the same. By way of example and with due consideration of the applicable legal and contractual disclosure limitations, MDCB continues to render Minergy with the following assistance:
 - MDCB is coordinating with Minergy and other stakeholders to facilitate the entity’s turnaround through offering high-level support (where appropriate) in the context of engagements with external financiers. The capital procurement efforts are in pursuit of raising sufficient capital to settle the entity’s cited outstanding obligations, to finance the entity’s turnaround efforts, including the execution of key strategic projects required for its long-term sustainability, as well as to fund the entity’s long-term beneficiation goals. Progress has been made in this regard.
 - Furthermore, the Government has approved for MDCB to convert its debt into equity in Minergy to deleverage Minergy’s balance sheet to expedite the capital raising plans, and the process is ongoing.

-End-

For any further details, please contact:

Esther Norris
Chief Corporate Affairs Officer

Landline: +267 3810326
Cellphone: +267 71526383
Email: Norrise@mdcb.co.bw

About Minerals Development Company Botswana

Minerals Development Company Botswana (Pty) Ltd is an investment holding company wholly owned and established by the Government of Botswana to grow, optimise and diversify the Government’s mining and mineral investment portfolio with a view to generating attractive financial returns and contribute to Botswana’s financial security. MDCB also provides advisory services (commercial and technical) to the Government and facilitates the development of the Botswana’s mining and minerals sector. As part of its mandate the company also houses the Government Diamond Valuation (GDV) function responsible for negotiating best prices for the country’s diamonds and deriving optimum value thereof, for the benefit of Batswana.

Minerals Development Company Botswana (Pty) Ltd,
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The revival of Dikgafela in Ranaka symbolises a profound connection to Setswana heritage and highlights the importance of community resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

By Marvin Motlhabane

RANAKA - The revival of Dikgafela in Ranaka symbolises a profound connection to Setswana heritage and highlights the importance of community resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Kgosi Moemedi Telekelo of Ranaka emphasised the significance of the celebration as a moment for Batswana to express gratitude for their

essential crops such as maize, beans and sorghum, which were stored in communal granaries under the chief's supervision.

He said this produce was stored in Difalana, communal granaries that served as vital lifelines during hardships like droughts, with the chief overseeing fair distribution to affected families.

Kgosi Malepa Orekeng pointed out the importance of Dikgafela as a preparatory phase for the Kike cultural festival, underscoring its role in sustaining and promoting Setswana culture.

Ms Monica Telekelo, who is one of the organisers highlighted the challenges posed by climate change, which has led to droughts and diminished agricultural output, prompting the community to focus more on self-sustainability by growing their own crops.

To fully appreciate this event, she said it was essential to delve deeper into its cultural, historical and contemporary significance.

Ms Telekelo's candid admission about halting Dikgafela due to prolonged dry spells highlighted a poignant reality: climate change is eroding traditional practices in Botswana. She said the country has faced severe droughts in recent decades, exacerbated by global warming, leading to reduced crop yields and water scarcity.

Sorghum, a drought-resistant staple central to Setswana cuisine and bojalwa brewing, has become harder to source commercially, prompting the community's shift toward self-cultivation, a proactive step toward sustainability.

Ms Telekelo said this revival in Ranaka 'is not just nostalgic, it is a defiant act of cultural preservation amid environmental pressures.'

She said the revival of Dikgafela was a statement against the backdrop of modern environmental challenges.

"It serves as a platform for educating younger generations about their heritage while also reinforcing community bonds. As such, Dikgafela is not merely an annual event; it represents a collective identity, a commitment to environmental stewardship and a tribute to the resilience of the Batswana culture," she said.

This celebration is a testament to how communities can adapt and thrive even in the face of adversity, ensuring that their traditions endure. **BOPA**

Show promises exhilarating activities

By Banyatsi Banyatsi

KANYE - Botswana's children's entertainer, Michael Sekalaba, affectionately known as Uncle Dipopae is back with the 7th edition of the Uncle Dipopae 1-Man Kids Show, scheduled for September 6 at Warm Hands Hotel in Kanye.

This year's event promises to be bigger and better under the theme: Colour Run in Kanye.

According to Sekalaba, families can expect a full day of exhilarating activities, including: Colour Splash, Foam Party, Swimming, Uncle Dipopae Games, Sack and Egg race, Tug of War, Go-Karts and others.

The charismatic MC Theo will host the show, ensuring endless energy and laughter throughout the day.

Sekalaba said tickets were available at selected fuel stations in Kanye prices ranging from P250 for five people, children single at P50, adults single ticket: P60. The first 300 children will receive free colour powder to enjoy during the Colour Run segment of the event.

He expressed gratitude to Debonairs Pizza for sponsoring the event and appealed to more local businesses to come forward with sponsorship support.

He emphasised that the event not only entertained but also empowered entrepreneurs, with stalls available for small business owners.

Shuttle services are also expected to benefit from transporting attendees to and from the venue.

"This event is also therapeutic for the children. It refreshes their minds from school work and keeps them off the streets," he said.

Sekalaba acknowledged the challenges of organising such a large-scale event, including unpredictable weather, limited venue space, and last-minute ticket purchases.

"The show has grown so much that we now need stadium-sized venues. We are expecting a carnival-style atmosphere this year with even more colourful and exciting activities," he said.

To build momentum for the big day, the organising team will conduct a pre-show activations at various schools. **BOPA**



Michael Sekalaba, affectionately known as Uncle Dipopae is back with the 7th edition of the Uncle Dipopae 1-Man Kids Show, scheduled for September 6 in Kanye. Photo: Banyatsi Banyatsi

Grand Palm brings back Soul Sundays

GABORONE - The Grand Palm Hotel is set to bring back Soul Sundays at The BOMA on August 31.

After a two-year break, the ultimate Sunday afternoon experience promises a memorable day of fun and the event would feature a spectacular performance by Khoi San, alongside DJs Sway, German Dollar, Lerato and DeeJay Mod.

Patrons may also be treated to some of the latest solo material from Khoi San member, Thabang as his solo journey is a path to showcase his creative artistry, not a farewell to the duo.

In addition, guests would enjoy a culinary experience and fine wine, all of which adds to the social warmth of a Sunday.

"Whether you are a long-time Soul Sundays loyalist or a first-time guest, this is the event that will redefine your Sunday experience," said event coordinator, Vincent Roman Matthys. **BOPA**

Ramoreboli unveils provisional squad

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE -With the FIFA World Cup qualifiers looming, Zebras’ head coach, Morena Ramoreboli has unveiled his 38-man provisional squad.

The Zebras, currently third in Group G with nine points, will use the qualifiers not only to climb the ranks but also to prepare for the upcoming AFCON finals billed for Morocco in December.

Although the initial list is extensive, Ramoreboli will narrow it down to 26 players, with new faces like midfielder Phillip Kaku of Township Rollers, Mpho Kgaswane of Gaborone United and Thapelo Mabedi from BDF XI, hoping to make the final cut.

The Zebras are in Group G with Algeria, Mozambique, Uganda, Guinea and Somalia, having secured third place after their wins against Somalia and Guinea in Francistown recently.



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Ramoreboli emphasised that once a player was called up for the national team, the most important thing was to understand that they wore the national colours as a call of duty to the country.

“The most important thing is to respect others and be a team player,” he said.

He urged them to understand that football was not all about talent, but that players must also be prepared to work hard.

“Personally, I always say I would rather choose hard work and discipline over talent, because my understanding is that an individual who is working hard at any given moment will always do well against somebody who is only relying on talent,” he said.

The head coach added that a player should be technically good and coachable.

He also said good preparation took time and required players to quickly adapt to what the coach needed.

“Players must be willing to go the extra mile and they should be mentally ready to

compete and win for the country,” he said.

He further noted that while Botswana may not have big names like other countries, the players needed to earn respect through hard work.

He said his preparation plan focused on mental strength, tactics and physical attributes. He stressed that while they were playing qualifiers, it was important to build a solid team for AFCON.

That, he said, needed individuals who were ready to compete and would gauge their readiness for higher stages like AFCON.

“It might not be easy when you play away, but those are the tests that you need, because they are going to play AFCON far away from home, where maybe opponents might have the advantage of their supporters, so we need to work on that now,” he said.

The Zebras will play Algeria on September 4 at the Stade Hocine Aiy Ahmed in Tizi-Ouzou. Four days later, they will face Mozambique at the Estádio do Zimpeto.

Between October 6 to 14, the Zebras will host Uganda at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown. They will then play against Guinea on a date, venue and time to be confirmed.

BOPA

Goalkeepers

Players	Teams
Goitseone Phoko	Jwaneng Galaxy)
Keagile Kgospula	Mochudi Centre Chiefs
Lesenya Malapela	Orapa United
Kabelo Dambe	Township Rollers

Defenders

Players	Teams
Alford Velaphi	Gaborone United
Mothusi Johnson	Gaborone United
Thato Kebue	Gaborone United
Botsile Sekana	Orapa United
Kemoneetswe Mmangwedi	Orapa United
Benson Mangolo	Richard Bay-South Africa
Tebogo Kopelang	Jwaneng Galaxy
Thabo Leinanyane	Jwaneng Galaxy
Mosha Gaolaolwe	Township Rollers
Bapaletswe Simon	Township Rollers
Shanganani Nganda	Mochudi Centre Chiefs

Midfield

Players	Teams
Gape Mohutsiwa	Mouloudia Club D’Oran
Godiaraone Modingwane	BDF XI
Mothusi Cooper	Township Rollers
Phillip Kaku	Township Rollers
Lebogang Ditsele	Gaborone United
Karabo Phiri	Gaborone United
Mpho Kgaswane	Gaborone United
Phenyo Serameng	Sua Flamengoes
Koketso Majafi	Orapa United
Olebogeng Ramotse	Jwaneng Galaxy
Gilbert Baruti	Mochudi Centre Chiefs
Theo Shadikong	Mochudi Centre Chiefs

Strikers

Players	Teams
Molaodi Tlhalefang	Gaborone United
Thatayaone Kgamanyane	Gaborone United
Thabo Maponda	Gaborone United
Serati Semadi	Sua Flamengoes
Eric Ookame	Orapa United
Ronald Fortune	Mochudi Centre Chiefs
Thero Setsile	Jwaneng Galaxy
Thabang Sesinyi	Jwaneng Galaxy
Losika Ratshukudi	Ubuntu Academy
Thapelo Mabedi	BDF XI

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