Embracing the Reset Agenda  "Change of mindset opens you up to new possibilities”  Slumber Tsogwane, VP

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Masisi Merck ambassador

President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (second left) with First Lady Neo (second right) as she was being recognised as the Ambassador of Merck Foundation More Than a Mother by foundation chairperson, Prof. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp (right) and CEO, Dr Rasha Kelej during the launch of Merck Foundation in Gaborone yesterday. President Masisi underscored the importance of tackling gender-based violence, which he said had escalated, condemning the tragic rise in senseless series of murders, targeting innocent and vulnerable women and children. The First Lady also applauded 46 doctors who were sponsored by the foundation to further their studies in their different areas of speciality.

Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

STORY PAGE 3
By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE—The introduction of the development manager model in project implementation is due to benefit citizens through improved delivery of projects as well as the employment of citizens, and the mentoring of local companies, Minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr Eric Molale has said.

Addressing a press conference in Gaborone on Tuesday, Mr Molale said 149 projects countrywide were being executed through the development manager model, an approach where private developers join forces with government to efficiently manage projects in order to mitigate financial risks and exchange expertise to improve project delivery.

He said the benefits that would accrue to the government and nation included compliance to legal instruments, value chain development and employment opportunities, with 700 citizens either directly employed or kept in employment by the nine development managers as they engage local firms.

“During construction we expect employment to reach a level of 150 employees at peak per project. Cumulative we estimate at peak almost 30,000 locals to be employed during the life of the projects,” Mr Molale said.

He said there would be an opportunity for skills transfer and for extensive value chain development through the supply of aggregates and quarry sand required bricks for the various health facilities, primary schools and similar infrastructure projects across the country, and increase local production of Kalahari Sand Blocks for uptake through the various projects, he pointed out.

Mr Molale said among these projects, construction or reconstruction of four road projects - the Tshebe-Masunga, Mmadunyane-Mathangwane, Molepolole-Thamaga and Machangam-Ramogonami, as well as Mabeleapudi access road - were already completed.

He indicated that the Centre for Children with Multiple Disabilities in Maun, a Ministry of Education project as well as 224 Self Help Housing Agency (SHA) housing units, were also completed using the development manager mode.

Mr Molale stated that his ministry acknowledged various challenges that impede timely delivery of projects.

“However, through the adoption of other strategies such as Development Managers, our ministry is starting to mitigate and address some of the implementation challenges. Currently some of our newly established district offices do not have resources such as an office and staff accommodation.

This creates an opportunity for individual Botswana and citizen contractors to avail such resources for rental by my Ministry,” Mr Molale said.

He said the projects ready for construction included the Nata-Gweta - Natagwasha, Francistown-Nata, Modipane-Mabalane, and the Mogoditshane-Gabane-Mmankgodi roads; and schools including the Goldmine, Chamabona, Nkange and Shangamani junior secondary schools as well as some primary schools countrywide.

Mr Molale disclosed that following the decision by government to rationalise portfolio responsibilities and mandates of ministries and state-owned enterprises, in June 2022 and August 2023, the ministry managed to rationalise existing vacancies to facilitate deployment and redeployment of staff to the 31 districts; and the promotions and transfer of officers as district coordinators,” Mr Molale revealed.

“BOPA managed to rationalise existing vacancies to facilitate deployment and redeployment of staff to the 31 districts; and the promotions and transfer of officers as district coordinators,” Mr Molale revealed.

Director Public Relations and Protocol

GABORONE-Catalyst Project team coordinator, Mr Jacob Raphalane (left) and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, Mr Kgagamatsoketshajwang during a press briefing in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Molale said 149 projects countrywide were being executed through the development manager model. Photo: Felicity Male

Minister Molale (centre), Catalyst Project team coordinator, Mr Jacob Raphalane (left) and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, Mr Kgagamatsoketshajwang during a press briefing in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Molale said 149 projects countrywide were being executed through the development manager model. Photo: Felicity Male
Mosimanegape deputy police commissioner

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Minister of Defence and Security, Mr Kagiso Mmusi has announced the appointment of Mr Kalolo Mosimanegape as Botswana Police Service Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

Mr Mmusi lauded the Merck Foundation for its programmes that improved Batswana’s lives in areas such as health, education and women empowerment.

Merck Foundation CEO, Senator Dr Rasha Kelej emphasised the critical need for well-trained healthcare professionals to address the nation’s health challenges effectively.

The minister commended the foundation’s endeavours in providing scholarships that equip health professionals with specialised knowledge and skills in critical medical fields such as diabetes, oncology and respiratory care.

Merck Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Merck KGaA Germany that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people and advance their lives through science and technology.

It works closely with partners that are Africa’s First Ladies, ministries of health and education among others in developing countries in Africa and Asia. BOPA
**Digitisation to improve dispute resolution process**

**GABORONE** - The Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs is inundated with registered trade disputes, especially from Gaborone and surroundings.

This was revealed by the portfolio minister, Ms Annah Mokgethi when responding to a question in Parliament on Tuesday.

Ms Mokgethi said that she was also aware of the impending delays in resolving the disputes, and that the ministry had since embarked on digitising the trade disputes resolution process through the case management process, which she said was currently being piloted.

“This system is envisaged to improve the effectiveness of the disputes resolution process through managing disputes case load and mediation of cases with statutory time limits of 30 days,” she said.

Ms Mokgethi said to mitigate the backlog status of the pending cases, her ministry has resorted to temporarily deploy staff to districts or offices that were most affected.

She also said this financial year, her ministry had an approved budget to establish an Independent Dispute Resolution Structure, an autonomous quasi-judicial structure which she said would replace the current process where mediators and arbitrators were under the office of the Commissioner of Labour.

“The approved budget will among others be utilised for the development of a new organisational structure, consensus building workshops and national dialogue sessions to solicit buy in and input from society,” she said.

Ms Mokgethi also indicated that the establishment of the independent dispute resolution structure had already been provided for under the new Employment and Labour Relations Bill of 2024.

She was responding to Selebi Phikwe West MP, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse who had if the minister was aware of the discontent of workers regarding ineffectiveness of the Commissioner of Labour in resolving trade disputes and whether it was the intention of government to improve trade disputes resolution mechanisms by setting up a Labour Appeals Court or a division of the same at Court of Appeal.

**By Olekantse Nennamose**

**GABORONE** - In its first day of business on Tuesday, the National Assembly supported three Bills, which are now ripe for committee stage.

One of the Bills that the legislators backed was a proposal to amend the Standing Committee on Remuneration of Members of the National Assembly, councillors, Nloo ya Dikgosi and specified offices.

Presenting the Bill, the Minister for State President, Mr Kabo Morwaeng said the bill desired to remove the wording ‘Specified Offices’ from the Act, indicating that the move was necessitated by Section 122, sub section 1 of the constitution.

The said section provides that holders of specified offices appointed by the President shall be paid such salaries and allowances as may be prescribed by Parliament,” he said.

Mr Morwaeng said salaries of the said public officers were therefore determined in accordance with the set public office practices and allowances as catered for by the committees.

Supporting the bill, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Pono Moatlhodi said the specified officers have long been tagged under the remuneration of politicians, which he said denied them cost of living adjustments when the need arose.

“These officers are civil servants, and just like others, they also deserve to be cushioned against the cost of living, so detaching them from politicians and Dikgosi will be beneficial to them,” said Mr Moatlhodi who is also the MP for Tonota.

Leader of Opposition also MP for Selebi Phikwe West, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse also supported the proposal, but advised that there was a need for a former politician to sit in the committee so that they could guide it from experience.

“The committee needs a former politician who better understands the life of a politicians to guide and advice other members. As far as am concerned the only member who is a former MP is Mr Charles Tsebiso, but he spent most of his time in the executive and might not know first hand the hardships of being an ordinary politician,” he said.

Meanwhile legislators also supported two other Bills, being the Specified Offices (Salaries and Allowances) Amendment Bill as well as the Judicial Services Amendment Bill.

Presenting the former, Mr Morwaeng indicated that its objective was to amend the Specified Offices Salaries and Allowances Act in order to give effect to Directive No 4 of 2024, which adjusted public service salaries by 5 per cent across the board with effect from April 1 this year.

For his part, the Minister of Justice, Mr Machana Shamukenzi who presented the latter bill said that it was intertwined with Minister Morwaeng’s two Bills, especially the last one.

After support from legislators, Mr Shamukani, who is an MP for Chobe, said his ministry would speed up the process to ensure that arrears owed to deserving public officers were paid.

Supporting the proposal, Ngiama legislator Mr Caterpillar Hikuama cautioned against paying officers late, saying it led to them being taxed in a lump sum, which he said might affect personal financial planning.

**Ministry unaware of unfair labour practices**

**GABORONE** - The Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Ms Annah Mokgethi says her ministry conducts regular labour and occupational health and safety inspections to ensure compliance with labour laws.

As such, Ms Mokgethi said her ministry was not aware that farm workers were subjected to poor labour practices such as being paid below statutory minimum wages, long working hours without overtime payment, unfair dismissals, living in squalor conditions, no sick leave and verbal abuse. “The inspections conducted in farms in Tuli block have revealed that a majority of farmers in the area comply with labour laws. My ministry has not registered any disputes pertaining to contravention of the minimum wages,” said Ms Mokgethi.

Ms Mokgethi said the bill desired 5 per cent across the board with effect from April 1 this year. For his part, the Minister of Justice, Mr Machana Shamukenzi who presented the latter bill said that it was intertwined with Minister Morwaeng’s two Bills, especially the last one.

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Healthy Families Foundation roots out social ills

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Healthy Families Foundation (HFF) is committed to eliminate social ills in its drive to build strong family ties and responsible communities, the foundation’s director and communication executive, Ms Ashley Thaba has explained.

Speaking during HFF stakeholder engagement in Gaborone Tuesday, Ms Thaba said it was in the best interest of the foundation to proactively address the root causes of social ills, she said. It was on that background that, Ms Thaba said the foundation established nationwide campaigns that ran last year.

The campaigns, which she said were themed ‘fix the root, fix the fruit’ were aimed at building healthy family setups and uprooting social ills which impacted family setups.

“If we can fix the root, we can fix the fruit as we have realised that fixing the fruit first will not in any way eliminate the problem, so we start with family building because the biggest responsibility comes from home,” she said.

Ms Thaba said it was through such campaigns that many social ills such as Gender Based Violence, unhealthy marriages and suicide rates were reduced.

Ms Thaba said the foundation had forged ties with key stakeholders to address issues pertaining to family building with the view to strengthen families, were the centre piece of a healthy community and the nation at large.

Additionally, she stated that the television show dubbed ‘Talking with the Thabas’ was the right platform to build stronger families and address the rising cases of divorce bedeviling the country.

Ms Thaba said over 20 000 lives in 45 villages nationwide had been touched through the campaigns, covering topical issues as unmet expectations in relationships, communication, preparing for marriage in the right way, his/her needs, GBV and how to relate with one’s children.

BR partners with Worldwide Rail, Mining Solutions

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

PARLIAMENT - Minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr Eric Molale, says Botswana Railways has engaged in business with both Worldwide Rail and Mining Solutions Botswana (Pty) Ltd in 2021, has further solidified their presence in the region.

Responding to a question in Parliament on Tuesday, Minister Molale explained that Botswana Railways spent over P34.5 million (R46 065 064.29) procuring some locomotive spares and permanent way spares and services from Worldwide Rail and Mining Solutions (Pty) Ltd in South Africa on competitive bidding.

He said P5.8 million was spent procuring some locomotive and permanent way spares and services from Worldwide Rail and Mining Solutions Botswana (Pty) Ltd and on competitive bidding.

He indicated that the procurement agreements were for both companies, as they were legally two separate entities.

Meanwhile Mr Molale pointed out that the shareholder and sole director of Worldwide Rail and Mining Solutions (Pty) Ltd South Africa was Mr Jason Visagie. He said regarding the Botswana company, information on its shareholding is in the public domain and that could be sourced from the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) online portal.

MP for Maun West, Mr Dumelang Saleshando had asked the minister if Botswana Railways had ever procured goods from Worldwide Rail and Mining Solutions company.

Mr Saleshando wanted to know if the procurement agreement was between Botswana Railways and the company as registered in Botswana or outside Botswana.

Furthermore he wanted to know the total monetary value of goods and services procured from the company and whether the procurement was subjected to competitive bidding as well as directors and shareholders of the company.

Ministry prioritises maintenance of infrastructure

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

PARLIAMENT - In an effort to prioritise maintenance for the longevity and functionality of government buildings, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works has introduced various interventions and strategies to ensure maintenance of public facilities.

Responding to a parliamentary question on Tuesday, the Minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr Eric Molale, emphasised the importance of maintaining key government infrastructure, the longevity and functionality of which were often hampered due to delays in infrastructure upkeep.

He cited instances where funds were redirected to urgent matters within ministries, causing delays in infrastructure upkeep.

Mr Molale highlighted challenges in emergency maintenance, issues with procurement methods, and limited capacity to address maintenance promptly, exacerbated by insufficient collaboration between agencies.

He mentioned ongoing efforts in conducting condition surveys to identify maintenance requirements and the development of comprehensive facilities management frameworks, including maintenance management guidelines and facilities classification guidelines.

“These guidelines aim to improve the functionality, safety, and efficiency of maintaining government buildings,” Mr Molale explained.

Furthermore, Mr Molale welcomed private sector participation, stating that involving private companies aligns with the government’s strategy of engaging external expertise for tasks suited to the private sector.

Member of Parliament for Gaborone North, Mr Dumelang Balopi had asked the minister whether he was aware that public infrastructure had generally dilapidated and not well maintained, citing classrooms, hospitals and police stations as examples.

MP Balopi wanted the minister to state the reasons maintenance of the government infrastructure, especially buildings were often delayed, compared to private sector infrastructure.

He further wanted to know if there were any plans to streamline processes, especially the procurement process, with a view to reducing the length of time taken before damages or worn-out infrastructure was attended to.

Furthermore, Mr Balopi wanted to know if there was any plan to have public sector players come on board and assist in infrastructure development maintenance as necessary without being subjected to bureaucratic red tape.
BOCRA launches 2024-2029 strategy

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - Government has embarked on various initiatives to transform the economy through the use of digital technology, says Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Mr Thulagano Segokgo.

Launching BOCRA’s 2024-2029 strategy in Gaborone on Tuesday, Minister Segokgo said the initiatives included the Smart Botswana strategy, Digital Transformation strategy, and a coherent and integrated approach to the national broadband strategy.

He said the initiatives were beginning to bear fruit with the World Competitiveness report placed Botswana at 38 out of 67 on government efficiency.

He also said the country had moved from position 61 in 2021 to 55 in 2024 among those striving for technological advancement.

“What can be measured can be improved,” he said.

Minister Segokgo also said he was pleased that BOCRA had plans which were measurable over the next five year period.

The minister said as a sector led by BOCRA, they were better placed to understand their individual and collective contributions to the nation, the region and the global economy, adding that how much the country would benefit from the Fourth Industrial Revolution depended on how they performed as a sector.

He said the strategy presented would be critical in measuring their performance over the next five years, and that it was comforting that the country had considered the Digital Transformation Agenda as espoused by President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi.

The minister said they had seen how digital transformation made inclusivity possible.

“We have seen our rural schools that have access to ICTs manage to continue with the learning process, and we see daily how mobile banking solutions have brought the unbanked into the mainstream economy,” he said, adding that online meetings have also reduced distances and saved time and money in the process.

Furthermore, he said the above examples should encourage them to do more and emphasised the need for affordable and universal connectivity in the country.

The minister said government was steadfast in its resolve to place digital transformation at the centre of the national development agenda.

He noted that during the State-of-the-Nation Address in November, President Masisi emphasised that the digitisation of the public sector was critical for service delivery in a knowledge based economy, and urged the nation to embrace the Reset Agenda and Mindset Change as they worked towards achieving the ideals of Vision 2036.

He said by signing an agreement with international partners, BOCRA had announced what was to be measured.

He also said BOCRA had made a social contract and would be held accountable, as he looked forward to the implementation of the strategy.

For his part, BOCRA chief executive officer, Mr Martin Mokgware said they focused on four sectors being the telecommunications sector, broadcasting sector, postal services and Internet and ICT sector.

He said they had done well on cybersecurity and pleaded for a cyber security law.

He also said they aimed for a 75 per cent radio coverage and that they managed to get 80 per cent.

He noted that they had 2.9 million broadband subscribers and the highest Internet penetration in the region.

Other challenges included the high costs of construction, lengthy processes of acquisition of land, limited access to government buildings for the installation of signal enhancing equipment, theft and malfunction of communication equipment.

He also said cyber security threats were a challenge.

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Government has initiated a comprehensive effort in the water and wastewater services in remote and off-grid areas.

By working together, Mr Sekgabo said they could develop strategies that balanced energy demand and supply with environmental goals to ensure a sustainable future for all.

He said the outcomes of the workshop would have a direct impact on Maun and enhance its resilience as well as ensuring a brighter future for its residents.

Botswana, he said was a water scarce country and that it was exacerbated by climate change and increased demand while the energy sector relied on fossil fuels which posed environmental and sustainability challenges.

He said the theme of the workshop resonated with their mission of ensuring a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy for all Botswana, which was simply called ‘security of energy supply’.

By focusing on research and innovation, he said they aimed to develop solutions that addressed local challenges and contributed to global progress, BOPA.

BOPA stakeholders to take stock of the mining and manufacturing industries in order to foster industrialisation.

Furthermore, he said the expo presented opportunities to reflect on prospects that presented avenues for economic exploitation and the development of value chains and support industries.

“I welcome you to this city of all things precious. I urge you to be alive to the fact that the future of our nation is in our hands. We need to act individually and as a collective ensure that we fully explore and exploit all possible avenues presented by expos such as Trade Up North to deviate strategic interventions capable of facilitating the aspirations of Vision 2036,” he said.

Trade Up North managing director, Ms Vuyiswa Mopula said the expo provided a platform for exposure for the mining, manufacturing and construction sectors.

She also expressed satisfaction about the local and international exhibitors. “We managed to attract international companies from Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa,” she said.

Ms Mopula noted that they started to host the Trade Up North expo in 2017, and that it was their fifth edition.

Principal engineer at the Ministry of Minerals, Mr Baralaganye Ace said mining underpins the security of modern life from the construction of buildings and infrastructure to the creation of electronics and renewable energy.

He noted that mines supplied raw materials for the production and importing of products such as vehicles, construction, electronics, and energy.

He also said many of the mined minerals were used for energy production and as raw material for chemical industries. BOPA.

By Lefika Maruping

FRANCISTOWN - Mining has transformed the country from among the poorest and least developed states at independence in 1966 to an upper-middle income nation within 50 years.

Addressing delegates at the Trade Up North: Mining, manufacturing and construction two-day expo on Tuesday, the mayor of Francistown, Mr Godisang Radisigo said mining was the backbone of Botswana’s economic success.

He noted that the Trade Up North expo had become an annual feature in the city of Francistown and commended Soapbox Communications for their relentless efforts in mobilising

Minister Segokgo (right) and BOCRA board chairperson, Mr Tefo Setlhare at the BOCRA 2024-2029 strategy launch in Gaborone on Tuesday. Minister Segokgo commended BOCRA for the recent successful implementation of earmark registration.

Photo: Gopolong Kgomoethata

Solar energy offers sustainable solutions

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Solar energy is a promising renewable energy source offering a clean and sustainable solution to growing energy needs of all, especially rural communities.

The mayor of Francistown, Mr Setlhare at the BOCRA 2024-2029 strategy launch in Gaborone on Tuesday, Minister Segokgo commended BOCRA for the recent successful implementation of earmark registration.

Photo: Gopolong Kgomoethata

He noted that remarkable strides in addressing water and energy challenges had been made, adding that several initiatives had been made to improve water supply infrastructure, promote water conservation and to invest in renewable energy sources.

Furthermore, Mr Sekgabo said solar energy projects had been particularly successful in harnessing the abundant sunlight to provide clean and sustainable power to remote areas, but that there was still much work to be done.

He noted that government initiated a comprehensive effort in April 2008 to upgrade and extend water and wastewater services throughout the country, highlighting the rural electrification programme which was expanded on an annual basis. He said government had a target of 100 per cent electricity access by 2030 and that 30 per cent would be renewable energy.

He noted that a zero connection fee was introduced to facilitate ease of access to electricity and that an integrated plan was approved to guide the transition to 30 per cent renewable energy contribution.

Mr Sekgabo said some solar projects were being implemented whilst others were under procurement.

“The intent is for government to invest heavily in the renewable energy sector and position Botswana as a global player in the drive towards clean energy,” he said, adding that government was committed to developing a coherent and integrated approach to water and energy management.

The workshop was informed that the country’s National Development Plan emphasised sustainable practices, investment in innovative technologies and fostering collaborations with international partners.

By working together, Mr Sekgabo said they could develop strategies that balanced energy demand and supply with environmental goals to ensure a sustainable future for all.

He said the theme of the workshop resonated with their mission of ensuring a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy for all Botswana, which was simply called ‘security of energy supply’.

By focusing on research and innovation, he said they aimed to develop solutions that addressed local challenges and contributed to global progress, BOPA.

By Fostina Mosaone

BUCKLE UP! Seatbelts Are For Everyone

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Botswana’s electoral laws. 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) He or She has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty 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
(c) He or She has been an officer of a political party or has held a political office.
(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, and the Referendum Act. The Commission also undertakes the Presidential Elections (Supplementary Provisions) Act of Botswana, the Electoral Act, the Local Government Act, guided by the legal framework provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana.

The Commission is responsible for –

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FRANCISTOWN - The proverbial “birds of a feather flock together” was recently redefined by five young men who were brought together by their shared passion for photography.

To capitalise on the craze for pictures that has become a penchant for many Batswana, the quintet, Mr Jackson Pinayame, 23, from Molepolole; Mr Joseph Balatotse, 22, from Molepolole; Mr Dickson Mariringa, 19, from Molepolole; Mr Mathews Masuku, 24, from Kasane; and Mr Phomolo Khumodira, 23 from Mmopane travelled an exhausting 581 kilometres from Gaborone to reach the expansive Makgadikgadi pans in Sowa.

They set out on a daring yet exciting voyage in a Japan-derived Corolla Saloon, which they also use to sleep in, to reach the expanse of Makgadikgadi pans in Sowa.

Mr Pinayame stated that the trip to Makgadikgadi was akin to killing two birds with one stone; they wanted to explore the area as well as profit from their self-taught photography.

As much as the Makgadikgadi Epic has become a craze for many revellers, the quintet has never set foot in Sowa as they have other annual events such as the Ghanzi District Agricultural Show, where business is always brisk.

Mr Balatotse waxed lyrical about the support they five got from Batswana.

To market their photography to the men-folk, the quintet posts some of their best pictures on social media once they are given the greenlight to do so by customers.

Women, especially young and middle-aged ones, are the major customers of the upbeat street photographers. His appeal to the men-folk is to take it easy whenever the photographers solicit business, as their intention is never to upset anyone.

The five young men hope to someday take their association further and register a company.

By Marvin Motlhahane

GABORONE - In a major development that will enhance its standing as a vaccine manufacturer, Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) laboratories got accredited by the regional regulatory body Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS).

This step, together with the new blending and filling laboratory which is fully automated, will boost BVI’s productive capacity and adherence to quality standards in vaccine production.

Speaking during the accreditation ceremony in Gaborone Tuesday, Minister of Agriculture, Mr Fidelis Molao said the accreditation of BVI quality control laboratory against ISO/IEC 17025 standard came at the right time when government through this institution was in negotiation with technical partners.

Mr Molao said the accreditation should add impetus to what BVI does and dovetail with government commitment and desire to set Botswana as a centre of excellence in vaccine manufacturing.

He said the accreditation was a monumental duty for BVI to rise to the occasion and meet regional and international quality standards.

In 2023, BVI supplied over 25 million doses of vaccines to countries in Southern African region, East and West African markets which were subjected to laboratory testing for quality assurance, he said, adding that this provided confidence to customers and further opened doors to more markets.

Mr Molao said it was for this reason that the accreditation was a big step in the right direction of assuring the market of the quality produced at BVI, citing that by obtaining this certification the institute was demonstrating its adherence to rigorous quality standards that ensured reliable and accurate laboratory testing.

SADCAS Chief Executive Officer, Ms Eve Gadzikwa said the accreditation landscape in Botswana was growing rapidly and commended government for its dedication and commitment to strengthening the quality infrastructure through the National Quality Policy (NQP) of 2022.

Ms Gadzikwa said the NQP was an integral part of the broader industrial diversification and export strategies that seek the development of quality products and services. She said the policy seeks to enhance trade and economic development, whilst simultaneously ensuring that the safety and health of human, fauna and flora as well as the environment is not compromised.

As at May 31, there were 32 accredited facilities in Botswana, which now included BVI; a testimony that government had embraced the benefits of accreditation, she said.

She said two-thirds of vaccines produced by BVI were exported annually to 13 countries in Africa and the Middle East, highlighting the importance of accreditation in facilitating global trade.

This accreditation illustrated that BVI contributed to sustainable animal health solution, consumer protection and wider goals of global health security, Ms Gadzikwa added. She said BVI had been granted the unique accreditation number PHAR005. Ms Gadzikwa said the facility was accredited in accordance with the recognised international standard ISO/IEC 17025 of 2007. She said the accreditation certificate was issued on the May 9 and would be valid for five years. BOPA
Ministry drills, equips boreholes along Molopo River

By Aobakwe Molefhi

TSHIDILAMOLOMO
- Coordinator of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Southern District Dr Jaone Sebina says after installing the disease control fence along Molopo River, the Ministry of Agriculture has started drilling and equipping boreholes in affected villages where residents will be able to water their livestock.

Speaking in an interview, Dr Sebina said after the scare of the Foot and Mouth Disease reported from neighbouring South Africa last year, government took decision to construct the cordon fence to control livestock movement as residents were getting water from the Molopo River.

However, some residents especially farmers had reservations about the cordon fence, saying watering their animals would become difficult as they had all along been using the water bodies in the river.

Dr Sebina said government decided to construct boreholes in each of the affected villages

Innovator calls for research funding, collaboration

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - An electronic engineer and innovator from Red-Liphis Company, Mr Kedumetse Lphi, has called for financial support and collaboration with researchers and innovators to undertake research that will have an impact on the community.

Research and innovation, he said, were an expensive undertaking and funding was hard to secure hence institutions and other local and international potential financiers should come on board to help researchers and innovators to develop new products and services that would better the livelihoods of people particularly those residing in remote areas.

He made the remarks when presenting on the transformative power of energy, innovation and technology in addressing the unique challenges of remote areas at a workshop in Maun.

Collaborative research, he said, did not only play a significant role in influencing decisions and policies across various sectors, but it was also essential in expanding their understanding of the world and finding lasting solutions to the global issues.

Mr Lphi also implored researchers to work as a team to come up with innovative solutions tailored to the unique needs of the communities.

He noted that access to reliable and affordable electricity remained a significant challenge for many communities particularly those living in remote areas and thus had affected opportunities and wealth.

He therefore called on researchers and innovators to work as a unit to find lasting solutions that would better the quality life of people in remote areas.

He said leveraging collaborative research and embracing cutting-edge solutions could create a sustainable future for communities living in remote areas and thus driving progress and prosperity in the country and beyond.

"In remote areas, it’s a pity as some use candles, paraffin lamps to light up because of lack of electricity and this limits children to compete academically with their counterparts in urban areas and this is where as innovators and researchers should come on board," added Mr Lphi.

He also spoke against the use of fossil fuels because they were dangerous to the environment and climate. He said researchers and innovators needed to come up with products that would mitigate climate change.

Mr Lphi appreciated efforts by the government to enhance renewable energy to meet electricity demands.

He also acknowledged that the Botswana Power Corporation had engaged individuals and companies to generate energy saying there was need to diversify, taking into consideration the corporation’s rules to ensure clean energy.

Clean energy, he noted, provided a variety of environmental and economic benefits.

Furthermore, he stressed the need to empower local communities on how they could access energy and drive economic development and improve their quality of life.

He said communities should be educated and trained in fostering local innovation and self-reliance.

Meanwhile, the workshop brought together renowned experts from various institutions under one roof to exchange ideas and discuss on a range of topics essential for addressing contemporary challenges in water and energy management.

Mr Lphi has called for financial support and collaboration among researchers and innovators to undertake research that will have an impact on the community.

where farmers would have a sustainable source of water and be able to water their livestock and not temper with the cordon fence.

“We have so far drilled nine boreholes and rehabilitated three others, all solar equipped together with reservoirs at the tune of around P9 million,” he said.

He said that even though Thareselele and Rakhuna villages were not affected by the construction of the cordon fence, they would each get a borehole as an appreciation for their efforts of working with government in ensuring that livestock did not cross through their villages to South Africa.

For his part the farmers’ committee chairperson Mr Jackson Sechele said they appreciated the developments because the cordon fence would help stop livestock movement to South Africa.

“The cordon fence and the boreholes will also help a lot because in the past our livestock strayed to South Africa after drinking from the river, thereby exposing them to theft”.

Loporing community borehole chairperson Mr Edison Sesike said they were very happy for being gifted a borehole after government constructed a cordon fence along the river where they used to water their animals.

He concurred that amongst benefits they will get from the borehole, farmers would be able to control the movement of their livestock while at the same time getting affordable water for their livestock.

Mr Seske said they intended to take care of their borehole by hiring people who will amongst other things guard the solar panels.

Dr Sebina said the ministry intended to handover the boreholes to the concerned communities before the end of September.

BOPA
**Terata e thusa mo borukutlhing’**

Ka Aobakwe Molefi

**PHITSHANE MOLOPO**

Bogosi jwa Phitshane ga mmogo le sekgwa mme seo se direla bogosi go tswana ka Tlhareseleele go ya go tsena kwa Mabule, morago ga gore go nne le dipego tsa bolwelele jwa tlhako le molomo kwa South Africa.

Mogolwane wa sekgwa mme seo se fokotsa melato e e molapano tsa bone go tsena kwa Tlhareseleele go ya go tsena kwa Mabule, morago ga gore go nne le dipego tsa bolwelele le tle ka Tlhareseleele go ya go tshwara kana go dirisa mme e baakanngwe.

Ka Kehumile Moekejo

**JWANENG**

Mo go tse dingwe a re ba Phitshane ba tshwengwana ke melato ya ditteo e e diragang kwa marekisetsoang a majalwa a e a mo maluweng. O tshwale tsa bone la bone fa yo monnye a e ka moo lephata le tsereng go sesa a le tshwene la bone. O tshwale go botlhokwa go di tse ke ona le ka mome la bone go laureleng le bana le la bone la bone.

Ka Aobakwe Molefi

**FRANCISTOWN**

Lehlapa le tlaa thusa baithuthi le baberekile ka sekoalo

BOPA fa e le boikarabelo jwa lehlapa go botlhokwana go la bone go tsena kwa Mabule, morago ga gore go nne le dipego tsa bolwelele le tle ka Tlhareseleele go ya go tshwara kana go dirisa mme e baakanngwe.

Lehlapa le tlaa thusa baithuthi le baberekile ka sekoalo

BOPA fa e le boikarabelo jwa lehlapa go botlhokwana go la bone go tsena kwa Mabule, morago ga gore go nne le dipego tsa bolwelele le tle ka Tlhareseleele go ya go tshwara kana go dirisa mme e baakanngwe.

BOPA fa e le boikarabelo jwa lehlapa go botlhokwana go la bone go tsena kwa Mabule, morago ga gore go nne le dipego tsa bolwelele le tle ka Tlhareseleele go ya go tshwara kana go dirisa mme e baakanngwe.

BOPA fa e le boikarabelo jwa lehlapa go botlhokwana go la bone go tsena kwa Mabule, morago ga gore go nne le dipego tsa bolwelele le tle ka Tlhareseleele go ya go tshwara kana go dirisa mme e baakanngwe.

BOPA fa e le boikarabelo jwa lehlapa go botlhokwana go la bone go tsena kwa Mabule, morago ga gore go nne le dipego tsa bolwelele le tle ka Tlhareseleele go ya go tshwara kana go dirisa mme e baakanngwe.
Molaoedi o kopa tshwaragano go phepafatsa tororo

Ka Kehumile Moekejo

JWANG - Maphata ko go farolagana le morafe wa Jwangen ba botloediwshe go tshwaragana go phepafatsa tororo eo, e le ngwwe ya maiteko a go ipelela wena go dikagetswa go ditsopa go tlaa dikagetswe go lela tshwaragana le go amogana le morafe ka kakaretso go botlhe, ba akaretsa dikgwebo o ne a rotloetsa bana le seabe gore re kgone go di hapaanela le le didirisiwa ba di tlise ka kwano, o kopile gore re kgone go di hapaanela le le didirisiwa ba di tlise ka kwano, o kopile gore re kgone go di hapaanela le le didirisiwa ba di tlise ka kwano, o kopile.

A re go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole. A re go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole. A re go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole. A re go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole.

A re go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole. A re go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole. A re go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole. A re go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole go dira jalo go tlha tshwaragana le go hapatlole.
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MALE FARM WORKER WANTED. Work between 30 & 40 years old. Listed below are the requirements:
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- Knowledge of local farming practices
- Ability to work in a team
- Willing to relocate

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Block 3 Industrial
OFFICE TO LET
360sqm P20000.00, second floor

INTERESTED IN CHANGING

BUSINESS SERVICES
OFFICE TO LET Block 3 Industrial
360 sqm P20000.00, second floor

NOTE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
Master’s Reference: ESHG-000008/13

IN THE ESTATE OF Kgosholo Gaborone who died at Mafadi, Tlokweng, Botswana on the 29th day of April 1995

EXECUTOR DATIVE 
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within thirty (30) days after the publication hereof.

DATED at MOGODITSHANE on this 22 day of July 2024.

NOTE OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER TRIBAL LAND TO A NON-CITIZEN

IN terms of Section 34 (1) of the Tribal Land Act No.1 of 2018

NOTE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following proposed transaction to be entered into between:

PARTIES: TRANSFEROR: Johannes Chinhoni
TRANSFEREE: Fina Agro (Pty) Ltd

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:

- Common piece of land being Tribal Land No. 2102
- Located at Koma, Masippule in the Baneangwe Tribal Territory;
- Measuring 2406 m² (Two Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty-Six Square Meters);
- Held under a Memorandum of Lease Number 97/1995 dated 27th day of March, 1995;

SUBJECT TO:

- Conditions and reservations mentioned;

CONSIDERATION:

- RWP 2 000 000.00 (Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Pula only)

By virtue of this notice, any Batswana citizens interested in entering into a similar transaction in respect of Tribal Land noted above shall be given priority and any person wishing to object to the proposal, shall be given notice of his/her intention to object, with reasons thereof in writing to Masippule Sub-Landboard within thirty (30) days of publication of this notice.

DATED AT MOGODITSHANE this 30th day of August 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE 
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF the late MUNNA TSHAHOJE

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF JULY 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE RAPHAEL BOTLOHE

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF the late ARTHUR MOKOLO

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE ESTATE OF the late ANTONIO MBONE

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

CHANGE OF LAND USE

Tinkane Investments, owners of plot 6429 Francistown wish to change land use of their plot from mixed use to various uses as follows:
- Portion 1 & 3 (commercial)
- Portion 2 (civic & community)
- Portion 4, 5 and 6 (multi-family residential)

Any objections should be addressed to city of Francistown council physical planning department on 4141050 within 14 days of this publication.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

EMSF-000117-23

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF the late MARIA MOKPENDI

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

IN THE ESTATE OF the late RAPHAEL BOTLOHE

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

EMSF-000117-23

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF the late MOKOLO

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

IN THE ESTATE OF the late ANTONIO MBONE

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF the late ARTHUR MOKOLO

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

IN THE ESTATE OF the late MARIA MOKPENDI

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021

EXECUTOR DATIVE
JEREMIA TSHOTESO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT FRANCISTOWN

FINAL LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

EMSF-000104/12

IN THE ESTATE OF the late RAYMOND BOTLOHE

DATED: on the … day of … 2024

THE EXECUTOR
Keikaweke Kekkwepe

MISCELLANEOUS

APPLICATION FOR CHANGE

_OWNERSHIP_ Of Ownership. Owner of vehicle registration 6655 AVT intends to change ownership from studio 16559 (Pty) Ltd to Tawanda Wallen Manzendi. For any objections, contact Gaborone DRTS on 0912674 within 21 days of this publication notice.

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNERS OF SINGLE-family residential plot No. 6945, Maratabang Ward, Tlokweng, would like to erect a boundary wall and double storey house.

Any objections contact Tlokweng Physical Planning office on 3695000 within 14 days of this advertisement.

DANA PHENOY OF PLOT 233, Sekao ward Nata, wish to change use from residential to civic & community.

Anyone with objection must consult Tumtume District Physical Planning Office.

OWNER OF PLOTS 17210 and 17211 at Ramfurwa ward in Tlokweng wishes to inform the public and neighbours that she wants to consolidate the aforementioned plots and change them from residential to multi family residential use. Objection should be forwarded to Tlokweng Physical Planning office at 3695000 or 72 292 915.

VACANCIES

WINDOR WORLD: LOOKING for Technical Manager. Relevant degree +2 years experience. Tel: 3114339

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Successful candidate will be offered attractive packages commensurate with their qualifications and experience.

Applicants who meet the above criteria should send their application letter, Cv, and employment references before July 31st 2024 to:

The Managing Director
Bango Trading (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 501662
Gaborone
Tel: 3180276 / Fax: 3180278

SPOT ANNOUNCEMENT

Sechaba se bistezi gore go tlaabo gore le theki ka palapelo ko Gaborone West Supply Depot kwegi ya Phathe e thola malati ale marao (08/08/24) go fithea e thola malatle ale mane (04/08/24), nako le metsotso le masome a marao go tlogela nako ya boraborabedibedi mo mosong (08:30 am). Go tlaabo go leditlha Gaborone wa ba nang le Omang go reka.

Dilwana le theki di tla bonwa kwegi ya Phathe e thola letsaota (01/08/24) go fithea e thola malati a mabedi (02/08/24) nako le leseme le bongwe (11:30 am) go fithlea ka nako le metsotso le masome a marao go tlogela nako ya boraro mo tshokologo (15:30 pm).

Ela sheko: Godii abo Go Amogelwa Madi Ka Letsogo Fela.

Ditwe deka fela ka Maathwana go simolola ka nako ya masome a marao go tlogela nako ya boraborabedibedi (08:30 am) mo mosong go ema ka nako ya metsotso le masome a marao go tlogela nako ya boraro (15:30 pm).

Yours faithfully,
E.M. Chepate,
FOR DIRECTOR
Motlha releases Digalagala

By Bakang Wren

GABORONE – Renowned artiste Motlha Mompe, also known as Motlha, recently released a single titled Digalagala.

In an interview, BOPA on Monday, Motlha said the inspiration behind Digalagala was to blend diverse cultural influences and personal experiences, creating a unique sound.

Motlha said the reception of the single, since its release in July, had been overwhelmingly positive.

“Listeners have appreciated the blend of cultural influences and the celebratory vibe of the song. It has garnered attention for its unique sound and meaningful theme, which has been gratifying to see after putting so much effort into its creation,” he said.

Discussing the composition of the song, music producer Innocent Maenge, also known as Genhamour, explained that the creative process for Digalagala began with him making the beat.

He said Motlha then recorded the vocals, followed by Sebaga Rabantheng’s live saxophone performance.

“Tribal Tido handled the mixing and mastering to bring everything together,” he added.

Asked about the artists or genres that influenced the project, Genhamour explained that Digalagala was influenced by a blend of genres and artists. Genhamour said the Digalagala project’s sound reflected elements of traditional music, jazz from Sebaga’s saxophone, and modern beats, Amapiano originally from South Africa, showcasing various musical influences.

He added that the themes and messages in the single carried a recurring theme of unity and responsible celebration.

He emphasised the importance of coming together and celebrating diverse cultures in a meaningful and respectful way.

“As for what listeners would take away from the single, Genhamour said they would gain a sense of unity and appreciation for cultural diversity.

He said he hoped that listeners would feel the joy of responsible celebration and the beauty of blending different musical influences to create something unique.

As the producer, Genhamour said Digalagala held special meaning to him because it represented a fusion of diverse cultural elements and personal experiences.

“It’s a celebration of unity and creativity, reflecting my journey and passion for music,” he said.

Regarding the production process and challenges faced, he noted that the production involved several stages.

“It began with creating the beat, followed by Motlha recording the vocals, and Sebaga adding a live saxophone performance. Tribal Tido then handled the mixing and mastering,” he said.

One challenge they faced, he said was ensuring that all these elements blended seamlessly to create a cohesive sound, but the collaborative effort made it a rewarding experience.

Currently, he said, they were focusing on promoting Digalagala through social media, streaming platforms, and collaborations with influencers in the music scene.

While there are no specific tours or events planned at the moment, they are actively seeking opportunities to perform live and engage with fans to further promote the single.

At the time of his passing, Divas, as he was affectionately known to his circle of friends, was the chairperson of Bana ba Mmala Trust, the organising committee of Son of the Soil.

“He was a very enthusiastic individual with great ambition for the Son of the Soil brand. He was also keen on the promotion of culture and the heritage of Botswana, which is how Son of the Soil came to fruition,” said Bana ba Mmala Trust spokesperson, Tebegho Zebe.

Divas leaves when plans to celebrate SOTS’s 20th anniversary are underway, and was an important component of planning the celebrations. Zebe said his presence would be missed, describing him as the “chef taster.” He earned the nickname through the role he played of tasting traditional brews with charisma and pride.

Traditional brew is a popular highlight of Son of the Soil events, and “Divas would say, ‘Bo tlhotlhilwee,’ after tasting the brew and giving way to patrons to take the fruit,” noted Zebe.

Sydney ‘Boogie Sid’ N札la, who took over producing SOTS in 2022, described Divas as forward thinking, full of humility and compassion.

N札la said Divas was passionate about culture and that it was something he learned from him since meeting him in 2017 while working with him on SOTS production.

Kepaletswe founded Bana ba Mmala Trust in 2005 alongside other culture enthusiasts such as Kabelo Semale, Puso Pusoetsile, Tiro Sethate, Gase Thekiso and Felix Montgae. BOPA
Tebogo, Egner Team
Botswana flag bearers

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Sprinter, Letsile Tebogo and swimmer, Maxine Egner have been chosen as Botswana's flag bearers for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which starts tomorrow until August 11.

The pair joins the likes of Gilbert Khunwane, Khumiso Kgopeleng, Amanthe Motshe, Justice Dipeba, Rajab Ikgopoleng, Amantle Montsho, Gilbert Khunwane, Khumiso Mebodi and Stephen Kipchirchir,

Kupe said it was traditionally the practice of hoisting the nations flags first began at the ceremonies, which signified a new beginning and a celebratory chapter in the lives of the couple.

“Hopefully with the backing of other stakeholders, including government, we will be able to host successful relays come 2026, he said.

Furthermore, he said although they had also submitted a bid to host the 2026 Africa Senior Champions, which was won by Ghana, all was not lost as Botswana was given the right to host the 2028 edition.

Bantsi also said they did not host the Botswana Golden Grand Prix this year adding that they were hopeful that the race would be back next year.

On other issues, Bantsi said the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) had entered the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) had entered

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By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Team Botswana is prepared to leave nothing to chance at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which starts tomorrow until August 11.

Having sent a team of 14 athletes to compete in Paris Olympics, Botswana sports bodies decided to send three athletics coaches to help with athletics team, which has 12 athletes.

The team’s head coach is Chilume Ntshwarang, who will be assisted by Kebonyemodisa Mosimanyane while Justice Dipeba will be responsible for the relay team.

Team Botswana manager, who is also the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) vice president, Oabona Theetso, said Dipeba’s experience as an athlete and coach would help the country achieve its mission of winning medals at this year’s edition.

Patrick Moesi, who once travelled with the team in the past as a manager, said the decision to have three coaches in Paris was consistent with international best practices.

In some countries, he said personal coaches were made part of the national team to ensure continuity, as athletes would not be compelled to adjust to new coaches during competitions.

“The Botswana National Olympic Committee and the BAA should be commended for this initiative, as many slots should be dedicated to technical people to ensure that athletes derive the best assistance possible to perform,” he said.

Furthermore, Moesi said the three coaches were tried and tested and their combination should yield positive results.

He said the coaches had presided over Botswana’s best performances at major competitions, and he was confident that having them at the Olympics was a commendable move.

“The BAA has appointed arguably our best coaches and to have all of them at the same event gives us great hope,” he said.

He, however, said in as much as they appreciated the appointment of three coaches, more could have been done to cater for the four 800m runners in Paris.

He said a coach should have been appointed to help them or better still roped in the quartet’s personal coach.

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“Today’s high performance support is a sophisticated team effort and all factors need to be satisfied to ensure that an athlete performs optimally,” he said.

BOPA