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Conservation hinges on partnerships



By Keonee Majoto

NEW YORK - The Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership, an initiative charged with the protection of critical protected areas in 33 countries, has been described as the visionary conservation endeavour of today's generation.

According to President Advocate Duma Boko, the initiative serves not only to protect land but also aimed to safeguard Africa, its biodiversity, its ecosystems and the millions of lives that depend on it.

President Boko, who was speaking at the programme's launch on Monday, said with the initiative, Africa was charting a new course for biodiversity, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods by channelling efforts toward the protection of its rare ecosystems.

"We will not only preserve the iconic wildlife and vital ecosystems, but we will also unlock economic opportunities that strengthen communities and reinforce Africa's leadership in global conservation," he said.

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President Advocate Duma Boko said Botswana was proud to be at the forefront of conservation efforts, saying the country had surpassed the global biodiversity framework target of conserving 30 per cent of land. President Boko, who was speaking at Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership initiative launch in New York on Monday, said over 40 per cent of the country's territory was dedicated to conservation adding that the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage site, stood as a beacon of exotic wonder. The President is scheduled to deliver his maiden United Nations General Assembly address tomorrow.



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Minister urges prompt delivery of project

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBE PHIKWE - Minister of State for the President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, has appealed to relevant stakeholders to engage in effective collaboration to ensure timely logistics for the Mophane Cargo International Airport project.

Mr Mohwasa said the project signifies substantial investment and presented a transformative opportunity for the Selibe Phikwe region and the country at large.

Addressing a stakeholder engagement meeting on Friday, Mr Mohwasa emphasised the need for prompt logistical arrangements in facilitating the project's success.

He urged all parties involved

to join their efforts for the groundwork of the project to commence early next year.

Mr Mohwasa said the timely establishment of logistics was vital, as it did not only streamlined the implementation process but also accelerates the realisation of significant economic benefits for the country.

Mr Mohwasa expressed optimism regarding the project's potential to generate numerous employment opportunities, thereby reinforcing the government's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents of Selebe Phikwe.

“By mobilising and preparing collectively, we can initiate operations sooner than

anticipated.

If all stakeholders ensure that the necessary logistics are in place without delay, we can look forward to a ground-breaking ceremony at the beginning of next year,” he said.

Mophane Cargo International Airport is poised to boost air freight capacity, enhance logistical efficiency and strengthen Botswana's connectivity within regional and international trade networks.

Mr Mohwasa said the strategic infrastructure development was expected to position Botswana for greater economic growth, attracting investments and facilitating smoother transport of goods, thereby benefiting the

economy at large.

The Mayor of Selibe Phikwe, Mr Oageng Makgosa emphasised the significance of tackling the complexities presented by large-scale projects. Mr Makgosa acknowledged that while such initiatives hold considerable promise for economic growth and community development, they can also lead to a range of intricate challenges that must be addressed.

“This represents a substantial opportunity for our town, yet it is imperative to recognise that with opportunity comes the potential for complex issues to arise,” he said.

He encouraged a holistic and strategic approach that integrated all stakeholders to effectively navigate challenges and maximise the benefits for the community.

BOPA

Mohwasa commends Kgamane for exemplary leadership

By Keith Ketl

SEROWE - Kgosi Sediegeng Kgamane's 34-year reign as Bangwato regent has been hailed for being an exemplary leader.

Speaking at an appreciation and thanks giving ceremony held in honour of Kgosi Kgamane on Saturday in Serowe, Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said Kgosi Kgamane displayed unique traits critical in unifying the nation.

Mr Mohwasa said Kgosi Kgamane served at a time when Dikgosi were not paid and some of those entrusted with the responsibility of Bogosi were not eager to perform such functions.

Mr Mohwasa said after remuneration for Bogosi was introduced some retraced their footsteps back into Bogosi and leading to chieftainship disputes across the country of which Kgosi Kgamane had to traverse the country to mediate, something that he applied his experience meticulously.

Therefore, he said it was appropriate to thank God and Kgamane family for giving the country a man in his mould who worked wholeheartedly for the betterment of Botswana.

Furthermore, he said Kgosi Kgamane's unceremonious departure in 2022 following a hostile political environment, should send a strong message across the country that humility, gratitude, self-awareness, open-mindedness, patience, modesty, and lack of arrogance or

boastfulness were the ingredients of success and the right recipe for the nation to thrive.

“Humble people recognise and appreciate others' contributions, and are willing to learn and serve, and maintain perspective on their place within a community and Kgosi Kgamane is blessed with such traits,” Mr Mohwasa said.

He said mistakes that happened in the past should be a learning curve for all, arguing people should work towards creating the world a better place to live in where happiness could be maximised.

Minister Mohwasa said it was critical for those entrusted with responsibilities to lead the nation to ensure that such mistakes do not happen again as they had potential to divide the nation. He is of the view that no leader desire to lead a divided nation and therefore all should contribute towards advancing peace and tranquility in the country.

Appreciating accolades, the celebrated father figure Kgosi Kgamane expressed delight for the event but was of the view that his task was not complete to leave the regency without solemnising Kgosi Khama IV's marriage.

He said Kgosi Khama had expressed the wish for his uncles to look for a suitable woman to marry for himself and build a life with.

Moreover, he said the search should involve considering qualities such as shared values, mutual trust, communication, emotional maturity, and a compatible personality, not just physical attraction. **BOPA**



Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Botswana and Southern African Development Community, Ms Petra Pereyra at the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre and Cyprus delegation meeting in Gaborone recently. She reaffirmed the EU's longstanding support for Botswana's economic development. Photo: Marvin Matlhabane

Botswana, Cyprus deepen economic ties

By Marvin Motlhabane

KANYE - In a move aimed at enhancing bilateral economic ties, Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) hosted a high-level business delegation from Cyprus, marking a step toward deeper trade relations.

The delegation encompassed representatives from the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) alongside executives from prominent Cypriot companies, focusing on key sectors such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT), health, and education.

Welcoming guests at an engagement meeting on in Gaborone recently, BITC Chief Operations Officer, Mr Anthony Sefako spoke about the importance of fostering partnerships that aligned with Botswana's economic diversification strategy.

He highlighted the necessity of such forums in promoting

Botswana's international economic initiatives and attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The Ambassador of the European Union to Botswana and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Ms Petra Pereyra, echoed sentiments of partnership, reaffirming the EU's longstanding support for Botswana's economic development.

She discussed the allocation of P380 million toward initiatives like the 'SmartBots' project aimed at fostering economic and digital transformation, while urging collaboration toward addressing economic inequalities.

Representing Cyprus, Mr Antonis Mandritis articulated Cyprus's eagerness to form sustainable partnerships with Botswana, especially in education and skills training. He announced scholarship offerings for Botswana students to study in Cyprus, fostering human capital development between the nations.

He emphasised that there was a growing interest from Cypriot businesses to explore investment potentials in Botswana and affirmed Cyprus's commitment to support Botswana in becoming an attractive destination for EU investors. BITC's Director of Investment Promotion, Mr Moshie Ratsebe, offered insights into Botswana's investment landscape and the streamlined processes available through the Botswana One Stop Service Centre (BOSSC) aimed at facilitating investments.

Through this engagement, both nations aspire to create more opportunities for collaboration and economic growth, paving way for strengthened relations. Cyprus has an open economy driven by services, particularly tourism, financial services, and shipping, with a GDP around P 575 billion (2023), with a per capita GDP of approximately P630 000.

The country joined the EU in 2004. **BOPA**



Former Bangwato regent, Kgosi Sediegeng Kgamane (left) speaking at a thanksgiving and appreciation ceremony held in his honour in Serowe on Saturday. He served as Bangwato regent from 1988 to 2022, a tenure that earned him respect from his tribesmen and the nation at large. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Effective conservation hinges on partnerships

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He added that Botswana was proud to be at the forefront of conservation efforts, explaining that the country had surpassed the global biodiversity framework target of conserving 30 per cent of land.

“Over 40 per cent of our territory is dedicated to conservation. The majestic Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage site, stands as a beacon of exotic wonder,” he noted.

Also, he said the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, the largest in Africa and the pioneering Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, were not only national treasures but also continental assets that Botswana had managed well.

President Boko acknowledged that conservation required a multipronged approach, as government cannot do it alone. It must be rooted in community stewardship and therefore, Botswana recently re-enacted legislation that aimed to empower communities to become stewards of their environment through the Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Programme.

He said through the CBNRM programme, communities could manage the land and also benefit from its tourism, which in turn would lead to improved livelihoods.

That, he said, was not just conservation, but the transformation of the lives of Batswana.

The President hailed the private sector as a partner in the conservation journey, stating that several private entities were engaged in sustainable eco-tourism enterprises and contributed meaningfully to the protection of areas in partnership with government and community.

That, he indicated, was proof that public and private community partnerships were not only possible but also powerful.

Acknowledging the formidable challenges confronting conservation efforts, such as growing land degradation, pervasive impact of climate change, constrained budgets and

mounting population pressure, President Boko underscored the importance of collaboration.

He said without sustained international involvement and funding and the steadfast will of leaders, countries ran the risk of losing irreplaceable landscapes and species that underpinned Africa’s ecological and socioeconomic fabric.

Presidents Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and Mr Daniel Chapo of Mozambique, pledged their support for the Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership, underlining how the initiative would reinforce their respective countries’ conservation efforts.

Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah said while environmental management was among her country’s top priorities, as provided for in the constitution, partnerships were necessary to support ongoing conservation efforts.

Mr Ramaphosa said joint conservation efforts across countries were a welcome development, describing it as a source of pride for countries to be working together in the endeavour of protecting their natural resources.

President Chapo said Mozambique had many iconic protected areas that would benefit immensely from the Africa Keystone programme.

Mr Rob Walton of the Rob Walton Foundation, which supported large-scale conservation efforts through partnerships, said the Africa Keystone Protected Area Partnership offered a great opportunity for the foundation to support African governments in biodiversity conservation.

“These areas have to benefit the people living around them in order for them to be successful,” he said, highlighting one of the reasons why conservation was necessary.

The initiative will collaborate with African leaders, NGOs and communities to safeguard 162 national parks and other protected areas across Africa. **BOPA**



Acting President Ndaba Gaolathe (third right) and Kgosi Khama IV of Bangwato (third left) arriving for the official opening of the Local Government and Traditional Affairs symposium in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Gaolathe encouraged local authorities to embrace the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, which sought to drive the country toward a diversified, export-driven and technology-enabled economy. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Local authorities linchpin of transformation

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE - Local authorities face serious and deep challenges of uneven service delivery, which, if left unaddressed, risks eroding public trust. Hence, they stand to benefit from embracing transformation as a necessity.

Acting President Ndaba Gaolathe, shared the thoughts at the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Symposium on Monday in Gaborone.

“We must seize this moment so that our local government can become the engine of transformation. To reach that goal, we require boldness in redesigning a citizen-centered, high-performing and future-ready system of local governance,” he said.

He emphasised the need for a system that is agile, data-driven and possessing high impact, touching lives and being citizen-led and accountable to the citizens they serve.

In a modern economy, he said success was impossible without digitalisation, adopting open data and making data available to people and innovators.

Mr Gaolathe encouraged local authorities to embrace the Botswana Economic

Transformation Programme (BETP), which aims to shift the country towards a diversified, export-driven, and technology-enabled economy.

He noted that the programme was designed to address long-standing structural economic constraints, reduce over-reliance on diamonds, and deliver a diversified export-led economy that created quality employment for Batswana.

Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhlalefile Motshegwa, said that as the country embarked on a transformative journey, it was critical to always accentuate the fundamentality of leadership.

He stated that the local government decentralisation policy would guide overall service delivery, coordinate and align decision-making to enhance national and local-level democracy, and generally promote popular participation for sustainable national development.

Already, he noted, there has been a transfer of primary healthcare from the Ministry of Health to his ministry, signifying the commitment to taking services closer to the people.

Mr Motshegwa added that the ministry was devoted to offering a quality health system at the

primary level.

Regarding Traditional Affairs and Tribal Administration, Mr Motshegwa said the ministry was reviewing the Bogosi Act to give prominence and potency to the role of Bogosi in democracy and development.

He further stated that the theme of the symposium was apt, especially for its focus on grass-root sustainable development under the democratic agenda.

The United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative, Ms Lovita Ramguttee, highlighted the organisation’s collaboration with the government and the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

She said that the symposium, held under the theme: Re-engineering the Role of Local Government in Democracy and Development Agenda, compelled all to reflect on and recognise the critical role played by local governments in supporting countries towards their sustainable development agenda.

Ms Ramguttee added that UNDP was proud to support the country in addressing the challenges it was facing as it embarks on an ambitious journey of economic transformation. **BOPA**

‘Africa needs to exercise resource sovereignty’

By Keonee Majoto

NEW YORK - While many African countries are major producers of critical minerals and rare earth elements used in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and aerospace industries, they remain on the periphery of such sectors.

President Advocate Duma Boko said this at an investors’ forum on investing in Africa in New York on Monday, indicating that processing of the continent’s minerals outside its borders was a disservice that African nations must remedy with speed.

President Boko said the absence

of African countries in the AI and aerospace spheres was an anomaly compelling Africa to rise up and assert its sovereignty over its mineral resources.

“What this then means is that Botswana and other African countries should have a say as producers of the minerals on which AI and aerospace technology are powered,” he said.

He added that once Africa asserted its sovereignty over its minerals, it would have a more defined role to play in the AI space. The President also told the forum that time had come for Africans to insist on beneficiation

being carried out within their respective countries.

He appealed to potential investors to explore possible partnerships with Botswana and not be discouraged by the new direction the country was taking in mineral processing.

On one hand, American congresswoman, Ms Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick supported President Boko’s message, saying it was crucial for respect and dignity to be restored to Africa, especially on trade and participation in a prosperous global economy.

Ms Cherfilus-McCormick

also emphasised the importance of strengthening existing partnerships for the benefit of the continent.

Meanwhile, President Boko’s participation at the investors’ forum was one of his planned activities during his week-long stay in New York for the United Nations General Assembly session.

Still on Monday, the President also attended the UN private sector forum, an annual event held alongside the General Assembly meeting. He is scheduled to deliver his maiden address to the General Assembly tomorrow. **BOPA**

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Botswana courts AfDB for support

By Keonee Majoto

NEW YORK - As Botswana seeks to break free from the complacency born out of overreliance on revenue from diamonds, government has identified infrastructure development as one vehicle through which economic revitalisation and transformation can be achieved.

At a meeting with president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Sidi Ould Tah in New York, President Advocate Duma Boko said several trade routes such as the Ponta Techobanine railway line were being developed across Southern Africa, and that Botswana needed the support of funders like the AfDB to be able to position itself to benefit from such key regional networks.

President Boko cited proposed developments such as the Trans-Kalahari railway project and the Mosetse-Kazungula-Livingstone railway line linking Botswana with Namibia and Zambia respectively, as some infrastructure development projects for which funding from the AfDB would come in handy.

He observed that enhanced interconnectedness in the region would be rewarding for Botswana on the trade front, and would help efforts aimed at diversifying the economy away from reliance on a single trade commodity being diamonds.

Additionally, the President informed the AfDB chief that plans were afoot to turn Botswana into a venue of choice for major conferences, a dream that he said would require that appropriate infrastructure like conference facilities be put up in order for it to be realised.

Thus, he said the AfDB support through availing funding for such developments would be appreciated as it would put the country on course to win its war against some of its persistent problems, including unemployment.

He further commended the AfDB president for engaging with him to learn of the areas in which Botswana required financial support.

At a different meeting with representatives of APCO, a global advisory and strategic communication consultancy firm, President Boko said digitalisation, industrialisation and the removal of red tape in government processes were some of the strategies that had been adopted in order to expedite the achievement of economic transformation.

He said through the latter, Botswana sought to make doing

business a seamless undertaking, something that he noted investors would appreciate.

Founder of APCO, Ms Margery Kraus said with footprints in different continents,

their company had helped several countries to attract investment in different sectors.

Appealing for Botswana to engage APCO to lead the drive to get investors to set up shop

in the country, Ms Kraus said Botswana's good reputational image made the country a prime candidate for investment, especially by American businesses.

President Boko's meetings formed part of the engagements that he will have leading up to his address of the United Nations General Assembly session tomorrow. **BOPA**



North West District council secretary, Mr Thatayotlhe Balapi told councillors that operating a new abattoir would not be viable, due to challenges among others, failure to generate income. He was responding to calls for a new abattoir to benefit farmers.

Council abattoir not viable project - official

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - North West District Council secretary says the operation of a new abattoir is not a viable undertaking due to challenges faced by other existing council abattoirs.

The council secretary, Mr Thatayotlhe Balapi, said this in response to comments from councillors who called for a new council abattoir to benefit local farmers.

Councillors argued that farmers currently depended on the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) plant to slaughter their livestock, a process they said was too expensive.

They said costs were high because farmers were required to pay to keep their animals in quarantine for a long period, which resulted in poor returns.

Councillors also complained about delayed payments from the BMC, which they said forced farmers to use private abattoirs.

They argued that private facilities were ripping off

farmers. They believed a council-built facility could alleviate the financial burden on farmers and eventually increase the number of cattle sold, as farmers would be more motivated to bring their animals. However, Mr Balapi advised that experience showed that all council-owned abattoirs had collapsed because they were not generating income.

"With the information and knowledge we have gathered, we cannot take the risks of an obvious situation.

The abattoirs operated in the six councils across the country were facing challenges of operating at a loss and management realised that there was no reason to keep them operating, hence all collapsed," he added.

He further told councillors that with the current economic crisis, the council should focus on minimising expenditure and maximising revenue.

He indicated that constructing the proposed abattoir would cause a spike in expenditure and

the council lacked the financial means to support it.

Again, he said if the council approved the abattoir project, they would have to revisit the District Development Plan (DDP) to include it. He believed that farmers were free to sell their animals at the slaughter facilities of their choice and that should be the solution to their challenges.

Councillors also heard that the council should not provide unfair competition to private abattoirs because government encouraged private sector involvement.

Mr Balapi also advised councillors to instead advocate for a policy that would set a standard price per kilogramme and include the purchase of all products like tripe, spleen and intestines.

Meanwhile, a report presented to the council meeting showed that 5 666 cattle were slaughtered locally, producing 1 076.56 tonnes of beef.

An additional 187 cattle were exported live to the Democratic

Republic of Congo during the last quarter.

The figures were obtained from three abattoirs which included BMC with 595 cattle (113.05 tonnes), Ngamiland with 2 558 cattle (441.94 tonnes) and Batawana with 2 326 cattle (486.02 tonnes).

Some councillors expressed concern over the low number of cattle slaughtered at the BMC and urged the abattoir to consider buying live cattle directly from farmers and take responsibility for their quarantine.

However, Cllr Keapoletswe Keaploletswe of Kareng/Qhorotsha said farmers were reluctant to bring cattle to the BMC due to inconsistent payments and the long quarantine period. Cllr Keapoletswe argued that buying live cattle directly from farmers could boost their participation in supplying the abattoir. "Price incentives can boost consistent cattle supply, which is vital to turning around the abattoir's fortunes," he said. **BOPA**

Tsayang tsia thuto ya diatla

Ka Keetile Bontsibokae

METSIMOTLHABE

Motshwarelela Tautona, Rre Ndaba Gaolathe a re mo nakong e itsholelo e reketlang, thuto ya ditiro tsa diatla e tshwanetse go tsewa ka tlhwaafalo gore e kgone go nowa moro.

O buile jalo bosheng a buisa phuthego ya kgotla kwa Metsimotlhabe, a re go setse go atile gore dithuto tsa tiro ya diatla di a nyenyafadiwa, fa di bapisiwa le dithuto tse dingwe.

Rre Gaolathe, yo e bileng ele tona wa tsa madi, a re thuto ya tiro ya diatla ke yone motshelakgabo o o bofefo go tthamela dialogane mebereko ga mmogo le go thapa ba

bangwe. Rre Gaolathe o ne a akgela mo mafokong a ga, Mme Dimakatso Boitshoko yo o neng a itela ka bana ba ba sa dirang sentle kwa lekwalong la boraro a re ba felela ba itontela nnotagi ka ntata ya go imelwa ke dikgwetlho tsa botshelo tse di bakwang ke go tlhoka ditiro.

“Re tshwanetse ra remelela thata mo thutong ya tiro ya diatla. Ke gore ka mantswe a mangwe re tlhabolole thata thuto ya tiro ya diatla,” ga tthalosa Rre Gaolathe.

A re kgato ya go emela thuto ya tiro ya diatla ka dinao e supagala sentle ka go akarediwa mo mananeong a go tsosolosa itsholelo (Economic Transformation Programme) le mo lenaneong la ditogamaano tsa

ditlhabololo (National Development Programme).

A re mo mananeong a tlang go tla senoga gore puso jaanong e ya go tsholetsa ditlhako go rotloetsa le go godisa tiro ta diatla.

Rre Gaolathe a re baithuti ba ba tsenang kwa dikoleng tsa ithutelo tiro ya diatla ba ntse ba latlheletswe ga mmogo le dikago tsa dikole tseo.

Mo godimo ga moo, a re batlhatlhelela dithuto ba dikole tsa tiro ya diatla ba sokola ka boroko e bile gape dikole tse di tshaelelwa ke dirisiwa.

O tthalositse gore sengwe sa tse di supang go papametse gore thuto ya diatla e ntse e sa tsewe tsia ke dikatso tsa itshetso tse di neng

fiwang bana ba dikole tse.

Rre Gaolathe are baithuti badikole tse ba ntse ba fiwa lemmonyana la P300, fa ba dikole tse dingwe bone ba ne ba tsaya P1,900 ka kgwedi. O gateletse gore baithuti ba dikole tse tsotlhe ba tshwanetse go tsewa ka go lekalekana.

O supile fa pharologano e ya dituelo ene e dira gore bana ba nne le tumelo ya gore dikole tsa tiro ya diatla ga se tsa sepe.

“Golo mo ke ngwao e e bolayang ka fa re lebelelang dikole tsa ithutelo tiro ya diatla ka teng. Ka gore e nna jaaka o kare baithuti ba, ga ba na mosola, mme le tla bona mo bogaufing seo, re se fetotse,” ga bua Rre Gaolathe.

O tswelletse ka gore puso e ya go lebagana le thuto ya tiro ya diatla, e e tshabologileng e e akaretsang dithuto tsa maranyane, dithuto tsa kapei, tsa go baakanya dikoloi, motlakase, go roka diaparo le kago.

A re nako e tsile ya gore go dirisiwe metlhale e mesha ya go ruta bana go dira ka diatla.

Le fa go ntse jalo Rre Gaolathe o ile a amogela kgakolo ya ga Mme Segomotso Gobuiwang fa a re puso e tshwanetse gape ya remelela mo thutong ya temothuo.

Rre Gaolathe o kopile banni go tshwaraganela bana le barutabana go kgalema botlhokitsebe kwa dikolong tse di potlana le tse dikgolwane. **BOPA**

Ba kopa gore Chibuku powder e akaretswe mo majalweng a setso

Ka Tshiamiso Mosetlha

SEROWE - Bangwe bagwebi ba bojalwa le bareki kwa Serowe, ba kopile puso go akaretsa bojalwa ja Chibuku powder mo mengweng ya majalwa a Setswana a a letlelelwang go rekesiwa ka fa molaong.

Ba re bojalwa jwa Chibuku powder go lemogilwe fa bo siametse go nowa fela sentle jaaka majalwa a a letlelelwang a tshwana mokuru, khadi, setopoti le morula. Ba re bojalwa jo, bo ratiwa bobe mme e bile bo na le dipelo tse di kwa godimo.

Ba boletse fa bo sena matsapa a mantsi fa bo dirwa ka go sa tlhokafale dikgong jaaka jwa mokuru. Chibuku eo e dubiwa ka metsi fela go sena metswako epe gape.

Banni ba Serowe ba ntshitse megopolo ya bone mo phuthegong e e neng e buisiwa ke mothusa tona wa tsa papadi le tlhabololo kgwebo, rre Baratiwa Mathoothe, kwa kgotleng ya Serowe ka Mosupologo, kwa a neng a rerisa a bo a tsaya megopolo mo morafeng ka fa go ka tokafatswang melao ya thekiso le theko ya dino-tag.

Ba boletse fa Chibuku eo e letleletswe go rekisiwa mo marekisetso mangwe a matona mme e re fa motho a bo reka go bo titiela kwa lwapeng go itshetsa go sa letlelelwe.

Mongwe wa bagwebi ba nno-tag, rre Daniel Lesiapheto, o tthalositse fa ba lebanwe ke dikgwetlho, a bolela fa dikgwebo tse ditona di simolotse go rekisetso bareki dithoto ka bongwe ka bongwe le ba ba senang diteketo.

O boletse fa dikgwebo tseo, kana wholesalers di bolaiile dikgwebo tse di potlana jaaka tsa dimausu le marekisetso a mabotlana. A kopa gore molao o gagamadiwe go laola theko le thekiso ya madirelo a matona.

Rre Lentswe Phetso, o kopile gore lephata le tsenye ka fa molaong

thekiso ya Chibuku powder e a boletseng fa e tshwana le mokuru le chibuku ya dikgapha. O boletse fa bo na le dipelo tse di nametsang e bile bo nowa thata mo dikgaolong ke bontsi tsa Botswana.

Rre Phetso o boletse fa ba boleletswe ke ba botsogo gore Chibuku powder eo e tlhatlhobilwe ke ba botsogo, mme ba kaile fa e siametse go nowa ke batho.

Rre Kealeboga Bogatsu wa kgwebo ya marekisetso a bojalwa o boletse fa batho ba reka bojalwa ka ditlhwatlhwa tse di kwa tlase mme ba ye go nwela kwa madirelong a bone, a kopa gore go gagamadiwe molao gore Sefalana e seka ya rekisetso batho ka bongwe ka bongwe.

O kopile gore marekisetso a bojalwa a nne sekgala go tswa mo dikoleng, ditsela le dikgotla, le gore medumo mo marekisetso e tshwanetse ya laolwa.

Kgosi Lerato Keipheditse, wa kgotla ya Sesoma mo Serowe, a re thekiso ya majalwa ga e laolesege le dinako ga di tlotlwe.

A re banwi ba nwela bojalwa mo dikoloing, kwa manyalong le kwa dintshong fa bangwe ba tsamaya ba a nwa mo mekgwatlheng. A re Chibuku e e nowang ga e laolesege, e tletse kwa merakeng, badisa ga ba dise ba nna mo go yone fela. A re kwa e rekisiwang teng o fitlhela le motokwane o le teng.

Mogolwane go tswa kwa lephateng le le laolang thekiso le theko ya dinotsididi, rre Ofhile Busang o boletse fa go se ka fa molaong gore madirelo a matona a rekise dithoto ka bongwe ka bongwe.

O boletse gape gore medumo mo marekisetso a bojalwa le a dijo le dino o tshwanetse go nna wa selekanyo se se siameng go sa kgoreletse batho ba bangwe.

O boletse fa bontsi jwa batho ba batla gore Chibuku powder e tsennngwe mo molaong wa thekiso mme a bolela fa ba santse ba phutha megopolo mo setshabeng. **BOPA**



Motshwarelela Tautona, Rre Ndaba Gaolathe (mojeng) a dumedisanya le banni ba Metsimotlhabe pele ga phuthego ya kgotla bosheng. A re mo nakong e, e itsholelo e reketlang, thuto ya ditiro tsa diatla e tshwanetse go tsewa ka tlhwaafalo gore e kgone go nowa moro. Senepe: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Banka ya First Capital e abela kokelwana didirisiwa tsa botsogo

Ka Kefilwe Selotlegeng

MAHALAPYE - Banka ya First Capital e abetse kokelwana ya Kudumatse didirisiwa tsa botsogo.

E rile a bua kwa kabong ya dimpho tseo, Mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Mahalapye botlhaba yo gape eleng mothusa tona wa boatlhodi le kago sesha ya magolegwa, Rre Augustine Nyatanga o akgotse ba banka eo go bo e dule ka moonwa go thusa mo go tsa botsogo.

Rre Nyatanga a re First Capital Bank e tsile ka nako e e maleba ya seemo sa tshoganetso sa botsogo.

A re puso e tswelletse ka go tseela botsogo kwa godimo ka jalo a akgola First Capital Bank a re e gatetse pele mo go emeng botsogo

nokeng.

Rre Nyatanga a re puso e kgotlatsa makalana a a ikemetseng go tsaya karolo mo tlhabololong ya setshaba .

O ne a tthalosa gore go botlhokwa gore dikhamphani di diragatse lenaneo la bone la go thusa setshaba.

Rre Nyatanga o lebogile banka eo mo boemong jwa puso le banni ba Kudumatse a tthalosa gore dimpho tse di tlaa dira pharologanyo mo kokelwaneng ya Kudumatse .

Fa a rola dimpho tseo mogolwane wa First Capital Bank, Mme Lorato Radikara a re lefa ba gweba ka madi ba ikamantse thata le go busetsa mo setshabeng go tsholetsa matshelo a morafe fa go nang le botlhoki teng.

Mme Radikara a re ba tswelletse

ka lenaneo la bone la go busetsa mo setshabeng fa e sale ka ngwaga wa 2008 fa ba simolola kgwebo, a tthalosa fa ba nale makalana a ferabobedi go ralala lefatsheng leno.

A re banka ya bone e dirisana le puso go tokafatsa ditirelo.

Mme Radikara a re ba dirile di tshekatsheko pele mme ba bona letlhoko kwa kokelwaneng ya Kudumatse.

O boletse fa ba sa tla go aba fela mme gape ba simolotse botsalano le kokelwana eo.

Fa a amogela dimpho mothusa mokwaledi wa khansela wa tsa botsogo, Rre John Moloi o ne a tthalosa fa dimpho tse di tla hema letlhoko di bo di nonotsha ditirelo tsa kokelwana eo. **BOPA**

Celebrating 59^{Years} of Independence

‘Cultural disconnection worrisome’

Dikgosi call for a return to cultural roots as Botswana celebrates 59 years of independence.

Their quest is anchored on nation’s founding values, of Therisano, Tumalano, Tirisano, Boipelego, Popagano, Kopano, Botho and Kutlwano as they challenge Batswana to connect to a shared past and collective future.

BOPA reporter, **Gaolethoo Kgatitswe** in Maun, zeroed in on Popagano, or unity, to get an understanding of how things were in the past and where they are supposed to be in the present.

The traditional leaders are raising a concern over the nation’s growing disconnect from its cultural roots and the erosion of social cohesion that once united communities under Bogosi.

Kgosi Gokgathang Moalosi of Sankoyo attributes unity and peaceful coexistence to a role played by dikgosi, one that has been fundamental to the existence of Batswana.

“The kgotla system brought

people together. People would put their differences aside and commune as one and that harmony was the bedrock of development back then,” said Kgosi Moalosi.

Not so much so in the present, the spirit of community has weakened, with fewer people attending kgotla meetings and traditional gatherings.

“There was a time when even school children proudly celebrated Independence Day, waving Botswana flags on their way to the kgotla. Now, the excitement is gone and we need to go back to our roots and preserve our culture for posterity,” he said.

“People respected the kgotla system and the Setswana notion that ‘mafoko a kgosi a agelwa mosako’, had meaning and kept communities intact,” said Kgosi Moalosi, encouraging Batswana not to abandon what defined them as a people but ensure cultural practices were protected.

A member of the Bogosi Association, Kgosi Gabaakanye Sefhako, also reflected on how the



President Sir Seretse Khama (centre) visiting Batlokwa at the kgotla during Independence Day celebrations in 1967. As Botswana celebrates 59 years of independence, traditional leaders have warned of a growing disconnect from cultural roots.

authority of dikgosi had changed over time, from knowing that their word was final and decisions made by kgosi were binding and

respected.

A shift in governance post-independence saw traditional leaders taking the backseat and

political power taking control.

“Today, our influence is limited, but we still serve. Dikgosi have always been at the forefront of advocating for people’s rights hence we continue to fight social ills and uphold values that keep communities together,” he stated.

Kgosi Tapologo Mosika of Matlapana described dikgosi as the foundation of the nation, because their leadership role was not limited to authority but was one of service.

“Even in difficult times, chiefs used their personal resources to help the community and that spirit of sacrifice brings people together and fosters unity,” he said and explained that the role of dikgosi in maintaining social unity before and after independence had not only been significant but foundational to the country’s stability and moral fabric.

He sees the role of dikgosi as having evolved further in the post-independence era with the rise of modern challenges like gender-based violence, youth delinquency, and erosion of cultural values, dikgosi now serve as bridges between tradition and modernity.

“We are now educators and we guide our people not just in culture, but in aligning with national values and rights hence our role is not just traditional but societal,” he said.

While the role of dikgosi has evolved, their significance in nurturing social cohesion remains vital.

They continue to act as moral compasses, protectors of culture, and bridges between government and the people and as Botswana approaches 60 years of independence, there is a growing call for communities to rekindle the values of unity, respect, and cooperation, values that have long been championed by Bogosi.

Their leadership, rooted in tradition yet responsive to modern challenges, remains essential for building a strong, cohesive, and culturally grounded nation.

BOPA



Self-reliance: Bedrock of Botswana development

By Thandy Tebogo

KANYE - In the not-so-distant past, magosi in Botswana commanded immense respect.

Their authority carried weight and their word was honoured without question. Such reverence laid the foundation for self-reliance projects that transformed communities, cemented unity and built a spirit of development that still echoes today.



Mr Leach Tlhomelang

This enduring legacy was highlighted by Bangwaketse deputy paramount chief, Kgosi Kebapetse Telekelo in an interview where he reflected on the powerful role of traditional leadership.

He explained that magosi mobilised their people through kgotla meetings, which were always well attended.

From these gatherings, mephato or regiments were assigned specific roles in community development, assignments that were carried out with discipline and unity.

In Kanye, the Maisantwa and Matsaakgang regiments were tasked with building primary schools, he recalled, noting that those schools, still standing today bore names of the regiments that built them.

Beyond education, self-reliance extended to water infrastructure.

He cited Mmakgodumo and Mmamokhasi dams, both built through volunteerism, as striking examples of collective willpower.

Even roads were constructed by community hands.

The road leading up the hill at Goo-RaMontshiwa Ward past Kgosing was built by the tribe itself, he noted.

At the heart of these efforts was a social programme known as ‘motseko’, which embodied communal solidarity. Families helped each other build houses. Women gathered soil for walls while men cut rafters for roofing.

Former councillor, Mr Leach Tlhomelang agrees.

To him, self-reliance was more than a practice. It was the bedrock of Botswana’s development.

He pointed to the construction of Kanye abattoir as an example.

When government required that all cattle slaughtering be done in abattoirs, butchery owners in Kanye pooled their resources to build one.

Farmers, too, embodied this spirit. In areas such as Gampudi and Mhiko, Bangwaketse farmers raised funds to hire earth-moving equipment and built dams to water their livestock.

Roads to farmlands such as Masoke, Mephato and Gamogapinyana were constructed in the same way, through community effort and determination.

This culture of cooperation extended beyond development projects.



Kgosi Kebapetse Telekelo

Mr Tlhomelang observed that crime prevention committees helped keep crime levels relatively low.

For elderly resident Mr Stephen Pheko of Moshupa, programmes such as Dikgafela were equally pivotal.

Traditionally practiced in Bangwaketse, Dikgafela is a communal harvest festival aimed at boosting food production.

BOPA



Batho Fashion Week brought together 15 designers from across Africa to showcase their creative designs under the theme: Bloom Africa - Where African Fashion Blossoms. The event held in Gaborone recently highlighted Botswana's growing role as a hub for sustainable fashion and cultural exchange. Event director, Emmanuel Kayenda said this year's line-up was designed to showcase both established names and novice. Photos: Courtesy of Batho Fashion Week

Louis Collymore debut single War Cry out

By Banyatsi Banyatsi

KANYE - A fresh new voice is making waves in the electronic music scene. Hailing from Moshupa and currently based in Gaborone, Louis Dingalo known to fans by his musical alter ego, Louis Collymore, has officially released his debut single, *War Cry*, now available on all major digital platforms. The high-energy track, which dropped last month under the German label Electric Friends Music, is already gaining traction online. "When I was producing *War Cry*, the idea was to create a groovy, feel-good, festival track, something people could truly lose themselves in," said Dingalo in an interview. According to him, the song has resonated with electronic music fans locally and internationally with early figures suggesting

the track is performing well, especially on platforms like Beatport and Traxsource, which cater specifically to electronic music lovers. "We have already reached 7 000 views, which I would say is a great start," said Dingalo. His musical journey began in 2012 as a DJ, initially inspired by tech-house music. By 2016, he had taken the leap into music production, teaching himself through online tutorials and countless hours of listening and experimentation. "I did not take any music classes. It took years to develop the sound I have today. I studied a lot of producers, and just kept pushing myself," he said. His efforts began to bear fruit in 2019 when he performed at the popular Gaborone International Music Concert, marking a pivotal moment in his career. By 2020, he had climbed to the No. 1 spot on the ReverbNation

UK Electronic Dance chart and continued to build international credibility. In 2021, he became a radio host on Texas-based Dagee Radio and by 2022, he was working under the wing of Electric Friends Music in Europe competing on the global stage as both a producer and DJ. Today, he also holds a residency on Yarona FM's Yired show with host Lerato Modiega, a platform that has further amplified his reach within Botswana. Despite his success, Dingalo is candid about the challenges that come with being a self-managed artist. "Writer's block, mental health struggles, self-doubt, anxiety, they all creep in. Sometimes I spend too long chasing perfection, only to realise art is never truly perfect. But I have learned how to quieten the little voices and keep going," he said. **BOPA**

Batho Fashion Week unlocks greatness

Bakang Wren

GABORONE - Batho Fashion Week has once again placed Botswana on the continental style map, bringing together 15 designers from across Africa for its 2025 showcase themed: Bloom Africa-Where African Fashion Blossoms. The event, staged at the National Museum and Art Gallery in Gaborone, highlighted the nation's growing role as a hub for sustainable fashion and cultural exchange. Event director, Emmanuel Kayenda, a former international model and founder of Batho Fashion said in an interview that this year's line-up was designed to showcase both established names and new voices. "We strive to balance established labels with fresh talent so the audience experiences the full spectrum of African design," Kayenda said. He explained that the runway featured a vibrant mix of local and international designers, including Vagour from South Africa, Nivaldo Thierry from Mozambique, SPACEO by Olep representing Botswana, and Gemini from Namibia, alongside a wave of emerging homegrown creatives. Kayenda, who spent over a decade in Cape Town's fashion production industry before returning home, said the event was born out of a determination to create opportunities for local designers, models, and creative entrepreneurs. The 2025 show drew more than 400 guests, among them diplomats, government leaders, buyers, and cultural icons. With rising sponsor interest and strong social media engagement, organisers believe attendance could double within the next two editions. Founded in 2021 under the Dave & Gray Group, Batho Fashion Week is now on its fourth edition. Batho Fashion Week has enjoyed support from the Botswana Tourism Organisation, Room 52, and a network of creative entrepreneurs since its inception. Despite challenges such as funding and managing international logistics, the

platform has already scored major achievements sending Botswana designers to Windhoek Fashion Week, securing features in Vogue Italia, and creating more than 80 seasonal jobs for models, stylists, photographers, and crew. "Batho Fashion Week is not just a show it's a cultural and economic movement. We are working towards establishing a sustainable fabric manufacturing plant and preparing to take Botswana's designers to Paris and London Fashion Weeks," said Kayenda. He mentioned that their mission was to ensure Botswana's creative industry competed globally. With Gaborone confirmed as its anchor city, he said Batho Fashion Week also envisioned regional satellite events in future, further extending Botswana's influence across Africa's fashion scene. **BOPA**



Batho Fashion founder and event director, Emmanuel Kayenda

Athletics heroes back



Three members of Team Botswana arrived home yesterday to a warm reception after the team’s historic performance at the just-ended World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan. The first group comprising Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori and head coach, Kebonyemodisa Dose Mosimanegape, were received at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport by Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng together with officials, family members and supporters. The second group, featuring Kethobogile Haingura and Kemorena Tisang, is expected to land today at 1:10 pm. The last and largest contingent of 17 members, including Collen Kebinatshipi, Lee Eppie, Leungo Scotch, Oratile Nowe, Victor Ntweng, Tshepiso Masalela, Justice Oratile, Zibane Ngozi, Keamogetse Rancholo, Tebatso Omphithetse, Gaorekwe Labane and Aldrin Majaye, along with the remaining coaches, the team administrator and the physiotherapist, will arrive at 7pm. Their outstanding performance in Tokyo has been hailed as historic and a clear sign of Botswana’s growing stature in world athletics. Photos: Thompson Keobaletswe

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