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President Advocate Duma Boko (second left) being taken on a tour of TATAKI Mine during the mine official opening in Matsiloje on Tuesday. President Boko said the re-opening of the mine would create employment, revive the economy and improve people’s livelihoods. He further requested mine officials to adhere to the living wage of P4,000. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

TATAKI Mine spurs growth

By Mooketsi Mojalemotho

FRANCISTOWN - Global Critical Resources Corporation (GCR), who are the owners of the TATAKI Mine, plans to invest P2.66 billion (US\$200 million) into the mine over the next 10 years, including P665.48 million (US\$50 million) in the first 18 months to increase production levels.

The entity projects to generate over P55.9 billion (US\$4.2 billion) in revenue and contribute a 1.5 per cent increase in annual GDP to Botswana.

It is for these reasons that President Advocate Duma Boko welcomed the agility and tenacity of negotiators to ensure that TATAKI Mine, formerly Tati Nickel mine, was opened after an eight-year hiatus, which would help improve people’s livelihoods

through employment creation and breathe life into the country’s ailing economy.

Speaking at the commissioning of TATAKI Mine on Tuesday in Matsiloje, North East District, President Boko said reopening the facility would also help push the country to the desired 6.8 per cent to take the economy out of the woods.

Other than the 300 direct jobs that the poly metallic mine would create, President Boko relayed that about 3 000 indirect jobs and other potentialities that included treated water, crushed rocks that would be used as aggregates for road construction, were welcome developments that would spur improved livelihoods and growth.

The high-tech that the mine would use to augment human capabilities, according to the President, would mean people

would be up-skilled, rendering highly trained personnel for the country.

He said despondency and despair that had engulfed Batswana due to the prevailing economic dire straits called for those at the helm of governance to think and draw conclusions quickly.

President Boko said the unfavourable economic situation of Botswana left no room for sloppiness by those charged with decision-making if resurgence was to be achieved.

“People want solutions now and not tomorrow. It is therefore our responsibility as leaders to provide answers to these pressing problems they are facing on a day-to-day basis.”

Also, President Boko said investors did not have the latitude to go out of their way to mobilise

resources only for people entrusted with stewardship to employ a laissez-faire attitude in today’s dog-eat-dog business environment.

He relayed that the unprecedented rate of unemployment, especially among the youth who accounted for the majority of the population and were educated, called for swift decision-making because the 3.8 per cent economic growth realised by Botswana in the last decade had failed to create job opportunities for the citizens.

Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo was equally pleased that the commissioning of the resource had finally taken place, following the closure in 2016.

“The fervency with which the government took to the negotiations that paved the

way for reopening was truly a reflection of the dire need for employment opportunities for Batswana.”

Through ventures such as TATAKI Mine, Minister Kenewendo said the government intended to increase the contribution of both critical minerals and base metals to its mining output and the overall economic growth of the country, which would make Botswana the investors’ number one choice.

It is to this end that her ministry was on the verge of ‘The Minerals Resource Development, Exploration, Exploitation and Value Chain Strategy’ to ensure more was derived from the country’s rich mineral resources through value addition.

Councillors adopt municipal bond initiative

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - The North West District Council has adopted a municipal bond initiative with the hope of enhancing its financial independence through innovative avenues such as public-private partnerships and investments in income-generating assets.

Councillors unanimously supported the programme following a presentation on Monday by the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa and officials from the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE).

They all underscored the need for the council to develop creative ways of raising revenue.

BSE officials briefed the council on the proposed bond structures and how they worked owing to an existing appetite from investors to support councils.

They also learned that their ministry fully supported the initiative, with the BSE providing technical support and capacity building to help councils achieve fiscal sustainability to deliver social development and transformative infrastructure.

“This initiative came at the right time as government is making efforts to transform the economy.

We believe that the bond will help us as a council to generate more revenue and eventually implement development and provide quality services to our communities,” said specially-nominated councillor, Mr Kedibonye Kgari.

Cllr Petrus Mbaeva of Toteng ward also acknowledged that tapping into the programme would help them generate better revenue and carry out developmental projects within their jurisdictions through innovative and sustainable funding.

He said they would reduce their dependency on government by undertaking sustainable infrastructure projects that would also generate more money.

Cllr Busang Letshabo of Boro-Senonnori ward called on the council to speed up the establishment of the company so they could benefit from the initiative.

Earlier, Minister Motshegwa urged the council to consider collaborating with the BSE, noting that government was gradually working to reduce its financial support to local authorities.

Such commitment, he said, highlighted the need for councils to adopt proactive approaches

to maximise and diversify their revenue streams.

The minister explained that the Local Government Act of 2012 (CAP 40:01), empowered councils to establish entities, trusts and other organs to facilitate service delivery.

He added that in light of persistent financial constraints, the ministry had observed that several councils had responded by establishing business entities to supplement their income.

He also stated that a council had the power to do anything and enter into any transaction which, in its opinion, was calculated to facilitate proper discharge of any function conferred or imposed upon it by the Act or any other law.

Furthermore, the minister indicated that Sections 63 and 64 outlined permissible revenue-generation mechanisms available to councils, noting that the ministry had been facilitating

innovative approaches to enhance financial sustainability within local authorities.

“A notable development is the ongoing collaboration between the Gaborone City Council and BSE. This partnership was formalised through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on August 12,” he said.

Mr Motshegwa added that following such a milestone, the ministry coordinated a platform for the BSE to present the initiative to the leadership of all local authorities, including council chairpersons, mayors and executive officers.

“This also recognises that there are other ongoing initiatives to establish private companies by various local authorities as a means of coming up with creative ways of raising revenue,” he added.

He further noted that the central government had been funding almost over 90 per cent of the

recurrent budget and 100 per cent of the development budget.

“This reliance on central government funding has made it difficult for local authorities to fully implement their development plans and carry out operational activities, which has severely affected quality service delivery to the people,” he said.

Also, he said the initiative complemented their commitment to urban transformation, saying cities were not merely administrative zones, but engines of innovation, economic productivity and cultural development, as referenced by the recently launched City Tourism initiative.

“We shall continue to provide the regulatory backing and policy and legislative alignment necessary to facilitate the implementation of municipal bonds and other innovative financing instruments,” he said. **BOPA**

Kanye council steps up revenue collection

By Marvin Motlhabane

KANYE - In light of the ongoing economic challenges, Kanye District Council is ramping up its revenue collection efforts to strengthen its financial position.

Speaking during the official opening of the third ordinary Full Council Session on Monday in Kanye, Council chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgosithebe emphasised the need for strategic financial reforms to boost revenue generation.

He reported that by the end of August 2025, the council incurred expenses of P59,944,101, while revenue collection was a mere P2,024,510, translating to just 25 per cent of the anticipated 42 per cent.

To address this shortfall, Mr Kgosithebe identified the need to intensify collection efforts for sanitation fees, advertising taxes, road cut fees, and other underutilised revenue sources.

Discussing public health improvements, he noted that medication availability in the district had seen enhancements following President Advocate Duma Boko’s declaration of a Public Health Emergency.

The district received its first shipment of essential drugs on September 4, raising the

availability of vital drugs from 63 per cent to 67.4 per cent and essential drugs from 53 per cent to 61.2 per cent.

He expressed hope for further improvements as the government continued to secure vital medications.

Additionally, Mr Kgosithebe acknowledged that ongoing financial constraints have prompted the Ministry of Health to streamline services, prioritising life-saving interventions.

This includes the suspension of the Chronic Medicine Dispensing Programme, which previously collaborated with private clinics and catered to 464 clients.

The Chairperson also highlighted a notable advancement in water quality across the district, enhancing public confidence in the council’s efforts and reflecting the commitment of their water quality monitoring teams.

However, he raised concerns regarding the Water Utilities Corporation and their staff movements, warning that frequent transfers could hinder progress on existing community issues.

He suggested a more prudent approach to staff transfers to ensure continuity in addressing pending cases with residents. **BOPA**



Mantrakis Stoffel at Broadhurst Magistrate Court in Gaborone on Tuesday. Stoffel, who is facing two counts of common assault and one count of ill-treatment of minor children was remanded in custody pending a ruling on his bail application set for today. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

Stoffel back in court for bail ruling

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - A Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) attorney, Mantrakis Keipeile Stoffel will appear in court today for bail ruling.

The 35-year-old, who was remanded in custody following court appearance on Tuesday, is facing two counts of common assault and one count of ill-treatment of minor children.

Stoffel, who works in Lobatse, appeared before Regional Magistrate Mareledi Dipate at the Broadhurst Magistrate Court. His appearance followed a viral social media video that allegedly showed him assaulting a woman.

The court details showed that Stoffel is accused of assaulting Ms Pearl Montsho by hitting her with a stick and assaulting a

minor child by pressing on her collar bone in Lobatse in August.

He is also charged with causing psychological distress to three children aged seven, eight and 14 by assaulting Montsho in their presence.

Objecting the bail application on Tuesday, the investigating officer, Detective Malebo Kesenogile, told court that the investigation was still in its early stages and the case was sensitive because it involved minors.

She said the investigating team has had difficulty getting information from Ms Montsho, who had been uncooperative, hence awaiting a social welfare report to move the investigation forward.

She also told the court that a cellphone involved in the case had been handed over to specialists for footage analysis.

She further indicated that the minor children had been moved to a safer home, adding that the victim, however, had refused to leave the accused’s house.

During cross-examination, the defence counsel, Mr Obonye Jonas, highlighted Montsho’s desire to reconcile with the accused.

Mr Jonas cautioned the investigating officer, suggesting that the victim might later claim that she was not a victim of gender-based violence and that the police forced her to incriminate the accused.

In a private testimony, Ms Montsho reportedly pleaded with the court to grant Stoffel bail and expressed her desire to welcome him back home.

However, the magistrate decided to reserve the bail ruling for today. **BOPA**

Mohwasa urges action on chemical terror threats

By Ndingililo Gaoswediwe

GABORONE - Rapid evolution of chemical and explosive terrorism threats, notably driven by the growing sophistication of non-state actors and the illicit cross-border trafficking of hazardous materials, demands a proactive and adoptive approach from nations, sectors, and stakeholders.

Officially opening the INTERPOL Global Congress on Chemical Security and Emerging Threats, a peer-to-peer exchange meeting for Sub-Saharan Africa in Gaborone on Tuesday, Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, called for concerted efforts to counter these emerging dangers.

By providing a platform for multi-sector global cooperation and partnership, the congress enables its members to foster relationships, exchange expertise, share information on emerging threats and innovative best practices, and ultimately enhance their capabilities to combat the evolving chemical security landscape.

Mr Mohwasa highlighted the timing of the conference, observing that Botswana was currently grappling with issues surrounding illicit drugs, some of which were synthetic in nature. “I am, however, tempted to believe that this challenge extends across the region and beyond, hence the importance of adopting coordinated regional and international interventions to address it,” he said.

He further said that Botswana’s collaboration with international organisations and its commitment to key initiatives, including INTERPOL’s Global Congress, demonstrated the country’s dedication to a whole-of-government approach and

recognition of the regional and international dimensions of CBRN threats.

INTERPOL’s Chemical and Explosive Terrorism Prevention Unit, Mr Alan Grimmer underscored the escalating threat, saying, “the threat of chemical and explosives terrorism is increasing at an alarming rate.” He underlined the growing sophistication of non-state actors, who were increasingly adept at leveraging chemical materials for harmful purposes, thereby posing significant challenges.

This situation, he said was further worsened by illicit trafficking of hazardous materials across international borders, a stark reminder of the dangers the globe was faced with.

Mr Grimmer said such worrying trends prompted the launch of the Global Congress in 2018, responding to a call to action from the G7-led Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction.

The congress aims to establish a robust framework for international collaboration in combating the emerging threat. Crucially, Mr Grimmer said the initiative sought to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies and relevant stakeholders worldwide to detect, prevent, and respond to chemical and explosive attacks.

He also called on the urgent need for proactive measures, including strengthening international cooperation, enhancing intelligence sharing, and bolstering the security of chemical materials. The illicit trafficking of hazardous substances, therefore, requires a multifaceted approach, one that involves not only law enforcement but also international collaboration and robust regulatory frameworks.

BOPA



Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (right) and INTERPOL Chemical and Explosive Terrorism Prevention Unit representative, Mr Alan Grimmer at the INTERPOL Global Congress on Chemical Security and Emerging Threats, a peer-to-peer exchange meeting for Sub-Saharan Africa in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Mohwasa informed the gathering that Botswana was currently grappling with issues surrounding illicit drugs, some of which were synthetic in nature hence the importance of adopting coordinated regional and international interventions. Photo: Felicity Male

TATAKI Mine stimulates economic growth

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Ms Kenewendo assured Kgosi Sekgoma Moipolai of Matsiloje that government intended to make sure that communities around the mine directly benefited from the mining activities taking place at the facility.

Executive Chairperson of GCR, Mr Cevdet Caner, said critical minerals such as copper, nickel, cobalt and many other remained the bedrock of contemporary industries.

He said the minerals were

indispensable for clean energy technologies and industrial innovation that the world was striving for.

Mr Caner was happy that his company had finally penned an agreement to invest in Botswana, a country with strong governance, a young and skilled workforce and outstanding democratic credentials; all which assured a win-win situation for both the people of Botswana and GCR.

Already, he said GCR had partnered with Matsiloje by reticulating water to a local school, ensuring that classes were

not interrupted due to frequent water shortages

Kgosi Moipolai was excited about the reopening of the mine and was especially happy that GCR had shown benevolence even before full-scale production, something he said had brought hope to the people of Matsiloje and the periphery.

As part of his engagements, President Boko also paid a courtesy call to Donga Junior Secondary School in Francistown, where he pledged a donation of 2 000 books as a way to motivate learners. **BOPA**

Digital ID, citizen wallet in offing

By Bonang Masolotale

GABORONE - Botswana is getting ready for a digital change that will make life easier for citizens.

By the end of 2025, government plans to launch phase one of the new digital ID system that would allow Batswana to access services faster and without long queues.

Presenting during the Rural Development Council (RDC) meeting on Tuesday, Mr Vinod Naidu of PEMANDU Associates who was invited to update RDC on the country’s digital ecosystem,

said the new identity card (Omang) would have a QR code and chip, which could connect to a smartphone App.

He also said people would be able to see their passport, driver’s licence, education and health records all in one place.

“You will also be able to sign documents online, like land sales or contracts, without using paper,” he said.

Mr Naidu also said government would also launch a Citizen Wallet – a card or App that acts like a bank account.



Chairperson of the Rural Development Council (RDC), Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe (left) and the council coordinator, Mr Berzack Maphakwana at the 168th RDC meeting in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Gaolathe said in addressing unemployment, the council should continue to coordinate efforts of the many stakeholders in identifying opportunities for job creation in rural areas. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse

He said this would make it easy for government to send money directly to citizens for services like grants or farming subsidies.

“You will be able to use the wallet to pay for services, traffic fines, and even taxes.”

He explained that the plan also included lowering bank charges, making payments instantly, and allowing street vendors to accept digital payments cheaply.

Mr Naidu said this would bring a “24/7 by government in your pocket” so that Batswana access services anytime, anywhere.

Speaking at the same event, Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe said digitalisation and digitisation which were pivotal in advancing rural development, had the power to transform rural areas by facilitating access to data and Artificial Intelligence systems.

He said the rollout of rural digital infrastructure represented a strategic direction for rural revitalisation and addressing climate issues. The Vice President further said that digital technology in agriculture could enhance farming practices and rural livelihoods, but successful implementation required access to digital tools, digital literacy, and

alignment with local values. Mr Gaolathe explained that while rural villages had transformed in terms of physical infrastructure, the livelihoods of rural communities remained a major concern, with poverty being most vicious.

To address unemployment, the Vice President suggested that the council should continue to coordinate efforts to identify opportunities for job creation in rural areas, focusing on sustainable industries that leveraged natural resources and traditional skills.

He emphasised the need to promote entrepreneurship, vocational training, and renewable energy development in rural areas, adding that tourism remained another area with huge opportunities to change rural lives.

Furthermore, Mr Gaolathe highlighted that financing was a critical factor in the success of renewable energy and rural development initiatives hence assured that the government was committed to developing smart fiscal policies and partnerships with international donors to finance initiatives and ensure that new and existing enterprises could access the resources they needed for sustainable growth. **BOPA**

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Campsites to revive tourism

By Thuso Kgakatsi

NGWATLE - Hukuntsi District Council chairperson, Mr Stephen Lekgobero, has applauded the handover of the newly developed Masetlheng Ecotourism Campsites to the communities of Ukhwi, Ncaang, and Ngwatle, describing the project as a milestone in reviving community-based tourism in Kgalagadi.

Mr Lekgobero said this during the official handover of the five ablution blocks and bush kitchens which were developed through the Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystem Project (KGDEP) at Ngwatle, with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

He highlighted that the new facilities would enhance the attractiveness of the Masetlheng Pan campsite to both local and international tourists, adding that the development was not only beneficial to communities within KDI Wildlife Management Area but to Batswana at large.

"This campsite is very important, not just for the communities within KDI, but also for all Batswana, including those beyond our borders," he said.

Mr Lekgobero stressed that the initiative followed requests from communities seeking to revive ecotourism activities as an alternative livelihood.

He said such ventures had the potential to create employment, improve household incomes, and reduce dependence on traditional economic activities such as commercial hunting.

He further noted that Botswana's financial challenges, particularly those linked to reduced diamond revenues, made it necessary for communities to explore new economic opportunities. "I encourage the Nqhwaa Khobee Xeya Conservation Trust to make use of this opportunity to attract more tourists and generate better returns to uplift the lives of their members and the country at large," he urged.

Mr Lekgobero also underscored the importance of wildlife conservation, stating that ecotourism not only sustained livelihoods but enhanced the natural beauty of the landscape, turning it into a stronger tourist attraction.

He recalled that earlier efforts to revive the campsites, funded by the National Environment Fund (NEF) under the project Exploring Alternative Livelihoods through Ecotourism Developments in the Nqhwaa Khobee Xeya Trust settlements, had laid the foundation for the current progress. However, he emphasised that more still needed to be done.

Looking ahead, the Council Chairperson encouraged the Trust to seek further funding and technical support, particularly from the District Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), to strengthen

capacity building, environmental education, and long-term project sustainability.

He also challenged the community to diversify tourism offerings beyond the campsites, suggesting activities such as hot air balloon rides, photographic safaris, guided game drives, cultural village tours, hiking, and trekking.

"These are some of the different activities that can boost economic returns for the benefit of our communities," he said.

Mr Lekgobero further extended gratitude to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for their financial and technical contributions towards the project.

While providing the overview of the entire project, Hukuntsi, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Wildlife Officer, Kgosietsile Tau hailed the successful implementation of the KGDEP, describing it as a model for conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

He noted that, the KGDEP Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) at P75 million, the project received additional co-financing of P255 million from the Government of Botswana, US\$1 million from UNDP, and P6.1million from BirdLife International.

"The project commenced on November 1 2017, underwent a mid-term review in 2021, and a project reset in 2022. Operational closure took place on May 1, 2025, while financial closure is expected by November 1," he said.

He added that the project was structured around four key components, adding that the initiative sought to address both conservation and community development needs.

Mr Tau shared that component one focused on strengthening national capacity to combat wildlife crime such as poaching, poisoning, and illegal trade, implemented through partners including DWNP, JOC, and NAPS.

He further noted that Component two promoted community-based conservation through alternative livelihoods and enterprises in six villages.

"These included the Kacgae Highway Craft Centre, Bere Veld Product Processing Centre, BORAVAST Charcoal Processing Centre, Khawa Ecotourism Campsite, and the Masetlheng Wilderness Campsites which is currently being handed over. All have now been officially been handed over to local communities," he said.

Under component three, he said, the project emphasised sustainable land management and integrated landscape planning to protect migratory corridors, reduce land degradation, and improve communal land productivity.

"Component four addressed gender mainstreaming, knowledge management, and monitoring. Communities and stakeholders were trained on gender issues, while strategies were developed

to ensure inclusivity in project activities," he said.

Mr Tau expressed gratitude to Hukuntsi District leadership, stakeholders, and local communities for their commitment

and active participation.

"Your dedication has been central to the success of this project and today's memorable handover session," the Ministry noted. **BOPA**



Hukuntsi District Council chairperson, Mr Stephen Lekgobero (left) handing over the newly developed Masetlheng Ecotourism Campsites to the communities of Ukhwi, Ncaang, and Ngwatle. The campsites, developed through the Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystem Project with funding from the Global Environment Facility consist of three ablution blocks and bush kitchens. Photo: Thuso Kgakatsi

Puma open to govt partnership

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Puma Energy is ready to partner with government, not only to fuel aircraft but also in the vision of a more connected, competitive and compliant Botswana.

This was said by the company's general manager, Ms Tendai Mwewa in an interview.

Ms Mwewa said they were also committed to supporting government's economic enhancement plans.

She said Pula Energy had invested over P170 million in Botswana during the last five years on infrastructure and operations.

The company's primary role is to ensure a secure and reliable fuel supply and preventing it from ever being a constraint to connectivity.

Regarding the aviation sector, Ms Mwewa said she believed that collaboration with government would chart a flight path for Botswana to become a hub of opportunity for Africa.

She indicated that connectivity went beyond routes and schedules, adding for Botswana, it was about connecting world-renowned destinations like Maun and Kasane to global markets and linking Gaborone to centres of trade and investment.

She said Pula Energy had been in Botswana since 2010 and had

been a consistent supporter of government's national development agenda, including efforts to address youth unemployment.

She added that the company's global reach was extensive, operating in over 135 countries and servicing more than 100 airports worldwide, present in 17 countries in Africa and serviced over 89 airports.

She outlined compliance as the bedrock of aviation safety and reputation, hence commended the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) for earning international recognition for its strong safety oversight.

"Compliance is not just a tick-box exercise for us but a culture that protects lives, reassures airlines and safeguards Botswana's reputation as a trusted partner," she added.

At Puma Energy, she said, they complemented such by embedding rigorous safety and quality management systems into every step of their operations.

With Botswana confirmed to host AviaDev Africa 2026, a key forum for enhancing air connectivity, Ms Mwewa said Puma Energy was committed to showcasing the nation's excellence in every aspect of aviation.

At a recent Aviation Pitso, Mr Joseph Ebineng from

the Directorate of Accident Investigation in the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, revealed that Botswana was doing well in aviation compliance and was leading the region with a 92.4 per cent rating.

While he acknowledged the measures CAAB had implemented to manage occurrences, Mr Ebineng underscored the need for continued vigilance to minimise risks, particularly bird strikes which he said were a persistent challenge.

He noted that Botswana's wildlife-rich environment, particularly around the Okavango Delta, contributed to such incidents.

For his part, Aviation consultant, Mr Olefile Moakofi noted that global safety trends were steady since the COVID-19 pandemic until a tragic incident on December 29, 2024.

Mr Moakofi cited the loss of Flight 2216 involving Jenju Air, where a bird strike caused engine failure, resulting in 179 fatalities from 181 people on board.

The incident, he said, served as a crucial case study and thus emphasised the importance of safety as the cornerstone of aviation. He praised Botswana's proactive approach to preventing future accidents. **BOPA**

Lore lo ojwa lo sale metsi



Mme Emily Mkheswa, o gatisitse buka e e bidiwang, *Bananyana Bame, e e nang le dipolelwana tse di fetang lesome. Buka e, e itebagantse le bana ba lokwalo la ntlha go ya kwa go laboraro, go ba ruta Setswana.* Senepe: Emily Mkheswa

Ba ipabalelo tseleng ba rapela kgatthanong le dikotsi tsa tsela

Ka Masego Tabengwa

TSHESEBE - Go obamela matshwao a tsela, tirisanyo mmogo mo ditseleng mmogo le go eteletsa Modimo kwa pele mo mosepeleng mongwe le mongwe, ke pheko e ka thusang go fokotsa dikotsi tsa tsela.

Bosheng ba komiti ya ipabalelo tseleng ya kgaolo ya Bokone Botlhaba ba tshwaraganye le dikereke ka go farologana, ga mmogo le ba-na-le-seabe ba bangwe, ba ne ba tshwara thapelo kgatthanong le dikotsi tsa tsela kwa tseleng ya AI kwa motseng wa Tshesebe.

Bakgweetsi le badirisi ba bangwe ba tsela ba gwetlhilwe go obamela matshwao a tsela le go fetola boitshwaro le go kgweetsa dikoloi tse di itekanetseng, maikaelelo e le go fokotsa dikotsi.

Sengwe se se tshwenyang thata ke gore ditlamorago tsa dikotsi di ama matshelo a batho ba le bantsi le gone go babalela itsholelo ka bangwe ba felela ba tlamelwa ke puso ka mabaka a farologanyeng.

Mookamela mapodisi a Tshesebe, Superintendent Mothusi Phadi a re go a tshwenya go bona dikotsi tsa tsela di tswelletse ka go gola le ntswa makalana ka go farologana a dira maiteko otlhe a go netefatsa gore batho ba babalesegile mo ditseleng.

Supt Phadi a re sengwe sa tse di tshwenyang e bile se baka dikotsi, ke leroo le le gobeang mo ditseleng ka go lebega beng ba lone

ba sa le tlhokomele, ka jalo dirisa bakgweetsi diphoso.

Modiri wa lekalana la Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund, Rre Abram Ntshiping a re ba tshwenyegile thata ka dipalo tse di goelang pele tsa dintsho le dikgobalo tse di bakwang ke dikotsi tsa tsela.

Rre Ntshiping a re dipalo tsa ba ba tlhokang ditlamelo tsa botsogo le itshetso di golela pele ntateng ya dikotsi ka bangwe ba latlhegelwa ke batlamedi kana ba sala ka bogole ka jalo ba tlhoka tlhokomelo.

A re go botlhokwa gore bapalami, segolo bogolo ba dikoloi tsa setshaba ba tlhomamise gore ba palama tse di itekanetseng.

Constable Lesego Baitirile a re ngogola ba kwadisitse dikotsi tsa tsela di le masome a mararo le boroba bongwe (39), mme motho a le mongwe a latlhegelwa ke botshelo.

Constable Baitirile a re mo ngwageng ono go fitlha jaana go nnile le dikotsi di le masome a mabedi le botlhano (25) mme ka go tlhoka lesego batho ba le bane ba latlhegelwa ke botshelo.

Mokhanselara wa kgaolwana ya Tshesebe/Mowana, Rre Batsho William o gateletse botlhokwa jwa go laletsa Modimo, pele motho a tsaya mesepele.

Rre William o lebogetse baruti go tswelela ba tsaa boikarabelo ka go rapelela masula ka go farologana, ka jalo a ba gwetlha go tswelela ba rapela. **BOPA**

Ka Benita Magopane

GABORONE - Motswana o atle a re lore lo ojwa lo salemetsi. Se se netefaditswe ke Mme Emily Mkheswa, yo o sa tswang go gatisa buka bosheng e e bidiwang, *Bananyana Bame*, e e nang le dipolelwana tse di fetang lesome.

Buka e, e itebagantse le bana ba lokwalo lwa ntlha, lwa bobedi le lwa boraro, go ba thusa le go ba ruta go bala.

Mme Mkheswa, yo o tlhologang kwa Kasane o na le dingwaga di le lesome le bobedi a ruta bana ba

lekwalo le le botlana kwa dikoleng tsa puso le tse di ikemetseng, o tlhalositse fa e tlaa thusa bana go araba dipotso le go dirisa puo ya Setswana.

“Mo dingwageng tse tsotlhe, ke ne ka lemoga fa bana ka bontsi ba na le letlhoko la go bala, go bua le go kwala Setswana sentle,” Mme Mkheswa a tlhalosa, a bo a supa fa a kwadile dibuka tse tlhano tsa dipolelo tsa bana go ba thusa.

O kaile fa dipolelwana di latelwa ke dipotso go letlelela ngwana go supa maikutlo a gagwe a phuthologile.

“Keletso ke gore ngwana a kgone go akanya le go dirisa puo ya Setswana sentle,” Mme Mkheswa a supa.

A re go kwala ka Setswana ke go se boloka le go ipelela ngwao ya Setswana.

O kaile fa buka e atlegile ka batsadi, barutabana le bana ba e ratile e bile a tlaa tswelela ka go kwala dithulaganyo tse dingwe tsa letlotlo la *Bananyana Bame*.

Buka e ga e ise e bonale kwa mabentleleng, mme ba ba nang le kgatlhego ba ka ikgolaganya le mokwadi mo maranyaneng.**BOPA**

Mapodisi a tlhotlhomisa go tshubiwa ga ntlo

Ka Cathrine Simane

TSABONG - Mapodisi a Tsabong ba tshegeditse mme mongwe wa dingwaga tsedi masome a mararo go ba thusa mo ditlhotlhomisong mabapi le tiragalo e mo go yone ntlo e sheleng ya bo ya lora kwa Tsabong.

Go ya ka motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong Assistant Superintendent Johnson Gaolaolwe, ba begetswe tiragalo ka Tshipi kgwedi eno e le lesome le bone. Mo Potsolosong ka Labobedi Ass. Supt Gaolaolwe o tlhalositse fa mapodisi ba ne ba ragogela kwa lefelong la tiragalo mme ba dira ditlhotlhomiso morago ga boikuelo jwa rre mongwe wa dingwaga tse di

masome a mararo le bongwe.

Ass. Supt Gaolaolwe a re le fa ditlhotlhomiso di santse di tswelletse, ba tshegeditse mme yoo morago ga gore mongongoregi a supe fa a mmelaela ka ba ne ba tlhoka kutlwisisano mo nakong e e fetileng e bile e ne e le baratani.

Motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong o ne a tswelela ka go tlhalosa fa mmelaelwa a ne a ya go itshupa fa pele ga lekgotla la ga mmakaseterata kwa Tsabong ka Labobedi kgwedi eno e le lesome le borataro, mme a neelwa sebaka sa go letela tsheko a le kwa ntle.

O tlaa itshupa gape kgwedi e e tlang ya Phalane e le masome a mararo.

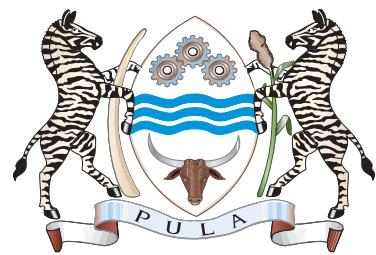
O boletse fa dithoto tse di

senyegileng mo ntlung ya kamore e le nngwe e e neng e hirisitswe di ka tshwara P109,600.

Motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong o ne a supa fa mongongoregi a tlhologa kwa Lehututu mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi Bokone fa mmelaelwa ene a tlhologa kwa Omaweneno gaufi le Tsabong. Ass. Supt Gaolaolwe o gakolotse setshaba segolo jang banana go amogela fa lorato lo fedile le gone go kopa dikgakololo mo go ba ba maleba ba akaretsa mapodisi, dikgosi, dikgosana, baruti, ba boipelego, batsadi le ditsala tsa bone ka jaana ‘molemo wa kgang e le go buiwa,’ go na le go tsaya ditshwetso tse di seng maleba. **BOPA**



Mapodisi a Tsabong ba tshegeditse mme wa dingwaga tse di masome a mararo go ba thusa mo ditlhotlhomisong mabapi le tiragalo e mo go yone ntlo e sheleng ya bo ya lora mo kgotleng ya Ikageng kwa Tsabong. Motshwarelela mookamela mapodisi a Tsabong Assistant Superintendent Johnson Gaolaolwe, a re ba begetswe tiragalo e makuku a letsatsi la Tshipi kgwedi eno e le lesome le bone. Senepe: Naomi Leepile



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY FOR STATE PRESIDENT

EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

REF NO: MSP 4/6/14 I (9)

17th September 2025

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following positions in the Ministry for State President:

POSITION TITLE: DIRECTOR (INFORMATION SERVICES)

Vacancy Circular No. 31 of 2025

Position title: Director (Information Services)

Salary Scale: E1 (P512 148-P532 860) per annum

Leave: 30 working days per annum

Benefits:

- Optional contributory medical aid scheme with the Botswana Public Officers' Medical Aid Scheme (BPOMAS) (Government pays 50% and employee pays 50%)
- Government will also contribute 50% of the medical aid cover for individuals who are already members of a different Medical Aid Scheme other than the BPOMAS
- A contract of 24 to 36 months, with a gratuity of 30% payable upon expiry of contract.

Qualification

- Bachelor Degree in Journalism, Mass Communication, Media Studies or any other related field.

Main purpose of the job

- To manage, direct and provide strategic leadership in the government information, communication and print media sector.

Experience

- Applicants should have 16 years proven post qualification experience in Journalism or related field, of which two (2) years should have been at E2 level in Government or equivalent in parastatals or private sectors.

Duties:

1. Create awareness of government campaigns, programmes and initiatives through BOPA stories.

2. Collect and correlate customer needs and prioritize them.
3. Initiate and coordinate the drafting of policy and legislation for the Department.
4. Interpret policies and advise the government on print media issues.
5. Oversee the formulation of strategic plan, and operational plan for the Department.
6. Initiates and manage operational structures appropriate for the running of the department.
7. Develop guidelines and terms of reference for ad-hoc committees.
8. Arrange media briefings for Permanent Secretary and the Minister.
9. Attend all press briefings by the President, Minister and other foreign dignitaries.
10. Develop innovative strategies of enhancing government communication.
11. Manage and review performance of staff.
12. Manage departmental performance in accordance with the set objectives/plans.
13. Contribute to development of performance improvement and change management initiatives.
14. Prepare performance monitoring reports for the Permanent Secretary.
15. Undertake any other related duties as may be assigned by Management.

Essential competencies:

- Deciding and initiating actions
- Leading and supervising
- Working with people
- Adhering to principles and values
- Persuading and Influencing
- Analysing
- Formulating Strategies and Concepts
- Adapting and Responding to Change

APPLICATIONS:

Applicants should quote the number of this vacancy circular and provide the following details;

- Full names, address, date and place of birth
- Brief summary of career with duties (Curriculum Vitae)
- Certified true copies of certificates and National Identity Card
- Two (2) copies of recent work-related references (not more than six (6) months old)
- **In case of serving officers;**
 - i) Date of appointment
 - ii) Present post, scale and date of appointment thereto.
- In case of candidates from parastatals and private sector organisations, please provide statement of salary or pay.

IMPORTANT:

All applications from serving Public Officers must be routed through their respective Heads of Department and Permanent Secretaries. Applications not so routed will not be considered.

Applications should be addressed to;

Permanent Secretary
Ministry for State President,
Private Bag 001, Gaborone

Or hand deliver at the

Ministry for State President, Finance House,
1st Floor Records Management Unit, Office No 108

Only shortlisted candidates will be responded to.

CLOSING DATE: 3rd October 2025

For any enquiries please contact 395 0800

Young queen advocates children wellbeing

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE - In a world where dreams and aspirations often seem out of reach, 12-year-old Omaata Gasemodimo's journey into the enchanting world of pageantry serves as a testimony of hope and resilience. Her story in pageantry unfolded like a captivating fairytale filled with determination and victory. Her potential was first recognised by her preschool teacher, who nurtured her and

since then, she never looked back. The glittering allure of crowns and gowns sparked her imagination and captured her heart. She relentlessly pursued her passion, participating in sought-after local pageantry competitions and triumphantly winning crowns that symbolised her hard-earned success. This laid the foundation for her journey into the world of international pageantry. Her persistence paid off recently

as she returned home from the Philippines with the illustrious 2025/2026 Miss Millennial Mannequin International Crown, an achievement that speaks volumes about her talent and commitment. However, her ascent toward stardom transcends mere beauty and elegance. She hopes to use the platform afforded to her through pageantry to advocate for social change and fight against gender-based violence inflicted on children. "Gender-based violence among disadvantaged children is a pressing reality. Each child deserves the right to protection, safety and dignity, regardless of their social background," she said. Also, she said she would address disparities between developmental programmes for a boy child and a girl child. She has observed that while the empowerment of girls had gained significant momentum, the boy child often remained in the shadows. "The imbalance in advocacy initiatives can have a detrimental effect on the boys as they grow, failing to nurture their talents and help them release their potential in any field can create a risk in the creation of young men who feel marginalised and feel unheard," she said. She noted that many young boys had been left to grapple with pressures and challenges born from lack of motivation and resources to chase their own dreams. "There is a need to cultivate a balanced dialogue that nurtures both genders. It's not about elevating one above the other but rather inspiring every child to discover and embrace their unique path," she said. Already, she said she had reached out to young boys and girls in about 40 schools in Selebi Phikwe and neighbouring areas. She is optimistic that collaborating with other stakeholders would help address the needs of children and ensure that their voices were heard.

BOPA

Intangible heritage rides digital wave

NANNING - In Zhongnan village in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Tan Jianxin, an inheritor of the wood carving skills of the Maonan ethnic group, carefully carved a Nuo mask. His craftsmanship is a testament to a tradition that has been handed down through generations. Now, that same mask, along with traditional Nuo dance and suona music, is reaching a global audience. It features in the fantasy mini-drama, *The War for a Stolen Tradition*, which has been translated into more than a dozen languages and distributed to over 200 countries and regions. The series, available on platforms like Stardust TV, transports global audiences into the heart of China's intangible cultural heritage. It follows an ancient tribal leader who awakens to protect her people's Nuo opera legacy, embarking on a journey to reclaim their cultural identity. Nuo opera, a form of traditional Chinese theatre distinguished by its use of masks, is listed as a national intangible cultural heritage. As short-form dramas gain global popularity, Chinese producers are increasingly integrating elements of intangible heritage, such as Zhuang embroidered balls and lion dance, into their storylines. "The series focuses on masks and ritual movements, adapting traditional performances for vertical screens," said Ji Li, a partner at Guangxi's Shanhai Group. "We have combined ethnic minority features with

modern visual effects, making the performance both delicate and striking." This creative experiment is part of a larger trend. Chinese mini-dramas are rapidly expanding into overseas markets, from Southeast Asia and the Middle East to Europe, the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. With compact storytelling and fast-paced plots, these shows have become a fresh medium for cultural exchange. Industry estimates indicate that China's mini-drama market exceeded 50 billion yuan (about US\$7.04 billion) in 2024. Many companies are now looking abroad for new growth opportunities. Guangxi, which borders ASEAN countries, has become a key base for firms aiming to reach Southeast Asian audiences. The region's cultural similarities and high smartphone usage are driving demand, which makes its market even more appealing. "We focus on dubbing and overseas operations, especially for Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia," said Qin Li, general manager of Guangxi Hualibo Media, adding that the company was also actively seeking co-production and copyright partnerships. As competition intensifies, producers are moving beyond repetitive storylines and investing in diversified content and localised strategies. "Early successes relied heavily on dramatic twists and tropes, but audiences now want more," said Niu Chaohui, head of overseas business at Shanhai Group. **Xinhua**

Omaata Gasemodimo recently returned home from the Philippines with the illustrious 2025/2026 Miss Millennial Mannequin International crown.
Photo: Chendzimu Manyepedza



Bayapo Ndori, Lee Eppie and Collen Kebinatshipi have made history as Botswana has never fielded three athletes in a single event at a major competition.

Photos: Courtesy of Making of Champs.com, Dan Vernon and Botswana National Sport Commission



All eyes on 400m powerhouses

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - The nation is expected to come to a standstill as three of Botswana 400 metres running powerhouses line up to electrify the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan, today.

The trio of Bayapo Ndori, Collen Kebinatshipi and Lee Eppie has already made history, as Botswana has never before fielded three athletes in a single event at a major competition.

Many have described this as more than just a race, but a chance to finally seize a major individual medal in an event where Botswana has long claimed dominance.

Kebinatshipi, who qualified as one of the non-automatic qualifiers, turned the tables by clocking a National Record and a World Leading time of 43.61 seconds.

Eppie finished second in his semi-final with a time of 44.51 seconds. Ndori, in heat three, dubbed the 'final before the final due to its competitive field, finished first with a Season Best time of 44.21 seconds.

With several favourites now eliminated, the question is, can Botswana finally secure its first-ever men's 400-metre medal?

The final line-up also includes Jereem Richards of Trinidad and Tobago, Jacory Patterson of the USA,

Rusheen McDonald of Jamaica, Zakithi Nene of South Africa, and Yuki Joseph Nakajima of Japan.

Botswana is known for its dominance in the men's 400 meters, but for a long time, athletes have failed to cement that reputation with a major individual medal.

All three athletes are in good shape and have demonstrated aggression from the blocks and solid curve technique throughout the rounds, giving the nation hope.

Coach Chilume Ntshwarang said in an interview that qualifying three athletes in the same event was no small feat.

'Credit to them, they outdid themselves

and this shows that we are a 400m hub, like people always say. This is our ability,' he said.

Ntshwarang added that he had prepared the athletes to remain calm and manage the excitement after the semi-finals.

He noted that the technical team was also confident the athletes would deliver, given their determination.

Meanwhile, both Kethobogile Haingura and Tshepiso Masalela will also compete in the 800m semi-finals today. Haingura cruised to the semi-finals after clocking 1:45.02 and finishing in third place, while Masalela finished in second place with a time of 1:44.74. **BOPA**