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News bulletins to air in four more languages

Shekgalagari

Shiyei

Naro

iKalanga

Botswana Television and Radio Botswana will on September 29 begin news bulletins in indigenous languages. President Advocate Duma Boko will launch the event. The news bulletins in indigenous languages will start with iKalanga, Shekgalagari, Shiyei and Naro.

Dow warns residents of tough times

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - Kgatleng West residents have been warned about deepening economic downturn, due to dwindling diamond trade.

Speaking at a kgotla meeting in Bophirima Ward in Mochudi recently, area MP, Dr Unity Dow said the diamonds that had been the backbone of the country's economy has not yielded significant returns for some time now, and that many economic activities had been slowed down.

In that regard, she encouraged residents to change lifestyle and develop some productive ways to enable them to feed their households.

"I must be honest with you, the road ahead is not smooth and you got to start some backyard gardens and plough some vegetables and fruit trees," she said.

Dr Dow asked them to resuscitate subsistence farming as it was the only way to sustain their households saying it was vital during economic instability and other crises.

She advised that availability of food would make them resilient to other shocks, adding that food provided self-sufficiency and

further enabled families to become less reliant on external sources for food when supplies are scarce or unaffordable.

On other issues, Dr Dow updated residents about issues from the winter Parliament session.

Among the laws 15 passed, informing residents about the Cannabis Bill of 2025. She said the bill provided a legal framework for the regulated production and use of cannabis strictly for medicinal and industrial purposes

Further, she said the control measures for its cultivation would highly be strict and that they should not be worried that hemp would be used willy-nilly. The legislator said the new administration had proposed industrialisation of hemp as one of the ways to transform and diversify the economy and open new opportunities for Batswana.

Dr Dow also informed residents about the establishment of the Constitutional Court; dedicated as the apex court for constitutional matters. She said the bill had been read once to Parliament referred to Ntlo Ya Dikgosi for their input before it could be discussed further in Parliament.

For their part, resident decried lack of allocation of land that has

been slow.

They said that with no access to land, they were unable to pursue their dreams, adding that the MP's call for residents to develop themselves therefore remained a far-fetched dream.

Further, they complained that Ipelegeng was no longer sustaining them as the numbers for dependents kept growing due to unemployment. They complained about rife

cable theft calling government to intervene by tracking down the dealers who bought such cables.

Phaphane Village Development Committee chairperson, Ms Maipelo Molefhe said they welcome improved Ipelegeng as it was capacitating young people with vocational skills. She said Construction Industry Trust Fund had attached 28 learners with Ipelegeng. However, she

complained about the delay or suspension of national identity card processing due to system issues, which she said affected residents to go on with their daily lives activities.

Cllr for Bophirima, Mr Mpho Motlhabane told residents that due to delayed Constituency Community Project Funds, some of the projects were not feasible such as improving internal roads.**BOPA**

Foundation conducts cataract surgeries

GABORONE – An international team of highly specialised health professionals from Elena Barraquer Foundation based in Barcelona, Spain, will be conducting cataract surgeries at Scottish Livingstone Hospital, Molepolole from September 23 to 27.

This will be the second time the team visits Botswana, the first time was in 2023 when they successfully completed 477 cataract surgeries at Letscholathebe II Memorial Hospital in Maun, says a press release from Ministry of Health.

It further states that the

campaign, which targets eye patients currently on the waiting list, aims to cover 450 patients affected by cataracts..

The release says that the patients are part of approximately 6 000 patients in Botswana currently on the waiting list for cataract surgery.

At the end of the week, it is expected that 450 patients will have their failing sights restored so that they can enjoy better quality of life again, the release says.

Elena Barraquer Foundation is a non-profit organisation that

offers assistance in ophthalmologic medical and surgical services to countries with limited resources and the team provides services to the hosting country at no cost.

Through these international collaborations, the Ministry of Health intends to help augment its efforts in bringing health services to all Batswana, regardless of where they live or their socio-economic status and the collaborations are a platform for skills exchange between local and international professionals.**BOPA**

Guterres urges leaders to prioritise peace, climate justice

By Keonee Majoto

NEW YORK - Striving for peace and human dignity, and achieving climate justice are among the central objectives of the United Nations (UN) going forward.

UN secretary general, Mr Antonio Guterres said this Tuesday in New York that the organisation was confronted with the same questions that gave rise to its establishment 80 years ago.

These questions, he said, stemmed from the reckless disruption to human life, which continued to deprive humanity of a normal course of life.

Mr Guterres, who was speaking at the plenary session of the General Assembly, stated that the invasion of sovereign nations, the weaponisation of hunger, the silencing of truth and other disruptive factors not only made normal living difficult for many but also shook the very principles for which the UN stands.

"The principles of the UN are under siege. The pillars of peace and progress are buckling under the weight of impunity, inequality and indifference," he said.

Such state of affairs, he noted, compelled the world to actively choose to reinforce justice and human rights by recommitting to the principles that gave rise to the UN.

He said it was disturbing that despite peace being the first obligation of the UN and its multilateral partners, wars continued to rage with a barbarity never thought possible.

He added that choosing to promote and uphold human dignity and human rights was also essential as the two were the bedrock of peace.

On climate justice, the secretary general said the world needed to embrace clean energy and work toward its development and equitable access.

While the growing climate crisis was indeed a challenge, he said it presented an opportunity to identify viable solutions, one of which would be the adoption of renewable energy to ensure access to sustainable and clean energy sources for the many who were currently without power.

He also appealed to member states and partners to put technology at the service of humanity.

He cited Artificial Intelligence (AI) as one technological tool that should be used for the greater good of the global population.

He said AI was rewriting human existence in real time, transforming and redefining many aspects of daily life, thereby displaying great potential to enhance the overall human experience.

Additionally, he called for the strengthening of the UN to better serve the citizens of the 21st century.

He said the forces shaking today's world were also testing the foundations of the organisation's systems, particularly with mounting financial strain and rising geopolitical tensions.

US President, Mr Donald Trump said despite its tremendous potential, the UN was struggling to live up to its founding purpose. Conceding on the need for a better and safer future for the world's population, President Trump said America had done its fair share toward the achievement of the noble global dream. He urged the country's allies to together reject the failures of the past and work collectively to confront the threats to humanity.

Heads of government took turns addressing the assembly, touching on different topics including their nations' foreign policy priorities and their positions on pressing issues of global interest.

Meanwhile, President Duma Boko is scheduled to address the assembly today.**BOPA**



Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka (right) and acting permanent secretary, Ms Mamiki Kamanakao during a press briefing in Gaborone on Monday. Ms Kgafela-Mokoka said the ministry, alongside Transport and Infrastructure, Higher Education and Local Government and Traditional Affairs ministries were working around the clock to engage Ipelegeng workers and other local artisans to assist in school renovations. Photo: Teko Letsholo

BEC aims to strengthen examinations security

By Gontle Merafhe

GABORONE - Botswana Examinations Council chairperson will strengthen security around examinations to deter leakages by engaging police to escort the papers to assessment centres.

Dr Olefile Molwane also said already BEC personnel had visited all centres to assess readiness and security relating to examinations.

He said this during a press conference addressed by Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Nono Kgafela-Mokoka in Gaborone on Monday.

Dr Molwane further said they had strong rooms for examinations to avoid lapses experienced in the past examinations.

"Accordingly, strong rooms should be burglar barred and also should have some alarm systems and we have tried to ensure that

level," he said.

For her part, Minister Kgafela-Mokoka said government was working round the clock to refurbish some classrooms where national examinations would be conducted.

She said the Vice President, Ministries of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Transport and Infrastructure, Higher Education as well as Local Government and Traditional Affairs, technical teams and permanent secretaries had met to find ways of addressing the issue of classroom refurbishment.

"I am happy to say that the ministries I have mentioned are working round the clock to engage artisans to try to find ways to expedited refurbishing our schools. It is a lot of work," she said.

Meanwhile, Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) will take place from October 6 to 13

while results were expected third week of December.

Junior Certificate Examinations (JCE) had already started with practicals on August 11 and would end October 31 while results were expected the second week of February.

The Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) examinations will start on October 3 until November 28 and results were expected last week of March.

Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Infrastructure, Higher Education and Local Government and Traditional Affairs ministries alongside Vice President, technical teams and permanent secretaries have met to address issues around the bad state of classrooms and schools where national examinations would be conducted.**BOPA**

Btv, RB commences indigenous news bulletins

By **Thato Mosinyi**

GABORONE - In a move towards promoting cultural inclusion, President Advocate Duma Boko will officially launch news bulletins in indigenous languages on Radio Botswana and Botswana Television on September 29.

This follows an announcement he made November last year during his maiden kgotla meeting in Mahalapye, where he directed the Department of Broadcasting Services to start broadcasting news bulletins in indigenous languages.

Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa revealed during a public statement on Tuesday that the initiative would begin with iKalanga, Shekgalagari, Shiyei

and Naro. This, he said aimed to affirm that every language in Botswana was a vital strand of national identity and that access to information in one's mother tongue was a fundamental right of every citizen.

Minister Mohwasa said the rollout of other national languages would continue in the months leading to the nation's 60th anniversary in September 2026.

He also stated that President Boko would on October 1 formalise the handover of former BCL houses to their current occupants, who are ex-employees of the company in Selebi Phikwe.

Minister Mohwasa said that the initiative provided critical support to the former employees and reflected government's

commitment to upholding affordable housing as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of dignity.

In addition, he noted that in view of present fiscal constraints, and in faithful discharge of the constitutional duty to safeguard public resources, there would be no central budgetary allocation for official independence festivities this year.

He said the decision was made not out of disregard for the nation heritage, but out of profound respect for it adding that true patriotism was measured not by the scale of an event, but by the

strength of a nations stewardship.

"As we wear our colours and raise our flag high, let us show that the soul of our republic is stronger than any budget line.

"May this independence celebrations be-community-led, multilingual and inspired by athletic excellence. It should stand as a testament to the unity, discipline, and creativity of our people," said Minister Mohwasa.

He therefore, called upon ward development committees, community groups, civil society and private citizens to lead ward-level celebrations be it through clean-ups, storytelling for youth,

sports tournaments or cultural feasts.

"This community-led celebration will be enriched by two significant national achievements that embody the spirit of a progressing Botswana," he said.

Minister Mohwasa highlighted that September 29 was hereby declared a paid public holiday in recognition of the men 4x400 metre relay team winning gold at the Tokyo World Athletics Championships, and to allow citizens time to prepare for independence day. **BOPA**

Dangote to headline Global Expo Botswana

By **Keonee Majoto**

NEW YORK - President Advocate Duma Boko has invited Nigerian businessman, Mr Aliko Dangote to headline next year's edition of Global Expo Botswana, the country's premier multi-sectoral business exhibition.

Advocate Boko extended the invitation to Mr Dangote in New York on Tuesday on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the United Nations General Assembly.

During a meeting of the duo, the President informed Mr Dangote that in its drive to woo foreign investors into the country, Botswana had identified him as a suitable potential investor and was ready to facilitate him to expand business operations to the country.

The businessman holds interests in different fields including fertiliser, cement, oil and gas, sugar and other food commodities.

He started the Dangote Group, a small commodity trading company in 1977, which grew and expanded into manufacturing and large-scale production.

President Boko also met with representatives of charitable

organisation, Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation whom he engaged with on the situation of drug availability in Botswana.

He said while the drug situation had since stabilised, more sustainable ways of managing drug procurement and distribution were being developed to prevent any potential future relapses.

President Boko also said that government would deploy the use of technology as one of the strategies to better manage the handling of the drug situation and prevent the reoccurrence of the systemic failures that had resulted in dire drug shortages across public health facilities in recent months.

Speaking in respect to a different engagement of the President, Minerals and Energy Minister Ms Bogolo Kenewendo said President Boko's meeting with Mr Howard Lutnick, the United States of America secretary of commerce had touched on a number of issues.

Ms Kenewendo explained in an interview that one the issues discussed was the tariffs that the US government had imposed on goods imported from outside, a move that she said had further compounded the issue surrounding the sale of Botswana's diamonds.

She said while acknowledging a reduction from 37 to 15 per cent in tariffs, Botswana still yearned for a further drop.

Ms Kenewendo said Botswana also appreciated last week's announcement of the inclusion of its diamonds into Annex II category, a classification of goods exempt from tariffs due to their unavailability in the US market.

The minister said Botswana had, during the meeting, reaffirmed its desire to have US investors set up businesses in the country.

She said the move would help create jobs and contribute to efforts to revive the economy. **BOPA**



Acting President Ndaba Gaolathe (second right) and Marulamantsi Primary School head, Ms Mummsy Utlwang (right) during the official handing over of a school assembly shelter in Gaborone on Tuesday. The shelter was donated by Albert Milton Foundation in partnership with Komatsu. Mr Gaolathe commended the school's collaboration with entities such as Westwood International and Maru-a-Pula, Botswana Defence Force, University of Botswana, All4One, CAAB, and Komatsu, saying excellence flourished where there was partnership. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Education bedrock of transformation-Gaolathe

By **Bonang Masolotatse**

GABORONE - Education stands as a bedrock to the country's transformation agenda, says Acting President Mr Ndaba Gaolathe.

Mr Gaolathe was speaking at the handing over of a shelter to Marulamantsi Primary School on Tuesday.

The P289,000 worth shelter was donated by the Albert Milton Foundation in partnership with Komatsu.

He commended the school's partnership with various entities such as Westwood International and Maru-a-Pula, Botswana Defence Force, University of Botswana, All4One, CAAB, and Komatsu, among others, adding that excellence flourishes where there is partnership.

"If we inspire excellence, it will be delivered. If we build partnerships, opportunities will flourish.

If we nurture dreams, we will build a future worthy of our children," he said.

Concerning the execution of projects, Mr Gaolathe said it had remained a challenge,

hence government response through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), which identified nine priority sectors.

"Among the nine priority sectors identified, education stands as the bedrock.

It is the foundation on which agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, creative industries, healthcare, energy, mining, finance, digitalisation, and social protection depend. Without education, there is no True North," he said.

The Acting President said the transformation signaled a cultural shift from promises to performance, from rhetoric to results, from reliance on minerals to a diversified and innovation-driven economy.

The school head, Ms Mummsy Utlwang, said the school, which opened its doors in 2024, has transformed into a center of excellence.

She said that through partnerships with the community, fostered by the Parents Teachers Association (PTA), Marulamantsi Primary School secured a shelter to serve as a place of protection,

shade, nurturing talents, and a symbol of hope to the learners. She said the project was a demonstration of what could be achieved when institutions work together.

Albert Milton Foundation founder, Ms Albertinah Milton, said the foundation was officially launched in July 2024, although it traces its journey to 2021 through a community-driven initiative supported by many sponsors, adding that its purpose had always been to give back to the community.

Ms Milton said that over the years, the foundation supported education with classroom blocks, school furniture, modern IT hubs, and assisted with a cancer-screening machine.

She further said construction commenced on May 23 this year and was completed on August 11 this year.

"We trust that the assembly area will serve multiple purposes, such as morning assemblies and announcements, cultural activities, reading clubs, camp talks, Christian giving, and community engagement," she said. **BOPA**

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Editors

Ms Lorato Okaile
Tel: 365 3640
Email: lgaleage@gov.bw

Mr Sefhako Sefhako
Tel: 365 3589
Email: sefshako@gov.bw

Head of Photography
Mr Yobe Shonga
Tel: 365 3604
Email: yshonga@gov.bw

Ms Masego Pilane
Tel: 365 3569
Email: mkipilane@gov.bw

For Adverts Call:
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Head of Marketing
Ms Lucretia Chima
Tel: 365 3574
Email: lucretia@gov.bw

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Investment committee to ensure financial stability

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - The Kgatleng District Council has established an Investment Committee that will ensure the council's financial sustainability and provide oversight for its revenue.

This was announced by the council chairperson, Mr Thabo Komane, during the official opening of a week-long full council meeting in Mochudi on Monday.

Mr Komane said the committee would boost investment initiatives, aiming for greater fiscal independence.

He noted that since the committee's formation, progress was already evident, particularly in licensing efforts. In the second quarter alone, he said the council issued 255 new licenses to hawkers and street vendors, along with 31 new trade licenses, which demonstrated increased economic activity in the district.

However, Mr Komane acknowledged persistent challenges, such as people trading without proper licenses and failing to renew them on time, something he said directly impacted the council's revenue base and required ongoing attention.

He also indicated that the zero-based budget process offered significant opportunities to improve the council's financial health through better collection strategies and new revenue streams.

"We are actively exploring innovative investment models, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and strategic land-use initiatives, to unlock additional revenue sources and reduce our over-reliance on central government grants," he said.

Mr Komane added that council was also pursuing zero-based budgeting principles, strengthening debt collection and exploring new revenue streams such as PPP, leasing underutilised land and implementing digital revenue systems.

He said despite universal challenges like project delays and budgetary constraints, infrastructure, development projects in the district were however continuing.

He said the Modipane-Mabalane Road project, valued at P395.6 million, was currently at 48 per cent physical completion against a planned 53 per cent. He said the project faced a one-month delay due to weather and material shortages, but its overall trajectory remained positive.

Mr Komane further said significant progress was also being made in other sectors, which included the new police posts which were under construction in Artesia and Boseja to enhance community protection. In education, he said the Mochele Primary School in Oodi had been successfully handed over while the Linchwe II JSS maintenance project had commenced. Housing development, he said, had also



Kgatlang District Council deputy council secretary, Ms Dorcas Tsamai (left), deputy council chairperson, Mr Solomon Letshwiti (centre) and chairperson, Mr Thabo Komane during full council meeting in Mochudi. Mr Komane said the council was ramping up strategies towards financial independence to improve council revenue. Photo: Mmoniemang Motsamai

accelerated under the Bonno Housing Scheme and had attracted over 150 applications.

Additionally, Mr Komane said the Rural Area Development

Programme was accelerating housing delivery and layout designs in five villages demonstrated a commitment to improving living conditions. In the water

and sanitation sector, he said the NSC2.2 project was now serving Artesia and Leshibitse, enhancing water security for the communities.

He said the rehabilitation of

the Boseja and Kgmanyane wastewater ponds was also progressing steadily and is at 80 per cent completion, addressing critical sanitation needs. **BOPA**

Council enforces bye-laws

By Marvin Motlhabane

KANYE - Between July and September this year, Moshupa Bye-Law Enforcement Unit focused on ensuring that businesses

designated for citizens of Botswana are operated solely by citizens and in accordance with the law. This effort is part of the council's broader commitment to fostering an environment in which Batswana

businesses can not only start but also thrive.

Briefing Moshupa District Full Council Session on Monday, Chairperson Mr Peter Sethibe emphasised that a crucial element in accelerating economic development was the promotion of a business-enabling environment. He stated that this entailed ensuring that laws and byelaws designed to protect and empower citizens were actively enforced, rather than mere formalities on paper.

Mr Sethibe highlighted two key areas of focus. The first being the enforcement of the Hawking and Street Vending Bye-Laws, indicating that this sector was exclusively reserved for Batswana. He noted that this area often served as an introductory step into entrepreneurship for many citizens, prompting his officers to conduct inspections to ensure compliance. Consequently, non-citizens found operating in this informal sector faced charges and were ordered to cease operations immediately.

The second area addressed was the Industrial Development Act, under which the unit targeted brick moulding businesses, another sector reserved for citizens that plays a vital role in the construction industry and local value addition. Inspections revealed that eight citizen operators were charged for running brick moulding enterprises without valid licenses, alongside one non-citizen charged for illegal operations in this sector.

Mr Sethibe reported that offenders were fined between P500 and P1 000, reinforcing the message that the laws of the country would be strictly enforced. He affirmed that the economic space reserved for Batswana

would be safeguarded; however, he noted that enforcement alone was insufficient. The council must also address significant challenges with urgency and strategic foresight.

Mr Sethibe pointed out that some non-citizens had sought ways to bypass the law by hiring Batswana to front for them, a practice that undermined citizen empowerment. He made an appeal to the community to refrain from such practices, which detract from the ethos of empowerment.

Furthermore, feedback from brick moulding operators highlighted a pressing concern regarding the lack of designated industrial plots in Moshupa. This shortage has compelled many citizens to operate from residential areas or along road reserves, putting them in violation of health, environmental, and zoning regulations. "We are not just penalising our people; we are listening to them. Their grievances demand our urgent attention," said Mr Sethibe.

He reiterated the necessity for the council to address infrastructure gap, which would provide legitimate, legal, and safe spaces for industries to flourish. He stressed that accelerating economic development required both rigorous enforcement and proactive measures to support local entrepreneurship.

By protecting reserved sectors while simultaneously developing the necessary infrastructure, Mr Sethibe believed that citizens could be empowered, leading to a formalised economy and a more prosperous Moshupa for all. Councillors appreciated efforts presented by the chairperson around economic acceleration in Moshupa. **BOPA**



Moshupa District Council chairperson, Mr Peter Sethibe addressing a full council meeting on Monday. He said accelerating economic development required strict enforcement of laws, reserving certain businesses for citizens while also addressing infrastructure gaps to support local entrepreneurship.

Photo: Courtesy of Moshupa District Council

Seabe sa kereke se a bonala

Ka Tebogo Masuruke

TUTUME -Dikereke di kopilwe go tsosolosa le go nna le seabe mo go tsibogeleng masula a go lebegang a gomagometsang go nyeletsa batho.

Fa a bua ka letsatsi la pulo semmuso bokopano jwa kereke ya Guta Ra Jehova kwa Tutume bosheng, mogolwane wa lephata la Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority, Dr Never Tshabang o gwetlhile dikereke go tshwaragana le puso mo go batleng tlharabololo kwa Modimong e e tlaa thusang go lwantsha masula ao.

A re lefatshe la Botswana le aperwe ke seru sa kgokgontsho ya bong, dikotsi tsa tsela, dipolaano le tiriso botlhatswa ya dinotagi, a re tseo di ka nyelediwa ka tshwaragano le poifo Modimo.

O boletse fa borukutlhi bo golela pele, mme a kgothatsa bakeresete go tshwara ka thata ba rapelele borukutlhi gore bo bepe.

O gateletse gore kereke ya Guta Ra Jehova e tshegeditse tsamaiso, ngwao le molao motheo gape e beets dikeletso tsa batho kwa pele e bile ga e dire sepe se se pharologanyo le dikereke tse dingwe ka ba obamela Modimo le go tshegetsa ditaelo le melawana ya Baebele.

Sebui sa tlotla kwa moletlong oo, mogolwane kwa Botash, Rre Kangangwane Phatshwane a re dikereke di supile seabe se setona mo tlhabololong ya lefatshe e bile ke tsone di dirileng gore go rene kagiso le thokgamo mo Botswana.

Rre Phatshwane a re dikereke di tshwanetse go ipela ka jaana di tshela ka kgololesego le kagiso ya go obama e bile molao-motheo o ba le tla go rapela go sena sekgoreletsi sepe.

A re banni ba Tutume ba lesego go bo ba etetswe ke maloko a

kereke eo, a re motse wa bone o tlaa sala o robalelwa ke ditlhokwa mo dikgang tsa borukutlhi.

A re ntswa dikereke di farologana ka tsamaiso, se se botlhokwa ke go rorisa Modimo o mongwefela.

E ne e rile pele fa a bolela ditso tsa kereke eo, mookamedi wa Guta Ra Jehova go tswa kwa Zimbabwe, Changamire Ngaite Zimunya a re Guta ra Jehova go raya gore toropo ya ga Jehova.

A re kereke eo e tlhologile kwa Zimbabwe mme mo Botswana e gorogile ka 1955 e na le maloko a le masome matlhano le bone.

A re mo nako eno, kereke e aname le lefatshe ka bophara mo e setseng e na le makalana a le masome matlhano.

O boletse fa a tlhobadiwa ke lekalana la Botswana ka palo ya maloko a yone e ngotegile ka go setse batho ba le masome mabedi le bobedi mme e le bagolo fela ga gona banana.

A re o lebogela gore kereke e filwe setsha se setona se ba obamelang mo go sone mo Tutume, a re ga se lantlha ba tshwara bokopano jwa mofuta wa go nna jalo ba kopane ele maloko a a tswa lefatshe la Zimbabwe, Malawi le Mozambique.

A re kereke ya Guta Ra Jehova e na le nonofo le maatla a go rapelela makoa otlhe le masula a a apereng lefatshe.

A re re ntswa ba le palo potlana mo Botswana kemo nokeng e ba e filwe e supile fa ba na le tatedi kana maloko a mantsi thata ka bokopano jwa bone bo tsamaile ka thelelo. Ba Botash ba ne ba abela kereke P5 000, fa bana le masika a maloko a kereke eo mo Tutume ba tshwaragane le madirelo a B&K ba ne ba agela moruti ntlo e a gorogelang mo go yone ya borobalo mo teng ga lefelong la kereke e e lopileng P40 000. **BOPA**



Mopalamente wa Ngami, Rre Philemon Aaron (bobedi molemeng) a buisa banni ba Ngocho bosheng. O akgotse banni ba Ngocho le Samotshoka maiteko a ba a dirang a go aga matlo a setso a a tla dirisiwang ke ba botsogo fa ba isitse ditlamelo tsa melemo e e botlhokwa le go kala bana. A re go dira jalo ke go tsosolosa mowa o o agileng lefatshe leno wa boithaopo le go ipelega. Rre Aaron o ne gape a tlhalosa fa ofisi ya Lephata la tsa Khiri e tlaa bulwa kwa Gumare, go tsisa ditlamelo gaufi le batho ba Okavango.

Senepe: Kedirebofe Pelontle

Badirelapuso ba kopiwa go sala tsamaiso morago

By Tebogo Masuruke

TUTUME - Badirelapuso ba gakolotswe go itshupa ngwaga le ngwaga kwa ofising ya makgetho go tlhomamisa gore ba duela lekgetho sentle go itsa tiego ya go bona dituelo tsa bone fa ba tlogela tiro.

Mogolwane wa letlole la polokelo la badirelapuso la Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF), Mme Kefilwe Tshwene o gakolotse badirelapuso go itsalanya le ofisi ya makgetho ya Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) go tlhomamisa gore tuelo ya bone ya makgetho e tsamaya sentle.

A re go dira jalo, go tla fokotsa madiadia a nnang teng fa ba sena go tlogela tiro. O ntshitse kopo eo kwa bokopanong le badirelapuso ba kgaolo ya Tutume ka Mosupologo.

Mme Tshwene a re ga go monate go diegelwa ka dituelo tsa morago ga go tlogela tiro,

mme seo se bakwa ke diphoso tse mongwe a ka bong a di baakantse a santse a le mo tirong.

O gakolotse babereki gore lebaka la go duela makgetho le bulelwa ngwaga le ngwaga, ka jalo a ba rotloetsa gore ba dirise sebaka seo go thodumela le go tlhomamisa gore ga ba na melala ya go duela lekgetho.

A re sengwe se ba tshwanetseng go se dira ke gore morago ga ngwaga tse pedi dingwe le dingwe ba tlatse difomo tse di kaelang ba ofisi ya Botswana Unified Revenue Services gore ba sale botshelong tse di tlwaelesegileng ka leina la 'Know Your Customer'.

Fa a ba lekodisa ka melao ya tlhokomelo ya polokelo, mogolwane wa tsa melao wa BPOPF, Mme Kwenantle Otukile a tlhomamisa fa madi a bone a sireleditswe ka fa molaong.

O tlhalositse gore letlole la bone la polokelo le adimisa madi go ikokeletsa letseno.

A re letlole le adimile puso madi a kana ka P3 billion fa P500 million a adimilwe lekalana la Letshego. Mongwe wa batsena dipuisano tseo, Mme Cecilia Nthomola o kopile go re go baakanngwe molao go letla maloko go fiwa bontlha bongwe jwa madi a ba bolokileng ba sale mo tirong.

Mme Nthomola a re go le gantsi madi ao a sala a akolwa ke bajaboswa fa mmereki a tlhokafetse. Kgang eo e ne ya atliwa ke bontsi jwa badirelapuso, ba kopa go re ba letlelelwe go adima madi mo mading a bone go itirela morokotso.

Fa a tsibogela megopolo ya bone, mookamela letlole la BPOPF, Rre Moemedi Malindah a re kgang ya go letla maloko go ka fiwa bontlha jwa madi a bone e tswa kgakala.

Rre Malindah a re seo se ka kgonega fa Palamente e ka fetisa molao o letang gore go dirwe jalo. **BOPA**



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IPAPATSE MO GO RONA



New centre bridges digital divide

By Baleseng Batlotleng

MOGOBANE - The newly launched digital centre at Mogobane Primary School is a significant step in government's broader initiative to harness technology for national development and bridge the

digital divide, particularly in rural communities.

Officially opening the centre on Tuesday, Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr David Tshere said the facility, worth over P1.2 million and equipped with modern tools like computers and a digital smart

board, would serve as a hub for coding, digital research and interactive learning.

He added that the centre would also provide learners with the resources and skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing and technology-driven world.

"It will serve as a gateway to

creativity and knowledge for the learners. Learners will have access to online resources and modern tools to enhance their studies," he said.

Again, he said the centre would support teachers with modern tools for enhanced teaching methods and enable innovative teaching to prepare learners for future opportunities.

The minister also said government strongly believed that such digital centres were critical in building a robust digital economy and positioning the nation as a leader in innovation.

Mr Tshere said the project aligned with the Botswana National Digital Economy roadmap for 2025-2030, which aimed to transform the nation into a digitally-driven, knowledge-based economy by 2030 as well as increase digital literacy to 80 per cent of the population.

The roadmap, he said also aimed to position Botswana as a continental leader in digital innovation, ensuring that technological advancements benefitted all citizens.

"The roadmap is meant to consolidate efforts such as the one we are witnessing right now to ensure that the country moves in cohesion to ultimately achieve its digital economy ambitions. The effectiveness of the digital economy will be dependent on universal access to broadband internet connectivity," he added.

He highlighted that achieving the target would, however,

require significant infrastructure investment and innovative approaches to reach areas such as Mogobane.

Mr Tshere applauded the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), through the Universal Access and Services Fund (UASF), for its continued drive to bring internet connectivity and ICTs to schools, particularly at primary level.

For his part, UASF board chairperson, Mr Itumeleng Batsalelwang, said as the regulator of the communications sector, BOCRA was mandated by the Communications Regulatory Authority Act (CRA) of 2012, to facilitate the development of ICTs to achieve universal access to communications services.

"In delivering this mandate, BOCRA is highly cognisant that the successful implementation of the government's digital transformation agenda is dependent on the availability of a robust ICT environment," he said.

Mr Batsalelwang said in 2014, government, through BOCRA, established the UASF as a special purpose vehicle to drive universal connectivity.

Today, he said, the country was recognised among developing nations as one with an enviable communications sector, ranking high on the continent.

He said in partnership with the Fund, BOCRA had been progressively introducing ICTs to primary schools since 2018.

BOPA



Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr David Tshere (right) and Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa at the official opening of the Mogobane Digital Centre in Mogobane on Tuesday. Minister Tshere said government was in pursuit of digital transformation and committed to harnessing technology for development through the provision of such infrastructure.

Photo: Baleseng Batlotleng



23 September 2025
To: All Media Houses
Att: News Editors

PRESS RELEASE



Republic of Botswana

PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA

OUR PARLIAMENT OUR PRIDE

PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA CONVENES A SPECIAL MEETING TO DEBATE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 12

The public and the media are informed that Parliament will convene a Special Meeting to consider the Draft National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) from the **13th of October to the 7th of November 2025**. This follows the tabling of the Draft NDP 12 by the Minister for State President, Hon. Moeti C. Mohwasa on the 22nd of September 2025 in accordance with Standing Order 33.2 (b).

The State of the Nation Address (SONA) will thereafter be held on the 10th of November 2025.

The Draft NDP 12 outlines:

- Summary of the Planned Development Expenditure across Ministries and Departments,
- The Public Investment Programme, and
- An Indicator Framework to guide performance monitoring during implementation.

The Draft Plan will now undergo detailed consideration by Parliament as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATES
Presentation of the Draft Plan, followed by two clear days	13 October 2025
Members of Parliament seminar on NDP 12	13-15 October 2025
General and sectoral debate on the Draft Plan	16 October- 7 November 2025
Prorogation	8-9 November 2025
The National Assembly will adjourn sine die for the end-of-year recess	19 December 2025

Parliament remains committed to ensuring that the nation's development priorities are carefully debated, scrutinized, and aligned to the aspirations of Batswana.

Proceedings of the meeting will be broadcast live on Parliament **Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaParliament>, Botswana Television, Radio Botswana, BWGovernment Facebook page and other media outlets.

For more information, contact Public Relations Office at 3616 869/ 3705 588/506/522

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

F d l o w U s  



 361 6800  PO Box 240, Gaborone  Government Enclave

 www.parliament.gov.bw  BW Parliament

For More Information, contact Public Relations on: **361 6 869 / 370 5506 / 588 / 522.**

BoFiNet commits to boost connectivity

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) is actively working to improve the country's fibre infrastructure and connectivity for all.

This was said by BoFiNet acting chief executive officer, Mr Keabetswe Segole at a recent media engagement in Gaborone.

Mr Segole highlighted several key initiatives aimed at enhancing network resilience and affordability, saying to ensure uninterrupted connectivity, BoFiNet had acquired capacity on a third cable, the Equiano, which added to its existing WACS and EASSy cables.

"As Botswana's wholesale provider of fibre infrastructure and connectivity solutions, we remain committed to driving down barriers to access, supporting innovation and ensuring that every Motswana has the opportunity to participate in the digital future," he said.

He said as of September this year, BoFiNet had implemented capacity upgrades designed to lower the cost per-unit for its clients. He explained that such upgrades, combined with ongoing infrastructure investments, enabled Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to pass on significant cost savings to their customers.

He noted that the effort not only improved affordability, but also helped bridge the digital divide and empower communities, businesses and institutions.

"We are excited to play a pivotal role in the reduction of internet service pricing in Botswana, a milestone that brings us closer to our vision of affordable, reliable, and accessible connectivity for all," he said.

He added that BoFiNet had engaged with the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority to ensure service providers complied with the new pricing structure.

For his part, BoFiNet's head of finance, Mr Mandla Majasi, they had returned to profitability, driven by disciplined cost management and sustained infrastructure investments, as reflected in the financial statements for the year ended March 2024.

The project manager for infrastructure, Mr Noga Noga, confirmed that BoFiNet had several ongoing expansion projects, including national backbone builds and local access networks.

He said such projects were expected to boost economic activity by creating jobs, driving citizen empowerment and connecting more communities.

BOPA

Beach patrols aim to restore order

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Police have told councillors that their patrols at Matlapana Beach aim to restore order and peace around the area. This was said by Officer Commanding District Number 5, Senior Superintendent Molefhe Molefhe, during the ongoing full council meeting on Tuesday.

He said many people gathered at Matlapana Beach, a popular and vibrant riverfront attraction site along the Thamalakane River, for tourism and recreational activities, with some cruising along the river and others hanging around.

However, he said the presence of loud music often led to significant amounts of litter being left behind, degrading the area's natural beauty.

Again, he said lack of ablution facilities also posed an environmental risk and therefore to ensure order, safety and proper management of the site, by-law officers and police were deployed.

Even so, some councillors called on the police to recall officers patrolling at Matlapana Beach and redeploy them to areas where crime was rampant.

They argued that visibility of the police around the beach threatened local livelihoods and tourism and had also left polers who earned a living from mokoro excursions stranded with no customers because people were not allowed to stay long at the area.

One councillor for Matlapana/Shorobe Ward, Kobamelo Baikgodisi argued that there were any water points along the Thamalakane River like the Big Tree, which he said experienced an influx of people over the weekends.

"There are no police deployed there.

We want the officers to be removed because they are destroying beach front businesses," he said.

He said the police were pushing away small business people who were struggling and simply trying to fend for their families.

On the other hand, he argued that they were protecting hotels and other big businesses, as some had been complaining about the noise at the beach.

Baikgodisi added that polers did their best to ensure the area was kept clean when they ended

their workday.

Thus, he called on relevant authorities to help the Matlapana Community Trust on how best they could manage the beach to generate income.

Specially nominated councillor, Segolame Marewa, concurred that the police at the beach had a negative impact on small entrepreneurs making a living from water activities and wished they could be recalled from the site.

Marewa said authorities needed to understand that the river was seasonal and its vibrancy depended on the water inflows, which residents gathered to socialise and welcome. **BOPA**



Officer Commanding District Number 5, Senior Superintendent Molefhe Molefhe has told councillors at the ongoing full council meeting in Maun on Tuesday that patrols at Matlapana Beach aimed to restore order and peace around the area.

Forum spotlights mixed culture, technology

BEIJING - The 2025 Beijing Culture Forum opened Tuesday, drawing participants from home and abroad to discuss the integrated development of culture and technology.

Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, attended the forum and delivered

a keynote speech.

Over 800 participants from 58 countries and regions attended the forum.

The attendees noted that the ongoing wave of technological and industrial transformation was driving deeper integration of culture and technology, which could help promote changes in the content of cultural production and modes of dissemination.

They emphasised that

technology should always serve the inheritance and innovation of culture and that new technologies and methods should be applied to enhance the protection and transmission of cultural heritage.

Highlighting the importance of fostering exchanges and mutual

learning among civilisations, the attendees urged the creation of more online platforms for cross-cultural engagement and communication, enabling people worldwide to gain a better understanding of each other's cultures. **Xinhua**

McDonald's China to invest millions in talent development

SHANGHAI - McDonald's China announced on Tuesday an investment of more than ¥400 million (about US\$56.3 million) in talent training and development over the next three years, with a focus on modernising its Hamburger University in Shanghai.

The initiative aims to upgrade the Hamburger University in three dimensions "smarter, more open, and more holistic growth" to build a restaurant talent cultivation system for the digital era. The investment announcement coincides with the 15th anniversary of McDonald's Hamburger University China, which was established in 2010 as the company's seventh global training center.

The academy currently trains nearly 10 000 participants annually and supports nearly 200 000 employees via an online e-learning platform.

Phyllis Cheung, CEO of McDonald's China, noted that the company's expansion from over 1 000 restaurants in 2010 when the Hamburger University was established to more than 7 400 today underscored the institution's role as a cornerstone of its talent development system. Lily Li, dean of McDonald's Hamburger University China, said facing the needs of talent development in a new era, the academy would cultivate more outstanding restaurant management talent for the future. **Xinhua**



BEIJING - Guests at the opening ceremony of the 2025 Beijing Culture Forum in China. The forum opened on Tuesday, drawing participants from home and abroad to discuss the integrated development of culture and technology. Photo: Xinhua

As Botswana prepares to host the World Athletics Relays in Gaborone on May 2 to 3 next year, public anticipation is growing and ticket demand is on the rise. The excitement has been fueled by Botswana's men's 4x400m relay team's spectacular performance at the just ended World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan. Photo: Courtesy of World Athletics



Demand for World Relays tickets high

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Public anticipation is building and demand for tickets for the World Athletics Relays, which will be held in Gaborone in May next year continues to rise.



Moses Bantsi

That follows Botswana's men's 4x400m relay team's spectacular performance at the just ended World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan where the team won its maiden gold medal.

In an interview, the relays Chief

Executive Officer, Moses Bantsi, acknowledged the public's eagerness, saying Botswana were already asking when tickets for the major international event would become available.

As such, Bantsi said the organising committee planned to release early bird tickets by mid-October.

He explained that the delay was due to the committee's priority to create a secure ticketing system to prevent issues of duplication.

"It is not just a simple ticket, we want to use Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) for our ticketing so that it can be scanned by the gate," he said.

He added that the committee

had issued a Request for Quotation (RFQ) to various companies to find the best solution.

"To make tickets accessible to fans both locally and abroad, they will be available for purchase on the official event website," he said.

Bantsi urged Botswana to come out in large numbers to support the national team.

"I am just arriving from Tokyo and everyone wants to come to Botswana," he said, adding that once they release the tickets, Botswana should be the first to buy them.

While preparations for the World Athletics Relays are underway, Bantsi emphasised the need for support from the business community.

He urged the corporate world to collaborate with them as government could not solely manage the cost of the event. "The relays belong to Botswana and different companies. Corporate support is essential to ensure a memorable and successful event," he added.

Botswana has already made history as the first African country to win a gold medal in the men's 4x400m relay.

It will now make history again as the first African nation to host the World Athletics Relays.

The event is expected to draw an estimated 6 000 tourists, 1 735 athletes and 635 officials from 60 countries.

The country was awarded hosting rights in March this year. **BOPA**