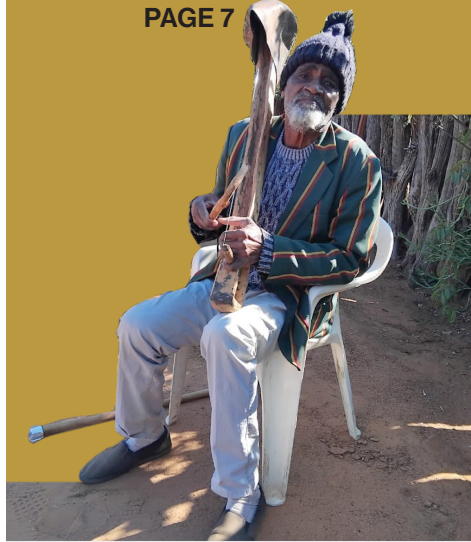


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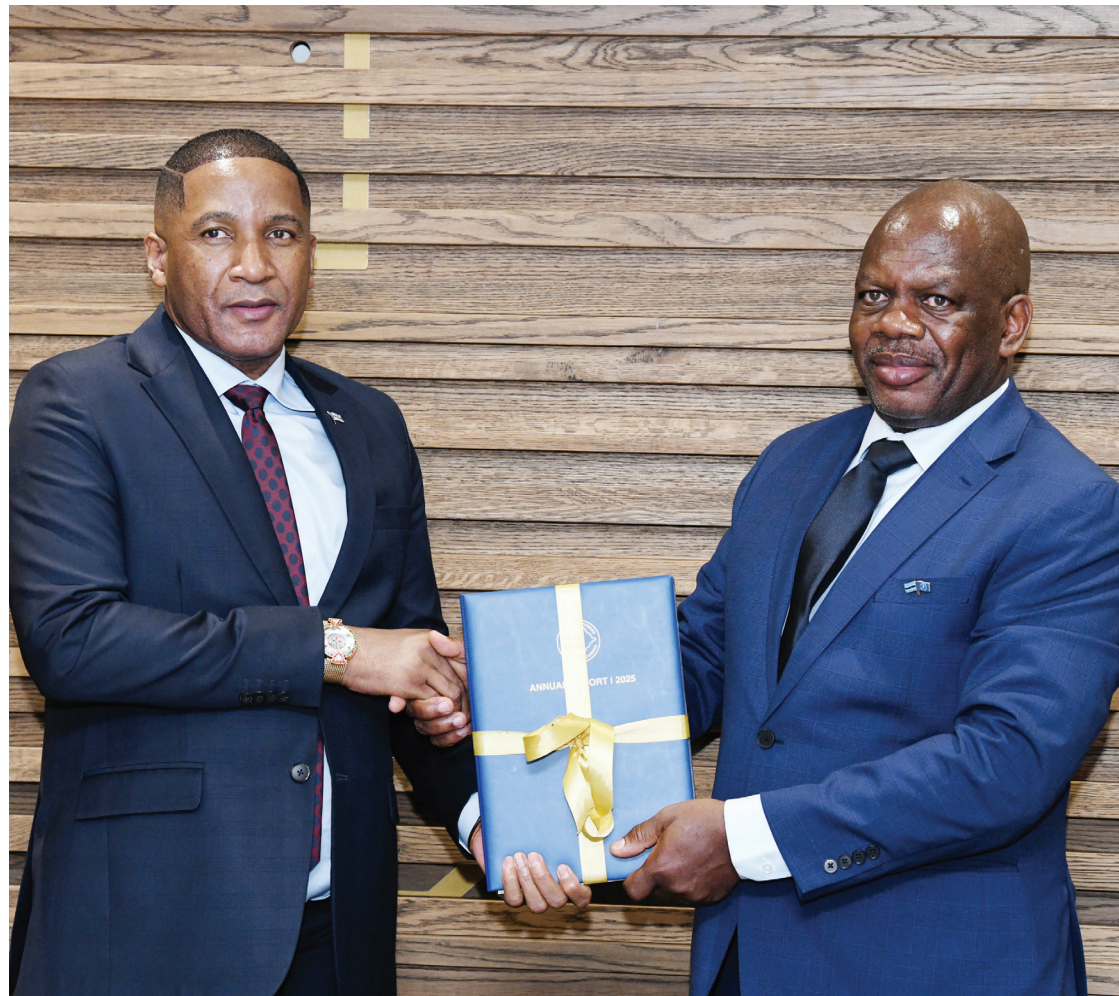
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NEWS

Matlhare warns shebeens on late trading

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Bank of Botswana outlines economic prospects



Bank of Botswana Governor, Mr Lesego Moseki (right) handing over the Bank's 2025 Annual Report to President Advocate Duma Boko at the economic briefing to cabinet in Gaborone on Monday. The briefing outlined the bank's performance outcome and future economic outlook, reinforcing the importance of public education in driving economic understanding. The briefing also provided an opportunity for dialogue and feedback on the bank's stewardship of public resources as it continues to support responsible governance and economic value creation for the people of Botswana. Photo: Phenyoy Moalosi

Tshimoyapula pulls together for dev.

Tshiamiso Moseitla
TSHIMOYAPULA

In an era when many communities look outward for assistance, the people of Tshimoyapula have chosen a different path: building their future with their own hands.

Tshimoyapula is demonstrating that meaningful and sustainable development begins when communities take ownership of their own progress.

Through collective effort, local skills and a shared vision, residents have embarked on projects that promise to improve both education and living conditions for generations to come.

This spirit of self-reliance was evident on Friday as public servants and community members joined hands to address local development needs through the construction of a reception classroom at Tshimoyapula Primary School and the 62 toilets.

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Gaolathe attends OPEC Fund 50th anniversary

GABORONE

The Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe is in Vienna, Austria for the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund's 50th Anniversary and Development Forum 2026.

A press release from the Ministry of Finance says the forum is a premier global platform that brings together heads of state and government, ministers, international financial institutions, development partners, global business leaders and policy experts to deliberate on sustainable development, economic transformation and innovative financing solutions.

During the forum, the Vice President will participate in a high-level fireside chat on, Upgrading Local Value Chains: Driving High-Value Exports and Diversifying Growth, where he will share Botswana's experience and perspectives on economic transformation, value addition,

export competitiveness and industrial development in Africa.

"Botswana's participation reflects the country's growing partnership with the OPEC Fund, which was formalised through a Country Partnership Framework signed in 2025," states the release.

Under the framework, the OPEC Fund has committed support of up to US\$800 million (P10.86 billion) for priority investments in infrastructure, renewable energy, innovation, digital transformation and private sector-led growth, while also providing technical assistance and capacity building support to government.

A key outcome of the visit, the release states, will be the signing of a Technical Assistance Grant Agreement between the Government of Botswana and the OPEC Fund for International Development, to support critical reforms aimed at strengthening debt management, fiscal consolidation and sovereign credit rating capacity within the Ministry of Finance.

From Austria, Mr Gaolathe will proceed to Cape Town, South Africa, to attend the 56th Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Council of Ministers' Meeting scheduled for June 24 to 26.

The meeting, the release says will deliberate on trade, finance and regional integration matters, as

well as the implementation of the SACU Strategic Plan.

Botswana's participation in the SACU Council, as per the release, remains of strategic importance, as SACU is one of the country's largest sources of revenue and a key pillar of regional economic integration.

According to the release, the Council Meeting also provides an opportunity for member states to strengthen the efficiency

and effectiveness of the Union, while advancing a larger regional market that supports investment, industrialisation, competitiveness and export-led growth across the region.

For Botswana, SACU market presents an important platform for building scalable and competitive industries capable of creating jobs and driving economic transformation.

In Cape Town, the Vice President will be accompanied by the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeone Ntsima, together with senior government officials.

During Mr Gaolathe's absence, the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Winter Mmolotsi, will serve as there Acting Minister of Finance, states the press release. **BOPA**



Attorney General Mr Dick Bayford (right) and the Director of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Mr Kgosietsile Ngakaagae during their appearance at the Public Accounts Committee in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Ngakaagae said there was no physical P100 billion docket found in the office of the DPP. Photo: Felicity Male

Govt considers to surcharge public officers

Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE

The government is considering a major crackdown on public officers whose negligence embroils the state in costly and avoidable litigation.

Appearing before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Monday, Attorney General, Mr Dick Bayford said plans were underway to surcharge accounting officers whose decisions resulted in massive losses of state funds through court costs.

Mr Bayford said certain ministries routinely alerted or engage the Attorney General's Chambers too late, causing critical cases to be dismissed due to missed legal deadlines.

"Some engage us very late, sometimes we are given only seven days to file, and when we ask for more information, it takes time, causing the court-mandated deadlines to lapse," he said.

The Attorney General, Mr Bayford said represented the entire government ecosystem, explaining that payments for damages or costs were centralised at the office.

If the Ministry of Health finds itself-embroiled in a lot of medical malpractice cases, it will then be expected that the AG's, through a vote apportioned to it, be able to pay for the damages emanating from the health ministry, Mr Bayford said.

The Attorney General, he said had raised concern about the arrangement, since it tended to compromise accountability with Ministries, Departments and

Agencies, since it was not their vote that was being spent.

Despite these procedural hurdles, Mr Bayford assured the committee that interventions were being implemented to mitigate these incidents, noting that the state's current litigation success rate stood at 71 per cent.

The Attorney General also told the PAC about the concerns over outsourced legal services, explaining that the government outsourced 25 civil litigation cases between 2021 and 2026, that cost the government a total of P11.1 million.

A significant concentration of the funds, he said was discovered within a single firm.

Mr Bayford said of the 25 cases, one lawyer was allocated four of those cases, pocketing P6.5 million of the total budget.

He confirmed that corrective action had been taken and an instruction issued to withdraw all active cases from the lawyer in question and reassign them to other firms.

"We also observed that there was no proper monitoring of these outsourced cases, but stricter oversight mechanisms will be enforced moving forward," he said. He however said for the period under review, the Attorney General Chambers had received 236 requests for advice from ministries, department and agencies.

Mr Bayford said the office was able to render 219 of requested advice within the set target period of 10 days while 17 were outside the target. **BOPA**

DPP dismisses P100 billion Bank of Botswana theft allegations

Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE

Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) director has formally recognised the total lack of evidence in the P100 billion 'Butterfly' case.

"There is no evidence at all, and I think once we make this admission, we will be able to face the pitiless logic of facts to say, what do we do with it going forward. We need to end this appearing before the Public Accounts Committee on Monday," said Mr Kgosietsile Ngakaagae

Upon assuming the role of DPP, he said he followed up the issue and consulted all the relevant departments

Mr Ngakaagae said his assessment of the case rendered it a non-starter because if there were

any claims, the claimants might have looked in the wrong place.

In that regard, there was no physical P100 billion docket found in the office of the DPP, Mr Ngakaagae said.

He said former president Lt Gen. Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama had filed a case of perjury at Broadhurst Police Station and requested that those involved should be investigated and charged.

The police brought the docket to DPP and the fact that there was no evidence led us to conclude that what Dr Khama was saying was true, and that his complaint was genuine," Mr Ngakaagae said.

"The nation needs to put a period to this issue, we cannot go with it forever," he said.

Mr Ngakaagae said there were other matters of national importance that deserved the

DPP's consideration.

"We are dealing with this matter, and we will deal with it decisively, and the only question that remains is that will it be a private or public prosecution, and it is the decision that I have to make," he said.

On other issues, Mr Ngakaagae, said the forensic audit, estimated that P33 billion had been looted or mismanaged within government offices in recent years.

He said parts of the government enclave were active crime scenes.

In response to the crisis, the DPP announced a major strategic shift, with the state now prioritising white-collar and economic crimes to halt further damages to the national economy.

Corruption cases by their nature are complex and require a lot of time to be investigated, Mr Ngakaagae stated. **BOPA**

Govt upholds democratic principles

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

Government remains committed to safeguarding Botswana's long-standing reputation of stability, transparent resource management and democratic continuity since independence in 1966.

Welcoming a delegation from the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Secretariat during a courtesy call, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said Botswana remained open to peer review as part of efforts to strengthen its standing as a beacon of peace, good governance and democracy.

"I remember at one stage people saw us as the shining example of

democracy in Africa. I believe we are still that shining example, that beacon of democracy, and we must ensure that we jealously guard that position," he said.

Mr Mohwasa noted that Botswana had rarely altered its Constitution since independence, but said the time was appropriate to undertake a constitutional review, including consideration of establishing a constitutional court.

APRM head of delegation, Mr Sibusiso Ndebele, commended Botswana for earning continental and international recognition for its commitment to democratic governance, constitutionalism, political stability, the rule of law, prudent economic management and strong public institutions.

"These achievements have made Botswana one of Africa's most respected governance success stories," he said.

Mr Ndebele also praised governance reforms being pursued under the leadership of President Advocate Duma Boko, saying they reflected a clear vision for strengthening accountability, promoting inclusive development and ensuring that national resources benefit both current and future generations.

He further applauded Botswana's continued engagement with the

APRM Secretariat, describing it as a significant milestone in the country's APRM journey and a demonstration of its commitment to fully domesticating the APRM process while benefiting from one of Africa's most innovative governance mechanisms.

Mr Ndebele said Minister for State President, Defence and Security, as Botswana's APRM Focal Point, served as the principal coordinating authority between government, the national governing council and the APRM Continental Secretariat.

He said the role was crucial in ensuring effective communication, institutional alignment and coordination among stakeholders involved in the APRM process.

"Beyond this national responsibility, the Focal Point is also a member of the APRM Focal Points Committee, a continental platform that brings together designated representatives of participating Member States to exchange experiences, share best practices, strengthen coordination and contribute to the strategic advancement of the APRM across

Africa," he said.

Mr Ndebele added that Minister Mohwasa's responsibilities extended beyond Botswana's borders, positioning him as the country's principal representative within the APRM governance framework and a key link between national priorities and continental governance initiatives.

He said experience across APRM member states had shown that the effectiveness of a country's APRM process was closely tied to the leadership and commitment of its national focal point. **BOPA**



Zambian High Commissioner to Botswana, Ms Pamela Chisanga (right) showcasing Zambian traditional food to Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale (second right) and Zimbabwe Ambassador and Dean of The Diplomatic Corps, H.E Batiraishe Mukonoweshuro (third right) during celebration of Africa Day. Dr Butale said Africa Day served as a reminder of vision and determination of the continent's founding leaders who championed unity, solidarity, liberation and self-determination. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu

Tshimoyapula pulls together for development

... from page 1

The initiatives, whose groundbreaking was done recently, are being driven through collaboration between the Village Development Committee Social and Community Development and community members under the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach Initiative.

According to Serowe North Member of Parliament and Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe, the projects were more than infrastructure developments, as they symbolised the resilience, determination and unity of the people of Tshimoyapula.

"Every classroom built and

every toilet constructed represents hope, opportunity and progress," he said.

Mr Mathoothe noted that access to proper sanitation was not merely a matter of convenience but one of health, dignity and human wellbeing.

He said the toilet project would contribute significantly to improving public health while enhancing the quality of life for households.

The reception classroom is expected to play a critical role in early childhood education. By providing a safe and conducive learning environment, the facility will help prepare young learners for their academic journey.

Equally important, he said, was the decision to rely on local participation in implementing the projects. Beyond delivering social benefits, the approach creates opportunities for skills development and local economic empowerment.

Tshimoyapula Primary School head teacher, Ms Patricia Lesole, said investing in early childhood education was investing in the future of the community.

She explained that providing learners with a nurturing environment would help them develop the literacy, numeracy and social skills needed for future success.

Ms Lesole said success began long before a child started Standard One, saying the facility would help bridge developmental gaps and ensure that children start their educational journey on a strong footing. **BOPA**

Botswana commits to Pan - Africanism

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Botswana has reaffirmed its commitment to Pan-Africanism, regional integration and collective solutions to continental challenges.

Speaking during the commemoration of Africa Day held at the Botswana National Museum and Art Gallery recently, Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale, said Africa's pursuit of unity remained as relevant today as it was when the Organisation of African Unity was established in 1963.

"In an increasingly interconnected world, no nation can achieve sustainable development in isolation," Dr Butale said, delivering a speech on behalf of President Advocate Duma Boko.

Further, he noted that challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, public health threats, youth unemployment and poverty required collective African solutions.

On Africa Day, he said it served as a reminder of the vision and determination of the continent's founding leaders who championed unity, solidarity, liberation and self-determination.

Dr Butale highlighted the African Continental Free Trade Area and the implementation of Agenda 2063 as key initiatives for promoting economic integration, industrialisation and sustainable development across the continent.

He also noted that the African Union had designated 2026 as the year of assuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems, underscoring the importance of collective action in addressing critical development challenges.

Commemorated under the theme: Sixty-Three Years of Unity, Integration and Development: Let's Celebrate Together, Africa Day commemoration event brought together African diplomatic missions accredited to Botswana, government officials and members of the public.

Beyond the speeches, the commemoration showcased Africa's rich cultural diversity through exhibitions by African missions. Attendees experienced vibrant displays of traditional music, dance, cuisine and attire from countries including Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Algeria and Kenya.

These cultural expressions, Dr Butale highlighted they demonstrated the enduring bonds that united Africans across borders, languages and generations.

The event served as both a celebration of Africa's cultural heritage and a call to strengthen cooperation in pursuit of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous continent.

Through music, cuisine and cultural exhibitions, the commemoration reinforced the message that Africa's diversity remains one of its greatest strengths in pursuing a shared future. **BOPA**

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DailyBusiness

Shokomokwa horticulture project thrives

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

The first batch of fresh produce from Shokomokwa Agric-Training project has hit the local market, marking a milestone in the evolution of the project.



Located in the outskirts of Shorobe and championed by Wilderness Safari Company, the project aims to enhance food security, create jobs and foster economic inclusion within local communities.

The over P2 million facility is multi-faceted: it serves as an agriculture training initiative in vegetable farming and also has beekeeping and seedling production wings.

Through its seedling production aspect, Shokomokwa Agric-Training project aims to generate over 10 000 seedlings annually while at the same time training community members in vegetable farming and sustainable agriculture, providing direct income generation and long-term food security.

While the project focuses on empowering local communities, it also aims to supply fresh produce to the eco-tourism industry in the country. The company's project and stakeholder manager, Mr Attorney Vasco confirmed in an interview that the farm was indeed thriving, with the first harvest comprising vegetables such as baby tomatoes, green pepper, baby marrow and okra already reaching the market as big supermarkets

place orders.

Although staff housing units and offices form an integral part of the Shokomokwa Agric-Training project, the farming aspect could not be put off while pending the construction of the facilities, which is currently underway.

According to Mr Vasco, an urgent need existed and continues to exist, to properly position local farmers and community members so that they can tap into the fresh vegetable produce supply chain as the horticulture industry is currently struggling to cope with the demands of the market due to several challenges.

Acknowledging government for periodically implementing bans on the importation of basic vegetables in order to protect domestic farmers, the project manager believes that the farm will act as motivation to farmers to up their game and produce more to meet the market demand.

"This project is a step in the right direction as we are cultivating future farmers who will produce high quality produce for both the local market and the tourism industry. This project also bridges the gap between traditional agriculture and environmental conservation,"

he added. With the Ngamiland region renowned for agropastoralism, which is a primary source of livelihood on which local communities are heavily-reliant, Mr Vasco sees Shokomokwa as a basis for a potential mindset shift – it is a veil through which community members can see the other side of agriculture – one that has nothing to do with livestock rearing.

The persistent livestock disease outbreaks, which have had severe consequences for cattle farming in the area are another reason why locals should be able to warm up to horticulture.

To Mr Vasco, the Shokomokwa project presents a timely opportunity for members of the community to shift into climate resilient ventures such as horticulture, fodder production and other agribusinesses which offer a highly viable path forward.

"We want to see members of the community including young people transitioning away from heavy reliance of cattle and taking advantage of financial assistance schemes to venture into other viable agriculture activities".

Mr Vasco also highlighted that they are in talks with Botswana University of Agriculture and

Natural Resources (BUAN) with a view to forge collaboration and see how best they can improve and grow the project.

Their envisaged partnership is premised on the fact that BUAN is already playing a critical role in modernising the country's agricultural sector by among others, focusing on upskilling youth, driving climate-smart solutions and bridging academic research with practical farming.

That the institution is supporting the national goal of food security and economic diversification is a plus, and yet another reason why its collaboration with the Shokomokwa project would be invaluable.

Meanwhile, the Shokomokwa project has created eight permanent jobs plus rotational opportunities for community members through seasonal employment, giving people across Shorobe, Sexaxa, and surrounding areas a tangible introduction to horticulture-based livelihoods.

Once the project is fully complete, the company commits to increase production and create more employment opportunities – a time that locals wish could arrive as soon as now. **BOPA**

Tourism licences top 1 000 as district pushes reforms

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

The North West District has issued more than 1 000 tourism licences to mobile safari operators, accommodation establishments and travel agencies as of March 2026, underlining the sector's rapid expansion.

Updating a full council meeting on tourism development, District Council Chairperson Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng praised citizens for embracing tourism entrepreneurship and driving growth in what he called 'the backbone of the district' for local livelihoods and regional development.

Mr Kelebetseng said the Ministry of Environment and Tourism had begun reviewing the Tourism Act, with a stakeholder consultation meeting planned in Maun before the end of July 2026.

"This meeting will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to strengthening Botswana's tourism regulatory framework as well as to ensure the new laws reflect current industry demands," he told councillors.

The review seeks to modernise legislation, boost the sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product, and increase citizen participation and local investment.

Mr Kelebetseng said the district was drafting a Local Economic Development (LED) strategy to outline investment opportunities across communities and set long-term economic priorities.

"Central to this exercise is full community participation so that the mapping of local resources will be done adequately," Kelebetseng

said. He called on residents to support community engagements led by the LED technical task team and community development officers.

The resulting Local Economic Assessment report will form the foundation of the strategy, hence Mr Kelebetseng urged councillors to take keen interest in the process.

Furthermore, the chairperson also reported that the area around the mall was now fully illuminated, enhancing safety for residents

and visitors. Illegal advertising structures, he said, were being removed to promote orderly development, with business operators encouraged to comply with existing bye-laws.

He reaffirmed that the district remained open for business and ready to support investment initiatives.

Mr Kelebetseng internal road projects were advancing, including internal road works valued at P1.7 million and P2 million respectively. **BOPA**



Tourist on a Safari in the Okavango delta. As at March 2026, over 1 000 tourism licences have been issued to mobile safari operators, accommodation establishments and travel agencies in the North West District.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Regulator upholds rejection of Starlink licence bid

WINDHOEK - Namibia's communications regulator on Monday upheld its decision to reject licence applications by Starlink Internet Services Namibia, maintaining the satellite internet provider's exclusion from the local market. Speaking at a media briefing in Windhoek, Emilia Nghikembua, chief executive officer of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN), said the authority had concluded the reconsideration process relating to its March 23 decision. Namibia had initially rejected Starlink's application for a Class Comprehensive Telecommunications Service Licence and an associated spectrum licence after CRAN found that the company met only three of six legal criteria. **Xinhua**

IOM urges diaspora investment to spur Africa trade corridors

NAIROBI - The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), a specialised United Nations agency, urged African governments on Monday to leverage diaspora remittances and boost investments across the continent's major trade corridors. Nihan Erdogan, deputy regional director of the IOM Regional Office for East, Horn and Southern Africa, noted that the African diaspora acted as a vital catalyst for socio-economic transformation by driving remittances, enterprise, trade, skills transfer, philanthropy and investment. The five-day workshop is convened by the IOM and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), a trading bloc. It brings together senior policymakers, investors, and donors to explore new ways to unlock diaspora investments across the continent's major trade corridors. **Xinhua**

Smart machinery wows visitors at expo

NAIROBI - Peter Wairegi paused beside a giant excavator manufactured by Zoomlion, a leading Chinese construction machinery manufacturer, carefully examining its intelligent control system and sleek design at a machinery expo in Nairobi. Wairegi, executive director of the Kenya Professional Realtors Association, was among hundreds of visitors and buyers attending the recent 2026 Africa International Construction Machinery, Mining Machinery, Agricultural Machinery and International Auto Parts, Electromechanical and Hardware Products Expo. "I am happy to visit this expo and can see many Chinese companies that have introduced new equipment and innovations for the entire real estate ecosystem, especially in building and construction. **Xinhua**

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Dikoloti o akgola World Group of Companies

Aobakwe Molefhi

GOOD HOPE

Tona wa lefatshe le temo, Dr Edwin Dikoloti o akgotse ba World group of Companies go tsenya letsogo mo go lwantshang bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo.

O ba akgotse jalo morago ga gore kompone eo e abele lephata la matlhoko a leruo dithoto tse di lopileng P490 000 di akaretsa terata le dipale tse di tlaa dirisiwang mo kagong ya terata ee laolang matlhoko a leruo.

Dr Dikoloti o galeditse maiteko ao a re a rurufatsa fa kompone eo e ititeile sehuba go nyeletsa bolwetsi joo jo bo apesitseng banni kobo ka letshoba mo kgaolong le elefathse ka bophara.

O kopile setshaba go itlhaopa mo twantshong ya bolwetse joo, a supa fa nako e seo ka jaana keletso ya puso e le go fetsa kago ya terata ee tswang kwa masimong a Ramotswa e feta ka metse ya Mogobane, Ranaka, Kanye, Mmathethe e ya go wela kwa Werda.

A re maikaelelo ke go re fa kgwedi eno ya fifing, terata eo e bo e fedile. Tona tshwaragano ya morafe le dikompone e ka kgontsha ba lephata la matlhoko a leruo go tsenya kopo kwa mmarakeng wa mafatshe ka jaana bolwetsi bo tlaa bo bo laolesega mme barui ba simolola go gweba ka nama ya kgomo kwa bo seong teng.

Dr Dikoloti o supile fa a itumelela kemo nokeng ya barui mo ntweng kgatlhong le bolwetse le nstwa a re bangwe ba sa nste ba goga dinao.

O supile sekai ka morui mongwe a re o ne a sa isa dikgomo kwa mokentong le nstwa dingwe di fitlhetswe ka bolwetse mo sakeng la gagwe a tlatsa ka gore go dira jalo ke molato mme a kopa barui gore ba rotloetsane go dira dilo sentle.

O tswelotse a re go ikgatholosa dikgakololo tsa bakenti go ka gakatsa go anama ga bolwetse mme a kopa barui go dirisanya le ba lephata gore ba kgone go fena mmaba.

Tona Dikoloti o supile faa kopile dithuso tsa dikatakata mo dikhanseleng, tse tiro ya tsone e tlaa nnang go kgaola ditlhare fa terata e yang go feta teng.

O boletse fa mephato ya ga Ngwaketse e ithaopile go thusa mo kagong ya terata mme a rotloetsa le morafe go tsenya letsogo.

O kgothatitse gape barui go



Tona wa lefatshe le temo
Dr Edwin Dikoloti

tswelela ka go tsenya dikgomo tsa bone manyena a Baits, a re seo ke tsela nngwe ya go latedisa mong wa dikgomo le gore e tlhologa kae.

Ene e rile gole pele, moemedi wa dikompone, Rre Vincent Ditlhotlhole a supa fa mpho eo e le maiteko ago lwantsha bolwetse mo Zone II ka jaana e le yone kgaolo e e tshageditseng mmaraaka wa nama mo lefatsheng leno.

O kopile Batswana go tlhokomela terata e e tlaa agiwang. Rre Ditlhotlhole o supile gape fa tshenyo ta dithoto tsa puso e atile mme are mokgwa oo, o tshwanetse wa ema. **BOPA**

Kefilwe Selotlegeng

PALLAROAD

Mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Mahalapye East, Rre Augustine Nyatanga, a re ofisi ya gagwe ya kgaolo ya bothophi e itlamile go rotloetsa banni ba kgaolo go itshidila mmele, go ja sentle le go tsaya botsogo ka tlhoafalo.

Rre Nyatanga o tthalosise se kwa moletlong wa botsogo wa Fitness Astravaganza kwa Pallaroad ka Labotlhano, o o neng o rulagantswe ke ofisi ya mopalamente, maikaelelo e le go rotloetsa botsogo jo bo kwenneng ka itshidilo mmele. A re bagwethilwe go rulaganya

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Nyatanga o rotloetsa ba Mahalapye botlhaba go tsibogela botsogo

letsatsi la botsogo ke go bona malwetse a a sa tshelanweng a iphile maatla mo batho ba kgaolo ya Mahalapye East. Rre Nyatanga a re malwetse a, a ka tokafadiwa ke itshidilo mmele le go ja dijo tse di siameng.

O gakolotse banni gore ba itlwaetse go tsamaya ka dinao go na le dikoloi ka go dira jalo e le tsela ya go itshidila.

Rre Nyatanga o ba rotloeditse gape go tswelela ba itshidila mmele letsatsi le letsatsi mme ba kgothatse le bana go dira seo.

A re ba itlamile go dira moletlo o ngwaga le ngwaga go dikologa kgaolo ya Mahalapye East. Ngwaga o o tlang, moletlo

o tlaa tshwarelwa kwa kgaolong Shakwe/Taupye.

Rre Nyatanga o kopile banni go itlhatlhobela malwetse gore ba itse seemo sa botsogo jwa bone a re ga gona ope yo o tshwanetseng go tlhokafala ka ntlha bolwetse jwa AIDS le malwetse a a sa tshelanweng ka jaana gona le dipilisi tse di ritibatsang.

O lebogile banni ba Pallaroad go bo ba na le moonoo wa go gwanta ba sela matlakala mo motseng, ba diragatsa moonoo wa ga Tautona mme ebile seo gape e le itshidilo mmele.

Mogolwane wa khamphani ya Ario Solution, Rre Tinashe

Kanotunga o ba kopile gore ba itshidile ka ditsela tsothe tse ba ka di kgonang ka go itshidila mmele go sa thoke gore abo e le kwa mafelong a a duelwang.

A re ba tsaye kgato ka botsogo jwa bone go santse go na le nako.

Mokhanselara wa kgaolo ya Mokwaswane-Gasetsille-Pallaroad, Rre Thopho Gaolatlhe, o lebogile maiteko a ofisi ya mopalamente a go isetsa banni ba kgaolo eo ditlamelo tsa botsogo.

Rre Gaolatlhe a re itshidilo mmele ke konokono ya boitekanelo le go thibela malwetse a a sa tshelanweng mme a le borai. **BOPA**

Magistrate revokes Wright bail following violations

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

Maun Magistrate Court has denied bail to 36-year-old Lethogonolo Wright who is facing charges of rape and robbery having previously failed to honour his bail conditions.

Giving evidence before the court on Monday, investigating officer on the case testified that Wright was arraigned in 2022 and later failed to appear before court for a case management conference scheduled for January 2023, prompting the issuance of a warrant of arrest.

"Attempts to locate the accused at his residence and at his girlfriend's place were unsuccessful and the accused remained untraceable for two years before he was arrested in 2025 and remanded in custody," he said.

The investigating officer opposed bail, arguing that the accused was not a suitable candidate as he had previously failed to attend court, thereby delaying the completion of the case.

In response, Wright denied absconding, saying he had merely arrived in court late for the January 2023 appearance and found that his matter had already been called.

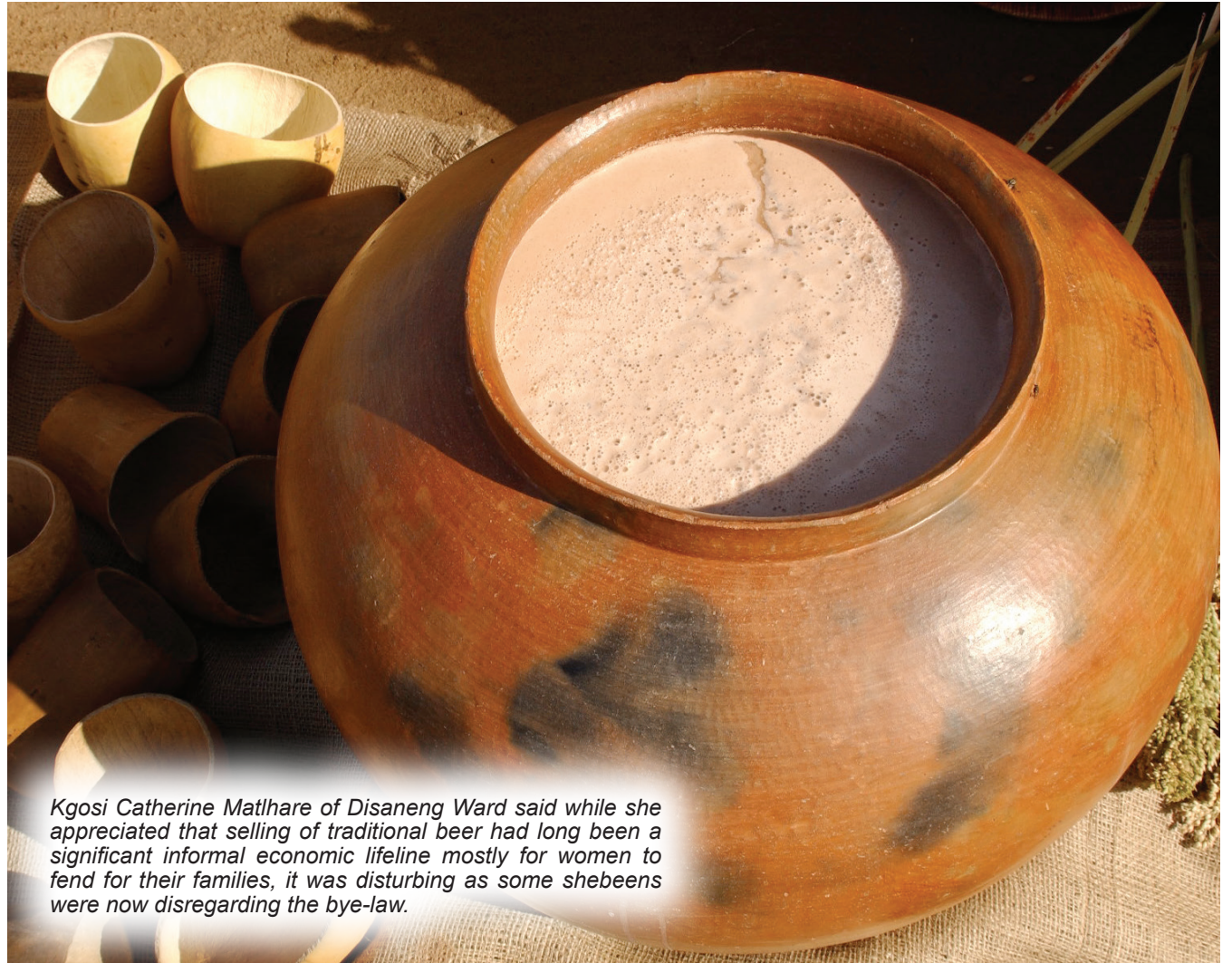
He pleaded with the court to release him on bail, saying he was responsible for the upkeep of his children and suffered from a medical condition that was not being adequately attended to in prison.

"The time that I have already spent in prison has taught me a lot and so I am asking for my bail application to be granted," he said.

In her ruling, Magistrate Gofaone Mosweu said the accused had previously taken an oath when he was admitted to bail but had failed to uphold the conditions attached to his release.

She said it was the responsibility of the accused to keep track of his court appearances and ensure compliance with his bail conditions, consequently, she denied the accused bail and remanded him in custody.

The matter is set for hearing on July 7. **BOPA**



Kgosi Catherine Matlhare of Disaneng Ward said while she appreciated that selling of traditional beer had long been a significant informal economic lifeline mostly for women to fend for their families, it was disturbing as some shebeens were now disregarding the bye-law.

Matlhare warns shebeens on late trading

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Kgosi Cathrine Matlhare of Disaneng Ward has warned shebeen operators in Old Disana

against trading beyond stipulated hours and selling unregulated brews.

Kgosi Matlhare said while selling traditional beer had long provided an economic lifeline for many women, some establishments were now disturbing residents. "The situation is getting out of hand," she said in an interview.

Of particular concern is a ginger concoction allegedly strong enough to intoxicate with only a small amount.

Kgosi Matlhare said the brew was linked to drastic weight loss and health complications. She also raised alarm over drugs being sold to schoolchildren.

According to Kgosi Matlhare, elders, youth and school-going children frequent the spots from morning until midnight. She appealed to residents to show responsibility, noting reports of school dropouts, family neglect and criminal activity tied to alcohol and drug abuse.

"I once engaged some young people to establish why they were taking drugs and drinking alcohol. Many said they used them as a coping mechanism to manage boredom

since they were unemployed," she said.

Mental health specialist Ms Ruth Sondani warned that excessive alcohol consumption could damage the liver, heart and brain, weaken the immune system, and lead to hepatitis, mental health issues, violence, risk behavior and loss of employment.

Ms Sondani said alcohol abuse was often driven by peer pressure, financial hardship, family conflict, unemployment, poverty or growing up in homes where misuse was common.

She urged those struggling with addiction to acknowledge the problem and seek help early from healthcare professionals, trusted family members, faith leaders or support groups.

"Recovery is stronger when people stay connected," Ms Sondani said.

She recommended replacing drinking with healthy routines like exercise, prayer, volunteering, journaling, learning new skills or spending time in positive environments.

"People's current situations do not have to define their future. Support is available and recovery is possible," she added. **BOPA**

Court receives forensic psychiatric evaluation on attempted murder case

Calviniah Kgautlhe
LOBATSE

Lobatse Magistrates Court has received a forensic psychiatric evaluation report in a criminal case involving the Otse woman accused of attempted murder of her newborn baby boy on April 25.

Appearing before Lobatse Magistrates Court' senior magistrate Ms Vinga Kedikilwe-Johnson on Monday, prosecutor, Ms Tamela Mbulawa furnished the court with the psychiatric evaluation evidence received from Sbrana Psychiatric Hospital.

The report is crucial for determining the accused's mental credibility to stand trial as

well as guide the legal proceedings and their potential outcomes.

The accused, who is charged with a single count of attempted murder of a newborn on April 25 at Lesethana ward in Otse contrary to Section 217 of the Penal Code, did not make an appearance. The court heard that the accused did not make it due to logistical challenges.

The prosecution thus applied for her further remand in custody to grant the court the opportunity to unravel the psychiatric analysis document with regards to the accused's mental competency.

The case is scheduled for July 13 for status hearing. **BOPA**

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Bifang heartbeat of community entertainment

Chenzimu Manyepedza
SEFHOPHE

At the age of 85, Mafetsane Bifang stands as a beloved pillar of the Sefhophe community, embodying the transformative magic of passion that truly knows no limits.

With each strum of his segaba, a beautifully handcrafted traditional instrument that has been his companion throughout his life, he weaves an atmosphere that resonates profoundly within the hearts and minds of listeners, transcending generations.

His weathered hands, still nimble with skill, breathe life into every note, captivating audiences with melodies that evoke nostalgia and joy.

This artistry always ignites a communal spirit, wrapping everyone in a comforting embrace that uplifts the soul.

Through his music, Bifang not only entertains but also inspires, shining a light on the vibrant cultural heritage of his community with an unwavering zeal.

Reflecting on his journey, Bifang fondly recalls how music has been an integral part of his life since childhood.

He reminisces about the sunlit fields where he herded cattle, the melodies of nature intertwining with his daily tasks, embedding a connection with music in his spirit.

These early experiences paved the way for his illustrious musical path.

One highlight of his musical career was participating in the then Presidential Arts Competitions.

With pride and excitement, he recounts

the thrill of showcasing his talent, shining brightly in front of esteemed judges.

Not only did he impress with his vibrant performances, he also emerged victorious, winning several impressive awards, each accompanied by substantial prize money that validated his dedication to his craft.

Tirelo Nkitseng, a resident of Sefhophe, regarded Bifang as the heartbeat of the community's cultural entertainment.

She expressed that social gathering feels incomplete if she not offered the electric performance of Bifang.

Nkitseng says while many people slow down as they age, Bifang has remained energetic and dedicated to preserving cultural heritage.

He continues to unite the community, reminding the younger generation that true passion never fades; instead, it grows stronger over time.

Despite the accolades and admiration surrounding the traditional music scene, Bifang expressed a deep concern about the dwindling interest among the youth in learning to play their cultural instruments.

He fears that this growing lack of interest could extinguish the vibrant cultural flame that has long illuminated the community.

Observing how the youth are immersed in modern lifestyles and captivated by contemporary forms of entertainment, Bifang urges them to also embrace and cherish the rich tapestry of traditional music.

He says passion toward their heritage should ignite an inspiration that will continuously safeguard the cultural legacy for future generations. **BOPA**



With his segaba, a handcrafted traditional instrument, Mafetsane Bifang weaves an atmosphere that resonates profoundly within the hearts and minds of listeners, transcending generations. Photo: Chenzimu Manyepedza

DailySport



Youth athletes on Saturday converged at Shashe River School in Tonota for the one-day Sports Exchange Development Coaching Clinic organised by Yung Genius Karate Academy. The initiative created a platform where athletes and coaches learnt from one another. Photo: Thamani Shabani

Coaching clinic unlocks potential

Thamani.Shabani
TONOTA

Youth athletes from different sporting codes on Saturday converged at Shashe River School in Tonota for the one-day Sports Exchange Development Coaching Clinic organised by Yung Genius Karate Academy.

Participants shared experiences and

explored ways of developing sport collectively for the growth of the industry.

One of the instructors, Shashe River School boxing coach, Victor Mhalnga, said the Sports Exchange Development Clinic was important because it created a platform for athletes and coaches from different sporting disciplines to learn from one another.

He said different sport codes instilled discipline in different ways, making it beneficial for athletes to gain broader perspectives and experiences.

Mhalnga expressed hope that future editions of the clinic would attract more sporting codes, noting that attendance had been lower than expected despite extensive publicity.

Founder of Yung Genius Karate Academy and host of the event, Sensei Otsile Motsamai, said the clinic aimed to identify and nurture talent across various sporting disciplines.

He said similar clinics held in Francistown in 2024 and Semotswane in 2025 had been successful.

Although this year's event did not secure sponsorship, organisers remained committed to its objectives.

Sensei Motsamai said Tonota and surrounding areas possessed considerable untapped talent that required structured support and development.

He said there was a need to establish a centre in Tonota dedicated to identifying and nurturing talent across different sporting codes to help young athletes realise their potential.

Sensei Motsamai added that the clinic would be held annually, as bringing together athletes from different sporting backgrounds, helped expose and develop talent at grassroots level.

Speaking at the same event, Tonota Youth Coordinator, Refilwe Banda noted that Botswana had the potential to become a sporting hub across various disciplines.

Banda therefore encouraged parents to continue supporting young athletes despite financial challenges.

She also called on the business

community to support grassroots sports development, particularly as efforts continued to address the return of school sports programmes.

Businesses, she said, could contribute through in-kind sponsorships such as providing bottled water or simply showing support by attending sporting events.

Banda said discipline played a critical role in shaping athletes into future coaches and sports administrators capable of contributing meaningfully to the country's sporting landscape.

One of the participants, rising boxing star and Shashe River School learner, Kealeitse Ready, commended the coaching clinic, saying it provided athletes with an opportunity to interact, exchange experiences and gain a better understanding of one another's sporting environments.

He said the clinic also enabled athletes to observe how discipline was practised across different sporting codes. **BOPA**