

BOTSWANA

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Tanzania billionaire and Pan-African business leader Mr Mohammed Dewji (left) during a courtesy call on President Advocate Duma Boko at Office of the President on Tuesday. President Boko welcomed his interest in Botswana saying it was gratifying to see Africans taking the lead in transforming the continent. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Mophane earns reputation for excellence

Mophane’s story is a reminder across the country’s education sector that high achievement is built on community leadership and determination, even in the face of limited resources.

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INFORMATION SERVICES

Francistown council reports progress of various programmes

Kelebogile Taolo
FRANCISTOWN

Francistown City Council (FCC) has reported progress on health infrastructure, sports tourism and social protection programmes, as it works to improve service delivery for residents.

The mayor, Mr Gaone Majere said the clinic with a maternity wing under construction at Gerald Estate was 89 per cent complete and on track and expected to be completed end of next month.

He said the clinic would significantly enhance maternal and child health services in the area, reduce referral pressure on secondary facilities and bring quality care closer to the communities that needed it most.

Mr Majere also announced restocking of the Gerald Estate Recreational Park with 15 impalas, four zebras and four ostriches within a 400-hectare paddock.

He said an estimated P7.8 million is still required for a borehole and 19km of perimeter fencing to bring the park to full operational capacity.

On social protection, Mr Majere said 683 residents had registered for the Child Support Grant and after screening, 175 beneficiaries were submitted for this month's payments.

He said installation of solar

street lights in Monarch, Gerald Estate, Blocks 2,3,4,7 and other areas were 100 per cent complete.

Mr Majere said Water Utilities Corporation responded to the ongoing water challenges that were a result of frequent pipe bursts, as they occurred in the Blocks, Area S, Area W and industrial areas.

Francistown-Nata Road reconstruction has seen the completion of a 20km stretch, which has been opened to traffic, however, the project remained behind schedule, Mr Majere said.

He also stated that the council had absorbed 21 temporary employees into permanent and pensionable positions as part of government's insourcing policy.

Mr Majere urged councilors to support law enforcement operations aimed at curbing illegal business activities, saying a recent joint operation with Botswana Police yielded 83 cases.

The mayor urged residents to collect 912 uncollected national identity cards currently held at the Francistown office and to participate in the ongoing National Customer Satisfaction Survey.

"Our deliberations must be characterised by constructive debate, mutual respect, accountability and, above all, a shared commitment to the development of Francistown," said Mr Majere. **BOPA**



City of Francistown mayor, Mr Gaone Majere (centre) interacting with the residents after a consultative kgotla meeting at Gerald Estate in Francistown on Tuesday. Mr Majere encouraged the community to revive the spirit of self-reliance by coming together to clean the cemetery. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Hunyepa urges schools to increase financial portfolios

Relief Lephutshi
OTSE

Acting Minister at the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa has applauded Moeding College's proposal to be allowed to maximise the school bakery by extending their production beyond self-feeding to supplying other institutions in the area.

In his address to Moeding College's teaching and non-teaching staff recently, Mr Hunyepa said the move would be a good initiative for income generation.

He further encouraged the school to even consider supplying uniforms as a way of enforcing technical skills and production for further income generation to the mission school.

Earlier, the school staff had told him that the generated funds would help on issues of school maintenance. The acting minister said with regards to issues of maintenance, government has engaged an infrastructure company to help in refurbishing schools.

Mr Hunyepa also encouraged teachers to have other income generating streams since salary alone was not sufficient to accumulate wealth. He said teachers should maximise their professional skills and empower themselves through making use of their available free time.

Mr Hunyepa said they should live up to the skills they impart to learners and be exemplary, by so doing empowering themselves financially, hence promoting their financial portfolios.

The acting minister said each professional skill was capable of paving way to wealth, further stating that the country was loaded with wealth opportunities yet to be explored. He challenged them to venture into production of goods and services as well as writing books for passive income.

Also, he highlighted that under BETP, an international company, Permando Associates, has been identified to help turn around the economy.

He said the company had

identified seven sectors through, which the economy could remarkably be transformed.

The sectors are Agriculture, tourism, mining, renewable energy, manufacturing, health and education.

He highlighted that availability of solar energy could be maximised throughout the year and even challenged Science and Design and Technology teachers to creatively maximise the opportunity saying the BETP programme can be of benefit even in the classrooms.

Mr Hunyepa said they could sustain the school through various production disciplines and equip learners to thrive outside school.

Earlier when addressing the students, Mr Hunyepa encouraged them to be diligent in upholding discipline and the institution's image, saying doing that would take them a long way even after their educational journey.

He further advised for wise, positive and profitable use of cellphones to enhance their studies, cautioning them that cellphone use could either make or break them.

The acting South East Regional Director in the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Kwante Kwante applauded the ministry's continued efforts of offering promotions.

When responding to Moeding College staff grievances, he said all has been done in relation to teachers' welfare in the South Region, especially through established boards to facilitate teachers' promotions.

He told the teachers that the South East Region has submitted all names of teachers with more than two years in the CI scale for consideration to senior teacher grade 1 positions together with those in D4 to D3 scales.

Mr Kwante said the exercise would enable the board to work with all qualifying names availed to them.

However, he said it was subject to limited available positions to all teachers in the same level across the nation.

Highlighting on the promotional criterion, Mr Kwante said there were requirements to be fulfilled such as academic performance,

which he said were aided by the ministry's set targets of 70 per cent pass mark for the teachers' class performance at primary schools, while at both junior and senior secondary schools qualifying level was at 50 percent of their class pass rates.

On special education, he said it was a government policy aided by carrying assessments on children. He said assessing special children should be a continuous process, which could be best carried out while children were at an early age not just for purposes of examination.

On other issues, Mr Kwante said delayed payments of boarding assistants, could highly be due to some delays in offices and therefore advised that proper tracking of submission process should be done.

"Overtime is supposed to be requested and authorised by the employer, on the basis of available pending work," he said and further requested teachers to desist from working unauthorised overtime, saying that perpetuates overtime challenges as it's often budgeted for.

Mr Kwante said scarce skills has a committee at the ministry, with a list of subjects considered under scarce skills.

He said for teachers to earn special education allowance, the policy required that one should work in a school established with a special education unit, with the teacher offering special education skills service coupled with a scarce skills qualification.

Moeding College Head, Ms Thabologo Nageng appreciated efforts by the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) and the government for efforts made towards some completed maintenance needs.

She decried the limited subvention grant from the government, saying it is overwhelmed by catering for payments of non-teaching staff.

Ms Nageng requested the government to consider absorbing the non-teaching staff into the government pool, saying the move would better their welfare at the same time leaving a room to maximise the funds for school sustenance. **BOPA**

Veldt fires at peak countrywide

Relief Lephutshi
KANYE

Following the good rains resulting in thick layers of dry grass and vegetation, members of the community have been urged to exercise caution when handling fire, as the situation has the potential to fuel veldt fires.

Principal Forest and Range Resource Officer, Ms Keamogetse Tselakgosi said pastures were in a fair condition throughout Kanye District, therefore alarming caution as it was a peak season for veldt fires.

Speaking in a recent interview with BOPA, Ms Tselakgosi said even though the rangeland condition was generally fair, the winter season has adversely affected the nutritional value of the forage. Ms Tselakgosi said the dry season boosts potential degradation of the rangeland grasses and trees, therefore urging members of the community to exercise caution when using fire and avoid aggravating the damage by causing veldt fires.

She said Kanye District has by far recorded three veldt fires outbreaks at Kgwakgwe Hill, Lorolwane Plantations and Ntebogang Junior Secondary School grounds.

Ms Tselakgosi said the cumulative area affected by veldt fires in the current season (between June and August 2026), in Kanye District measured 78.04 hectares.

Despite putting in place efforts to combat veldt fires, Ms Tselakgosi said efforts to deal with fire outbreaks before enormous damage was done on the environment was at times hampered by shortage of transport, inaccessible terrain due to dense vegetation and rocky hills among other challenges.

"Often, strong winds also contribute to the rapid spread of the fire", she said and therefore hindering efforts to timely extinguish the fire. Ms Tselakgosi also added that some members of the community were trained to enhance firefighting capacity with Losabanyana and Lorolwane each having fire teams of 20 members respectively.

Additionally, Ms Tselakgosi said the department has established a seven-member firefighting teams at Mmathethe, Moshupa, Good Hope and Lobatse.

In addition to developing fire teams, Ms Tselakgosi said her office conducted community educational and awareness campaigns on fire management. **BOPA**

Africa investors key to continental growth

Bonang Masolotatse
GABORONE

Tanzanian billionaire and Pan-African business leader, Mr Mohammed Dewji has expressed interest in investing in Botswana, describing the country as strategically positioned to serve as a gateway to the southern African market.

Mr Dewji, who is also an entrepreneur and philanthropist, met President Advocate Duma Boko on Tuesday, where he shared his business journey and outlined potential areas of investment in

Botswana.

According to Forbes, Mr Dewji has a net worth of US\$2.1 billion. He is the president of MeTL Group, a Tanzanian conglomerate founded by his father in the 1970s.

Mr Dewji said his business interests span 48 areas of manufacturing, with the group also involved in export and import activities. He said MeTL Group occupied a significant share of the Tanzanian market and was the country's second-largest employer after government.

He said the group's key areas of investment included textiles,

agriculture, logistics and distribution, and natural resources, while its wider portfolio covered energy, petroleum, insurance, mobile telephony, trading, real estate, mining, and food and beverages.

He expressed admiration for Botswana's economic and political environment despite its relatively small population, saying its geographical position could make it an important springboard into the southern African market.

"Botswana, with a small population, should join hands with strategic investors to invest in the continent," he said.

Mr Dewji said Botswana

needed strategic partners capable of unlocking the country's geographical advantage and connecting it more effectively with regional markets.

President Boko welcomed the interest, saying it was gratifying to see Africans taking the lead in transforming the continent.

He said the participation of African developers, entrepreneurs and innovators was critical to Africa's development.

President Boko, however, acknowledged that government processes could sometimes be slow, thereby affecting business agility.

He said government was working to address such challenges and

ensure that investors were not required to move from office to office when establishing businesses in Botswana.

President Boko further said government was committed to working within strict timelines and reducing bureaucracy to create a more conducive environment for investment.

Mr Dewji, a former member of Parliament in Tanzania, is also the founder of the Mo Dewji Foundation (MDF), a non-profit organisation involved in education, access to clean water, health and community development.

He also owns a 49 per cent stake in Simba Sporting Club. **BOPA**

Ministry and FAO partnership to transform agriculture

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration aimed at building a resilient agriculture sector that contributes meaningfully to Botswana's economic transformation.

Addressing a high-level stakeholder engagement workshop, FAO Representative in Botswana, Dr Patrice Talla, said the platform provided an opportunity to identify development challenges and gaps, review progress on existing projects, share experiences and map practical solutions to improve the delivery and impact of joint programmes.

Dr Talla said the partnership between government and FAO was guided by the Country Programming Framework (CPF), which focused on strengthening evidence-based policies and regulatory frameworks, developing sustainable and competitive agricultural value chains, improving food and nutrition security and promoting sustainable management of natural resources in the face of climate-related shocks.

"Through our partnerships with government and other stakeholders, we have made significant progress in implementing the CPF through joint efforts in horticulture, aquaculture, apiculture, food safety, animal and plant health, sustainable land management,

ecosystem restoration and wildlife management, among other areas," he said.

He said the interventions contributed directly to Botswana's national development priorities.

For his part, Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti, commended FAO for mobilising stakeholders to chart a new course for agriculture and restore the sector as an engine of economic emancipation.

"Agriculture has been deeply rooted in our national identity, transforming the economy and significantly contributing to GDP since before independence. We need to return to the crossroads by reclaiming, rebuilding and restoring agriculture into a more productive, commercially viable and climate-resilient sector, with FAO as such a significant development partner," he said.

Minister Dikoloti noted that agriculture's contribution to the economy had declined over the years to about two per cent of GDP, despite continued government investment in the sector.

He said the ministry had set an ambition to increase agriculture's contribution to GDP to six per cent.

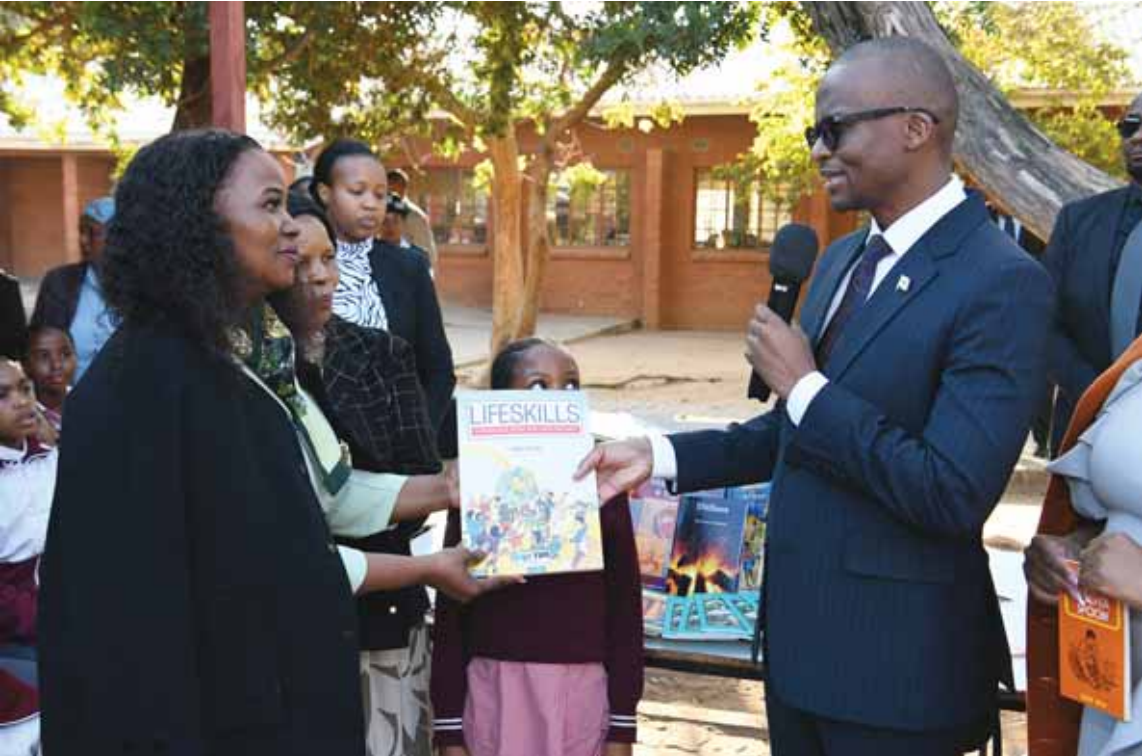
Despite persistent food security challenges, Minister Dikoloti said government remained committed to increasing the national cattle population to five million within the next five years as part of efforts to strengthen the sector's contribution to the economy.

He said recurrent droughts, el niño events, climate variability, land degradation, water scarcity, rising production costs and livestock diseases continued to constrain agricultural production.

"These challenges are interconnected, requiring an integrated, science-based and sustainable response in building a climate-smart and resilient sector," he said.

Minister Dikoloti further acknowledged that transforming agriculture required collective effort, saying no single institution could achieve the desired transformation alone.

He commended FAO for supporting the sector beyond project design and implementation, particularly in scaling up successful interventions and ensuring that the benefits reached farmers, entrepreneurs and communities across the country. **BOPA**



Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe (left) handing donated books to Mophane Primary School head, Ms Leah Maele during a school visit in Gaborone on Tuesday. Ms Maele said enrollment was at 1 050 pupils with five classes per stream from Standard One to Standard Seven and had admitted children from greater Gaborone. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

Mophane earns reputation for excellence

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

Tucked away in Gaborone West Block 5, Mophane Primary School may be easy to miss, but its stellar academic performance makes it impossible to ignore. The public school has earned a national reputation as a top performer, drawing pupils from across Greater Gaborone and areas as far as Mmankgodi, Molepolole and Kopong.

The school recently hosted Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, who visited to donate textbooks and motivate staff and pupils as part of his constituency engagements.

Addressing the pupils, Mr Gaolathe urged them to set ambitious goals and remain disciplined.

Under school head Ms Leah Maele, who took charge in 2017, Mophane's pass rate has climbed steadily from 90 to 96.5 per cent pass rate in 2025.

Demand for enrollment is so high that some parents camp out overnight during registration,

while others withdraw their children from private English-medium schools to secure a spot.

"Maintaining that standard requires collective effort," Ms Maele said, crediting the school's success to close collaboration between teachers, parents and the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA).

However, despite its top-tier results, the school grapples with severe resource constraints. Serving about 1 050 pupils across 35 classes, Mophane faces ongoing shortages of furniture and textbooks.

Gaborone City Council provides basic stationery and parents continue to step in with development fees and learning materials to bridge the gaps.

Teachers also go to extraordinary lengths. Standard Seven teachers run extended days from 6:30am to 3:30pm to offer remedial sessions and extra classes. To overcome book shortages, staff routinely photocopy learning materials and share resources with neighbouring schools.

"This is not a school where teachers take a laissez-faire approach. They improvise and

ensure that they produce results," said one teacher, Segolame Keolopile.

The commitment extends beyond academia. Mophane provides pupils with daily breakfast and lunch, with the PTA helping feed pupils during extra classes.

On one hand, non-teaching staff share the same sense of pride. Gardener, Ms Mpho Bazibi, who landscaped a tree with the word 'Welcome' near the entrance, described working at Mophane as a privilege.

"They welcomed me with love and value my work. Keeping the grounds attractive creates a positive environment for learning," she said.

Gaborone West Block 5 area councillor, Ms Vivian Ramokapane noted that while long commutes leave some pupils tired, the school's unwavering culture of discipline keeps standards high.

Meanwhile, Mophane's story is a reminder across the country's education sector that high achievement is built on community leadership and determination, even in the face of limited resources. **BOPA**

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DailyBusiness

Okavango horticulture farmers face market challenges

Kedirebofe Pelontle
GUMARE

Okavango horticultural farmers have expressed concern over limited market opportunities for their produce.

In an interview, Okavango Horticulture Farmers Association chairperson, Mr Benny Morundu said horticulture farmers in the district faced shortage of markets despite high grade produce. Mr Morundu therefore said their wish was to have access to local markets and even compete globally.

He therefore hailed the recent Okavango Farmers Market Day and Crop exhibition which was organised by the association in collaboration with the Department of Crops Production in Okavango. He said it was a way to provide a chance for farmers to showcase their produce and increase marketability hence lived to expectation although it was not enough to fill the gap.

Mr Morundu however said farmers were able to exhibit their quality range of vegetables and crops. “The main intention was to give farmers platform to sell their produce since the

district has a challenge of limited markets for horticulture farmers, and for farmers to network with stakeholders,” he said.

Mr Morundu said the association currently prided itself with over 60 members of horticulture farmers out of a total of about 140 farmers in the district.

He said despite association members having experience and passion for growing a variety of vegetables they were however limited by market availability which currently constrained farmers to plant certain species only.

“The current market status determines what farmers ought to produce hence most farmers produce rape because they can sell it directly to individuals and hawkers not only middleman, while it is a challenge for high value crops production such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and butternuts with limited market”, he said.

Mr Morundu said the farmers market day and crop exhibition was a step in the right direction since the Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti graced the event and had a



Okavango Horticulture Farmers Association chairperson, Mr Benny Morundu said horticulture farmers in the district faced shortage of markets despite high grade produce. He said their wish was to have access to local markets and even compete globally.

chance to dialogue with farmers, appreciated their challenges with lack of markets as the main concern.

He said the minister assured farmers of government’s commitment to provide a thriving environment for agriculture.

Further, Mr Morundi reaffirmed that Okavango farmers were alive to the ministry’s stance to transform Botswana into a

diversified, resilient agriculture sector to attain food security and reduce imports as well as drive economic growth.

He observed that Okavango horticulture farmers were allocated a total of 349 hectares of land of which 260 hectares were in use.

He said the horticultural farmers wanted government to provide them with land in Shakawe for a large-scale farming, with the aim of achieving success similar to that of farmers in Pandamatenga and Mosesedi.

The Okavango District, he said had abundance water, tropical climate and good soils which gave farmers an added advantage to produce and contribute immensely to the country’s economy. **BOPA**

Sector to drive sustainable tourism

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Astro tourism has been identified as a key growth frontier with the potential to drive sustainable tourism, support rural economies and create new employment opportunities.

The emerging sector reportedly presents an opportunity for the future of guiding in Botswana, with strong partnerships, structured training and a focus on professional standards.

Speaking during the second astro-tourism training programme for professional guides and student guides, regional tourism officer recently, Mr Ontlametse Ramokgalo, appreciated the training saying it was about exploring new possibilities for Botswana tourism industry and considering how the industry could create experiences that attracted visitors, generated employment and expanded opportunities for Batswana.

He said Botswana was internationally recognised for its wildlife, wilderness, Okavango Delta, Kalahari and the rich culture therefore with the tourism industry evolving, visitors were increasingly seeking unique, meaningful land memorable experience, and astro-tourism provided one exciting answer.

Mr Ramokgalo cited the country’s vast open spaces, remote tourism destinations and relatively dark skies highlighting that they presented an opportunity to position the night sky as another tourism asset.

“Imagine a visitor spending the day experiencing the Moremi Game Reserve and in the evening, sitting under a clear Botswana sky, learning about the stars and planets while listening to stories about our skies and heritage.

That is more than stargazing, it is an experience and a tourism product in its own right,” he added appreciating the importance of training.

Mr Ramokgalo further noted that successful tourism depended on people citing that a telescope alone could not create a memorable experience but professional guides brought experiences to life through knowledge, storytelling, skills and passion.

He acknowledged that the programme could therefore, help create a new generation of astro- tourism guides while giving Batswana an opportunity to build businesses around astronomy tours, educational experiences and related tourism services.

From department perspective, he said they viewed astro-tourism as an opportunity to increase visitor value noting that evening activities could increase visitors’ length of stay thereby boosting tourism spending and further strengthening the country’s tourism diversity, competitiveness and resilience. “We would like to see this programme go beyond the classroom, we want the knowledge gained to translate

into real tourism products that visitors can book, experience and remember,” said Mr Ramokgalo.

The training was facilitated by Career Dreams Centre, Botswana University of International, Science and Technology (BUIST) to build the capacity of tourism professionals with a particular focus on professional guides who are interested in developing competencies in night-sky interpretation

On the side line of the training, a system and radio frequency engineer at BUIST, Dr Fahmi Mokhupuki, stated in an interview that to advance astro-tourism in the country, they collaborated with Career Dreams to champion integration of astronomy programme with local tourism, leveraging the country’s clear dark skies to boost rural economies and expand science outreach.

He said BIUST offered an astronomy course and programmes as well as specialised training related to astronomy, which they collaborate with the Ministry of Communication and Innovation.

He said interest started in 2010 where Botswana became an African partner country to a project ‘Square Kilometre Array’ aimed to build the world largest radio telescope.

Through the project, he said Botswana recognised it as a valuable endeavour because astronomy was multifaceted, with technical skills that one needed to build own instrument that produced a lot of data.

“Dr Mokhupuki highlighted that the university was deliberate about their mandate, to augment the tourism offerings and astro-tourism was non-invasive, kind to the environment and it could also add value to the travel appeal. **BOPA**



Regional Tourism Officer Mr Ontlametse Ramokgalo said astro-tourism presented an opportunity for Botswana to diversify its typical tourism offering, attract visitors, create employment and expand opportunities for Batswana. He said Botswana’s vast open spaces, remote destinations and relatively dark skies provided ideal conditions to position the night sky as an additional tourism asset.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Migrant departures could weigh on remittances

JOHANNESBURG - The recent return of large numbers of foreign nationals from South Africa could put pressure on remittance flows and household incomes in parts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, a South Africa-based economist has warned.

Tafadzwa Ruzive, a researcher and economist at the University of the Free State, told *Xinhua* recently that a decline in the number of migrant workers in South Africa could lead to lower remittance flows to neighboring countries.

“There will be a negative shock to remittances going forward,” Ruzive said. “There will be a dual negative shock: locally in South Africa, because these individuals will stop buying goods and services here, and back home, where families can no longer buy essentials.” **Xinhua**

Expert urges Africa to partner with China

ACCRA - A Ghana expert on Tuesday called on Africa to form a strong partnership with China on energy development for cheaper electricity that will help the continent realise its vision of industrialisation.

Benjamin Boakyee, executive director for Africa Center for Energy Policy said during the 2026 Future of Energy Conference in Accra-Ghana, that the continent may not be able to realise its value addition and industrialisation aspiration and the continental free trade agenda if energy costs remained high on the continent. Whereas in other jurisdictions, industries pay about six cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for electricity, the opposite is the case in Africa, where power costs about 14 to 16 cents per kWh, making products from the continent uncompetitive, due to the energy cost component in their pricing, according to Boakyee.

Xinhua

Chinese EVs gain US consumer interest

LOS ANGELES - As American automakers increasingly focus on higher-priced, more profitable vehicles, a growing number of ordinary Americans are calling for highly cost-effective imports from China to fill the void.

“I am an auto mechanic,” Juan Vega, a local Angeleno, told *Xinhua* in a recent interview. “And Chinese cars give great value for the price compared to American cars. In America, we say it’s all about market competition, so why can’t I buy an affordable Chinese car if I want one?” That sentiment is becoming increasingly common because cars made in China by companies such as BYD and Geely can cost as little as the equivalent of US\$10,000 to US\$20,000 but are effectively shut out of the US passenger-car market by tariffs and other restrictions.

Meanwhile, average new-vehicle transaction prices in the country have risen to around US\$49,000 to US\$50,000 in recent years. Typical monthly payments have remained high, as elevated interest rates, insurance premiums and repair costs have added to the burden. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

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Tlhatlhobo ya lokwalo lwa bosupa e tla bokhutlong

Relief Lephutshi
LOBATSE

Puso e tswelletse ka go tlhabolola motheo wa tsamaiso ya thuto ka maikaelelo a gore bana ba tsene sekole lebaka la dingwaga tse di lesome le bobedi ba sa kgaupediwe. Mo nakong ya gompiano baithuti ba kwala ditlathlombo tsa makgaolakang tsa lekwalo la bosupa gore ba kgone go fetela kwa dikoleng tse di kgolwane.

Dikole tse di kgolwane tsone di na le thulaganyo ya gore baithuti ba mophato wa boraro ba kwale ditlathlombo tsa makgaolakang, tse di letang baithuti gore ba fetele ko mophatong wa bone le wa botlhano.

Le fa go le botlhokwa go kala kitso e bana ba e setseng mo go se ba se rutwang ka go ba kwadisa ditlathlombo, puso e lemoga botlhokwa jwa gore bana ba tsamaisiwe tshipidi-tonto, ka jalo maikaelelo ke gore ba tsene sekolo dingwaga tse di lesome le bobedi, go fitlha ka mophato wa botlhano ba sa kgaupediwe ke ditlathlombo tsa makgaolakang.

Ratoropo wa Lobatse, Rre Aron Ganakgomo o tlhalositse jalo mo molaetseng wa gagwe wa go bula semmuso bokopano ba makhanselara ka Mosupologo.

A re go tlhagolela phetogo e tsela, puso e ikaeletse go emisa ditlathlombo tsa lokwalo lwa bosupa tsa makgaolakang ka ngwaga wa 2029, ka gole botlhokwa gore bana botlhe ba akole thuto ya motheo mo dingwageng tse di lesome le bobedi ba sa kgaupediwe.

Rre Ganakgomo a re ditshekatshoko di tswelletse mo tsamaisong ya thuto go baakanyetsa diphetogo tse di solofetsweng.

O tlhalositse fa go le botlhokwa gore bana ba fiwe thuto go tswa ko moding, ka ele nako ya go fathoga, ka jalo bana ga ba tshwanela go kgaupediwa ka ditlathlombo.

Le fa go ntse jalo, Rre Ganakgomo a re le fa go tla bo go sena ditlathlombo jaaka go ntse mo nakong eno, baithuti ba tla nna ba lekelediwa ka ditsela tse dingwe tse di farologanyeng go kala ka fa ba tswelletseng ka teng.

Rre Ganakgomo a re baithuti ba tla fiwa diteko mo dithutong tse di kwalang go dirisiwa dipolelo go ba kaela kana puo ya molomo, go dira ka diatla le ka ditsela tse dingwe tse di farologanyeng.

O tlhalositse gore diteko tse di fiwang, di tla thusa go senola kgatelepele le bokgoni jwa moithuti ka bongwe ka bongwe, ka jalo se tlhaole baithuti le go ba kaela gore mo isagong ba ka itebaganya le dithuto dife.

A re se se botlhokwa le go feta ke gore, mokgwa o wa thuto o tlaa fokotsa kgatelelo mo baithuting segolo jang ka ba sale babotlana.

Rre Ganakgomo a re mokgwa

o wa thuto o tla thusa baithuti go lemoga le go tlhabolola dikitso tsa bone tse di faphegileng.

O gwetlhile makhanselara, boeteledipele le botlhe ba ka amegang mo mhameng wa thuto le kgodiso ya bana go tsaya boikarabelo ja go ema nokeng phetogo e, le go netefatsa gore setshaba se amogela le go tlhaloganya se se akanyediwang go dirwa. **BOPA**



Puso e tswelletse ka go tlhabolola thuto ka maikaelelo a gore bana ba tsene sekole lebaka la dingwaga tse di lesome le bobedi ba sa kgaupediwe. Mo nakong ya gompiano, baithuti ba kwala ditlathlombo tsa makgaolakang tsa lekwalo la bosupa gore ba kgone go fetela kwa dikoleng tse di kgolwane.

Bomme ba itshetsa ka monontshane wa diboko

Amantle Onneng
RADISELE

Le fa o bona diboko di nyeuma e bile di ka sisimosa mmele, bomme bangwe ba Radisele bone ba re metlhale ya khumo e mentsi, ka jalo ba dira sengwe sa tse di sa tlwaelesegang, ka go tsena mo kgwebong ya thuo ya diboko go itirela letseno.

Setlhophla sa bomme ba ferabobedi se ne sa nna sego yare ba tswelletse ka dithuto tsa bone tsa thuto-ga-e-golelwe, ba rutuntshiwa ka metlhale ya go itshetsa, selo se se neng sa ba kopanya le go rutwa ka sengwe se ba neng ba sa se tlwaela, e leng go tsena mo thuong ya diboko go dira monontshane.

Setlhophla seo sa bagwebi, se kwadisitse mokgatlo wa bone ka leina la Mmadiboko Enterprise. Mo potsolotsong, mokwaledi wa setlhophla se, Mme Sophia Gaseitsiwe o tlhalositse fa ba tswa kgakala ba ruile diboko go dira

monontshane.

A re ba simlotse ka ngwaga wa 2014 ba kopanela kwa thuto-ga-e-golelwe, kwa ba neng a loga megopolo e le mentsi go ka tokafatsa matshelo a bone.

Mme Gaseitsiwe a re mogopolo o neng o di goga kwa pele ya nna wa go simlodisa kgwebo ya go rekisa borotho. O tlhalosa gore ba ne ba atla mogopolo o, ka jalo ba simlola go rekisa borotho ka go farologana mme morago ba emisa kgwebo ya go rekisa borotho.

Ka jaana ba ne ba nyoretswe kgwebo, Mme Gaseitsiwe a re ba ne ba tsena mo go rekiseng dijo, selo se ba se dirileng ka lobakanyana, mme fa nako e ntse e tsamaya ba emisa kgwebo ya teng, ka e ne ya mokanelwa ke bontsi, le yone fela jalo e sa tlhole e dira dipolelo tse di kgotsofatsang.

Mme Gaseitsiwe a re e rile ba ntse ba tswelletse ke fa morutabana wa bone kwa thuto-ga-e-golelwe a utlwalela fa gona le bangwe ba

marekisetso a diboko kwa Serowe.

Morago ga go dumalana le megopolo wa go leka kgwebo ya diboko, a re ba ne ba tsaya loeto go ya go reka diboko, le fa tota ba ne ba sena kitso ka tsone e bile e le lantlha ba utlwalela selo sa go tshwana le se.

A re mokgwa o, wa thuo ya diboko, o itsege ka lereo la seeng la vermicomposting.

Mme Gaseitsiwe a re diboko tse di jeswa masalela a di-tswa temong, ka jalo motshotelo wa tsone, ke one o dirisiwang e le monontshane wa boleng jo bo kwa godimo.

O supile gore monontshane o o dirwang ka boloko jwa diboko tse, a dirisiwa go nontsha mmu mo tshimong, mo tshingwaneng ya merogo kana mo ditlhareng kana dijwalo ka go farologana.

Bomme ba, ba supa gore diboko tse gantsi batho ba di lebang ka go sisimoga mmele mo go bone di a ba tshetsa le ba malwapa a bone. Ba rekisa monontshane, diboko le gone go amogana kitso ya go tsena

mo thuong ya tsone.

Mongwe wa maloko a Mmadiboko Enterprise, Mme Gakebao Njadingwe o gateletse gore monontshane wa diboko o na le dikotla tse di kwa godimo e bile a rurifaditswe ke baitseanape ba Botswana University of Agricultural and Natural Resource (BUAN). Mme Njadingwe a re monontshane oo, ba BUAN ba supa fa a tsaya maemo a ntlha ka a na le dikotla tse di kwa godimo ka jalo a tshwanetse go dirisiwa ke balemi ba maungo le merogo go tokafatsa temo ya bone.

Mme Njadingwe a re le ntswa kgwebo ya bone e nametsa, dikgwetlho tsa bone di dintsi.

A re ba tlhoka lefelo le le bulegileng kwa ba ka ruelang diboko tse teng le go lema maungo le merogo ba dirisa monontshane wa bone le gone go arogana kitso ya bone go ruta ba ba eletsang go a dira kana go tsena mo kgwebong e, gore ba oketse metswedi ya go dira letseno. **BOPA**

Kwalang ditso tsa bogosi - Motshegwa

Khumile Moekejo
LEFHOKO

Ere ka jaana bogosi e le jone pinagare ya tsamaiso ya merero ya Setswana, tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, Rre Ketlhalefile Motshegwa o rotloeditse Batswana go kwala ditso tsa bogosi jwa metse ya bone.

A re go dira jalo ga se fela go thusa dikokomane ka go di bolokela ditso tsa merafe e ba tswang mo go yone, mme go ka thusa le go rarabolola dikgang tsa Bogosi.

O gakolotse jalo a buisa phuthego ya kgotla kwa Lefhoko ka Mosupologo. Rre Motshegwa a re puso e ikaegile ka molao wa Bogosi, o o tlhalosang gore kgosi e a tsalwa ka jalo a re bogosi jwa motse bo tsamaya ka lone letsalo. Le fa go ntse jalo, a re fa ditso di timelang teng, molao o letla gore morafe o ka tlhophla kgosi mme e tlhomamisiwe ke puso.

“Bogosi ke loago le tsamaiso ya

Setswana, bo na le popego le ditso gore bo tsamaisiwa jang, ka jalo go botlhokwa go kwala ditso go thusa go rarabolola dikgotlhag.

Re le puso re dirisa makoko go tlhotlhomisa fa go na le dikgang mo bogosing, mme go nna le kgwetlho fa ditso di sa kwalwa,” ga tlhalosa Rre Motshegwa.

O ne gape a supa fa go le botlhokwa go dibela dikgang tsa bogosi le go di tshwara ka matsetseleko ka jaana di ka bopa morafe kana tsa o thuba.

O ba kopile go dibela kagiso gore ditlhabololo tsa motse di seka tsa kgoreletsega.

Tona Motshegwa o ne a tlhalosetsa morafe wa Lefhoko fa a amogetse ngongora mabapi le bogosi jwa bone, mme ebile ditlhotlhomiso di supa fa go na le pego e e dirilweng ka 2019 morago ga ditshekatseko tse di tseneletseng.

Morago ga go reetsa dikakgelo

tsa morafe, o ne a ba bolelela fa a lemoga ba dumalana le gore bogosi bo ka bo bo neetswe boora-Mosarwa eseng boora Nthomang jaaka go ntse.

Ka jalo, Tona Motshegwa o ba solofeditse fa a tlaa latedisa mabaka a gore boora-Mosarwa ba se ka ba neela puso leina ka nako eo, mme kwa pheletsong a buisetse morafe



Tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao
Rre Ketlhalefile Motshegwa

phetolo mo malatsing a le lesome.

O ne a ba rotloetsa go tswelera ba bereka sentle le Kgosi Biki Nthomang go fitlha ba amogela tshwetso e e tserweng ke puso ka bogosi jwa motse oo.

Mo godimo ga moo, o ne a ba gakolola ka boikarabelo jwa bone jwa go tshwaraganana ditlhabololo tsa motse wa bone, go sa kgathelesege gore tshwetso e tla e ntse jang.

Erile a leboga, mothusa modulasetilo wa khansela ya Mabutsane, Rre Obakeng Melome a kopa gore botlhe ba ba amilweng ke dikgang tseo ba tshwaragane go ya pele ka jaana bogosi bo tshwaraganya motse ebile bo aga morafe.

A re o lebogetse tona go bo a lerile morero kwa morafeng ka jaana seo se tsamaisanya le maitlamo a puso a go direla dilo mo pontsheng go nonotsha puso ya batho ka batho. **BOPA**

Foul odour chokes Kanye market

Relief Lephutshi
KAYE

A foul uric smell hangs over Kanye Market Place, and for shoppers and traders it has become a daily reality.

The stench is coming from malfunctioning sewer systems around the market, compounded by poor drainage and urine-stained walls on some shop buildings. Officials said the problem

contributed to environmental pollution in the area.

The affected system is a waste water trench that runs through the market from around the Council Compound, past the Sefalana Shoppers block of shops. When it backs up, waste gases are released into the air, affecting market attendees and small to medium businesses operating nearby.

The situation has sparked anger among vendors who said it was hurting both trade and public health.

“At least council should consider odour neutralisers to help break down the odour running through the trenches past the shops, especially around Mongala Mall area and its surroundings,” said Ms Amantle Kodisa of Taukobong Ward.

Ms Kodisa said neutralisers could help people breathe cleaner air while authorities work on long-term solutions. She also noted that although informal traders were not permitted in most areas around the mall, many have positioned themselves there to take advantage of business opportunities near the shopping areas and council premises.

Customers echoed the frustration. Several said they could not rest or eat meals in the market because of the persistent foul air.

In an interview, Marapalalo Ward Councillor, Mr Mothibinyana Kelesitse admitted the sewer system was blocked at one point. He said the council was currently using sewage trucks to manually relieve the



Malfunctioning sewer systems around Kanye are affecting village’s market place and for shoppers and traders, this is a daily life experience.

Court remands murder suspect

Lindi Morwaeng
MOLEPOLOLE

Tirelo Phakela, who is accused of fatally stabbing Gaorelatlthe Gaorelatlthe, has been remanded in custody after appearing before the Molepolole Magistrate Court on Monday.

The 29-year-old unemployed resident of Mmanoko faces a single count of murder contrary to Section 202 of the Penal Code. According to the charge sheet, Phakela allegedly murdered Gaorelatlthe on or about August 23, in Mmanoko by stabbing him in the chest with an okapi knife.

He is scheduled to return for mention on September 24, as police investigations continue. **BOPA**

Sixty-four-year-old rape accused pleads for bail

Calviniah Kgautlhe
LOBATSE

A 64-year-old man, Gofenyaone Ratsie accused of raping a 13-year-

old girl has pleaded to granted bail pending trial.

Appearing before Lobatse Magistrate Court, Chief Magistrate, Ms Rebecca

malfunctioning system.

He added that the council was hopeful that the long-awaited sewage water reticulation project would resolve the problem and help keep Kanye clean.

On residents who relieve

themselves in building gaps used as access points into the nearby old shopping mall, Cllr Kelesitse said the area had an acute shortage of public restrooms.

To address this, he suggested the public could turn the challenge into an economic opportunity by running ablution and restroom units, which he said would also ease economic pressures on residents.

Chief Public Health Officer at Kanye District Council, Mr Songa Mosweu, said trading in the area was not allowed due to safety concerns, including roadside operations and the use of flammable substances by mobile kitchens.

He said the lack of restrooms posed a public health risk, especially with the informal sector operating there with nowhere to relieve themselves except at undesignated spots. That, he said, caused much of the uric stench and other human waste around the business area.

“Those found guilty of public indecency are liable to a fine of P1,000.00,” Mr Mosweu stated.

He said provision of portable toilets was being considered as a temporary measure for informal businesses, while plans were underway to relocate them to a

designated safe site.

The Department of Physical Planning and Environmental Health is already identifying sites for portable toilets, ablution and kitchen units through an expression of interest open to applicants countrywide. Priority areas include shopping malls and the Sejelo area, which see high business and transport activity.

Mr Mosweu added that council officers routinely visit schools to provide public education on environment and health, stressing the importance of teaching responsibility from a young age.

According to Mr Mosweu, the bad odour was linked to a disabled old waste water network connecting to the sewage ponds, which was affected by the ongoing sanitation water project.

He explained that development works disturbed the waste water route from the Rural Administration Centre pump station that pushes water toward the conservancy tank by Segopotso Primary School.

With that route compromised, the council has had to rely on sanitation trucks. When water exceeds holding capacity at the RAC pump station, it reverses into the trench, releasing bad odour into public spaces. **BOPA**



Gofenyaone Ratsie, accused of raping a 13-year-old girl appearing before Lobatse Magistrate Court on Tuesday. He has applied for bail application, which will be heard on Friday before Chief Magistrate Rebecca Motsamai, with the victim’s mother expected to testify. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

Motsamai, the accused person on July 25, 2026 in Lobatse unlawfully had carnal knowledge of a 13-year-old minor without her consent.

The court will hear Ratsie’s bail application on Friday where the victim’s mother is scheduled to give evidence regarding the bail application.

However, the prosecutor, Ms Sekao Khudu informed the court that the prosecution was not opposing the accused person’s application for bail.

Nonetheless, Ms Khudu said as per the Bail Act, victims of serious crimes like rape were given the opportunity to speak during bail hearings, as such the victim’s mother must be accorded an opportunity to present her views regarding the proposed request by the accused persons.

She said investigations were complete, save for the release of the forensics laboratory report of the examination that was done on the victim.

According to a police report, on the said day Ratsie summoned the victim to his house requesting her to come and collect some items which he alleged belonged to the victim’s grandfather.

It is alleged that upon entering the house, the accused then locked the living room door, pulled the victim and laid her on a couch, forcefully undressed her and had sexual intercourse with her without her consent and without protection. **BOPA**

Old-timer charged with two counts of attempted murder

By Lindi Morwaeng
MOLEPOLOLE

A 69-year-old man from Bokaa ward appeared in the Molepolole Magistrate Court on Monday facing two counts of attempted murder after a house fire.

John Kasale is accused of setting fire to a house in Bokaa ward on or about August 21, 2026, while two people were asleep inside. According to the charge sheet, Kasale allegedly attempted to

cause the death of Kelebogile Nompaa by setting fire to the house in which she was sleeping. He faces a second count for allegedly attempting to cause the death of Ofentse Kgomotso during the same incident.

Kasale, who is unemployed, was not asked to enter a plea. The court scheduled the matter for mention on September 24, 2026.

Police confirmed that investigations into the incident are ongoing. **BOPA**

Arts & Culture

New attractions for Parakarungu monument

Portia Keetile
PARAKARUNGU

New attractions are coming to the Parakarungu cultural heritage monument to elevate the historic site into a vibrant and attractive tourism hotspot.

The monument, which was unveiled last year, stands as a symbol of the rich cultural heritage of the Basubiya people and celebrates their identity by featuring artistic work showing basketry, arts and crafts, crops, the diverse wildlife species and the towering palm trees.

In an interview, monument project committee member, Richard Mushanana said plans were underway to grow trees at the monument to turn the landscape green and alive and enhance visitors experience.

In order to foster community integration, Mushanana said the residents intended to fence the football grounds adjacent to the historic site to create a vibrant stopping point for tourists to interact with locals before heading to Linyanti.

He said as part of the second phase, a fish pond would be constructed to diversify the site's attraction and it would double as a commercial venture, with harvested fish sold to generate revenue for village development coffers.

Mushanana pointed out that educational components would also be integrated into the already existing structure, adding that the historical information detailing the heritage of Parakarungu and the wider Chobe region would be inscribed onto the already existing walls and would serve as a learning resource for children and visitors.

"The intention is that when visitors come here, they should read about our history and study the arts and crafts so that as they traverse Parakarungu they can expand their knowledge and probe residents about what they already saw at the monument," he said.

He stated that funds were available for the pipeline developments, noting that they only awaited completion of concepts of the new elements.

Mushanana said it was too early to start charging people for visiting the site, hence the gate remained unlocked for any passerby to enter, explore and take pictures.

He stated that solar panels would be installed at the site to illuminate it at night.

Mushanana stressed that all the developments were intended to attract more people to Parakarungu.

He said most people preferred to use the Kachikau route to access Linyanti because though much shorter, the Parakarungu route featured a gravel road that was unpleasant to drive in.

The monument was funded by Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust at a tune of P178,000 for design and construction.

BOPA



Parakarungu cultural heritage monument.

Richard Mushanana

Ukhwi O Qhuqhayo returns to Ngwatle pans

Thuso Kgakatsi
UKHWI

The heart of the Kgalagadi is set to beat louder over the weekend as Ukhwi O Qhuqhayo festival makes its grand return to Masetlhane Pans in Ngwatle for its third edition.

For three days, beginning Friday (August 28) the desert turns into a full vibe of culture, music and fashion with, A Re Yeng Ukhwi, as the theme.

Visitors will dive into live performances, traditional showcases and the show-stopping iZaura Fashion Show, plus get a close look at eco-villages and how sustainable tourism is shaping the area.

The theme: A Re Yeng Ukhwi, is more than an invitation, it is the festival's goal as it calls on Batswana and visitors from beyond, to physically come, experience, and invest in Ukhwi and the wider Kgalagadi North.

By centering the event at the settlement, the organisers are deliberately turning "let's go" into action: go to see the pans, go to buy local crafts, go to camp under the stars, and go to support communities directly.

In doing so, Ukhwi O Qhuqhayo aims to position Ukhwi, Ngwatle and Ncaang, as must-visit tourist destinations and to make Kgalagadi North a recognised hub for cultural and eco-tourism.

Event organiser, Lucky Modise, said the event had grown from a hiking trip that fell in love with KDI's landscape into a platform that kept more than 70 per cent of profits in the village.

According to Modise, festival-goers can expect to gather around the campfire for an electrifying mix of poetry, drums and dance.

Confirmed acts include seasoned spoken word artist Oliver The Poet, vocal group Music is Life, Botswana's very own, Eugene Jackson, Beat Spirit from South Africa and the Ngwatle Traditional Group, with four community groups from the area headlining Saturday's main stage.

Modise shared that a major highlight

would be the iZaura Fashion Show, which shall be set against the vast open pan.

"It will fuse high fashion with African-inspired designs and indigenous jewelry, curated with RatCo Events," she said.

She further noted that they would also host a Fashion Master Class by renowned designer, Mothusi Lesolle of iZaura, which would be held at the Ngwatle Craft Centre, to help local artisans commercialise their art and artifacts.

"The opening day will begin at the Kgotla in Ukhwi with an official launch, a tree donation by UOQ courtesy of Bushbaby Conservation, and the handover of patron donations to stakeholders from the three villages," she said.

Modise also noted that the festival would run as a full camping experience with packages available to suit different preferences.

"Beyond entertainment, Ukhwi O Qhuqhayo is positioning itself as a driver of #promotingeco-villages. The event is delivered in collaboration with Ukhwi, Ngwatle and Ncaang villages, the Ngwaa Khobee Xeya Trust, Village VDCs, and the Technical Advisory Committee from the Kgalagadi North, Office of the District Commissioner," she said.

Modise noted that most services had been procured locally.

"It is through this rich cultural diversity that we deem it fit to grow this event and make this area a destination of choice in Kgalagadi North," she said.

She acknowledged challenges with sponsorship and said the team was seeking potential sponsors who were interested in partnering with the festival to help grow it.

"I wish to thank my team for their contribution despite a tough economy that saw other headline events cancelled. Friends, family and patrons dug deep to keep the fire burning," she said.

Modise reiterated that they were hopeful that this year would leave a lasting legacy where artifacts from these villages could be commercialised, with key learnings that benefitted KDI and reached beyond the region.

With hashtags #areyengukhwi and #promotingeco-villages* driving conversation online, the pans are expected to draw culture lovers, campers, fashion enthusiasts and photographers from across Botswana and beyond, boosting photography tourism and Trans-Kalahari travel.

BOPA



The heart of the Kgalagadi is set to beat louder over the weekend as Ukhwi O Qhuqhayo festival makes its grand return to Masetlhane Pans in Ngwatle for its third edition. For three days, beginning Friday, the desert will turn into a full vibe of culture, music and fashion.

GU title defence faces stern test against Sundowns

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

Defending champions, Gaborone United Ladies face their toughest test yet in the CAF Women’s Champions League COSAFA Qualifiers after booking a semi final clash with South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns to be played today at Gaborone United (GU) Stadium, with a place in Saturday’s final at stake.

The GU Ladies, alias Red Roses, advanced to the last four as Group A runners up despite ending the group stage with a 2-0 defeat to Zambia’s ZESCO Ndola Girls on Monday.

The hosts had made a strong start to their title defence, beating Lesotho Defence Force and Zimbabwean champions, Herentals Queens before ZESCO brought their winning run to an end.

ZESCO finished top of the group after an impressive

campaign that also included a 5-2 victory over Herentals and a 1-0 win against Lesotho Defence Force.

Sundowns have been equally dominant in Group B, opening their campaign with an emphatic 8-0 win over eSwatini’s Nsingizini Hotspurs before defeating Malawi’s Silver Strikers 3-0.

The results set up a demanding semi-final for GU, who would need to rediscover the form that carried them through their opening matches if they are to keep their title defence on track.

For the defending champions, the defeat to ZESCO provides a timely warning as the competition moves into the knockout stage, where there is no room for a slip up.

GU now has one game standing between them and another final and a chance to move a step closer to retaining their regional crown. **BOPA**



Defending champions, Gaborone United Ladies



Mamelodi Sundowns



Botswana Darts team during the official opening the 32nd African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Senior Darts Championship in Gaborone on Tuesday. The championship has brought together top players from Botswana, eSwatini, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Photos: Gaseitsewe Moruakgomo

Region 5 darts championship underway

Tankiso Mogapi
GABORONE

The 32nd African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 Senior Darts Championship kicked off in Gaborone on Tuesday, bringing together top players from Botswana, eSwatini, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe at the Aquarian Tide Hotel.

BNSC chief executive officer, Olebile Sikwane noted that hosting the event highlighted Botswana’s sport infrastructure, organisational capacity and tourism potential, emphasising that the championship fostered regional unity, discipline and economic activity.

Former Botswana Darts Association (BODA) president, Buyani Zongwani marked the emotional return of the tournament.

“Standing before you today fills my heart with an overwhelming sense of pride and nostalgia. Our theme is a call

to action. True sporting legacy is about the doors we open for the youth. It is about moving darts away from the

misconceptions of a simple social pub sport and firmly cementing it as a highly disciplined and strategic sport of mental sharpness,” Zongwani said.

Block 10 area councillor,, Michael Botumile stated that the event brought energy, visibility and economic opportunities.

For his part, digital marketing officer, Simeon Sekwati, representing AUSC Region 5 Darts Confederation president, said the sport had grown regionally and urged federations to stick to official pathways for international exposure.

He encouraged member countries to align with bodies like the World Darts Federation (WDF) and Professional Darts Corporation (PDC).

Defending champions, Zimbabwe and host nation, Botswana are expected to lead the battle for regional honours in the competition expected to end on Friday. **BOPA**

