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World Bank, infrastructure programme leader and energy specialist, Mr Mirlan Aldayarov (left), Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo (centre) and African Development Bank chief regional power systems officer, Mr Andres Pedersen during the launch of Botswana Energy Compact in Gaborone on Monday. The minister said the initiative was aimed at achieving universal access to clean and affordable energy by 2030. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

Initiative to power 220 000 homes

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - More than 220 000 households across the country are set to be connected with electricity under the newly introduced Botswana Energy Compact.

The initiative is aimed at achieving universal access to clean and affordable energy by the year 2030, thereby driving economic transformation, social equity and environmental sustainability.

It further aims to enable 260 000 families to transition to clean cooking solutions. Officiating at the launch of the Botswana Energy Compact in Gaborone on Monday, Minister of and

Minerals and Energy Ms Bogolo Kenewendo said the country was also committed to increasing renewable energy share from 8 per cent, where it currently sits, to 50 per cent by 2030 driven primarily by solar and wind power.

“Achieving this bold targets requires, as we have currently estimated with today’s prices, an investment between more than P26.6 billion and more than P39.7 billion (between US\$2 billion and US\$2.98 billion), all of this to be mobilised through public-private-partnerships, here at home, concessional financing and regional collaboration,” she said.”

Giving a brief background, the minister said embarking on the

initiative to create the country’s energy compact followed the commitment towards advancing energy security that President Advocate Duma Boko and other heads of state made during the first Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit held in Tanzania at the beginning of the year.

The energy compact, Ms Kenewendo said was built on five strategic areas of action including improved access, expansion of generation capacity, regional integration and power trade, as well as access to financially viable utilities.

She said the first area of action prioritised last mile access to ensure that no community was

left behind, explaining that government intended to address the electricity needs of over 40 villages and settlements which had been identified as far from the grid by availing access to power through renewable energy solutions.

Regarding expansion of generation capacity to supply the domestic market, she added that it looked at further reducing costs and driving affordability.

Through the energy compact, the minister said her ministry would like greater private sector participation to unlock innovation and investment, partners in financing, as well as partners in driving innovation in energy

access, clean cooking and beyond.

Another strategic area of action, Ms Kenewendo said was financially viable utilities, which was a primary focus that Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority and Botswana Power Corporation would be working on to ensure the utilities were not overburdened by commitments to allowing private sector space to participate. So far, the minister said Botswana had achieved 76 per cent household electricity access, adding that this was commendable progress as it put the country amongst top countries that had already regularised their energy compacts.

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Botswana Teaching Professionals Council registrar, Dr Raphael Dingalo (left) and management briefing members of the media on the upcoming teacher registration and licensing launch in Gaborone recently. Dr Dingalo said registering and licensing teachers in Botswana would professionalise the teaching fraternity and strengthen the foundations of quality education in the country.
Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

Masisi in Egypt for peace retreat

GABORONE - Former President, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi is in Aswan, Egypt to attend the 16th High Level Retreat on the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa which started yesterday and will end today.

A press release from the office of the former President says the retreat, held under theme, Reframing AU Mediation-Consolidating African

Leadership and Ownership, is co-hosted by AU Commission and Egypt government. Dr Masisi is expected to share Botswana’s perspectives and experiences in promoting peace, governance and stability on the continent, while also contributing to shaping the future direction of the AU’s mediation architecture. Furthermore, his engagement will reaffirm Botswana’s commitment

to advancing AU’s peace and security agenda and enhancing African-led solutions to conflicts. The release further says the former president will thereafter depart for Tanzania at the invitation of the African Union Commission chairperson, Mr Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, where he will lead the AU Election Observer Mission to the Tanzania general elections to be held on October 29. **BOPA**

‘Empower but not pity visually impaired’

By Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN - Batswana have been urged to move away from the culture of being sympathetic towards visually impaired individuals, and instead, to treat them as capable and independent members of society.

Speaking to *BOPA* recently, Mr Kutlo Dithole, a 30-year-old man who was born blind, said one of the biggest challenges faced by visually impaired people was discrimination and stereotyping from the public.

“People think that we cannot do anything for ourselves without assistance and when they see that we can, they even question if we are really blind and that is very hurtful because it is only the sense of sight that is gone, not the rest of our abilities,” he said.

Mr Dithole also appealed to motorists to familiarise themselves with the meaning of the white cane, explaining that it served as a clear indicator that the person using it was blind.

“Drivers should treat the white cane like a road sign and slow down and allow us to pass,” he said.

He further cautioned the public against assuming that every visually impaired person needed help when moving around.

“If I do not ask for assistance, I should be given a chance to do things on my own, being blind does not mean being helpless,” he said.

Mr Dithole encouraged newly visually impaired individuals not to lose hope saying there were various ways of coping with the situation.

“Do not condemn yourself

rather accept the situation and learn to adapt because you can still live an independent, fulfilling life after losing your sight,” he said.

For her part, Ms Sithembile



Ms Sithembile Mazambe, a 31-year old who became partially blind at the age of six while in pre-school. She decried the abuse and exploitation faced by people with visual impairments.

Teachers registration commences

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - Botswana Teaching Professionals Council (BOTPECO) has officially commenced the process of registering and licensing teachers in Botswana to professionalise the teaching fraternity and strengthen the foundations of quality education in the country.

In line with its key mandate to effectively regulate the teaching profession and assure quality and promote the profession, BOTPECO will officially launch the Teacher Registration and Licensing on October 21.

When addressing a press conference in Gaborone, on Thursday, Botswana Teaching Professionals Council registrar, Dr Raphael Dingalo said the registration and licensing of teachers remained the council’s key priority.

He said registration and licensing of teachers would be done through the Teacher Registration and Licensing System, which would be an online payment to afford teachers an opportunity to register at the convenience of their respective

locality.

“We decided to prioritise the development of this system, because we wanted teachers to register at their locality, as part of our efforts to maximise on the use of digitalisation for improved service delivery,” he said.

The BOTPECO registrar said the Teacher Registration and Licensing System would interface with other systems, such as National Identity for verification and validation of nationals, Botswana Qualifications Authority for the validation and verification of qualifications, education and training providers for the validation of qualifications and enrolled student teachers.

He said the system had been developed by Batswana owned company.

Once successfully registered, Dr Dingalo said BOTPECO shall issue a teaching license, which shall be valid for a period not exceeding 36 months, from the date of registration, for a non-citizen and for a period not exceeding 60 months, from the date of registration, for a citizen. Subsequent to the provisions of the BOTPECO Act No. 22 of 2019, Dr Dingalo explained that the council shall establish and maintain a register of persons registered as teachers, which shall be kept at the offices of the council and would be open for inspection, during office hours by any member of the public upon payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

He said as per the Act a person who practiced without a teaching license committed an offence and was liable to a fine not exceeding P5 000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or both.

Additionally, he said to register, teachers would be required to pay a once-off subscription fee of P50, per annum, for citizens and P120 for non-citizens.

Dr Dingalo further stressed that professionalising teaching was crucial in growing the relationship between education quality and economic growth, hence the need for the country to strive to increase educational quality to increase the annual economic growth.

“When talking educational quality, we cannot leave out the teacher, as a key factor in the educational growth rate and educational delivery process as no educational framework outperforms the quality of its teachers,” he said

The BOTPECO Corporate Services director, Ms Ntsholeng Thabana also expressed delight that the national launch would mark a significant milestone for the council to ensure that teaching in Botswana continued to evolve as profession of integrity, competence and accountability. **BOPA**

New strategy aims to close data gaps

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - The newly launched Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics II (BSDS II) is poised to provide a comprehensive framework to modernise data systems, strengthen relationships within the data ecosystem and respond to critical emerging data needs such as gender equality, climate change and technology adoption.

Speaking at the official launch of BSDS II to mark World Statistics Day in Gaborone on Monday, Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said the strategy would align statistical development with key national, regional and international commitments, which included the twelfth National Development Plan (NDP 12), Botswana National Transformation Programme, SADC Indicative Development Plan 2020-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Minister Mohwasa highlighted that government was committed to data-driven policy, governance and transparency.

“Therefore, I call upon all accounting officers and directors from across ministries and departments to ensure that their respective sector statistics align with BSDS II and meaningfully contribute to the aspirations of NDP 12,” he said.

He added that statistics should be recognised as a national priority in both budgeting and planning, emphasising that investment in statistics was an investment in accountability and transparency regarding development progress.

Mr Mohwasa urged every sector to take ownership of its data systems, strengthen coordination and uphold statistical governance



Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (left), statistician general, Dr Khaufelo Lekobane (second left), NSDS regional advisor - PARIS 21, Dr Norah Madaya (second right) and Statistics Botswana director stakeholder relations, Ms Ketso Makhumalo during World Statistics Day in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Mohwasa said statistics was the backbone of government because data was essential for service delivery and measuring government national progress. Statistics Botswana also launched the second Botswana strategy for development of statistics. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

principles. He further noted that high-quality and disaggregated data were essential for inclusive service delivery as well as measuring national progress.

Reliable data, he said, underpinned Botswana’s priorities, including economic diversification, poverty reduction, health, education, climate resilience, sustainable tourism, mining and good governance. Again, he said quality statistics enabled decision-makers to identify gaps, track outcomes and make informed policy choices that improved people’s lives.

Mr Mohwasa acknowledged

that the entire data ecosystem, including government, private sector, academia, civil society and development partners, had a role to play in strengthening the national data environment.

“Government will continue to invest in capacity building,

improve data collection networks, and deliver timely aggregated data that reveals disparities and informs policy action. While challenges persist, including data fragmentation, delays, and limited access, new opportunities abound,” he said.

Govt to electrify 220 000 homes

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This, she said reflected government’s determination to light every home to achieve the target of having an all-households

access by 2030.

Furthermore, the minister revealed that Botswana recently received authorisation to issue International Renewable Energy Certificates (IREC), explaining that the country was now recognised as an authorised issuing country with Green Certificates Company serving as the national issuing party.

The IREC mechanism, she said would help attract green investors and green capital, corporate buyers, ‘creating a domestic renewable attribute market and positioning Botswana as a participant in regional and international renewable energy trade’.

In his welcome remarks, the Ministry of Minerals and Energy acting permanent secretary, Mr Midas Sekgabo expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, industry players, development partners, as well as the banking and financial sector for their commitment in advancing the energy agenda.

“This launch marks not just the unveiling of a document, but the commencement of a journey towards clean energy access, reliability, sustainability and resilience.

Therefore, we are moving from planning to execution, with periodic reviews, stakeholder check-ins and transporting reporting,” he added.

The country’s energy compact, Mr Sekgabo said was a vehicle through which government aimed to accelerate progress towards achieving universal energy access by 2030, adding that energy, as the backbone of national development, played a crucial role in everyday lives, by powering homes, industries, health, education, as well as eradicating poverty.

In his remarks, the World Bank

For her part, United Nations (UN) resident coordinator, Ms Wanyan Yang, said the commemoration of World Statistics Day highlighted the crucial role that reliable data played in global progress.

Ms Yang noted that statistics had been foundational to addressing worldwide challenges such as peacekeeping, sustainable development, climate change and public health crises.

She commended the statistical community for exemplifying international coordination in establishing standards, sharing methodologies and providing accurate, timely data to enable policymakers, businesses and citizens to make informed decisions.

In her remarks, Paris 21 SADC regional advisor, Dr Norah Madaga, emphasised that statistical systems thrived when they could provide the needed data and ensure accessibility and quality for planning, policy debate and decision-making.

Dr Madaga confirmed that BSDS II would be used by Statistics Botswana to reach out to development partners and government leadership to mobilise resources for statistics.

She added that Paris 21 was also nurturing partnerships for resource mobilisation and promoting data use for policy-making by engaging parliamentarians in different countries. **BOPA**

Expansion of Goldmine Junior Secondary School nears completion

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa on Monday visited Goldmine Junior Secondary School in Francistown to inspect ongoing expansion projects.

The expansion includes a state-of-the-art administration block for the school’s management, a new one-storey classroom block, a Guidance and Counselling block, upgraded ablution facilities, and specialised rooms for Design and Technology, Art, and Home

Economics.

During the visit, Mr Hunyepa was also shown six staff housing units located in Gerald Estate, outside the school campus.

According to Mr Moemedi Gabana, director of Okavango Africa Consortium, the construction company handling the expansion, the project is 98 per cent complete and was scheduled for handover to the school in early November.

He noted that the same company is also undertaking expansion projects at Chamabona, Nkange and Shanganani Junior Secondary Schools in Mathangwane, Nkange and Tsamaya respectively, which were equally progressing well.

Mr Gabana emphasised that the design of the new facilities aimed to minimise long-term maintenance costs, creating robust and maintenance-friendly buildings.

He highlighted the importance of instilling good values in students and expressed a commitment to making schools a source of community pride.

Addressing delays caused by adverse weather conditions and supply shortages from the previous year, Gabana stated that the company has implemented night shifts to recover lost time and ensure timely completion of the projects.

He acknowledged that while part of the sports grounds had to be sacrificed for the new classrooms, the intention was to promote shared facilities, particularly in urban areas facing land shortages.

Mr Gabana mentioned that Francistown had underutilised sports facilities, which could be leveraged by Goldmine Junior Secondary School.

In his response, Mr Hunyepa praised Okavango Africa Consortium for their effective project management and timely delivery despite challenges.

He noted that the successful execution of such significant projects demonstrated the capability of local companies and their potential for international expansion.

Mr Hunyepa echoed Mr Gabana’s sentiments regarding the optimisation of resources, such as playing fields, and reinforced that acquiring land in metropolitan areas like Francistown was feasible.

He said constructing multi-storey buildings could be a viable solution to space constraints.

Additionally, Mr Hunyepa welcomed the construction of staff housing in Gerald Estate, recognising that improved accommodation for teachers would enhance their morale and effectiveness in fulfilling their duties. **BOPA**

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Botswana aspires to be regional energy hub

By Kehumile Moekejo

GABORONE - In an endeavour to grow the energy sector as a key enabler of economic transformation, the government is committed to improving electricity access, distribution and efficiency as well as increasing energy mix between thermal and renewal energy production.



Legislators leaving Parliament after the debate on the draft National Development Plan 12 on Monday. Sefhare/Ramokgonami MP, Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang said developing progressive value chain linkages in the agricultural sector was of critical importance towards building the foundation for economic recovery and future resilience. Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Legislators root for smart agriculture

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Developing progressive value chain linkages in the agricultural sector is of critical importance toward building the foundation for economic recovery and future resilience.

In his deliberations on the draft National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12), Lands and Agriculture chapter in Parliament on Monday, Sefhare/Ramokgonami legislator, Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang said there was need to diversify agricultural production by promoting agro-industrial and supply chain development.

“The government has made a promise to the nation and should deliver on its promise of adopting new farming technologies that create new ways of responding to existing needs,” he said.

Dr Gobotswang said dairy farming should be identified as a potential area of growth and investment in the domestic agricultural sector.

A notable challenge, he said had been the cost and availability of livestock feed which accounted

for a larger part of production. He said this presented a business opportunity that could be explored. Also contributing to the debate, Member of Parliament for Charleshill, Mr Motsamai Motsamai said government should prioritise operating the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) on Public Private Partnership model.

“The privatisation of the BMC would be a key component in reviving the beef sector in order to generate significant beef export earnings and provide a vibrant economic base for the country,” he said.

For his part, Molepolole North MP, Mr Arafat Khan applauded government for leading the country on a path to economic transformation. Mr Khan said government was keen to empower the youth through opportunities in agribusiness enterprises, and was pleased that the NDP 12 draft had prioritised agro-tourism as an important sector for reviving the economy.

Kgalagadi North legislator, Mr Reason Lekhutlane pleaded with government to consider expanding the Wildlife Management Area in

the Kgalagadi North citing that the current set up was a hindrance to farming progress in the area.

He said it was disappointing that the majority of farmers in Kgalagadi North had previously missed the opportunity to benefit from programmes targeted at agriculture due to shortage of farming land since the bulk of land in the area was reserved for wild life and conservation purposes.

“It is high time government reviews the land policy. I understand that only 30 per cent of land in Kgalagadi North is reserved for community for livestock grazing while the remaining 70 per cent is under the wildlife management area thus making it impossible for farmers to implement any of the programmes that require more land usage,” he said.

Furthermore, he said the farming population in Kgalagadi had increased significantly and the 30 per cent stake of land allocated for communal farming was overwhelmed by the livestock population resulting in over grazing in most areas. **BOPA**

Presenting the chapter for Mining and Energy Sector Strategy in the draft National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) to Parliament on Monday, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo outlined the ministry’s aspirations to establish Botswana as an energy hub leading the renewal energy transition in the region.

“By 2036, Botswana will be a citizen-led energy hub powering Africa, growing the energy sector into a major economic engine while leading in clean energy and power,” she said.

She noted that in anticipation of the increase in local power demand from 700MW to 1000MW, and to cater for the regional demand, the government had plans to build a 4.8GW electricity generation capacity station during the NDP 12 period.

Ms Kenewendo said in addition to the conventional and renewal energy projects, plans were underway to develop cross-border interconnections to ensure supply security both locally and regionally.

To this end, the minister said they had made strides in partnering with other countries to enable Botswana to participate in the regional energy pool. “We have started negotiating Memorandums of Understanding that will enable us to participate effectively in the Southern Africa power pool. “We have recently signed an MoU of energy trade with Zambia, reaffirmed our commitment to energy trade with Namibia and we are working on another MoU with South Africa on the same basis,” she explained.

Ms Kenewendo noted that the ongoing remediation of Morupule B power station and development of a further 1 375MW coal fired power plants would cater for the projected local demand.

She also said the government was facilitating the export of electricity to partner with other regional utility companies in the region in order to stimulate financing of the envisioned projects.

Additionally, she noted that in order to attain the 50 per cent

renewable energy contribution by 2030, the plan was to promote the use of solar and wind, among other renewable energy technologies.

Subsequently, she underscored the need to develop adequate infrastructure across the country to produce the anticipated 1938MW renewable energy contribution. “Electricity transmission infrastructure with adequate capacity is required in order to supply electricity and power across the country, importing power when the local generation is unable to meet demand and to evacuate what we anticipate to be an excess of power generated to export that excess into the region,” she said.

Minister Kenewendo further said rural electrification, households access and zero connection would be continued to accelerate access and attain universal access milestone by 2030.

The minister implored all stakeholders, including communities, to collaborate their efforts in curbing vandalism of power equipment, which she said had adverse effects on electricity distribution across the country.

On the mining sector, Ms Kenewendo said while acknowledging that diamond mining was a high value sector, there was need to transition from a mono economy which was susceptible to risks.

She said a mineral resources development, exploration, exploitation and value chain strategy was recently completed to increase global demand for critical minerals besides diamonds.

The minister said the strategy also aimed at exploring the potential for beneficiation of commodities such as salt and soda ash as well as exploration of small deposits.

“We want to increase extraction, where we are, is only 30 per cent of exploration and we want to increase that to enable us to extract more responsibly and ethically.

We intend to extract more value from our minerals by ensuring that all laboratory works for sampling, testing, verification can be done here in country,” she noted. **BOPA**



Minister of Minerals and Energy Ms Bogolo Kenewendo said by 2036, Botswana would be a citizen-led energy hub powering Africa and leading the renewal energy transition.

State charges Mojadigo for obstruction of justice

By Bonang Masolotat

GABORONE - Rape-accused pastor, Goitsekgosi Mojadigo and three others, including his sister Serwalo Mojadigo, have been charged with conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice by interfering with state witnesses in a sexual offence case pending before the Mochudi Magistrate Court.

Other accused persons in the matter, which was arraigned before Magistrate Onkarabile Mokone of Broadhurst Magistrate Court on Monday, are Boingotlo Mosekaphofu and Tshepo Kgosiemang.

In addition to the conspiracy charges, the pastor and founder of Divine Anointing Church International faces a charge of deceiving witnesses.

When arraigning the four, State Prosecutor Khumoetsile Tirelo said investigations into the matter were still new and pleaded with the court to remand the accused persons in custody, except for Kgosiemang.

“Interference seems to be a challenge, and there is a need to nip it in the bud when it is still new,” she said.

She argued that keeping the accused persons in custody for 14 days would give the police time to conclude their investigations. She further noted that such investigations into interference with judicial processes should be stopped as quickly as possible.

However, Mojadigo’s attorney, Mr Olehile Manchwe, stated that the remand would not affect his client, who was already in custody.

He argued that the state’s

actions regarding the second accused person, Serwalo Mojadigo, amounted to unlawfulness, stating she was arrested last Wednesday but only appeared in court on Monday.

He said the accused person was appearing before the court after the elapse of the 48-hour period, which was unlawful, adding that during that period, she was denied access to her relatives and anyone who could assist her.

“They are asking you to provide an order of judicial legitimacy to their unlawful act,” Mr Manchwe said, arguing that the state’s act was illegal and it could not be entitled to a remand extension stemming from an illegal activity.

“They cannot sanitise the unlawful act through the extension of remand,” he added.

He also claimed the accused persons were defence witnesses in a state case against Mojadigo and they were charged because of their eagerness to testify.

Mr Manchwe said the arrests were motivated by the state’s desire to resuscitate its collapsing case against his client.

Prosecutor, Ms Tirelo denied that the state’s actions were unlawful against Serwalo, stating that when the remand warrant expired on Friday, the state sought its extension before a regional magistrate.

Magistrate Mokone ordered that accused two, Serwalo, and three, Mosekaphofu, be remanded in custody and admitted the fourth accused person, Kgosiemang to conditional bail.

The accused persons are to appear before the court on November 3. **BOPA**



Rape-accused pastor, Goitsekgosi Mojadigo (left) with his attorney, Mr Olehile Manchwe leaving Broadhurst Magistrate Court on Monday. Mojadigo and three others, including his sister Serwalo, have been charged with conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice by interfering with state witnesses in the sexual offence case pending before the Mochudi Magistrate Court. Photo: Teko Letsholo

Investigations in Kgoro gang rape case complete

By Calviniah Kgautlhe

LOBATSE - Investigations in the gang-rape case of a 13-year-old girl in Kgoro, Good Hope District on July 11 have been completed.

State Prosecutor, Ms Miriam Amos told senior magistrate Mr Tshoganetso Atamelang of Lobatse Magistrate Court on Monday that investigations had been completed pending affidavit involving the mobile phone

belonging to one of the accused.

During their court appearance, two of the accused, 30-year-old Wabile Mohlomi of Kgoro, and 19-year-old Pheny Khubitla of Good Hope pleaded with the magistrate to release them on bail.

Mohlomi’s request was on the basis that he had items belonging to some people that he should return.

Khubitla on the other hand, said he needed to mobilise resources for an attorney. However, senior

magistrate Atamelang maintained his stance and denied them bail on the basis that the community was still agitated following the incident and that the victim was still traumatised by the incident.

State Prosecutor had indicated that the third accused, 17-year old Botshelo Motswagole was not in court as he was currently sitting for his Junior Certificate Examinations. Their court appearance is scheduled for November 10. **BOPA**

Father gets 30 years for raping daughter

By Bonang Masolotat

GABORONE - A 40-year-old man of Gaborone has been sentenced to a minimum mandatory sentence of 30 years imprisonment for repeatedly raping his own daughter.

The father, whose name cannot be mentioned to safeguard the victim’s identity, was recently sentenced by Justice Bafi Nlanda of the Gaborone High Court after the matter was previously referred to the High Court by a trial magistrate last year.

“As a biological father, he knew or should have known better than to look at the child with a lustful eye,” Justice Nlanda said in his sentence.

The judge said the court had observed an increase in cases of child abuse, which called for stringent penalties, noting that rape was no longer considered a trivial matter.

“Rape is bad, but when committed by a father against his own biological minor child, it is barbaric and unforgivable,” Justice Nlanda emphasised.

He said the convict started raping the child, whom he was supposed to protect, from the age of 12 to 13 years, adding that the father not only failed in his responsibility to care for the child but also violated the child’s rights as enshrined in the Children’s Act.

The convict, he said was entrusted with the duty to guide his minor child, but instead, he chose to abuse her for his selfish sexual gratification.

Justice Nlanda said the ordeal, which lasted for about one year and seven months, happened at home, a place considered safe haven for the child.

Justice Nlanda noted that the incident would forever traumatise the victim and leave a lasting

scar, given that it was perpetrated by her own father.

He said the law prescribed a minimum sentence of 30 years and a maximum of life imprisonment for persons in positions of authority who commit such offenses against minors.

Justice Nlanda further noted that the convict had not provided any exceptional extenuating circumstances that would warrant a departure from the prescribed mandatory sentence, hence he sentenced him to 30 years’ imprisonment.

In passing the sentence, Justice Nlanda considered that the convict was a first offender, had pleaded guilty, exhibited remarkable remorse, and had another child under his care.

The court also ordered that the period already spent in prison be computed toward the sentence. **BOPA**

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Laboratory to enhance mineral analysis, verification

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE - The metallurgy laboratory at the BCL old mine, now part of the Botswana Geoscience Institute, is poised to enhance local and international mineral analysis and verification.

Minister of Minerals and Energy Ms Bogolo Kenewendo said this during the laboratory's launch in Selebi Phikwe, attended by President Advocate Duma Boko and other government officials.

Ms Kenewendo said government purchased the metallurgy laboratory, which was previously a state-of-the-art testing facility, from the BCL mine as part of its ongoing efforts to resuscitate the Selebi Phikwe region following the closure of the mines. She said government was working round the clock to refurbish and rebuild the lab which would facilitate the analysis of minerals locally and also for other countries.

"The lab will extend its services beyond just testing minerals within the country but across the region because of the partnership stimulated with other international countries that helped in rebuilding the facility," she explained.

She said this initiative represented a pivotal moment for the country's ability to leverage its natural resources responsibly and this will position Botswana as a player in the mining landscape, fostering sustainable developments.

Ms Kenewendo said the initiative aimed to ensure the country adds value to its local minerals and becomes an integral part of the entire mining value chain. Once fully operational, the laboratory would employ 300 graduates and will collaborate with another

laboratory in Lobatse. Additionally, more satellite labs will be set up at various mining sites to enhance the value of local minerals and reduce the costs associated with exporting minerals for testing and verification.

Professor Motsotse Modisi from the Botswana Geoscience Institute(BGI) said that metallurgy was a fundamental component to expand BGI, ensure its sustainability, and transform it into a centre of excellence for mineral analysis from exploration and mining. He noted that the initiative was timely, as it aimed to meet the growing demand for accredited, high-quality analytical work within the mining and exploration sectors.

He said the establishment of local capabilities for mineral analysis would reduce the reliance on exportation of minerals for analysis and verification, which was an estimated loss of nearly P2 billion in export expenses.

Professor Modisi further said that the shift not only enhanced the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of local mining operations but also strengthened the overall sustainability and economic viability of the industry in the region. "Government has proactively supported capitalisation for equipment, refurbishing the lab, and securing accreditation for various services. Today signifies a significant step forward as we establish ourselves as a centre of excellence in mineral resource analysis," he said.

He said the initiative would generate high-income jobs for skilled professionals from local institutions and beyond borders, an opportunity for continuous skill exchange. **BOPA**



Absa head of small and medium enterprise portfolio, Mr Rapula Leepile (right) handing over a truck to Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust vice chairperson, Mr Thabo Zambo in Maun recently. The trust was announced as the first winner of the Absa Win-A-Truck competition. Photo: Esther Mmolai

Bank promotes entrepreneurship

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Absa Bank Botswana has been commended for empowering businesses to achieve their potential and thrive in their entrepreneurship journey. Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust (CECT) vice chairperson, Mr Thabo Zambo commended the bank management during the handing over of a truck to the first winner of the Absa Win-A-Truck competition aimed to support small and medium sized businesses in Botswana by providing transport solutions and encouraging a culture of saving.

To enter the competition, small and medium enterprises open account with the bank and save a minimum of P50,000 for at least three months and CECT emerged

the winner. Established 30 years ago, CECT is a community entity which presented an excellent model in conserving natural resources for the benefit of its members had a good long standing relationship with the bank.

However, the overjoyed Mr Zambo appreciated the mini-truck saying it would indeed take the trust forward noting that they were operating a milling project as part of a broader initiative to use natural resources management revenues for community projects.

He said the truck would be helpful in delivering products.

"This is a big gift that will help us improve efficiency and I will like to give credit to Absa management for cultivating a saving culture as well as inspiring and empowering entrepreneurs to build sustainable

businesses," he added.

He acknowledged that the competition which ends in December was a game changing opportunity, hence he encouraged businesses to join.

Absa head of small and medium enterprise portfolio, Mr Rapula Leepile said through the competition, they were stepping forward in the spirit of economic empowerment, entrepreneurship and especially promoting a culture of savings amongst business community.

The campaign, he said was in line with the bank's intention to grow entrepreneurship and economic stability saying they utilise digital solutions, reliability, excellent customer service and advocacy for their customers' base to make their story matter. **BOPA**

Farmers persevere despite climate change

By Keith Ketl

MAUNATLALA - Farmers are faced with challenges that include land degradation, water scarcity, and unpredictable rainfall.

Commemorating the 2025 World Food Day under the theme: Hands in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future, in Maunatlala recently, Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, lauded farmers for perseverance despite challenges.

He assured farmers that government was committed to addressing their concerns. Dr Dikoloti called for concerted efforts in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

He said that transforming agriculture into a productive, sustainable, and inclusive sector required strategies rooted in innovation, collaboration and resilience. "Farmers should have access to improved seeds,

modern technologies, efficient water management, and climate-smart practices that protect the environment and boost productivity, Dr Dikoloti said and appealed for strengthened research and development, improved extension services and optimised post-harvest systems to reduce losses and maximise the value of every harvest. The event comes after a few days the government presented the National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12), which lays out a clear, ambitious path for Botswana's transformation.

Under NDP 12, agriculture is envisioned as a commercialised, resilient and competitive sector, one that promotes agribusiness, fosters food processing, and is projected to create 250 000 jobs by 2030, Dr Dikoloti said. In addition, he said NDP 12 emphasised strong private sector participation and strategic investment in infrastructure such

as irrigation and water harvesting systems, as well as the adoption of modern mechanisation.

Moreover, he said the plan would prioritise the strengthening of value chains across beef, horticulture, dairy, and small stock sectors, while championing climate-smart agriculture and innovative farming methods. Dr Dikoloti shared that mechanisation, research and improved extension services were at the heart of the strategy, ensuring productivity gains, better access to finance, and more robust market linkages. NDP 12 also recognises the importance of post-harvest management, logistics, and agro-processing, critical elements in reducing losses, improving quality, and creating high-value products for local and international markets.

Dr Dikoloti sees Botswana's agricultural transformation as not being solely about production but also about creating opportunity,

dignity, and prosperity.

"It is about empowering young people and women to see agriculture not as a struggle, but as a business of innovation and growth, it is about moving from exporting raw commodities to producing high-quality, value-added goods that strengthen the economy, create jobs, and reduce dependency on imports," Dr Dikoloti said.

This, he said should not be the work of government alone but partnerships that brought together farmers, private investors, financial institutions, academics, civil society, and development partners.

He expressed gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations for being a steadfast partner, providing technical expertise, financial assistance, and policy guidance to strengthen food systems.

"Standing here today, we also recognise our regional and

international partners, including SADC and the European Union, whose programmes complement national efforts to achieve agricultural growth and resilience," he said. He also commended academic institutions, particularly the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), for being key drivers of innovation and capacity building.

"Through initiatives such as INCUHIVE and SECHABA, BUAN equips young people with the knowledge and skills to lead in agriculture, develop new technologies, and create business opportunities," said Dr Dikoloti

He said these efforts were vital in preparing a new generation of farmers, agripreneurs, and researchers, to lead Botswana's agricultural transformation, emphatically pointing out food security was a shared national responsibility. **BOPA**

Ba Ikoga ba batla ditlhabololo

Ka Kedirebofe Pelontle

IKOGA - Banni ba Ikoga kwa kgaolong ya Okavango ba lela ka tlhalelo ya ditlhabololo kwa motseng wa bone.

Ba buile se mo phuthengong ya kgotla, e e neng e buisiwa ke mothusa tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, Rre Ignatius Moswaane ka Mosupologo.

Kgosi Sarefo Mombeko wa Ikoga, o tlhalositse fa motse oo, o sa le o tlhomamisitswe mme o sa gole.

O supile fa go na le tlhalelo ya diofisi jaaka kwa kokelwaneng, sekole, sepodisi le tlhalelo ya

bonno jwa badirelapuso.

A re metsana e e gaufi le Ikoga jaaka Xanxana, e dirwe bontlha bongwe jwa motse oo.

Rre Moswaane o gakolotse fa ditlhabololo di le thata ka beng gae mme a re ba ka kgona seo fa ba tshwaragane.

A re setshaba se tshwanetse go busetsa serodumo sa go ipelega, a supa fa lenaneo la Ipelegeng le diretswe gore setshaba se kgone go itirela.

Rre Moswaane a re puso e solofeditse go oketsa dituelo tsa Ipelegeng fa seemo sa itsholelo ya lefatshe se tokafala, gore badiri ba Ipelegeng ba kgone go amogela dikatso tse di botoka, ba

je sentle ebile ba tshele sentle.

O kopile badiri ba Ipelegeng go bereka ka natla le go itlhabolola ka go ya dikoleng tsa ditiro tsa

diatla gore ba kgone go dira ditiro tse dikgolwane jaaka go baakanya dikago tsa puso.

O ne a re puso ya nako eno

e fitlhetse sekgwama se le makgwakgwa mme a re seo ga se fetole ditsholofetso tsa bone mo setshabeng. **BOPA**



Banni ba Ikoga ba le kwa phuthengong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke Mothusa Tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, Rre Ignatius Moswaane ka Mosupologo. Kgosi Sarefo Mombeko wa motse oo, a re go na le tlhalelo ya diofisi le bonno jwa badirelapuso. Senepe: Kedirebofe Pelontle

Kgokgontsho ya bong sera mo setshabeng

GABORONE - Dipalo tsa kgokgontsho ya bong ke sesupo sa gore Botswana o lebanwe ke kgwetlho e e tlhokang mongwe le le mongwe go tsaya kgato go fefogela go lwantsha bothata jo.

Fa a bula phuthego ya Ntlo Ya Dikgosi kwa Gaborone ka Mosupologo, modulasetilo, Kgosi Malope II o supile fa sepodisi se kwaditsitse dikgetsi le di lesome le boferabongwe tsa polao, di le masome a maratara tsa petelelo, le di le lesome le boraro tsa go dirisa botlhaswa bana ba dingwaga tse di kwa tlase, go tloga ka Sedimonthole ngogola, go fitlha Hirikgong monongwaga.

Kgosi Malope a re dikgosi di

na le seabe se se faphegileng go lwantsha kgokgontsho ya bong.

O kopile puso go tswelera ka go rutuntsha le go nonotsha dithata tsa dikgosi, go ba kgontsha go aga setshaba.

Kgosi Malope o kopile setshaba go ema ka dinako le go tshwaragana go lwantsha kgokgontsho ya bong, e a reng ke mmaba mo popaganong ya setshaba.

O supile letshwenyego ka dipalo tse digolang tsa kgokgontsho ya bong ka se, se kgobera le go utlusa setshaba botlhoko.

Kgosi Malope o lebogile thuso ya UNFPA le ba-na-le seabe ba bangwe, go lwanantsha bothata jo. **BOPA**



Modulasetilo wa Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Malope II (fa gare) kwa pulong semmuso ya phuthego eo mo Gaborone ka Mosupologo. O kopile setshaba go ema ka dinako le go tshwaragana go lwantsha kgokgontsho ya bong, e a boletseng fa e le mmaba mo popaganong ya setshaba. Ba ba nang le ene ke bathusa mokwaledi wa Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Mme Esther Jean (molemeng) le Rre Tumisan Rajane. Senepe: Felicity Male

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Professional certified Graphic Designer wanted. Proficient in Adobe CS Suite. Must have 5+ years' experience in professional design and print production environments.

Candidate must demonstrate:

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- Mastery of digital imaging techniques

Knowledge of I.T. and computer repair will be an added advantage.

Candidates preferably residing in Chobe are encouraged to apply. Submit your CV and portfolio to vigilqueinvestment@gmail.com Only candidates meeting the above technical standards will be considered. **Closing Date: 27/10/2025**



NOTICE OF BEST EVALUATED BIDDER

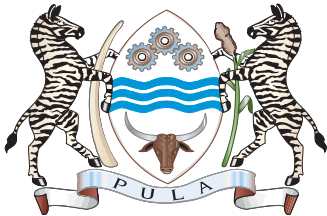
TITLE OF THE TENDER A TENDER FOR THE PRODUCTION OF TELEVISION KIDS SHOW SERIES UNDER A DBS TV PRODUCTION CONSULTANCY PROJECT: TENDER NO. SP/DBS/025/23-24

The public is hereby informed that the evaluation and adjudication process of the above mentioned tender have been concluded and the details of the Best Evaluated Bidder are listed below. It is the intention of the Department to place a contract with the bidder named below.

Name of the Procuring Entity	Department of <u>Broadcasting Services</u>	<u>Tender Amount</u>
Name of the Best Evaluated Bidder	<u>Visual Poem Studios (Pty) Ltd</u>	<u>P7, 042, 046.00</u>

This was an open domestic tender.

**Office of the Government Buyer
Ministry for State President**



Republic of Botswana
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

TENDERING PROCEDURES

T1.1 TENDER NOTICE and INVITATION TO TENDER

- **Tender Reference No.** KBPO/SP/03/2025-LOT 3A
- **Tender Title:** A Tender for the Procurement of a 24 Hours Physical Security Guard Services for Kazungula Bridge Project Office at Kazungula One Stop Border Post-Botswana for a duration of twelve (12) Months
- Sealed Tender offers are invited from 100% citizen owned companies for the provision of Services of 24 Hours Physical Security Guards for Kazungula Bridge Project Office at Kazungula One Stop Border Post-Botswana for a duration of twenty-four (12) months.
- The Procuring Entity is Kazungula Bridge Project Office
- Procurement Method is: **Open Domestic Bidding**
- Tenderers must, in order to be considered for the award of the contract, be registered with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) in the following categories:
Code: 100 – Security Services (100% Citizen)
Sub code(s): 01 – Security Guard Services
- The tender is reserved for 100% citizens or citizen owned contractors as stated under Section 76 (2) of the Public Procurement Act.
- Preference Margins will be applied to qualifying bidders in line with the following schemes:
• Directive on the Economic Diversification Drive (EDD), Presidential Directive CAB 34 (B) 2014 will be applied in this tender.
• Directive on Local Procurement Scheme (LPS) of Presidential Directive CAB 19 (B) 2013 will also apply to this tender.
- The physical address for collection of tender documents is: Administrator Office, Kazungula Bridge Project Office

- DRTS Plot, Along A33 Road, Kazungula, Botswana
- Documents may be collected from **16th October 2025** during working hours between
08:00hrs – 12:30hrs and 1400hrs - 17:00hrs
- A non-refundable deposit of P500.00 payable by cash or Bank deposit to the Account below and produce deposit proof upon collection of the tender documents in favour of the Kazungula Bridge Project Office is required on collection of the tender documents.
- Youth owned companies shall pay only P250.00 as per Presidential Directive CAB 14(B) 2015 In addition, youth companies shall provide certified copies of Omang for shareholders.
- Account Details:**
Account Name : Kazungula Bridge Project
Bank Name : Absa Bank of Botswana Account No. 1071042
Branch Name : Maun Branch Code: 291967 Swift Code: BARCBWGX
Account : Corporate Current Account
Currency : BOTSWANA PULA (BWP)
- Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing not later than five (5) days before the tender closing date of **18th November 2025** to Mr. Mothusi Ntseme and Eng. Lazarous Nyawali at Tel No.6253029, email- records@kazungulabridgeproject.com.
- A compulsory site visit with representatives of the Procuring Entity will take place at Kazungula One Stop Border Post-Botswana on 30th October 2025 from 10:00hrs to 11:30hrs . (Site

- visit register will be used to register bidder's attendance)
- The closing date and time for receipt of sealed tender offers is 1000 hours on 18th November 2025.
- Late tender offers will not be accepted.
- The Bid Submission Method is: One envelope Submission Method in which a single envelope or package method in which a bid is submitted in a one sealed envelope or package.
- One (1) original tender document marked ORIGINAL and 3 duplicate copies of the original Document marked copy in one sealed envelope clearly marked
- “Tender Reference No. KBPO/SP/03/2025-LOT 3A Procurement of 24 Hours Physical Security Guard Services for Kazungula Bridge Project Office at Kazungula One Stop Border Post-Botswana and shall be delivered to Kazungula Bridge Project Office at Administrator Office.
- The name and address of the bidder should be clearly marked on the envelope.
- The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Standardised Conditions of Tender for Services shall apply to this procurement, for which all the applicable Tender Data is contained in the tender documents.**
- {Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, the Kazungula Bridge Project Office is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer.}**
- Mr Mothusi Ntseme**
Project Manager
Kazungula Bridge Project Office
Botswana
- Eng. Lazarous Nyawali**
Project Manager
Kazungula Bridge Project Office
Zambia

Nkashi Trust presents story telling, photography exhibition

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Nkashi Trust in partnership with Nhabe Museum will showcase a photography and storytelling exhibition that celebrates the voices, creativity and cultural heritage of young storytellers from across the Okavango Delta.

Titled: Stories of Our Land, the exhibition, is billed for October 31 to November 7 at Nhabe museum and is expected to attract young exhibitors from Nkashi Trust storytelling clubs.

Participants will be drawn from villages in the Okavango eastern panhandle, with support from National Geographic Society through the Okavango Eternal partnership between De Beers company, which supports community based conservation in the delta to protect water sources and benefit local communities.

Nkashi trust managing director, Nlisi Motshusi said in an interview that there would be unique artwork that reflected the environment, traditions and everyday life of communities in the delta, a peek into the rich stories of the region.

Motshusi said the trust's



Nkashi Trust in partnership with Nhabe Museum will showcase a photography and storytelling exhibition that celebrates the voices, creativity and cultural heritage of young storytellers from across the Okavango Delta. The exhibition titled: Stories of Our Land, is billed for October 31 to November 7 at Nhabe Museum.

footprint was evident in the delta, to empower communities, preserve culture and tradition while at

the same time protecting the prestigious resource.

"We want to host this exhibition

annually because we believe it has the potential to attract more stakeholders and sponsors who can

contribute towards its success.

Our aim is to grow the event and extend coverage to more young people as many are challenged with unemployment," he added.

Motshusi also thanked National Geographic Society and its partners for supporting economic opportunities by inspiring communities to explore the delta through education and storytelling.

The organisation, he said supported clubs which aimed to equip young people from remote communities with the tools to document, preserve and share their own stories about the delta's environment and culture.

The support provided included skills development in storytelling and photography, mentorship and job shadowing as well as access to equipment and technology among others.

Story telling clubs coordinator, Karabo Moilwa also stated that the trust was doing wonders in the delta but many were hence hoped that the exhibition would provide an opportunity for people to appreciate their efforts.

Through the clubs, he said they wanted to inspire youth to tell their own stories and protect the environment.

The exhibition will highlight creativity, culture and youth's talent. **BOPA**

Podcast emphasises GBV issues

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - A new podcast titled Junction Sessions is opening up raw conversations around one of Botswana's most pressing social challenges, gender-based violence (GBV).

Beyond GBV, the podcast explores other social issues such as substance abuse, depression, family conflict and unemployment.

Pioneered by media creatives Mobie Gazah and Loapi Banda of LDB Media, the show is hosted by singer Kitso Selato, who says he connected with the concept when it was pitched to him.

"It is a meeting point. But also a lifeline, a safe space where people can feel seen, heard and understood," said Selato, who has personally experienced loss due to GBV and depression.

"I lost my best friend to gender-based violence, and it was devastating. While processing that grief, another close friend lost her life to depression not long after."

Those experiences, he said, inspired his passion to create a safe platform where people can share, heal, and connect as well as to honour those who have been lost. Junction Sessions would be based on unfiltered honesty but Selato emphasised that the anonymity of guests would always be respected.

The show's goal, he said, was to foster healing, not sensationalism.

The first episode is already streaming on TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube, and future episodes will feature collaborations with psychologists, life coaches, and law enforcement officers.

These partnerships aim to educate the public and address misconceptions that often surround issues such as depression, which some still view as a personal or spiritual failing.

"My hope is that listeners find comfort in knowing they're not alone," Selato said, adding that they welcome partnerships and support to keep the show running and growing. **BOPA**



A new podcast titled: Junction Sessions is creating an open platform for candid conversations about one of Botswana's most pressing social challenges, gender-based violence. The podcast also explores a range of other social issues, including substance abuse, depression, family conflict and unemployment.

Photo: Courtesy of Junction Sessions



Association revives netball

By Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN - The Botswana Netball Association (BONA) has called for renewed commitment towards reviving sports in the country, as it officially launched this year's Division A League in Maun over the weekend.

Speaking during the launch, BONA president, Mpopi Moatlhodi said the association's primary goal was to grow netball across the country and restore the country's competitiveness on the international stage.

"The sport has deteriorated massively and that needs to change. Our vision as BONA is to empower and develop elite athletes and for that to happen, we must reach all corners of the country, take netball to the people and bring power and ability to every player," Moatlhodi said.

She added that hosting the league in different districts was part of BONA's broader strategy to decentralise the sport, promote inclusivity and create equal opportunities for athletes in both urban and rural areas.

"Our games will be held in different areas to inspire athletes and business people alike to support netball and we want every young person, no matter where they live, to feel that netball is within their reach," she said.

For his part, Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) technical manager for sport development, Fredrick Kebabiretse applauded BONA's initiative, describing it as a key step towards rediscovering Botswana's sporting excellence.

"We have been on a freefall for the

past few years, but there was a time when netball was among the country's top-performing sport hence BONA's decision to take the league to different regions is not only empowering but will help unearth hidden stars and talent across the nation," Kebabiretse said.

He further noted that for Botswana to regain its place as a competitive sporting nation, collective effort was needed from associations, communities and the private sector.

On one hand, Maun Cresta Hotel manager, Vanitah Tjitunga commended BONA for its commitment to inclusivity, noting that the sport now featured both male and female in its leagues.

"The fact that we have male representation in the national netball league and even a men's national team competing in the Africa Cup in Malawi this year, shows how far the sport has come," she said.

Meanwhile, the netball league, hosted at Tshwaragano Junior Secondary School, kicked off the season with intense matchups and standout performances.

In the men's division, Prisons emerged as the early frontrunners, overpowering NICO United 67-13 in a commanding display, while BDF Cats followed closely behind after thrashing Maun Heroes 73-5 and Uprising Stars 68-6.

On the women's side, BDF Cats proved dominant with a powerful 71-8 win over NICO United, securing their place at the top, with Jwaneng Netball Club in close pursuit after notching impressive victories against Maun Heroes (58-20), TAFIC (79-16) and NICO United (84-23). **BOPA**

Jwaneng delivering a commanding performance to crush Nico United 19-5 in a BONA League Division A encounter played in Maun on Saturday. The fast-paced clash kept spectators on their feet as Jwaneng displayed superior coordination, precision, and teamwork to outclass their opponents and solidify their title ambitions.

Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe