

Business

Safari Air earns
reputation for excellence

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Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) Caretaker - Managing Director, Mr Oteng Mr Keabetswe (left) and Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana receiving the P43 million medicine consignment at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport on Saturday. The medicines, procured under the Unity Healthcare Fund will sustain national supply for the next three months, while government continues to secure additional deliveries to stabilise the situation. Photo: Tshoganetso Mokowe

Drug supplies restore hope

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Botswana has received a consignment of 36 tonnes of essential medicines procured from Dubai under the Unity Healthcare Fund.

The consignment comprise of over 82 life-saving medicines bought at over P43 million and will cover at least three months supply, while minimising the

risk of expired medicines and wastage.

Speaking at an event to mark arrival of the consignment in Gaborone on Saturday, Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) Caretaker - Managing Director, Mr Oteng Keabetswe disclosed that the purchase cost 10.9 per cent of the typical procurement price, which would had been over P400 million

under traditional channels.

"This move was not intended to cut off local medical suppliers," Mr Keabetswe clarified, noting that it was a well-planned intervention to ensure affordable healthcare for Batswana, especially during a period of urgent need.

The medicines include those for treatments of rising chronic conditions such as diabetes,

hypertension, and various forms of cancer. Mr Keabetswe praised the leadership for prioritising the health and lives of the people, describing the collaboration between government and private sector as life-changing.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Health, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana, reaffirmed the

government's unwavering commitment to prioritising the health of Batswana.

"The delivery marks more than just the arrival of medical supplies, it signals renewed hope and a pledge to ensure that no citizen is left behind when it comes to accessing healthcare," he said.

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Botswana battles NCDs despite HIV triumph

By Mooketsi Mojalemotho

FRANCISTOWN - Botswana has made significant progress in its efforts to provide excellent healthcare, particularly in the fight against HIV/AIDS, despite having one of the world's highest adult HIV prevalence rates at an estimated 20.8 per cent.

This was according to Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse, who was speaking at a recent Private Sector Forum in Francistown themed: Innovating for Impact: Public-Private Collaboration in Addressing Emerging Health Challenges.

Mr Ookeditse said Botswana had exceeded the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets ahead of schedule, with 95 per cent of people living with HIV knowing their status, 98 per cent of those on treatment and 98 per cent of those on treatment being virally suppressed.

However, the assistant minister noted that HIV remained the leading cause of premature death while co-infection with tuberculosis (TB) continued to strain the country's health sector.

The assistant minister told the forum that TB incidence was estimated at 143 cases per 100 000 people, with 42 per cent of cases linked to HIV.

He also highlighted the rise in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancers, which he said currently account for 40 per cent of hospital admissions and deaths.

"This trend requires a shift from the status quo of healthcare delivery and mobilisation of new resources," he said.

In addition, he pointed out that the high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among young people was due to treatment interruptions and behavioural risk factors.

"While great strides have been made in healthcare, there are still pockets of discrimination in the workplace against people living with HIV. Some are denied promotions, training opportunities or even employment," he said.

He added that young women and girls were also at risk of HIV infection due to factors like gender-based violence (GBV) and cultural barriers.

In light of such challenges, the Nata/Gweta lawmaker called on the private sector to collaborate with government to fight HIV/AIDS and other health issues.

He underscored the importance of establishing workplace wellness programmes for testing, TB screening, NCD checks as well as mental health support.

He added that adopting zero-discrimination policies and creating safe spaces for employees living with HIV

would help champion human rights.

Earlier, Business Botswana Coalition on AIDS (BBCA) chairperson, Mr Frank Phatshwane urged the private sector to collaborate with government and other stakeholders to combat HIV/AIDS and other emerging health challenges, including GBV.

"It is part of your responsibility to make sure the workforce is healthy and productive enough," he said.

On one hand, National AIDS & Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) senior research officer, Ms Matshelo Matlhaga presented on the national state of HIV/AIDS and acknowledged Botswana's successes, including exceeding the UNAIDS 95-95-95 target and reducing mother-to-child transmission to 1.18 per cent, which earned the country the WHO Gold Tier Certification.

Ms Matlhaga attributed the achievements to strong political commitment, community leadership and community-led action facilitated by Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs), among others.

Meanwhile, the forum also highlighted the need for innovative condom distribution channels to ensure easy access. A decline in consistent condom use among people with non-regular partners was also noted. **BOPA**

saying they needed P6 million to feed 39 primary schools in a term.

He highlighted that the council could not provide some food commodities due to insufficient budget.

He said failure to provide some food commodities would negatively impact the academic performance and overall wellbeing of the learners.

Some pupils especially from disadvantaged families, he said relied on food provided at the schools.

He said the council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng made the appeal during a stakeholder meeting in Maun on Thursday,



Letlhakeng District Council deputy chairperson, Mr Johane Gaosafelwe (left), chairperson, Mr Gordon Mokgwathi (centre) and council secretary, Mr Tsholofelo Molaodi during a recent council session. Mr Molaodi said the contractor, Mindbloom, engaged to construct destitute houses in Sesung and Metsibotlhoko disappeared after receiving the mobilisation fee.
Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

Council intends to terminate Mindbloom contract

By Mothusi Galekhutle

LETLHAKENG - Letlhakeng District Council letters of intent to terminate contract with Mindbloom have been issued.

The contractor was engaged by council to construct destitute houses in Sesung and Metsibotlhoko.

Addressing a full council meeting recently, Letlhakeng District Council secretary, Mr Tsholofelo Molaodi, the contractor disappeared with P8,321.40 mobilisation fee.

Mr Molaodi said despite multiple attempts by the council to contact

the contractor and enforce the contract were unsuccessful.

He further said the council would recover the mobilisation fee.

Mr Molaodi was responding to councillor, Mr Tshokodiso Raselepe of Sesung/Metsibotlhoko, who expressed concerns about the contractor, which received mobilisation fee and never reported for duty.

Regarding concerns raised by councillor, Mr Opaletswe Mogolwane of Letlhakeng South about delaying payments to Moleb, engaged by the council for maintaining Letlhakeng Primary

School, Mr Molaodi said the contractor had been slow on site.

He said the contractor requested three Extensions of Time (EoT) and the project remained unfinished.

He further mentioned that the contractor delayed approving the valued work after site valuations due to misunderstandings over certain items, which contributed to payment delays.

Meanwhile, councillor Mr Julius Tshaila from Dutlwe/Tshwaane emphasised the need to provide benches in the waiting area of Dutlwe Clinic and maintenance of the clinic toilets. **BOPA**

North West District Council appeals for help

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN – North West District Council have appealed to the business community to assist with the school feeding programme.

Following prevailing economic situation in the country, the council scaled down provision of some food commodities.

The council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng made the appeal during a stakeholder meeting in Maun on Thursday,

saying they needed P6 million to feed 39 primary schools in a term.

He highlighted that the council could not provide some food commodities due to insufficient budget.

He said failure to provide some food commodities would negatively impact the academic performance and overall wellbeing of the learners.

Some pupils especially from disadvantaged families, he said relied on food provided at the schools.

He said the council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng made the appeal during a stakeholder meeting in Maun on Thursday,



North West District Council chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng (left) and council secretary, Mr Thatayotlhe Balapi during a meeting with the business community in Maun recently. The council appealed to businesses to support the public schools feeding programme. Photo: Courtesy of North West District Council

Botswana receives vital medical consignment

...from page 1

Mr Ramaotwana noted that the consignment of essential medicines facilitated through the Unity Healthcare Botswana Partnership, was expected to ease shortages in hospitals and clinics across the country.

“We are affirming a solemn promise that the health of Batswana remains at the heart of our national development agenda. I have witnessed first-hand, the pain that medicine shortages bring to families, the uncertainty, the anxiety, the pressure on healthcare workers, this is why today’s milestone is

significant,” he said.

The minister explained that the initiative was part of a broader, long-term strategy to restore confidence in the healthcare system, protect lives, and align with Vision 2036 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

He emphasised that access to essential medicines was central to achieving Universal Health Coverage.

“It means our hospitals will not have to delay treatments, health workers can prescribe with confidence, and families will be spared the hardships that come with medicine shortages,” he said.

He assured that the medicines would be distributed swiftly, equitably, and transparently across all necessary facilities.

The minister also commended BDC and the Unity Healthcare Fund for their strategic partnership in the procurement process. **BOPA**

Aviation industry catalyst for economic development

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The aviation industry remains a strong catalyst for economic development in the region hence the need for Botswana to leverage on opportunities presented by the sector.

In a keynote address at the Aviation Pitso in Maun on Thursday, President Advocate Duma Boko highlighted the sector’s value and emphasised the need to bolster the country’s air transport infrastructure to ultimately boost tourism.

He said Botswana’s strategic location offered it a unique opportunity to become a hub for air traffic in Southern Africa which called for achieving a high level of connectivity and opening of new pathways.

He said increasing air traffic called for investing in infrastructure development and acknowledged that efforts were at an advanced stage to upgrade Maun International Airport with investment secured for that purpose.

“As a country, we have good qualities such as stable, credible and peaceful democracy which is highly rated and therefore attractive to foreign investment.

Some investors are highly thrilled to come here and as such we need to improve air transport as well as the service,” he said.

He also emphasised the need to do more to position the tourism market by opening new pathways to leverage the 300 000 tourists that visit Maun airport in a year by increasing the numbers to over one million.

In a bid to make the aviation sector competitive, he said it was critical to resolve a number of challenges, among them late departure of aircrafts and visa issues, and called upon stakeholders to engage and provide ambitious ideas that could unlock the industry’s potential.

“We need to resolve on existing challenges together and bring implementable strategies that will help propel industries to greater heights,” he added.

The President hailed the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana board for a job well done in transforming the organisation.

The board, he said revived the Authority into a high performing entity and wished the same could be done to Air Botswana to make it more profitable.

Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salakae said the Pitso reflected a collective commitment to elevating the aviation industry as an important pillar of national development.

Mr Salakae said the conference gave participants, the opportunity to engage meaningfully and consult on the role they should commit to in positioning the country as a viable aviation and tourism hub.

The ongoing facilitation of 14 Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreements, by various government key stakeholders, he said was testimony to commitment, citing that once the process was concluded, that would go a long way in facilitating air connectivity with the rest of the world, further opening Botswana’s skies to the world.

The Pitso was held under the theme: Unlocking Botswana’s Air Transport Potential: Enhancing Connectivity, Competitiveness, and Compliance. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and Bank of Botswana Governor, Mr Cornelius Dekop during the bank’s 50th anniversary celebration in Gaborone on Friday. President Boko said the golden jubilee marked not only the passage of time, but also the bank’s impact and influence on national economic development and progress. The milestone was highlighted by the unveiling of a commemorative P50 banknote featuring Olympic gold medalist, Letsile Tebogo and the 400m relay team, silver medalists. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

Bank of Botswana celebrates golden jubilee

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - Bank of Botswana (BoB) celebrated its Golden Jubilee in style by unveiling a commemorative P50 banknote that bears the portrait of Botswana’s Olympic gold medalist Letsile Tebogo and the 400m relay team silver medalists.

The limited-edition of the P50 banknote does not only honour the bank’s 50 years of service but pays tribute to the sprint sensation.

Giving a keynote address during the Bank’s 50 years anniversary celebrations in Gaborone on Friday, President Advocate Duma Boko thus extolled BoB as a key institution and anchor of the nation’s economic development since its establishment in 1975.

“We celebrate today, not just the passage of time, but importantly, the impact and the influence of the Bank of Botswana in national economic development and progress,” he said.

The President, therefore, said the occasion and milestone such as the golden jubilee challenged all to envision innovative ways through which the bank could deepen its impact in support of sustainable development and financial stability in pursuit of its mandate to contribute to national progress.

He said it was important to outline some of the elements that went into preserving the value of the national currency owing to

the critical role it played in the maintenance of price stability.

He highlighted that there were many benefits of price stability, but what was important was preservation of the value of incomes, adding that modest domestic price changes potentially enabled the domestic industries to be competitive in export markets and against imports.

Moreover, he said an effective and stable financial system enabled traction and beneficial use of government projects and programmes to generate progress in welfare and improvement of livelihoods.

President Boko stated that the banking sector in Botswana had grown and continued to provide key services, alongside being innovative and adaptive to global developments both in the domestic economic and social context.

“There is no doubt that the banking sector has proved to be one of the fastest growing non-mining sub-sectors, ever agile in adopting modern technological service delivery innovations to improve customer reach and convenience,” he said.

He further commended the role of Bank of Botswana in ably managing the foreign exchange reserves of the nation and implementing the exchange rate policy, noting that at their peak, the foreign exchange reserves amounted to almost 40 months of import cover as at December 31, 2001.

This judicious management by the Bank, he said included development of appropriate policies and guidelines and the careful choice of portfolio mandates and managers.

Subsequently, the President indicated that with improvements in the monetary policy framework and transmission capabilities, there were exclusive focus of the exchange rate policy toward maintaining price competitiveness of the domestic industry, particularly guarding against overvaluation that could undermine the domestic firms’ capability to compete in export markets and against imports.

He said the current crawling exchange peg rate framework that enabled regular adjustments of the crawl rate in line with the difference in inflation in Botswana, and in the trading partner countries, helped in the maintenance of domestic industry competitiveness, adding that the framework was enabled by availability of a sufficient level of foreign exchange reserves.

President Boko said in order to remain effective, the Bank must continually strengthen its facilitation role, regulatory effectiveness and supervisory capacity.

He further implored BoB to come up with transformative ideas during implementation of the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme as the country was currently responding to economic shocks and challenges. **BOPA**

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Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

FNBB records P1.9 billion profit

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) continues to balance strong financial results with social responsibility and deliver sustainable returns while creating meaningful impact for its clients and communities.

Announcing the bank's audited statements on Wednesday, FNBB acting chief financial officer, Mr Orapeleng Senwelo said the bank had recorded a significant P1.9 billion profit before tax for the year ended June 30.

Mr Senwelo attributed the strong performance, which represented a six per cent increase from the previous year, to the bank's disciplined approach to growth and its steadfast commitment to its clients, shareholders and the community.

The bank's financial highlights included net advances to customers which grew by 11 per cent to P20.6 billion, deposits closed at P26.5 billion, retail card swipes reached 18.1 million transactions, a 17 per cent increase as well as the e-wallet transactions which totalled 15 million.

Mr Senwelo also highlighted the bank's commitment to financial inclusion, noting a significant upsurge in the use of its CashPlus services. He said the CashPlus network, supported by 1 794 agents across every district in Botswana, processed 8.4 million transactions.

He added that the use of FNB Point of Sale (POS) machines also grew, offering clients free swipes for convenient and cost-effective banking.

For the financial year, he said the bank declared a final dividend of 15 thebe per share, following an interim dividend of 18 thebe per share, something he said had brought the total dividend payout to 33 thebe per share.

FNBB chief executive officer, Mr Steven Bogatsu said beyond financial performance, the bank reached over 800 000 people through various financial literacy, education, arts, sport and community empowerment initiatives.

"Our purpose is to make meaningful growth for the people and businesses of Botswana," said Mr Bogatsu.

He indicated that the CashPlus network had expanded to nearly 1 800 agents, serving over 400 000 clients nationwide, while the FirstPreneur programme had helped 146 entrepreneurs with mentorship and funding.

Meanwhile, FNBB economist, Mr Gomolemo Basele provided an economic outlook and reported that global conditions remained uncertain, with slower trade affecting many economies, including Botswana.

Locally, he said they projected that the diamond sector would face softer demand, which may weigh on growth.

He added that they also expected inflation to remain stable at around 3.2 per cent for the year, which was within the Bank of Botswana's target range.

Looking beyond 2025, he said they anticipated strong potential for growth through diversification into sectors like renewable energy, agriculture, manufacturing, finance and tourism.

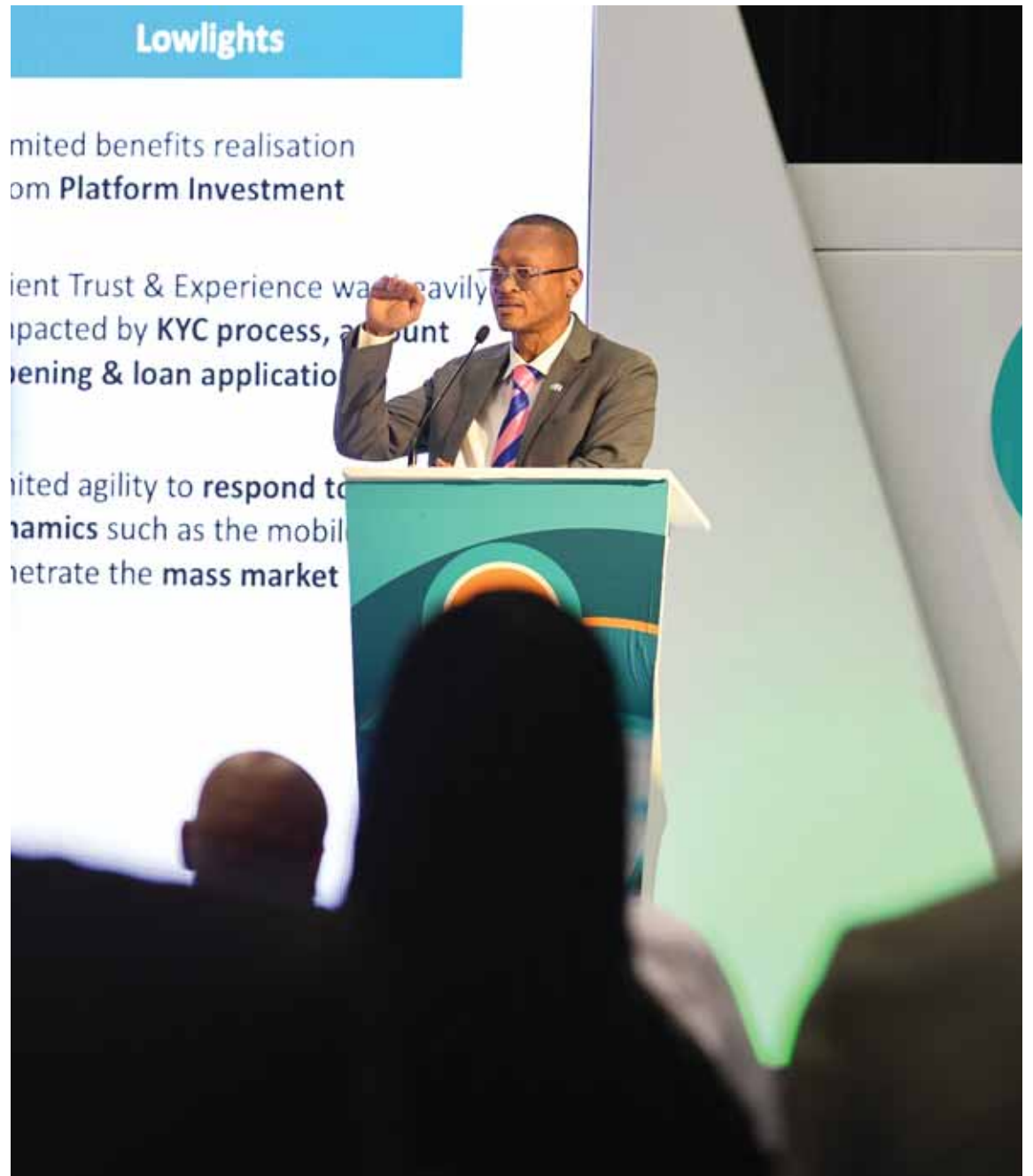
"By building on these opportunities, Botswana is well-positioned to create a more resilient and inclusive economy for the future," he said. **BOPA**

Lowlights

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First National Bank Botswana CEO, Mr Steven Bogatsu making a presentation at the bank's audited consolidated financial statements and dividend for the year ended June 30 in Gaborone on Wednesday. He said beyond recording a P1.9 billion profit before tax, the bank had reached over 800 000 individuals through initiatives in financial literacy, education, arts, sport and community empowerment.

Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

Safari Air earns reputation for excellence

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Founded in 1991 as a subsidiary of Chobe Holdings, Safari Air continues to thrive, empower youth, move the economy forward and support the tourism sector.

With a fleet of 12 aircrafts that include seven Cessna Grand Caravans plus five GA8 Air vans, and a combined asset value of over P180 million, the company connects the remote and pristine corners of Botswana with safe, reliable and stylish air travel.

"We need to see growth in the aviation sector. What Safari Air is doing is exactly what we want, our skies are busy, a thriving aviation sector that contributes to the overall economy," said Hospitality and Tourism Association Botswana (HATAB) board chairperson, Mr Joe Motse during a welcome cocktail, a precursor to the Aviation Pitso that took place in Maun on Thursday.

The thanked Civil Aviation

Authority of Botswana (CAAB) for hosting the event in Maun saying the area was the capital city of the aviation industry citing due the number of flights in and out of Maun International Airport when compared to most airports around Southern Africa.

Mr Motse said the take offs and landings that happened on a daily basis far exceeded some of the landings and take-offs that were around Southern Africa and appreciated Safari Air and other operators that contributed to make the dream come true.

He said Botswana was faced with challenge to diversify from diamonds but, Maun had its own diamond that it needed to export and expand beyond Botswana.

By so doing, he said the country, would be able to increase employment, generate revenue and get investors to Botswana to grow the economy.

Mr Motse was hopeful that during the Aviation Pitso, stakeholders would learn a lot and share ideas on how to grow the

aviation industry in Botswana.

Earlier on sharing their journey in the aviation space, Safari Air managing director, Mr Waynard Van Niekerk informed the gathering that their mission had always been to connect the remote and pristine corners of Botswana with safe, reliable and stylish air travel noting that primarily, they served their sister companies; Desert & Delta Safaris and Ker & Downey Botswana, two of the most respected names in the safari and ecotourism industry.

Currently, he said they were in the process of upgrading their Air Operator Certificate (AOC) to enable them to operate twin-engine aircraft.

The strategic move would enhance their training capabilities, improve operational flexibility, and allow them to better serve both their internal and external clients.

"We recognise that the future of aviation lies in skill development. That is why Safari Air is preparing to lease a high-performance twin

aircraft to train young pilots. This initiative will ensure that pilots leave Safari Air after six years with the full skill set to move into commercial airlines, ready, capable, and world-class," he added.

Mr VanNiekerk also highlighted that they also provided third-party flying services, extending their reach beyond their group and supporting the broader tourism and aviation sectors.

He stated that the company was deeply committed to citizen empowerment stating that of their 53 staff members, 52 were Batswana and that all their pilots were citizens.

"This is not just statistics but is a reflection of our values. We believe in investing in people and our localisation plan ensures that every employee is given the opportunity to grow, to lead, and to thrive.

Promotions are earned from within, and mentorship is a cornerstone of our culture," he said. **BOPA**

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each

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per pack



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10 kg +
Crosse & Blackwell
Tangy Mayonnaise
750 g +
All Gold Tomato Sauce
700 ml +
Savemor Cooking Oil
2 litre +
Pasta Grande 3 kg or
Farm Foods Macaroni 3 kg

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each

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700 ml, SPAR Mayonnaise Tangy Original
750 g, SPAR Macaroni, or Spaghetti
500 g

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per combo

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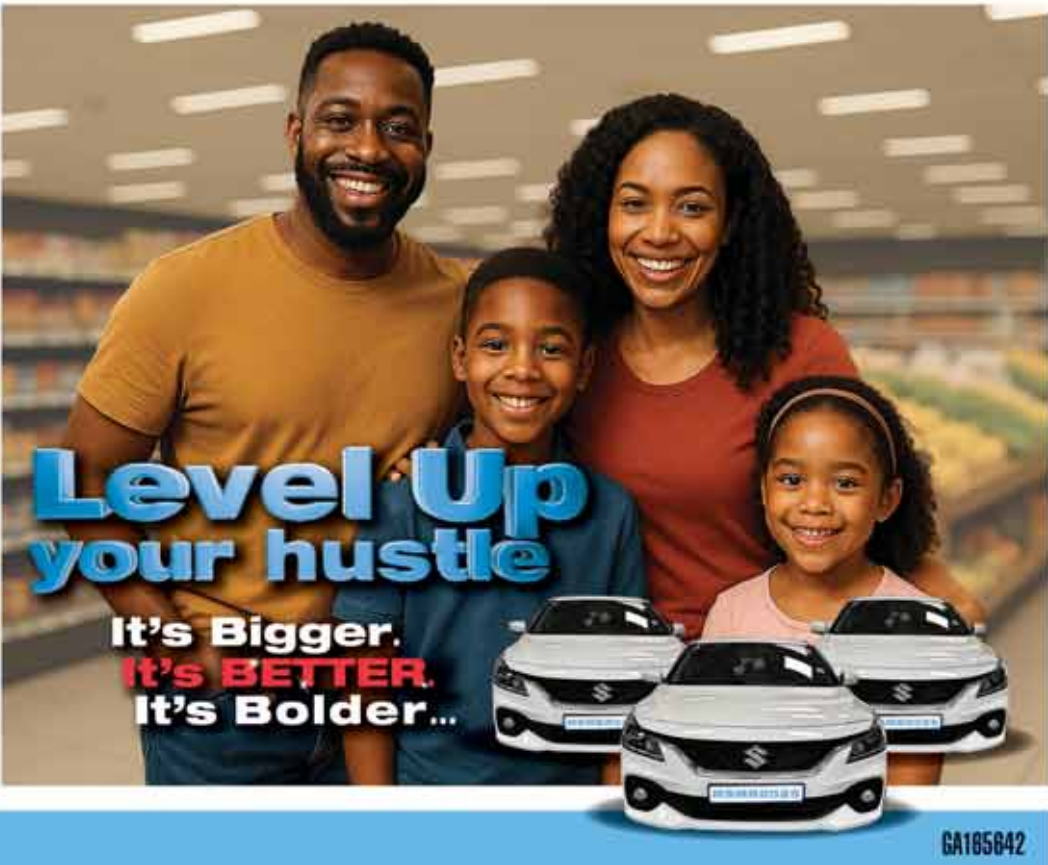
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A1 Super Maize Meal 12.5 kg

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SPAR White or Brown Sugar 5 kg

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Blue Crystal White Sugar 5 kg

78⁹⁵ each



Spekko Long Grain Parboiled Rice 10 kg

116⁹⁵ per pack



Champion Samp 10 kg

91⁹⁵ each



SPAR Mabele Fine Sorghum 10 kg

89⁹⁵ each



Bokomo White or Brown Bread Flour 5 kg

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Champion Sorghum 5 kg

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Ba Matsibi ba lela ka lenyora

Ka Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN - Banni ba Matsibi gaufi le motse wa Toteng mo kgaolong ya bokone bophirima ba ikuetse mo pusong go ba thusa ka tharabololo ya letlhoko la metsi le le sa ba jeseng diwelang.

Ba ikuetse jalo mo phuthengong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Maun Bophirima, Rre Caterpillar Hikuama ka Laboraro. Ba supile fa ba tshelela mo lenyoreng le le

botlhoko ka jalo ba kopa puso go ba epela sediba go rarabolola seemo seo.

Leloko la komiti ya ditlhabololo tsa motse go tswa kwa Komana, Rre Abraham Ngombe o supile fa seemo sa metsi mo Matsibi ele se se ngomolang pelo a tlatsa ka gore banni ba tlamega go tsamaya mesepele e melelele ba latela metsi kwa metseng e gaufi.

O kopile puso go akanyetsa morafe wa Matsibi ka go ba gokelela sediba e le tsela ya go

tokafatsa matshelo a bone.

Mo dikganyeng tse dingwe, Rre Ngombe o boletse fa palo ya babereki ba Ipelegeng e le kwa tlase mo Matsibi, ka jalo a kopa gore e okediwe go fokotsa letlhoko la ditiro le go tokafatsa matshelo a banni.

O tlhalositse fa letlhoko la ditiro le baka dikgotlhang mo malwapeng ka jaana go a bo go sena letseno.

Mongwe wa bagodi, Rre Kadindi Moshate o ngongoregile ka gore ba latela madi a bogodi kgakala, mme a kopa puso go lbaleba gore e ka seke e ba atumeletse dikamogelo tsa bone kwa ba leng teng.

O tswelletse a re bagodi ga ba akole lemnenyana la bone ka jaana le felela mo ditshenyegelong tsa dipalamo go ya kwa go amogelelwang teng.

“Kgang e ya go latela dikamogelo kgakala e re paledisa go akola madi a rona sentle, ka jalo ke ikuela mo pusong go e tsibogela,” a tlatsa jalo.

Fa a tsibogela dilelo tsa banni, Rre Hikuama o tlhalositse fa lefelo leo, le ise le tlhomamisiwe semmuso go nna motse, ke ka moo banni ba sa kgoneng go akola ditlamelo le ditlhabololo sentle.

A tlhalosa fa puso e tla tswelela e sekaseka seemo se, go bona gore go ka tokafadiwa jang, segolo bogolo gore ba kgone go bona metsi.

Rre Hikuama o ne gape a dumalana le morafe gore ga ba a tshwanela go tsamaya sekgele se seleele go tsaya dikamogelo tsa bone, mme a supa fa atla lebisa kgang e, ba ba maleba, go bona gore bagodi ba ka thusiwa jang

go ba kgaolela mosepele.

Mokhanselara wa kgaolo ya Toteng, Rre Petros Mbaeva o tshepitsitse banni fa melatsa ya Ipelegeng e tla duelwa mo nakong e khutshwane ka jaana khansale e kgonne go bona madi.

Bosheng modulasetilo wa khansale ya bokone bophirima, Rre Itumeleng Kelebetseng o ne a supa fa khansale e bonye P32 million, madi a tla ba kgontshang go duela melala ya Ipelegeng go fitlha ngwaga ono o ya fifying.

Mo godimo ga moo, o ne a supa fa khansale e dirisa P5.4 million kgwedi le lekgwedi mo lenaneong la Ipelegeng.

O boletse gape fa khansale e sa tlhole e fiwa madi jaaka pele ka ntlha ya letlhoko la madi le le aparetsefeng lefatshe, ke ka moo ba sa kgoneng go diragatsa ditiro dingwe.**BOPA**

Ga ba itumelele go kgaolwa mo dithusong tsa batlhoki

Ka Kehumile Moekejo

SESE - Banni ba Sese ba ngongoregetse gore khansale ya Mabutsane e fokoditse dipalo tsa ba ba thusiwa ka mananeo a a farologanyeng a ofisi ya boipelego.

Ngongora e, e dule kwa phuthengong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Jwaneng/Mabutsane, Rre Omphemetse Kwapa bosheng. Banni ba tlhalositse fa tshwetso eo e imetsa malwapa a a dikobo dikhutshwane.

Mongwe wa batsena phuthego, Mme Galaletsang Mokala a re go kgaola bana ba masiela mo dithusong tsa boipelego go a ba babalela ka jaana go sena ditiro tsa go ba tshetsa. A re bontsi jwa bone ba bereka lenaneo la Ipelegeng, mme le yone ga e kgone ka gore ba bantsi, ba bereka ka go hapaana.

O tlhalositse gore dithuso tsa baithuti ba ba dikobo dikhutshwane di a diega, mme seo se kgoreletse dithuto tsa bone.

Mme Tuna Ntshakisang ene o nkopile gore puso e sekaseke tshwetso ya go fokotsa bana ba masiela, a re seo ke bosetlhogo mo malwapeng a a setseng le bana. “Re kopa gore puso e sekaseke ditshwetso tse ka ponyo ya leitlho ka gore re tshwere bothata,” Mme Ntshakisang a tlhalosa.

Mogolwane wa ofisi ya boipelego wa kgaolo ya Mabutsane, Mme Onalenna Kaboeamodimo o ne a supa fa go na le mabaka a le mmalwa a a lebelelwang fa go dirwa tshekatsheko ya dithuso tsa boipelego.

O rotloeditse morafe go bala molao wa bana, o o tlhalosang fa boikarabelo jwa go tlhokomela bana bo le mo maruding a batsadi ka bobedi. “Molao wa bana o tlhalosa gore ngwana

ke wa batsadi ba babedi, ba nyalane kgotsa ba sa nyalana ka jalo, botlhe ba tshwanetse go tsaya boikarabelo ba tlhokomela ngwana,” Mme Kaboeamodimo a tlhalosa.

Le fa go ntse jalo, o supile fa go sa tshwanela gore bana ba ka kganelwa go tseenelela dithuto fa ba sena ditsompelo di tshwana le paka ya sekole. A re batsadi ba tshwanetse go tshwaraganela dikgang tse le ba ofisi ya boipelego, go batla tharabololo gore bana ba tswelalele le dithuto.

Mme Kaboeamodimoa a re le fa a amogela gore morero wa go kgaola batho bangwe ga o a sala tsamaiso morago, go botlhokwa gore ba ise dingongora tsa bone kwa khanseleng gore di sekasekwe.

A re ele ba boipelego ba rotloetsa gape gore batho ba ba thusiwang ka mananeo a a farologanyeng ba nne ba iponatsa kwa diofising morago ga sebaka se se riling go netefatsa gore ke nnete ba a tshela. A re go dira jaana ke go netefatsa gore madi a puso ga a wele ka motlhobodika ebile ga gona diphatlha dipe tsa go tsietsa.

Modulasetilo wa khansale ya Mabutsane, Rre Tuelo Zulu o ne a tlhalosa mo phuthengong ya bofelo ya khansale kgwedi e e fetileng gore madi a a ntshitsweng go thusa batlhoki mo ngwageng eno ya madi a mannye, ka jalo a rotloetsa gore ba ba itekanetseng ba tseye mananeo a tshwana le la Wealth Creation go imolola sekgwama sa boipelego.

O ne a tlhalosa gore mo bogompienong, khansale e kwadisitse batlhoki ba le sekete, makgolo a mane le lesome le botlhano (1415) le bana ba ba dikobo dikhutshwane ba le makgolo a marataro, masome a supa le motso ba ba tlhokang dithuso tsa ga mmaboipelego.**BOPA**



Babereki ba tshwere ka natla mo madirelong a kgwebo ya magala kwa Kuke mo kgaolong ya Ghanzi bosheng. Mookamedi wa madirelong ao, Rre Kealeboga Mosobea o tlhalositse fa ba simolotse go dira monogwaga ka Moranang, mme ba kgonne go thapa babereki ba le masome a marataro le boferabongwe. A re ba bone mmara kwa Palestine le Jordan, ka jalo, a kopa puso go ema dikgwebo tsa magae nokeng, go kgona go tsosolosa itsholelo. Senepe: Malebogo Lekula

Kgorogo ya melemo e tsisa tsholofelo

Ka Gaboselwe Olesitse

SELEBI PHIKWE - Mothusa molaodi wa toropo ya Selebi Phikwe Mme Itani Mathumo o galaleditse go goroga ga melemo le di dirisiwa tse dingwe tse di botlhokwa tsa botsogo mo sepateleng se setona sa Selebi Phikwe ga mmogo le kwa dikokelwaneng tse di mo toropong eo.

O buile jalo bosheng jaaka a ne a amogela melemo le di dirisiwa tsa botsogo kwa sepateleng sa Selebi Phikwe, a re maiteko a puso e a dirileng go gorosa melemo morago ga gore go nne le selelo sa khuranyo ya meno ka mabaka a tlhalelo ya melemo ke tema e e kgatlhisang.

A re se se fa balwetsi ka go farologana le banni ba toropo eo tsholofelo mo go tsa botsogo morago ga gore go nne le ketsaetsego e neng ya bakiwa ke

mabaka a tlhalelo ya melemo le dingwe di dirisiwa tsa botlhokwa.

Mme Mathumo a re puso e beile dikeletso tsa Batswana tsa botsogo jo bo kgatlhisang ko pele ka jalo e tla tswelala e dira ka gotlhe gore ditlamelo tsa botsogo di a goroga mo setshabeng e bile di akolwa ke botlhe. O ne a akgola badiri ba botsogo ka go farologana, a tlhalosa fa tlhalelo ya melemo le di dirisiwa e ne ya seka ya ba kgoba marapo go isa dithuso ka botswapelo.

Mogolwane yo o abang melemo ya dikokelwana tsa toropo ya Selebi Phikwe kwa mabeelong a melemo a Tapologo Warehouse, Rre Herman Poster le ene o galaleditse kgorogo ya melemo ka go farologana ga mmogo le di dirisiwa tse dingwe.

A re mabeelo a Tapologo a amogetse dibokoso di le lekgolo le masome a supa le metso e robabongwe a melemo ka go

farologana. A re melemo e tla a kgaoganngwa dikokelwana tsa toropo ya Selebi Phikwe di le supa go ya ka letlhoko la kokelwana nngwe le nngwe. A re melemo e gorogile ka nako e e maleba ka jaana go ne go sa tlhole go na le sepe go fepa balwetsi ka botswapelo.

Mogolwane wa baoki kwa kokelwaneng ya Tapologo, Mme Tengan Nkhwa yo a neng a bua boemong jwa mokwaledi wa toropo ya Selebi Phikwe, o supile fa kgorogo ya melemo e tla tokafatsa go isa ditirelo tsa botsogo kwa sechabeng.

A re le fa ba ne ba itemogela tlhalelo ya melemo, balwetsi ba ba etelang dikokelwana ba kopa dithuso tsa botsogo ka go farologana ba ne ba seke ba bowa ba sa fiwa thuso e e nametsang. A re badiri ba botsogo ba ne ba dira ka gotlhe, sengwe se a se akgotsefeng go menagane.**BOPA**

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George redefines creative boundaries

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - At just 28 years old, Charlotte George is proving that creativity truly knows no bounds. The young artist behind the rising brand, Her Workshop, is carving a niche for herself by turning everyday items into works of art. From drawing intricate designs on clothes, shoes, and buildings, to pencil-drawn portraits and digital creations such as imaginative comic strips and sculptures, George is steadily making her mark in the

art world. Her journey comes as no surprise. From winning art competitions in primary school, to excelling as the best designer in her architecture classes at the University of Botswana, to collecting multiple certificates of appreciation for participating in various art activities, George has blazed a clear trail of talent and dedication. For her, art is limitless. "It should be wild, unruly, and chaotic. It should always express what is in the mind," she said, adding that her inspiration came

from Jean-Michel Basquiat, the American painter known for his neo-expressionist, graffiti-like images. Still, the path has not been without its challenges. George admits that the lack of proper platforms for visual artists, limited exhibitions, and difficulties in marketing her work have often slowed her progress. "TikTok has been a great platform to showcase my work, along with other social media spaces," she said, noting that many of her clients who commission clothing and shoe customisation discovered her there. This, she explained, has helped sustain her livelihood. Looking ahead, George's ambitions are bold. "My vision is to have a fully equipped workshop and become a household name in art. I won't stop until I get there," she said with determination. **BOPA**



Charlotte George



Charlotte George said her vision was to have a fully equipped workshop and become a household name in art. Photos: Courtesy of Charlotte George



Cresta Maun launches riverside dinner experience

By Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

MAUN - Cresta Marakanelo has officially launched its Cresta Maun Riverside Dinner Experience, a commitment to hospitality innovation and sustainable tourism growth in Maun. Cresta Marakanelo managing director, Mokwena Morulane, regarded the move as a way aligning with the changing traveler preferences and economic realities. The riverside dinner experience and leisure excursions along the Thamalakane River Morulane reckoned, would play a key role in retaining tourists in Maun, encouraging them to spend more within the area rather than viewing it as just a transit point to the Okavango Delta.

"Our goal is to turn Maun into a destination, not just a gateway by introducing activities like boat cruises, curated experiences, and unique dining under the stars, creating reasons for tourists to stay longer and explore more," he said. Morulane said that with government coffers under pressure, the hospitality industry must take proactive steps to remain sustainable and explained that businesses like Cresta needed to explore income-generating ideas that not only supported their operations but also contributed to job creation for the local community. He said that Cresta had collaborated with Moremi Game Reserve to create travel packages for its guests, making it easier

for tourists to access both luxury accommodation and wildlife experiences in one offering. "These partnerships are key in extending our reach and providing value-added experiences to our clients and getting people to learn about our culture along the way," he said, emphasising the need to revamp the hospitality sector into a more sustainable and culturally rooted industry. The future of tourism lies in aligning modern hospitality with the preservation and celebration of local identity, Morulane said, acknowledging that travelers today were increasingly seeking experiences that were not only luxurious but also meaningful and authentic. Rich in cultural heritage, Maun

has the potential to offer unique experiences that reflect the traditions, values, and stories of its people. "We need to move beyond just offering rooms and meals but rather we should be telling stories, preserving traditions, and immersing our guests in the soul of Maun," he said. Moreover, Morulane stressed that sustainability must be central to transformation, with eco-friendly operations, responsible tourism practices, and community involvement playing key roles in shaping the industry's future. Industry players in attendance applauded the initiative, as a commitment to revitalising Botswana's tourism sector. A guest, Lebogang Mopalo,

praised the initiative, noting that the innovation added value not only to Cresta's offerings but also elevated Maun's appeal as a complete tourist destination. "The dinner experience was exceptional and a much needed air breather that elevates ones mood especially with nature's ambience on the background," she said. She added that with these bold moves, Cresta Maun positioned itself as not just a place to stay, but a destination that offered authentic, immersive and sustainable tourism. "As Botswana works to diversify its economy through tourism, initiatives like this are paving the way for more resilient, community-driven, and culturally aware hospitality experiences," said Mopalo. **BOPA**

World Athletics honours Bantsi

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana continues to make strides in the world of athletics, from track to administration.

Botswana Athletics Association, president Moses Bantsi who is currently seconded to the World Relay Gaborone 26 as the chief executive officer was presented with a Plaque of Merit on Friday, during the World Athletics 55th Congress held in Tokyo.

According to World Athletics, a Plaque of Merit is an award

presented to an individual from each of the six continental areas at a World Athletics Congress, recognising exceptional and meritorious service to the sport of athletics on a global scale.

It acknowledges contribution to the sport's development and history, particularly through outstanding contribution to the worldwide history and development of the sport of track and field athletics and of out of stadia athletics disciplines like road running, cross country and race walking.

Bantsi becomes the first athletics administrator in Botswana to be honoured

with the award.

"I trust Batswana in general, they are one nation that is talented. If they are given an assignment, they do it with gusto and diligence," said Bantsi in an interview.

He saw the award as an indication that Batswana were capable and could be entrusted with any task.

Not only that, Bantsi said the recognition was a morale booster for him since the country was preparing for the World Relay to be hosted in Gaborone, May next year.

Bantsi was recognised for his exceptional leadership in African athletics, for more than three decades.

According to world athletics, Bantsi as a former president and council board member of the Confederation of African Athletics, and current long serving member of BAA, had played a key role in elevating athletics in the region.

Under his guidance, Botswana successfully secured the hosting rights for

the 2026 World Athletics Relays, marking the first time the event will be held in Africa, and the 2028 CAA Senior Championships. **BOPA**

Botswana Athletics Association president, Moses Bantsi, who is currently seconded to the World Relay Gaborone 26 as the chief executive officer, was presented with a Plaque of Merit on Friday, during the World Athletics 55th Congress in Tokyo.



BNSC marketing and communications manager, Anderson Nlisana has expressed confidence in the progress of the National Stadium track refurbishment and assured the public that the project would be completed in time for the World Athletics Relays to be held in Gaborone in 2026. Photo: Gothusang Lesego



BNSC confident of track upgrade progress

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - The National Stadium track refurbishment is said to be on the right track and expected to be delivered on the set date.

The Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) has expressed confidence in the progress of the works and reassured the public that the project is firmly on schedule.

"We are pleased with the speed and quality of the work being done. We are confident that we will finish on time and hand over the stadium to the World Relays Gaborone 2026 secretariat well ahead of the event," said BNSC's Marketing and Communications Manager, Anderson Nlisana in a recent interview with BOPA.

The National Stadium was closed in July 2025, to undergo comprehensive upgrades to meet the World Athletics standards and to ensure that it is ready to host one of the most prestigious events on the global athletics calendar, World Relays, carrying over 1000 international elite athletes.

Initial plans had been to refresh only the top blue layer of the running track, however, following a thorough assessment by the engaged consultant, it was discovered that the black layer beneath the surface had been compromised by water seepage during the initial refurbishment early this year.

This caused the black layer not to bond properly to the concrete base, raising concerns about the long-term durability and safety of the track, an aspect the BNSC did not want to leave hanging.

However, Nlisana further said to guarantee that athletes competed on a world-class track, the consultant recommended full removal and replacement of the black layer.

This, he said would ensure that the surface met the high standard required by World Athletics and provided the safest and

most competitive environment possible. Alongside the track refurbishment, he said major works had been done on the stadium's floodlights.

Nlisana said for the World Relays, the lighting was required to function at about 2000 lux, significantly higher than what was needed for football matches or entertainment events.

Furthermore, he said to meet the requirement, each floodlight had been upgraded from 36 bulbs to 42, ensuring optimal visibility for athletes, officials, and broadcasters from around the world.

This, Nlisana noted would also ensure that the BNSC had met the minimum required lighting capacity for the auspicious event.

Nlisana acknowledged that the temporary closure of the stadium may have caused inconvenience to sport clubs, athletes, and event organisers who relied on the facility, but stressed that this sacrifice was necessary for the bigger ultimate goal.

"This is more than just maintenance, it is an investment in the future of Botswana sport. We are asking Batswana to rally behind us, to be patient, and to support this national project as we prepare to welcome the world in 2026," he said.

Meanwhile, the World Athletics Relays are scheduled for May 2026 and will bring together elite athletes from across the globe. Hosting the event will put Botswana on the international sporting map, attract visitors, boost local tourism, and inspire the next generation of athletes.

As the work continues, BNSC remains committed to ensuring that the stadium is ready to showcase Botswana's capability to host a world-class sporting event, one that the nation can be proud of.

Until then, the Botswana National Stadium will remain closed to all activities to allow contractors to complete the work safely and efficiently. **BOPA**