

BOTSWANA

Daily News

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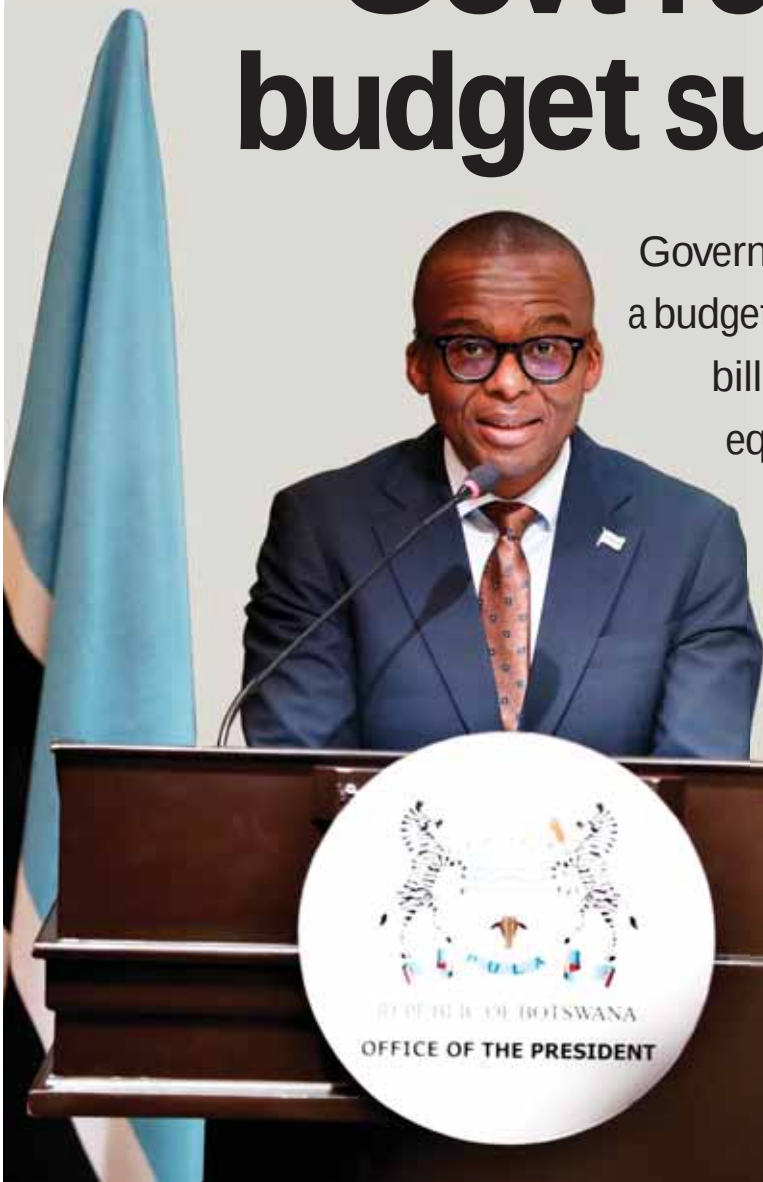
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Govt records budget surplus



Government has recorded a budget surplus of US\$2.51 billion as of June 2026, equivalent to 0.85 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

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Botswana to invest in youth-focused AI initiatives

Pako Lebanna

GABORONE

In an attempt to address the challenge of youth unemployment and poverty, the government is working on investing in upskilling them, to be entrepreneurial and job ready, in order to unlock opportunities and benefit from artificial intelligence (AI) in the modern digitalised world.

This was said by President Advocate Duma Boko while partaking in the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Generation Unlimited (GenU) panel discussion in New York City, United States of America on Monday.

President Boko said the government was looking to provide solutions to existing economic challenges facing the nation, by positioning the country to attract efficient foreign direct investment (FDI), building skills and entrepreneurial pathways as well as providing opportunities in rural communities.

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Acting President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe officiating at the Finance and Investment Pitso in Gaborone yesterday. He said government was proceeding with fiscal consolidation, domestic revenue mobilisation and expenditure restraint to reduce non-essential expenditure and ease structural fiscal pressures. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu



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Chobe District on high alert as diarrhoea cases rise

Portia Keetile
KASANE

Chobe District Council health authorities are on high alert following a consecutive increase in diarrhoea cases among children under five years.

The council chairperson, Mr Johane Chenjekwa, confirmed during a full council session on Monday that the region officially crossed the critical action line of surveillance during the first week of August.

He stated that as at September 7, a total of 273 cases had been recorded, including the death of a three-month old baby.

The Rapid Response Team has been activated and is on the ground working to stabilise the situation and ensure no more fatalities occur.

Mr Chenjekwa emphasised the importance of food safety and environmental sanitation during this period, “boil drinking water, cook food thoroughly, wash hands before eating and after using the toilet, wash fruits before eating them, and keep environments clean.”

Furthermore, he encouraged



Chobe District Council chairperson, Mr Johane Chenjekwa (left), deputy chairperson, Mr Mpho Sibanda (centre) and area MP, Mr Simasiku Mapulanga during the ongoing full council session in Kasane. Mr Chenjekwa said as at September 7, a total of 273 diarrhoea cases had been recorded, including the death of a three-month old baby. Photo: Portia Keetile

residents to promptly seek medical care if diarrhoea or vomiting began.

Mr Chenjekwa also briefed the council session that Chobe Disease Control Zone remained secure from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), amidst the unprecedented multi-district disease outbreaks in the country. He stated that

movement restrictions and bans on slaughtering cloven-hoofed animals were applied nationwide in affected regions, whereas Chobe and Ngamiland remained exempted from the strict movement prohibitions due to continuous local control and defense measures.

The second round of the FMD

vaccination in Chobe District is complete, with 99.99 per cent coverage, Mr Chenjekwa said.

He said the achievement was made possible by the triple vaccination where the Department of Veterinary Services enforced a strict schedule of three vaccinations every year in March, July, and November. **BOPA**

NHI promises equitable and quality healthcare

Michelle Mosebiwa
MOCHUDI

Health goes beyond the availability of medicines, encompassing the quality of services, skills of health personnel and other factors that contribute to effective healthcare, says Public Health Medicine Physician, Dr Lerato Sekhomba.

Dr Sekhomba was addressing a consultative meeting in Mochudi recently on the establishment of the National Health Insurance (NHI).

She said the insurance has been designed to provide equitable access to quality healthcare for every Motswana, regardless of financial status and to ensure timely access to treatment. “Delays in receiving treatment and loss of lives will be curbed,” she said.

Dr Sekhomba revealed that officials are inspecting hospitals and clinics as part of preparations for the programme, which will be implemented in three phases.

She explained that the first phase will involve communication, screening and public education on the NHI, the second phase will test the system over a period of two years, while the third phase will operationalise full implementation.

For her part, NHI Health Financing Expert, Ms Onalenna Mokena said government would carry the larger share of the cost, while individuals would contribute according to their level of affordability.

Financial analysis is currently being conducted to establish the costs involved, she said.

Ms Mokena noted that the NHI has been under consideration for a long time and has gone through numerous consultations. The scheme is focused on improving the quality of healthcare, including how healthcare providers are paid, with greater emphasis on result-based payments.

She said the essential health service package further outlined the country’s health priorities, while the NHI was intended to help assess whether healthcare services are being provided equally across different areas.

She added that Batswana who were unable to contribute financially would be assisted by government based on their financial circumstances.

The NHI will also recognise traditional healthcare, allowing traditional practitioners to be incorporated into the system to assist with treatments such as thobega, a traditional process for healing fractured bones.

Meanwhile, attendants at the meeting welcomed the NHI as a progressive initiative toward improving healthcare delivery, but raised concerns over medicine shortages, inadequate ambulance services and poor service delivery at health facilities. **BOPA**

Public-private partnership critical to academic excellence

Naomi Leepile
TSABONG

Active participation from community members and business partners remain critical to achieving long-term academic success, says Assistant Minister of Basic Education and Child Welfare, Mr Justin Hunyepa.

Speaking at a victory celebration for Seetelo Primary School in Tsabong on Monday, Mr Hunyepa said government alone could not shoulder the financial responsibility of driving quality education.

Mr Hunyepa emphasised that collaborative efforts were essential to bridging resources in education.

He paid tribute to the event’s patron, Mr Mock Ntau, a former Councillor, for his unwavering commitment to the district’s academic advancement.

Mr Ntau has continuously funded and supported local education initiatives over many years. Mr Hunyepa highlighted that healthy competition among academic institutions serves as a powerful motivator for students.

“Knowing that their efforts are tied to trophies and financial rewards, inspires learners to push for excellence,” he noted.

He further assured the public that his ministry would continue to recognise and support community-led educational initiatives across all districts. Member of Parliament for Kgalagadi South, Mr Tokyo Modise commended the school management, teaching staff and students for their outstanding achievement.

Reflecting on the event’s theme, “A Harvest for Excellence,” Mr Modise noted that the phrase aptly reflected the school’s journey and remarkable outcome.

“Today, you are reaping what you have sown,” Mr Modise said. “It is through your hard work, dedication, and discipline that we are gathered here to celebrate.”



Assistant Minister of Basic Education and Child Welfare, Mr Justin Hunyepa (left), Seetelo Primary School head, Ms Dolly Otladising (centre) and former school head, Ms Kelebogile Mokgosi during the school's victory celebration in Tsabong on Monday. Mr Hunyepa said active participation from community members and business partners remained critical to achieving long-term academic success. Photo: Naomi Leepile

Mr Modise acknowledged that Mr Ntau’s continuous support over the years has borne tangible fruit, contributing significantly to improved academic standards across Kgalagadi South.

He urged teachers to sustain their hard work and commitment, noting that their dedication remain the primary engine for educational transformation in the region.

Detailing the history of the awards, the initiative’s patron, Mr Mock Ntau, explained that the victory awards were launched in 2010 to combat widespread academic underperformance across the region. “The initiative was established to create room for improvement and foster a healthy

competitive spirit among schools,” Mr Ntau said.

The competition targets primary and secondary schools within the six Tsabong catchment areas, focusing on performance in the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), Junior Certificate (JC), and Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE).

Under the award structure, each participating school was tasked with achieving a minimum target of 80 per cent pass rate.

Beyond motivating students and staff, Mr Ntau emphasised that the programme aims to engage parents and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), creating a unified support

network dedicated to raising the overall standard of education throughout the district.

The School Head, Ms Dolly Otladising, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries, sponsors, and community members for their steadfast encouragement and presence.

She praised her teaching staff and pupils for their relentless commitment to achieving the school’s high academic targets.

Ms Otladising reaffirmed the school’s determination to maintain its top rank, assuring stakeholders that Seetelo Primary will continue to cultivate a culture of discipline, hard work, and sustained excellence. **BOPA**

Botswana to invest in youth-focused AI initiatives

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He said while the government understood the need for FDI to catapult economic growth, there was a need for the right type of investment to unlock opportunities.

“We have seen three types of FDI, the first being resource seeking, where investors come and look to cut away ore in the raw, which is not the best form of investment.

The second type is market seeking; and the third is efficiency seeking, which is where the real opportunities are. If we are to attract that efficiency seeking FDI, we need to deploy effort into skills provision for our young

people,” said President Boko. He said government was working on commencing an initiative to provide employability training to about 10 000 youth, and preparing to partner with the private sector to provide requisite skills to the youth.

“Efficiency seeking FDI will leverage on AI to resolve some of the problems of speed, efficiency to provide solutions in the shortest possible time, and we need to have our young people attain the requisite skills to participate,” said President Boko.

In addition to being trained to be job-ready, President Boko said government also sought to avail training for the youth to be entrepreneurial.

“We need the youth to take an active part in the productive sectors of the economy, to generate goods themselves and service, something we require urgently since we have sparsely populated areas, and some of our young people are in the rural areas.

We have to then engage in a rural industrialisation programme that draws on leverages of AI to generate the efficiencies,” said President Boko.

He added that government was investing in availing internet access to assist information communication technology (ICT) business start-ups to mine information required to be innovative.

“The government in Botswana has created several pathways, among them the Botswana Innovation Hub, assisting start-ups to create something of value from their ideas.

One of the most critical factors is ease of access to relevant data, which is the currency most youth tech start-ups require to deploy to generate solutions, and to that end the government is working on aggressive digitalisation,” President Boko stated.

The panel discussion, hosted by UNICEF at the UN Plaza in New York, was held as part of the annual UNICEF GenU Global Leadership Council held under the theme The Youth Dividend: Turning AI and Green Investments into Skilling &

Livelihood Opportunities.

This year’s gathering sought to address the challenge of 1.2 billion youth in emerging markets and developing economies being anticipated to enter the workforce by 2035, whereas only 400 million jobs are currently projected.

Co-chaired by UNICEF executive director, Ms Catherine Russell, and the Global chairperson of one of the world’s top four accounting firms, PwC, Mr Mohamed Kande, the gathering hosted two heads of state, President Boko and his Namibian counterpart, Ms Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, scores of UN and development agency policy makers, business executives and youth entrepreneurs. **BOPA**

Advocacy network amplifies albinism inclusion drive

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

For people living with albinism, everyday activities such as attending school, working or simply spending time outdoors can come with challenges that many take for granted.

Limited access to specialised healthcare, protective skin products and assistive devices, coupled with stigma and discrimination, continues to affect the full participation of people with albinism (PWA) in society. The Africa Albinism Network (AAN) is advocating for national plans, improved services, legal protection and greater public awareness of the rights of people with albinism.

Speaking at an advocacy training session, Mr Keabaka Moshoeshoe shared the challenges faced by people with albinism, particularly the difficulty of accessing specialised healthcare and skin-care products needed to protect them from the effects of sun exposure.

He called for greater inclusion in government services, saying improved access to essential products would enable them to participate more fully in everyday life. “We would appreciate adequate distribution of sunscreen and other medical products which are basics for PWA,” he said, citing government

programmes that provide free services and products to people living with conditions such as diabetes and HIV/AIDS as a benchmark. For Assistant Minister of State President, Defence and Security, Ms Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti, legislation alone cannot eliminate the stigma faced by PWA.

She called for collective action to address discrimination, myths and degrading practices against people with albinism and persons with disabilities.

“The measure of a nation’s progress should be seen in citizens’ everyday lives where PWA can participate in any activity free from exclusion and stigma. Behind every policy and statistic is a person who wants the same things we all want: to learn, work, contribute, be treated fairly and live in dignity,” she said.

The Albinism network, meanwhile, said reliable data was critical to improving services for PWA in Botswana.

Executive Director, Mr Bonface Massah, said the organisation sought to support Botswana in developing a data-driven framework through comprehensive national studies.



Mr Keabaka Moshoeshoe has called for improved access to sunscreen and other medical products to help protect people with albinism from the effects of sun exposure.

“Our goal is to assist with a data and situation analysis through conducting comprehensive national studies that will provide accurate numbers to assist government in budgeting for services,” he said.

He said the information would help guide planning and budgeting for services targeting PWA, including skin-care products and education.

Chairperson of the Botswana Federation for the Disabled (BOFOD), Ms Boikhutso Majang, urged PWA to take an active role in shaping their future and to challenge barriers that

prevent them from reaching their full potential.

“Your journey is filled with unique roadblocks, painful misunderstandings and deep-rooted stigma, but they should not define your destiny,” she said.

Ms Majang called for safe and accessible classrooms, improved access to life-saving skin-care and protection products, and stronger collaboration between PWA and government.

She also encouraged participants to pursue education with determination, speak out confidently, support one another and recognise their equal rights.

As Botswana continues to address issues affecting PWA, advocates said sustained reforms, reliable data and public awareness are necessary to ensure that albinism does not become a barrier to safety, education, employment or other opportunities.

The two-day learning forum was hosted by the Africa Albinism Network in collaboration with the Disability Coordination Office in the Ministry of State President, Defence and Security, with the aim of promoting awareness, dialogue and action towards advancing the rights of PWA. **BOPA**

Government records budget surplus

...from page 1

Officiating at the Finance and Investment Pitso yesterday, Acting President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, said government was proceeding with fiscal consolidation, domestic revenue mobilisation and expenditure restraint.

He said ministries, departments and agencies had, since the 2025/2026 financial year, implemented measures to reduce non-essential expenditure in an effort to ease structural fiscal pressures.

Mr Gaolathe said government remained committed to reforms aimed at strengthening tax administration, broadening revenue mobilisation and raising the tax-to-GDP ratio over the next five years.

To that effect, Parliament had approved major tax legislation

covering Value Added Tax (VAT), income tax, tax administration and customs, which he said were collectively estimated to generate an additional \$2.47 billion in annual revenue.

He said borrowing would nonetheless continue to support approved development and fiscal requirements, guided by debt sustainability and prudent debt management.

Mr Gaolathe said development of the domestic government securities market remained important, noting that Parliament had recently approved an increase in the government bond issuance programme ceiling from P55 billion to P85 billion.

The increase, he said, would give government greater financing flexibility and create additional room for continued development of the domestic capital market.

“The P85 billion figure is an

authorised programme ceiling. It is not a borrowing target, and actual issuance will continue to reflect government’s financing requirements, medium-term debt management strategies, debt sustainability considerations and prevailing market conditions,” he said.

Additionally, Mr Gaolathe said the preliminary revised outlook for the 2026/2027 national budget now estimated a deficit of \$9.26 billion, equivalent to 3.1 per cent of GDP, compared with the original projection of \$26.35 billion, or 8.9 per cent of GDP.

He said the improvement reflected, among other factors, an upward revision of \$8.1 billion in total revenue following higher-than-anticipated Bank of Botswana revenue.

He said the final fiscal position would also depend on government’s ability to contain expenditure and

maintain fiscal prudence. Mr Gaolathe cautioned, however, that weak global diamond demand continued to weigh on economic growth, exports and public finances, while fiscal and external buffers remained under pressure.

“The nation should take confidence from the affirmation and the instruction from the outlook, especially that Botswana has retained its footing. Sovereign financing will inevitably occupy a larger place in Botswana’s economic discussions as the country works through this fiscal and structural adjustment,” he said.

He said it was therefore important to consider the resilience of the financing framework, the range of funding sources available to government and the private sector, as well as the quality of government engagement with investors and development partners. **BOPA**

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DailyBusiness

Timela ventures into fish farming

Chendzimu Manyepedza
MMADINARE

While retirement often signifies the conclusion of a long career, for a former headmaster, Mr Stephen Timela, who has spent over three decades in the educational field, his retirement marked the start of an entirely new chapter.

Nestled in the outskirts of Mmadinare village, his bustling fish farm project is blossoming into a symbol of determination of what retirees can achieve through self-reliance.

Upon retirement, Mr Timela plunged headfirst into his new endeavour of fish farming and began with sourcing fish for breeding from the scenic Chobe River in Kasane, a location renowned for its rich aquatic life. He also ventured to explore the hidden potential of the Letsibogo Dam, where he sought diverse fish breeds and qualities.

“Teaching was my first passion,” Mr Timela reflected with a warm smile.

“However, I now find myself learning from an unexpected teacher: the tranquil ponds. Each ripple and reflection serves as a powerful reminder that growth is a lifelong journey, one that continues to unfold without an endpoint.”

Mr Timela shared that he realised that fish farming offered immense potential, especially in areas that border water bodies and it was still a practice that remained largely untapped in the Mmadinare region although it presented a unique chance for sustainable development and economic growth.

It is for this reason that he took the plunge and positioned himself to chase the possibilities that the fish farming carries.

He acknowledged that the journey into aquaculture was challenging as it demanded close monitoring of water quality, costly feed supplies, adherence to strict feeding schedules, and proactive measures to shield against diseases.

Nevertheless, he stated that he would remain steadfast in his belief that all the demanding effort pays off, particularly since the fish market in the region was still far from saturation.

“Proper care is crucial for fish, from the delicate breeding stage right through to harvest. Ponds need constant attention, and maintaining a healthy aquatic environment is essential for success,” he said.

As he stands proudly beside one of his ponds, Mr Timela gazes upon his aquatic paradise with a sense of accomplishment.

He said since he kick-started his project in 2024, he has cultivated seven ponds, three of which are brimming with vibrant, thriving bream, vividly swirling in the clear waters.

The fruits of his labour are becoming increasingly apparent; he has already begun to harvest the rewards of his dedication and hard work.

With a satisfied smile

He emphasised the

illuminating his face, he shared that the sales he had achieved thus far confirmed that the fish market was not only accessible but also inviting, brimming with promising opportunities for his catch.

A self-funded entrepreneur, Mr Timela said he was keen to impart his knowledge and experience to anyone contemplating a venture into fish farming.

indispensable virtues of patience and perseverance, asserting that the qualities were vital for surmounting the inevitable obstacles present in the industry.

While his journey has been a rollercoaster of triumphs and setbacks, he firmly believes that resilience is the key to successfully navigating the ebbs and flows of the rewarding, yet demanding field. **BOPA**



Mr Stephen Timela said he realised that fish farming offered potential, especially in areas that bordered water bodies and it remained untapped in the Mmadinare region. Photo: Chendzimu Manyepedza

Russia waives grain export duties through 2026

MOSCOW

Russia has zeroed out export duties on grain crops through the end of 2026, the Russian Agriculture Ministry announced Monday.

According to a new decree, the “floating” export tariff on wheat, barley, and corn has been scrapped until December 31, 2026.

Meanwhile, duties on sunflower oil and sunflower meal will be capped at the levels set for August

2026: US\$92.13 per metric tonne for sunflower oil and US\$3.71 per metric tonne for sunflower meal.

The decision aims to support domestic producers and exporters of grain and oilseed crops amid the ongoing restructuring of export logistics, the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement.

“These measures will reduce costs for market participants, make sales conditions more predictable, and support the industry’s export potential,” the ministry said.

“We expect the temporary adjustment of export duties to lower market players’ costs, sustain production economics and ensure stable supplies of Russian agricultural goods,” Maxim Borovoy, deputy minister of the Agriculture Ministry said earlier.

Russia introduced export duty mechanisms for grain, sunflower oil, and sunflower meal in 2021. The rates are calculated based on the difference between the base price and the indicative price. *Xinhua*

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Farmers adopt drought-tolerant crops for resilience

HARARE Faced with recurring droughts, Zimbabwe smallholder farmers who largely rely on rain-fed agriculture are turning to drought-tolerant traditional crops to safeguard food supplies and strengthen resilience. The shift was reflected at the Good Seed and Food Festival in Harare on Saturday, where farmers showcased and exchanged seeds such as cowpeas, sorghum and millet. Traditional crops have sustained communities for generations and are valued for their ability to perform under dry conditions, said Delmah Ndlovu, national chairperson of the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers’ Forum, an organisation that seeks to improve smallholder livelihoods through sustainable ecological agriculture. *Xinhua*

Govt urges farmers to hold steady as coffee market faces pressure

KAMPALA The Uganda government has urged coffee farmers not to lose heart amid volatility in the global market and adverse weather conditions affecting production. Frank Tumwebaze, minister of agriculture, animal industry and fisheries, said in a statement on Sunday that the international coffee market had recently come under downward pressure amid increased supplies from major producing countries, particularly Brazil and Vietnam. “Our price analysts attributed the immediate pressure partly to increased Brazilian exports as that country’s harvest approached completion. This tells us that the current price movement is not unique to Uganda. It is part of a wider international market adjustment,” Tumwebaze said. *Xinhua*

China boots Zambia farm mechanisation

LUSAKA - The China-aid overseas training course on agricultural mechanisation for Zambia opened in Lusaka on Monday. Jin Jun, counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Zambia, said the course was a concrete step to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state and the outcomes of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. Highlighting China’s shift toward smart, modernised agriculture, Jin said China was keen to share its experience and meet local needs. He noted that China highly values human resource development in Africa, with nearly 400 Zambians participating in various training programmes in 2025. Max Choombe, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, expressed gratitude to the Chinese embassy for supporting training programmes for Zambians, saying the initiative would help consolidate bilateral relations as Zambia sought to draw on China’s experience in transforming its agricultural sector. *Xinhua*

Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

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261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500

Badiragatsi ba tlaa oba letsogo

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

Keteko ya dingwaga di le masome a marataro, tsa boipuso jwa Botswana e solofetswe go nna serala sa go rotloetsa bodiragatsi mo kgaolong ya Bokone Bophirima, segolo

bogolo mmimo, ka karolo e kgolo ya madi a a abetsweng moletlo e tla a dirisiwa go tshegetsa tsa bodiragatsi mo gae.

Fa a bua le babega dikgang kwa Maun bosheng, mogokaganyi wa lephata la metshameko le bodiragatsi, Rre Lebotse Modibedi

a re re keteko e tla thusa go neela badiragatsi ba mo gae sebaka sa go bontsha bokgoni jwa bone, segolobogolo mo mmimong.

“Re bone go le botlhokwa go isa karolo e kgolo ko bodiragatsing ele maiteko a go rotloetsa banni ba rona mo kgaolong,” a rialo.

O tlhalositse gore go tshegetsa bodiragatsi ke nngwe ya ditsela tse keteko e tla solegelang setshaba molemo ka yone, ka e tla neela badiragatsi serala sa go ithalosa le go fitlhelela bareetsi ba bantsi.

Gape a re kgaolo e, e abetswe P450,000 go tsholetsa ditshupelo tsa keteko ya letsatsi la boipuso, mme madi ao, a abetswe dikgotlana tsa kgaolo ka go farologana go lebilwe palo ya batho.

O tlhalositse gore nngwe le nngwe ya dikgaolo tsa botlhapi tse tharo e amogetse P150,000. A re madi ao a abetswe dikgotlana ka tekatekano go ikaegilwe ka palo ya batho, mme madi ao a farologana go tloga ka P6,000 mo mafelong a mannye go fitlha go P34,000 mo mafelong a a nang le batho ba bantsi.

Rre Modibedi a re mafelo a dikgotla a dumalane go kopanya madi a one gore keteko ya boipuso kwa Maun e nne ya boleng jo bo kwa godimo, mme fa moletlo o motona o tla a tshwarelwa kwa Maun Sports Complex.

Rre Modibedi a re madi ao

gape a tla thusa go netefatsa gore keteko e tsamaya sentle, go akaretse go tlamela batho ba ba tla nnang teng ka dijo tsa motshegare kwa tiragalongkgolo.

O kopile beng ba dikgweba mo Maun le ba ba mo metseng ee mabapi go ema nokeng letsatsi leo ka go ithaopa ka se ba ka se kgonang.

Fa a bua ka lenaneo la letsatsi la boipuso, Rre Modibedi o tlhalositse fa moletlo wa letsatsi la boipuso o tla a simolola mo mosong kwa Nhabe Museum, mme go tlholwe kwa lebaleng legolo kwa go tlaa atholwang teng go fitlhelela mo mosong wa letsatsi le le latelang.

Mo godimo ga tiragalo ya konokono ya letsatsi, kgaolo e rulagantse ditiragalo tse dingwe tse di amang letsatsi la boipuso.

A re mmabontle wa bagolo ba dingwana tse di lekanang le boipuso jwa ngwaga yo, ba ba masome a marataro o tla tshwarwa kwa sekolong se se golwane sa Maitlamo Junior ka Lwetse ale 26. BOPA



Mogokaganyi wa lephata la metshameko le bodiragatsi kwa kgaolong ya bokone bophirima, Rre Lebotse Modibedi a re badiragatsi ba tlaa nna le sebaka sa go supa bokgoni jwa bone fa lefatshe leno le ipelela dingwaga di le masome a marataro le ntse le ipusa.

Senepe: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

Kago ya kgopho ya metsi a a leswe e tsweletse

Relief Lephutshi
KANYE

Go santse go dirwa diteko tsa go tlhola fa mafaratlhatlha a kgopho ya metsi a leswe a le mo seemong sa go ka dirisiwa.

Se se tlhalositswe ke mookamedi mo lephateng la ditirelo tsa maranyane mo lephateng la metsi le bonno jwa batho, Rre Gaetshwane Matsiara fa a ne a araba matshwenyego le dipotso tsa makhanselara kwa Kanye bosheng.

O sedimositse fa tiro ya kgopho ya metsi a a leswe e simolotse ka 2015, mme tsholofelo e le gore e ka bo e weditse ka 2019.

A re tiro eo, e ne ya diega ka

mabaka a le mmalwa, a akaretse go epiwa ga letlapa.

A re tiego eo, e ne ya baka koketsego ya dituelo tse di neng di se mo tumalanong a ba a sedimosa fa go setse go duetswe madi a a ka tshwarang P600 million wa ditshenyegelo tsa go nna jalo.

Go sa le foo o supile fa tiro ya kago ya kgopho ya metsi a a leswe e setse e didristse madi aa ka tshwarang P3.6 billion.

O tladitse ka gore kgatelo pele ya mma tota ya kago ya mafaratlhatlha a e kwa seelong sa 99.6 percent kgatthanong le 100 percent yo o mo thulaganyong.

Rre Matsiara o tlhaloseditse khansela ya Kanye gore legato la

bofelo la tiro eo le diegile ka ntlha ya ditiego tsa dituelo go tswa kwa pusong go duela kompone e e dirang tiro eo.

Le fa go ntse jalo o ne a supa fa tiro e sa robalelwa ke ditlhokwa ka ntlha ya bogodu jwa megala ya kopore segolo jang kwa Pump Station 3 e e leng yone mmamang.

A re seemo se se bifela pele fa koporase ya ditlhaeletsano ya Botswana Telecommunications, le yone e tsaya nako e telele go emisetsa megala eo.

A re go rekwa ga mehama mengwe ya ditshipi tsa mafaratlhatlha go mogoga moleele ka jaana di rekwa kwa mafatsheng a sele. BOPA

Twantsho kgokgontsho e tlhokana le borre

Kefilwe Selotlegeng
MAHALAPYE

Mogolwane mo go tsa makgotla a tsheko, Rre Terrence Basupi o kopile borre go tsaya karolo mo tshwaraganong ya go lwantsha kgokgontsho.

O buile se kwa thuto-seka-dipuisanyo e e amanang le tsa kgokgontsho e e neng e tshwaretse kwa Mahalapye bosheng.

Puisano e, e ene e rulagantswe ke ba sepodisi e itebagantse le borre go ba fa sebaka sa go buisana ka dikgang tsa kgokgontsho.

Rre Basupi o gwetlhlwe borre go tsaya karolo mo twantshong kgokgontsho ka go digoga kwa pele mo go lwantsheng borukuthi ka go ruta setshaba ka bo diphatsa jwa kgokgontsho le ditla morago tsa yone. A re kgokgontsho ke sera-segolo mo go gatakenng ditshwanelo tsa setho mo lefatsheng, e bile e rontsha motho seriti.

A re lefatshe leno le tsweletse ka go itemogela kgolo ya kgokgontsho go ya ka dipalo, a supa fa bana ba ba golelang mo malwapeng a gonang le kgokgontsho ba nna batswa-setlhabelo mo tsamaong ya nako.

O kaile fa kgokgontsho e ama itsholelo ya malwapa le ya lefatshe ka jaana batswa-setlhabelo ba fiwa dithuso ka go farologana. Ka jalo, a re tshwaragano e e ka dira pharologano le phetogo mo go botlhe, a tlatse ka gore go fengngwe mmaba o, go batla go itebagangwa le go thibela dilo tse di bakang kgokgontsho.

O rotloeditse batswa-setlhabelo go itse melao le mananeo a ka ba thusang. Mogolwane wa Mapodisi a Mahalapye,

Superintendent Anastasia Mogale o boletse fa maikaelelo a puisano e, e le go phutha borre go bua ka seabe sa bone mo dikganyeng tsa kgokgontsho.

Superintendent Mogale a re ba gwetlhlwe go bitsa bokopano jo ka jaana borre ba amega thata mo go direng melato ya kgokgontsho. A re kgang kgolo ya letsatsi ke go utlwa megopolo ya borre le mabaka a bone. Superintendent Mogale a re maikaelelo a bokopano joo, e ne gape e le go thulanya ditlhogo go tla ka megopolo ya gore kgokgontsho e ka thibelwa kana ya nyelediwa jang, ga mmogo le go rotloetsa tshwaragano ya ba-na-le-seabe botlhe.

A re moonoo mogolo ke go tswa ka metlhale e ka dirisiwang go hema kgokgontsho, go fetola maikutlo, mekgwa, ngwao le tumelo le go senka tharabololo. Mothusa kgosi wa Mahalapye Kgosi Samuel Maharero o tlhalosetse fa ba bogosi le bone ba tshwentse thata ke dikgang tsa kgokgontsho.

Kgosi Maharero a re bomme le bana ke batswa-setlhabelo thata gona le borre. A re lefa gontse jalo, mathata a matona ke gore bomme bangwe ba tsholola dikgang ba sena go di bega sentle fela e bile gona le bosupi.

A re dikgang tsa kgokgontsho di tlhokana le tshwaraga ya botlhe. BOPA

Tsabong District recently launched Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis campaign aimed at empowering communities to take greater responsibility for their health and make informed choices about HIV prevention. Photo: Letticia Nnokotema



PrEP campaign to strengthen HIV prevention

Letticia Nnokotema
TSABONG

Tsabong District, among 10 other districts where Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) has been rolled out, recently held its PrEP launch aimed at empowering communities to take greater responsibility for their health and make informed choices about HIV prevention.

Held under the theme: My Choice, My Protection, My Future, the campaign seeks to revitalise Primary Health Care services by strengthening disease prevention, health promotion, early detection and timely response to community health needs.

It also aims to scale up combination HIV prevention and routine wellness screening while promoting health facilities that are welcoming, stigma-free and respectful of patients' dignity.

Speaking at the launch, Botswana University of Maryland School of Medicine Health Initiative (Bummi) chief executive officer, Dr Ndwapi Ndwapi, said Botswana had made significant progress in responding to HIV, but prevention efforts needed to match the achievements made in treatment.

Dr Ndwapi said although HIV was no longer causing the level of illness and loss experienced in the early years of the epidemic, the country should not become complacent as HIV transmission continued, particularly among young people.

He said effective prevention tools, including condoms, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, safe male circumcision, oral PrEP and the newer long-acting injectable PrEP, provided communities with different options to protect themselves against HIV.

According to Dr Ndwapi, long-acting injectable PrEP was an important advancement because it gave people another choice in HIV prevention and could provide protection for several months after administration.

He emphasised that PrEP did not replace condoms, which also protect against other sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy.

He therefore encouraged young people to seek information from health workers and choose prevention methods suitable for their circumstances.

Dr Ndwapi further encouraged communities to adopt a holistic approach to their health by making routine wellness screening part of their everyday lives.

He urged people not to wait

until they were seriously ill before seeking medical attention, encouraging them to test for HIV and screen for conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

He noted that people seeking HIV services could also have other health conditions, making integrated services important in addressing the health needs of the whole person. He also called for health facilities and communities to create an environment where people could access services without fear, shame or discrimination.

Dr Ndwapi said the fight against HIV also required a multi-sectoral approach involving government, traditional leaders, parents, teachers, churches, community leaders, health workers and development partners. He said such collaboration was necessary to create an environment in which people could freely access health services and make informed decisions about their health.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for Kgalagadi South, Mr

Tokyo Modise, said his top priority was the establishment of a referral hospital in the constituency.

Mr Modise said having a referral hospital in Kgalagadi South would contribute toward improving the delivery of health services in the district and bring essential specialised services closer to residents. For his part, Tsabong District Council chairperson, Mr Elias Motlhanke encouraged community members to take the initiative in protecting themselves against HIV and other health challenges.

Mr Motlhanke stressed that prevention was a shared responsibility, urging individuals to take care of themselves and their partners.

"Let's take care of each other and protect our partners," he emphasised. The PrEP campaign is therefore expected to complement existing HIV prevention interventions while strengthening the community's use of primary health care and routine wellness services. **BOPA**

Girls aspiring to pursue careers in aviation touring Maun International Airport during the Girls in Aviation commemoration on Saturday. Aircraft maintenance engineer at North West Air, Ms Blessing Kelathilwe said aspiring aircraft maintenance engineers should pay particular attention to Mathematics, English and Physics, which provided an important foundation for the profession.

Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe



Women aviators inspire young girls to soar

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

Girls aspiring to pursue careers in aviation have been urged to equip themselves with a strong academic foundation, confidence and a commitment to safety as they prepare to enter the demanding industry. Speaking during the Girls in Aviation commemoration day at Maun International Airport on Saturday, aircraft maintenance engineer at North West Air, Ms Blessing Kelathilwe said success in aviation required more than an interest in aircrafts.

Ms Kelathilwe said aspiring aircraft maintenance engineers should pay particular attention to

Mathematics, English and Physics, which she identified as important subjects for building the foundation required in the profession.

"Girls entering aircraft engineering should remain confident despite working in an environment where their abilities could sometimes be questioned," she said.

Ms Kelathilwe encouraged aspiring female aviators not to be discouraged by the challenges associated with the profession, saying determination and passion could help them navigate the demands of the industry.

"One of the challenges I face include being taken for granted by clients due to how small I am but I work hard to prove my capabilities

and I always satisfy and exceed their expectations" she said.

For those interested in becoming pilots, Wilderness Air Botswana pilot, Ms Tebogo Mosiame said the profession required an understanding of aircraft operations beyond the actual task of flying. She said pilots needed to be prepared to take on different responsibilities when circumstances required, particularly when operating in remote areas.

Ms Mosiame said pilots operating from remote airstrips should also be able to respond appropriately to changing weather conditions, while ensuring that safety remained central to every decision they made.

economy.

Mr Atamelang explained that the transport ministry was committed to modernising Botswana's transport sector and delivering safe, reliable and efficient transportation system.

Girls in Aviation co-founder, Ms Lesedi Modise, said, the programme was a globally recognised initiative designed to inspire girls between the ages of eight to 18, to pursue careers in aviation.

Ms Modise said working alongside the aviation business stakeholders, they would continue to leverage an international network of aviation professionals, institutions and strategic organisations, to broaden aviation awareness and create meaningful exposure opportunities for young Batswana.

Drones for Africa founder and CEO, Ms Marang Mbaakanyi, encouraged young girls to embrace technology and innovation as a pathway to creating opportunities and contributing to the country's development.

Ms Mbaakanyi urged young girls to develop an interest in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and to succeed in traditional male dominated field. She said technology presented numerous opportunities for young people to develop solutions to challenges facing their communities and the country at large.

Ms Mbaakanyi further highlighted the importance of education and continuous learning, noting that the rapidly changing technology sector required people who were willing to adapt and develop skills. **BOPA**

'Embrace aviation and technology'

Gaboselwe Olesitse
SELEBI PHIKWE

Through technology and innovation, the aviation industry is rapidly changing, presenting new opportunities for young girls not only to become professionals but also to become entrepreneurs, innovators and creators of employment.

That being so, young girls are encouraged to take education seriously, particularly Sciences, Technology, Mathematics and communication and develop digital skills, creativity, team work and ability to solve problems.

Speaking during the 12th Annual Girls in Aviation Day in Selebi Phikwe Saturday, Minister for Transport and infrastructure Mr Keoagile Atamelang, commented Sedi. Flys Group foundation and stakeholders, for creating the platform that exposed young people to opportunities within the aviation sector. He said, aviation supported approximately eight million jobs across Africa through tourism, supply chains and associated economic activity.

"Aviation is much more than flying aircraft, it offers careers in engineering, air craft management, aviation safety and security, airport operators, logistics, technology, meteorology communications, finance and entrepreneurs," said Mr Atamelang.

He said government recognised aviation as an important driver of development, as it connected people, supported tourism and trade, created employment and contributed to Botswana's participation in the global

Arts & Culture

60

National Boipuso Activities

☆ EXHIBITION

Date: 25.09.2026

Venue: National Art Gallery - Museum

Time: 7pm

☆ FASHION SHOW

Date: 26.09.2026

Venue: Independence Avenue (in front of Civic Center)

Time: 7pm



Kopo Keamogetswe (centre) after being crowned Miss Independence Kgatlang in Mochudi recently. She is flanked by first and second princesses, Peo Ramere (left) and Bontle Ntshabele respectively. Photos: Courtesy of Miss Independence Kgatlang

Bame Motshegwe (right) was crowned Male Ambassador while Temo Masaseng was named First Prince. Guest speaker, Mohumagadi Mma Matshego said although pageantry was traditionally associated with women, men had increasingly joined the industry, creating opportunities for contestants to use the platform to make a difference in their communities.

Pageant brings culture to stage

Booster Mogapi
MOCHUDI

In a colourful celebration of culture and identity, this year's Miss Independence Kgatlang

turned the spotlight away from conventional pageantry as contestants graced the stage at Leobo la Bakgatla in traditional attire on Saturday. Kopo Keamogetswe was

crowned Miss Independence Kgatlang, with Peo Ramere named first princess while Bontle Ntshabele became second princess. In the male category Bame

Motshegwe was crowned Male Ambassador while Temo Masaseng was named First Prince. Unlike the usual pageantry practice which features swimwear or revealing outfits during one of the parades, Miss Independence Kgatlang opted for a culturally themed presentation under the theme: Rooted in Culture, Rising in Excellency.

She also encouraged contestants to remain true to themselves regardless of whether they won or lost, noting that respect was an important societal value that promoted order.

She called for continued mentorship of children and young people, saying lifelong guidance was necessary to help them navigate the challenges of life and build a better future. Mohumagadi Mma Matshego also addressed gender-based violence, describing it as a continuing challenge in society, urging women and young people to remain vigilant and protect themselves.

Miss Independence Kgatlang Director, Ms Lebopo Bulayani, said the pageant, which started in 2015, had grown over the years and produced young men and women who continued to make an impact in society.

She said the decision to host this year's pageant at the Bakgatla main kgotla was intended to demonstrate that pageantry could celebrate and promote culture.

Ms Bulayani said pageant was an award-winning youth empowerment that sought to improve the lives of young people in Kgatlang and across Botswana.

She said the organisation empowered young people through life skills training, outreach to less-privileged communities, grooming boys and girls, and mentoring youth into adulthood.

She added that the pageant also promoted culture and encouraged young people to embrace their origins, while participating in the BOTS 60 Kgatlang celebrations.

Ms Bulayani expressed appreciation to sponsors for their continued support, including financial and other assistance, which she said contributed to the success of the pageant. **BOPA**

Chinese community in Botswana celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival

GABORONE

The Chinese community in Botswana gathered on Sunday at the Gaborone International Convention Center, celebrating the Chinese traditional Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on September 25 this year.

Featuring dances, music and lucky draw, the celebration drew hundreds of participants, including business people, Chinese embassy staff,

representatives of the Chinese medical team, the Confucius Institute at the University of Botswana and Chinese enterprises in the southern African country.

Delivering a speech at the event, Chinese Ambassador to Botswana Fan Yong said that the Mid-Autumn Festival is for celebration and reunion, and this year's celebration carried special significance as the year 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of

the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and African countries, also the China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges, as well as the 60th anniversary of the independence of Botswana.

The event was hailed as a gathering not only to appreciate the beauty and richness of the Chinese culture, but also to celebrate the strong bonds of friendship between the peoples of China and Botswana. **Xinhua**



GABORONE - Performers showcasing Hanfu at a gathering celebrating the Chinese traditional Mid-Autumn Festival in Gaborone on Sunday. The Chinese community in Botswana gathered at the Gaborone International Convention Centre to celebrate the festival, which falls on September 25. Photo: Xinhua

DailySport

Lame rises from tears to triumphs

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

At three, Lame Thomba cried when her uncle first introduced her to the water. Nine years later, she stood on a podium on home soil, collecting medals at the Africa Aquatics Zone IV Swimming Championships in Gaborone. The water has long since stopped being a place of tears. Today, the 12-year-old is a rising force in African youth swimming, fresh off a dominant performance where she secured nine medals, which include four gold, four silver and one bronze, alongside a record-breaking swim in the 400m freestyle. For Lame, the achievement reflects a remarkable transformation. Her uncle, who introduced her to the sport primarily for water safety, had to persist through plenty of early hesitation. “He was like, ‘You’re gonna do it, you are going to swim,’” she recalls. Competitive swimming was never part of the original blueprint for her parents, Sally Thomba and Nchidzi Smarts. They simply wanted their daughter comfortable in the water. But as her abilities grew, so did her ambition. Born in Francistown on August 23, 2014, Lame began training through local opportunities before joining the DMSS Gators Swimming Club. Because of limited aquatic facilities in Francistown, her family routinely

brought her to Gaborone during school holidays just to keep her training on track. By the age of nine, she realised that swimming was more than a hobby, but a calling. The realisation unlocked a new competitive hunger. Her latest haul is a huge leap from her debut at the Africa Aquatics Championships last year, where she claimed a silver in a relay event. This time, she dominated the individual freestyle events. “I’m a very good freestyler,” she notes. Behind the medals is a focused athlete. Before a race, Lame meditates to mentally structure her approach. While she still battles pre-race nerves, she has learned a vital rule that relaxation creates speed. “The more relaxed you are, the faster you go,” she says. She also refuses to be intimidated by faster competitors, viewing tough opposition as fuel rather than a threat. Asked which professional swimmer she looks up to,



Twelve-year-old swimmer, Lame Thomba displaying nine medals she won at the Africa Aquatics Zone IV Swimming Championships. The medals comprise four gold, four silver and a bronze. Photo: Washa Bofelwana

Lame offers a characteristically confident answer and says “Myself.” Her parents have watched that self-assurance blossom. Though they initially hesitated over travel opportunities to South Africa, the family has embraced the journey, logging countless miles between Francistown and Gaborone to support her dream. Lame’s ambitions now stretch far beyond the local pool. With her sights set on the World

Aquatics stage, she views global competition as a stepping stone. “Then I can see the real competition so that after that I can mentally and physically prepare for the Olympics,” she says. The girl who once wept at the edge of the pool is gone. In her place is a poised young champion,

planning her races, welcoming fierce competition and looking resolutely towards the world stage. **BOPA**

Ntungamili shines in Japan

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Local tennis sensational player, Ntungamili Raguin’s star continues to rise as he recently won the doubles and singles titles at the ITF J200 Miki tournament in Japan, becoming the first Motswana to achieve such a feat. On Sunday, Ntungamili put up a sterling performance in the singles, as he beat the tournament’s No.1 seed, Musatafa Ege Sik of Australia 1-6,6-3,6-3. In the doubles on Saturday, Ntungamili and his partner, Mikael Ali Baig of Pakistan won 7-5,6-2 against top seeds Musatafa Ege Sik and Taiki Takizawa both from Australia. These achievements, according

to Botswana Tennis Association president Oaitse Thipe were some of the greatest milestones for both Ntungamili and the association. He said Ntungamili had already proven his dominance on the continent winning titles in Kenya, Algeria and Uganda. “Winning a tough draw in Japan shows Ntungas resilience and commitment, and this victory will place him in the World Junior Top 50,” he said. He said finishing the year with these achievement puts Ntungamili in a prime position to earn seeding for the next grand slams. Furthermore, he said their focus for the rest of the year was to help him maintain the momentum as he began his transition into the professional ranks. **BOPA**



Tennis sensation, Ntungamili Raguin made history by becoming the first Motswana to win both the singles and doubles titles at the ITF J200 Miki tournament in Japan over the weekend.



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