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Govt and De Beers advance P1b into diamond fund

"This Fund is a strategic instrument for advancing Botswana's economic transformation. It is about finding new ways to convert the value of diamond resources into long-term prosperity."

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University of Botswana (UB) Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris (right) presenting the Valedictorian Award of Honour to Ms Karen Hilary Ernesta during the UB 44th graduation ceremony in Gaborone yesterday. Ms Ernesta attained a Grade Point Average of 5.0 in Bachelor of Arts in History. In recognition of her exceptional academic achievement, she has been awarded P25,000, sponsored by Access Bank Botswana. Beyond her academic excellence, she has also participated in charity events, demonstrating a commitment to community service. UB is holding its graduation ceremonies from October 21 to 23 where 4 059 students are expected to graduate, an increase from 3 539 in 2025. Photo: Washa Bofelwang

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US invests over US$4.3m in digital community health system

Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane (right), Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr Neo Tapela (left) and US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Christopher Gunning during the national launch of Botswana's Digital Community Health Information System, known as IKITSE, in Thamaga recently. The US government has invested more than US$4.3 million (P58.74 million) in the development of the system, to strengthen community health services and improve the use of health data. Photo: Courtesy of Ministry of Health

Lindi Morwaeng
THAMAGA

The US government has invested more than US$4.3 million (P58.74 million) in the development of Botswana's Digital Community Health Information System (DCHIS), known as IKITSE, to strengthen community health services and improve the use of health data.

Speaking at the national launch of the system in Thamaga recently, US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Christopher Gunning said the investment, made since 2023, supported the development of the system, training of users across the country and the establishment of dashboards at the Ministry of Health.

Mr Gunning also announced continued US support for digital health transformation, including more than 140 satellite internet devices, 250 additional tablets and 40 Bright Boxes to improve internet connectivity and integration of health information systems.

He said the support formed part of the longstanding health partnership between Botswana and the US, to strengthen the country's response to HIV and AIDS and improve healthcare delivery.

Mr Gunning said the IKITSE system enabled the collection, management, analysis and use of community health data in real time, allowing health officials to identify and respond to health threats more effectively.

He noted that information captured at district level flowed into the national health database, improving the availability and reliability of data for decision-making.

Meanwhile, Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ignatius Moswaane, said IKITSE marked an important milestone in Botswana's decentralisation agenda and other efforts to bring government services closer to the people.

He said effective decentralisation required local authorities to have access to reliable information to identify community needs, prioritise resources and respond to local health challenges.

Mr Moswaane said communities had different circumstances and health needs, making it important for government programmes to respond to local realities rather than adopting a uniform approach.

He said IKITSE would help shift decision-making from reliance on periodic reports and aggregated statistics toward more timely information, generated at community level.

Mr Moswaane emphasised the critical role of Community Health Workers, who served as a link between government and communities through household visits, health education, early identification of health concerns, referrals and follow-up services.

He said the digital system should make their work more efficient rather than create additional administrative burdens, adding that adequate training, equipment, connectivity, supervision and technical support would be necessary for its success.

He also urged local authorities to use the information generated by the system to identify health priorities, guide planning and improve service delivery, particularly for remote and vulnerable communities.

For her part, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr Neo Tapela, said IKITSE represented a shift from fragmented, predominantly paper-based reporting to integrated, data-driven community health management.

She said traditional reporting mechanisms were affected by delays, duplication of information and limited visibility of activities taking place at community level.

Dr Tapela said the digital system would strengthen coordination between community-based services and health facilities, improve referrals and follow-up, and provide a better understanding of health needs in different areas.

She said the system was intended to reduce unnecessary paperwork for Community Health Workers, enabling them to spend more time serving people in their communities. However, Dr Tapela stressed that digital transformation required responsible management of information, calling on users and managers to uphold data protection, confidentiality and accuracy.

She said continued collaboration between the ministries of health and of local government and traditional affairs would be essential to ensure that the system complemented Botswana's broader health information infrastructure.

Dr Tapela further called on stakeholders to ensure that data collected through IKITSE translated into practical action and improved health outcomes.

She said the system should ultimately contribute to stronger primary healthcare, universal health coverage and a more responsive and equitable health system.

Thamaga/Kumakwane Member of Parliament, Mr Palelo Motaosane, commended government for the initiative and encouraged community members to share information about the programme with others. ***BOPA***

MP proposes sign language as official language

Michelle Mosebiwa
MOCHUDI

Introduction of sign language as the country's third official language could promote inclusivity and improve communication between hearing and deaf members of society, Kgatleng Central MP, Mr Mpho Morolong has asserted.

Speaking at a kgotla meeting at Ntshinoge Ward in Mochudi recently, Mr Morolong said the proposal formed part of ongoing policy initiatives aimed at addressing communication barriers faced by people who rely on sign language.

He noted that several countries have already taken steps to recognise sign language officially, adding that Botswana should consider adopting a similar approach to ensure that deaf people were not excluded from public discourse and essential information.

Mr Morolong said the inability of most people to communicate in sign language made it difficult for them to interact with the deaf, particularly during emergencies when effective communication could be critical.

He emphasised that sign language was not the property of any single country, but a means of communication that could benefit people across national boundaries.

Kgatleng Central MP, Mr Mpho Morolong has proposed the introduction of sign language as Botswana's third official language to promote inclusivity and improve communication with people with hearing impairment.

The MP further observed that people with hearing impairment were often disadvantaged during community gatherings, including kgotla meetings, where information was predominantly conveyed through spoken communication.

He said introducing sign language in schools would be an important starting point, adding that the initiative could also create employment opportunities for people with sign language skills.

Mr Morolong acknowledge that he had not consulted his constituents before raising the proposal as a motion in the previous Parliament sitting where it was adopted, therefore apologised for the omission.

He urged members of the public to participate in discussions surrounding the initiative, saying community engagement would help facilitate its implementation.

Also, he announced that he intended to take the motion to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum, where he would advocate for member states to consider recognising sign language as a third official language.

Meanwhile, community member, Mr Molefhe Morokotso welcomed the proposal, saying it would address longstanding communication challenges faced by deaf people in the community.

Mr Morokotso, however, called on public officials to make greater use of Setswana when communicating with residents, noting that many people understood the local language better than English.

He said the overreliance on English prevented some community members from accessing important information, despite their right to participate in public affairs. Another resident, Ms Bontle Segokgo, also welcomed the proposed introduction of sign language but urged leaders to consider the information needs of elderly people, particularly those without access to social media.

Ms Segokgo stressed that relying on digital platforms to disseminate information risked excluding older members of the community who depended on other channels of communication.

Ms Dineo Radikolo similarly expressed support for the proposal, saying it would benefit the many people in the community who communicate primarily through sign language.

Responding to the concerns, Mr Morolong acknowledged the need for public officials to communicate more effectively in Setswana and pledged to convey the community's concerns to the relevant officials.

Addressing the issue of information accessibility, he revealed that plans were underway to establish a community radio station, Sedibelo FM.

He said the necessary arrangements for the station were in place, with a suitable venue remaining a key requirement before the project could proceed.

The station is expected to provide an additional platform for disseminating information, particularly to residents who do not have access to social media. ***BOPA***

Govt and De Beers advance P1b into diamond fund

Dr Akinwumi Adesina

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

Government and De Beers Group have advanced an initial P1 billion to the Diamonds for Development Fund, marking the fund's transition into the implementation phase.

According to a joint press release issued by De Beers Group and the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, the fund is a partnership between the company and government aimed at channelling diamond wealth into non-mining sectors.

The fund is designed to unlock domestic, private, institutional and international capital to support economic diversification and create sustainable employment opportunities.

"This Fund is a strategic instrument for advancing Botswana's economic transformation. It is about finding new ways to convert the value of diamond resources into long-term prosperity and investing in the industries, enterprises and capabilities that will drive the next phase of the nation's development," the release stated.

While De Beers is providing the initial capital, the initiative is a joint effort with government to ensure that Botswana's diamond wealth leaves a lasting impact on the economy.

The release states that Botswana's economic progress since independence has relied heavily on diamonds and that through the Diamonds for Development Fund, De Beers is committed to supporting government's ambition to diversify Botswana's economy.

It says the initiative will accelerate Botswana's future economic growth and serve as a global example of responsible natural resource development.

Meanwhile, the fund has completed its structural framework and appointed Dr Akinwumi Adesina, a development economist and former President of the African Development Bank, as chairperson of its 10-member independent board.

The release further states that the initial contribution marks a crucial step towards advancing economic diversification, industrialisation, export competitiveness and sustainable job creation and that the fund's work will focus on promoting prosperity for the people of Botswana. ***BOPA***

Security key to economic development - Mohwasa

Thamani Shabani
FRANCISTOWN

Security is one of the foundations upon which economic activity depends, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa has said.

Officially opening the 18th Business Botswana Conference on Monday, Mr Mohwasa said no economy could flourish where businesses feared for their assets, workers felt unsafe, supply chains were vulnerable and investors doubted their investments would be protected.

He said Botswana had established institutions and legal frameworks to protect public safety, maintain law and order and enforce the law, and that the police service, together with other relevant security and law-enforcement institutions, played a critical role in safeguarding citizens, businesses and national economic interests.

"We must continue strengthening the capacity of these institutions to respond to evolving threats while upholding the rule of law and protecting the rights of all people," he said.

Mr Mohwasa said the economic consequences of crime must never be underestimated, noting that robberies, attacks on cash-in-transit operations, ATM bombings and other forms of violent crime could damage businesses, increase operating costs and undermine investor confidence.

"Where the risks to people and property become excessive, capital may be redirected elsewhere, businesses may scale back operations and employment opportunities may be lost," he said.

He said government must equally confront corruption and the perception of corruption, as it diverted resources, distorted competition, increased the cost of doing business and undermined confidence in public institutions.

"Investors must be able to compete on the strength of their proposals, products and services, rather than their access to improper advantages," he said, adding that government's commitment must be to transparent processes, accountable institutions and consistent application of the law.

Mr Mohwasa said the rule of law was central to a functioning economy, as businesses needed predictable regulations, enforceable contracts, fair dispute-resolution mechanisms and confidence that property and legitimate commercial interests would be protected.

He said government must ensure that laws governing public safety, policing and economic integrity remain responsive to changing circumstances, while security measures must be lawful, proportionate and accountable.

He said government must create a predictable business environment, improve administrative efficiency and remove unnecessary barriers to investment, including delays in licences, approvals, land access and essential services.

Alive to the limits of public expenditure, he said government could not indefinitely remain the principal investor, customer and engine of economic activity.

"We need a stronger partnership in which public policy enables enterprise, private capital expands productive capacity, and businesses create sustainable employment," he said.

Mr Mohwasa challenged businesses to rise to the demands of the moment, to go beyond short-term opportunities and dependence on government contracts, and to innovate, adopt technology, develop local suppliers and compete beyond borders.

He said transformation must be visible in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, digital services, renewable energy, logistics and knowledge-based industries, adding that Botswana must position its businesses to benefit from SADC and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Mr Mohwasa cited Statistics Botswana indicators pointing to economic pressures, including a merchandise trade deficit of approximately P1.9 billion in July 2026 and annual inflation of 7.8 per cent in September 2026, underlining the importance of strengthening domestic production.

He said citizen empowerment must enable Batswana to build enterprises that survive beyond individual contracts, while public-private partnerships must be founded on sound project appraisal, transparent risk allocation and value for money.

For his part, Francistown Mayor, Mr Gaone Majere, said for Francistown, economic transformation must translate into tangible outcomes, making it easier to start and operate a business, having infrastructure that supported economic activity and creates opportunities for investment.

Mr Majere said ease of doing business must be felt at city level, where a business owner interacts with council on planning, development, trading and licences.

"When these processes are slow or unclear, they add to the cost of doing business. As a council, we therefore have a responsibility to ask, can we make it easier for businesses to operate in Francistown," he said.

He said council must explore public-private partnerships in property development, markets, tourism facilities, waste management, renewable energy and transport infrastructure, and is supporting green energy, recycling, eco-tourism and horticultural markets.

He said Francistown had a geographical advantage as a gateway to Zimbabwe, Zambia and the wider SADC region, and should be positioned not simply as the second city, but as an investment and business hub with its own economic identity.

Mr Majere said Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) could contribute to the broader economy, as delegates spend on accommodation, transport, food and retail.

The conference is held under the theme: From Dialogue to Delivery: Business Driving Economic Transformation. ***BOPA***

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (centre) being guided by Axis Tech virtual reality developer, Mr Kagiso Mmenyane (right) in a virtual reality simulation of Sua Ash Botswana Mine at the official opening of the 18th National Business Conference in Francistown on Monday. Looking on is Francistown Mayor, Mr Gaone Majere. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

> "No economy could flourish where businesses feared for their assets, workers felt unsafe and investors doubted their investments would be protected."
>
> **Minister Moeti Mohwasa**

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DailyBusiness

BMC implores Batswana to tap into cattle by-product industries

Calviniah Kgautlhe
LOBATSE

Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) is encouraging Batswana to venture into micro industries using cattle by-products.

BMC sales manager-capitalisation Mr Boggie Oduetse said the value of cattle extended far beyond beef production hence opportunities were bountiful as citizens could explore and venture into other cattle related value chain industries.

Speaking in an interview on Monday, he said Batswana could harness the value chains in the cattle industry and make use of by-products whose importance was often overlooked.

He said the BMC on a daily basis produced and sold edible and inedible cattle by-products used for a wide variety of everyday goods in the pharmaceutical industry, medicine, cosmetics, household, arts and crafts and manufacturing of high value commodities which locals could tap into.

Some of the cattle by-products produced by the BMC include carcass meal at 2050 tonnes per annum on average used in the production of pet food such as dog pallets.

He said the by product was bought by companies in South Africa who processed it and sold products back to Botswana in a finished product.

In addition, Mr Oduetse said the BMC produced the blood meal at 108 tonnes per annum on average used in cosmetics, as well as the beef tallow (rendered fat) at 1 300 tonnes per annum on average used as a base for luxury soaps, lotions, moisturising creams, lipsticks, and hydraulic fluids.

He said another by-product was the beef bile produced at 18 tonnes per annum on average used the pharmaceutical industry to produce pills. Furthermore, the BMC produced hides at 1 720 tonnes per annum on average which were tanned into leather for furniture upholstery, clothing, purses, vehicle interiors, shoes, and belts among others adding that the parastatal also produced the calf serum.

Other by-products, Mr Oduetse said included horns as the BMC produced 1.3 tonnes of horns per annum on average, as well as gall stones at 513 grams per annum on average which were used in the pharmaceutical industry. The gall stones, he said were a rare 'diamond' in the industry sold at P2 280 per a gram and were usually bought by pharmaceutical companies in China.

He said they were some high value cattle by product used for medicinal purposes to treat stroke, food poisoning amongst others adding that there were people who were always ready to buy online as such encouraged Batswana to set up online shops, collect and sell the cattle gall stones.

Furthermore, he said BMC produced hides and skins adding that there was a tannery revitalisation project underway at Lobatse, and currently it buys hides from the BMC and sell them to Pakistan.

He said the Tannery Processing plant is almost complete to supply industrial leather for local manufacturing.

Mr Oduetse said 90 per cent of the by-products produced by the BMC were exported to neighbouring countries and some were imported back into the country as finished products. The By-products, he said presented low hanging fruits opportunities for the youth, women and small enterprises.

He said opportunities supported by the BMC were ample to create employment and earn a livelihood adding that they existed in the dog pellets production, soap manufacturing, curio shops to stock horns artefacts as well as solar power harvesting to supply the BMC plant amongst others.

In addition, he said there were opportunities in the cold chain logistics transport where independent refrigerated transport distributing beef primal from abattoirs to urban butcheries as well as specialised retail distribution recycling plants. ***BOPA***

Botswana Meat Commission sales manager - capitalisation, Mr Boggie Oduetse said Batswana could harness the value chains in the cattle industry and make use of by-products whose importance was often overlooked. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

Pandamatenga farmers celebrate timely payments

Portia Keetile
PANDAMATENGA

Pandamatenga commercial wheat farmers are celebrating a major milestone after Bolux Group emerged as the primary buyer of their produce, purchasing a significant portion of the harvest and paying farmers in full and on time.

The farmers have responded to calls to boost domestic food production by producing approximately 3,200 tonnes of wheat, a crop for which Botswana continues to rely heavily on imports.

In an interview, commercial farmer Mr Gert Schmidt said his farm produced 2 000 tonnes of wheat this season, of which nearly 1 500 tonnes were sold to Bolux Group, while the remainder went to other domestic millers.

He said the local market had substantial unmet demand for wheat, presenting an opportunity for farmers to increase production.

Mr Schmidt described Bolux Group's timely payments as a game-changer for farmers, providing the liquidity needed to sustain operations, settle suppliers' invoices, pay workers and prepare for the next farming season.

He noted that commercial farming was capital-intensive and required continuous reinvestment to maintain productivity and profitability. He therefore urged other agricultural buyers to emulate Bolux Group by prioritising timely payments to farmers.

Mr Schmidt said Botswana imported approximately 150 000 tonnes of wheat annually to meet domestic demand.

He revealed that his entire wheat crop was cultivated under dryland conditions, relying on rainfall rather than artificial irrigation.

However, he said dryland wheat production required specialised machinery different from that used for traditional crops such as sorghum.

"We invested heavily in a high-tech planter that handles advanced precision seeding, and that strategic business decision is exactly what drove our operations to profitability," he said.

Another commercial farmer, Mr Jaco Strachan, confirmed that he had also contracted his wheat harvest to Bolux Group.

He said prompt payment enabled him to purchase fertilisers and crop chemicals in preparation for the next farming season.

Mr Strachan cultivated 100 hectares of wheat under irrigation, producing 500 tonnes.

He said logistical challenges remained a concern because most of Botswana's major millers were concentrated in the southern part of the country, far from Pandamatenga.

To address the challenge, farmers and millers had agreed to share transportation costs equally, with each party covering 50 per cent of the expenses incurred in moving the produce to market.

Mr Strachan said the high national demand for wheat presented significant opportunities for expanding local production.

However, he cautioned that irrigated wheat farming remained capital-intensive, particularly because of rising fuel costs associated with powering boreholes that supply irrigation systems.

He said the proposed Chobe-Zambezi Agro-Water Scheme offered hope for addressing Pandamatenga's persistent water challenges, adding that farmers eagerly awaited the project's full implementation. ***BOPA***

Pandamatenga commercial farmer, Mr Gert Schmidt said his farm produced 2 000 tonnes of wheat this season, of which nearly 1 500 tonnes were sold to Bolux Group, while the remainder went to other domestic millers. Photo: Portia Keetile

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China cross-border capital inflows ease

BEIJING - China's non-bank sectors, including enterprises and individuals, recorded net cross-border capital inflows of US$40.7 billion in September, down 35 percent from August, as trade in goods continued to generate substantial inflows, the country's foreign exchange regulator said on Tuesday. Cross-border receipts and payments rose 9 per cent month on month, while foreign exchange settlement and sales increased 17 per cent, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE). Banks settled US$294.2 billion in foreign exchange and sold US$238 billion d in September. In the first nine months, settlement totaled nearly US$2.38 trillion dollars, against sales of US$ 1.98 trillion dollars, according to SAFE. ***Xinhua***

Hichilema lauds China investment in fertiliser plant

LUSAKA - Zambia President Hakainde Hichilema said on Tuesday that a Chinese investment to expand a fertiliser plant demonstrates partnership with mutual benefits. "Cooperation must be mutual, must be real, must deliver mutual benefits, as we can see here. That is cooperation, that is partnership for shared benefits," he said at a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of a Chinese-owned fertiliser production plant in Lusaka, the country's capital. United Capital Fertilizer Limited, a subsidiary of the Chinese conglomerate Wonderful Group of Companies Limited, invested US$1.6 billion in the project to support Zambia's industrialisation and agricultural transformation. Hichilema said the scale of the investment demonstrated the investor's commitment and confidence in Zambia's economy. ***Xinhua***

Loan prime rates remain unchanged

BEIJING - China's one-year loan prime rate (LPR), a market-based benchmark lending rate, came in at 3 per cent Tuesday, unchanged from the previous month. The over-five-year LPR, on which many lenders base their mortgage rates, also remained unchanged from the previous reading of 3.5 per cent, according to the National Interbank Funding Center. LPRs, published each month, reflect financing costs for households and businesses and serve as a pricing reference for bank lending. Lower rates can ease borrowers' financing burdens and encourage investment and consumption. China's one-year and over-five-year LPRs have remained unchanged for 17 consecutive months since June 2025. The steady LPR rates came after China's gross domestic product grew 4.5 per cent year on year in the third quarter of 2026, while new quality productive forces, represented by high-tech manufacturing, are developing at an accelerated pace, according to Golden Credit Rating. ***Xinhua***

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Kgosi Moremi o bolotsa letsema

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

Mothusa Kgosi wa Batawana, Kgosi Kealetile Moremi o boloditse letsema ka go rotloetsa balemi kwa kgaolong ya bokone bophirima go lema ka botswapelo le go dirisana mmogo go oketsa thobo le gone go tokafatsa matshelo a malwapa.

Kgosi Moremi o buile se kwa pitsong ya letsema kwa kgotla kgolo ya Maun ka Mosupologo, go diragatsa ngwao ya Batawana ya go isa dipeo kwa kgotleng go rapelela paka ya temo, go rotloetsa balemi le go nonotsha mowa wa tirisano mmogo.

Fa a bua mo boemong jwa ga Kgosikgolo ya Batawana, Kgosi Moremi o tlhalositse fa letsema e le ngwao ya bogologolo e e botlhokwa mo ditsong tsa Batawana, e e ntseng e dirwa ngwaga le ngwaga kwa kgotleng.

O boletse fa mo nakong e e fetileng, dikgotlana le kgotla kgolo di ne di tshwara tiro e ka Mosupologo ka nako ya borataro mo mosong, fa go atamela paka ya go simolola go lema.

Kgosi Moremi o kopile balemi go netefatsa gore masimo a bone a ageletswe sentle go sireletsa dijwalo mo diphologolong tse di ka di senyang, a tlhalosa fa tshireletsego ya masimo e le botlhokwa mo go fitlheleleng thobo e e siameng.

"Fa masimo a ageletswe sentle tshenyo ya dikgomo le diphologolo tsa naga e kgona go nna kwa tlase ka jalo balemi ba tshwanelwa ke go baakanya masimo a bone," Kgosi Moremi a tlhalosa.

Balemi ba tshologetse kwa kgotleng jaaka mothusa kgosi wa Batawana, Kgosi Kealetile Moremi a ne a bolotsa letsema ka Mosupologo. Kgosi o rotloeditse balemi go tsaya temo tsia, go dirisana mmogo le go dirisa temo jaaka tsela ya go tokafatsa matshelo a malwapa le go oketsa thobo. Senepe: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

A re go botlhokwa go tsosolosa mokgwa wa bogologolo wa go thusana ka nako ya temo temo, go akaretsa go adimana didirisiwa, a re tirisano mmogo e, e ka thusa balemi go fitlhelela maikaelelo a bone le go oketsa thobo.

Kgosi Moremi o tlhalositse fa temo e na le seabe se segolo mo go tokafatseng itsholelo ya malwapa, ka e thusa go tlamela malwapa ka dijo le go a fa tshono ya go rekisa tse di setseng go bona letseno.

O gateletse botlhokwa jwa go tsweledisa letsema go ya pele e le ngwao e e rotloetsang banni go tsaya temo tsia le go dira mmogo go fitlhelela go nna le thobo e e nametsang. ***BOPA***

Koketsego ya dipolao e a tshwenya

Cathrine Simane
WERDA

Mapodisi a Werda mo Kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Borwa a tlhalosa fa dikgang tsa dipolao di sa ba jese diwelang.

Motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi a Werda Assistant Superintendent Kobamelo Ramarea, o supile fa ba setse ba gatisitse dikang tse tharo monongwaga.

O buile se, mo potsolosong ka Labobedi, morago ga gore mme mongwe wa dingwaga tse di masome a mararo wa Werda a bolailwe ke mokapelo wa gagwe ka Mosupologo kgwedI eno e le lesome le boferabongwe.

Ass. Supt Ramarea a re ba begetswe tiragalo eo mo mosong wa Mosupologo mme ba ragorela teng kwa ba fitlhetseng mosadi a rapaletse fa kgorong ya jarata nngwe kwa Werda.

O tlhalositse gore mapodisi ba ne ba ragosetsa mme yoo kwa kokelong ya Tsabong kwa ba bongaka ba fetileng ba rurifatsa fa a setse a tlhokafetse.

Motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi a Werda o tlhalositse fa serepa se le mo setsidifatsing kwa kokelong ya Tsabong mme mo bogaufing se tlaa romelwa kwa Princess Marina Hospital kwa Gaborone go ya go tlhatlhojwa ke ba bongaka, fa ditlhomiso tsa mapodisi tsone di sa ntse di tsweletse.

Ass. Supt Ramarea o ne a tlhalosa fa e ne ya re morago ga tiragalo eo selalome seo sa inaya naga mme mapodisi le setshaba ba tshwaragana go mmatla, mme ba felela ba mo tshwere, a supa fa a tlaa itshupa fa pele ga lekgotla la ga Mmakaseterata kwa Tsabong go arabela molato wa polao.

O boletse fa mmelaelwa a le dingwaga tse di masome a mararo. Go ya ka ditlhotlhomiso tsa mapodisi e ne ya re ka letsatsi la Tshipi kgwedi eno e le lesome le boferabobedi, mmelaelwa a emelela go tswa kwa masimong a Phuthuhudu gaufi le Jwaneng go ya phitlhong kwa Werda.

Ass Sup Ramarea o ne a tswelela ka go tlhalosa fa monna yoo a ne a lala kwa lolwapeng le le gaufi le fa mokapelo wa gagwe a theogelang teng mo semausung mme ya re a feta phakela a ya tirong a mo kgomogela a mo tlhasela ka go mo itaya ka tshipi mo tlhogong, mme a wela mo kgorong ya jarata kwa a berekelang teng.

Motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi o boletse fa bobedi joo e ne e le baratani mme moswi a tlholega kwa Werda fa wa Rre ene a tlholega kwa Khakhea kwa kgaolong ya Ngwaketse.

Mabapi le tiragalo eo, Ass. Supt Ramarea o ne a gakolola bogolo jang banana ka e le bone ba amegang mo dikgannyeng tseo go amogela fa lorato lo fedile le gore fa ba na le tlhoka kutlwisisano ba kope dithuso mo go ba ba maleba ba akaretsa dikgosi le dikgosana, ba boipelego, mapodisi, baruti, batsadi le ditsala tsa bone ka molemo wa kgang e le go buiwa go na le go tsaya ditshwetso tse di felelang di baka dintsho. ***BOPA***

Moithuti wa pele o namola sekole

Cathrine Simane
TSABONG

Moithuti wa pele wa sekole sa Tsabong Unified Secondary School (TUSS) Rre Emmanuel Setshogela (38) wa Tsabong o tsentse letsogo mo go tokafatseng maduo ka go busetsa mo tirisong difafole tse di senyegileng kwa sekoleng seo.

Mo puisanong bosheng, Rre Setshogela yo o feditseng mophato wa boraro ka ngwaga wa 2002 kwa sekoleng seo, o ne a tlhalosa fa a ne a gwetlhiwa ke go bona baithuti ba TUSS ba tlhaelelwa ke didirisiwa kwa sekoleng bogolo jang ditafole le ditilo tse e leng tsone gape ba di dirisang ka nako ya ditlhatlhobo tsa mophato wa boraro le wa botlhano.

Rre Setshogela o boletse fa a ne a buisana le bogogi le boeteledipele jwa sekole go thusa ka fa a ka kgonang ka teng a lebeletse lebaka la gore baithuti ba kwale ditlhatlhobo tsa makgaola-kgang a bo a setse a simolotse tiro ya paakanyo ya ditafole.

Moithuti wa pele wa Tsabong Unified Secondary School, Rre Emmanuel Setshogela a baakanya ditafole kwa sekoleng seo bosheng. A re o gwetlhilwe ke go bona baithuti ba tlhaelelwa ke didirisiwa, bogolo jang ditafole le ditilo tse e leng tsone gape ba di dirisang ka nako ya ditlhatlhobo. Senepe: Cathrine Simane

O boletse fa ipeetse seelo sa gore a baakanye ditafole tsa baithuti di le lekgolo mme mo nakong eno a setse a fetile sephatlo sa palo eo, selo se se mo itumedisang thata.

Rre Setshogela o ne a tswelela ka go tlhalosa fa a ne a ithuta thuto ya Design &Technology fa a sa ntse a tsena kwa sekoleng seo, ka jalo boithaopo jwa gagwe e le tsela ya go busetsa botsipa jo a bo anyile ka thuto eo gape e le tsela nngwe ya go rotloetsa le go tokafatsa maduo.

Rre Setshogela o ne a tlhalosa fa ba tsweletse ka go tlhaba mokgosi kwa dikhamphaneng tse di ikemetseng mme mo nakong eno go setse go itshupile ba Tyre Services kwa Tsabong ka go thusa ka pente gore ditafole tseo di nne mo seemong se se kgatlhisang morago ga dipaakanyo.

Mogolwane wa barutabana go tswa kwa sekoleng sa TUSS, Rre Ditiro Orekelwang o ne a bolela fa morago ga gore difafole le ditilo di senyege go na le kwa ba kokoanyetsang teng kwa Rre Setshogela a di boneng teng mme a gwetlhega go thusa.

Rre Orekelwang o lebogile baithaopi ka tiro e ntle e ba e dirang mme a kgothatsa ba-tsaya karolo botlhe, morafe le setshaba ka kakaretso go ba ema nokeng ka fa ba ka kgonang ka teng ka seo se ka thusa go tsisa pharaloganyo kwa sekoleng le go tokafatsa maduo go ya pele. ***BOPA***

Training targets self-sufficiency in livestock feed production

NAOMI LEEPILE
TSABONG

The National Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) Farm Management and Capacity Development training, a collaboration between the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs and Tsabong District Council, is tipped to build resilient agricultural systems and reduce the nation's reliance on costly feed imports.

Tsabong District Council chairperson, Mr Elias Motlhanke has described fodder production as a multi-million Pula commercial opportunity that aligned with area-specific developmental needs.

Centred around the theme: Promoting sustainable fodder production for resilient livestock systems in RADP farms, the intensive training brought together 35 participants representing key livestock areas across the country including Tsabong, Ghanzi, Charleshill, Mahalapye, Hukuntsi, Mabutsane, Serowe, and Boteti.

Delivering the key remarks during the official closing ceremony, Deputy Permanent Secretary-Operations in the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Kabo Moseki highlighted the urgent need to achieve self-sufficiency in livestock feed.

"You should be able to produce fodder for our country because it is spending millions to buy animal feeds from other countries," Mr Moseki said and challenged participants to implement what they learned.

"You can produce for your livestock and also sell to improve your lives. The time for learning should give way to action, embrace smart agriculture, tackle climate change, and ensure our farms are highly productive," said Mr Moseki.

Tsabong District Council chairperson and poverty eradication activist, Mr Elias Motlhanke, described fodder production as a multi-million Pula commercial opportunity that aligned directly with area-specific developmental needs.

He urged the government to empower community development trusts and village development committees to take up feed cultivation. "With fodder production, we are ready to fight El Niño and drought. It will aid in reducing costs and expensive travels to Gaborone to buy feeds, while creating sustainable local jobs that relieve pressure on safety-net programmes like Ipelegeng. Let us all declare a unified fight against poverty," said Mr Motlhanke.

For his part Kgosi Piet Manyoro of Khawa, urged the workshop graduates to serve as ambassadors in their respective communities and share their newly acquired knowledge to drive employment creation and safeguard herds against lean seasons.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the workshop attendees, Mr Molapise Kwadipane, from Ghanzi District said that the skills gained would immediately be put to practical use in their ranches.

"We are going back to our ranches to implement what we learned here. We have learned a lot. Producing fodder for ourselves would help us produce good quality meat and cut the high costs of buying animal feeds" said Mr Kwadipane.

He further explained that the training was professional, turning them into true products of poverty eradication and fodder producers.

The training marks a key milestone in the government's strategy to transform rural agriculture, boost climate resilience, and turn RADP farms into vibrant commercial hubs. ***BOPA***

Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs deputy permanent secretary-operations, Mr Kabo Moseki at a workshop on Sustainable Fodder Production in Tsabong recently. He highlighted the need to achieve self-sufficiency in livestock feed. Photos: Naomi Leepile

Push for ConCourt establishment gains momentum

MARVIN MOTLHABANE
KANYE,

Experts have called for the urgent establishment of a specialised Constitutional Court in Botswana to safeguard the Constitution.

Although the country already has a range of courts, it still lacks a dedicated ConCourt to deal with all matters relating to its constitution.

This was the key message from a panel discussion held recently in Kanye to explain why such a court was necessary. One of the panelists, a legal practitioner, Mr Godknows Theko said Botswana owed itself a specialised ConCourt.

He dismissed arguments about whether the time was right, pointing out that every arm of government already received its own budget to carry out its planned activities. Mr Theko said Botswana, as a progressive nation, lagged behind many Southern African countries as it did not have a ConCourt.

The absence of a specialised forum, he argued, had left the country without a proper place to address constitutional issues. He noted that existing courts struggled to interpret the Constitution that had been in force since 1966.

"These courts cannot breathe life into the very law that governs the nation," he said. For this reason, he insisted that a ConCourt must be established before any review of the current Constitution was undertaken.

He explained that a ConCourt would provide a specialised judicial body responsible for reviewing the Constitution, interpreting it, and ensuring that laws, government policies and state actions complied with the supreme law of the land.

Mr Theko expressed regret that Botswana had operated under its Constitution for so long without creating a court specifically dedicated to protecting it.

Drawing a parallel with land disputes, he noted that citizens already had access to the Land Tribunal for formal redress.

The same specialised approach, he maintained, should apply to constitutional matters. A Journalist, Ms Boemo Ramogapi said Botswana had already made progress in establishing specialised courts. She pointed to the Children's Court, High Court, Small Claims Court and Industrial Court as clear evidence that the time was right for a ConCourt. Ms Ramogapi stressed that citizens often faced cases that were not adequately addressed within the current legal framework.

A specialised ConCourt, she said, would help ensure that basic human rights were protected and dispensed without prejudice. She emphasised that Botswana was part of the global community and should not lag behind in establishing such a court.

Law expert, Mr Biki Ramontsho added that Botswana had delayed in setting up a ConCourt. Such a court, he said, would bring greater certainty to the interpretation of the Constitution.

"It would also provide an accessible forum for people with pending cases who lack the funds to pursue further litigation, allowing them to present their constitutional issues for consideration and redress," he said. ***BOPA***

Arts & Culture

Springline Fashion Show returns Saturday

The showcase seeks to build a festive atmosphere ahead of the Christmas season, giving the public insight into the current summer fashion trends.

Models showcasing designs during the previous Madam Queen Modelling Agency fashion show. The agency is set to host the Springline Fashion Show 2026 at Riverwalk Mall in Gaborone on Saturday.

Queen Kolobe of Madam Queen Modelling Agency said beyond celebrating fashion, the initiative placed emphasis on youth development and social well-being.

Phodiso Rankwe
RAMOTSWA

Riverwalk Mall is set to come alive on Saturday as the Madam Queen Modelling Agency, in partnership with CB Stores and Topline, hosts the Springline Fashion Show 2026. Scheduled to run from 11:30 in the morning to around 1pm, the event aims to showcase premier local fashion talent while keeping young people engaged.

Organisers noted that the showcase also sought to build a festive atmosphere ahead of the Christmas season, giving the public insight into the current summer fashion trends.

Speaking on the agency's background, founder of Madam Queen Modelling Agency, Queen Kolobe highlighted that the organisation had spent two decades in the modelling industry grooming models, beauty queens, artists, MCs, and DJs providing them with critical exposure.

Kolobe said they were looking to woo potential sponsors to their fold and grow the modelling agency for it to compete with international standards.

She said the agency's talent pool spanned an inclusive demography, ranging from children as young as three years old to adults up to 65 years of age. Kolobe, fondly known as Madam Queen in the modelling industry, said beyond celebrating fashion, the initiative placed strong emphasis on youth development and social well-being.

Kolobe said the fashion and modelling industry was struggling locally despite the fact that globally it was a money spinning entity, which had the potential to empower young people.

The entertainment line-up features 30 models aged between 3 and 25 years. The event will be steered by Tammy also known as Mr Africa, alongside DJ Roland James and recording artiste Hampton. ***BOPA***

El Gouna Film Festival launches initiative for displaced filmmakers

EL GOUNA

Safe Harbour MENA, a CineGouna initiative at the ongoing El Gouna Film Festival (GFF), is helping displaced filmmakers from the Middle East and North Africa develop their projects and reconnect with the film industry.

Launched in partnership with the International Film Festival Rotterdam and the International Emerging Film Talent Fund, it is the programme's first region-focused edition and targets filmmakers displaced within the region who faced barriers to professional networks, funding and project development.

El Gouna Film Festival opened its ninth edition on October 15 in the Red Sea resort city of El Gouna, running until October 23.

The festival features 77 films from around the world alongside screenings, discussions and industry events. Safe Harbour MENA selected four filmmakers, including Syrian filmmaker Ezel Manay and Sudanese Ahmed Nagm Eldin.

Through online preparation and an intensive in-person programme in El Gouna, participants receive training, individual project guidance and meetings with producers, distributors and festival representatives.

Manay, who moved to Türkiye after the war in Syria, said the program gave him his first chance to pitch *Temporary Protection*, a story rooted in his refugee experience and centered on his father.

"I thought that the matter was limited to funding, but I was surprised that there were people I wanted to meet before and found them here," he said.

Manay added that a producer had emerged as a potential collaborator and described such connections as a form of funding in themselves. Eldin left Sudan several months after the war broke out and is now based in the United Arab Emirates, developing Sabary, his first feature fiction film.

It follows a young man from the eastern Red Sea Mountains who journeys with a retired wrestler from the Nuba Mountains in Sudan.

Rather than depicting fighting directly, the film explores the conflict's effects on people and places, identity, cultural memory, and the psychological tensions carried by Sudanese men, using traditional songs, dances, folklore, and magical realism.

Head of CineGouna Funding, Ahmed Shawky said the festival had supported filmmakers at different career stages since its founding, and Safe Harbour MENA extends that commitment to filmmakers displaced within the region.

Shawky called the results "very fruitful," noting that participants pitched to industry guests and began discussions with producers, distributors and festival delegates. Certificates are due to be handed out, and he said all indicators point to a "distinguished" first edition. ***Xinhua***

DailySport

Angel and Lebone dominate CAT Under-14 Circuit

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Botswana's rising tennis stars, Lebone Tlape and Angel Chakanyuka, have made a clean sweep of the singles and doubles titles at the two legs of the World Tennis/African Tennis Under-14 tournaments held in Gaborone.

The two players won both singles and doubles titles across the first and second legs of the continental Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) Under-14 Circuit.

In the boys' singles, Lebone claimed his second continental CAT Under-14 Circuit title after defeating Kenya's Maina Olembo 6-4, 7-6(2) in the final.

He continued his impressive run by partnering with Francesco Brink to win the boys' doubles title. The pair defeated Olembo and Zimbabwe's Tinevimbo Chinamo 6-1, 6-3.

In the girls' singles, Angel maintained her fine form, defeating Zimbabwe's Chloe Hayes 6-0, 6-4 to claim her second continental Under-14 singles title.

She then partnered with Reene Sebego in the girls' doubles, where they defeated fellow competitors Camila Seetso and Anotidaishe Chinyanga to secure the championship.

Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) Vice President Nonofo Othusitse said the association was pleased with the players' performances, noting that local competitors had delivered exceptional results throughout both legs. He said Botswana players had won the boys' and girls' singles and doubles titles across the two consecutive tournaments.

Othusitse also expressed satisfaction with Botswana's successful hosting of the two legs of the CAT Under-14 Circuit in Gaborone.

He said the tournaments brought together some of the continent's most promising young tennis players, providing a valuable platform for competition, development and international exposure.

"While we celebrate these performances, we also want to appreciate the sponsors of the event who have ensured it has been hosted over the past three years. These are Senn Foods and Spar.

We also want to appreciate the parents, especially Mrs Brink, who has played a pivotal role in ensuring the association receives support for the events over the past three years," he said. ***BOPA***

Geza Reinioud

Precious Masaba

Tema Modirelabangwe

Melodi Saleshando

Mpho Maano

Six athletes to carry Botswana hopes at Dakar 2026

Team Botswana chef de mission Lechedzani Master Luza

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) has announced the national squad that will represent the country at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

The games which marks the maiden Olympic event staged on African soil, will be held from October 31 to November 13 in Senegal.

Team Botswana comprises six elite youth athletes competing across four sporting codes: athletics, boxing, judo and swimming. The athletics team has Mpho Maano, who will compete in the 800 metres race, alongside track counterpart Geza Reinioud who will compete in 400 metres.

In the boxing ring, Botswana will be represented by Precious Masaba, who will compete in the 51kg category.

Theresa Tagariga will represent the nation in judo, while Melody Saleshando and Tema Modirelabangwe will represent the country in swimming.

Speaking at the team's announcement, BNOC president, Tshepo Sitale said the young athletes were not heading to West Africa to participate, but to compete.

He said BNOC was proud that four of the six athletes in team Botswana were females.

"I am particularly proud to highlight the strong female representation in this squad; with female athletes making up 66 per cent of our competing panel. Team Botswana stands as a shining beacon of gender equity, talent development, and inclusivity in sport," he said.

Team Botswana chef de mission, Lechedzani Master Luza said preparations were ongoing, adding that all athletes continued to prepare under the guidance of their coaches.

He said their focus was on improving performance, gaining invaluable competition experience and ensuring peak readiness for the Games.

Luza said beyond technical and physical preparedness, the team would also participate in dedicated educational workshops covering Olympic values, anti-doping, competition manipulation, media training and safeguarding.

The sessions, he said would reinforce the importance of competing with integrity, respecting the rules, protecting athlete's welfare and representing Botswana with dignity.

"As we prepare for the Games, we want our athletes to embody the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship. We want them to strive to perform at their best while respecting their opponents, the rules and officials, and building positive relationships through sport," he said. ***BOPA***