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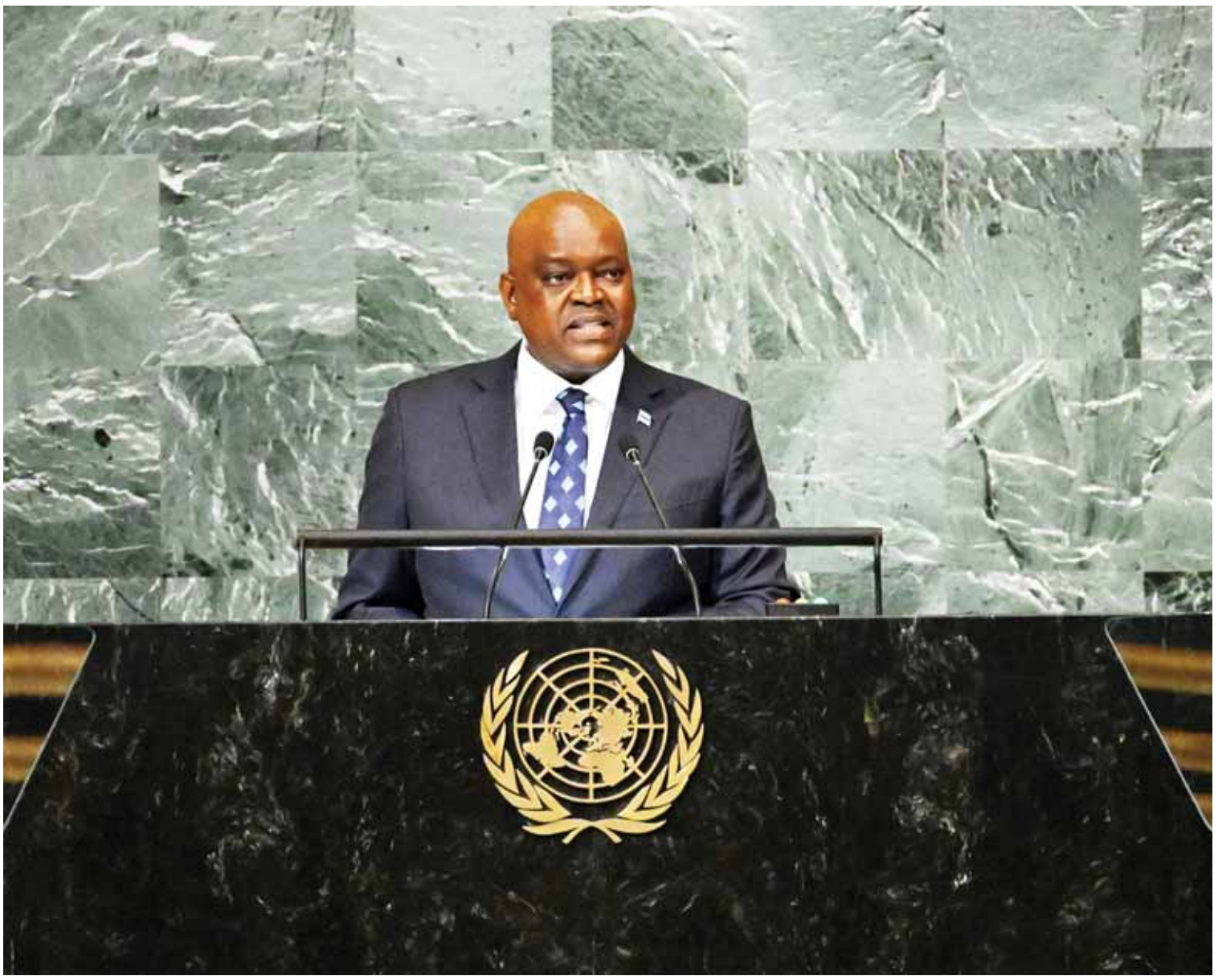
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Botswana continues calling for drug access



NEW YORK - ***President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi addressing the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly themed: A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges yesterday. He said Botswana continued to play an active role in contributing to the international agenda on ensuring that access to medicines was part and parcel of healthcare.*** Photo: Yobe shonga

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Bogus refugee infiltration worrisome

By Goitsemodimo Williams-Madzonga

DUKWI - Concern has been raised about reports that some refugees at Dukwi Refugee Camp were conniving with outsiders to help them come to Botswana disguised as asylum seekers.

That was not only wrong, but illegal, Minister of Justice Mr Machana Shamukuni warned during a meeting at the camp Wednesday.

He said the practice also eroded human rights as resources that were meant to benefit deserving, recognised refugees, were diverted to cater for undeserving individuals.

Minister Shamukuni also lamented wanton vandalism of both new and old buildings at the camp as well as rampant theft of materials.

He advised refugees to regard the camp as their home and to report perpetrators to the police.

They were informed that Botswana preferred that refugees opted for voluntary repatriation whenever reasons that compelled them to leave their countries of origin no longer existed.

Refugees were expected to go back home when the situation was conducive for them to do so, said Mr Shamukuni.

He said arrangements were in place for their safe return to restart their lives and help make their countries better.

"All the refugee protection protocols will be followed," he assured them.

The minister therefore urged refugees, whose situation allowed, to consider taking up the voluntary repatriation offer to reunite with their families and make meaningful contributions to the socioeconomic development of their countries of origin.

Mr Shamukuni reminded his audience that on World Refuge Day in June, he informed them that Botswana continued to maintain an open door policy for asylum in line with international obligations while ensuring maintenance of internal security.

The country was committed to giving each asylum seeker an opportunity to be heard within the provisions of both international and Botswana laws, he said.

Minister Shamukuni said Botswana must ensure that only people who met protection standards were allowed in the country.

He said it was of paramount importance that refugees did not abuse the process.

The refugees had requested free movement to enable them to work and sell their produce outside the camp.

They also complained of insufficient rations and that except for sanitary pads, they were not given toiletries.

Being allowed to work would help them to fend for themselves instead of relying on government and UNHCR, they argued.

Some said they had been staying at the camp for more than 20 years and requested that they be considered for citizenship to meaningfully contribute to the country's economy. ***BOPA***

Prisons introduces anti-congestion measures

By Kabo Keaketswe

MACHANENG - Overcrowding is reportedly among the challenges facing most Botswana prison facilities with repeat offenders identified as a major contributory factor.

Speaking at a capacity building workshop for reintegration committees in Machaneng on Wednesday, Assistant Commissioner Oatlametse Motshebe said Botswana Prisons Service had devised intervention strategies which included working with communities in offender rehabilitation and reintegration.

Also introduced was the reconciliation aspect, which entailed, in the case of murder, engaging stakeholders such as psychologists and social workers to provide prolonged counselling for the victim's families, he said.

Mr Motshebe explained that the move was in a bid to help families heal and in the process forgive the incarcerated offender for the sake of peace upon release.

He said the organisation was in the process of forming community based reintegration committees across the country.

The aim was to foster social reintegration of offenders within their communities so as to afford them the opportunity to lead a positive, productive and meaningful life free from crime, said Mr Motshebe.

One of the objectives is to create an enabling environment for effective involvement of the community in the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

A second objective is to provide an opportunity for establishment of networking and sustenance of partnerships between the organisation and the community.

Committees are also responsible for the coordination of programmes and services rendered by the community to ex-offenders as well as intensification of ex-offender accountability through victim or family reconciliation process.

For her part, Superintendent Maipelo Lufu, a social worker by profession, said difficult as it was, the reconciliation process was crucial for both the victim and the offender.

Reconciliation was for the sake of peace which would eventually result in the offender being easily accepted by the community, she said. ***BOPA***

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MP for Gaborone Central, Mr Tumisang Healy (left), Mr Masunga (centre) and Mr Segokgo at the second Digital Shift BW summit in Gaborone on Wednesday.
Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Development of smart Botswana efforts continue

By Bonang Masolotate

GABORONE - Government is looking to partner with different local and international industry players to come up with solutions that could help develop a smart Botswana.

This was revealed by Minister of Communication, Knowledge and Technology, Mr Thulagano Segokgo at a Botswana Telecommunication Corporation (BTC) Digital Shift Enterprise Summit in Gaborone Wednesday.

He said in a world where information technology was a pillar of economic growth and inclusion, Botswana could not be left behind.

Noting that research showed that Botswana was ranked 111th on the frontier technology readiness index, he said the country had potential to be among the best when it came to digital transformation.

Minister Segokgo said government had embraced technology as an enabler of social and economic development and had committed to promoting digitisation across both private and public sectors.

Digitisation, he said, ensured availability of real-time information to expedite decision-making and service delivery as well as to grow the domestic ICT sector.

He said the decision to promote digitisation was anchored on the country's aspirations as espoused in the National Broadband Strategy.

Mr Segokgo said the strategy was aimed at ensuring that at least 90 per cent of both the rural and urban population had access to high-speed broadband connectivity.

In addition, government had established Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) as the first science and technology park to contribute to the country's economic development and competitiveness, he said.

The minister said it was also meant to create new scientific, technological and indigenous knowledge-based business opportunities.

BTC managing director, Mr Anthony Masunga said the organisation's role, as technology leaders and experts, was to help drive the country's transformation.

It did so through applying itself using technology, he said adding, 'as BTC we have raised our hand to say we are with you on transformation'.

Mr Masunga said the BTC summit shifted the conversation beyond connectivity.

Since government wanted to build a viable private sector, the conversation should include digital services, he said.

The two-day summit, in its second year running, offered an opportunity for sharing on a wide range of opportunities available through digital transformation. ***BOPA***



NEW YORK - ***President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (right), First Lady Neo (left) and PricewaterhouseCoopers global chairperson, Mr Bob Moritz at the Global Leadership Council meeting yesterday. President Masisi said government was committed to prioritising youth empowerment.*** Photo: Yobe Shonga

Entrepreneurship panacea for youth problems

By Thato Mosinyi

NEW YORK - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has emphasised the importance of promoting young entrepreneurs.

Youth entrepreneurship would help to bring ostracised young people back into the economic mainstream and address some of the psychosocial problems that arose from joblessness, he told a global leadership council meeting in New York yesterday.

"Entrepreneurship will also help youth to develop new skills and experiences and promote innovation and resilience. As young entrepreneurs are particularly responsive to new economic opportunities and trends, they would be able to better adapt to the changing market," he said.

Botswana, he said, recognised the importance of providing opportunities for youth to be skilled, empowered and employed. Dr Masisi said the country was therefore committed to creating an enabling environment and opportunities for youth entrepreneurs to prosper and stimulate the economy.

"Government is steadfast in introducing programmes that form part of an ecosystem for successful youth entrepreneurship. This is in response to the country's youthful population," he said.

Dr Masisi said the recent establishment of an entrepreneurship ministry was testament to government's commitment to promoting young entrepreneurs.

He said jobs in the context of the modern economy required government to pay attention to the climate change crisis.

Green transition was therefore imperative for young people, said President Masisi. The President pleaded with the international community to come on board to assist young people to realise their entrepreneurship desires which were important for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He said there was an urgent need for equitable trading in line with commitment to attaining SDGs and creation of green jobs.

President Masisi said Botswana was endowed with a lot of educated young people and 'seeks investment in the human resource space to captivate the potential that the youth possess'.

Dr Masisi said the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement was a golden opportunity with potential to open new horizons for economic cooperation. ***BOPA***

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Botswana continues calling for drug access

By Thato Mosinyi

NEW YORK - Botswana continues to play an active role in contributing to the international agenda on ensuring that access to medicines is part and parcel of healthcare, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has said.

Contributing during the general debate at the 77th United Nations General Assembly yesterday, he said Botswana recently joined other UN member states in co-sponsoring a general assembly resolution calling for the convening of a high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

"We also continue to actively participate in the ongoing process towards the possible elaboration of a pandemic treaty because such a legally binding instrument will strengthen existing global address and react more speedily to health emergencies," he noted.

He said the fact that many countries, especially in Africa had not met WHO's 70 per cent target of their populations being fully vaccinated by mid-2022 underscored the urgent need to continue promoting vaccine equity through international solidarity.

"Despite the challenges we encountered, which were common to many developing countries, Botswana has procured enough vaccines to administer to all eligible groups, thus enabling significant progress with 64 per cent of our population now fully vaccinated," he said

As part of overcoming the challenges of global vaccine inequity, President Masisi said government had approved the manufacturing of the patent-free Corbevax COVID-19 vaccine, and construction of a vaccine manufacturing plant had already commenced.

He said the facility would produce cancer treatment and next generation cell-based immunotherapy adding that the initiative was being undertaken in partnership with NantWorks, Texas Children's Hospital, Center for Vaccine Development and the Baylor College of Medicine.

"This partnership will enhance Botswana's capacity in human vaccine production, contribute to our goal of building a knowledge-based economy and help in preparations for future pandemics," he said.

Stating that vaccine rollout remained a pre-condition for sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, President Masisi however said Botswana's recovery plans included strengthening the country's social protection system to ensure inclusion of vulnerable groups such as persons living with disabilities.

The President mentioned the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan which he said was intended to fast track recovery efforts while advancing implementation of Agenda 2030.

He said for the country's recovery efforts to succeed and in order to achieve sustainable development, adequate financing was needed.

Effective mobilisation of domestic and international financial resources as well as their prudent utilisation was therefore imperative, said Dr Masisi. ***BOPA***



Gaborone Dam is currently 50.8 per cent full. The dam will be able to supply Greater Gaborone for 18 months without inflow. Water Utilities Corporation CEO, Mr Gaselemogwe Senai said the organisation was currently piloting prepaid meters in Gaborone's Village location. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse



Mr Tlharese (centre) making an input during a Botswana-European Union policy and strategy stakeholder consultation meeting in Ghanzi on Wednesday. He said Ghanzi was missing on business opportunities due shortage of business plots. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle.

Productivity vital for economic growth, employment

By Mothusi Galekhutle

GHANZI - The envisaged national productivity and competitiveness policy and strategy is expected to guide all stakeholders in an endeavour to help the country achieve a high-income economy status.

Speaking during the Botswana-European Union policy dialogue on development of national productivity and competitiveness policy and strategy in Ghanzi on Tuesday, director of productivity in the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, Mr Bonnie Jim said productivity was a requisite for economic growth and employment.

He further stated that any decline in productivity affected employment.

"We need to move as a nation to transform the country's economy, for it to be competitive.

The aspect of productivity plays a major role," he said.

Mr Jim, who expressed delight at the attendance of diverse group of stakeholders, said productivity should not be government business alone, but should cut across all sectors.

He said it should start at grass root level by parents instilling it in children because the way one was brought up had a significant contribution to their work ethic.

Mr Jim said for a long time Botswana had not been doing well in terms of productivity and competitiveness, citing among the many issues, attitude as a problem that could be reversed through mindset change.

He regretted that agriculture, which used to be the bread basket of Batswana, was declining, thereby affecting the rural livelihood by deepening poverty levels.

He said registering of cooperatives was no longer a common phenomenon as people nowadays had endorsed individualism.

Mr Jim said bad work ethic was the breeding ground for corruption, which according to the World Bank report, was rampant in Botswana.

The silo mentality of service providers, especially government departments, he said also affected productivity.

An overview of how Botswana was doing in terms of productivity and competitiveness by a research fellow at Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) Ms Gaokgakala Maenge suggested that Botswana had a lot of work to do to achieve high-income economy status.

In her welcome remarks, Kgosi Annah Rankho of Ghanzi said for productivity to thrive there should be a conducive environment while welfare of employees should be taken care of.

Kgosi Rankho said embracing mindset change was crucial for transformation.

Making an input, Business Botswana Ghanzi branch chairperson Mr Director Tlharese said the township missed on business opportunities due lack of business plots.

Mr Tlharese blamed corruption, nepotism and malpractice for the country's poor performance.

He was of the view that Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board should facilitate the marketing of farmers' produce.

Charleshill Sub-district Council chairperson, Mr Ofentse Moapare concurred with Mr Jim that productivity should start at grass root level, advancing that education played a vital role in productivity.

Mr Moapare said multiple pathways should be adopted in the education system to elevate the country's economy to greater heights, saying that the current system only concentrated on white-collar training, to the detriment of the blue-collar ones.

Land board representative, Ms Goabaone Mfolwe said working in silos by government departments was affecting productivity.

Other participants said low market price for agricultural commodities had a negative impact on the performance of the sector.

They also expressed concern that some chain stores dis not buy farm produce from their respective operating areas. ***BOPA***

BNPC strengthens relations with JICA

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Botswana National Productivity Centre (BNPC) has hailed the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as an important partner.

This is after JICA assisted with the Gaborone Extension 2 Clinic project, which came to an end in 2021, through its Keizen concept.

Kaizen is a Japanese term meaning continuous improvement to create more value and eliminate waste. Throught the concept, ideally, every employee is engaged in a never-ending pursuit of perfection.

In BNPC/JICA virtual meeting to discuss the Botswana/Japan bilateral relations on Monday, JICA resident representative in Botswana, Mr Hideo Eguchi urged BNPC officials to share the Kaizen concept with its stakeholders. He noted that his country's partnership with Botswana started in 1977 when Japan accepted a Botswana participant for a telecommunications capacity-building programme.

He said emphasis was currently on the 'improvement of the environment for industrial diversification, poverty reduction and the betterment of quality of life'. Japanese assistance in industrial development, he highlighted, was evidenced by the Kazungula Bridge project.

He also noted the digital terrestrial TV broadcast project in partnership with the Department of Broadcasting Services and training programmes to improve broadcasting standards at Botswana Television.

Mr Eguchi also said his team had formulated training programmes, both short and long-term, that included country-focused courses in education, health, ICT, economic policy, agriculture and private sector development.

Long-term training programmes, he said, included postgraduate scholarship programmes.

Mr Eguchi also explained that the poverty eradication and betterment of quality of life programme covered projects for capacity development for the conservation and sustainable use of forests and range resources through the process of master plan development.

He noted that the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer programme supported primary school education, community development, social welfare, sports and environmental education.

Mr Eguchi emphasised the need to capacitate the private sector as a key stakeholder in the country's development.

For his part, BNPC executive director, Mr Jacob Mmola highlighted that the clinic project had been successfully implemented, expressing hope that it would be replicated across health facilities throughout the country.

Mr Mmola expressed happiness that JICA had identified a volunteer who would join BNPC in November to work on Kaizen.

He applauded JICA for helping the centre, noting that it would be the third senior volunteer to work with BNPC.

He noted that BNPC was established in 1993 as a parastatal with a tripartite board comprising of representatives from government, employers and workers organisations as well as stakeholders.

He said their mandate was to enhance productivity awareness as an advocacy function and enable individuals and organisations, through training and consultancy, to be productive and competitive.

The enabling process, he highlighted, involved assisting organisations to adopt best management practices through productivity-enhancing tools and techniques. He also said BNPC's strategic objectives included facilitating the reform of the public service to a point where it would be rated the best in Africa.

He informed the JICA delegation that the centre also facilitated the improvement of Botswana's workforce to a standard where it would be ranked the best in the region and to provide productivity statistics and information.

He also said BNPC facilitated a culture of excellence within the private sector with a focus on SMMEs to enable local businesses to achieve a regionally competitive rating. ***BOPA***

Ex-convicts reintegration crucial

By Jeremiah Sejabosigo

LOBATSE - Lobatse residents have been urged to welcome ex-convicts and reintegrate them into the community.

The request was made by the station commander of Lobatse prison, senior superintendent Babedi Mosimanegape, when launching the Offender Integration Programme for Peleng and Motswedi/Thema townships, at Peleng kgotla on Wednesday.

Mr Mosimanegape explained that government established the Offender Integration Programme with the objective of facilitating reintegration of ex-convicts to normal life in the society.

He said the programme was launched in Letlhakane in October 2021 by the then Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, who directed all prison stations to form the offender integration committees in their areas.

"We have, therefore, formed two committees in Lobatse; one for Peleng and Motswedi/ Thema townships and another for Woodhall" Mr Mosimanegape said.

He said the 14-person committees comprising of tribal and religious leaders, prison and government officials, business representatives, four community representatives and ex-convicts representatives, would coordinate the effort to successfully reintegrate ex-convicts into the society. It is chaired by Motswedi/Thema customary court president, Mr Kgotlaetsile Motsamai.

He said the committees would be informed when convicts were being released from prison in order to welcome them and facilitate the process to reconcile them with those they had previously offended.

He added that the committees would assist in conveying the community views to relevant authorities regarding ex-convicts.

"The objectives of the programme includes the cultivation of acceptance of ex-convicts and facilitation of the reconciliation process.

Through this programme we hope to reduce incidents of repeat offenders," he said.

In her remarks, Peleng Customary Court president, Ms Tshegofatso Setumo said ex-convicts had complained about lack of acceptance and discrimination by the society after returning from prison.

She urged the residents to stop discrimination of ex-convicts and support government efforts to reintegrate them into the society.

One of the residents said the law was being discriminatory by barring ex-convicts from being pastors.

He, therefore, called for the law to be reviewed to allow ex-convicts, who converted to Christianity to become pastors. ***BOPA***

Fire department critical service provider - Pule

By Olekantse Sennamose

JWANENG - Even though it is constrained by lack of funds and limited resources, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is highly regarded by government.

Speaking during a familiarisation tour of Jwaneng fire station on Wednesday, Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Mabuse Pule informed employees of the department that theirs was a special department that ranked with the Botswana Police and the Botswana Defence Force.

"In that regard, you deserve to be given special treatment.

This also requires you as employees to behave well and desist form unbecoming behaviour that does not reflect your department's integrity.

Minor issues such as cleanliness and responsible drinking should be part and parcel of lives because your duty requires you to have a sober mind when dispensing it," said.

Mr Pule also informed them that the ministry had proposed a restructuring process which will, if approved, see the department being headed at a higher scale, something he said would also trickle down to other employees in closing gaps between salary scales.

He also assured them that their issues of concern such as lack of a fire engine had been noted and that in the meantime, contingency plans such as a Memorandum of Agreement could be used for councils to share resources.

He said issues of budgetary constraints were a challenge to all government departments, even at Parliament level, however, saying that they took solace in the fact that economic forecast showed likely improvement for the next financial year, which may help government realise some of its development plans.

Mr Pule, however, indicated that making the department a stand-alone institution would not be possible.

He was responding after one of the employees, Mr Kealeboga Sebekedi suggested that the department should be made independent from the council so that it could have its own budget.

"At the moment our budget is meagre because we are funded under the councils.

This is despite a fire department being expensive to run. Everything from uniform to equipment is costly," he reasoned.

Earlier on when welcoming the minister at a meeting with senior council management, Jwaneng deputy mayor, Mr Koolopile Pema said the council was at an all-time low because things such as development projects were not going well due to lack of funds.

"This causes friction between civil servants and the political representatives.

As politicians people feel we are not performing and when we push civil servants they cite lack of funds," he said.

He said for the council to raise funds through other avenues besides government grants was a challenge because people were hard to trace when it came to payment of rates because most were absentee landlords.

He said that such shortage of funds led to the grounding of council fleet, which suffered basic services such as sanitation. ***BOPA***



Jwaneng Town Council fire fighters at a meeting addressed by Mr Pule on Wednesday. He informed them that government was aware of their challenges and expressed hope that they would be addressed by the proposed restructuring of the local government ministry. Photo: Olekantse Sennamose

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Strengthen partnerships - Official

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN- Local Authorities have been encouraged to develop policies and programmes that will address the needs of small entrepreneurs at local level.

Doing so would help to build their resilience and enable them to face future challenges, United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) specialist, Mr Johnson Maiketso said during a panel discussion on how local authorities can tap on their strengths to create a conducive environment for linkages in the local value chains.

Mr Maiketso also urged local authorities to strengthen partnerships for inclusivity, noting that they could start by developing people if they were to have a knowledgeable resource for development purposes and for small businesses to thrive.

He said given their strategic position, local authorities were at an advantage to determine how resources could be used for the benefit of the people.

ABSA head of public sector, Ms Gaba Sekwakwa said local authorities should consider utilising the partnership between Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) and the bank as they had a common interest of growing the economy.

The bank, she said continued to develop solutions to societal challenges through innovative products, services and partnerships with primary focus on entrepreneurship.

She also said they acknowledged the pivotal role played by BALA hence they invested P300 000 towards preparations for the 2022 BALA conference.

She said the bank played a key role in supporting and nurturing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) citing that they had funded citizen enterprises to the tune of P6 million through their Enterprise and Supply Chain Development initiative.

The initiative aims to unlock lending to SMEs in the corporate value chain.

Ms Sekwakwa also noted that they had forged partnerships with several companies such as Debswana and Woolworths to economically empower local citizens across the supply chain.

"Through the initiative, we have identified a Motswana company producing bread and we are working with her to meet the required standards to penetrate the lucrative market," she said.

She thus challenged local authorities to start conversations on fostering partnerships to see how best they could assist SMEs and embrace the Local Economic Development initiative.

"We continue to explore various partnership agreements and I believe value chain development is one area that local authorities can leverage on it," she added.

Botswana Association of Tribal Land Authorities (BATLA) president, Mr Johane Chenjekwa said they were mandated to capitalise on their strengths to improve livelihoods, adding that they were currently engaging all land boards as land custodians to see how best they could meet the challenges at hand.

He underscored the need for local authorities and land boards to work collectively to develop strategies aimed to benefit the community as well as create a friendly environment for investors.

"We should understand that we are competing for attraction of investors with other countries and if we fail to avail land and create a conducive environment of doing business, investors will go and invest in other countries which are ready," he added.

Mr Chenjekwa urged local authorities to team up with land boards, introspect and correct their mistakes, emphasising that lands boards should be responsive to the needs of the community and shorten the period of land allocation.

He also noted that they should avail land for value chain development and opportunities to thrive.

"We should stop suffocating our people. Let us remove the red tape as land is a key factor in leveraging our strengths," he added. Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Mr Lameck Nthekela said that the newly established ministry sought to address challenges of entrepreneurs. Value chain and financing, he said were key hence training was paramount so that entrepreneurs could run successful businesses. ***BOPA***



As red meat has become scarce in Francistown due to movement restriction of cloven-hoofed animals, donkey meat is fast becoming a popular option in some parts of the town. Mr Bushy Seeletso of Block 4 has grabbed this opportunity and is selling donkey meat. Photo: Thamani Shabani

New Zealand dairy giant announces strong financial year results

WELLINGTON- New Zealand's dairy gaint Fonterra announced a strong set of results for the financial year ending July 31, reflecting a 2021/22 farmgate milk price of 9.3 NZ dollars (US$5.41) per kg MS (milk solids) and normalised profit after tax of 591 million NZ dollars (US$344).

With a total dividend of 20 cents per share to the company's fully shared-up farmers, comprising of an interim dividend of 5 cents per share and a final dividend of 15 cents per share, the final cash pay-out for farmers is 9.5 NZ dollars (US$5.53), according to the annual report released on Thursday.

Total group normalised earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) was 991 million NZ dollars (US$577 million), up 4 per cent over the prior year, the report showed.

Fonterra's Chief Executive Miles Hurrell said despite challenges including increased costs associated with supply chain volatility, 2021/22 was a good year for the co-operative group. "These results demonstrate that our decisions relating to product mix, market diversification, quality products and resilient supply chain, mean the co-op is able to deliver both a strong milk price and robust financial performance in a tough global operating environment," Hurrell said.

The co-operative group is pleased to be able to pay a total dividend of 20 cents per share for the farmer owners and unit holders, he said, adding this year's higher farmgate milk price is the strongest it has ever been, which is great news for the farmers. New Zealand also benefits from this, with 13.7 billion NZ dollars (US$8 billion) returned into the economy in milk price payments alone this year, the report showed.

Focusing on New Zealand milk, be a leader in sustainability and a leader in dairy innovation and science, the company set a goal of a return of about 1 billion NZ dollars (US$580 million) to shareholders and unitholders, it said. ***Xinhua***

BRICS tourism ministers discuss green growth, sustainable development

BEIJING- Tourism ministers from BRICS countries on Monday engaged in in-depth discussions on topics such as green growth, sustainable development and recovery, during a meeting held via video link.

Hu Heping, China's minister of culture and tourism, said at the meeting that BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), have rich tourism resources and play an important role in the global tourism landscape.

Noting booming tourist demand, constant mutual exchanges and huge cooperative potentials and prospects among the BRICS countries, Hu called for efforts to further improve the cooperation mechanisms for tourism and boost exchanges among administrative departments, industry associations, research institutes and market entities of the BRICS countries.

Hu urged efforts to carry forward pragmatic cooperation and make the recovery of tourism more resilient, adding that green principles should be upheld and joint efforts should be invested to boost sustainable development of tourism.

Hu also called for innovation-driven, digitalised and smart development of tourism as well as openness and inclusiveness in a bid to share more opportunities with more emerging economies and developing countries.

Hailing the cooperations among the BRICS countries over recent years concerning tourism and acknowledging the urgency of the industry's recovery, the ministers attending the event said they would take concrete steps to foster a resilient, inclusive and sustainable tourism industry. ***Xinhua***

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SPAR PRODUCTS



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Develoment, Mr Mabuse Pule (right) visiting Ms Dineo Inajame a resident of Unit 7 in Jwaneng, to appreciate some of the challenges under the social protection portfolio, which caters for among others, people living with disability. With him is Dineo's mother, Ms Pogiso Inajame (left) and Jwaneng deputy mayor, Mr Koolopile Pema (second right). Photo: Olekantse Sennamose.

Official commends school's PTA

By Onkarabile Moeng

MAHALAPYE - Mahalapye Junior Secondary School, Parents Teachers Association committee (PTA) is resolute on improving the learning environment, with hope for better results.

Thanks to the committee, the school now owns a photocopying machine and is constructing an outdoor teaching area, efforts hailed by the Sub-region chief education officer, Ms Cecilia Sunday during a visit by Mahalapye West MP, Mr David Tshere on Wednesday.

Ms Sunday said it was important for pupils to prepare early if they were to perform well. She urged teachers to train learners to be independent and know that teachers existed to facilitate them and therefore, learning even in their absence, should continue. Ms Sunday also encouraged teachers to work hard for promotions.

She said Pekenene JSS was the only school in Mahalapye that attained 50 per cent in Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) last year after a dry spell since 2012. Ms Sunday said JCE results for schools in Mahalapye Sub-Region improved last year after performance for most school in the country dropped due to COVID-19.

For his part, Mr Tshere said schools in Mahalapye were capable of improving perfomance as evidenced by past years' results. "Let's not just write exams, lets write to achieve the target which is 50 per cent. Let's perfect our tactics to get good results," stated Mr Tshere.

Mahalapye JSS head, Mr Hebert Kabelo said teachers needed moral support to produce good results. Mr Kabelo said they were intending to have a mini price giving through PTA, to encourage learners.

He said even though they scored 26.3 per cent ABC in mock exams, they believed the mark could improve. ***BOPA***

Madiba senior anticipates good results this year

By Onkarabile Moeng

MAHALAPYE - The hard work demonstrated by Form Five Development Studies (DVS) students in their final project paves way for good results in their final examinations, Madiba Senior Secondary School head Ms Masego Gaorengwe has said.

Speaking during the handing over of toiletries to the school by the learners in Mahalapye on Tuesday,

Ms Gaorengwe expressed gratitude to all who made the project a success noting that the gesture was special as students volunteered and worked hard to make it possible.

For their final examination project, DVS students embarked on a charity project by mobilising donations of toiletry and sanitary pads to students in need.

The school head said what they did demonstrated teamwork and social responsibility and explained that it was very rare for students to come together in the name of charity.

Ms Gaorengwe encouraged students to find a balance between learning and leisure as part of being responsible citizens.

She pointed out that the project was their starting point as it carried part of their final mark.

Project coordinator and DVS senior teacher Mr Dimpho Khutsafalo said the project did not only promote teamwork but instilled the spirit of volunteerism and how to give back to the school as a form of social responsibility.

He said each student contributed P20 as start-up capital, designed and circulated donation sheets to raise funds and organised a back-to-school event for the project.

Giving a vote of thanks, deputy school head, Mr Omphemetse Maitshoko expressed gratitude to other stakeholders such as Basadi ba Dignity and Young Women in Christ organisations. ***BOPA***



BUSINESSBOTSWANA

48th BUSINESS BOTSWANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS BOTSWANA MEMBERS

DAY & DATE: Wednesday, 28th September 2022

VENUE: Cresta lodge, Gaborone

TIME: 0800hrs for 0830hrs

The main business to be discussed at the AGM will include amongst others :

- Consideration of the Organisations's Audited Financial Statements
- Endorsement of the President and Vice President south
- Annocuncement of the 2022/23 board members
- Appointment of Auditors

Only Fully Subscribed / Paid-up Business Botswana Members are invited to attend.

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Lucara e abela Boro bese ya baithuti

Ka Portia Ikgopoleng

BORO - Khamphani ya Lucara Botswana erile bosheng ya abela motsana wa Boro mo Ngamiland bese e e pegang baithuti.

Bese eo, e e pegang batho ba le masome mabedi le bone, e kopilwe ke ba Botho Corps Trust, ba e kopela bana ba Boro ba ba tsamayang sekgele sa dikholomithara tse masome mabedi ka letsatsi go ya dithutong kwa Maun.

Mogolwane wa Lucara Botswana, Rre Johane Mchive o tlhalositse fa mpho eo, e le maiteko a bone a go tokafatsa thuto ya bana le go etleetsa maitlamo a lekgotla la ditshaba a go tsisa thuto e e nang le boleng.

A re ba thusa setshaba go ya ka dikeletso le letlhoko la ba ba kopang, a tlatsa ka gore mongwe le mongwe o na le letlhoko le le sa tshwaneng le la yo mongwe.

O ne a kgothatsa bana ba sekole go dira ka natla, go fitlhelela ditoro tsa bone, a tlatsa ka gore go bo ba tswa mo motsaneng oo senang sekole ga go a tshwanela go ba nyemisa moko.

Rre Mchive o ne a kopa batsadi go ema bana ba bone nokeng, go tlhomamisa gore ba ithuta ka tlhwaafalo.

E rile a tswa la gagwe, Mopalamente wa Maun Botlhaba, Rre Goretetse Kekgonegile a tlhalosa fa Boro a le mo lenaneong la go agelwa matlwana a borutelo a le mabedi, ka lenaneo la madi a ditlhabololo a dikgaolo tsa botlhophi.

Rre Kekgonegile a re baithuti ba le masome mararo le bongwe, ba dikole tse di potlana le tse dikgolwane, ba tsamaa sekgele ba raletse diphologolo malatsi otlhe, selo se a reng se diphatsa mo matshelong a bone.

O ne a leboga ba Botho Corps Trust go bo ba tsere matsapa go ikgolaganya le ba Lucara Botswana go kopa mpho e ya bese, a re e tlaa tsisa pharologanyo mo Boro.

Mopalamente o ne a gwetlha batsadi go emela thuto ya bana ba bone ka dinao, go na le go baa tsotlhe mo maruding a barutabana.

Mookamedi wa Botho Corps Trust, Dr Didimalang Biorn o tlhalositse fa lekgotla la gagwe le thusa bao ba ba nang le letlhoko, segolo bogolo, ba ba tlhokang tshidilo maikutlo.

O buile fa seemo se baithuti ba se ralalang malatsi otlhe go ya sekoleng kwa Maun se ne sa mo ngomola pelo, ka jalo a gwetlhega go kopa thuso kwa Lucara Botswana, ka go bo le ene mokgatlho wa gagwe o le mo Boro.

"Re itumetse thata go amogela bese e mo Boro ka go bo re fitlheletse ditoro tsa rona go bona bana ba rona ba na le sepalamo se se ba isang kwa Maun," ga bua Dr Biorn. ***BOPA***



Rre Mchive (molemeng) a abela Dr Biorn dinotlele le bukana ya bese jaaka komponi ya bone e ne e abela ba motse wa Boro bese e tla pegang bana ba sekole go tswa Boro go ya Maun. Senepe: Portia Ikgopoleng

Dikereke dingwe di kgotlela lefelo la ditso

Ka Portia Rapitsenyane

MAKGABA - Banni ba motse wa Makgaba kwa kgaolong ya Boteti Botlhaba ba re ga ba jesiwe diwelang ke dikereke tse di direlang dilo tsa tumelo kwa lefelong la ditso.

Ba ntshitse matshwenyego a, kwa phuthegong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Boteti Botlhaba Rre Sethomo Lelatisitswe kwa motseng oo bosheng.

Ba supile fa ba lekile maiteko otlhe go bona gore dikereke tseo ga di etele lefelo le, mme ba itaya sefoleletse.

Ba re ke nako ya gore mopalamente wa bone a ba thuse mme dikereke tseo di emise gotlhelele go etela lefelo le.

Modulasetilo wa komiti e e tlhokometseng ditsatlholego tsa motse oo Rre Rebaone Kotseleng, o ne a supa fa go na le dikereke dingwe tse di yang kwa lefelong leo ba bo ba gotsa melelo, ba senya dingwe tsa ditsatlholego ka go ntsha dingwe ba re ba di tsenya mo metsing ba bo ba tlhapa ka tsone ba re ba a ikalafa.

Rre Kotselelng a re ba felela gape ba gelela metsi kwa lefelong le, kana ba a leswafatsa ka go tlhapela mo go one, a tlatsa fa ditiro tse ba di di dirang tse di felela di kgoreletsa tlholego e e kwa lefelong le.

A re maloko a dikereke tse ba tsweletse gape ka go lala kwa lefelong le fa go sena yo o lemogang mme ba kgoreletse ditlou tse di nwang metsi koo.

A re mo nakong tse dingwe ditlou tse di a ba galefela ka di a bo di kgoreleditswe ke ba dikereke.

A re go a gakgamatsa ka dikereke tse di a bo di tswa kwa mafelong a sele a tshwana le Letlhakane le Matsitama fa dingwe di tswa kwa mafelong a mangwe ba supa fa ba utlwaletse lefelo leo.

Ka jalo Rre Kotsweleng o ne a kopa molaodi wa kgaolo ya Letlhakane go ba rulaganyetsa dithuto tsa go simolodisa trust gore ba kgone go somarela ditsatlholego tseo ba tlhwaafetse.

Banni gape ba ne ba kopa gore motse wa bone o nne le lepodisi ka go tletse botlhokatsebe jo bontsi. Ba re ka mo nakong eno ba ise ba nne le kgosi mabaka e le gore yo o neng a le teng o ne a tlhokafala, go diragala botlhokatsebe jo bontsi mo motseng, ka go a bo go itsiwe gore ga gona kgosi kana mongwe yo o ka kgalemang.

Banni gape ba ne ba ntsha matshwenyego ka ditlou tse di tlhakaladitseng motse wa bone e bile di ba senyetsa masimo.

Ba re ba dira maiteko a go lema ngwaga le ngwaga mme ere ba solofetse thobo, ditlou di bo di tla go ba senyetsa.

Ba ne ba kopa puso go bona gore ditlou tseo di ntshiwa mo lefelong le di leng mo go lone kana di fokodiwe ka go bolawa. ***BOPA***

Banni ba rotloediwa go lwantsha bolwetse

Ka Gaboselwe Olesitse

DAMUCHUJENAA - Banni ba Damochujenaa ba kgothaditswe go nna le seabe go tlhomamisa gore bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo ga bo aname mo dikgaolong tsa bone ka go sala morago ditaelo tsa ba lephata la mathoko a loruo.

Se se builwe ke mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Mmadinare Rre Molebatsi Molebatsi kwa phuthegong ya kgotla ka Laboraro.

Rre Molebatsi o ne a supa fa morafe o na le seabe sa go anamisa mogare,a re puso e dirile ka bojotlhe go aga terata e e laolang metsamao ya leruo mme go na le batho ba ba tsweletseng ka go e senya, se se dire gore go nne dingalo go laola motsamao wa leruo.

O ne a supa fa nako e tsile gore Batswana ba tsee boikarabelo jwa go tlhomamisa gore dithoto tsa puso di a tlhokomelwa le go baakanya fa go senyegileng teng ka puso e sa tlhole ena le madi.

E ntse e le go ne kwa phuthegong ya kgotla, Rre Molebatsi o ne a supa fa bothata jwa lenyora le le tswang kgakala le apere motse oo, le tlaa tokafala mo kgweding tse nne tse di tlang.

A re se se supilwe ke tona wa Ditsha le Metsi, Dr Kefentse Mzwinila jaaka fa a ne a lekola tiro ya go gokela diphaephe tse di isang metsi kwa metseng ya Mmadinare, Sefhophe, Tobane, Damochujenaa, Serule, Moreomabele le Topisi.

Rre Molebatsi o ne a supa fa paka ya temo e atumetse mme a gakolola fa puso e tlaa tswelela e thusa balemi ka go ba lemela le go ba abela dipeo.

Kgosi Kebalepile Motsholetsi are ba itumeletse ka fa kabo ya ditsha e tsweletseng ka teng kwa motseng wa gagwe morago ga gore batho ba tsee lobaka ba letetse go bewa.

Mo go tse dingwe Kgosi Motsholetsi o kopile puso go seka sekela bana ba tirelo setshaba go tlhapiwa mo diphatheng tse di leng teng kwa dikgotleng ka ba setse ba itsi tiro.

Le fa go ntse jalo modulasetilo wa komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse Rre Mogomotsi Rannyena o ne a kopa puso go seka seka dituelo tsa Ipelegeng a supa fa di siilwe ke nako.

A re bontsi jwa batho ba Damochujenaa ga ba bereke mme ba ikaegile ka namola leuba go jesa le go tsenya bana dikolo ntswa madi a sa lekana go dira jalo. ***BOPA***



Setshaba se tsweletse ka go tshologela kwa polasing ya BUAN ya Notwane e e kwa Sebele go ya go rwalela dikgong tse di se laleditsweng ke botsamaisi jwa sekole seo. Go ya ka motsamaisi wa polasi eo, Rre Gabriel Rantao ba buletse setshaba go rwalela dikgong mo malatsing a matlhano go fitlha dikgong di fela. A re ba sa tswa go rema selekanyo sa ditema tse di lesome le bobedi tse ba tla di dirisang go lemela leruo dijo gammogo le go ruta baithuti. Senepe: Felicity Male

Bakaa ba akgolela puso go gagamatsa kwa melelwaneng

BOKAA - Banni ba Bokaa mo kgaolong ya Kgatleng ba leleditse puso mogolokwane ba re kgato e e e tsereng ya go thibela merogo go tsena mo Botswana e nonotshitse beng-gae.

Ba ne ba bua jaana kwa phuthegong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke mopalamente wa Mochudi Botlhaba, Rre Mabuse Pule ka Laboraro.

Ba re kgato eo e tlaa kgothatsa Batswana go bona gore ba itirela dijo tse di lekaneng go fa setshaba.

Modulasetilo wa komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse, Rre Bosie Mogome a re go tswalwa moo ga melelwane go nnile botlhokwa mo go emeng balemi ba mono nokeng mo tirong ya bone ya go thusa lefatshe go ikemela ka dinao mo go tsa temo-thuo, e seng go ikaega mo mafatsheng a a mabapi jaaka e le tlwaelo.

O bile a akgolela puso go bo e lemogile fa ngwaga ono e le wa leuba ka jalo ya tswa ka maano a go namola balemi-barui.

Le fa go ntse jalo banni ba ne ba ngongoregela letlhoko la ditiro le le kokonelang banana le seelo se se kwa godimo se se batliwang ke dikole tsa ithutelo ditiro, ba re dikole di ka bo di repisa go se gonene di lebile gore COVID-19 e ne ya tlhakatlhakanyetsa baithuti.

Ba bile ba kopa puso go fefosa kabo ya ditsha le go oketsa baoki kwa kokelwaneng ya motse.

Tlhaelo ya melemo le yone ba re ga e ba jese diwelang.

Fa a ntsha la gagwe, Rre Pule o ne a itsise morafe ka melao e e lesome le borobabobedi e e fetisitsweng kwa Palamenteng e e sa tswang go fela ya mariga.

Mo melaong eo go wa madi a bogodi o o tsentsweng tsetlana.

Tsetlana eo e letla ba ba tlogetseng tiro ka bogodi go tlopola mo letloleng go ithusa fa ba na le diemo.

Ba bile ba lekodisiwa ka go tsenngwa tsetlana ga molao wa lekgetho la VAT go re le fokotsege go tswa kwa go lesome le bone go ya kwa go lesome le bobedi mo lekgolong go fokotsa boturu jwa dilo dingwe di tshwana le mahura a a apayang.

Phokotso eo ya lekgetho e tlaa tsaya dikgwedi tse thataro go simolola ka Phatwe.

Rre Pule o ne a ba itsise gore palamente e dumetse molao wa gore go okediwe dikgaolo tsa botlhophi go tswa mo go masome a matlhano le bosupa go ya kwa go masome a marataro le bongwe.

O bile a kgothatsa banni gore ba tsene diphuthego tsa tseo-maikutlo go kgaoganya melelwane ya botlhophi a bo a ba kgothatsa gore ba ntshe megopolo ba le seopo sengwe gore lentswe la bone le utlwale.

Mo kgannyeng e nngwe, Rre Pule, yo e leng mothusa tona wa Dikgaolo le Tlhabololo Magae, o boleletse banni gore Ipelegeng e tlaa tlhabololwa ka go baakanya dikago tsa setshaba.

A re tekeletso ya Ipelegeng e ntsha e dirilwe kwa kgaolong ya Borwa Botlhaba Borwa le gore e tlaa atolosediwa kwa dikgaolong tse dingwe go netefatsa gore ba ba nang le boitseanape kwa metseng ba oba lebogo.

O bile a itsese banni fa madi a go tlhabolola dikgaolo tsa botlhophi a diilwe ke go bo go ne go simololwa ngwaga o mosha wa madi.

Banni ba ne ba ngongoregile gore ditiro dingwe jaaka paakanyo ya dikago le ditsela di ne di diegile.

Ka tlhaelo ya melemo, mopalamente o ne a kgothatsa badiri ba botsogo gore ba netefatse gore bagodi ga ba folele melemo e e seyong, bogolo ba ba kwalele melemo yotlhe e ba e tlhokang gore yo o kgonang a ye go ithekela.

E re dikgang di eme jalo, mothusa mokwaledi wa khansele ya Kgatleng, Rre Masiela Mandoze o kgothaditse komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse go tsisa pego ya yone ya tiriso ya madi gore e tle e rebolelwe madi a dikgaolo tsa botlhophi le gore bogogi jwa khansele bo thuse ka bokaedi.

Mokhanselara wa Bokaa Rre Joseph Sebina o ne a kgothatsa badirela puso go buisa diphuthego tsa kgotla ka mananeo e seng go emela phuthego ya mopalamente.

Modulasetilo wa lekgotlana la kabo ditsha la Oodi Rre Mothusi o kopile banni gore ba emise go rekisa ditsha, ka ebile ba baile le motse mogolo. ***BOPA***

Kgaolo potlana ya Boteti jaanong ke kgaolo e e feletseng

Ka Portia Rapitsenyane

MOSU - Banni ba metse ya Mosu le Makgaba ba iteetse legofi tshwetso e puso e e tsereng ya gore kgaolo potlana ya Boteti e fetolwe go nna kgaolo e e feletseng.

Ba re tshwetso e, e raya gore ba tlaa akola ditirelo segautshwane go na le pele e bile ba supa fa kopo e ba sale ba e dirile.

Banni ba ne ba tsibogela mafoko a mopalamente wa bone wa kgaolo ya Boteti Botlhaba Rre Sethomo Lelatisitswe jaaka fa a ne a buisa phuthego ya kgotla kwa metseng eo ka Laboraro Lwetse a masome a mabedi le motso.

Banni ba supile fa go ne go ba utlwisa botlhoko thata go tswa kwa metseng ya bone ba latela ditirelo kwa Serowe mme mo dinakong tse dingwe ba sa thusiwe ka ponyo ya leitlho mme ba felela ba palama dipalamo tsa setshaba makgetho a le mantsi go bona thuso.

Ba re mo dinakong tse dingwe bangwe ba ne ba felela ba itlhoboga ka go ya go kopa dittirelo tse ba di tlhokang ntateng ya letlhoko la madi.

E ne e rile go le pele Rre Lelatisitswe a itsise banni fa Tautona Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi a arabile dilelo tsa bone tse ba sa bolong go di lela tsa gore ditlamelo di ba atamele.

A re ditlamelo tsotlhe tse ba neng ba di latela kwa Serowe di ba atametse ka kgaolo ya bone e tsholeditswe seemo mme go tlaa salela ditlamelo tsa kabo ditsha le tsa bogosi mme e tlaa re morago le tsone di fudugele kwa Letlhakane.

Rre Lelatisitswe a re go tsholediwa seemo ga kgaolo ya Boteti go raya gore bodiredi jotlhe jwa maemo a a tsayang ditshwetso bo tla a bo bo le mo motseng wa Letlhakane ka jalo go tla a fefosa ditlhabololo le gone go neela batho ditirelo ka bofefo.

A re ditlamelo ka bontsi bogolo jang tse di fiwang setshaba di ne di diega ntateng ya gore di ne di latelwa kwa Serowe fa dikgang tse dingwe tse di amanang le ditlhabololo di ne di isiwa kwa Serowe pele go sekwasekwa.

A re ene e re fa di sekwasekwa jalo, di kopana le tsa dikgaolo potlana tse dingwe di tshwana tsa Palapye, Tutume, Mahalapye mme ere morago go tsewe tshwetso ya gore go thusiwa bafe.

O ne a supa fa tshwetso e e dirilweng eo e le maleba ka makhanselara ba tlaabo ba sa kopanele kwa Serowe mme ba tlaa tsaya ditshwetso tse di lebaganeng le kgaolo ya bone ka botlhe ba ba lebaganeng le go tsaya ditshwetso ba tlaa bo ba le teng bogolo jang badirelapuso.

Rre Lelatisitswe o ne gape a itsise banni ka melao e e dirilweng ke palamente e e sa tswang go wela. A re palamente e ne ya dira molao o o itebagantseng le ba ba tlogetseng tiro ka bogodi.

A re molao oo, o letla yo o tlogetseng tiro go tsaya bontlha jwa sephatlo sa madi a gagwe gore a ithuse kana a itlhabolole ka one.

O ne gape a itsise banni fa molao o mongwe o palamente e neng ya o fetisa e le wa go oketsa dikgaolo tsa botlhophi jwa bopalamente go tswa kwa go 57 go ya kwa go 61.

A re mo nakong eno ga go ise go tsewe tshwetso ya gore dikgaolo tsa botlhophi jwa bopalamente go okediwa dife. ***BOPA***

Endo Option Africa donates to Palapye hospital

By Kefilwe Selotlegeng

PALAPYE - Endo Option Africa INC has donated endodontics equipment and consumables to Palapye Primary Hospital Oral Health unit.

Receiving the donation on Tuesday, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Cosmas Assenga said it would go a long way in improving services provided by the Oral Health Unit.

He said the donation made Palapye hospital the first government hospital in Botswana to offer endodontics services.

Dr Assenga said the hospital's oral health clinic, which offered a wide range of dental procedures, many not available in other hospitals, had a desire to see oral health services grow and make a difference.

He noted that the clinic offered restorative, prosthetics, scaling and polishing, exodontia services, and minor surgical procedures among others.

Dr Assenga said it was thus a proud moment to welcome the introduction of endodontics services.

He said this was a major milestone for Oral Health unit, the Palapye Hospital and ministry of health as a whole.

He thanked the Endo Option Africa Inc. for the donation saying the Palapye community and Batswana, as a whole, stood to benefit from the generosity which would leave an indelible mark.

He also lauded the staff for the hard work and dedication to public service.

The donor, Dr James Sanfilippo said he was confident that the staff would offer excellent endodontic services to the community and the country as a whole.

He also said the donation would enable the department to start doing root canal procedures on patients to restore teeth that would otherwise be extracted.

The Palapye Primary Hospital matron, Ms Kelape Marapo said the donation was a major milestone for the hospital.

The donation included an endodontic rotary instrument, gutta-percha heating system, endo files, associated consumables, loupes, potable digital intraoral X-ray machine with a sensor, a laptop, and a computer projector. ***BOPA***

Kgosi Kegapetswe condemns abdication of parental responsibility

By Thandy Tebogo

LETLHAKANE - Kgosi Barontshi Kegapetswe of Letlhakane has condemned men who father children and abandon them to be solely raised by mothers.

Kgosi Kegapetswe, who was speaking during the closing ceremony of the 2022 Botswana Council of Churches (BCC) triennial general elective assembly in Letlhakane on Thursday, said the church was not spared as some irresponsible members also were involved in such acts.

He implored BCC leadership and members to come up with a strategy to rid the church of such ills, which he said should be condemned.

On other issues, Kgosi Kegapetswe implored the church to address the issue of factionalism as animosity within congregations rendered the society divided and helpless.

For his part, Boteti East MP and Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Sethomo Lelatisitswe expressed concern that drugs and alcohol abuse had become rife in Boteti.

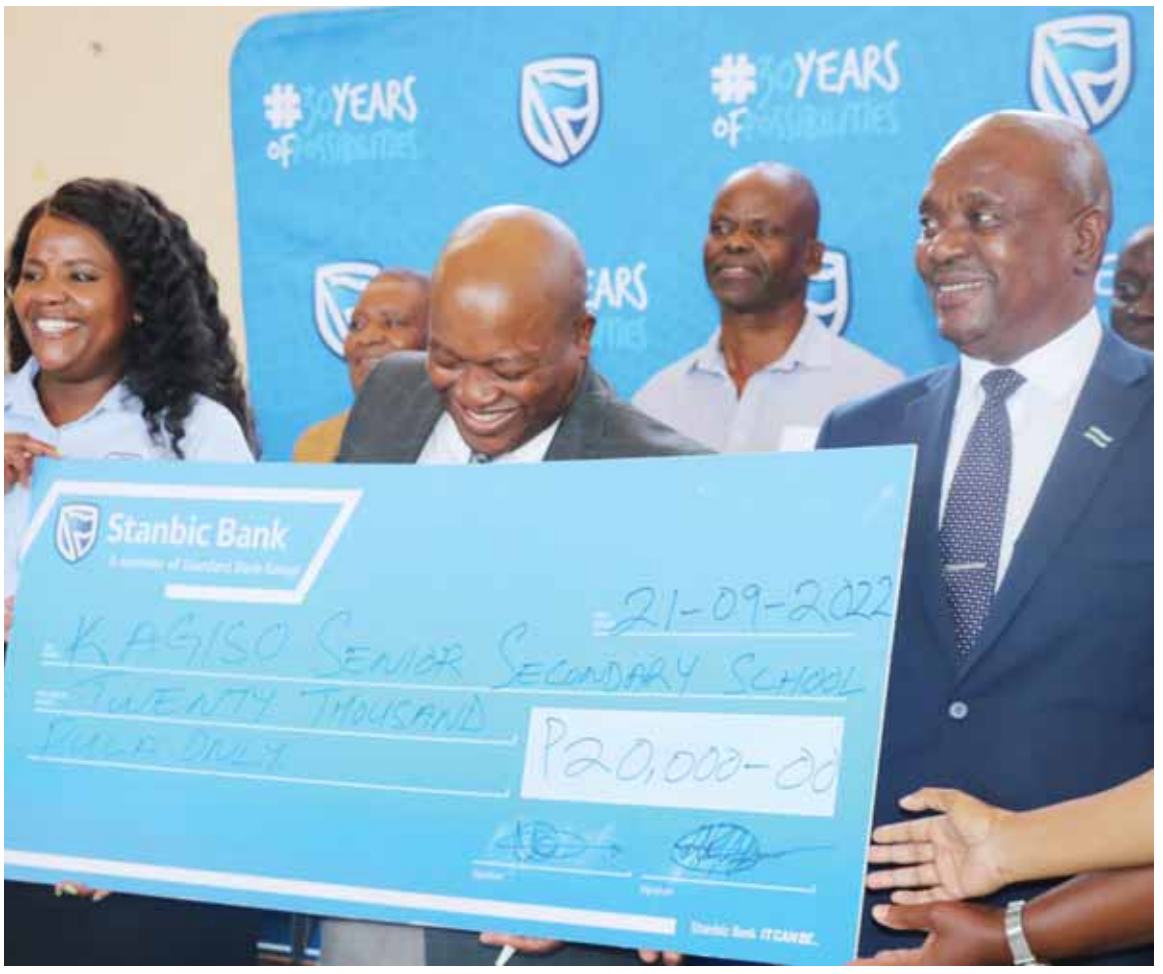
Mr Lelatisitswe pleaded with the church leadership to intervene.

Meanwhile, Bishop Mothusi Letlhage of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Botswana was elected the BCC president while Reverend Mosweu Simane of United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) emerged the first vice president.

Reverend Copper Sekate of Dutch Reformed Church was elected the second vice president while Bishop Michael Raseokamo of Prisidia Faith Mission became the fourth vice president.

Ms Tebogo Moloi is the new vice president - gender and Mr Tswelelang Maswabi is the vice president - youth.

Bishop Letlhage was replacing Bishop Metlha Beleme of Anglican Church at the helm of BCC. ***BOPA***



Ms Seipato (left), handing revision textbooks to Mr Rakgabo (centre) and Kagiso Senior school headmaster, Mr Clyde Sibanda (right) in Ramotswa on Wednesday. Mr Rakgabo said the academic journey to excellence required all to come on board and join hands. Photo: Baleseng Batlotleng

Stanbic Bank assists Kagiso senior school learners

By Baleseng Batlotleng

RAMOTSWA - The provision of basic education is an expensive undertaking that government alone cannot sustain.

This observation was made by Chief Education Officer of the South East Region, Mr Tumelo Rakgabo when receiving revision books donated by Stanbic Bank Botswana to Kagiso Senior Secondary School on Wednesday.

The bank's Kgale branch donated over 100 revision textbooks worth P20 000.

Mr Rakgabo said academic journey to excellence required all to come on board and join hands.

He said the donation was important and it would go a long way in assisting other final year learners.

He said Stanbic bank's investment on pupils was truly humbling especially the returns of the information on the revision textbooks.

He noted that he was overseeing about 19 schools with a pupil enrolment of over 10 000, which was a challenge that needed concerted efforts from the private sector.

Mr Rakgabo said the South East region yearned to be a region of excellence and Stanbic donation was a positive step to a successful academic journey.

Stanbic Bank Kgale branch manager, Ms Tsaone Seipato said access to quality education was vital for the growth and development of every child, which in turn contributed to the achievement of sustainable development.

She said her bank's mandate was premised on growth hence were moving forward to change the lives of Batswana.

She advocated for inclusive education, saying the current crop of learners were future leaders in different disciplines and needed encouragement and support.

She urged Kagiso school learners to envision their ambitions because it was possible to live their dreams.

Ms Seipato said the bank had previously worked with the school donating furniture and it was a significant milestone to once again answer their pleas.

For her part Kagiso Senior deputy school head, Ms Ellen Masesane said the school faced a serious challenge of revision books shortage.

She said they made requests to several business entities for assistance and they were motivated and humbled by the swift response of Stanbic Bank.

She said the donation would be beneficial to the form five school leavers and would help the current form four pupils to prepare for the next exam. ***BOPA***.

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Kenya company exports avocado to China



NAIROBI - ***Kenya's integrated agro-business firm Kakuzi has secured pre-shipment approval from the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, the country's plant health regulatory agency, for its second fresh avocado shipment to China.*** Photo: Xinhua

NAIROBI - Kenya's integrated agro-business firm Kakuzi confirmed Tuesday that it has secured pre-shipment approval from the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), the country's plant health regulatory agency, for its second fresh avocado shipment to China.

Kakuzi Managing Director Christopher Flowers said the company would be shipping several 20-foot container loads to China by sea before the end of this week amid a surge in demand for fresh Kenyan avocado.

"We received the pre-shipment clearance by KEPHIS last week and proceeded to load and dispatch the container to Mombasa over the weekend.

The container is expected to leave the port of Mombasa for a 30-day voyage to China," Flowers said

The East African nation is currently enjoying a market advantage as it is the only approved African source market for fresh avocado fruits in China.

Flowers said shipments to China were providing much-needed growth leverage for Kenyan produce and Kakuzi as it sought to enhance its markets and product diversification strategy.

He said the order book with the Chinese buyers has been growing at an encouraging and steady pace in recent days. "While we have a full order book from our existing customers, an additional crop this year has enabled us to keep shipping at least one container weekly to China for the next two months even as the avocado harvest season ends," Flowers said.

The export of fresh avocados to China follows the early January signing of two protocols to facilitate bilateral trade, mainly the export of avocados and aquatic products from Kenya to China.

Kakuzi market agent in China, Halls Fresh Produce Representative Yu Lifan, said the firm is sourcing its supplies from approved countries, including Chile, Peru, New Zealand, and Mexico, using Halls' Responsibly Sourced Network of global partners who are carefully selected.

He said the Chinese market needs more supply of quality fruit and more options to enable consumers to purchase avocados 365 days a year at affordable prices. ***Xinhua***

Solidarity critical in tackling global challenges

NEW YORK - World leaders on Tuesday called for solidarity to tackle global challenges in their speeches to the General Debate of the UN General Assembly.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said that threats to freedom and peace must be overcome through solidarity and fearless commitment to the framework of universal global norms consolidated over the years within the UN system.

The theme of this year's General Debate, "A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges," encapsulates the gravity of the global crisis, which underscores the solemn role of the United Nations, he said.

"The first step in our journey to seek answers that will help us through these turbulent times begins with solidarity and diference to the universally accepted global norms, as well as the UN system established over the past decades," said Yoon.

To tackle the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations must play a central role in bringing the community of nations together to decisively step up their support for countries with limited fiscal space and technical expertise.

In pursuit of the global agenda for decarbonization, countries with leading green technologies must work to share new and renewable energy technologies with other countries.

In the era of digital sophistication, one of the most urgent tasks for the global community and the United Nations is promoting global cooperation to narrow the digital divide which exacerbates polarization between nations.



President Suk-yeol

"As we seek answers to the global crisis we are faced with, the viability of the UN system and the universal global norms architecture is under test," he warned.

"Any attempt to turn away from the UN system and universal norms will divide the global community into blocs, further compounding the crisis and turmoil."

The international community must vigorously endeavor to share responsibility and join forces, whenever necessary, to resolve the challenges it faces, he said. "Once again, I call upon global citizens and leaders of the world for their resolute and enduring support for the UN system and universal global norms as we seek answers in this watershed moment." Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos said climate change is the greatest threat affecting nations and peoples.

There is no other problem so global in nature that requires a united effort led by the United Nations. The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice: those who are least responsible suffer the most. This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now.

"We call on industrialized countries to immediately fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable and developing countries, to lead by example," he said.

Widening geopolitical polarities and sharpening strategic competition are transforming the international political landscape, said Marcos.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said one of the biggest lessons learned in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic was the importance of international solidarity in solving global problems. In the 21st century, when material and technological means have reached the highest level, it is impossible to explain why one-fifth of the world's population is still suffering from hunger and poverty, he said.

The only way to shed a light of hope on this grim picture humanity is facing is to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity through a fair and just approach, he said. Türkiye will continue to increase its efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine, he said.

"We need a dignified way out of this crisis. And that can only be possible through a diplomatic solution, which is rational, fair and applicable." In his speech, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro called for an end to the Ukraine conflict through negotiation and dialogue."We advocate an immediate cease-fire, the protection of civilians and noncombatants, the preservation of critical infrastructure to assist the population and the maintenance of all channels of dialogue between the parties in conflict.

These are the first steps toward achieving a solution that is long-lasting and sustainable," he said. Brazil supports all efforts to reduce the economic impacts of this crisis. But it does not believe that the best way is to adopt unilateral and selective sanctions that are inconsistent with international law.

These measures have harmed economic recovery and threatened the human rights of vulnerable populations, including in European countries, he said.

Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar, said his country is fully aware of the complexities of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and its international and global dimensions.

Yet his country calls for an immediate cease-fire, as the conflict will have to stop anyway. Perpetuating the crisis will only increase the number of casualties, he warned. Wavel Ramkalawan, president of Seychelles, said his country's stance on the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy is universally recognized. Seychelles strongly supports the call of the chair of the African Union and the chairperson of the African Union Commission urging the parties concerned to establish an immediate cease-fire and to resume negotiations in order to preserve the world from the consequences of planetary conflict and to find a permanent and mutually acceptable solution to the Ukraine conflict, he said. ***Xinhua***

Experts urge Uganda to focus on Ebola prevention

KAMPALA - Health experts on Tuesday urged Uganda to focus on preventing and controlling the spread of the deadly Ebola virus, noting that there is no vaccine against the rare Sudan strain that broke out in the country.

This follows a Tuesday announcement by the country's ministry of health that the Ebola virus had broken out and has so far left one confirmed case dead and six other unverified deaths. Bayo Fatunmbi, head of disease prevention and control at the World Health Organization office in Uganda, told reporters here that the Sudan strain is rare and had only occurred in Sudan in 1976 and in Uganda in 2011.

"We have done something before in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but we find that the vaccination that worked with the Zaire virus (strain) will not be useful for this particular Sudan strain," he said.

He said there is another type of vaccine that is being tested currently. Diana Atwine, permanent secretary at the ministry of health, said while the country has the vaccine for the Zaire strain, there is no vaccine for the Sudan strain.

Atwine said a team of epidemiologists has been sent to the central Ugandan district of Mubende to investigate the source of the index case, a 24-year-old male who died on Monday.

She said there is no need for countries to issue travel advisories to Uganda, noting that the government has the capacity to contain the outbreak.

"There is no need to panic at all because Uganda is well known for handling epidemics. We have built capacity, and we want to assure the public that we shall contain this epidemic," she said.

Atwine said Uganda is working with partners like the WHO to contain the spread of the deadly disease.

The Ebola virus is highly contagious and causes various symptoms, including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, generalized pain or malaise, and in some cases, internal and external bleeding. According to the WHO, the fatality rate for those who contract Ebola ranges from 50 per cent to 89 per cent, depending on the viral sub-type. ***Xinhua***

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OWNER OF PLOT 1392,Morwa intends to change use from residential to multi-residential. For objections please contact 72534131

OWNER OF PLOT 79703,Gaborone North wishes to erect and develop a double storey residential house.Any objections or queries are to be forwarded to the Gaborone City Council (planning department).

I TEFO KWEEMANE wishes to change use of my plot from ploughing field to Agro-tourism in Kopong any objection contact Kweneng District Council Planning Office on 5920981

CHANGE OF LAND use Premix ventures (Pty) Ltd intends to change land use for plot no. 28649 from residential to multi-residential in Block 5, Mogoditshane. For objection call 72878738

VACANCIES

URGENTLY WANTED NURSE AIDS / Care Taker to work in Selebi Phikwe. May call: 74266009 or Apply to P.O. Box 64 Selebi Phikwe Botswana

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Legae Academy, an Independent International Senior Secondary School has openings in January 2023 for the following positions:

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NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF PRACTITIONERS FROM THE EAPB REGISTER

The public is hereby notified that the following practitioners have been removed from the Register of practitioners for the year 2022. As such the public is advised not to attain services pertaining to environmental assessment from the following:

No	PRACTICE NUMBER	NAME	LEVEL
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In respect of the under mentioned:
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SITUATE: At Maun in the Batawana Tribal Territory
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HELD UNDER: FT MA 135/2016 Dated 24th May 2016
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All persons having objections to the issuance of such a copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds Francistown **office within three (3) weeks of the last publication hereof .**
Naledi Smith
Contacts +267 71869166
Dated 14th SEPTEMBER 2022, GABORONE

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: ***ESHGB 00211/20***

IN THE ESTATE of the Late **ERNEST WEDU BALONDI** who died at Bokamoso Private Hospital, Mmopane, Kweneng District, Botswana on the 16th July 2020.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their debts and file claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.
DATED at ___GABORONE___ on this _7th___September__Day of __2022__
The Executrix
Gaonametswe M Balondi
P O Box 11571
Tatitown
Tel: 75920235

FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT
ESHGB 000125/17
IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE METSIAME MOPHAKEDI who died at Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, Gaborone District, Botswana on the **24 day of September 2017.**
FIRST AND FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT in the Estate will lie open for inspection at the offices of the Master of the High Court at Gaborone for a period of twenty-one (21) Days from the date of publication hereof.
Any objection to the Estate Account may be lodged the Master
Dated at.....On the .....date of.....2022
The Executor
Kenneth Letshelea
P O Box 336
PITSANE
Cell No. 71511181/74875647

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Notice is hereby given that the Department of Tribal Administration-Maun Customary Court will be conducting an action sale of old furniture and other items as listed, office chairs*70, office desk/table*7, computer stand*1, filing cabinets*12, bench*11,electric urn*1, car seat rear*1, fax machine*1 and four burner stove*1

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Time	**: 09:00HRS-1600 HRS**
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Silk Road Economic Belt core area spurs development

URUMQI- At an exhibition booth of the ongoing China-Eurasian Expo, Tursun Mettursun and his brother earnestly promoted their self-made wool mattresses to clients.

"This is the first time that I'm attending the expo. I hope to broaden my horizons and make more friends," said Tursun Mettursun from Qira County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

He has reached initial cooperation agreements with some clients through the online platform and face-to-face talks over the past few days.

The seventh China-Eurasia Expo, which opened Monday in Urumqi, the region's capital, has seen deals worth over 960 billion yuan (about US$138 billion) signed so far, which hit a record level, said the organisers.

The figure is more than three times that of the last expo held in 2018.

The fruitful results of the expo have shown the vitality of the vast Xinjiang region, which is striving to develop itself as the core area of the Silk Road Economic Belt, given its unique geographical advantage.

About 1 500 km from Urumqi, a cross-border e-commerce import and export commodities exhibition and trading center in the Kashgar comprehensive bonded zone is under construction and will be put into use by the end of the year.

"We are building a cross-border e-commerce industrial park to attract enterprise and promote comprehensive growth of various business models. This year, we plan to achieve an import and export value of 600 million yuan in cross-border e-commerce," said Ma Haitao, director of the bonded zone management committee.

The bonded zone focuses on developing the modern service industry and advanced manufacturing. It realised a foreign trade value of 12.3 billion yuan in the first eight months.

The Kashgar Economic Development Zone, which includes the bonded zone, had 4 559 market entities by the end of July, initially forming a cluster of industries, including electronics assembly and processing, textiles and garments, trade and logistics, and providing 42 000 jobs.

Customs data shows that, in the first eight months of 2022, Xinjiang's foreign trade exceeded 145.5 billion yuan, with an increase of 49.6 per cent yearly.

The country has established 55 national-level opening-up and industry development platforms in Xinjiang, including the economic development zones of Kashgar and Horgos

The Horgos Jinyi International Trade (Group) started the fruit and vegetable trade at the Horgos Port in the 1990s.

"Over the past decades, our business has expanded to fields of cross-border e-commerce, catering, cinemas, and tourism. I am a witness to the rapid development of the port," said Yu Chengzhong, the company's chairman. Infrastructure construction has played a vital role in boosting the region's development.

On August 30, a new expressway passage linking Yetimbulak Township and Ruoqiang County in Xinjiang opened to traffic, facilitating regional travel and boosting high-quality local economic development. It is the third expressway connecting Xinjiang with places outside of the region.

So far, the length of expressways in Xinjiang has exceeded 7 500 km.

Meanwhile, Xinjiang has established cooperative economic relationships with 190 countries and regions. Outbound investment from Xinjiang has involved more than 60 countries and regions, according to Mao Hui, deputy director of the regional development and reform commission.

In 2021, Xinjiang's GDP reached nearly 1.6 trillion yuan, doubling the figure in 2012.

By taking advantage of natural resources, labour force endowment, and the location of the core area of the Silk Road Economic Belt, Xinjiang's economy will usher in a boom, said Justin Yifu Lin, dean of the Institute of New Structural Economics at Peking University. ***Xinhua***

Ecuador president calls for support to fight drug trafficking

QUITO - Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso on Wednesday called on the international community to contribute to the fight against drug trafficking, which he blamed for a spike in crime and violence.

"Transnational crime requires a transnational solution," Lasso told the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, urging unity to defeat the scourge. "We have two options: either we suffer separately from an enemy that acts in coordination within several countries, mocking our laws, or we unite to defeat it," he said.

"Today we are increasing like never before our measures



President Lasso

to maximise narcotics seizures and dismantle the transnational gangs that transport it," Lasso stressed. According to the 2022 World Drug Report issued by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Ecuador had the third largest cocaine seizures in the world in 2020, behind Colombia and the United States.

Amid a wave of violence in the port city of Guayaquil, which the police attribute to organised crime and delinquency, Lasso said Ecuador 'deserves international support in our fight against drug trafficking,' as well as support to strengthen judicial institutions.

It is estimated that transnational crime generates between US$1.6 and US$2.2 trillion a year, 'dozens of times the economy of a country like Ecuador,' Lasso said. ***Xinhua***



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Zambia, China to hold trade investment forum

LUSAKA - Zambia and China will hold the first-ever trade and investment forum aimed at unlocking the trade and investment potential between the two countries.

The Trade and Investment Forum will be held in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, from September 28-29, under the theme: China-Zambia Investment in the New era, All-weather, All-diversion, and Quality Friendship."

The forum, which will be co-hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Zambia and the Zambian Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, has been co-sponsored by Zambia's investment agency, the Zambia Development Agency, China Non-Ferrous Metal Mining (Group) and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and has so far attracted nearly 200 Chinese enterprises.

Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Du Xiaohui told journalists during a press briefing to announce the forum that 10 Chinese Fortune 500 enterprises had been invited to participate in the forum.

The forum will be characterised by a high-level opening ceremony, five parallel forum sessions, panel discussions, business-to-government meetings, business-to-business meetings as well as exhibitions by enterprises, said Du, noting that the five parallel forums would be held under different themes and would provide perfect platforms for discussing China-Zambia practical cooperation.

The two sides will also sign three memoranda of understanding for great investment cooperation, digital economy investment, as well as investment and economic working group treatment.

According to him, the discussion between the leaders of the two countries early this year provided political preparation and policy guidelines for the forum.

"The core essence of the forum is to implement the outcome of the two presidents' phone conversation and advance China-Zambia relations standing through practical economic cooperation," he said.

He said the embassy decided to hold the forum in order to attract more Chinese investment into Zambia and spur economic growth which was vital for development.

The forum will help advertise Zambia's good investment policies, said Du, while disclosing that the embassy intended to publish a book on the comprehensive guide to investment in Zambia and another one profiling Chinese enterprises operating in the southern African nation.

The Chinese envoy said that China would remain Zambia's important investment and trade partner, with 600 Chinese enterprises currently operating in Zambia with a total investment of US$3 billion which had created 50 000 jobs.

He said the bilateral trade in the first half of this year totaled US$3.76 billion, a nearly 40 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, while Zambia has enjoyed a trade surplus of US$2.92 billion.

Elias Mubanga, Zambia's acting Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, thanked the Chinese embassy and other organisers for ensuring the forum comes to fruition.

He said the first-ever forum would bring together corporate institutions, financial institutions and innovators to discuss and explore potential investment opportunities which were in line with the Zambian government's vision.

The theme of the forum was in line with the government's focus on ensuring sustainable development through applying modern methods of production.

The minister also said the forum would be a mark of the strong bond that had existed between the two countries over the years, adding that the forum provided an opportunity and served as a milestone in Zambia's economic relations with China.



Du

Zambia considers China as a strategic investment partner that has invested in various sectors of the economy, he said.

He mentioned the establishment of the first economic zone in Zambia by China, which was also the first in Africa, as an affirmation of the importance that China attaches to its relationship with Zambia.. ***Xinhua***

Kenya steps up vigilance to prevent Ebola transmission

NAIROBI - Kenya's Ministry of Health said Wednesday that it had intensified surveillance to prevent transmission of the Ebola virus after cases were reported in neighbouring Uganda.

Mutahi Kagwe, cabinet secretary in the Ministry of Health, said at a briefing in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, that critical personnel had been deployed at the Ugandan border in western Kenya to help identify potential cases.

"I call on members of the public to take heightened precaution while visiting Uganda as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)," said Kagwe, stressing that the Ministry of Health had activated rapid response teams to support the identification of any suspected cases and report them promptly.

Kagwe said that populations that were at risk of contracting the virus such as travelers, truck drivers, bush-meat handlers, and health care workers would be screened thoroughly.

According to Ugandan authorities, an Ebola case has been detected in Ngabano village, Mubende district in the central part of the country, and a 24-year-old male patient had already succumbed to the highly contagious hemorrhagic fever.

Kagwe called upon members of the public to watch out for any person with a history of traveling to Uganda and DRC presenting with acute fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, headache, and sore throat.

He said efforts were ongoing to sensitise communities and help identify suspected cases besides mobilising key stakeholders to initiate prevention, preparedness, and response measures alongside the development of the Ebola Virus Disease contingency plan.

The official disclosed that Kenya received an alert from Uganda's Ministry of Health urging the country to take precautions.

Kagwe warned the possibility of local communities contracting the Ebola virus was high given the intensive human traffic between the two countries linked to trade and social activities. ***Xinhua***

Yemen, UAE discuss ways to promote bilateral cooperation

SANAA - Yemen and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have discussed ways of promoting bilateral cooperation and the ongoing truce across Yemen, the national *Yemen TV* reported Wednesday.

Rashad Al-Alimi, chairman of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council, held a meeting with UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Alimi told the UAE diplomat that the Yemeni government valued the UAE's continued support for the Yemeni people and briefed him on the latest developments of the national cease-fire that went into effect on April 2.

The Yemeni leader said the Houthi rebels' violations of the truce undermined the regional and global efforts aiming to bring peace and stability to Yemen.

For his part, the UAE minister affirmed his country's constant support for the Presidential Leadership Council and the Yemeni government in confronting common challenges at various levels.

Yemen has been mired in a civil war since late 2014 when the Iran-backed Houthi militia stormed several northern provinces and forced the Saudi and UAE-backed Yemeni government out of the capital Sanaa.

The Saudi-led Arab coalition intervened in the Yemeni conflict in the following year to support the Yemeni government. ***Xinhua***

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China commits to carbon reduction goals

BEIJING - China will stay committed to achieving carbon peaking and carbon neutrality amid recent setbacks in global carbon reduction efforts as some countries fell back on coal plants to tide over an energy crunch, an official said Thursday.

"Low-carbon transformation is no walk in the park," Liu Dechun, an official with the National Development and Reform Commission, told a media conference.

China will integrate carbon goals into the big picture of environmental protection and economic and social development, he said.

The country will further pursue the green and low-carbon transformation of its energy sources, upgrade its industries to enhance energy efficiency, and spur green technology innovations, he said.

Thursday marks the two-year anniversary of China's pledge to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and to realise carbon neutrality by 2060.

This cause had made a good start, said Liu. China launched a national carbon market in July 2021, and had seen a cumulative turnover of 195 million tonnes of carbon emission quotas worth nearly US$1.2 billion by September 14.

Notable low-carbon headway can also be seen in sectors such as construction and transportation. China had completed over 2 billion square meters of green buildings in urban areas by 2021 and has led the world in terms of the output and sales of new energy vehicles for seven years in a row.

The country has advanced clean and efficient consumption of coal and recorded a world-topping 1.1 billion kilowatts in installed capacity of renewable energy sources, said Liu.

Its energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product keeps falling, while the forest coverage ratio is ever-increasing to absorb more carbon emissions.

equitable and win-win mechanism for global climate governance and has supported developing countries' low-carbon efforts, according to Liu. ***Xinhua***

Dengue fever kills 27 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - The spread of dengue fever in Pakistan continued to rise as 27 patients had died in the country's southern Sindh so far this month, the provincial health department reported.

All the deaths were reported from Karachi, Sindh's capital and the largest city in the country. A total of 353 new cases were reported in Sindh in the last 24 hours, the department said Tuesday evening.

The number of patients in September reached 3 594 and the total number of patients throughout the year has reached 6 163.

Additionally, 284 patients were diagnosed with dengue during the last 24 hours in northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (KP), the provincial health department said.

The number of active cases in KP is 1 729, while the total number of patients this year in the province has moved up to 5 264.

Moreover, 215 cases were reported in the last 24 hours in eastern Punjab province, the provincial health authorities said Tuesday morning.

It is reported that 105 patients were detected with the disease in Punjab's capital Lahore, while 54 cases were found in Rawalpindi city.

The total number of cases this year in the province has risen to 3 645.

While the total number of cases in federal capital Islamabad this year is 1 561.

The hospitals are congested due to rising dengue cases. Some of the hospitals in Karachi have converted their COVID-19 wards into dengue wards. ***Xinhua***



DJIBOUTI - ***With a designed annual handling capacity of 7.08 million tonnes, the Doraleh Multi-Purpose Port constructed by China State Construction Engineering Corporation, was officially opened in May 2017.*** Photo: Xinhua

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan willing to settle border conflicts

KYRGYZSTAN - The Shanghai Cooperation Organization believes Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will settle frictions through peaceful, political and diplomatic means to ensure stability on the border, said SCO secretary-general Zhang Ming on Wednesday.

According to media reports, armed clashes on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan broke out from September 14 to 16, resulting in multiple casualties.

Noting the two countries are SCO members, Zhang said maintaining peace and stability and a good-neighborly and cooperative relationship are significant factors for safeguarding regional peace and security.

Zhang said it is also the common wish of all SCO members, including Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

"The SCO is closely following the development of the relevant incident. SCO members and I have maintained contact with the two countries. We have made positive efforts to ease the situation and conveyed sympathy over the casualties," said Zhang.

"We believe Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are willing to uphold the 'Shanghai Spirit' and principles of the SCO Charter, bear in mind the overall picture of the region, and settle frictions via peaceful, political, and diplomatic means to ensure stability on the border," Zhang added.

He expressed appreciation for the protocol signed on September 19 between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to resolve their armed conflict on the border, saying the two countries agreed to commit themselves to a complete cessation of hostilities and work together to restore peace and stability in the border areas.

"We hope the two countries will continue to work in the same direction of managing and resolving differences and seeking common interests," he said.

The SCO stands ready to play a positive role in strengthening communication, properly handling and resolving differences between the two sides, and safeguarding regional peace and stability within the framework of the SCO and in manners enshrined by the SCO Charter, Zhang said. ***Xinhua***

Malaysia records new COVID-19 infections, deaths

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia reported 2 111 new COVID-19 infections as of midnight Wednesday, bringing the national total to 4 823 975, according to the Health Ministry.

There are five new imported cases, with 2 106 cases being local transmissions, data released on the ministry's website showed. At least six deaths have been reported, pushing the death toll to 36 330.

The ministry reported 1 493 new recoveries, bringing the total number of cured and discharged to 4 762 318. There are 25 327 active cases, with 57 being held in intensive care and 37 of those in need of assisted breathing.

The country reported 1 953 vaccine doses administered on Wednesday alone, and 86 per cent of the population have received at least one dose, 84.2 per cent are fully vaccinated and 49.7 per cent have received the first booster and 1.5 per cent have received the second booster.***Xinhua***



Serbia president, Chinese FM meet on UNGA sidelines

NEW YORK - Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Wednesday met with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the ongoing 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

Vucic asked Wang to convey his cordial greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying Serbia-China relations truly reflected mutual respect and mutual trust, and the practical economic and trade cooperation between the two countries had also developed rapidly.

He thanked China for its vigorous support for and assistance with Serbia's economic and social development.

Serbia, Vucic said, cherished the friendship with China, firmly adhered to the one-China policy, and recognised that there was only one China in the world and this position would never change.

Wang said China appreciated Serbia's solidarity in safeguarding national sovereignty, national dignity and legitimate rights and interests.

Hailing the positive achievements in Serbia's construction, Wang said China and Serbia were each other's trusted and reliable partners.

Under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-Serbia relations have entered a new era of vigorous development, and the practical cooperation between the two sides was making leaps and bounds, contributing to Serbia's development and revitalisation, said Wang.

The China-Serbia friendship has been further strengthened in the joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and solidarity and mutual trust between the two sides have been consolidated, he said.

Wang said China was willing to continue to provide assistance and support according to Serbia's needs and work with Serbia to build closer bilateral relations.

The two sides also exchanged views on cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs). Wang said that since its inception 10 years ago, China-CEEC cooperation had been focused on practical cooperation and had stuck to openness, transparency and complementation of advantages, having yielded fruitful results with potential yet to be tapped.

China looks forward to working with Serbia and other CEECs to continue to advance mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides. ***Xinhua***



NEW YORK ***President Vucic (left) meeting with Foreign Minister Wang on the sidelines of the ongoing 77th session of the UN General Assembly in the United States.*** Photo: Xinhua

Some hospitals in Yemen to close due to lack of funding

ADEN - Hospitals and medical centres in parts of Yemen are on the brink of closure due to a lack of funding, a government official told *Xinhua* on Wednesday.

"A number of public hospitals in southern regions and the beleaguered northern province of Marib may stop offering health care services during the upcoming days as they are facing complicated financial problems," the local government source said on condition of anonymity.

He indicated that other public hospitals in the country's northern provinces controlled by the Houthi militia were facing the same obstacles.

On Tuesday, the state-run *Saba news agency* said that the only public hospital offering care to mothers and children in Marib had warned it may shut down at the end of September due to lack of a budget, after the withdrawal of international organisations that used to provide salaries for 65 staff including doctors, technicians and nurses.

Yemen has been mired in a civil war since late 2014 when the Iran-backed Houthi militia seized control of several northern provinces and forced the Saudi-backed Yemeni government out of the capital Sanaa.

The war has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced 4 million, and pushed the country to the brink of starvation. ***Xinhua***

Serbia questions double standards over territorial integrity

NEW YORK - Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Wednesday questioned double standards practiced by certain countries over the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states.

Non-use of force and the peaceful resolution of disputes are the pillars of world stability.

But they must be accompanied by principles such as non-selective observance of the UN Charter, implementation of mandatory UN Security Council resolutions and the basic principles of the applicable international law, he told the General Debate of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

He said Serbia did not violate the territorial integrity of a single sovereign state yet NATO attacked it without a decision by the UN Security Council. Security Council Resolution 1244, which confirmed and guaranteed partial sovereignty and full territorial integrity of Serbia, did not prevent many Western countries from unilaterally recognising the independence of Kosovo, and from violating the territorial integrity of Serbia, he said.

Regardless of the fact that Serbia still feels the consequences of the gross violation of the basic provisions of international law, Serbia does not give up on the foundational principles of the United Nations, said Vucic.

"We shall keep advocating the consistent observance of the principle of inviolability of borders, respect for sovereignty and integrity of all other UN member states."

"Despite such a position of ours, many in this room have issues with respecting the territorial integrity of Serbia. You wonder why? Because they have the power in their hands, and in their eyes, we are small and weak. However, as you could hear and you could see, we do have the strength to tell the truth here," said Vucic.

Serbia believes that it is imperative that current challenges must not deepen world divisions in any way, and that polarization at the global level should make room for principles of multilateralism, he said.

He said Serbia strongly supported inclusive, networked and efficient multilateralism as the best tool for responding to the most urgent challenges facing mankind.

"Multilateralism, collective actions and common responsibility are irreplaceable elements of our discussions so far," he added.

Xinhua.

Australians warned of increased mosquito-borne disease threat

CANBERRA - Australian scientists have warned of an increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases amid forecast wet conditions during the upcoming spring and summer.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) earlier in September declared a rare third consecutive La Nina weather event, meaning the country is likely to face a summer of heavy rainfall and high humidity.

It comes as Australia's north-east recovers from floods that devastated the region between February and April.

Paul De Barro, a research scientist from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), said the floods had created perfect breeding conditions for mosquitoes.

"Anywhere you've got shallow (pooling) water, it's an ideal habitat for mosquitoes such as Culex annulirostris," De Barro was quoted as saying by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation .

"Even though you might not have flooding directly in your area, it can fly tens of kilometres, so it can move inland quite some distance as it's assisted by wind."

Also known as the common banded mosquito, the Culex annulirostris is native to the Pacific and is a carrier of arboviruses, including Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV).

JEV is a potentially fatal infection of the brain that can cause inflammation, headaches, fevers and seizures.

Earlier in 2022, the federal government declared JEV a 'communicable disease incident of national significance' amid an outbreak in the country's south-east.

According to the Health Department of the Australian government, there were 40 human cases of JEV nationwide as of early September and six deaths.

"It could well be a problem again this year because the conditions are very similar to last summer when the virus was detected in Australia," De Barro said. ***Xinhua***

Tanzania urges more investment on education

DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzanian Vice-President Philip Mpango has urged leaders across the world to transform education for the benefit of the young generation, the Vice-President's Office said in a statement Tuesday.

"In the run-up to the 2030 Agenda and beyond let us resolve and commit ourselves to increasing investment in the education sector with a view to ensuring that our children are not only guaranteed education but are guaranteed good and quality education," Mpango said Monday when he addressed the United Nations Transforming Education Summit in New York.

The summit is being convened in response to a global crisis in education.

It provides a unique opportunity to elevate education atop the global political agenda and mobilise action, ambition, solidarity and solutions to recover pandemic-related learning losses and sow the seeds to transform education in a rapidly changing world.

According to the statement, Mpango said since the education is a key component of the 2030 Agenda, there was the need to strive for mobilised ambitions, actions and solutions to transform the education sector.

He said Tanzania is in the process of transforming its education system as directed last year by President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Xinhua



GOLAN HEIGHTS - ***Israeli soldiers taking part in a military exercise near the town of Katzrin in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, on Tuesday. A military spokesperson said the exercise was planned in advance as part of this year's training schedule and was intended to maintain the fitness and readiness of forces. Israel has occupied most of the Syrian Golan Heights since the 1967 Middle East War.*** Photo: Xinhua



WASHINGTON D.C. - ***US Federal Reserve chairperson, Jerome Powell at a press conference recently. The Fed's latest action came after it raised the benchmark interest rate by three quarters of a point (75 basis points) at its June and July meetings, marking the boldest move in decades.*** Photo: Xinhua

UN calls for justice for mercenary actors victims

GENEVA - Human rights violations committed by mercenaries and private security companies create serious challenges for victims seeking justice and redress, a United Nations (UN) report said Tuesday.

In a report presented to the ongoing 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, experts from the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries stressed that the use of mercenaries and private security companies increases violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and there is little accountability in this area.

"Deplorable gaps in accountability, access to justice, and remedies for victims of violations perpetrated by such actors are rampant," said Sorcha MacLeod, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group, when presenting the report to the Council.

Reasons for the lack of accountability include the secrecy surrounding the activities of mercenary-related actors, their complex business and corporate structures, issues related to jurisdiction, and gaps in national and international regulation.

"States have obligations under international human rights law to prevent, investigate, and punish violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and to provide effective remedies and reparation to victims of mercenaries, mercenary-related actors, and private military and security companies," the report said.

In 2020, the then-President of the United States Donald Trump pardoned four employees of US private military company Blackwater, who had committed massacres and war crimes in Iraq.

This led to widespread concern from the international community. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said that pardoning the Blackwater employees contributed to impunity, and emboldened others to commit such crimes.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries said that the pardon was an affront to justice, as well as to victims and their families.

"The Geneva Conventions oblige States to hold war criminals accountable for their crimes, even when they act as private security contractors.

These pardons violate United States obligations under international law and more broadly undermine humanitarian law and human rights at a global level," said Jelena Aparac, the then-Chair of the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries. ***Xinhua***

Strikes at major UK ports threaten further supply chain

LONDON - Further walkouts are scheduled for late September at some of the United Kingdom's (UK) main container ports over pay disputes, and these industrial actions are expected to deal a fresh blow to Europe's already overstretched supply chains.

More than 560 port operatives and maintenance engineers employed by Mersey Docks and Harbour Company (MDHC) in Liverpool launched a two-week strike on September 19 after they had rejected a 8.3 per cent pay rise offer and are demanding 20 per cent, Unite, one of the largest trade unions in the UK, said on Tuesday.

In light of the high inflation rate, the offer equals a real-terms pay cut, the union argued.

Rising prices in the UK have increased financial pressure on households.

The country's consumer price index (CPI) rose by 9.9 per cent in the 12 months to August, as food and non-alcoholic beverage prices rose by 13.1 per cent.

Peel Ports Group, which owns the MDHC, said it was 'disappointed'.

"This is bad news for our employees, families and other local employers," said David Huck, the group's chief operating officer (COO), "We fully recognise our colleagues' concerns on the cost-of-living crisis."

The 8.3 per cent pay hike offer came coupled with a one-off payment of US$850 for each container operative at the port, and the group urged the union to settle the dispute at the negotiating table.

The strike would overlap with another one at the Port of Felixstowe in Suffolk.

A fresh walkout has been announced at the busiest container port in the UK after workers overwhelmingly rejected the management's attempt to conclude a pay deal, according to Unite.

The labor action, scheduled between September 27 and early October, will come after more than 1 900 Unite members staged an eight-day strike in late August at Felixstowe over the pay dispute.

Despite the strike at its container operations, the Peel Ports Group said other Liverpool operations remain unaffected.

Unite has warned that the latest strike action 'will severely disrupt both shipping and road transport in Liverpool and the surrounding areas'.

The Port of Liverpool, one of the UK's busiest, employs 845 people in the containers division.

The docks there handled about 525 000 containers in 2021.

According to logistics company Flexport, the overlapping strike action will make the potential for disruption and congestion 'very real'.

With labor action commencing this week for the port, additional stress was expected on the schedule-network that may lead to congestion and backlog for other UK ports, said logistics company Flexport on Tuesday.

The Dublin-based Irish Exporters Association has informed its members of the ongoing industrial action, noting that 'such strike action could affect your export volume and supply chain (shipping and road transport)'.

The previous walkout at Felixstowe in late August had already caused a significant increase in the number of days containers spent at the terminal, Glenn Koepke, general manager of network collaboration at the supply chain intelligence platform FourKites, said on Wednesday.

When the strike began on August 21, all ocean shipments at Felixstowe had been at the terminal for 5.3 days on average, according to FourKites data.

By August 30, delays had peaked with containers spending an average of 9.9 days at the terminal, an 87 percent increase.

Delays at Felixstowe cleared up by September 10, and during that time a few major European ports saw port congestion tick up slightly, Koepke said. ***Xinhua***



POLIWALI MANDAR - ***A boy viewing an installation made of plastic bottles during the Marine Debris Festival, held by the local community as a campaign to save the beach from plastics pollution in Indonesia.*** Photo: Xinhua

Pro-government forces evict al-Qaida militants

ADEN - Forces loyal to Yemen's government on Tuesday evicted scores of militants of the al-Qaida terrorist group from the country's southern province of Abyan following days of armed confrontations, a military official told Xinhua.

"Military units of the Southern Transitional Council (STC), which are part of Yemen's government, attacked al-Qaida hideouts and positions in various mountainous areas of turbulent Abyan, making headway on the ground," the local military source said.

The transitional council troops' anti-terror operations is still in progress and have forced al-Qaida militants to leave various strongholds in Abyan, including the large valley of Omaran, after leaving al-Qaida casualties, the source confirmed.

"After expelling al-Qaida militants from their bastions in Abyan, the council's troops backed by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition began preparations to storm more mountainous areas controlled by al-Qaida," he said.

Last month, the transitional council troops launched a major anti-terror operation code-named "Arrows of the East" in Abyan to combat terror groups. The Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) network has been responsible for many high-profile attacks against the security forces in the country's southern provinces.

The AQAP has exploited years of deadly conflict between the Yemeni government and Houthi militia to expand its presence in the war-ravaged Arab country. ***Xinhua***

Israel begins COVID-19 booster vaccination

JERUSALEM - Israel on Wednesday began providing the booster shot of an Omicron-adapted COVID-19 vaccine across the country, said Israel's major health service organization Clalit and the Ministry of Health.

The vaccines are given at health maintenance organizations (HMOs) clinics across the country, according to their respective statements.

Those in risk groups, including people aged 65 and over, health workers, and teachers are recommended for the booster shot, said the Health Ministry.

Other people at the age of 12 and older are also allowed to be vaccinated with the adapted dose, if they have already received two regular vaccination doses or have recovered from the virus, it noted.

The new vaccine is designed to trigger an improved immune response against the Omicron strains, the ministry noted, adding that the campaign is part of the preparedness for possible new waves of infections in the coming winter.

So far, over six million people, or 64 per cent of the total population, have received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccines in Israel.***Xinhua***

Global business coalition calls for new plastics treaty

GENEVA - A coalition of major global businesses, financial institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on Wednesday called for a new global treaty to end plastic pollution.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation announced in a joint statement that they have convened a new "Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty" of 83 organizations, which will form the basis for future policy engagement with governments. It comes in the run-up to the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee, which will take place from November 28 to December 2 in Uruguay.

The committee will develop an international, legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. "The plastic crisis extends beyond all borders, impacting the health of our oceans and wildlife, and the livelihoods of people from major cities to small coastal communities.

The scope and scale of this global issue must be met with equally ambitious solutions," said Erin Simon, WWF's vice president and head of plastic waste and business. "We have no time to waste.

The need for global coordination to tackle the plastic pollution crisis has never been more urgent," she said, adding that the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty will "push strongly for a framework that leaves the business-as-usual approach at the door and ushers us into a new era where ending plastic pollution is finally within reach."

The organisations participating in the business coalition are pushing for "a global treaty to set common goals, rules and obligations that member states will be required to implement within their national jurisdictions", they said in a statement.

"Many companies and countries are already taking important steps to address plastic pollution, but voluntary action alone cannot reach the scale we need to urgently solve this crisis," said Rob Opsomer from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

He said the coalition would bring together businesses from across the plastics value chain to support the development of an ambitious and effective treaty.

Plastic can no longer be allowed to become waste or pollution," Opsomer added.

However, the Business Coalition shows that companies are willing to risk losing profit to avoid creating potentially lethal levels of pollution, it adds. The companies involved include major multinationals such as Danone, Nestle, PepsiCo,

The Coca-Cola Company, IKEA, L'Oreal and Unilever. On March 2 this year, at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, 175 UN member states unanimously adopted a resolution to start negotiations on a new global treaty to end plastic pollution. .***Xinhua***



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Forbes Under 30 Summit bears fruit

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - Six months post the Forbes Under 30 Summit that was held in Africa and hosted in Gaborone for the first time, one of the delegates has returned to Botswana to invest his knowledge.

Nikko TooGood, who is the founder of Black Authors Matter, said during the US based movement's tour in Mochudi on Monday that young people should be inspired to unearth their untold stories through publishing books.

He stated that the tour to Botswana, which includes 30 black American authors, was meant to encourage new and emerging authors to share their stories through publishing books.

When addressing secondary school learners in Mochudi, he said he felt the resolve to reach Batswana about the importance of brain power and knowledge.

"I am the curator of Black Authors Matter Tour and I want to use this platform to build synergies with Batswana writers to market them to the world.

It is in this space of writing that we can create partnerships for black people to be seen, heard and exchange and make them become some of the best authors around the world," he said

He said during the summit, it became evident that Botswana had so much to offer as was displayed through cultural ensembles, which remained unknown to the world.

"It was during the Forbes summit that I realised that a lot can be done in Botswana to challenge authors', especially young people, to come out and share the stories that are embedded in their lives through iconography.

In a nutshell, I decided to adopt this place," he said.

TooGood said he imagined a great change that could be imparted in the lives of black authors, which would promote black literary culture.

"There is so much power in literature of writing down your own simple life stories that could make readers look at us from a different perspective. You can be self-employed within the space of just writing and publishing," he said.

In that regard, he challenged young authors to tell stories about their culture and tell the world who they wanted to be.

DeBeers Group Botswana head of corporate affairs and outreach marketer, Pat Dambe said following DeBeers Group's participation at the Forbes Under 30 Summit, as the anchor sponsor of President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi's the vision, the feedback post the summit had been exceptional.

"This Black Authors Matter tour is a real testimony of what came out of hosting the Forbes Under 30 Summit, a conviction that the private sector partnership with government and the President's Vision was falling into place through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)," she stated.

She said TooGood, who owns a publishing house in Atlanta, USA, decided to reach out to DeBeers outreach programme to see if they could bring authors to Botswana to inspire Batswana on writing and give them mileage to share what they had published.

"For PPPs to bring capacity and relationships in business, education and networking opportunities for our own entrepreneurs is a welcome development," she stressed

She revealed that TooGood was keen to set up a Batswana- owned entity in order to produce more Batswana authors.

Dambe also noted that DeBeers Group was happy to be part of the endeavour to support government and produce more entrepreneurs.

Kgatleng Regional Education director, Mothusi James said the Black Authors Matter tour was a good platform to encourage learners to develop the culture of reading and to also inspire learners to tell stories through publishing.

The pupils were drawn from 10 secondary schools in the Kgatleng District to interact with the authors. ***BOPA***



Members of Black Authors Matter interacting with secondary school learners in Mochudi on Monday. They are in Botswana to share life skills on story telling and publishing. Photo: Mmoniemang Motsamai

Basubia Veekuhane Cultural Festival tomorrow

By Keamogetse Letsholo

KASANE - Come tomorrow, Basubia groups from Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe will ascend in Kavimba for the highly celebrated Cisiya Nkulu.

At the annual festival, otherwise known as Veekuhane Cultural Festival, the ethnic group members interact and showcase their culture in the form of food, dance and attire.

In yesterday's interview, Cisiya Nkulu Trust board chairperson, Tedius Yambwa said the festival also accorded *munitenge* (kgosikgolo) an opportunity to interact with his subjects because according to the Subia culture, he was seen in public only once a year.

Yambwa noted that since the Basubia had installed their kgosikgolo or *munitenge* in December last year, this year's festival was themed: Veekuhane Under the New Munitengeship, the Journey Continues.

Munitenge Liswaani Sinvula III was installed in December, taking over from his father Munitenge Maiba Sinvula, who reigned for 53 years.

The annual festival started in 2009 with the aim of fostering community participation and self-development.

Yambwa said the festival would help with entrepreneurship growth as those interested in selling their products would pitch stalls.

Funds raised from the leasing of stalls, he said, would be used to prepare for the next festival.

Build-up activities for the festival kicked off with a sensitisation walk from Mabele to Kavimba as well as live exhibitions and visits to historical places at Munga.

The annual festival is one of the trust's activities, which included the documentation of the Subia cultural heritage for its preservation for future generations. ***BOPA***



Munitenge Maiba Sinvula and other officials at a previous Cisiya Nkulu Cultural Festival. This was the last time he graced the festival because he handed his reign to his son Munitenge Sinvula III last year. Tomorrow's festival is an opportunity for Munitenge Sinvula III to interact with his subjects because according to the Subia culture, he appears in public only once a year.

Battle for Miss Independence Serowe tonight

By Patricia Speakson

SEROWE - Tonight's Miss Independence Serowe 2022 pageant is set to spice up this year's Independence Day celebrations and give locals something different to look forward to.

Organiser, Janet Phemelo said in an interview recently that the pageant also sought to help build young women's confidence as well as develop their social skills, poise and personality.

Phemelo said the pageant, pencilled for Serowe College of Education, would see nine ladies tussle for the title.

"I have come up with a beauty pageant like this to give Serowe natives something to look forward to as they will be coming home for the independence holidays," she explained.

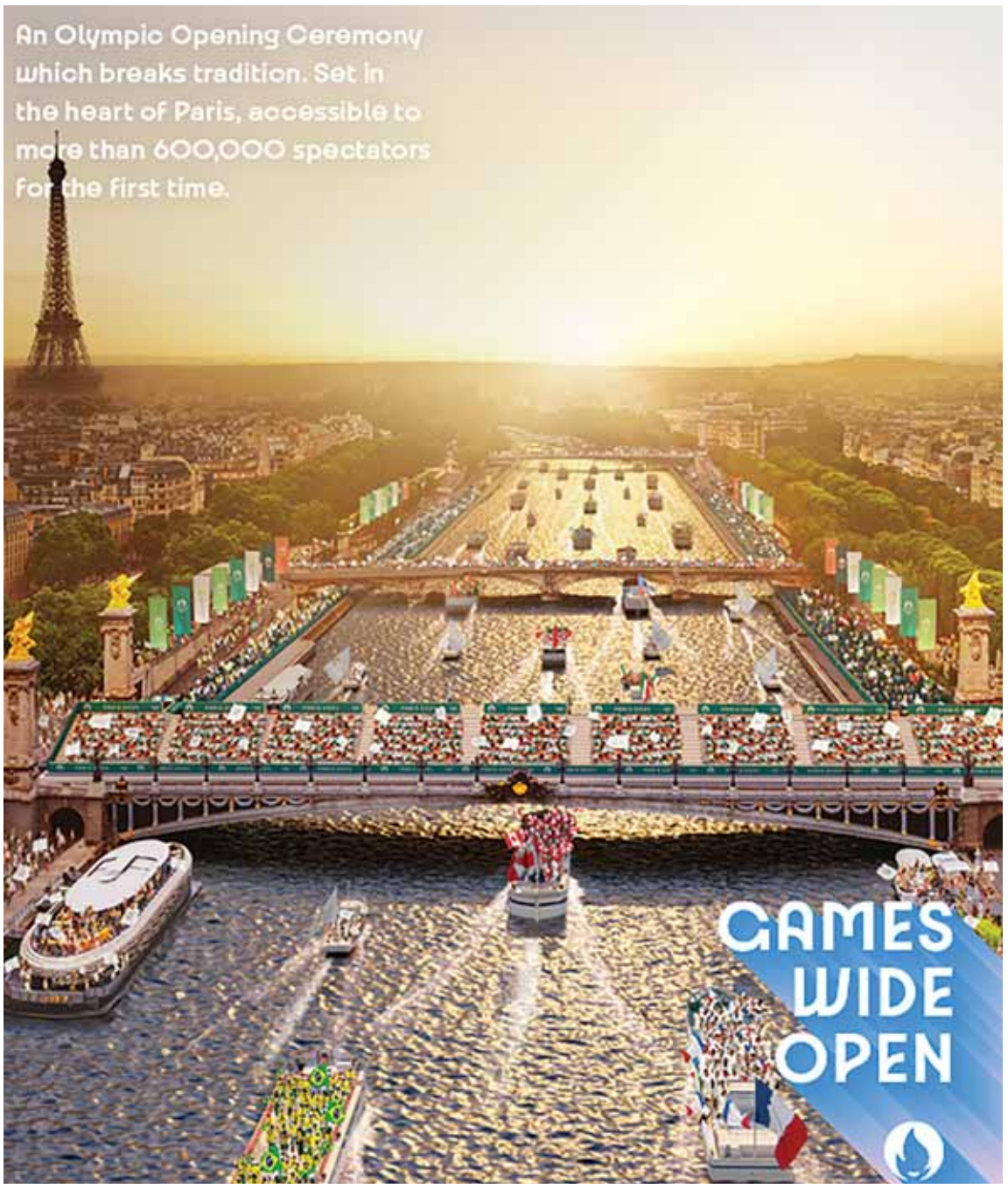
The contestants are between ages 17 and 31.

Phemelo, who owns Lady Jan Botique, says her clothing store, together with Serowe Eye Care were the only sponsors.

She has created a Facebook page called *Miss Independence Serowe 2022* through which public members can get in touch with her to purchase tickets.

Standard tickets go for P100, double tickets P150 and VIP tickets go for P200.

Bangwato deputy regent Kgosi Serogola Seretse will officially open the event. ***BOPA***



PARIS - ***With two years to go to the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, organisers revealed 'Ouvrons Grand Les Jeux', meaning 'Games Wide Open', as the official slogan for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.*** Photo: Xinhua

World Cup will be challenging - Lewandowski

WARSAW - Poland captain Robert Lewandowski has admitted that his team will face an uphill task at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

"I don't know whether it will be the last big tournament for me, but I'm sure we will participate in a special competition, which will be different from the previous editions. We will play the competition during the season without additional preparations," Lewandowski said on Wednesday, ahead of his team's match against the Netherlands in the UEFA Nations League on Thursday.

This match will be one of Poland's last main tests before the World Cup, where they will face Argentina, Mexico and Saudi Arabia in the group stage.

"I don't see us as favorites to move into the next stage. Mexico always play very well on the big stage, while every opponent will be difficult to beat. It's a big challenge for us to fly to Qatar and play the most important match of the year. I believe the result of our first game against Mexico will be crucial," the forward added.

The 34-year-old has made a perfect start to life at Barcelona after joining the club from Bayern Munich this summer. Lewandowski sits top of La Liga's goalscoring chart with eight goals from six games.

"To be honest I didn't expect to start so well in a new place. I was aware that my first weeks were important not only for me, but for the whole team. I did everything to help the team from the first day. I feel proud that I play for FC Barcelona," he said. ***Xinhua***



Lewandowski

Paris 2024 ticketing programme starts December

PARIS - The Paris 2024 organisers have announced the details of the first phase of the official ticketing sale for the summer Olympic Games two years later, as the registration starts in December.

Only 'multi-ticket' packs will be offered during this stage, the organisers said on Tuesday.

A pack consists of three competition sessions, which means that these fans can customise their own Olympic experience according to their preferences. The registration opens for two months from December 1 to January 31, 2023.

The order of entries will not affect the outcome of the draw.

Those who are lucky to be selected randomly will receive an email with a purchase slot, and the sales start from February 15, 2023.

Paris 2024 will open the sales phase for single tickets for the Olympic Games in May 2023 and for the Paralympic Games in autumn 2023. Over 13 million tickets will be sold for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, and nearly half of the Olympic tickets reserved for the public cost 50 euros or less.

Prices for competitions events range from 24 euros to a maximum of 950 euros, and the highest price will only account for 0.5 per cent of the total volume of tickets to the general public. ***Xinhua***

2022 FIFA World Cup huge opportunity for Germany

BERLIN - The German associations' new campus in Frankfurt seemed the perfect spot for Oliver Bierhoff to launch a statement, and the 54-year-old couldn't be more serious about it.

Amid buildings shaped by modern design, training and medical facilities it seemed time for the German national team's managing director to spread a spirit of optimism.

The former striker not only spoke of winning the 2022 World Cup as a realistic goal but delivered, in his perspective, convincing reasons why the 2014 world champion is prepared to kick the can down the road.



Bierhoff

The former Milan forward spoke of past disappointments as an irresistible force of motivation to lift the trophy in December as the world's best side.

Bierhoff mentioned mentality and quality next to what he called 'rage in the stomach' of Germany's squad.

The disastrous performance back in 2018 in Russia, when hopes shattered as early as in the group stage, is unforgotten and still boiling as an unpleasant leftover in the players and official chests.

"Nobody wants to experience something frustrating like that again," the official said ahead of the country's Nation League encounter against Hungary in Leipzig Friday evening.

Germany, he emphasised, was ready to do the job.

"It is our first goal to win the World Cup," Bierhoff said, calling the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar a 'huge opportunity.'

After 13 unbeaten games with coach Hansi Flick in charge, to win their Nations League group can be the starting point for the country's return to the world's top.

2020 treble winner Flick has proven his outstanding qualities 'to be the man taking a team to a big title, triggered by a robust team spirit and determination.'

To perfect the preparation, the German squad is traveling to Oman on November 14 followed by a friendly against the host.

"We see it as a must to get used to the climate and time-zone as fast as possible due to the tight schedule," Bierhoff added.

The duel against underdog Oman is giving coach Flick the chance to make final adjustments.

The first World Cup played in the middle of a running season requires new approaches, Bierhoff said.

The German official denied additional burden caused by the unusual procedures. "I don't see any additional loads for players. If they wouldn't prepare for the World Cup, they would be covered with games for their clubs," he said. "We carefully keep an eye on our stress management."

He is experiencing the players full of anticipation for the upcoming World Cup. ***Xinhua***

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Ncenga during his heyday at Township Rollers. Siku said the former Township Rollers defender was no longer able to sustain himself following the road accident.

Ncenga tourney this weekend

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - Eight social clubs will tomorrow, participate in a football tournament aimed at raising funds for former Zebras and Township Rollers defender, Obuile 'Oscar' Ncenga, who was involved in a road accident last December.

The accident occurred on his way to Maposa, where his home team, Mosetse FC was to play a second division match.

Oscar and others sustained serious injuries and were taken to Tutume primary hospital.

Oscar sustained a thigh and arm injury and though he is recovering, he now has limited mobility, walks with a limp and has retired from football.

One of the tournament organisers, Innocent Siku said the weekend extravaganza would be played at Mosetse Village Development Committee grounds.

He said they had invited eight teams amongst them, Mosetse Masters, Mowana Social Club, Sowa FC, Stress and Gareitere as well as a team made up of Ncenga's friends.

He explained that the weekend tournament is expected to raise at least P30 000, if all goes according to plan.

Siku said they had already secured various sponsors for the tournament, with Security Systems having already contributed P5 000.

Vula Chose, a Chobe based bottling water company, has promised to supply bottled water whilst Siku Farms would provide vegetables, he added.

Easy by Night Club has promised to provide football equipment such as football nets, soccer ball cones and whistles, while the organising committee had printed T-shirts, which are being sold to raise funds.

The T-shirts go for P200.

Siku explained that the former Township Rollers defender was no longer able to sustain himself because the accident robbed him of a livelihood.

He said, Oscar, who is a professional brick-layer was now unable to build houses.

Regarding the funds to be raised, he said Oscar would decide what to use the money for, adding that he (Oscar) had shown interest in starting his own company or venturing into farming.

Siku said football legends, some former Zebras players in the likes of Joel Mogorosi, Mompati Thuma, Alphonse Modisaotsile and Mokgathi Mokgathi, would attend and play in the tournament.

"The objective is to organise more similar tournaments in the future so that we can raise as much as we can," he said.

A seven-time league champion with Rollers, the Mosetse-born started his football career with Mosetse Young Stars.

At the time of his accident, he was playing for Sua Flamingoes, which he joined as a 17-year-old back in 2004.

Oscar was not available for comment at the time of going to press. ***BOPA***

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- Visit the WUC website (www.wuc.bw)
- Under the Self-Service Options, click on 'KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER'
- Fill in the form and attach required documents



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