President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left) and the outgoing British High Commissioner to Botswana, Ms Sian Price during a farewell call at the Office of the President yesterday. The President praised the British government for its long-standing partnership with Botswana, which has included financial and technical support, as well as empowerment programmes for vulnerable groups and less developed areas. Ms Price concludes her tenure after serving in the country since 2020. Photo: Yobe Shonga

STORY PAGE 3
Water, energy experts meet in Maun

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The United States (US) Army and Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) are hosting a four-day workshop on research technologies in water and energy in Maun.

Titled the US-Botswana Workshop on Research Technologies in Water and Energy Needs for Remote Austere Locations 2024 (WORTHWEEDS), the workshop aims to identify the latest challenges, technologies and research pertaining to water and solar power in remote austere locations. It has attracted experts from the US, Botswana and around the world who would make presentations and recommendations on water and energy resources crucial for sustainability and resilience in remote areas.

Welcoming participants during the official opening on Monday, BIUST Vice Chancellor, Prof. Oqhetotse Totolo said the workshop was a significant milestone in their collaborative efforts to address critical challenges of water and energy security in remote and austere environments.

He said they had brought together minds from government, academia and industry to forge new paths in water and energy research. He said due to the importance of water and energy and the increasing uncertainty of their supply, there was need for a more coherent approach in addressing water and energy challenges. “Water and energy are inextricably linked and research and innovation in this sector should assist to identify strategies that balance energy demand and environmental goals,” he said.

He described the workshop as a unique platform to exchange ideas, learn from each other and build lasting partnerships that would drive progress in water and energy research.

He thanked the US Army for the workshop and giving BIUST the opportunity to host and be a partner with them.

Speaking on behalf of the US ambassador to Botswana, Colonel Mark Whiteman said there were many reasons to work as a team and to solve problems around water and energy.

He said climate change was now prioritised as a global threat, and that the US national security strategy and their Defence Department had been charged with developing strategies to tackle trans-boundary threats such as climate change.

He added that they required trans-boundary solutions hence the need to work as a unit with partners and allies to enhance resilience to climate change and to reduce the need for militaries to respond to instability and humanitarian emergencies.

“Botswana is a perfect partner to work with in these efforts and the workshop is a testament to strengthening our bilateral partnership,” he said, adding that their collective abilities could be the catalyst for positive change.

He said Botswana, with its abundance of sunlight, had potential to be one of the top producers of solar energy and that it could enable the country to develop a thriving energy economy and become electricity self-sufficient.

He added that the country could eventually become a global leader in clean energy manufacturing. BOPA

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MOLEPOLOLE - Botswana will, through Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, commemorate World Youth Skills Day on Friday in Lentsweletau. The event themed: Youth Skills for Peace and Sustainable Developments, is a collaboration between Botswana National Youth Council and UNDP.

In an interview with BOPA on Monday, Kweneng Region principal programmes officer, Mr Percy Seema said the main objectives of the commemoration was to celebrate and raise awareness on the importance of skills development among the youth, equipping young people with skills for employment and decent work as well as facilitate dialogue between young people and stakeholders from private sector and vocational education providers regarding the skills needed by young people in future.

“It is an opportunity to recognise the meaning of providing young people with the necessary skills to face the challenges of the future,” said Mr Seema.

He said youth were the country’s most valuable asset and developing their skills and abilities was a strategic and wise investment in Botswana’s future.

Mr Seema noted that MYSC had taken up responsibilities to ensure that youth skills were celebrated across the country annually through their respective district offices.

He said in order to achieve the Reset Agenda, there was need to acknowledge the rapidly changing world that presented multi-faceted challenges ranging from technological advancements to environmental concerns.

He pointed out that the youth needed to possess the right skills and knowledge in order to adapt and thrive in the developing landscape. BOPA
DPSM moves to implement fan-shaped structure

By Jeremiah Sejabosigo

LOBATSE - The Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) is laying out foundations for the implementation of the proposed fan-shaped salary structure, aimed at addressing productivity and progression of public sector employees.

Speaking during a consultative meeting with public service employees in Lobatse on Monday, DPSM director, Ms Gaene Macholo explained that the new structure would have broad salary scales of around 25 notches compared to the current narrow scales of 10 notches or less.

She said the broad scales would prevent stagnation of employees and reward good performers as they would be able to move continuously up the notches without reaching the ceiling quickly.

She pointed that consultations were progressing smoothly with relevant stakeholders including labour organisations. She therefore expressed confidence that after completion of consultations and other processes, the new salary structure would be implemented next year.

She said the idea of a fan-shaped salary structure started in 2018 after government engaged some consultants, commonly referred to as PEMANDU, to review and make recommendations on how the public service structure could be improved.

In 2022 the DPSM reached agreement with workers’ unions to implement the recommendations of the PEMANDU consultants.

“We agreed to implement the proposed fan-shaped salary structure where the scales will be overlapping and employees will move within their salary scales for many years without reaching the ceiling. Currently employees reach the top notch after 10 years. There are many employees who have reached the top notch and have nowhere to progress because there are limited posts for promotion to the upper scales. Therefore, the fan-shaped salary structure will prevent stagnation of employees,” she said.

Ms Macholo said however said DPSM was in the process of consolidating and harmonising all pieces of legislation relating to the public service sector.

She said the process was aimed at effective operation of the public service. She said those pieces of legislation included the Public Service Act of 2008, the General Orders of 1998, the Employment Act and the Occupational Relations Act.

“We have realised that some of the provisions of our Public Service Act do not align with the Employment Act. Hence we have found it necessary to align these two legal instruments. We have also realised that our General Orders are older than the Public Service Act which is an anomaly,” she said.

Further, Ms Macholo pointed that the consolidation and harmonisation process would result with only two pieces of legislation for the public service being the Employment and Labour Relations Act and the Public Service Act.

She said the Employment Act and the Trade Union Act would be combined into the Employment and Labour Relations Act. She further said the General Orders would be renamed Conditions of Service.

Ms Macholo said they had already taken the proposed pieces of legislation to the Economic Committee of Cabinet.

“We have also reached agreement with unions to develop various policies out of the General Orders such as the Disciplinary Policy, the Occupational Safety and Health Policy, the Recruitment, Selection and Appointments Policy (inclusive of transfer guidelines), the Learning and Development Policy, the Performance Management Development Policy, the Overtime Management Policy, and the Conditions of Service Policy,” she said.

DPSM Compensation and Benefits officer Ms Gobogheane Yane, pointed that the current pay structure which was developed in 1988 was too old and required to be modernised. Ms Yane said the new fan shaped structure would help to motivate employees and improve performance.

“This fan shaped structure will be a facilitator of performance and competitiveness within the public service. We want to attract and retain talent within the public service through competitiveness,” she said.

She said the challenge of the current structure was its limited range which leads to promotion pressure and complexity in administration.

She said 60 per cent of employees on A1 scale and 47 per cent on B1 had reached top notches.

“The fan-based structure will help us to move from the narrow range to a broad range of salary scale,” she said.

However, Manual Workers Union consultant, Mr Johnson Motswarakgole pointed that further consultations were still required between workers’ unions and DPSM on some issues relating fan-shaped structure.

Masisi applauds British government for support

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has commended the British government for its unwavering commitment and assistance to Botswana.

Speaking during a farewell call with the outgoing British High Commissioner, Ms Sian Price yesterday, President Masisi highlighted the extensive relations between the two governments on various international matters.

Reflecting on the long-standing relationship between the two nations, dating back to the years leading to Botswana’s independence, President Masisi emphasised the significant contributions made by the British government.

President Masisi acknowledged the consistent support provided by the British government to Botswana, including financial aid, technical assistance, and empowerment initiatives for vulnerable groups and underdeveloped areas.

He said the British government was equally instrumental in laying a foundation for the country’s education sector.

Further, Dr Masisi noted that the strength of the bilateral relations was put to test during challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the British government played a crucial part in bolstering Botswana’s healthcare system.

“We came out quiet strong, thanks to your support. Thank you for your services and making Botswana what it is today. Our whole government system is based on the British system,” he said.

In her farewell message, Ms Price acknowledged that the strength of the relationship between the two nations stems from how they tackled challenges together.

She said some of the toughest times proved the true depth of their friendship.

For instance, Ms Price said COVID-19 pandemic was a period where the collaboration between the two countries was particularly impactful, expressing pride in bringing UK health professionals to support frontline efforts.

Additionally, she mentioned the British government’s support in addressing critical issues, such as child protection initiatives in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Botswana Police Service, such as establishment of child-friendly service points at police stations and courts.

Ms Price also shared some exciting new developments in areas such as manufacturing and energy, facilitated by British assistance, which have elevated the partnership.

Therefore, she said currently the UK and Botswana were equal partners, helping each other in mutual respect, assisting each other through various means.

Ms Price said taking the relationship to the next stage would focus more on developmental issues, review how the relationship had evolved over the years.

Consequently, she outlined a shift towards prioritising mutual trade equality in the next phase of the partnership.

As a consumer of Botswana products, she expressed interest in exploring the potential for exporting goods, such as the citrus harvest from Seibeb Phukwe, to the UK.

BOPA
BSE promotes sustainable, economic development.

By Marvin Motlhabe

GABORONE - The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) has been at the forefront of cultivating a capital market that promote sustainable finance and responsible economic development.

The journey dates back to 2016, when the BSE became a Partner Exchange of the United Nations-backed Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSEI). This commitment underscores the BSE's dedication to enhancing sustainable finance and promoting sustainability performance within the local capital markets.

In an interview yesterday, Mr Kopano Bolokwe, the acting Chief Executive Officer of BSE, highlighted on the journey. He noted that the BSE stood as the third stock exchange in Africa to embark on this path, alongside 13 other stock exchanges globally as Partner Exchanges of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSEI).

Mr Bolokwe emphasised the BSE's pivotal role in advancing sustainable finance within Botswana, in line with the country's national priorities outlined in Vision 2036. "Our priority lies in supporting the government in achieving prosperity for all, particularly within the realms of Vision 2036," he stated. The pillars of Vision 2036, encompassing sustainable economic development, human development, social development, environmental sustainability, and governance, reflect the aspirations that can be realised through the establishment of appropriate financial mechanisms and market standards.

As the BSE spearheads these efforts, the journey has facilitated an elevation in sustainability standards across the board, notably in ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) practices.

Through its commitment to sustainable finance and market excellence, the Botswana Stock Exchange continues to champion responsible economic growth and societal wellbeing, embodying a beacon of progress and sustainable financial stewardship in the region.

In 2023, he said the BSE commissioned the listings requirements for sustainable bonds, which comprised green bonds, social bonds, sustainability linked bonds, and sustainability-linked bonds.

Mr Bolokwe said as an example, green bonds were used to raise capital on the BSE to finance environmentally friendly projects and projects that support climate change adaptation and mitigation such as renewable energy and clean transportation.

He said social bonds were used to raise capital on the BSE to finance projects that support social development and these could include affordable housing, and financing of businesses run by women.

"As you would see from how the proceeds from these bonds are deployed, they directly support the pillars of Vision 2036. Green bonds, for example, contribute to the pillar of sustainable environment, and social bonds contribute to the pillar of social development. But broadly, they both contribute to the pillar of sustainable economic development because the economy would thrive and when we are able to adapt to, and mitigate, climate risk and also promote social stability, and equitable access to opportunities by the members of society," Bolokwe added.

He said the BSE has since developed the sustainability and ESG market standards, called the BSE Sustainability Disclosure Guidance. The standards have become very instrumental in supporting the pillars of Vision 2036, across the environmental, social, and governance spectrum.

These standards are used by listed companies to communicate their ESG information and sustainability development to investors in Botswana, who were the owners of capital, and responsible financial stewardship.

"Notably, Mr Bolokwe said ESG was a license to operate, and whoever was left behind in operating their business in the best interest of all stakeholders, which was called stakeholder capitalism, would find it difficult to operate as a concern, simply because the cost of capital was expensive for those who are left behind in the context of ESG. In parallel to introducing the sustainability segment and market standards at the BSE, the BSE also introduced fee incentives for listing sustainable bonds which was a 25 per cent discount in comparison to ordinary bonds, he said.

Mr Bolokwe said this noble approach helped to raise the competitiveness of Botswana's financial sector within the African Financial Markets Index of 2023. In the index, Botswana was upgraded from number eight in 2022 to number six in 2023 due to the ESG fee incentives, out of 28 African countries surveyed. "The local ecosystem sees these innovative developments and opportunities and is taking action. In December 2023, Absa became the first listed company to list a sustainable bond on the BSE and has raised a total of P80 million so far. The proceeds have created 280 jobs, and impacted 1 240 lives through affordable housing in one of the innovative projects in the outskirts of Gaborone.

This is what we mean when we say our priority and reason for existence as the BSE is to support livelihoods and sustainable economic development," Mr Bolokwe highlighted.

Mr Bolokwe encouraged all companies in Botswana to leverage the BSE for different types of capital, including commercial paper, which was used to raise short-term finance and working capital.

He also called on listed companies to explore corporate and sovereign bonds, such as the rights issues to reduce and optimise the cost of raising capital.

Further, he emphasised that through capital raising on the BSE, government and private sector were able to create jobs, build infrastructure, and build the necessary infrastructure to support Botswana's growth and economic development.

BOPA

Court remands murder accused in custody

By Kehumile Moekejo

JWANENG - A 34-year-old man of Botshobe ward in Sese, who is accused of killing his mother and injuring his stepfather, is scheduled to appear for status hearing before Jwaneng Magistrate Kgopo Niseane on August 6.

Difhetogo Kekobileng is facing two counts of murder and assault occasioning actual bodily harm emanating from a brawl he had with his parents over the use of his dovecyc on January 27, 2023.

On count one, the accused person reportedly unlawfully caused grievous bodily harm and inflicted injuries on his mother. Lapologang Kekobileng at Sese on the said date.

The latter succumbed to the injuries on April 5, 2023, after she was admitted to several medical facilities following the incident.

On the second count, the particulars of the offence show that he assaulted Popasite Leburu by hitting him with a brick, injuring him at or near Sese on January 27, 2023.

The victim was treated for the injuries and discharged.

The accused's bail had to be revoked after he previously violated the bail conditions. Appearing for mention on Monday, he pleaded with the court to facilitate the prosecution to give him access to his properties.

He was further remanded in custody and is expected to appear on August 6.

The prosecution, led by Inspector Locus, charges that Kwena of Jwaneng police, would also update the court when the murder case would be committed to the High Court for trial. BOPA

Ministry supports Tati Primary School in tragic loss

By Thamani Shabani

FRANCISTOWN - The Ministry of Education and Skills Development is providing transportation for students and staff of Tatsidings Primary School to attend the funeral of the three pupils who were allegedly killed by their father eight days ago.

The three students, aged 10 and eight, who have been identified as pupils who were allegedly killed by their father eight days ago, were discharged.

Workers of Colic Construction and Engineering Company, which is in joint venture with BT Engineering Company during construction of the Moshupane Block 1 internal roads on Monday. Colic Earthworks foreman, Mr Phillimon Richard said the 21-kilometre internal roads were 90 per cent done and were expected to be completed by September. The roads are constructed at a cost of over P315 million. Photo: Phenywo Moolosi

He added: "In a gesture of compensation and support, in this case the government has pledged transport to ferry students and staff to the funeral. "In times of grief, we stand together as a family. When the unthinkable occurs, we rally behind those who have been touched by tragedy, offering our condolences and our resources." He said the BSE has provided a bus to transport the students and staff to the funeral.

He said it was a norm within the ministry that whenever one of theirs died or stressful situation, the ministry provided transport.

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Kenya empowers youth in science, technology to spur development

NAIROBI - Kenya's Ministry of Education said on Monday that it is committed to harnessing science, technology and innovation to empower the youth in education, health, industry and spur development in the country.

This partnership, according to Inyangala, is expected to provide a unique platform for encouraging the youth to demonstrate their capacity for innovation and research, showcase their scientific talents and play a crucial role in promoting knowledge sharing among the research community.

Dickson Andala, chief executive officer of the NRF, said Kenya's rapid strides towards industrialisation and modernisation are fuelled by the dedication to harnessing the potential of scientific research and innovation.

Andala stressed that engagement with the youth was also aimed at inspiring the broader community, showcasing the importance of research in addressing societal challenges and driving economic growth.

He added that the partnership was helping to leverage opportunities to amplify the impact of research on society, the economy, and the environment.

NAIROBI - Kenya's Ministry of Health and partners have fast-tracked the formulation of new legislation to ensure that patients at health facilities receive quality care, senior officials said on Monday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation has two deputy ministers. Mbarouk announced his resignation on Sunday, citing personal social responsibilities, in a letter to the Office of the President of Tanzania.

The Quality of Care Bill is expected to improve the provision of care, treatment and management of diseases in both public and private health facilities, said Kigen Bartilol, director of healthcare quality, research, showcase their scientific talents and play a crucial role in promoting knowledge sharing among the research community.

Andala stressed that partnership with the youth is an ideal means of inspiring the next generation of innovators, solving pressing challenges, and unlocking new opportunities for growth and development.

New law to enhance quality patient care

NAIROBI - Kenya's Ministry of Health and partners have fast-tracked the formulation of new legislation to ensure that patients at health facilities receive quality care, senior officials said on Monday.

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BISSAU - Residents and dealers purchasing aquatic products at a Chinese-built aquatic products processing and storage complex in Guinea-Bissau recently. Chinese companies have been working closely with Guinea-Bissau over the recent years to develop fishery infrastructure. In May 2023, the Bandim Fishing Port constructed with Chinese assistance was handed over to the local operator.

Covering approximately 4,000 square meters, it is currently the largest modern aquatic products processing facility in Guinea-Bissau.

Photograph: Xinhua

ZANZIBAR - Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan has replaced the country's foreign and information ministers in the latest cabinet reshuffle. Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation January Makamba will be replaced by Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Tanzania's ambassador to Italy; Minister for Information, Communication, and Information Technology Nape Nnauye will be replaced by Jerry Sila, former minister of lands, housing, and human settlements development, according to a statement issued Sunday by the Directorate of Presidential Communications.

Hasan also revoked the appointment of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Stephen Mafinga, appointed deputy minister for human settlements development. Cossato Chumi, minister of lands, housing, and human settlements development, has been reappointed as minister of lands, housing, and human settlements development.

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New law to enhance quality patient care
Women-owned businesses get boost

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Four young women who participated in a renewable energy products and services promotion received equipment to help grow their businesses and reduce their carbon footprint.

Ms Taboka Chengeta, 33, of Mahalape and a farmer received a solar powered fridge, panel and battery while 39-year-old Ms Kemo Bagni of Mohembo, who is into horticulture farming, was awarded a solar powered pump, panel and batteries.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony recently, US embassy’s economic, security and health hub officer for Southern Africa, Mr Luke Simmons said the equipment would help the recipients to build their businesses, cut electricity costs and reduce their carbon footprint.

The solar-powered water pump, he said, would irrigate a two hectare horticulture farm by storing water from the Okavango River while the solar-powered freezer would keep chicken fresh before they went to the market.

He said the solar-powered dryers would help process Motlopi coffee and the solar-powered oven would bake pastries for sale.

Mr Simmons said by supporting women entrepreneurs, they were not only helping them to transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient businesses, but were also fostering innovation and leadership in the renewable energy sector.

He thanked government for partnering with the US embassy to combat climate change and to transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

Mr Simmons said the Greening Women Enterprises initiative was more than just technology and was also about creating opportunities, fostering resilience and building a sustainable future for all.

By Maleboglo Lekula

Ghanzi show celebrates golden jubilee

GHANZI - This year marks a milestone for Ghanzi national agricultural show as it celebrates golden jubilee.

The show has grown over the years and it has proved to be one of the country’s economic boosters.

Makgweetsi Masisi is expected to officially open this year’s activities of the show.

In an interview, Ghanzi show committee chairperson, Mr Thuso Mmadinawe, said the event mainly fixed on promoting agricultural exhibitions, but with years unfolding, they saw need to incorporate other supporting business segments complementing the agricultural sector extensively.

He said with new modifications, the show existed to promote and support agricultural trade, marketing other products and services offered by local communities and other external service providers.

He said the hospitality industry had experienced an influx of customers. He said all the 500 rooms in the township had been fully booked while service providers such as taxi operators were making a kill.

However, he said lack of direction to meet the accommodation’s demands by local hospitality industries and implemented community members to take advantage of that, by providing services such as tented accommodation or even renting out their houses temporarily.

On that note, he implored accommodation providers to set out prices that would attract more customers in future and beyond. Furthermore, he said they had more than 500 exhibitors, 225 cattle, 264 goats and 243 sheep and they had to extend their kraals to accommodate more exhibitors.

Mr Mackenzie commended main sponsor Water Utilities Corporation (WUC), Bank Gaborone, Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO), Haskins and Botswana Oil.

On other issues, he said activities such as horse race, beauty contest and football tournament were on the lineup to close down the show on Friday.

He applauded Ghanzi agricultural show patrons for establishing a show that had significantly contributed to the economy of the district.

One of the exhibitors, Mr Toy Katjova (27) from Charles Hill, said he grew up in a family with interest on small stock farming as early as 1992 and he took the reins from his father in 2013.

To transit from subsistence to commercial farming, he said, he started to participate in different agricultural shows, including the Gabrone national show, where he won the junior champions.

He said through such participations he learnt new methods of breeding and feeding stock to increase the line of production, as he said currently he had a total number of 450 goats and 160 sheep.

Mr Katjova said he specialised in Boer goats, Kalahari Red, Savanna and Senna goats as for the sheep, he breeds meat masters and veld masters.

He encouraged youth to venture into farming as a business and not to take it as a hobby saying it had huge returns despite challenges.

The show will be celebrated under the theme: Ghanzi show at 50, Sowing seeds of Innovation for Agricultural Transformation. BOPA

South Africa aims to use BRICS platform to boost trade

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa will attend the 14th BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting later this week in Moscow, Russia, to seek trade and investment opportunities, a government official said on Monday.

“South Africa will continue to identify opportunities for cooperation with BRICS partners, both bilaterally and through the BRICS platform, that would present opportunities for the continent to transition away from its historic role as a commodity exporter towards higher productivity value addition,” said Zuko Godlimpi, South Africa’s deputy minister of trade, industry and competition, before departing for the meeting.

He said the BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting would be preceded by a roundtable discussion under the theme: The Place of BRICS in the New Architecture of the International Economic System.

The meeting will give South Africa an opportunity to build mutually beneficial trade and investment relations that promote value-added trade and economic transformation, said Godlimpi, noting that his country wants to facilitate foreign direct investment into the productive sectors with BRICS partners and coordinate its participation in BRICS initiatives.

The BRICS is the acronym for an emerging-market cooperative platform that initially included Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

In January, the bloc expanded its membership to include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Ethiopia.

Mr Mackenzie said from inception, the show on July 26.

Masisi is expected to officially open the show.

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The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) was established in 1997 under Section 65A of the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana.

The Commission consists of seven members being -

(a) a Chairman who is a Judge of the High Court appointed by the Judicial Service Commission;
(b) a legal practitioner appointed by the Judicial Service Commission; and
(c) five other persons who are fit, proper and impartial, appointed by the Judicial Service Commission from a list of persons recommended by the All Party Conference.

The Commission is responsible for –

a) the conduct and supervision of elections of the Elected Members of Parliament and members of a local authority, and conduct of a referendum;

b) giving instructions and directions to the Secretary of the Commission appointed under Section 66 of the constitution, in regard to the exercise of his or her functions under the electoral law prescribed by an Act of Parliament;

c) ensuring that elections are conducted efficiently, properly, freely and fairly;

d) performing such other functions as may be prescribed by an Act of Parliament.

In the performance of its responsibilities, the Commission is guided by the legal framework provided by the Constitution of Botswana, the Electoral Act, the Local Government Act, the Presidential Elections (Supplementary Provisions) Act and the Referendum Act. The Commission also undertakes its work in line with international best electoral practices, as long as such best practices are not inconsistent with Botswana’s electoral laws.

Eligible persons are invited to apply for appointment as members of the Independent Electoral Commission.

Applications must be submitted in writing accompanied by:

- a comprehensive curriculum vitae
- a certified copy of the applicant’s national identity and
- the relevant academic qualifications

The applicant

- Must be in possession of a Degree or equivalent qualification preferably in the field of Law, Political Science, Social Science, International Studies, Public Administration or Information Technology.
- Must be 18 years and above.
- Must have thorough knowledge and understanding of Botswana politics, culture, issues and trends relating to democracy and elections in Botswana and in the SADC region.
- Must have a firm sense of integrity and commitment to the principles of fairness, political neutrality and equality.
- Should neither be a political activist nor hold a political office.
- Must declare whether they have been office bearers of a political party or have a high party-political profile.
- Must have proven relevant knowledge and experience in at least some of the following: Election Administration and Management, Finance, Governance, Public Administration, Law, Information Technology, Conflict Resolution and Mediation.

A person shall not be qualified to be considered for appointment as a Member of the Independent Electoral Commission if –

a) He or She has been declared insolvent or adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in any part of the Commonwealth and has not been discharged, or has made a composition with his or her creditors and has not paid his or her debts in full; or

b) He or She has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty in any country.

A person appointed a member of the Commission shall assume the duties of the office of Commissioner only after he or she has taken and subscribed the oath of allegiance and such oath for the due execution of his or her office as may be prescribed by an Act of Parliament.

Applications must be submitted by registered mail on or before the close of business on the 29th July, 2024 and addressed to:
The Secretary | Independent Electoral Commission
Private Bag 00284, Gaborone
Or physically delivered at the office of the Secretary to the Independent Electoral Commission, Office No. 402, Plot 75739, Sethoba, Block 10, Gaborone.

All enquiries must be directed to the Secretary to the Independent Electoral Commission at Telephone No. 3612401.

Kindly note that only shortlisted applicants will be responded to.
Sudan braces for flooding amid civil war

**KHARTOUM** - As Sudan enters its rainy season, concerns are mounting that heavy downpours and subsequent floods could exacerbate the ongoing humanitarian crisis triggered by the armed conflict.

The Sudanese Meteorological Authority predicts above-normal rainfall across the country this year, a forecast echoed by the World Meteorological Organisation.

These predictions raise fears of widespread devastation, particularly for areas already grappling with the effects of civil conflict.

Heavy rains have caused significant damage in Aroma town, located 61 km north of Kassala, the capital of the eponymous state in eastern Sudan.

Local officials and residents reported to Xinhua that a mud barrier collapsed due to the deluge, flooding the town and destroying dozens of homes in Aroma and surrounding villages.

“The people of Aroma and its suburbs are suffering immensely due to these rainwater floods,” said Adam Ahmed Abu Amna, the town’s chiefman, highlighting the urgent need for food and shelter, as many affected residents are now homeless and unable to access markets.

“These are just the beginnings of the rainy season,” Amna warned, reflecting widespread anxieties. Ahmed Adam Hussein, a 70-year-old resident, lost his entire home in the floods.

He emphasised the inadequacy of traditional mud-brick houses against heavy rains. Mohamed Omar, another resident, echoed these concerns, appealing for government intervention.

“The houses here simply cannot withstand such heavy rainfall,” he said, urging authorities to provide relief to the devastated community.

Flooding is a yearly occurrence in Sudan, typically happening between June and October.

This year, however, the ongoing armed conflict raises serious concerns about the impact on already weakened infrastructure and the environment.

Over the past three years, heavy rains have claimed hundreds of lives and destroyed vast swathes of agricultural land.

Sudan ranks as the eighth most vulnerable country to climate change according to the University of Notre Dame’s Global Adaptation Initiative.

The conflict, which began in mid-April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces and paramilitary groups, has claimed at least 16,650 lives, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The fighting has also displaced millions within Sudan and forced over 2.2 million to flee to neighbouring countries.

Egypt’s external debt down 8.43% between December, May

**CAIRO** - Egypt’s external debt shrank by US$14.17 billion or 8.43 per cent in May compared to December 2023, the State Information Service (SIS) revealed Monday.

The external debt stood at US$153.86 billion by the end of May following the sharpest five-month decline in the country’s history, the SIS said in a statement, citing an unnamed high-ranking official from the Egyptian central bank.

The statement said Egypt’s net international reserves recorded an all-time high of US$46.38 billion in June, while the net foreign reserves balance is sufficient to cover the value of imports for 7.9 months, exceeding the internationally recognised minimum period for payment security.

In June, the central bank’s net foreign assets turned from a deficit to US$10.3 billion dollars in surplus, compared to a deficit of US$1.14 billion in January, the official noted.

In March, the central bank liberalised exchange rates of the Egyptian pound to foreign currencies in an attempt to alleviate an already ailing economy.

Adopted reforms significant to China, world - Surve

**CAPE TOWN** - The third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee is “of great significance not just to China but to the world,” a South African media leader has said.

“China is one of the key countries and economies in the world today, therefore what the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee decides, the direction and guidance it gives to the Chinese economy, is of great significance not just to China but to the world.”

Iqbal Surve, chairman of South Africa’s Independent Media, told Xinhua in a recent interview concerning the plenum held in Beijing on July 15-18.

He noted that the reforms adopted at the plenum will also have a spillover effect on Africa and South Africa in particular, as it can serve as a blueprint for Africans to address the issues of poverty, inequality, and lack of innovation.

“Our experience is that historically these sessions have been instrumental in defining China’s social economic strategies,” Surve said. “And this is very important at this point, because nobody would argue with you when you say that the world is at a very critical juncture right now.”

He explained that the world has just come out of the COVID pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on human, economic and social life for three years. Thus the reforms introduced at the third plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee are undoubtedly significant for both China and the rest of the world today for three reasons.

“The first is that these reforms are very comprehensive and far-reaching. Second, it is underscored by the principle of collaboration and adapting to new technologies. I think that is very important. Thirdly, and this is where other countries can learn from China, China is brilliant at implementing production capacities,” he said.

As a seasoned media leader who has paid more than 20 visits to China over the last 15 years, Surve said he was able to see for himself the substantial development in China. Over the past four decades, China was able to implement mass production, and shift it to advanced manufacturing through modernisation, he said. “No country in the world has achieved that mass production to advance manufacturing within such a short space of time.”

In recent years, China has shown exceptional progress in the areas of AI, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing, among others, he added.

As a country that has come from being a low-income country to a decent middle-income country within those four decades, China is a very good example not only for South Africa but also for the African continent and the entire world. Surve noted. “I think that China’s successful reform is a lodestar for the world, is something that the world needs to look at,” he said.

“The world should embrace China’s successful reform as a basis for stabilising international trade, benefiting developing economies, emerging markets, and developing economies such as Europe and North America.”
Kenya receives new passenger coaches

MOMBASA - Kenya on Monday received 20 new passenger coaches from China to increase transport capacity and improve passenger experience. They include 10 revamped economy-class coaches, four premium-class coaches, one dining car, one power car, and four first-class coaches.

“The development is a significant milestone for the ministry as we continue to improve operational efficiency and service delivery in the transport sector,” Mohamed Dagher, principal secretary in the Ministry of Roads and Transport, said during the flagging off of the coaches in the coastal city of Mombasa.

He noted that with the developments in passenger services, Kenya was on course to transport 8.8 million passengers annually, comprising 6 million commuters and 2.8 million long-distance passengers.

“The business and commerce sector is constantly growing, driven by the need for mobility. The government is committed to ensuring that this growth is matched with adequate transport and logistics infrastructure.

This will secure Kenya’s growth locally and enhance our competitive advantage globally,” Dagher said.

The new economy-class coaches have several features designed to enhance passenger comfort and inclusivity, including charging points at each seat, baby-changing areas for freshening up babies during the journey, and fold-out tray tables.

The first-class coaches feature reclining seats arranged two by two across the width of the coach, while the premium-class coaches feature optimized seating arrangements with each coach limited to 28 passengers, ensuring ample legroom and personal space and enhanced luggage solutions for travellers with extra baggage.

China aids Zimbabwe with boreholes to address drought

HARARE - A total of 300 boreholes will be drilled in four provinces of Zimbabwe under a China-aided borehole drilling project launched on Monday in Mahusekwa, a town in Masanlaland East Province.

The borehole drilling initiative followed the declaration of a state of disaster by Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa on March 3 due to an El Niño-induced drought facing the country.

Speaking during the launch ceremony, Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities Daniel Garwe said the initiative would go a step further in equipping locals with the technical skills necessary to maintain and manage the boreholes.

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“I hope that the boreholes supported by China Aid will help extinguish ‘the fire of drought’ for our Zimbabwean friends,” said Zhou, adding that over the past 10 years, China has drilled more than 1 000 boreholes across Zimbabwe, providing easy access to clean water and irrigation for about 400 000 people.

Local villagers at the Mahusekwa township, where the initial borehole was drilled after the launching ceremony, welcomed the initiative, saying the availability of water at their doorsteps would make their lives easier. “We are grateful to our Chinese friends; they are compassionate friends who are elevating our friendship with this initiative,” said Tatenda Chimbwanda, a villager from Mahusekwa.

AU calls for collaboration from economic communities

ADDIS ABABA - African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat has called on regional economic communities in Africa to strive for stronger collaboration.

The AU Commission chief made the remarks on Sunday during the sixth AU Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, which brought together heads of regional economic communities in Africa, and representatives of other regional mechanisms and AU members in Accra, the capital of Ghana, according to an AU statement issued on Sunday.

Addressing the meeting, Faki called on regional economic communities in Africa to boost their activities by working closely with the AU toward the realisation of continental development initiatives and aspirations.

“Our regional economic communities in Africa are driven by the need for sectoral growth and development; however, they are not only limited to providing safe water to the affected communities in Africa, but will also serve the purpose of strengthening the continent’s infrastructure. Adequate transport and logistics infrastructure is a stepping stone towards increasing development and growth in the region,” Daghar said.

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Ditlhabololo di ka ngoka babeietsi

SEROWE - Ditsela tsu Serowe/ Palapye le Mabelelapdi/Serule tse di sa tsowang go shafadiwa di tlaa nna le seabe mo go tsiseng ditlhabololo le go ngoka babeietsi.

Go tlhalositse a di tlaa thuwa mo go fetseng ditirelo le go nolofatsa matsona mo dithuto mo kgaosong a Serowe Bokone. Mopolamete wa Serowe Bokone Rere BaraBita Mathothe o buile se fa a buita pluthego kwa kgotleng ya Mauba kwa Serowe ka Mosupologo.

A re ditlhabololo di a di felela foo ko go tlaa agwa difitsi tsu sepopisi tsa bobedi kwa kgotleng ya Dinokwane le ya ditsheko le tsa ga mmakaseteke kwa kgotleng ya Semane.

A go tlaa agwa Livestock Marketing Centre mo Serowe e le ya bobedi mo Botswana ka go na le ya Tsabong kwa Kgalagadi South.

O boletse fa madu a ditlhabololo dikgelo a P10 million jaanong a South.

A re ka jalo, Ramotadima o ne a gatelela seabe mo Ghanzi go a wayebi a re dikiseng dikhitso ka temo-thuo le ditirelo yare ka bophara.

Molaodi o kgothatsa banni ne go tsaya karolo mo ditshupong tsu temo-thuo ya monongwaga, go leka go tokafatsa matselo a bone go nna a a tshwedianseng.

Ka Malebogo Lekula

Molaodi o kgothatsa banni go tsaya karolo

Molaodi o kgothatsa banni go tsaya karolo mo ditshupong tsu temo-thuo ya monongwaga, go leka go tokafatsa matselo a bone go nna a a tshwedianseng.

Ka Tshiamiso Mosetlha

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Banni ba mgaungregela tshwetso

Ka Portia Rapietseanye

RASESÃ, TUPSWA - Banni bangwe ba metse e e neng e itseg e leina Tumedara kwa kgaoanyang go Sehure/ Ramogonami go mokang eno e kgogantswe mme e bidwa Tupswa, Malete le Leswafatsa nako neng le tshwetso e tse tse.
**AUTOMOTIVES**

SEEKING OWNERS OF BSOATC Volkswagen Caravelle owned by TUMUCHI CONSULTANCY and VYFT LTD in respect of legal change of ownership. Contact: 247012 or sarah.gibbonopic@gmail.com

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

GRASS BALES FOR SALE NATA P/I 599/04 per Bale Call or WhatsApp Ben 73082780 Michael 73028788

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**FARM WORKERS**

FARM WORKER WANTED-

Tsehpo Barakanyane is looking for an elderly farm worker wanted at Diakyana farm. Contact: 71872874 Box 11646 Palapye.

FARM WORKER URGENTLY WANTED at Selokola farms. Must have experience in herding livestock and small stock. Apply to P O Box 342 or Kanye or 71373833

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**FOSSIL WORKERS**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

Master's Reference: ESHGB 000009/23

IN THE ESTATE OF THE Late UMAHANANA RENDI who died at Malarane Ward, Matlapa, Central-Matlapato District, Republic of Botswana on 1st January 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FTG 180/2017 dated the 29th day of May 2018 between TSI TULLETHO and TSI NELLOU. Property (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED in respect of TRIBAL GRANT NO. 104-05.

All persons objecting to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge such objection in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020, Gaborone within 3 (Three) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

DATED at Gaborone in this 3rd Day of July 2024

BOKOBOKO BORLES LAURP Applicant's Attorneys

P.O Box 1065

Lot 6346, Gaborone Central, Gaborone

Petroleum 93671301

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**NOTICE TO INVENTORY TO DISTRIBUTION TRIBAL LAND TO NON-CITIZEN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in terms of Section 40 of the Tribal Land Act of 2018, that Goitsemodimo Oatlhotse hereby give notice of his intention to cede and transfer the undermentioned property to

BUKELEDI P. O. Box 1991

Gaborone

CERTAIN

Plot 20A, Gaborone Central.

SITUATE

in Gaborone from residential to multi-residential.

PROPERTY

is required to work on a small holdings/farm under OL-Globe (Ref: KNM/ad/M13707)

Applicants must have at least 3 years work experience in integrated farming activities including keeping of chickens, goats, and seasonal crops. Must read and write in English in order to keep good records.

All applications in writing to:

The Manager,

GLOBE HOLLINGS P. O. Box 354, Gaborone

Or email to: oglobe@gfms.bw

Closing Date: 16th August 2024

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**VACANCY: FARM WORKER**

A FARM WORKER is required to work on a small farm looking for a spray painter, the farm and the position are situated at Foley Farms. Contact details The Farm, Foley Farms. Contact 72202034.

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**LOOKING FOR STRUCTURAL engineer, 10 years experience. Allakibotswana@gmx.com**

**POST: OPERATIONS MANAGER for farm. Contact detailed. The following are the requirements:**

-QCC: Qualification + equivalent: Agricultural or related.
- Knowledge of HB paint mixing systems.
- Salary: P 360 000 per annum Team player.

Forward all applications to expfarmjobs@gmail.com.

Deadline: 29.07.2024

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**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DISTRIBUTE TRIBAL LAND TO NON-CITIZEN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. FTG 18/2001 dated the 29th day of May 1999 between TSI TULLETHO and TSI NELLOU. Property (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED in respect of TRIBAL GRANT NO. 104-05.

All persons objecting to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge such objection in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020, Gaborone within 3 (Three) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

DATED at Gaborone in this 3rd Day of July 2024

BOKOBOKO BORLES LAURP Applicant's Attorneys

P.O Box 1065

Lot 6346, Gaborone Central, Gaborone

Petroleum 93671301

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**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT OF LEASE IN TERMS OF REGULATION 46 (1) OF THE TRIBAL LAND ACT**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to apply for a Certified Copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. TG 18/2001 dated 1st April 2001 made in favour of TSI NELLOU MICHELIN COMPANY (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED in respect of TRIBAL GRANT NO. 104-05.

All persons having objections to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge such objection in writing with the Registrar of Deeds, Private Bag 0020, Gaborone within 3 (Three) weeks from the last publication of this notice.

DATED at Gaborone in this 22nd Day of July, 2024

MONTHE MARUMO & Co.
Applicant's Attorneys
P.O Box 9219
Gaborone

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**Piggyriggy Assisted Selling, Ltd.**

FARM WORKER WANTED in Ghanzi Contact Stephen Lew 72135060

FARM WORKERS needed call Milidzani 786 685 125

FARM WORKER WANTED at Foley East Farms. Contact The Benjamins (Pty) Ltd 72151934

HERD BOY URGENTLY required at Ngagapangane around Mafuli/Mologato. Apply to Otukile Ntsuge. P O Box 965 Francistown 717847.

FARM WORKER WANTED at Mosongo/ Dilditi (Mmathebele area) with atleast 10yrs experience. Call : 72206834. Deadline : 02 August

2 FEMALE FARM workers needed urgently Please call: Ilofo Setakor P O Box 58 Artsena. Cell: 74792600

HERD BOY WANTED at Satau Contact 71872619 / 74844261

FARM WORKER WANTED at Ditholagae urgently. Kindly Contact Patrick Mmusi @ 71726373/71608202

FARM WORKER WANTED Gobogobeng Dorle. Contact 71406666

MALE FARM WORKER/ Modisa wanted at Anombane farm in Kgatleng area. Box 1600 Mochudi. Contact 72200234.

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**噶博历农企招工公告**
By Malebogo Lekula

GHANZI - In their quest to empower local musicians and foster collaborations, Ghanzi Invasion has partnered with the Canadian based African music promoters called Afrofest.

The non-profit making organisation is renowned for its biggest annual flagship music festival dubbed ‘Afrofest’, that takes place every year in July in Montreal, Canada.

Speaking in an interview with BOPA, Ghanzi Invasion organiser, Desmond Lunga, said their movement was formed in 2022 committed to unearth and promote cultural exchange programme with most famous artist of all time from Canada, South Africa, Botswana and various countries under one roof.

Lunga said the aim was to promote a cultural exchange through music and the platform would also allow artists to acquire necessary skills to improve their performances.

He said through the music exchange programme with Afrofest, Ghanzi based artists would be honored to grace and feature in the 2025 Afrofest line up, saying it would give them exposure and boost their morale.

Furthermore, he said mentorship provided included business skills and encouraging them to register with Companies and Intellectual Property Authority for intellectual property rights.

Lunga appreciated how the Ghanzi Invasion had grown adding that preparations were on for this year’s festive.

He anticipated an increase in revelers saying the event would also be boosted by the Ghanzi Show which would be celebrating 50 years.

Ghanzi Invasion has selected a line up featuring Charma girl, Young Stunna and Dj LaTimmy.

On other issues, he mentioned that, they were planning on establishing an arts performing centre in Ghanzi that would turn the township into a melting pot of cultures.

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE - Contemporary folk jazz act, Sereetsi & The Natives, has released latest studio recording, Mmabatho.

In an interview, with BOPA renowned singer, Tomeletso Sereetsi, shared that the 10-track album was released on July 12.

Mmabatho follows their debut, Four-string Confessions (2015), Motoko (2018), and I Am Afrika (2021), which was released amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

“By extension, the song is for everyone in a serious relationship and for wedded couples as well. It is a celebration of the beauty, strength, and support of the women in our lives,” said Sereetsi.

Taking a cue from the collaboration, I Am Afrika album, he added that Mmabatho also featured Sereetsi & The Natives working with other accomplished creative.

The legendary Mosako features on the frenetically paced Rraneu which captures the stages of chasing a debt in three unique sonic movements, he explained.

He also mentioned that he composed the song in three parts à la classical music.

The idea was to capture the various emotional states one goes through chasing debts.

He also said Kabelo Mogwe of the internationally acclaimed Culture Spears stars in Polosi-boo, which was a modern-day boy-hurts-girl-hurts-boy tale of poetic justice.

Also, the album featured Mma Aisi who brings her great form to Gae which champions a similar theme as Polosi-boo.

Other notable numbers include Tshumu, Mme, Nako, Petere, and Romela.

He added that they had employed A-list session musicians for the project. On keys and background vocals there is Motlolegi Kobotso and Jay Chontsi Mokotedi, with Lereklo Lesole on bass.

The drummers are Leroy Nyoni and Dylan Lebekwe. On electric guitar, we have Thero Julian Seleka and Charlie Tshidiso Nthimole on saxophone.

For the production side, he noted that the album was produced by Sereetsi and Mikael Rosen, who also enjoys mixing and mastering credits.

BOPA
**Athletes ready for Olympics**

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana athletes recognise that stepping onto stadia, particularly at the highest level of competition, carries not only individual ambitions but also the hopes and dreams of the nation. Athletes already in Paris, France for the Summer Olympic Games, to be held from July 26 to August 11, have one thing in mind, to raise the Botswana flag high and the nation will be waiting with bated breath as the country makes its 12th appearance at the Games.

At this year’s Olympic Games, the nation will pin its hopes for medals on Letsile Tebogo who will be doubling in 100m and 200m as well as Bayapo Nlori, Leungo Scotch and Collen Kebnabatsi, who will compete in 400m while Victor Ntweng will contest in the 400m hurdles.

The duo of Maxine Enger and Adrian Robinson will represent Botswana in swimming.

In an interview, Ntweng said he was happy to have made it to the Olympics team as his participation would also be special, not only to him but to the entire nation, because he would be the first Motswana to compete in the hurdles at the Olympics.

He said preparations had been going well, having recently competed at the Africa Senior Championships that were held in Douala, Cameroon.

“I am the reigning Africa Champion, so I have been working on my technique and mental strength because we are going to a very big stage,” he said.

Haingura, who will be making his debut at the Olympics, said his aim was to make it to the final.

“Whatever happens at the final will take care of itself. Personally I don’t have any pressure. I am going there to learn. Maybe we can talk about winning a medal in 2028, but you know in athletics anything is possible,” Haingura said.

Also making his debut is Nkape, who said had been training well for preparations for the Olympics.

“I know the last time the country won the 800m was in 2012 through Nijel Amos. At the moment I don’t want to promise the nation anything. I am going there to enjoy my race but I will do my best,” Nkape said.

The team captain, Bostumele Masilo was also happy to be leading a united and committed squad.

He said athletes were in fine fettle and the morale in camp was high.

“Anything is possible. We have a formidable team that is willing to fight and like soldiers, die for the country on the track,” Masilo said. BOPA

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**BTA happy with event success**

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - The Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) vice president, who was also the Tennis World Cup (Davis Cup) Group V Local Organising Committee (LOC) chairperson, Nonofo Othusitse is happy with the Botswana National Sport Council and the Botswana National Olympic Committee praised them for a job well done.

“For the first time, we managed to broadcast tennis matches live, which enabled tennis fans to follow the event from all over the world. We truly believe we met the expectations of all involved and delivered an event to be proud of,” he said.

He thanked the LOC and officials for ensuring that the tournament was successfully delivered despite some challenges encountered.

“We witnessed some of the biggest crowds ever at a local tennis event and we wish to appreciate all the spectators for showing up to support the growth of tennis. We are thankful to sponsors who availed the much needed resources to deliver this event,” he added.

On Team Botswana’s performance, he said Botswana had fielded youngest players as compared to other countries.

The team had Mark Nawa (18), Esi Molefe (18), Batsomi Maorobela (20), denied Seetso (19), Tsholofelo Tsiang (22) and Seabo Saleshando (17).

“We are very proud of the performance displayed by the team and we are confident that we are on the right track and we shall gain promotion to the upper groups in the coming years,” he said.

Botswana had hosted a 15-country Tennis World Cup.

Othusitse said Botswana had received positive feedback from various stakeholders after hosting the just ended Tennis World Cup (Davis Cup) Africa Group V event.

(Davis Cup) Africa Group V from July 17 to July 20 and Congo and Mauritius were promoted to Group IV after winning their playoffs games.

Other countries, which competed, are Ethiopia, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Congo, Gabon, Seychelles, Mauritania, Lesotho, Djibouti, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and Libya. BOPA
GABORONE - Botswana swimmers, Adrian Robinson and Maxine Enger will kick start their Paris 2024 Olympic Games competitions on Saturday, while track and field athletes will take to track from August 1.

Robinson will compete in 100m breaststroke and Enger in 100m freestyle.

The two qualified for the Olympics through wild cards.

Meanwhile, Team Botswana chef de mission, Orreditse Marakakgoro said in an interview that the team was in good spirits and ready to represent the country in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

She said in an interview that morale in camp was high and that athletes were united and calm after intensive training camp. She said their camp at Montauban was productive because the city was quiet and that gave the athletes the opportunity to focus on their preparations without distractions.

Furthermore, she said their training facilities were top notch, adding that the technical team was also impressed that athletics were improving their times.

The team, which has been camping in Montauban will move to the athletes’ village in Paris in preparation for the Olympic Games opening ceremony tomorrow. The Games, which starts tomorrow end on August 10. Meanwhile, Team Botswana assistant coach, Kebonyemodisa Mosimanyane said he was happy with Bayapo Ndori and Letsile Tebogo’s performance at the London Diamond League held recently. Tebogo finished third with a National Record of 9.88 while Ndori finished seventh with 45.03. The two joined the rest of the team late as they were still in other competitions.

“We were not looking at winning the races, our focus was to see the shape of the athletes and to go to the Olympics without any injuries,” he said.