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Chairperson of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Malope II (left) and Kgosi Puso of Batlokwa at the official opening of the 4th Meeting of the 5th Ntlo Ya Dikgosi in Gaborone yesterday. Kgosi Malope expressed concern over the persistent rise in gender-based violence cases across the country and emphasised the urgent need for collective action. Photo: Felicity Male

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False asylum claims tarnish Botswana image

By Taboka Ngwako

GABORONE - Botswana citizens now require a visa to enter the United Kingdom, following a rise in false asylum claims and illegal migration.

The change, announced by the UK government on October 14, has sparked concern among Batswana travelling for education, business, and tourism.

High Commissioner to the UK, Mr Shimane Kelaotswe, confirmed the development in an interview with *BOPA*, explaining

that the decision was prompted by incidents of illegal migration earlier this year.

“The UK announced that any Motswana wishing to visit will now need a visa,” he said, adding that the policy was intended to curb irregular migration and false asylum claims.

Mr Kelaotswe highlighted a case in June involving a woman and five men arrested in Southampton, Manchester, Nottingham, Sheffield and Bradford for allegedly bringing fellow Batswana into the UK illegally.

“Initial estimates suggested that around 200 people could have been involved, though the actual number may be higher,” he said.

The High Commissioner also expressed concern over the rising number of asylum claims, which he described as false and harmful to Botswana’s international image. “Currently, 1 329 Batswana are registered as refugees or asylum seekers in the UK. It is hard to imagine refugees coming from a peaceful and stable country like Botswana,” he said.

Mr Kelaotswe further stated that

most claims cited discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender-based violence, or alleged ritual killings, claims he strongly denied.

“One shocking case involved a woman claiming she fled Botswana because she was to be sacrificed in a family ritual and this is false and deeply troubling that a small number of individuals are misrepresenting our country,” Mr Kelaotswe added.

Despite the new visa requirement, the high Mr Kealotswe remained optimistic about bilateral relations.

“The UK government has affirmed the strong relations and cooperation between our countries, which we continue to value,” he said.

He also reassured that the government of Botswana was engaging UK authorities to address

the visa implications and safeguard the reputation of law-abiding citizens travelling abroad.

He said currently, 1 835 Batswana were legally residing in the UK and registered with the Botswana High Commission.

“We are concerned that the actions of a few could unfairly affect many citizens who travel for legitimate reasons, including education, business, and tourism,” said Mr Kelaotswe.

He urged citizens to exercise caution and adhere to legal channels when travelling abroad, while affirming that the government was committed to protecting Botswana’s image internationally. “Botswana remains a peaceful, stable, and law-abiding country and we will continue to ensure that this is reflected in our international relations,” he said. *BOPA*



President Advocate Duma Boko (centre) and dignitaries during the handover of 1 226 former BCL houses to Bonno Housing Programme in Selebi Phikwe on Friday. Speaking at the event, President Boko said their acquisition at a time when the government was faced with financial challenges was a clear indication of fulfilling its commitment to providing housing for people through measurable and quantifiable outcomes. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Stakeholders to hatch modalities of house allocations

By Manowe Motsaathebe

SELEBI PHIKWE - Sharing a sombre memory at a meeting in Selebi Phikwe on Friday President Advocate Duma Boko recalled when, one of the fateful days, a man who was traveling home with a heavy heart after losing his job, and probably more, stopped the truck driver so he could relieve himself in the nearby bush, only for his lifeless body to be found hanging on a tree.

This man and many more former-miners, their dependents and residents of the Selebi Phikwe and peripheries, suffered consequences of the abrupt closure of BCL mine, October 2016.

Owing to the closure of the mine, which was subsequently put under liquidation, some former employees, who saw their dreams deferred and lives thrown into immediate turmoil and confusion, fled the copper-nickel mining town, retracing their steps back to their villages while others stayed put and hoped.

They, through the Botswana Mine Workers Union, engaged with the liquidator and the then government over several issues, like soft-landing, that could help numb the pains of former BCL employees albeit to no success.

While some vacated staff houses voluntarily to look elsewhere, others remained in the houses and faced eviction threats by the liquidator whose part of the job was to sell the houses and other BCL

mine property before wrapping up the liquidation process. The houses were acquired mostly by the financially resourced persons, leaving the former employees not only in the lurch and watching helplessly as their former abode exchanged hands before their eyes.

However, the government intervened and acquired 1 226 houses through the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, the portfolio of which mines fall under.

The ministry then handed-over the housing units in question to the Ministry of Water and Human Settlement under the stewardship of Minister Onneetse Ramogapi.

It is against this backdrop that the government has tasked the affected ministries and the district leadership, under urban development committee, to devise and perfect modalities of allocating the houses to deserving Batswana, not only former BCL employees.

The acquisition of the staff houses and imminent allocation have been dubbed steps in the right direction towards attainment of provision of dignified housing to Batswana.

Speaking at the handover of the houses, President Boko said the acquisition of the houses at a time when the government was faced with financial challenges was a clear indication of fulfilling its commitment to providing housing for people through measurable and quantifiable outcomes.

He assured those who faced threats of eviction that since the

houses belonged to government now, the committee responsible for allocation would not adopt an oppressive approach to dealing with current occupants.

“We will have a different approach that is not going to persecute anyone,” said President Boko on how the current occupants of the acquired houses would be treated as Bonno Housing Scheme receives the houses.

During the handover, there was a general feeling by the attendants which was communicated by Member of Parliament for Selebi Phikwe West, Mr Reuben Kaizer, that there lacked clarity on who was getting the houses and the procedure to be followed.

Some bore that the acquired houses would be distributed to former BCL employees only, a misinterpretation that minister Ramogapi cleared in a post-event interview. Mr Ramogapi said that several factors would be considered to determine ultimate deserving beneficiaries.

“We must be cognizant of the impact of the decisions we will make to people’s lives and as such we will not allocate to just anyone,” said Mr Ramogapi. He cleared that former BCL employees were paid their dues as per their contracts with their former employer.

“That matter has been finalised and closed and what is left here is for us together with the town leadership to determine who deserves these Bonno houses,” Mr Ramogapi said. *BOPA*

By Bonang Masolotat

GABORONE - The International Institute of Certified Forensic Investigation Professionals (IICFIP) Botswana Chapter is scheduled to host a global forensic investigations conference in November, a first for Botswana.

“This prestigious event underscores Botswana’s growing prominence in the field of forensic investigations and its commitment to combating economic and cybercrime,” said IICFIP Botswana Chapter chairperson, Ms Thato Tshupeng-Sambere, during a media briefing, Friday in Gaborone.

She described the conference as an opportunity to address Africa’s challenges in forensic investigations, such as limited resources, capacity building, cybercrime surge, and corruption and financial crimes.

The conference aims to address these by bringing together experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions.

Its objectives include; enhancing forensic capacities, promoting collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocating policy reform,

among others, Ms Tshupeng-Sambere said

The IICFIP Botswana Chapter country director, Mr George Kiilu, said forensic investigations were still developing in the country, adding that the Botswana Chapter had about 100 members.

Furthermore, Mr Kiilu said IICFIP was registered in the US as a professional body, where its headquarters were domiciled, and the local chapter was affiliated to the mother body.

Locally, he said they were registered with the Registrar of Societies and also that the local IICFIP whose members included those in the private and public sectors, aimed to collaborate with other organs.

Mr Kiilu said the chapter would lobby for the advancement of the profession locally, which would include changing policies to establish a legal framework for the registration of members.

Last year’s addition was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Botswana participated.

The 9th IICFIP conference, scheduled from November 17 to 21 in Gaborone, will feature speakers from Botswana, Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria, Uganda, and Malawi, among others. *BOPA*



The International Institute of Certified Forensic Investigation Professionals (IICFIP) Botswana Chapter country director Mr George Kiilu (left) and chairperson, Ms Thato Tshupeng-Sambere during a press briefing in Gaborone on Friday. Ms Tshupeng-Sambere said Botswana would host a global forensic investigations conference in November. She described the conference as an opportunity to address Africa’s forensic challenges in investigations. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

'GBV threatens social stability'

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Chairperson of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Malope II has called for urgent and united action to tackle the growing scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) in Botswana, describing it as a national crisis that continues to traumatised communities and undermine social stability.

Speaking during the official opening of the 4th meeting of the 5th Ntlo Ya Dikgosi in Gaborone on Monday, Kgosi Malope expressed concern over the persistent rise in GBV cases across the country, emphasising the need for collaborative solutions.

"Gender-based violence causes distress in the nation, it is tearing apart the social fabric of our communities and we must come together as government, traditional leaders, civil society and citizens to put an end to it," he said.

He said Botswana Police Service recorded alarming figures between December 19, 2024 and January 2, 2025, adding that there were 60 cases of rape, 19 cases of murder and 13 cases of defilement.

"These statistics paint a deeply troubling picture, this is not just a women's issue or a legal issue, it is a societal crisis and we must all respond with urgency," Kgosi Malope noted.

Kgosi Malope stressed that traditional leaders have a unique role to play in fighting GBV, particularly in influencing cultural attitudes and norms that could either

enable or prevent violence.

"As custodians of culture, we must lead by example and champion values that promote respect, equality and justice, our role is critical in transforming harmful practices and supporting victims," he said.

He further urged the government to continue empowering traditional institutions like Ntlo Ya Dikgosi to be more effective in driving social change at the grassroots level.

Kgosi Malope II also highlighted the ongoing partnership between Ntlo Ya Dikgosi and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), following a successful capacity-building workshop on sexual and reproductive health rights, which was held in June.

He said UNFPA has completed a new resource package to support communities in addressing GBV and promoting gender equity, adding that the package, will be validated during the ongoing Ntlo Ya Dikgosi meeting.

He also expressed gratitude to UNFPA and other key stakeholders including the ministries of Health, Youth and Gender, the Botswana Police Service and Legal Aid Botswana for their continued support.

The Ntlo Ya Dikgosi's two-week session will include debates on the Constitution Amendment Bill 2025, as well as discussions on 98 questions and 12 motions submitted by members. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko taking part in the Botswana Police Commissioner's Run held in Francistown on Saturday. **President Boko urged women to exercise restraint in their language when engaging partners and encouraged men to protect women even when provoked by hurtful words, instead of resorting to violence.** Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Marriage under pressure as divorce cases mount - Boko

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - With approximately 2 000 divorce cases pending at the high courts, the marriage institution is clearly stressed.

Speaking during the second edition of the Botswana Police Commissioners' Run in Francistown, Saturday, President Advocate Duma Boko said the figure did not account for many individuals who remained in unhappy marriages.

Many feel trapped due to fears related to divorce, among them potential social stigma and disapproval from their communities, President Boko said.

As a legal expert, President Boko advised those considering marriage to opt for an arrangement outside of the

community of property.

"Please get married out of community of property so that when the time comes for you to go, your difficulties will be lessened," he said and explained that opting for out of community of property regime could help facilitate smoother separation, reducing hostility and violence typically associated with disputes over shared property.

Regarding the emotional toll of unhappy marriages, President Boko recommended that couples seek counselling from family members, friends, or religious leaders when faced with relationship challenges, stressing that the decision to remain or part ways rested with the individuals involved. Ending a relationship is not necessarily a sign of failure, President Boko said.

He also talked about the ongoing societal impact of marital tensions, including their contribution to incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) and other forms of violence.

President Boko said that anger often escalated to tragic consequences, including murder, when heated words were exchanged between partners.

"Words are like weapons. They wound and can injure someone irreparably," he said and called for respectful communication even amidst conflict. To men, President Boko urged a departure from the inclination toward violence and encouraged them to be calm, even in the face of provocation, as a demonstration of true manhood that encompassed protection and safety.

He said that fostering a safe and nurturing environment for children was crucial, as they often emulated the behaviour they observed.

"Children raised in a hostile and inhospitable environment copy our behaviors," he warned.

In addition to addressing marital challenges, President Boko acknowledged the pressing issue of youth unemployment.

He indicated that his administration was committed to collaborating with young people to develop solutions, particularly within the creative industry.

He said Cabinet had resolved to increase the budget for content procurement at Botswana Television (Btv) from P2 million to P200 million, a move expected to create approximately 8 000 jobs for the youth. Police commissioner, Ms Dinah Marathe emphasised the importance of community safety, particularly concerning youth. She stressed the Botswana Police Service's commitment to addressing rising GBV and related issues through initiatives such as the commissioner's run and called on civil society, industries, government stakeholders, and the public to take action. **BOPA**

Visits strengthen economic partnerships

GABORONE - President Advocate Duma Boko is on working visits to Muscat, Oman; Ras Al Khaimah and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as Geneva, Switzerland.

A press release from the Office of the President says the visits, which effected from October 19 and end October 29, aim to attract strategic investment and strengthen economic partnerships in key sectors aligned with Botswana's development priorities.

The release states that President Boko will engage in high-level talks in Oman and the UAE with various institutions, including the Oman Investment Authority and private investors.

"The talks will focus on opportunities and investment in financial services, minerals development, infrastructure and agriculture," adds the release.

Botswana's continued engagement in the Gulf region is expected to unlock enhanced government and

business collaborations, to drive economic diversification and sustainable employment creation in Botswana.

The release further states that the President's investment promotion engagements in Switzerland will take place from October 25 to 29, where he will meet with international CEOs, entrepreneurs and investors, to explore opportunities and enhanced partnerships in the financial services, infrastructure, energy and

telecommunications sectors.

President Boko is accompanied by senior government officials, and they are expected to return to Gaborone on October 29.

Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa is the Acting President until today, and thereafter, upon the return of the Vice President from the IMF meeting, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, will serve as the Acting President for the remainder of President Boko's absence. **BOPA**

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Published by: Department of Information Services.

Plot 37795 Wellie-Seboni Drive.

Private Bag BR 139 Gaborone.

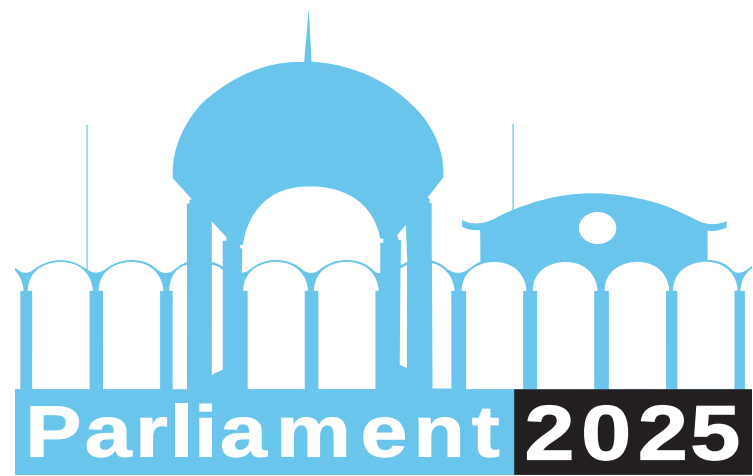
Printed by: Government Printing and Publishing Services

Online Edition: <https://dailynews.gov.bw>

email: bopa@gov.bw

email: dailynews@gov.bw

Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.



The Minister of Sport and Arts, Mr Jacob Kelebens has told Parliament that government was on a mission to position Botswana as a global hub for sport, culture and creative industries hence the move to invest an estimated P6.7 billion toward the sectors.

Govt to invest P6.7bn in sport, creative industry

By Kehumile Moekejo

GABORONE - Government is intending to invest an estimated P6.7 billion in sport and creative industry development infrastructure during National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12).

The investment will support the sectors to grow significantly during the plan period.

Presenting the sport and creative sector proposed priorities for NDP 12 to Parliament on Thursday, Minister of Sport and Arts, Mr Jacob Kelebens said the objective was to position Botswana as a global hub for sport, culture and creative industries.

He said the sector was expected to grow above 5.46 per cent by 2030, an improvement from 3.3 per cent in 2022 and 4.3 per cent in 2023. He noted that while the country was making strides in sport particularly athletics, there was need to support athletes through incentives and other resources to promote further growth. In addition to job creation, he said creative arts contributed to various cultural and social aspects of communities.

“The creative industries preserve Botswana’s cultural identity, enables inter-generational knowledge transfer, promote national pride and identity, as well as social cohesion. The industry holds significant potential for economic growth, job creation and the preservation of Botswana’s rich cultural heritage,” he said.

He noted that the creative industry, which included arts, entertainment, marketing,

creative tourism and cultural goods and services, contributed 5.6 per cent to the GDP.

Minister Kelebens said such activities were instrumental in creating direct and indirect job opportunities for Batswana.

Subsequently, he noted that government made a deliberate decision to include the creative industry in NDP to formalise its operations and stimulate its growth.

“Therefore, its deliberate inclusion in NDP 12 serves to formalise the industry and demonstrate the government’s commitment to unlocking its potential for exponential growth,” he noted. Furthermore, the minister said the country’s efforts in supporting sport and creative arts contributed toward positioning it as a hub for hosting sporting and creative operations and activities.

He said hosting the World Athletics Relays next year was a major milestone for Botswana, demonstrating capacity for hosting international events, while at the same time serving as a tourism destination for the internal community.

Notwithstanding, Mr Kelebens said lack of comprehensive framework to support the sport and creative industries contributed to its underdevelopment.

“A number of cross cutting challenges in the sector which include regulatory framework, inadequate funding, monitoring and evaluation and reporting systems stifle the growth of the sector, resulting in inaccurate reporting, especially its contribution to the GDP.

The reporting system is not standardised across agencies and the value chain contribution remain accounted for,” he added.

While he regretted that substance abuse and prolonged suspension of school sports hampered sport growth, he noted that the government would prioritise sustaining the sector through stakeholder partnership, cultural heritage creative industries and sport tourism in order to position Botswana as a global hub for sport, culture and creative industry for sustainable economic growth. He underscored the need to review policy frameworks, including enabling regulations for private sector participation in propelling the sector.

Mr Kelebens also said policies and guidelines aimed at athletes’ welfare development, sport funding, sport education accreditation system and sport integrity instruments would be reviewed. He noted that reviewing such frameworks would not only increase job opportunities but would also enhance resilience and economic diversification.

Mr Kelebens said there was need to expand and decentralise services and facilities such as theatres, cinemas and studios to accord communities equal opportunities. To that effect, he said enclosed in the NDP 12 was construction of community sport stadiums, outdoor recreational centres in remote areas, national horse race course, refurbishment of sport facilities, digitalisation of national art collection, among others. **BOPA**

MPs call for equitable distribution of resources

By Kehumile Moekejo

GABORONE - Members of Parliament have implored government to strive for equitable distribution of resources and infrastructure developments across the country to empower

communities to play a role in growing the sport and creative arts sectors.

Their Friday contributions on the proposed developments in the sport and creative industry in the National Development Plan (NDP) 12 follows a presentation by Minister of Sport and Arts, Mr Jacob Kelebens.

The legislators were optimistic that the sector has potential to contribute toward employment creation and economic diversification, provided it received the necessary recognition and support.

Chobe MP, Mr Simasiku Mapulanga said centralising all developments around Gaborone limited economic growth and optimal exposure of all sectors with the potential to generate income for the country.

“We are still failing to decentralise the infrastructure. Next year the World Athletics Relays will be coming to Gaborone, yet we do not have adequate facilities for accommodation, recreation and tourism purposes in the city,” he said.

He said there was need to distribute and also expand sport infrastructure to equally benefit Batswana in all their localities. He said there should be mini sport stadia and other sporting infrastructure in primary schools across the country.

MP for Thamaga/Kumakwane, Mr Palelo Motaosane said government should invest in developing sport facilities in different areas across the country to afford young people the equal opportunity to unearth their talent.

He also noted that while the plan should address pending projects, the ministry should consider the construction of a new national stadium to avoid further cost implications incurred in regular maintenance of the national stadium.

Additionally, Mr Motaosane said the plan should also target other sporting codes, other than athletics and football.

He also said grassroots development should be supported through sport academies and school sports.

“Let us support Batswana who have initiatives intended to groom young people through sport academies. Let us also engage teachers who are skilled and passionate about coaching children to develop their talents, instead of looking for coaches outside,” he said.

Mogoditshane East MP, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang noted that hosting World Relays should motivate government to establish well equipped sport facilities.

Mr Barongwang said the government should implement programmes which will address unemployment and drug abuse, which were currently on the increase, especially in highly populated cosmopolitan areas like Mogoditshane.

“Mogoditshane, which has a vibrant youth, can be used

for a pilot youth development centre intended for recreation and counselling services, in the wake of high unemployment and drug abuse among the youth,” he noted.

For his part, MP for Bobirwa Mr Taolo Lucas said NDP should desist from adopting the centre periphery approach, which he said centred developments in big cities and villages.

He said this approach further increased development gaps between urban and rural areas, hence failing to address economic challenges in rural areas.

Mr Lucas said local communities should also be accorded the opportunity to play a role in developing facilities in their areas, through collaborations with the government and other stakeholders.

He noted that school facilities should cater for various sporting codes to target different talents possessed by young people.

Charleshill legislator, Mr Motsamai Motsamai implored the government to provide resources that will empower local communities to formalise natural talents and indigenous knowledge.

He said the creative sector had the potential to generate income and uplift lives, particularly for people in less developed and rural communities.

“There is a lot of natural talent and indigenous knowledge in our local communities but they need to be supported and their talents brought to formal platforms for them to grow.

We need to take resources closer to these people as a way of creating an inclusive economy,” he said.

Responding to legislators debate, Minister Kelebens said consultations had began to establish a Sport and Recreation Act which would comprehensively incorporate various sport bodies and ensure better coordination.

Mr Kelebens noted that while sport development centres and mini stadia would be established in various areas, the World Relays would be hosted in Gaborone in line with international standards requirements.

“The requirements are that we should have a certified track which we are currently preparing at the national stadium,” he explained.

Mr Kelebens further noted that as part of reviewing incentives, plans were underway to establish a sport fund that would assist in improving rewards. He said this would be achieved in collaboration with the private sector. He said even though some schools had already made strides in starting the school sport programme, the full integration was expected at the beginning of next year.

He noted that his ministry would collaborate with the lead ministry to implement the programme. **BOPA**

‘Agriculture priority under NDP 12’

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Agriculture is a prioritised sector under the NDP 12 because of its strong linkages with the rest of the economy and its potential to create jobs, sustain livelihoods and contribute to GDP growth

Presenting the draft NDP 12 Lands and Agriculture sector to Parliament, Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti said the new direction in the agricultural sector would move Botswana from subsidy driven dependency toward enterprise driven empowerment.

He noted that this would align agriculture with national

objectives of economic diversification, food sovereignty and employment creation. Key enablers for this transformation, Dr Dikoloti said included the policy and legal reforms, agricultural financing and insurance, research development as well as Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). He said the sector remained guided by critical cross sectorial priorities that reinforced inclusivity and sustainability.

Dr Dikoloti thus highlighted that the True North was to transform Botswana’s agriculture into a diversified, resilient and export-oriented sector that achieves food security, reduces imports and

drives economic growth. This, he said was anchored on livestock production and processing, agricultural production and land resource management.

“Some of the proposed programmes expected to transform the sector over the medium-term include promoting the use of agricultural technology to enhance productivity through the use of precision farming, smart water management systems and soil enhancement technologies,” he said.

He indicated that government was also keen to provide support for small-scale farmers to ensure their accessibility to resources, training and financing needed to

succeed.

Dr Dikoloti also cited that they would be cultivation and export of medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp to facilitate the innovative use of hemp-based materials like hempcrete, hemp bricks and hemp fibre panels. Additionally, he said water security was an area of priority through borehole development, rain water harvesting and irrigation infrastructure particularly under the Agro-Zambezi project.

Outlining some of the key national priorities, Dr Dikoloti stated that government would promote commercialisation and diversification of agriculture adding that the diversification agenda was anchored on the production and export of key agricultural commodities like dairy production, livestock and horticultural production as well as fodder production.

He noted that the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) remained a critical player in the animal

health and bio-security. He said efforts were underway to improve operational efficiencies through increased plant availability and enhancing regulatory compliance with the goal to expand vaccine production capacity and transform BVI into a competitive multinational enterprise.

Dr Dikoloti said government would within the NDP 12 framework establish an agricultural finance and insurance facility to strengthen access to finance.

“This institution would provide structure, transparent and market orientated solutions including insured loans, crop and livestock insurance, drought relief mechanisms and flexible loan payment schemes as well as credit life insurance,” said Dr Dikoloti.

Such interventions, he said would safeguard farmers from unforeseen shocks while improving sector resilience. **BOPA**



Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti said the new direction in the agriculture sector would move Botswana from subsidy driven dependency toward enterprise empowerment.

Saleshando decries inadequate youth tailored consultations

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Mr Dumelang Saleshando has pleaded with government to consider incorporating Youth Parliament in the country’s development strategies.

Contributing to the debate on the general principles of the National development Plan 12 draft document, Mr Saleshando decried of inadequate consultation of young people by government when drafting the NDP 12.

He cited that it was disappointing for the youth not to be consulted in the planning process despite being voices that could lead to better-tailored policies.

“I am certain that young people in Maun and other parts of the country were not involved in the planning process and I need to highlight that involving young people brings diverse and innovative perspectives to the table, leading to smarter more inclusive decisions and strengthening overall institutional credibility,” he said.

Mr Saleshando urged government to create a conducive environment for private investment and growth by removing bureaucratic obstacles, and establishing a fair regulatory

framework.

He said though the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) fully supported social democracy, the onus was on the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) lead government to support private sector development but cautioned government to avoid excessive state intervention that could hinder innovation and growth.

Mr Saleshando, who is also Maun North legislator cautioned government against luring foreign investors without any trail of success.

Additionally, he also said the UDC government was failing to fulfil manifesto promises.

“It is disappointing that the NDP 12 draft is silent on a lot UDC manifesto promises and there are no timelines to many of the proposed projects. One of the key features of the old Botswana was making unattainable promises and we cannot be having a government that is quick to make pledges and do the opposite,” he said.

Gaborone Central MP, Dr Phenyio Butale applauded the NDP 12 draft saying it was a product of extensive consultation.

He said it was testament that government was committed to upholding strict micro economic discipline to continue promoting structural transformation that

energised the private sector.

Mr Butale noted that it was also impressive that the country’s ration of debt to GDP had remained under 30 per cent, something that would boost investor confidence.

Tlokweg legislator, Mr Phenyio Segokgo highlighted the need for commitment from all spheres of government to ensure the effective delivery of the plan.

He called for an in-depth public service reforms to spearhead and ensure the success of NDP 12.

When contributing to the debate, Kgatleng East MP, Mr Mabuse Pule credited the former ruling party, BDP for laying a solid foundation ideal for the transformation of the country’s economy through sound policies and creating and enabling environment for private sector to thrive.

Mr Pule nonetheless indicated that the growth of a private sector led economy partly depended on revamping of SMMEs thus calling for re-introduction of Chema Chema funding and other SMMEs development geared programmes.

He also expressed displeasure on the exclusion of the Malolwane-Mmaphashalala road on the NDP 12 draft despite the approval of the proposed project in NDP 11. **BOPA**

Parliament approves draft NDP 12 General Principles

By Kehumile Moekejo

GABORONE - Parliament on Thursday approved General Principles of the draft National Development Plan (NDP) 12.

The General Principles under chapters one, two and seven of the draft plan were presented by Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa.

The five-year plan, which spans between 2025/2026 and 2029/2030 financial years has an estimated budget of P388 billion.

Contributing to the debate, Okavango East MP, Mr Gabatsholwe Disho underscored the need to prioritise job creation for Batswana, particularly in his constituency which he said was one of the poorest in the country.

He also noted that rampant stock theft in his constituency affected their contribution to the government’s proposed target of five million national cattle herd in five years.

Mr Disho further said owing to poor workmanship by citizen companies, the road construction project planned for his constituency should be awarded to a Namibian company. He said the move would ensure the project was delivered in good quality, within budget and stipulated time frame.

Shoshong MP, Mr Moneedi Bagaisamang said the draft NDP 12 was the government’s commitment to deliver a new Botswana. However, he said there was need to ensure effective implementation towards a diversified economy and transformed livelihoods.

Optimistic that the NDP 12 would transform the economy, Serowe West MP, Mr Onalepelo Kedikilwe underscored the need to guard against corruption by

adopting robust public sector reforms.

For his part, Moshupa/Manyana MP, Mr Karabo Gare said the plan should clearly outline how the P388 billion plan would be funded, considering the current economic situation.

Mr Gare also underscored the need to consider the Pitseng-Ralekgetho-Moshupa road in the plan, adding that the road would improve accessibility in his constituency.

MP for Lentsweletau/Lephephe, Mr Tshenolo Bogatsu appreciated that the plan promoted entrepreneurship and reduced dependency on government. Consequently, he implored Batswana to position themselves for opportunities and invest in commercialising their enterprises.

He also said the agricultural sector should be given priority to maximise job creation through its value chains.

Responding to the debates, Mr Mohwasa noted that the plan was aligned with the government’s promises to Batswana.

He said the private-sector led transformation model would be largely funded by the private sector to ensure economic growth and poverty eradication.

“The state of our economy affects how the government deliver services to the people and therefore the budget for this plan will be largely funded from the private sector. We need to give the private sector opportunities to invest in order to grow our economy and create job opportunities for Batswana and eradicate poverty. We also need an agile public service that will facilitate investors through creating a conducive environment,” he said. **BOPA**

Accurate data vital for national policy

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Botswana has taken a significant step forward in strengthening its data infrastructure and promoting evidence-based decision-making.

Speaking at a seminar, organised to discuss emerging issues and strategies under the Second Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics (BSDSII) in Gaborone on Thursday, Ministry of Finance acting secretary for Macro Economics, Dr Sayed Timuno emphasised the vital role of accurate data in shaping national policy.

Dr Timuno said BSDS II marked a pivotal moment in the nation's commitment to transforming statistics into a powerful tool for sustainable development, governance and accountability.

"A decision without data is like a journey without a map, you may keep moving, but you will not know where you are going. Botswana's path to transformation requires reliable official statistics," said Dr Timuno.

He said the BSDS II, launched as a blueprint for strengthening the production, coordination and utilisation of statistics across government sectors, aimed to support key national frameworks such as Vision 2036, Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) and continental and global commitments such as the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr Timuno said unlike previous strategies, BSDS II reflected an inclusive, bottom-up approach, with the number of mainstreamed sectors rising from nine to 12.

He commended Statistics Botswana and all stakeholders for adopting the participatory model, adding that "the strategy is not for Statistics Botswana alone, it is ours," hence called on permanent secretaries and chief executive officers to take full ownership of their sector-specific statistical strategies.

Dr Timuno further reminded participants that while some data was transmitted to Statistics Botswana, much remained siloed within ministries, whom he appealed to, to analyse and disseminate their data under the guidance of Statistics Botswana, to enhance consistency, transparency and trust in government reporting.

"These sector-specific reports must become the official sources of indicators for planning,

monitoring and reporting," he said.

Highlighting the importance of sustainable investment in data, Dr Timuno also called for ministries to integrate statistical planning into their budgeting cycles.

"Implementation requires resources," he noted, while also recognising the vital support of development partners in bridging financing and technical capacity gaps.

Dr Timuno also emphasised that building a robust National Statistical System (NSS) was a collective effort, dependent on coordination, collaboration and leadership.

"Every revolution needs champions and the statistics revolution is no different. As permanent secretaries, you are the chief stewards of this transformation," he said and called for culture change, that statistics should be viewed not merely as technical outputs, but as tools that reflected the realities of Batswana.

Statistician general, Dr Khaufela Lekobane said the BSDS II, followed successful implementation of the first strategy (BSDS I: 2015–2020) and aimed to further strengthen statistical capacity across sectors and integrate data into all stages of the development planning cycle.

Dr Lekobane highlighted that Botswana's economic transformation depended heavily on evidence-based planning, adding that without credible, timely and comparable data, progress could not be measured, monitor policies effectively or achieve sustainable development.

He also highlighted that while Statistics Botswana played a central coordinating role, the production and use of statistics was a shared responsibility among all ministries, departments and institutions.

"Data is not a by-product of development, it is the foundation, ministries and departments must view themselves not only as users but also as producers of statistical data, this requires investment in both human and financial resources," said Dr Lekobane.

The seminar also provided a platform to renew high-level commitment to strengthening Botswana's National Statistical System and to ensure that the BSDS II translates from strategy into tangible development outcomes, by reinforced the collective resolve to build a more robust, responsive and integrated data ecosystem that supports Botswana's vision for inclusive growth and long-term transformation. **BOPA**



Ministry of Finance acting secretary for Macroeconomics, Dr Sayed Timuno (left) and Statistics Botswana statistician general Dr Khaufelo Lekobane during the Second Botswana Strategy for Development of Statistics seminar in Gaborone on Thursday. Photo: Teko Letsholo

Kenewendo updates on BCL liquidation, final closure

By Manowe Motsaathebe

SELEBI PHIKWE - Ministries of Labour and Home Affairs and that of Minerals and Energy have on their tables the liquidation protection fund and rehabilitation protection fund respectively, to help in future mine closures.

While the ministry of Labour and Home Affairs was seized with finalising the liquidation protection fund, which would ensure that employees were not left in lurch when mines closed, the ministry of Minerals and Energy was ensuring that funds for safe closure of mines were available when liquidated mines were left open and unsafe, minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo has said.

Speaking at an event to handover former BCL employees houses at Sam Sono Stadium, Friday, Minister Kenewendo said that the ministries would work continually with the task team to conclude the winding down processes at BCL mine in the rightful manner while continually endeavouring to resuscitate the ailing economy of Selebi-Phikwe and the nation at large.

On other matters, minister Kenewendo said that not only did government acquire houses of

former BCL employees, but also managed to buy the farm that was used for mango planting and the BCL lab which had been handed over to Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI). The lab will be converted into a metallurgical lab to carryout sample test.

The minister also informed the meeting attendants about some of the former BCL property that has been successfully sold by the liquidator.

The state of the art smelter, highly regarded in the southern hemisphere, has been sold as scrap metal.

Other sold properties include concentrator, BCL hospital, mechanical workshops, fuel depot, earthmoving workshop amongst other things.

However, Ms Kenewendo said, some sold property were yet to reach financial close as they had been acquired but were yet to be handed over to the new owners. When handed over to owners, the minister expressed optimism that jobs could still be created if and when government worked together with the new property owners.

"We discovered that the last time we were here, most of the property has been sold and we had to devise ways to better the lives of the residents of this town,

identify what was left and how best we can put them to good use," minister Kenewendo said and added that acquisition of the staff houses required expedited, undivided attention.

In addition to acquiring staff houses, minister Kenewendo added that care and maintenance of south east extension shaft would be done in order to address the frequent earth tremors that residents complained about.

Resultantly, BGI came on board to measure and gauge seismic movement and tremors while also finding ways to stabilise them.

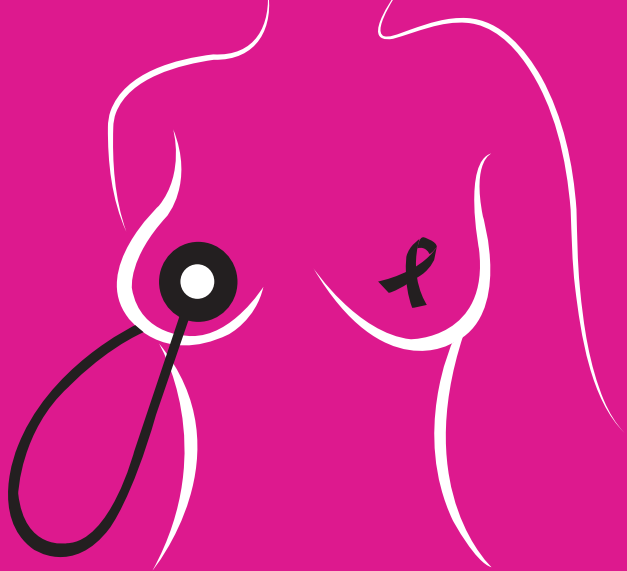
Further, a decision was taken to flood shaft three, south east extension, with the hope that the interventions will help reduce the amount of money required for regular care and maintenance.

However, the minister warned that the care and maintenance did not mark the final and official closure of the mine saying the mine still needed to be closed properly to reduce potential dangers to the town and neighbouring villages.

"We have people charged with the mandate to close off the mine safely and ensure that property that we can still benefit from are placed in the right hands," she said. **BOPA**

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‘Kgotle sekao sa tshireletsego’

Ka Goweditswe Kome

NLAPKWHANE - Go bulwa semmuso ga leobo la kgotle kwa Nlapkhwane ke sekao sa tshireletsego ka ke go ne kwa dikgotlhang di rarabololwang teng ka go buisana, ntle le dikgoka.

A ke mafoko a ga mothusa tona wa lephata la tlamelo ya bana le thuto go tswa kwa moding, Rre Justin Hunyepa, fa a ne a bua kwa tirong eo ka Labotlhano, a tlhalosa fa kgotle, e le kwa dipharologanyo di nnang tsone di bopaganyang morafe e seng go o kgaoganya.

“Fa re re bopaganang, re raya gore le bone kgolo ya sennela ruri. Re lemoga gore tswelopele e nnela ruri fa re gola mmogo re le seoposengwe,” Rre Hunyepa a supa.

Rre Hunyepa a re popagano ga go tewe go tshwana mme e ka tsewa e le batho ba ba farologaneng, ba dira mmogo gape ba tsamaisana ka megopolo mo go se se dirwang.

A re lefatshe leno ga le a bolo go itsewe ka kagiso, mme kagiso e, e tshwanetse go tswela e godisiwa ka go amogela le go tlotlana, bogolo jang mo metlheng ya gompiano ya tiriso ya maranyane.

Rre Hunyepa a re kgotle e letlelela dipuisano go tswa mo ngwaneng kana mogolo mme megopolo e sekasekwe pele tshwetso e tsewa. Gape, a re kgotle e somarela ngwao ka go e fetisetse kwa dikokomaneng mme

gape e ka dirisiwa go dira ditiro tsa morafe.

Kgosi Mukani Mudongo wa Nlapkhwane, o tlhalositse fa go agiwa ga leobo go ne go se motlhofo ka madi a ne a tlhabela mme, lorato le popagano ya morafe di ne tsa ba kgontsha.

Modulasetilo wa ditlhabololotsa motse, Rre Simeon Matshangole o supile fa mo malobeng, dikgotla e ne e le mabala fela go dirisiwa meriti ya ditlhare jaaka kgotle.

A re, e ne e re fa go le pula, go seke go nne le sepe se se dirwang mme puso ya bona go le botlhokwa go thusa ka madi a go tlhabolola dikgotla ka dikago tsa sennela ruri. **BOPA**



Kgosi Mukani Mudongo (molemeng) le Mothusa Tona wa lephata la tlamelo ya bana le thuto go tswa kwa moding, Rre Justin Hunyepa kwa pulong semmuso ya leobo la kgotle la Nlapkhwane ka Labotlhano. Rre Hunyepa o tlhalositse fa kgotle e le kwa dipharologanyo e nnang tsone di bopaganyang morafe e seng go o kgaoganya. Senepe. Goweditswe Kome

Kolotsana e tokafatsa botshelo jwa ga Matsentsela

Ka Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN - Kgosi Cathrine Matlhare wa kgotle ya Disana kwa Maun o kgothaditse Batswana go tswela ba supa mowa o montle wa go kgathala ka matshelo a ba ba tlhokang.

Kgosi o buile se bosheng fa Rre Thatayaone Reitseng a abela mogodi, Mme Bakae Matsentsela, kolotsana, go tokafatsa botshelo jwa gagwe. A re o eletsa fa banana ba ka tsaya malebela ka go kgathala ka matshelo a batsadi ba bone, a supa fa seo e le se se

thailweng ke bagolo ba pele ka ba ne ba itse gore matlo go sha mabapi.

Kgosi Matlhare o supile fa kolotsanaa e, e tlaa tlhfofoaletsa Mme Matsentsela botshelo.

E ne yare a amogela mpho, Mme Matsentsela a supa boitumelo.

“Kolotsana e, e tlaa dira gore botshelo jwame bo nne botoka ka ke tlaa kgona go dira tsothe tse neng ke sa di kgone,” Mme Matsentsela a supa.

Morwadie, Mme Gabogolelwe Matsentsela, o tlhalositse fa mmaagwe a ne a sokola mo a neng

a tlamega go mmelega fa a mo isa kwa kokelong.

A re go ne go le thata, mme a leboga Rre Reitseng go thusa mmaagwe ka kolotsana ka e tlaa tlhfofofatsa metsamao ya gagwe.

Rre Reitseng ene o boletse fa a ne a bona tshokolo ya ba lelwapa leo mme ka gore Mme Matsentsela o nnile le seabe mo kgolong ya gagwe, a bona a tshwanelwa ke go mo leboga. **BOPA**



Mme Bakae Matsentsela morago ga go abelwa kolotsana ke Rre Thatayaone Reitseng kwa Maun bosheng. Mme Matsentsela a re kolotsana eo, e tlaa tlhfofofatsa motsamao wa gagwe. Senepe: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

Mokgatlho o thusa banana ka dikitso le maele

Ka Cathrine Simane

TSABONG - Mosimolodi wa mokgatlho wa Benggae Youth in Business Organanisation (BYBO), Rre Temo Yuyi o gwetlhile banana go inakanya le kgwebo, go tokafatsa le go tlhabolola matshelo a bone mo nakong eno ya letlhoko la ditiro.

Rre Yuyi a re BYBO e kwadisitswe semmuso ka 2023 ebile e na le maloko a le masome a mabedi le borataro go tswa kwa dikgaolong tse di farologaneng, e leng banana mme tsholofelo ke go oketsa dipalo.

O boletse fa maikaeleo a phuthego ya BYBO kwa Tsabong ka Labotlhano e ne e le go etsise le go tsibosa banana ga mmogo le morafe ka mokgatlho o, o maikaelelo a o ne e leng go ntsha banana mo mebileng, go itsa gore ba inakanya le ditiro tsa botlhoka tsebe.

A re le fa o sena dithuso tsa madi, moonoo mogolo wa o ne ke go thusa banana ka dikitso le maele, go ba fetola ditlhaloganyo go ikemela ka dinao ba itirele, go itlhamela ditiro le go godisa dikgwebo tsa bone ka go dira jalo go ka thusa go itepatepanya le diemo tsa botshelo le go nna le seabe mo itsholelong ya lefatshe.

Rre Yuyi o supile fa BYBO e le mokgatlho o ikemetse mme o kopa dithuso mo dikhamphaneng, makalana a a farologaneng, go diragatsa maitlamo a o ne.

A re maikaelelo ke go tshwaragana le puso, go thusa banana go itebaganya le dikgwebo tse di ka dirang sentle mo dikgaolong tsa bone, bogolo jang ba ba kgakala le ditlamelo.

O boletse fa e tlaare Ngwanaatsela a le lesome le bosupa go fitlha masome a mabedi le bone, mokgatlho o bo o le mo letsholong go simolodisa

lenaneo la Youth in Remote Areas Community Outreach Programme kwa kgaolong ya Tsabong.

Rre Yuyi o tlhalositse fa ba tlaa simolola ka go tlhalosetsa banana mo metseng le metsana ka moonoo le maikaelelo a mokgatlho le bomosola jwa o ne mo go bone.

Leloko la BYBO, Mme Kgalalelo Tlalenyane wa Lianoma Foundation kwa Molepolole o tlhalositse fa ba thusa banana gammogo le ba ba ikopantseng le go itshwaraganya le barekisi ba mafatshe a mangwe ka maranyane, ka e le o ne konokono mo nakong ya gompiano. O ne a supa fa gape mokgatlho o thusa ka go ruta banana go ikopela dithuso tsa madi mo dikhamphaneng le kwa mafatsheng a a kwa ntle tota.

Kgosi David Toto II wa Tsabong o rotloeditse banana kwa kgaolong ya Tsabong go inakanya le dikgwebo go itirela bokamoso. **BOPA**

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NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNER OF PLOT 1222, at Metsimotlhabe wishes to change land use from residential to multi-residential. For quiries contact 71316191

OWNER OF PLOT 6211 Kazungula wishes to change land use from residential use to commercial use. For any objection, contact Chobe District Council Physical Planning Office at Telephone No. + 267 625 0276 within 14 days from this publication notice.

OWNER OF PLOT 6356 TSHIMOTHARO want to change it from residential to commercial. Any queries contact Gaborone physical planning or 75 375 621. 75 649 179

OWNER OF LOT 4761 TLOKWENG, wishes to change land use from residential to multi-family residential. Any objection should be forwarded to Tlokweng District Council Physical Planning Office on 369 5002.

OWNER OF PLOT 24189 BLOCK 9 want to change it from residential to commercial. Any queries contact Gaborone physical planning or 75375621. 75 649 179

CHANGE OF LAND USE. The owner of ploughing field, Llara Masimo, Ramotswa wishes to change land use from agriculture to mixed use-tourism. Any objections be forwarded to South east district council physical planning department on 538 1200

OWNER OF PLOT 1384 would like to inform owners of Plot 160 & 154 that they are changing land use from single family to multi-family in Batlokwa ward, Tlokweng. For enquiry contact physical planning at 369 5096

TSWANA BYTES (PTY) LTD, the owner of integrated farm situated at Mmadikagala, Mmadinare would like to change the use of the plot from agriculture to agricultural mixed use (agriculture & commercial). Any objections should forwarded to the owner or Bobirwa District Council - Physical Planning Office on 261 9274

OWNER OF PLOT 18349 at Moganetsi ward in Mochudi would like to change land use from single family to multi-famil. For enquiry please contact physical planning office at 577 3512.

PLOT OWNER OF PLOT 5367 Kazungula intends to apply for change of land use from residential to commercial (self catering). Anyone with questions contact Chobe district council physical planning office on 625 0275

OWNER OF PLOT 1091, Nata wishes to apply for change of land use from residential to commercial (self catering). Anyone with questions kindly contact Tutume district council physical planning office on 298 7232

OWNER OF PLOT 6484, Kazungula intends to apply for change of land use from residential to commercial (guest house). Anyone with questions can contact Chobe district council physical planning office on 625 0275

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN ESHFT 00000421-23|000356|24-25

FIRST AND FINAL DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

IN THE ESTATE of the late **GAOBOELWE SETSHWAELA - ESHFT000421-23| 000356|24-25** who died at Central District on the **23rd October 2022**

NOTICE IS HEREBY First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above Estate will lie open for inspection at the chambers of the Assistant Registrar and Master of the High Court Francistown for period of **twenty – one (21) days** from the date of the second publication thereof.

Dated at francistown this 9th day of February 2023

Executor Dative | Olivia Setshwaela
P. O. Box 4, Thabala

AND TO: Master of the High Court
Private Bag F13, FRANCISTOWN

NOTICE FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy Of **Deed No: 29/2006 dated 10th day** of January 2006. made in favour of Letlapa Gabotlane in respect of:

CERTAIN: Piece of land being Lot 3771, Ghanzi
SITUATED: in the Ghanzi administrative District
MEASURING: 395m² Three hundred and ninety five square meter
HELD UNDER: certificate of Registered State Title No. 2305/2005
All persons having objection to the issue of such a copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, PRIVATE BAG 0020 GABORONE within three (3) weeks of the last publication of this notice hereof.
DATED AT Gaborone ON THIS 2nd DAY OF October 2025
Letlapa Gabotlane
APPLICANT

NOTICE OF LOST DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of deed **no. FT 211/2022 dated 09/05/2022** made in favour of **Felicity Motlagomang Sebina** in respect of:

CERTAIN: Piece of land being Lot 14721, Selebi Phikwe
SITUATE: In Selebi Phikwe Administrative District
MEASURING: 375 m² (Three Hundred and Seventy Five Square Metres)

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

Dated: 25/09/2025

PROPERTIES

INDUSTRIAL PLOT (1500sqm) for sale in Shoshong, along Mahalapye road. Price P110k. Contact 75225757

ADVERTS
365 3593
365 3599

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CHANGE MARITAL PROPERTY REGIME (In Terms of Section 8 (1) of the Married Persons Property Act, 2014)

1.MRS SENTHO SETOUTWE (Nee SEEISO) and MR SAMUEL SETHOKGO SETOUTWE, married in community of property on the 3rd October, 2013 at Molepolole, wish to change their marital property regime to "out of community of property."

2. The parties intend to apply to the High Court of Botswana for leave to change their marital property regime as aforesaid, after the expiration of three (3) consecutive publications hereof.

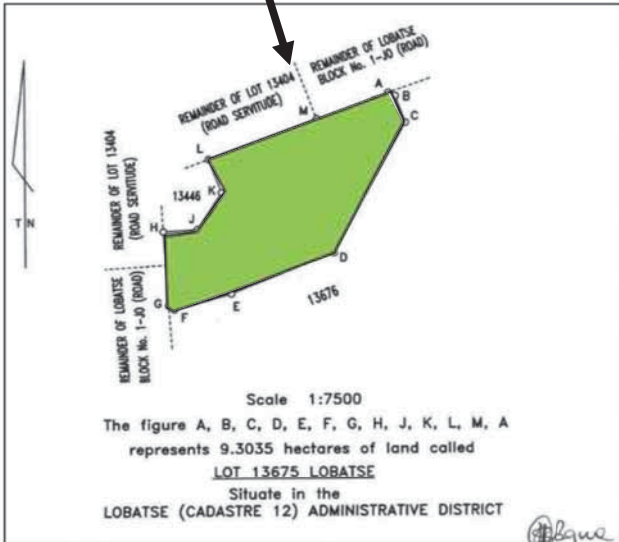
3. Any person who may have an interest in the assets and/or liabilities of the parties' joint estate, or who may object to the proposed change in the marital property regime, is hereby requested to communicate their objections to the undersigned Attorneys, University of Botswana Legal Clinic, in writing, before the expiration of the said **three (3) weeks period**, at the address provided below.

DATED at Gaborone this 8th day of October, 2025.
C/O UB LEGAL CLINIC, OFF MOBUTO ROAD
PRIVATE BAG 00705, GABORONE | Cellphone: 76 196 840

9.3 HA FREEHOLD PLOT FOR REGIONAL SHOPPING CENTRE + TRUCKSTOP

Cambridge Investments (Pty) Ltd
T/A Lobatse Estates
Plot 13401, Lobatse Estates, Lobatse, Botswana
Private Bag 24, Lobatse, Botswana
Mobile: +267 73844654
Email: sales@lobatse-estates.com

Lobatse Estates
Residential Commercial Industrial



ONLY
...
P357
/ M2 +
VAT



VACANCY

Bosa Bosele Training College seeks qualified Lecturers for its Gaborone and Francistown Campuses in:

- Early Childhood Education
- Social Work / Community Development
- Supply Chain Management
- Education / Education Management
- Business Management / Administration
- Marketing / Marketing Management
- Information and Communication Technology

Requirements: Master's Degree (PhD an advantage), 3 years tertiary teaching experience. Submit: Curriculum Vitae, certified copies of Certificates/Transcripts, BQA Certificate Evaluation report, BQA Assessor and Moderator certificates and three (3) references.

Deadline: 7th November 2025

Apply: info@bosabosele.ac.bw | CC: tmuzuwa@bosabosele.ac.bw
NB- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE

NOTICE OF THE SECOND MEETING OF CREDITORS OF DECALOGUE (PTY) LTD – UNDER LIQUIDATION

Master's Reference – LQHGB – 000004/24

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the direction of the Master of the High Court in terms of the Winding-Up Rules of the Companies Act, Chapter 42:01, the Second Meeting of Creditors of the above-named company will be convened physically before the **Master of the High Court in Gaborone at 09:00 hours** on the **13th of November 2025** for the following purposes:

- Proof of claims
- Consideration of the Liquidator's Progress Report
- To consider any other competent business

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

By The Liquidator | Jethro Kamutsi
Prestige Business Consultants,
Setlhoa Office Park, Unit 6,
PO Box 602430, Gaborone

VACANCIES

EXTRA HEAVY DUTY DRIVER wanted with more than 10 years’ of cross border driving experience. Apply to P O Box 404 Ghanzi, enclosing CV and certificates. Closing date is 2 weeks from date of publication.

STUDIO SERENITY is looking for a qualified Operations Manager. The candidate must have Diploma in caucasian hair stylist with experience to join our professional team. Applications must be forwarded to the Managing Director P/Bag 81932, Molapo Crossing, plot 75754 Block 10 Gaborone. Colsing date 30/10/2025.

LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED BAKER and confectionary with supervision skills. Mr Tees Bakery, Box 136 Tutume. 77 151 795

SAND WAVE (PTY) LTD is seeking for a qualified lodge host officer at Mabele village. Qualifications: Certificate in Hospitality, Fluent In English, three years work experience. Apply to: The Manager Sand Wave (Pty) Ltd p. o. box 90 Kasane. Contact: 75 497 183. Closing date 31 October 2025

FASHION DESIGNER WANTED at A MMM Investments, P O Box 82 Lentsweletau

PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has applied for a **Bottle Store Licence** in terms of Section 13 of the **Liquor Act (Act No. 9 of 2004)** in respect of premises situated at **Lobatse Town Centre, Plot No. 307/8**.

And the Liquor Control Authority has determined that the application shall be heard by the Control Authority on the **05th** day of **December 2025**.

Any **person who wishes to object** to the grant of the licence **should within 21 days** of the last Publication of this notice, **give notice in writing** to the said Control Authority of his intention to oppose the application and state the grounds on which his objection is based.

Olebogeng Michael Ikgopoleng
P.O. Box 1277 Lobatse
Cell: 71 617 401 / 71 691 498

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNER OF PLOT **73929 & 73930 PHAKALANE** WOULD LIKE TO INFORM HER NEIGHBOURS ON PLOT **73925, 73926, 73928 & 73931** ABOUT HER INTENTION TO CONSTRUCT A WAREHOUSE ON EACH PLOT AND BOTH ARE PARTLY DOUBLE STOREY.
NEIGHBOURS OF THE SAID PLOTS ARE REQUIRED TO CONTACT GABORONE CITY COUNCIL IF THERE ARE ANY OBJECTIONS OR CONTACT THE OWNER ON MOBILE **77778866** WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master’s Reference: ESHGB-000139/09

IN THE ESTATE of the late **MBAKI ANDREW CHAMME** who passed away at Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa on the **09 June 2009**.

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

DATED at Gaborone on this 21st Day of October 2025.

The Executor Moabi Kelebogile Chamme
P O Box 1949 Gaborone
Tel: 75 090 673

LOST DEED OF TRANSFER

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intend to apply for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer **No. 986/2015** dated **27TH APRIL, 2015** made in favour of **MODISE GARNET POWANE** in respect of;

CERTAIN: Piece of land being **Lot 34959**, Gaborone;
SITUATE: Gaborone West Extension 35;
MEASURING: 956m2 (Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six Square Metres);
WHICH PROPERTY: is held under Deed of Transfer No. 986/2015 dated the **27th day of April 2015** in favour of **MODISE GARNET POWANE**.

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the registrar of Deeds within three weeks from the last publication of this notice.
DATED AT GABORONE THIS 22ND SEPTEMBER 2025

DESAI LAW GROUP
DLG House, Plot 2566, Extension 9, Off Nyerere Drive, Gaborone,
P O Box 640, Gaborone
e-mail address: keatlaretse@desailawgroup.co.bw
(Ref: BM/knn)

Fire Suppression and Electrical Services is looking for a Mechanical Fire Engineer

Duties

- Fire protection systems design and specification.
- Fire alarm and mass notification systems design and specification.
- Life safety and building code analysis and consulting.
- Smoke control systems design.
- Development of performance-based life safety and fire protection features.
- Contract shop submittal review and field inspections.
- The engineer would also be asked to interface with clients, engineers, and architects of varying technical abilities.

Requirements

- Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Reputable Institution
- Minimum 13 years of relevant experience in fire systems designs.
- Basic knowledge of building and NPFA 13, BS EN 12845;2004+A2:2009 SABS 028
- Competence on working AutoCAD, and Revit software

Interested Candidate must drop their CVs at the below address
THE HR MANAGER
P.O BOX 653 ABG GABORONE
PLOT 21345 PHAKALANE GABORONE

Closing Date 12/11/25



SOLAR POWER
KGALAGADI RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (PTY) LTD.
Quality. Service. Since 1976

CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR POWER PLANT IN MAUN

This is to inform the residents of the **Poloka Batho neighborhood, Lot 42061 in Maun**, about the planned construction of a solar power plant in the area. The plant will generate electricity from solar energy and supply it to the **Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)** grid through power lines running from the plant and connecting to the BPC grid.

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Masters Reference **ESHGB – 00456 / 22**

IN THE ESTATE of the **TIROYAONE EPHRAIM MOKUTE** died at Gaborone Private Hospital, Gaborone , District , Botswana on the **26th July 2021**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that debtors and creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within **thirty (30) days** after the publication here to
Dated 9 October 2025

Sophie Azhanani Mokute
P O BOX 501108
GABORONE
CELL : 71875296

IN THE HIGHT COURT OF THE REPUBLIC BOTSWANA HELD AT MAUN
ESHMN-00010-23

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE STATE of the late **GOSPEL GOPOLANG MOKOTEDI** who died at Kgosing ward, Maun, in the Republic of Botswana on the 29th December 2022.

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

Mr Lemogang Nthutang – Executor
P O Box 150043, MAUN
76445293
71302767

Ntshemang GABOEKAE
P O Box 270, MAUN

LOST MORTGAGE BOND

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intend to apply for a certified copy of Mortgage Bond **No. 396/2022** dated **22ND FEBRUARY, 2022** passed by **MODISE GARNET POWANE** made in favour of **THE HOLLARD INSURANCE COMPANY OF BOTSWANA PROPRIETARY LIMITED** in respect of;

CERTAIN: Piece of land being Lot 34959, Gaborone;
SITUATE: Gaborone West Extension 35;
MEASURING: 956m2 (Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six Square Metres);
WHICH PROPERTY: is held under Deed of Transfer **No. 986/2015** dated the **27th** day of **April 2015** in favour of **MODISE GARNET POWANE**.

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

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 22ND SEPTEMBER 2025
DESAI LAW GROUP
DLG House, Plot 2566, Extension 9, Off Nyerere Drive, Gaborone,
P O Box 640, Gaborone
e-mail address: keatlaretse@desailawgroup.co.bw
(Ref: BM/knn)

VACANCY: Oxygen / Nitrogen Gas Plant Operator – The applicant must be able to independently operate an Oxygen/Nitrogen gas production plant, including the air separation unit, compressors, air lines, and related pumping systems. Responsibilities include routine operation, preventive maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair of equipment associated with oxygen/nitrogen production, as well as training of junior staff. A minimum of **5 years’ experience** in operating and maintaining industrial gas plants is required.

Applications should be addressed to:
The Director, Reliance Foundries (Pty) Ltd,
P.O. Box 2252, Gaborone, Botswana.

FINANCE MANAGER

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Finance Manager will be a senior member of the company reporting directly to the Managing Director and to the Group Financial Director. S/He will oversee all financial and administration aspects of the company. S/he will be responsible for all financial systems including budgeting, monitoring, forecasting as well as all legal, audit and contractual compliance. S/he will be responsible for preparation of management accounts and annual financial statements for audit and in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Qualification and Experience

- A Degree in Accounting coupled with a professional accounting qualification
- Certification with a recognized accounting professional body (ACCA, CPA, ACPA)
- A masters degree in administration or Finance will be an added advantage
- A minimum of 10 years experience in a finance and administration role
- Demonstrate internet and general information technology proficiency and experience
- Working experience of Great Plains ERP and Microsoft Navision ERP
- Experience of Hire related operations including invoicing and stock control
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office with emphasis to Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English

Key Competencies

- Financial Planning, Analysis and Reporting
- Wider Corporate Legislation and Governance
- Human Resource Administration

Deadline for applications is
30th October 2025
Applications are to be forwarded to:
HR Manager
P.O Box 21271 Bontleng, Gaborone.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The core mandate of Leading Edge Markets (Pty) Ltd has always been to supply, service, repair and maintain highly specialized and sophisticated medical and life-science equipment. Over the past decade, LEMS has rapidly transitioned from a mere start-up to be a force to reckon with and one of the leading companies in the provision and support of medical, laboratory and life science solutions in Botswana. Service excellence, popularly duped “service with a difference” has been the underlying driver of growth at LEMS.

We currently have vacancies for the following position:

Biomedical Engineer

Qualifications and Skills:

1. Must have, Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) or Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng) Degree in Biomedical Engineering or Clinical Engineering with at least ten (10) years relevant post-qualification experience.
2. Must have experiential knowledge and demonstrable experience in installing, testing, calibrating, servicing and repairing biomedical equipment. Experience in imaging equipment such as Cath-Lab systems, Computed Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) will be an added advantage.
3. Experience with end-user training on specialist biomedical equipment.
4. Experience with the design and development of medical devices with a strong background in electronics and circuit design.
5. Mature, emotionally intelligent and self-driven.
6. Passionate about continuous professional development and willing to work extended hours.
7. Must have valid driver’s license and be able to drive long distances.
8. Must be proficient in the use of service test equipment and software.

Key Performance Areas:

1. Engineering Systems, Procedures, and Processes
2. People Management and Effectiveness
3. Installation, Servicing, Maintenance and Repair of Biomedical Equipment
4. Sales & Marketing
5. Supplier & Customer Relations Management
6. Engineering Designs and Innovations
7. Safety, Health, Environment and Quality

Email: hr@leading-e-markets.com
Or hand delivered at:

LEMS House, Plot 64511, Fairgrounds.
Friday 24th October 2025 @ 16:30 HRS

Lems House, Plot 64511 Fairgrounds, P.O.Box 40551 Gaborone Botswana
Tel: (+267) 3919496/ Fax: (+267) 3181367
www.leading-e-markets.com



Tuesday October 21, 2025 No. 192

Thespians call for reforms

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - Botswana's acting industry may be brimming with raw talent, however, the country stars are calling for urgent reform to bring structure and credibility to the country's growing film and theatre scene.

Speaking at a panel discussion at the University of Botswana, the stars namely, Seneo Mabengano (Muvhango), Kgomo Ratsie (Scandal), Lone Motsomi (Woman King) and Maxwell Dichi (Generations) said the system meant to nurture creative talent remains painfully underdeveloped.

They highlighted issues from challenges with professionalism and lack of briefs during auditions as well as the lack of suitable technology for film production.

"Time management at auditions is still a problem as well as a lack of transparency on the role an audition is for. Often times you only get to find out during the audition," said Ratsie.

Mabengano concurred, "unlike in South Africa where a brief detailing a character's height, accent and anything necessary for the role, is provided, briefs are still lagging behind in Botswana."

The Muvhango actress also emphasised the need for the establishment of agencies to ensure a timely and fair distribution of information to all actors whenever casting calls are made. Meanwhile, Dichi called on film producers to invest in proper film equipment.

The stars stated that Botswana had talent and possessed special traits such as a unique accent and fluent mastery of English, attributes they shared were greatly sought after in international markets such as South Africa.

In addition, Woman King's Motsomi advised actors to make use of digital spaces to access global auditions and practice monologues to grow their art as it had helped catapult her further in her career. She also revealed her upcoming project named Kgolo, a programme she is yet to establish to assist actors in Botswana with mentorship and access potential opportunities.

"It is still on paper, but the project is meant to guide and equip actors with the skills needed to penetrate the market," she said. **BOPA**



Thespians, Seneo Mabengano, Lone Motsomi, Kgomo Ratsie, Maxwell Dichi and facilitator Thato Akoonyatse in Gaborone recently during a panel discussion on exporting Botswana talent. They highlighted issues from challenges with professionalism and lack of briefs during auditions as well as the lack of suitable technology for film production. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Documentary profiles Futuremakers programme

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - A *Brighter Future*, a documentary that follows the journey of two young Botswana whose lives have been impacted by the Futuremakers Programme, was screened Friday at Btv auditorium, courtesy of Standard Chartered Bank Botswana, in partnership with N&M Productions.

Futuremakers Programme is a global initiative focused on promoting economic inclusion by supporting youth and women through various projects and

programmes. The initiative partners with organisations to provide education and skills development, tackle inequality, and empower young people, particularly women, through programmes like the Women in Tech programme

A *Brighter Future*, captures the personal and professional growth of Waithera Mburu, an accountant and Maleho Makgothi, an engineer and founder of Pumi Soundz.

It demonstrates how Futuremakers has empowered them with the skills, opportunities

and confidence to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute to Botswana's economic future.

"Futuremakers has since evolved, last year we had a cohort of 20, they did a six month programme and at the end of that programme, we gave over P670,000 (US\$50,000) in seed funding to the top six," said Standard Chartered Bank Botswana head of corporate affairs, Brand and Marketing, Bame Tshweneyagae.

Tshweneyagae said the documentary reflected how Standard Chartered had been

committed to investing in the human and economic potential of young people and building inclusive communities by opening doors, wherever they can. The documentary tells the Futuremakers' story from a macro-overview, highlighting the reach of the programme.

"The story is told through a personal lens by also including those closest to the participants and seeing how they have seen the transformation in their lives. We are proud that the Futuremakers legacy has been showcased in this format, in addition to the inspiring work that other alumni continue to do," she said.

Meanwhile, Tshweneyagae said this year's cohort had young women with a variety of industries that were represented across the country; in agriculture, soap manufacturing and childcare space.

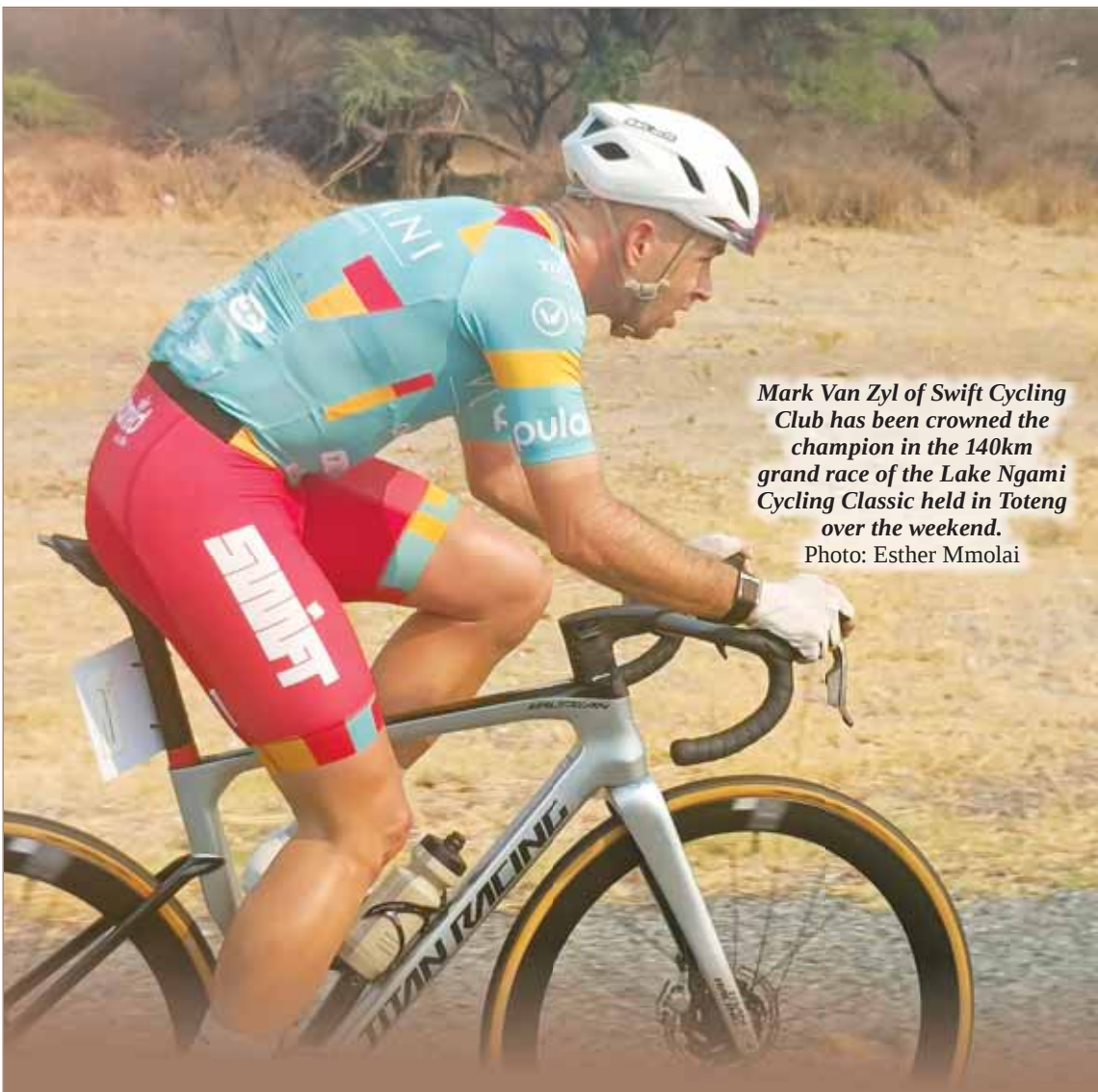
"It is called Women in Tech, but we were cognisant of the fact that maybe our tech industry is not advanced and therefore, we included impact, social impact entities," said Tshweneyagae, adding that this year's cohort would graduate in November and also over P670,000 (US\$50,000) handed over to those recognised.

N&M Productions founder, Nikita Mokgware said as filmmakers, theirs was to showcase the power of storytelling as indicative of the documentary.

"The youth are hungry for capacity building workshops and entrepreneurs are eager to expand their business skills," Mokgware said. **BOPA**



A Brighter Future documentary crew, Laone Thekiso (left), Waithera Mburu (second left), N&M Productions founder, Nikita Mokgware (centre) Thebe G (second right) and a poet, Thato Akoonyatse during a Q & A session after the screening of A Brighter Future documentary in Gaborone on Friday. The documentary captures the personal and professional growth of Mburu, an accountant and Maleho Makgothi, an engineer and also founder of Pumi Soundz. It demonstrates how Futuremakers programme has empowered them with the skills, opportunities and confidence to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute to Botswana's economy. Photo: Felicity Male



Mark Van Zyl of Swift Cycling Club has been crowned the champion in the 140km grand race of the Lake Ngami Cycling Classic held in Toteng over the weekend.
Photo: Esther Mmolai

Van Zyl wins Lake Ngami cycling classic

By Esther Mmolai

TOTENG - Maun based Swift Cycling Club member, Mark Van Zyl was on Saturday crowned the champion of the 140 kilometre grand race in the annual Lake Ngami Cycling Classic that was staged in Toteng.

The event attracted cyclists from across the country, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa,

Van Zyl aged 31, was in control despite the chilly wind and made it first to the finish line with a time of 3:39:25.

Abeng Malete and Gontse Lethokwe all from Jwaneng Cycling Club settled for position two and three respectively.

Still in the grand race, Under 23 category, Gomolemo Kelaotse from Tsela Riders clinched position one followed by Kgotsotalang Rakaota and Thebeyame Ruele in positions two and three while in the 106 kilometre Under 23 female

category, Kelatamo Feneki and Peggy Molao scooped position one and two.

The challenge also featured other races ranging from 30km, 64km and 10km walks among others. Under the corporate category, MMG Khoemacau Cycling Team retained the championship title followed by Karowe Cycling Club and Botswana Railway in for position two and three.

Hosted by MMG Khoemacau Copper Mine and Absa Bank as the main sponsor, the event aimed to raise funds to support community initiatives.

Chief rider, BOMAID chief executive officer, Moraki Mokgosana appreciated the purpose of the event which raises funds for impactful community development initiative.

The purpose, he said aligned well with his organisation's mission of putting people first by delivering service with passion and purpose, prioritising customer health and peace of

mind.

Mokgosana said the event was not just a sporting activity but a seed planted in the region for the benefit of communities hence promised to support the event next year.

The chief walker, ABSA managing director, Keabetswe Phoko-Moshagane said the event was making a huge difference in the community and to date, the bank had injected P800,000 to support it.

She urged all leadership to join forces with the government in an effort to build the economy saying, now was the right time to collaborate and improve it.

Khoemacau general manager, Logic Sebopeng thanked participants for demonstrating that they were living in a compassionate and caring society.

Proceeds from the event will go directly into supporting and promoting community development in villages within the mine's vicinity. **BOPA**

Youth athletics trials unearth talent

By Keetile Bontsibokae

MOLEPOLOLE - The national U-18 track and field trials held at Molepolole Sports Complex on Saturday received a satisfying number of young athletes, signifying the desire and future of sport.

Organised by Moroka Athletics Club, the trials saw a total of 89 young athletes from across the country bracing the weather that was characterised by light rainfall to showcase their athletic talent.

The secretary for Moroka Athletics Club, Moshe Gochela could not hide his delight, as he was satisfied by the numbers of young athletes. Gochela said the positive response flicked a green light that most Batswana were supportive to athletics.

He said one of the participants was from as far as Orapa, while another parent who came along with eight children from Mmathethe to give the youngsters an opportunity to test their calling in the athletics realm.

Gochela said it was important to observe that parents have realised athletics potential in shaping the future of the youth and taking them away from drugs and alcohol.

He further appealed for support toward sport development through funding, equipment and any other form of support. Another challenge highlighted by Gochela was lack of coaches in athletics.

Gochela said the club's vision was to ensure continuity in local athletics by training children across all levels be it youth, junior and senior levels who could represent the country at international events.

The Chairperson for Botswana Athletics Association for South Central Region, Tebatso Omphitlhetse said the trials were a platform where children were given an opportunity to showcase their talents so as to kindle the spark that has been darkened by lack of school sport.

Omphitlhetse said halting school sport left on aspiring young athletes idle.

She also said the main challenges around athletics scouting was lack of athletics fields hence to keep the ball rolling she advised that the dusty

fields elsewhere be graded and be in a position to be used for trials.

However, she said she was gratified that despite intemperate atmosphere athletes impressed the scouts.

Ramotswa Athletics Club Coach Kago Tladinyane, who specialises in sprints and hurdles revealed that alongside trials there was another effective sporting development model crafted by the World Athletics Association dedicated into priming kids, with an age range of 6-14, to identify their capabilities in sports at an earlier stage thus helping to choose the right sport.

He wished for all primary schools nationwide to introduce such a programme. For his, Thuto Tabengwa, a 16-year-old form four student at St Joseph's College, a lone trainee who runs 100m-200m said his dream was to wave the national flag at international stages in the near future.

"I train on my own. I am not fit but I managed to get position one in all the races. I recorded 10:95 seconds in 100m and I clocked 23:70 seconds in 200m," he said.

He said the lull of school sports was denying them to fulfil their dreams as they were keeping them active and fit hence pled to the Government to resume the sporting activities at school.

Tabengwa advised fellow runners that his secret weapon in the athletics was discipline. He said being self-disciplined was the key that unlocks all doors to victory.

Kitso Lerothodi, a sister to one of the athletes, Katlego Thaba, who is currently sitting for Junior Certificate examinations at Rutwang Junior Secondary School in Tonota said despite the focus on the ongoing exams, her brother passion for athletics must equally be supported.

Lerothodi said she was glad that her brother made it to the trials as she was determined to support his dream in athletics.

She said parents were willing to support children follow their love for sports but the main hurdle was the fact that in most cases parents were clueless about the right channels to follow and introduce their children to platforms, more so that school sport have been suspended for some time. **BOPA**

Tonota FC tops First Divison North table

By Kelebogile Taolo

TONOTA - Tonota FC has climbed to the top of the First Division North after a 1-0 victory against Eleven Angels at Tonota Primary School grounds on Saturday.

Tonota looked strong from the start of the game, controlling the ball dominating and creating several scoring opportunities.

However, Eleven Angels' goalkeeper was on fire, making saves to keep the game scoreless at halftime.

In the second half, Tonota came out even stronger. In the 61st minute, Kaone Kame managed to head in the only goal of the match, putting them ahead with 1-0.

Eleven Angels fought hard on defense, and their keeper

continued to make crucial saves late in the game to keep it close.

Tonota FC coach, Thaloba Nthaga, said in a post-match interview that he was impressed with his team's performance, saying he was happy to secure all three points.

He acknowledged that while they dominated the game they really needed to convert more of those chances into goals.

On the other hand, Eleven Angels' coach Shepered Seatlholo praised his young team for their efforts, especially in the first half.

He said the squad was promising but admitted they were a bit unlucky to concede that key goal.

Eleven Angels is at the bottom of the table, with just one point from six matches they played.

In other First Division North

match results, Ndundu Young Fighters played to a 1-1 draw with Ferry Wonderers FC, which knocked them down to second place, Enesia won Motlakase Power FC with a 1-0 win, Tsabotlhe triumphed over Tshikenyega FC 1-0, Mbalakalungu and Sakonyo Bush Bucks ended in a goalless draw while JJ United lost 1-2 to BR Highlanders FC. **BOPA**

Poane attains bronze level tennis umpire

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Gaone Poane has made history by becoming the first umpire from Botswana to attain the prestigious Bronze Level Chair Umpire certification.

Poane was among other Africans who attended the officiating school in Kenya, where she successfully passed the course, which some participants described as mind taxing.

She would be counted among the first group of Southern African umpires to pass the course.

Achieving the Bronze Badge means she is now qualified to be assigned as a chair umpire for high-level international tournaments.

In an interview, Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) president, Oaitse Thipe said he was happy about Poane's qualification as a Bronze Badge Chair Umpire.

Thipe said Botswana would be hosting professional tennis tournaments next year and therefore needed all the resources they could tap into and be able to utilise Poane in some of the matches as a high-level chair umpire with a Bronze Badge.

"It is good that she is now recognised around the world. She has had a good career, she officiated at the Olympics finals, the French Open and Wimbledon," he said.

He believed Poane's hard work and achievements would inspire young people and it fitted into the tennis

ecosystem's goal of hosting events and creating employment for the youth, such as coaches and officials.

To support such growth, Thipe said the association was planning to increase the number of tennis tournaments next year to 12 weeks, which would provide employment for local chair umpires and officials.

Meanwhile, the tennis badge

system begins with the Green and White

badges. The Green Badge

is specifically for

French-speaking

officials who

are unable

to pursue

the White

Badge.

The White

Badge is the

international

qualification

that allows

officials

to work

international matches.

The Bronze Badge, which Poane has attained, is known as an international certification because it is sanctioned by a combination of the WTA, ATP and ITF.

After the Bronze Badge, the next level is Silver, followed by Gold, both attained by promotion. Currently, there are fewer than 40 Gold Badges held by umpires worldwide. **BOPA**



Gaone Poane has made history by becoming the first umpire from Botswana to attain the prestigious Bronze Level Chair Umpire certification.



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