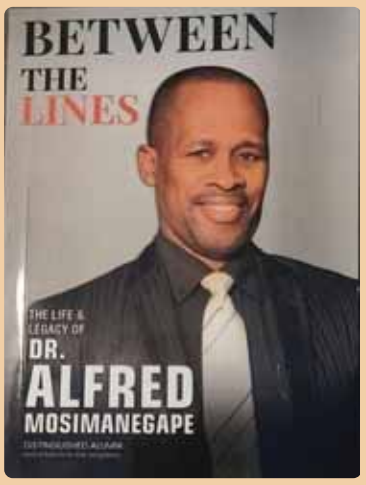
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President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe during the Economic Committee of Cabinet meeting in Gaborone yesterday. President Boko urged the cabinet and senior government officials to prioritise delivery, saying the country had presented numerous ideas on transformation but now needed decisive action to translate them into tangible improvements in people's lives. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

Boko calls for accelerated delivery

Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

Botswana needs action that can positively change people's lives, says President Advocate Duma Boko, as he spurred on Cabinet and senior government officials toward delivery.

Speaking during the Economic Committee of Cabinet (ECC) meeting in Gaborone yesterday, he acknowledged the many challenges confronting the country albeit many ideas having been presented on transformation.

"We brook no delays, no waste of time, no unnecessary debates, discussions, not because we cannot entertain them, but because we have spoken for too long, now, it is about delivery. In an uncompromising, the most ruthless way, delivery. You are going to speedily deliver the digitalisation, and all of us are going to deliver what we have been tasked to do," said President Boko.

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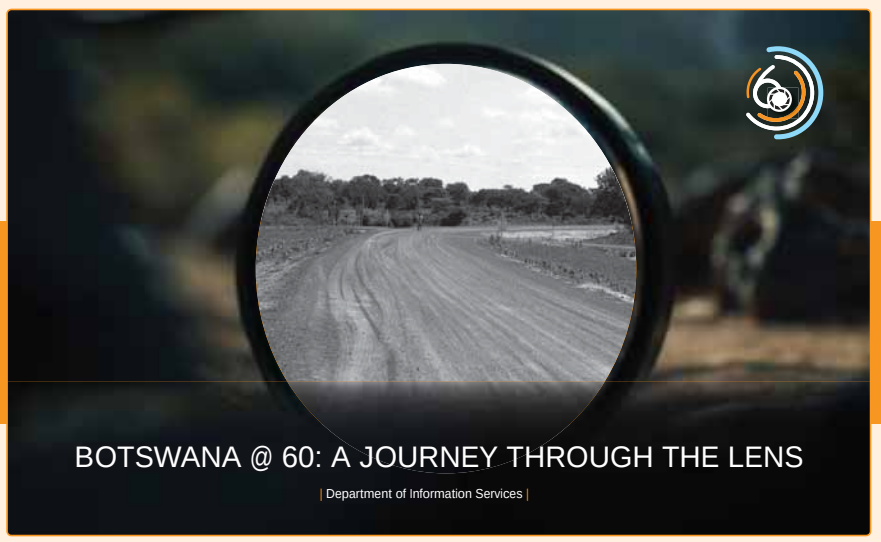
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Mabutsane registers 270 child protection cases

Marvin Motlhabane
MABUTSANE

Mabutsane District Council is currently handling 270 child protection cases, which represent an increase of 27 from the previous quarter's 243.

Of the cases, 170 involved sexual exploitation of children aged between eight and 17 years, while others related to defilement, rape, cruel treatment and neglect.

This was said by Mabutsane District Council chairperson, Mr Tuelo Zulu during the council's meeting recently.

He said two neglect cases had already been concluded, with the parents receiving prison sentences.

Mr Zulu gave an assurance of the council's continued prioritisation of the welfare of vulnerable children and households.

In response to the rising caseload, Mr Zulu stated that the Social & Community Development (S&CD) department had introduced foster care.

Already, he said two approved couples were providing care to children under court orders, with positive progress reported.

Likewise, he maintained that a foster care capacity-building workshop was scheduled for December 6–10 in Jwaneng, emphasising that child protection remained a shared responsibility requiring continued community and stakeholder engagement.

On social safety nets, he said the council continued to support 1 353 permanent destitute persons, 606 needy learners, 95 children in need of care, 11 home-based care patients and 163 orphans, despite pressure on the operational budget.

"Beneficiary numbers have declined in some categories due to transfers, deaths and graduation. In addition, the council supports 1 737 Remote Area Dwellers (RADs) beneficiaries across six RADP settlements with monthly food rations, toiletries, school uniforms, shoes and other essential services," he said.

The Child Support Grant programme, which began payments in September, he said was progressing well, with 259 beneficiaries enrolled to date.

These beneficiaries were receiving payments, including arrears dating back to April, he said, revealing that payments could be collected at post offices across the district and elsewhere in the country.

Eight queries, he said, from Kanaku, Kutuku, Sese and Mokhomma were currently being addressed by the District Pension office.

In the education sector and as part of boosting learners' performance across schools, Mr Zulu announced the introduction of a Floating Trophy initiative.

He said a trophy would be awarded annually to the best-performing primary school in the district.

"The aim is to recognise excellence, motivate improved examination results and encourage healthy competition. Any school that wins the trophy for three consecutive years will retain it permanently," he explained.

Furthermore, he called on sponsors and institutions to support the initiative with complementary programmes.

Responding to the submissions by the council chairperson, Khakhea councilor Mr Oteng Gabonkgatlhe said though the floating trophy initiative could work toward improving pupils' performance across schools, but if clean water provision in education facilities still remained a challenge, all efforts would be rendered useless.

He emphasised that provision of clean water improved concentration and attention, promoted school attendance, supported hygiene and prevented illness.

Nominated Councillor, Ms Gorata Phakedi-Maphula who is also the S&CD committee chairperson and Council Gender Commissioner appreciated a fellow public servant who introduced the floating trophy initiative in the district, which would rotate across schools.

She reiterated that the initiative was set to commence next year across Mogale, Molongwa and Maiteko Community Junior Secondary Schools, emphasising that the school, which performed well in three consecutive times, would keep the trophy indefinitely.

Ms Phakedi-Maphula said this was a welcomed development, which challenged them as the political wings to see where they could come in to help in all the scholarly agendas. ***BOPA***



Ghanzi District Council chairperson Mr Thabiso Kebadile said water supply in Ghanzi district has experienced an increase in demand due to high temperatures in the region as a result of El Niño. Photo: Malebogo Lekula

El Niño affects water supply in Ghanzi

Malebogo Lekula
GHANZI

The water supply in Ghanzi district has experienced an increase in demand due to high temperatures in the region as a result of El Niño.

In his opening remarks at a full council session recently, Ghanzi District Council chairperson, Mr Thabiso Kebadile, said the high demand of water supply had led to over pumping of boreholes for communities and farm activities, which had led to rapid depletion of aquifer and increase in supply deficits. Mr Kebadile however, said implementation of emergency measures such as water restrictions and rationing were in place as part of effective management.

He also said restrictions would also deter livestock watering from domestic drinking water points.

Meanwhile, Mr Kebadile said Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) would undertake two water supply projects; Kuke distribution network extension and the siting and drilling of the Qabo borehole at P400,000 and P700,000 respectively.

He however, said only the Kuke Network extension had commenced, anticipated to be completed by December, whereas the siting and drilling of Qabo borehole would be executed by the groundwater section currently at Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) assisting with the borehole drilling exercise.

"Due to exorbitant process from drilling companies, we have resorted to drilling inhouse to meet our obligations of improving reliability of clean water to the affected villages," he said.

He further said there was progress made in the works contract for the installation of prefabricated office blocks for Department of Meteorological Services.

The project, he said, was at 82 per cent complete as at October 16, and that upon its completion, it would enable the department to deliver their services diligently in the area.

On other issues, he said the district had experienced 23 fire outbreak cases and the identified hotspots were CKGR, Lokalane and Ranyane.

He noted that an area covering about 395 664.60 hectares was ravaged by veldt fires in 2026/27 as compared to 45 223.85 hectares on the previous year 2025/26 same quarter. He attributed these fire outbreaks to high fuel load within the district. He however, alluded that preparedness measures were put in place to prevent more outbreaks such as public education, and increased awareness through the media platforms and kgotla meetings.

He added that, the district hae a seasonal fire team based at Chobokwane for rapid response.

Also, to augment the response team, he said the department had employed 105 employees through Ikageng Public Works programme for fire management activities in Kuke, Qabo, Grootlaagte, Bere, Kacgae, New Xade, West Hanahai, East Hanahai and Chobokwane. ***BOPA***

Nnywane dam infrastructure undergoes refurbishment

Calviniah Kgautlhe
LOBATSE

The Water Utilities Corporation's (WUC) Nnywane Water Treatment Plant in Lobatse is currently undergoing refurbishment in line with keeping up with the rising water demand and improve production efficiencies.

The upgrading involved installation and commissioning of innovative Nanotech Gravitas G20 system technology.

This was revealed by Lobatse Mayor Mr Mosimanegape Ganakgomo when addressing a full council session Monday.

The new development, he said was designed to modernise existing infrastructure to bolster or boost supply in a cost-effective manner, aimed at enhancing water treatment efficiency, operational sustainability, and ensure reliability and availability of potable water reticulation.

"As at the end of October, the project stood at 76 per cent physical progress against a scheduled completion date of May 28, 2027.

While this progress is encouraging, delivery has been strained by extended equipment procurement lead times and delayed contractor payments," he said.

Hinting on the need to deliver the project on time, he thus urged WUC to monitor the remaining works and resolve the challenges to thwart unnecessary delays to ensure residents enjoy the benefits of improved treatment capacity and reliable water supply.

Generally, he said water supply remained relatively stable in town, but intermittent disruptions persisted due to the ageing infrastructure and power outages.



Lobatse Mayor Mr Mosimanegape Ganakgomo

The challenges, he said called for urgent need for infrastructure renewal, proactive maintenance, and greater operational resilience.

Mayor Ganakgomo also expressed concern at theft and vandalism of sewer manhole covers alongside illegal water and sewer connections.

Such acts, he said increased replacement costs, caused commercial water losses, compromised network reliability, and exposed residents to safety hazards and was also an eyesore.

He emphasised that public infrastructure was a shared community asset and thus urged residents to report vandalism and illegal connections immediately.

In addition, he noted inappropriate disposal of waste into sewer networks such as improper dumping of fats, oils, grease, and medical waste into sewer lines, which triggered blockages, system overflows and heightened public health risks.

"Sewer networks are not general refuse systems.

I appeal to all residents, businesses, and institutions to adopt responsible waste disposal practices to safeguard the integrity and functionality of our wastewater infrastructure," he said.

With regards to WUC's financial sustainability and debt recovery, he said the corporation's budgetary constraints were fuelled by accumulating customer arrears, which restricted operational cash flows and limited funding for routine maintenance and capital projects.

"While we commend WUC's targeted disconnections for defaulting accounts, reliable water supply depends on responsible citizenship. I urge all consumers to honour their water bills or engage WUC early to arrange payment plans," he said. ***BOPA***



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe (right) and Cabinet Ministers after the Economic Committee of Cabinet meeting yesterday.
Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

Boko calls for accelerated delivery

…from page 1

He said over the previous three gatherings of the ECC, many ideas had been put forth, considered and analysed, but what was now important was to work on implementation with deliverables and timeliness.

"We are here to transform this country. The most important is how we translate all these ideas into outcomes, impacting on people's lives and livelihoods, jobs, opportunities for everyday people, and it falls on all of us to deliver. We should examine if we are wired, configured enough to deliver, where are falling short, if we are and where are we doing well," said President Boko.

He said it was also critical to identify the areas of weakness and iron them out in order to ensure smoother service delivery.

"We must identify those weak links, not as a form of disparagement, but as a way of identifying the vulnerabilities to be addressed honestly in good faith and decisively. This is the moment of decisive action. We have delivered the third State of the Nation Address, we were honest and clear. Our task is to provide the guiding light," he said.

He further said digitalisation and the provision of land, as a means of production, were critical in Botswana's economic transformation.

"Digitalisation enables us to answer the fundamental economic question of ensuring that the knowledge economy does not exists in islands and fringes, limited to a core, from which the entire periphery of the majority of our people is found. Economists from the most conservative to the most radical, from Adam Smith to Karl Marx, have suggested that to understand any economy is to study its most advanced mode of production. Digitalisation is most critical, it would enable us to run all these other operations, digitised land management, ensuring secure land titles are issued quickly and are credible," said President Boko.

He added that government was working on the introduction of a radical land reform programme that would allow for more productive use of the country's land tenure system.

Meanwhile, speaking in an interview after the meeting, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said the national economy, land and the National Development Plan (NDP) 12 were among the key issues deliberated upon.

"We discussed various issues, including a briefing from the Ministry of Finance on the country's economic climate, and the need to continue being frugal and resourceful in how we spend public funds. We also discussed the NDP 12 report that needs to be presented to the National Assembly regarding an update on projects. Another major issue was a discussion on reforming and improving land provision," said Mr Mohwasa.

The ECC is an expanded Cabinet forum that brings together the President, Vice President, Cabinet ministers, ministry accounting officers, state-owned enterprise chief executives, advisors, and invited stakeholders to deliberate on national economic priorities and development plans. ***BOPA***

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Boko tasks Kakoma with strengthening Botswana - UK relations

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe
GABORONE

President Advocate Duma Boko has called on Botswana's High Commissioner designate to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, Mr Orapeleng Kakoma, to strengthen strategic diplomatic relations between the two countries, with particular focus on attracting investment and boosting tourism.

Speaking during a farewell courtesy call by Mr Kakoma in Gaborone on Tuesday, President Boko described the United Kingdom as a vital partner, highlighting the longstanding relationship and strong ties between the two countries.

He said many Batswana were studying or had studied in the UK, while others were working and living there, making the relationship important beyond diplomatic and economic cooperation.

President Boko expressed confidence that Mr Kakoma would play an instrumental role in strengthening bilateral ties and advancing Botswana's interests, particularly in attracting investment and increasing tourist arrivals from the UK.

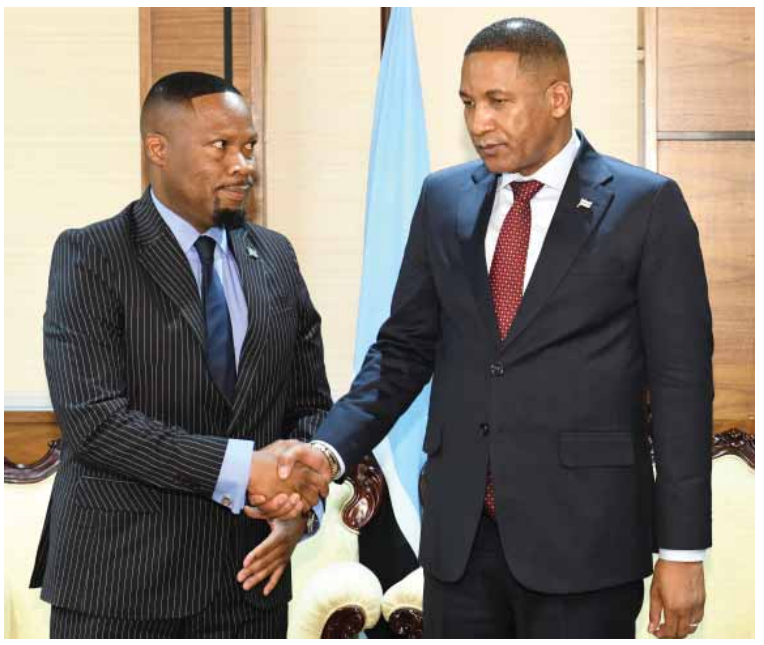
He identified tourism as a key area of opportunity, adding that Botswana was looking at modernising its ports of entry and upgrading them with the latest technologies.

He said improved entry systems would help ease travel and position Botswana to attract more visitors.

President Boko urged Mr Kakoma to represent the country with integrity and commitment, expressing hope that his tenure would yield meaningful results.

For his part, Mr Kakoma described the appointment as a great assignment, saying that the UK remained an important partner for Botswana.

He said he looked forward to championing Botswana's interests and serving with diligence as the country pursued its economic transformation agenda, which included efforts to attract foreign investment.



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and Botswana High Commissioner designate to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, Mr Orapeleng Kakoma during a farewell call in Gaborone on Tuesday. President Boko urged Mr Kakoma to represent the country with integrity and commitment, expressing hope that his tenure would yield meaningful results.

> "One of my key priorities will be addressing the outstanding issue of the movement of Batswana into and out of the United Kingdom."
>
> **Botswana's High Commissioner designate to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, Mr Orapeleng Kakoma**

Mr Kakoma said one of his key priorities would be addressing the outstanding issue of the movement of Batswana into and out of the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, President Boko also received a courtesy call from Papua New Guinea Deputy Chief Justice, Justice Ambeng Kandakasi, and his delegation, who are in Botswana on a benchmarking visit.

President Boko said the visit provided an important opportunity for judicial dialogue and the exchange of experiences that could inform institutional progress and guide reforms.

He said he had also engaged with the Prime Minister on various issues.

He said Botswana was undergoing a period of rapid and radical transformation, adding that engagements with other jurisdictions were valuable in sharing knowledge and strengthening institutions.

He encouraged the visiting delegation to take time to explore Botswana's tourism attractions, particularly the Okavango Delta. ***BOPA***



President Advocate Duma Boko (fourth left), Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Nelson Ramaotwana (left) and Chief Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe (right) with Papua New Guinea Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi (fourth right) and his delegation during a courtesy call at the Office of the President on Tuesday. President Boko said the visit provided an important opportunity for judicial dialogue and the exchange of experiences that could inform institutional progress and guide reforms.
Photos: Felicity Male



PARLIAMENT 2026



Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang has told Parliament that government had approved several infrastructure projects for Boteti East, including road construction and rehabilitation, water supply improvements and railway development, aimed at boosting economic opportunities and improving access to essential services.

Atamelang highlights infrastructure projects in Boteti East

Lindi Morwaeng
GABORONE

Government has approved several infrastructure projects for Boteti East, including road construction and rehabilitation, water supply improvements and railway development, aimed at boosting economic opportunities and improving access to essential services.

Member of Parliament for Boteti East, Mr Keoagile Atamelang, who is also Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, said this during the debate on the State of the Nation Address (SONA) in Parliament.

He said improved connectivity was essential to economic growth, job creation and access to healthcare, education and markets.

Mr Atamelang said projects approved under National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) included the Letlhakane-Khwee-Kodibeleng and Kuke-Rakops roads. He said the roads would address longstanding infrastructure gaps, improve access for communities and facilitate mining activities around the copper belt and other critical minerals in the region.

Other planned road works for the 2026/27 financial year include shoulder construction, asphalt overlay and road marking along the Orapa-Mokubilo Road, reconstruction of the Mopipi-Rakops section and resealing of the A14 Mmatshumo-Letlhakane Road. Regravelling of the Rakops-Xere and Rakops-Toromoja roads is also planned.

On national infrastructure, Mr Atamelang said government had approved P772.4 million for urgent maintenance of six sections of the A1 highway.

He added that approximately 15 road maintenance projects countrywide were at an average completion rate of 67 per cent, while nine additional rehabilitation projects had been awarded. Turning to railway development, he said the feasibility study for the proposed 1 850-kilometre Trans-Kalahari Railway had been completed, with government now seeking a developer.

The project was projected to create approximately 220 455 jobs, while the Mosetse-Kazungula-Livingstone railway was expected to generate about 101 170 jobs.

He said the Trans-Kalahari Railway would improve Botswana's access to regional and international markets through alternative freight routes linking the country to ports on the Atlantic and Indian oceans.

On water infrastructure, Mr Atamelang said a proposed water transfer scheme would address persistent shortages in parts of Boteti, particularly Letlhakane. He also highlighted the proposed Letlhakane-Mmatshumo Development Corridor, which is expected to unlock more than 45,000 residential plots and over 1 000 plots for industrial, commercial and community developments. The project was projected to generate approximately 8 200 jobs by 2029.

On public transport, he said Botswana had introduced electric buses under the pilot phase of the Botswana Integrated Metro Bus and Metro Rail System in Gaborone, as part of efforts to modernise public transportation and promote green mobility.

He assured taxi operators that they would be included in the transformation of the sector through ongoing stakeholder engagement. Meanwhile, Mr Atamelang welcomed the proposed increase in Botswana's shareholding in De Beers from 15 to 30 per cent, saying it would strengthen the country's influence in the diamond industry.

He also called for a contextual beneficiation law to support access to the Diamond for Development Fund and an Extended Producer Responsibility Act to strengthen waste management. Mr Atamelang said Parliament had so far passed 62 Bills, describing the legislative developments as part of government's efforts to transform the country. He called for collective responsibility in advancing national development, saying all sectors and communities had a role to play in ensuring that no one was left behind. ***BOPA***

Pule calls for revival of suspended development projects

Lindi Morwaeng
GABORONE

Kgatleng East MP, Mr Mabuse Pule, has urged government to expedite the review of suspended development projects and introduce alternative interventions to support farmers and communities affected by the disruption of programmes initiated by the previous administration.

Contributing to the debate on the State-of-the-Nation Address in Parliament, Mr Pule said the change of government in 2024 should not have resulted in the abandonment of projects with the potential to create employment and improve livelihoods.

He acknowledged the peaceful transfer of power following nearly six decades of one-party rule, saying Batswana were fortunate to have witnessed a historic political transition without violence.

Mr Pule said the principles that enabled the smooth transfer of power had been built over decades, but questioned why the same principles of continuity and nation-building were not reflected in the implementation of development programmes.

He argued that the transfer of power should also ensure continuity of livelihoods, noting that the suspension of 132 projects under the Development Manager Model had affected communities that anticipated employment opportunities and improved infrastructure.

In Kgatleng East, he said roads and a clinic had been earmarked for development under the model but remained suspended pending a review that had taken almost two years.

He said residents were disappointed by the delays and wanted the projects completed.

Mr Pule also called for stronger support for farmers, saying Kgatleng District was largely a farming community whose livelihoods were increasingly under pressure from drought and livestock-related challenges.

While welcoming the Lemang Dijo programme, he said the effects of El Niño required government to ensure farmers received timely support and resources. He warned that delays in assistance could push more farmers into destitution, particularly those dependent on livestock and affected by foot-and-mouth disease.

Meanwhile, Shoshong MP, Mr Moneedi Bagaisamang, called for institutional reforms across government, particularly at local authority level, to improve public service delivery.

Mr Bagaisamang said reforms should also extend to the administrative structures of councils.

He said residents in his constituency continued to experience inefficiencies in accessing government services, adding that frustration over poor service delivery was often directed at the government of the day.

Mr Bagaisamang said improving service delivery required reforms that reached local government offices, where citizens interacted with public institutions daily. ***BOPA***



Kgatleng East MP Mr Mabuse Pule

Government yet to adopt position on homosexuality

GABORONE

Government has not adopted a position on homosexuality, with the question of legalising same-sex marriages still requiring broader national consultation.

Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi, said the issue remained a matter of national interest that required the participation of all stakeholders through a wider forum and at different levels.

He added that the matter would also be addressed during the impending comprehensive constitutional review.

Mr Mmolotsi was responding to a question from Serowe South Member of Parliament, Mr Leepetswe Lesedi, who wanted to know Government's position on homosexuality and whether there were plans to legalise same-sex marriages in the near future. ***BOPA***



Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima (second right), MP for Tonota, Mr Gaefele Sedombo (left), Jwaneng/Mabutsane MP, Mr Omphemetse Kwapa (second left) and MP for Bobonong, Mr Taolo Lucas after Parliament session on Tuesday. Mr Ntsima said all magistrates were provided with security alarms monitored around the clock and a physical security guard at their place of residence, regardless of whether they occupy institutional houses. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Magistrates provided with high security - Ntsima

GABORONE

Magistrates are provided with security measures, including alarm systems monitored around the clock and physical security guards, even when they do not occupy institutional houses.

Responding to a question in Parliament on behalf of Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima, told Parliament on Tuesday that institutional houses provided for magistrates were secured with electric fences.

"In addition, all Magistrates are provided with a security alarm that is monitored 24/7 and a physical security guard at their place of residence," he said.

Mr Ntsima explained that in areas where the Administration of Justice had constructed institutional houses for court staff, magistrates were accommodated in the facilities.

He said the provision of such housing recognised the security risks associated with magistrates' duties as judicial officers.

Mr Ntsima was responding to a question from Jwaneng/Mabutsane MP, Mr Omphemetse Kwapa, who had asked the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services to explain why magistrates were not accommodated in high-security houses, given the security concerns arising from the nature of their judicial duties. ***BOPA***

Ministry committed to improving availability of medical supplies

GABORONE

The availability of medicines and medical consumables has improved from 17 per cent when the country declared a state of emergency in 2025 to over 70 per cent in recent months, following interventions by the Ministry of Health and Central Medical Stores (CMS). Responding to a parliament question , Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise, said despite the improvement, progress continued to be adversely affected by logistical challenges, including delayed deliveries arising from regulatory requirements and ongoing geopolitical instability in some supplier regions.

"As at November 13, 2026, availability of vital medicines (V) stood at 50 per cent, essential medicines (E) at 38 per cent, necessary medicines (N) at 25 per cent, medical devices and consumables at 26 per cent, while equipment consumables stood at 34 per cent," he said.

Dr Modise acknowledged that the current availability levels remained low, but said government was implementing deliberate measures to address supply chain challenges and restore stock levels as quickly as possible. He said the interventions included active procurement, expedited deliveries, prioritisation of vital supplies and distribution to health facilities.

"CMS continues to procure and expedite deliveries of critical medicines from international suppliers, including the United Arab Emirates, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNOPS (Stop TB Partnership).

Priority is also being given to vital and essential medicines, particularly those for chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cancer and paediatric conditions, to ensure that essential patient care is not compromised," he said.

Dr Modise further explained that consignments received by CMS were distributed to health facilities as quickly as possible, with the most affected facilities and critical supplies receiving priority.

He expressed optimism that additional consignments would arrive, adding that the Ministry continued to monitor stock levels and would provide periodic updates to Parliament on progress.

Meanwhile, Dr Modise reported that the Botswana Health Partnership Fund had made progress towards acquiring pharmaceutical manufacturing businesses and would continue exploring strategic opportunities to strengthen the country's healthcare system.

He said the Ministry was also undertaking efforts to optimise CMS operations to improve efficiency and agility, while ensuring that future supply chain disruptions were proactively mitigated.

He assured Parliament that government remained committed to ensuring sustainable and reliable access to healthcare for Batswana.

Maun North MP, Mr Dumelang Saleshando, had sought an update from the minister on the state of medicine supplies and medical consumables in the country following the declaration of a state of emergency in 2025.

He also sought details on achievements registered under the Health First Botswana Partnership Fund. ***BOPA***

MP renews calls for health screening of Gamodubu residents

Lindi Morwaeng
GABORONE

Member of Parliament for Molepolole South, Mr Shima Monageng has renewed calls for health screening of residents of Gamodubu who had been exposed to smoke from recurring fires at the local landfill.

Contributing to the debate on the State-of-the-Nation Address in Parliament, Mr Monageng said the matter had previously been raised in Parliament in 2024 but residents had yet to receive the promised screening or see meaningful improvement in the situation.

Citing records indicating that the Molepolole Fire Department had responded to more than 23 fires at the landfill since 2017, he said the recurring incidents required urgent intervention rather than being treated as isolated occurrences.

The legislator also called for urgent attention to community safety, environmental health, local infrastructure and the creative industries.

He raised concern over the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in his constituency, describing the incident as a devastating tragedy that had shaken the community.

He called on law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to ensure that a thorough and transparent investigation was conducted and that those responsible were brought to justice.

On local development, he called for the timely release of Constituency Community Projects (CCP) funds, saying delays affected councils' ability to address infrastructure gaps, create employment and stimulate local economies.

He said decentralised funding enabled constituencies to address specific needs such as access roads, community shelters and school facilities that might otherwise be overlooked in centralized planning.

The MP also called for greater government investment in the creative industries, proposing the establishment of a state theatre and arts and cultural agencies to promote local talent and create opportunities for artists to showcase their work locally and internationally.

He said community halls should be upgraded into suitable performance venues with proper seating, lighting and acoustics, while film and studio development should be supported across the country.

He further proposed that the Youth Development Fund be expanded to accommodate film production and that the creative industry be included in the Botswana Business Council's high-level consultative agenda.

Meanwhile, Kgatleng West MP Ms Unity Dow, has called on government to strengthen transparency and accountability in public office while rethinking service delivery approaches to ensure that smaller communities are not disadvantaged by population-based development planning.

Ms Dow said public trust was essential to effective governance and urged government to implement the political party funding legislation, which she said had been supported by both the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) and the former administration under President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi.

She said political party funding was important in reducing parties' dependence on private sponsors, while also calling for greater disclosure of the assets and liabilities of political leaders upon assuming public office.

MP Dow said transparency should also extend to how government communicates with citizens, particularly during national challenges such as the current Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreak. She said Batswana deserved to know how the disease originated and what measures were being taken to contain it, adding that open communication and consultation were necessary to maintain public confidence.

On service delivery, Ms Dow argued that the current approach, which largely bases the provision of services on population size, disadvantaged smaller villages whose residents also needed access to essential services.

She called for innovative ways of delivering services to small communities instead of relying on population as the primary determinant of resource allocation. Ms Dow also proposed policy changes to promote peri-urban and urban agriculture, saying households should be enabled to use available spaces, including residential yards and small plots, to grow food and supplement family needs. She said government needed to consider the changing structure of country's households and develop policies that responded to the realities of families. ***BOPA***



Kgatleng West MP Dr Unity Dow



DailyBusiness



Some businesses impose a minimum card payment of P20 despite displaying card acceptance signs. According to First National Bank Botswana, while retailers are not breaking any specific Botswana law by setting a limit on card payments, they may still be violating VISA and Mastercard rules if they display the card acceptance logos.

FNBB clarifies rules on minimum card transaction limits

Marvin Motlhabane
KANYE

It is a familiar scene in shops across Botswana. A customer walks in for a cold drink, a loaf of bread or for airtime. The total comes to P15 or P18. The till displays the card machine, the VISA or Mastercard stickers are clearly visible on the counter, yet the attendant shakes her head: "Minimum is P20 for card. Cash only."

The customer digs through pockets, checks the car, or walks to a nearby ATM or spaza shop to withdraw cash, sometimes for a fee; while the next person in the queue waits. The inconvenience is small but repeated, and the frustration is growing among shoppers who assumed that a card acceptance sign meant exactly that.

Beyond the daily irritation, the practice undercuts a larger national goal: financial inclusion. Botswana has spent years encouraging citizens to keep money in the formal banking system, use debit cards and reduce reliance on cash. When merchants routinely refuse legitimate card payments of any amount above P0, they push customers back into cash transactions, weaken trust in digital payments and make it harder for ordinary people, especially those making frequent small purchases, to participate fully in the formal economy.

Retailers who refuse debit or credit card payments below P20 are not breaking any specific Botswana law, First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) has confirmed. However, they may still be violating Visa and Mastercard rules if they display card acceptance signs.

In a formal response to a Botswana Press Agency (BOPA) enquiry recently, FNBB chief marketing officer, Ms Peo Porogo confirmed that the bank's point-of-sale devices carried a floor limit of zero, allowing merchants to process any transaction above P0.

Ms Porogo said FNBB charged no merchant service fee on debit card swipes and had no minimum transaction values. The decision to reject small card payments, she explained, rested entirely with the merchant.

Many retailers impose such thresholds to protect thin profit margins on low-value items after factoring in processing costs. Product pricing, including POS-related expenses, remains a purely commercial choice for the business, she noted.

While the Banking Act 2023, the Electronic Payment Services Regulations and the National Payments System Oversight Policy did not expressly prohibit merchant-imposed minimums, Ms Porogo stressed that card scheme rules still applied.

Merchants who display Visa or Mastercard logos were generally expected to honour valid card transactions. Routinely turning away low-value card payments could breach those scheme obligations and the merchant's agreement with its acquiring bank. In effect, the practice also worked against the broader push for financial inclusion by discouraging the very behaviour the payments system was designed to support.

"Where such behaviour was identified, FNBB would formally engage the merchant, issue written notices demanding that the practice stop, and if the problem continued, terminate the acquiring relationship," said Ms Porogo.

Consumers who encounter the practice can complain to the acquiring bank, their own issuing bank, consumer protection authorities or relevant regulators. The acquiring bank is then expected to investigate and require corrective action where necessary.

Ms Porogo added that FNBB ran ongoing merchant education programmes aimed at promoting consistent card acceptance and a smoother digital payments experience for customers.

The clarification comes amid growing frustration among shoppers who find themselves forced to carry cash for small purchases even at stores that openly displayed card acceptance signs.

While merchants retain commercial freedom over pricing, the bank's position signals that advertised card acceptance was not entirely optional once the logos were on display, and that refusing small legitimate transactions sat uneasily with the country's financial inclusion ambitions. ***BOPA***

District unveils roadmap to unlock economic potential

Kedirebofe Pelontle
GUMARE

The proposed Okavango Economic Development Strategy billed to run for five years from 2026 to 2031 is a vehicle that the Okavango District Council (ODC) will use to explore opportunities in agriculture and tourism.

Okavango District Council (ODC) council chairperson Mr Gaopalelwe Ronald revealed when officially opening the ongoing full council meeting on Monday that the strategy, which was informed by the Local Economic Assessment and community consultations, had identified opportunities in agriculture and tourism.

Mr Ronald said such opportunities lay in areas such as poultry, fisheries, basketry and natural products, as well as in community tourism and in infrastructure that could support businesses.

"Our focus should be on viable initiatives, sound planning and sustained support rather than spreading resources across activities that cannot be adequately supported", he said.

Mr Ronald said that the district leadership and the umbrella North West Integrated Farmers Association had engaged farmers clusters in different villages across the district regarding the initiative.

He said that a total of 12 farmers' clusters had been assisted and facilitated to apply for funding from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for possible funding worth P41 million.

He said the clusters should continue to receive support on credible production plans, governance structures and business management while awaiting funding outcomes.

Mr Ronald said there was also need to assess challenges that may affect farmers such as land, water, fencing and access to markets that he said may lower farmers' productivity and contribution to household incomes.

Meanwhile, Mr Ronald thanked all district stakeholders for achievements made in the last two quarters despite financial and operational constraints experienced. ***BOPA***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Botswana and Namibia boost agricultural trade

WINDHOEK - Namibia and Botswana have agreed to strengthen agricultural trade, improve livestock disease management and tackle cross-border trade barriers as the two countries seek to boost regional food security and expand access to international markets, according to a joint statement issued on Tuesday in Windhoek. The agreement followed a bilateral ministerial meeting held on Monday between Namibia's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Inge Zaamwani and Botswana's Minister of Lands and Agriculture Edwin Dikoloti. The two ministers discussed strategies to address foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and expand agricultural and technical cooperation. They agreed to promote Commodity-Based Trade to navigate restrictions associated with transboundary animal diseases and facilitate access to regional and international markets, and jointly explore high-value export markets across Africa. ***Xinhua***

South Africa seeks new export markets

CAPE TOWN - South Africa is stepping up efforts to find alternative export markets and protect jobs amid the possibility of losing preferential access to the U.S. market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Tuesday. Ramaphosa made the remarks while answering questions from lawmakers in the National Council of Provinces at Parliament in Cape Town, as South Africa prepares for the possible withdrawal of its AGOA beneficiary status by the United States from Jan. 1. The US gave South Africa 60 days' notice of its intention to terminate the country's beneficiary status under AGOA. Ramaphosa said South Africa had leveraged the 18th BRICS Summit, held in India in September, and related business engagements to promote trade, investment and industrial cooperation. ***Xinhua***

Cote d'Ivoire to reduce informal employment rate

ABIDJAN - The Ivorian government decided on Tuesday to reduce the informal employment rate from 82.4 per cent in 2025 to 73.5 per cent by 2030 under the National Program for Reducing Informality (PNRI), which seeks to facilitate the gradual transition of informal economic activities into the formal sector. The informal economy accounted for about 45 per cent of the country's GDP and more than 9.9 million jobs in 2025, with 1.4 million informal production units nationwide, said Yao Silvere Konan, director general for the Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Handicrafts at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts. ***Xinhua***

Dikgang
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261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500

Kgwebo e tlodisa Nzwalingwa melatswana

Masego Tabengwa
MASUNGA

Mme Sentebile Nzwalingwa, ke mongwe wa bagwebi ba ba tswang kgakala ba ikaegile ka kgwebo ya go rekisa maungo le merogo kwa marekisetsong a motse wa Masunga. Mo potsolotsong bosheng,

Mme Nzwalingwa o boletse fa a simolotse go tsena mo kgwebong eo ka ngwaga wa 2000 mme le mo nakong eno a santse a e tshegeditse ka maatlametlo, ka jaana e mo tlodisa melatswana e tletse.

Mme Nzwalingwa, yo o tlholegang kwa motseng wa Tsamaya, o kaile fa a thibeletse kwa Masunga a le mo patlong ya mebereko, mme a ne a thapiwa ga nakwana ke dikompone ka go farologana tse di neng di aga dikago dingwe gone kwa Masunga.

A re morago ga go digela tiro ya gagwe mo dikomponeng tseo, o ne a tsaya tshwetso ya gore a seka a phutha matsogo mme a inaakanye le sengwe se a ka kgonang go itshetsa ka sone. Fa a tlhalosa mabapi le go tlhoma kgwebo ya gagwe kwa Masunga go na le kwa mafelong a mangwe segolo jang kwa a tlholegang teng kwa Tsamaya, Mme Nzwalingwa o boletse fa a dirile jalo morago ga go lemoga fa motse wa Masunga o ne o itemogela dipalo tse di fa godingwana tsa batho.

A re mo dingwageng tsa maloba, theko ya dithoto tsa gagwe e ne e nametsa fela thata ka kgwebo eo e ne e ise e thologelwe ke bontsi jwa batho jaaka gompieno, a re ke ka moo a neng a kgona go tlamela bana ba gagwe ka tsotlhe tse di neng di tlhokafala, go fitlhelela ba aloga kwa dikolong.

Mme Nzwalingwa o tlhalositse fa mo ngwageng ono theko e le boutsana fela thata, selo se a boletseng fa se gakadiwa bobe ke tlhaelo ya madi e e itemogelwang mo lefatsheng leno.

O tsweletse a tlhalosa fa mogote o o kwa godimo le one o amile ditshingwana tsa merogo tse barekisi ba ikaegileng ka tsone mme seo se bo se dira gore dikgwebo tsa bone di babalelwe ke letlhoko la dithoto tse ba di rekisang, segolo jang merogo.

Le fa gontse jalo, Mme Nzwalingwa o boletse fa bopelotelele jo a tswang goolowe a ikaegile ka jone bo mo thusa go wa a tsoga le kgwebo ya gagwe. A re bagwebi ba dikgwebo ka go farologana ba tshwanetse ba itse fa go sena kgwebo epe e e senang dikgwetlho, ka jalo ba tshwanelwa ke go eteletsa pele bopelotelele mo dikgwebong tsa bone. BOPA



Mongwe wa bagwebi ba ba tswang kgakala ba ikaegile ka kgwebo ya go rekisa maungo le merogo kwa marekisetsong a Masunga, Mme Sentebile Nzwalingwa o gwetlhile bagwebi ka ene go nna pelotelele mo dikgwebong tsa bone, a supa fa go sena kgwebo epe e e senang dikgwetlho. Senepe: Goweditswe Kome

Ba na-le-bogole ba kopa kemedi



Mme Zoe Kgasa o supile fa boikarabelo jwa puso go ruta ba na-le-bogole bo busediwa morago ke batsadi ba ba sa amogeleng seemo sa bana ba bone.

Relief Lephutshi
KANYE

Ba na-le-bogole ba supile botlhokwa jwa go nna le kemedi segolo jang mo maphateng a puso, go ba thusa go bona ditlamelo le ditirelo ka puo e ba e tlhaloganyang. Boikuelo jo, bo ntshitswe ke ba na-le-bogole bosheng kwa Kanye, fa ba ne ba kopane le modulasetilo wa khansele, Rre Morapedi Kgosithebe, kwa ba na-le-boswafe ba tlhalositseng fa e se setho go bidiwa maswafe ka leina le le supa go tlhoka boleng mme fela jaaka mongwe le mongwe, ba na le ditalente le bokgoni.

Mme Boemo Ramogale yo e leng mo na-le-boswafe, o kopile gore ba thusiwe ka setlolo se se sireletsang letlalo mo marang a letsatsi, le digalase tsa matlho. A re dilo tse, di turu mme bontsi jwa ba na-le-boswafe, ga ba di kgone.

Mme Ramogale o kopile gore ba na-le-bogole ba nne le moranodi wa puo mo diphuthegong di tshwana le khansele, palamente le tse dingwe. Bangwe ba ba na-leboswafe ba kopile gore dikgang tsa bo ne, di fudusiwe kwa ofising ya ba na-le-bogole ka ga se ba na-le-bogole mme, ba eletsa gore go nne le ofisi e ba ka thusiwang teng.

Rre Isaac Nkganetsang go tswa kwa Botswana Society of People with Disabilities, o supile fa madirelo ka bontsi a sena fa ba pakang dikoloi tsa bone teng, le fa ba tsamayang teng mo mebileng e e diretsweng ba tsamaya ka dinao, segolo jang fa thoko ga sekonotere.

A re seemo se, se ba ba baya mo diphatseng. O kopile gore fa puso e hira ka go iteisanya borathana, go kgaoganngwe ditlhopha, go letla ba na-le-bogole go iteisanya borathana ka bo bone. Mme Zoe Kgasa yo o dirisang kolotsana ya ba na-le-bogole, a re ga go motlhofo gore ba na-le-bogole ba nne seoposengwe ka mabaka a gore ga ba farologanngwe mme, mongwe le mongwe o na le letlhoko kgotsa dikgwetlho tse di pharologanyo mo go yo mongwe. A re go mosola go ba farologanya ka gore mang o na le letlhoko la mofuta o fe, le bogole bope fela. O supile fa boikarabelo jwa puso go ruta ba na-le-bogole bo busediwa morago ke batsadi ba ba sa amogeleng ba na-le-bogole.

"Batsadi ba rona re ba tlhabisa ditlhong, fa gongwe fa ditshono di tswa, motsadi kgotsa batlhokomedi ba fitlha mo na-le-bogole, go na le gore ba mo rotloetsa," Mme Kgasa a tlhalosa. A re batlhokomedi ba ba na-le-bogole ba ikgagapelela dithuso tse ba di neelwang mme se, se itsa gore mo na-le-bogole a tshele botshelo jo bo rileng ka jaanong di tswela mosola ba ba seng maleba. Mme Kgasa a re, mo gare ga dikgwetlho tsa go nna le bogole , go na le makoa a mangwe a botsogo a a tlhokang madi.

O kopile Rre Kgosithebe go tlhomamisa gore ba ba reng ba direla ba na-le-bogole, ba gorosa dithuso kwa go bone.

A re bomme ba ba na-le-bogole ba tshabelelwa ke go tseelwa dikobo ka dikgoka le kiteo, a bo a supa fa le bone ka bo bone, ba lebela bangwe ka bone kwa tlase, mme se, se ba itsa go emana nokeng.

Molaodi wa kgaolo ya Kanye, Rre Mompoloki Mochanang, o gakolotse ba na-le-bogole gore ba ka tokafatsa seemo sa bone sa go kopa dithuso le go akarediwa mo ditshwetsong fa ba ka dira lenaneo la sebaka sa ngwaga tse di ka tshwarang tlhano mme ba le bega kwa komiting ya ditlhabololo go akarediwa mo lenaneong la ngwaga.

A re go tlaa rulaganngwa gore go nne le ofisi e go sa palengweng disetepisi, kwa diofising tsa kwa ga molaodi gore ba na-le-bogole ba thusediwe teng. BOPA

New police stations celebrate local heroes

BOPA REPORTERS

MATSILOJE SEMITWE MARAPONG

Though they exist primarily to render policing services to the respective communities, the Samuel Lehulere Moroka and the Mudongo Maswikiti Police Stations are also a source of pride to the people of Matsiloje, Semitwe and Marapong. Named after prominent figures who are tied, in different ways, to the history of the villages, the naming of the two police stations has woven the facilities into the very fabric that makes up the soul of the three villages.

Samuel Lehulere Moroka Police Station evokes memories of the formative years of the founding of Matsiloje. According to Kgosi Eric Moipolai of Matsiloje, Mr Samuel Lehulere Moroka was the first traditional leader or kgosi to lead the Barolong in modern-day Matsiloje.

Kgosi Moipolai said following the naming of the facility, Matsiloje now boasts of two heroes who had been honoured nationally; Kgosi Moroka and radio personality, Mr Phillip Moshotle, after whom a primary school in Gaborone was named.

"This is history in the making and a great honour for the people of Matsiloje. These two men have left a lasting legacy for our village," he said. Kgosi Moipolai welcomed the new police station; a piece of development that he said residents of Matsiloje had been waiting for the past 20 years. He said though government has built the new police station, it remained with the community to actively fight crime. "Even if we have police stations, the fight against crime rests with the community by helping the police," he said.

Shared by the villages of Semitwe and Marapong, the Mudongo Maswikiti Police Station speaks to the legacy of the first area Member of Parliament, Mr Mudongo Maswikiti.

The late Mr Maswikiti served from independence until 1989 as legislator for the then Sebina-Gweta constituency, under which Semitwe and Marapong fell at the time.

The naming of the police station in his honour recognises him as an icon who played a significant role in the development of the constituency. Representative of the Maswikiti family, Mr Elliot Maswikiti shared the family's deep delight over the recognition that their father has received. To them, the naming of the police station after their departed patriarch was an honour that paid tribute to the indelible footprints he had left behind and was also an affirmation that his name and legacy would remain in remembrance for generations to come.

In relation to the new police station, Kgosi Batisani Joseph of Semitwe appreciated government for bringing services closer to his community, saying them being serviced from Francistown had proven disadvantageous. Kgosi Bakani Mampori of Marapong similarly hailed the development, and observed that it was going to help them fight crime, particularly stock theft which remained rife in Marapong, Semitwe and their peripheries.

In Makaleng, where a new police station was also opened, residents cannot wait to see cable theft, stock theft and housebreaking become a thing of the past. Ms Tapudzani Moloi and Mr Edward Mogowe are optimistic that the Makaleng cluster will begin to enjoy an environment fairly free of crime. They believe that the increase in police officers that the police station has come with will improve police visibility, which will in turn strengthen crime prevention and detection. Kgosi Thuso Ramokate of Makaleng advised the community to partner with the police in fighting crime. "Police officers cannot be effective without the assistance of the community; hence you must report any criminal activities that you are aware of instead of just complaining about them" he said.

The Samuel Lehulere Moroka, Mudongo Maswikiti and Makaleng Police Stations were in the cohort of police stations that were officially opened on Tuesday alongside Mmopane Police Station, over whose opening President Advocate Duma Boko presided. *BOPA*



Kgosi Odirile Sekwenyane of Phitshane Molopo (left), wife, Lido (centre) and station commander, Superintendent Thusego Kenyafetse during the handing over of Sekwenyane Police on Tuesday. Kgosi Sekwenyane said the station was named after the village's founding chief, the late Kgosi Pitoro Sekwenyane, following consultations with the community at the kgotla. President Advocate Duma Boko handed over 28 police stations across the country. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

Mmadinare and Lerala welcome police stations

Chendzimu Manyepedza

MMADINARE

In a village with over 13 000 residents, the importance of safety looms large in the daily lives of its inhabitants.

Families yearn for a sanctuary of peace within their homes, while dedicated farmers tirelessly safeguard their livestock against potential threats. On Tuesday, Mmadinare was among the regions benefiting from the government's initiative of establishing 28 new police stations nationwide, transitioning the village to a fully-fledged police station.

The transformation symbolises the government's commitment to providing more accessible and efficient policing services for all residents. As Mmadinare undergoes this considerable change, the benefits are expected to extend beyond the village.

With heightened police visibility, a more effective emergency response system, and a unified approach to combating crime, both Mmadinare and its surrounding areas will experience improved security. For the residents, the official opening of the facility brings a renewed sense of hope that their safety concerns will be addressed with greater efficacy.

The upgraded station will equip law enforcement officers with better resources, enabling them to cater more effectively to the evolving needs of a growing community. The Station Commander of Mmadinare Police Station, Assistant Superintendent Dikobe Kedireng, explained that the station would enhance efforts already in place to tackle persistent issues plaguing the community.

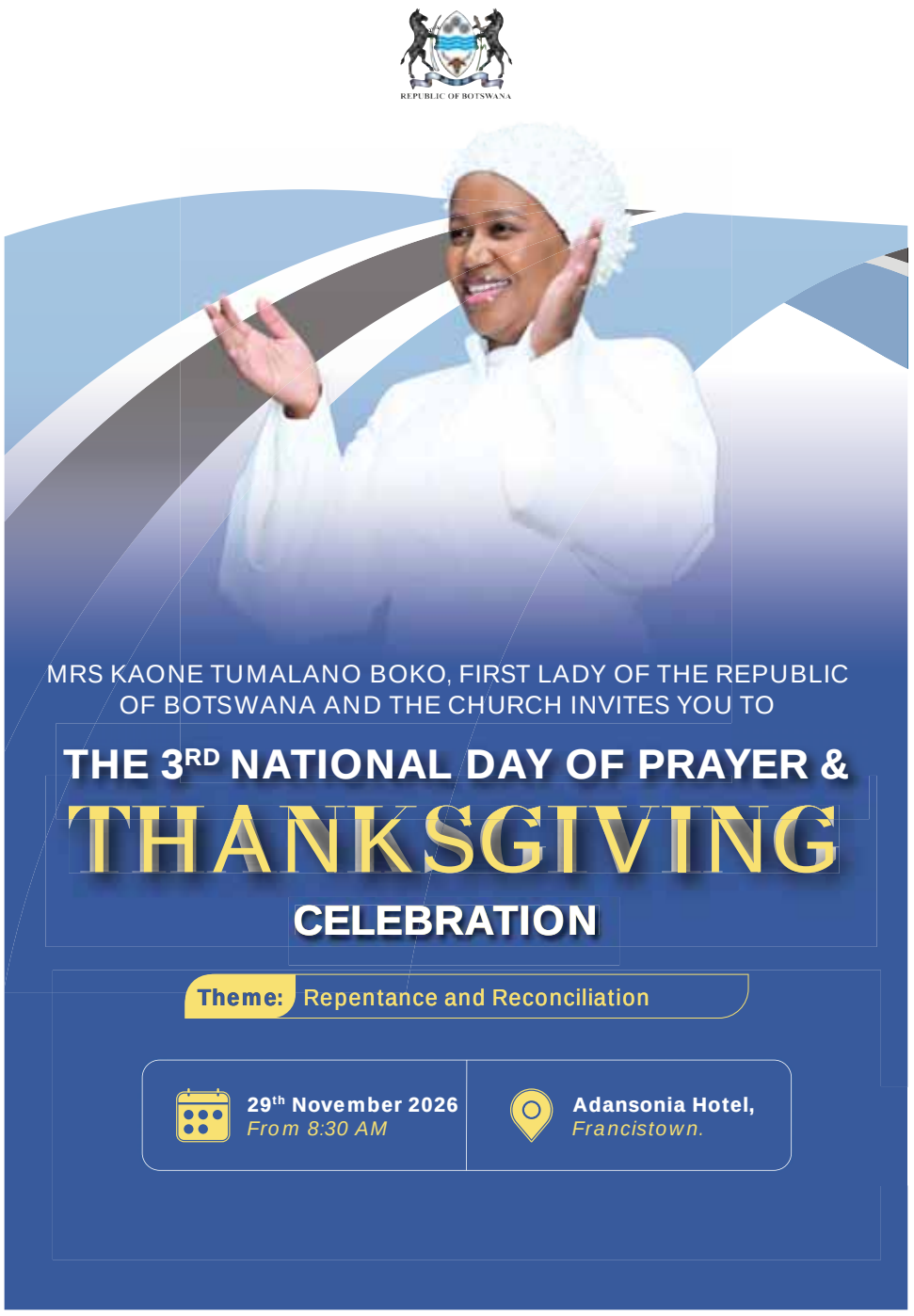
He said these include housebreaking, rape, defilement, and murder, as well as cross-border stock theft, which remained a concern due to the proximity of grazing lands to the Botswana-Zimbabwe border. "This fully fledged station will continuously necessitate heightened police visibility, effective surveillance measures, and robust collaboration with residents in the fight against crime-related matters," he said. One resident, Ms Katso Ikeleng, said the establishment of a fully-fledged police station was a timely and welcome development, particularly as the village evolved and its security requirements became more pressing. She added that the upgrade would not only enhance the quality of policing services, but also stimulate the morale of local crime prevention committees, whose contributions were key in the fight against crime.

The traditional leader of Mmadinare, Kgosi Mphoeng Mphoeng, underscored the vital role of community cooperation in maintaining peace and order, urging residents not to regard the battle against crime as the sole burden of the police. Instead, he encouraged residents to take an active role in safeguarding their environment by reporting suspicious activities and sharing insights that could aid law enforcement in both preventing and solving crimes.

"As the village embarks on this new chapter in its policing history, the success of the facility will hinge not only on the resources made available to officers, but also on the collective commitment of residents to partner with them," he said. Meanwhile, in Lerala, BOPA reporter Omphile Ntakhwana reports that Lerala East Councillor, Mr Andrew Supang, has called on residents to fully utilise the newly opened police station in their village to report whatever criminal behaviour or occurrences they witness. Speaking at the official opening of the Lerala Police Station on Tuesday, which formed part of the joint ceremony with 27 other police stations across the country, Mr Supang said the opening of the facility was a welcome development.

Mr Supang said he had faith that the Botswana Police Service personnel were well-equipped to deal with the ever-changing criminal activities and seasons. "Our village is growing rapidly, and there is a possibility that Lerala village may become the Tswapong district headquarters as we look to bring council services closer to this region," he said. For his part, Mr Meshack Outule, a resident of Lerala and also the Lerala North Village Development Committee chair, revealed in an interview that he hoped criminal activities prevalent in the area such as house break-ins, stock theft, and petty thievery would get the attention they require from law enforcement agencies.

"We have people who attack others at night, stealing things such as wallets and phones, and sometimes they beat people up," he said. He was hopeful that the new police station would increase the visibility of police officers during night patrols to curb crime. *BOPA*



Arts & Culture

Ezra Neethings one-man show April 2027

Tankiso Mogapi
GABORONE

Creative artist Ezra Neethings has announced his second one-man show, scheduled for April 17, 2027, during an exclusive red-carpet premiere and exhibition held at New Capitol Cinemas in Masa Square, Gaborone on Monday evening.

The event provided a platform for Neethings to unveil plans for the upcoming show, which forms part of his broader vision to expand his work and create opportunities within Botswana's entertainment industry.

Addressing guests, Neethings expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support, describing the huge turnout as something he had not anticipated.

"I want to thank each and everybody for showing up. This is crazy, and I just take it in because wow, there are a lot of people for me," he said.

Reflecting on the previous one-man show, Neethings described it as the beginning of a bigger vision, saying the experience provided valuable lessons that would inform the planning of the upcoming edition.

He acknowledged that although the previous event had some shortcomings, it offered an opportunity to identify areas that needed improvement and work towards delivering a more refined production.

"The last show that we did, I would say it was the genesis of the idea. There were a lot of things we learnt and a few mistakes that we identified. We said, fine, we have taken note of all that, and we will fix it," he said.

Neethings also highlighted the importance of partnerships in growing the creative industry, encouraging businesses and other stakeholders to collaborate with creatives and support the development of local talent.

He noted that opportunities in the entertainment industry often begin on a small scale, encouraging upcoming creatives to remain committed and open to growth.

He further challenged the tendency for creatives to operate in competing groups, calling for greater collaboration and a shift in mind set towards producing local content. "We cannot always be consumers of things. In a sense, we have to be producers of such content," he said.

He said Botswana's creative industry had the potential to achieve bigger things if local creatives worked together and developed content capable of reaching international audiences. Meanwhile, Neethings is also preparing to release his new album, Leru, this Friday, November 27, marking another milestone in his musical journey. ***BOPA***



Turning Point Botswana reporter, Mercy Gacharah (left) Ezra Neethings (centre) and Member of Parliament for Molepolole South, Shima Monageng during an exclusive red-carpet premiere and exhibition held at New Capitol Cinemas in Gaborone on Monday. Ezra Neethings announced that his second edition of one-man show would be held on April 17, 2027 and that the tickets are already on sale. Photo: Felicity Male

Kwasa kwasa muso expands creative horizon

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Renowned musician, Alfred Mosimanegape christened Alfredo Mos in the musical realms has expanded his artistic footprint by releasing a new book that chronicles his journey in the music industry. In an interview, Alfredo Mos explained that the publication served as a short biography detailing his musical life.

He noted that the primary motive behind the project was to inspire younger generations, stating that his career had never been built on destroying competitors, but rather on perseverance, consistency and the intention to impart knowledge and skills to others while contributing to nation-building.

Despite stepping into the literary space, Alfredo Mos clarified that he was not abandoning his music career.

He remarked that he would only step away from performing when his limbs no longer allowed him to do so. He added that his current writing focused on his true-life experiences, while future projects would address daily life, social ills and educational themes aimed at inspiring the youth. Readers and fans can expect more literary works from the artist in the near future.

He revealed that he had spent the past six years drafting his next project, a two-part book focusing on the lyrics from his extensive discography.

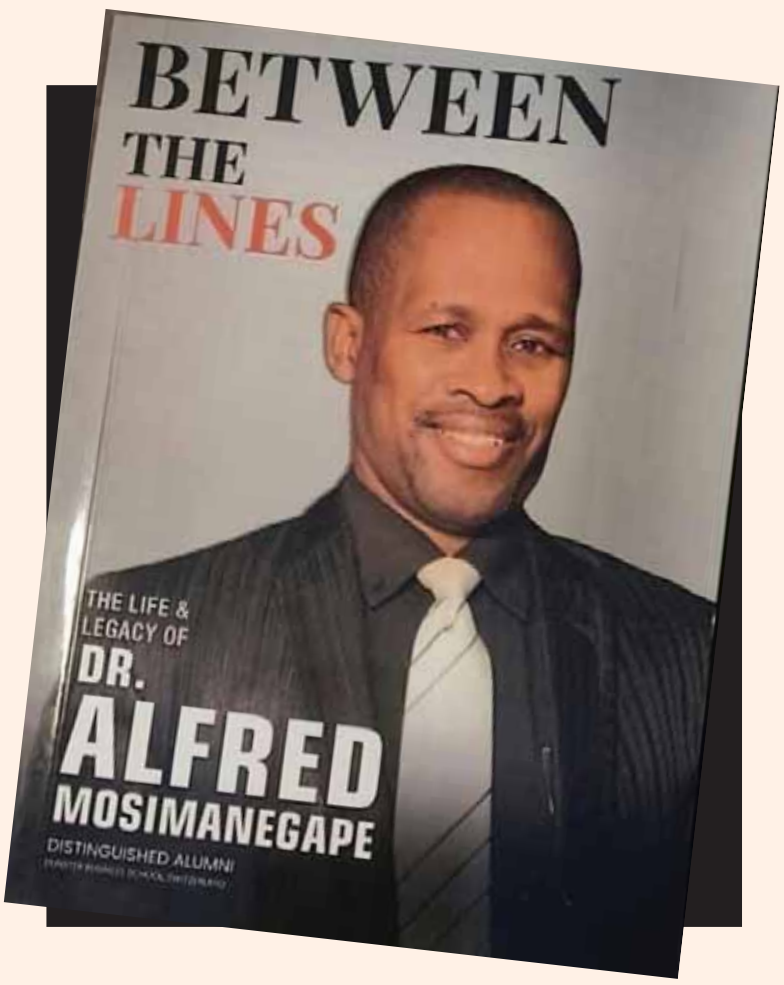
Regarding what the future held for both his music and writing, Alfredo Mos humbly stated that he could not predict what lay ahead, noting that everything would depend on God's will.

However, he confirmed that he remained open to writing songs for anyone who sought his services.

The newly-released biography is already available on the market and can be purchased through the Henry Harvin Research & Publishing Council, which also published the book.

Reflecting on his musical catalogue, Alfredo shared that he had released 16 full-length albums containing eight songs each, alongside three extended plays (EPs) with six songs each.

He concluded by revealing that he was still actively recording in the studio and was preparing to release an upcoming road safety song titled "Goroga o tshela". *BOPA*



Despite stepping into the literary space, Alfredo Mos clarified that he was not abandoning his music career. He remarked that he would only step away from performing when his limbs no longer allowed him to do so. Photo: Courtesy of Dr Alfred Mosimanegape

DailySport



Camilla Seetso
Photos: Phenyo Ramatu

Malak Macheng

Reagile Diraditsile

Angel Chakanyuka

Botswana exits ITF J100 World Tennis Tour Juniors

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Botswana's junior tennis players have been eliminated from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) J100 World Tennis Tour Juniors currently underway at the National Tennis Centre in Gaborone.

The hosts endured a tough campaign across both the boys and girls singles draws, suffering early setbacks in their opening matches.

In the boys' singles, Reagile Diraditsile bowed out after a 6-3, 6-3 defeat to South Africa's Vladimir Ignjatov.

Tunisia-based Tinashe Phatshwane went down 6-4, 6-2 to another South African, Dehan van Deventer, while compatriot Lebone Tlape fell 6-2, 6-2 to Belgium's Alistair Mutsch.

The girl's singles draw saw similar fortunes for the local contingent.

Angel Chakanyuka fell 6-3, 6-1 to Rutendo Mavhenyegwa of Zimbabwe, while compatriot Malak Macheng suffered an identical 6-3, 6-1 loss against another Zimbabwean, Kudzai Chapepa.

Rounding out the local exits, Camilla Seetso was defeated 6-2, 6-0 by China's Haolin Wang.

Despite the early exits, Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) vice president, Nonofo Othusitse, said the association was encouraged by the player's progress across the back-to-back international tournaments in Gaborone, having hosted the J60 event last week before this week's J100 showpiece.

"The highlight for us in these two events is the number of our players that we managed to enter, as well as their impressive level of play," he said.

Othusitse said that the strong displays saw several local youngsters climb the standings, while others earned their maiden international rankings.

"For instance, Tendai Nawa moved 319 places to a new career-high ranking of 2 409, while Lebone Tlape earned his first points to gain a ranking of 4 631, Angel Chakanyuka also moved to a new career ranking of 1 304. For us, 2026 was mostly about transitioning most of our players from the Under-14 circuit to the World Tennis Tour Juniors," he said.

He said the association gave the 13- and 14 year-old athletes the opportunity to test themselves on the international stage, an opportunity they seized with both hands to break into the World Tennis Tour Juniors rankings.

"During the J100, we witnessed Tinashe Phatshwane pushing a top-300 ranked player all the way in their first-round match and we saw the same with several of our players giving top-ranked opponents a hard time on court. In terms of performance and results, we are happy so far because development is long-term and there is a pathway that players go through," he said.

While the scorelines make for tough reading for local tennis enthusiasts, tournaments of the J100 grade remain vital stepping stones for Botswana's youth, offering the exact benchmark needed against seasoned campaigners from Europe, Asia and neighbouring powerhouses to bridge the gap between domestic dominance and international readiness. ***BOPA***

Karabo chooses Botswana over Northern Ireland

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Karabo 'Sanchez' Ditshupo has expressed his readiness to represent Botswana at Under-15 level, putting to rest speculation that he might opt to play for Northern Ireland, where he was born and raised.

The young footballer, who is based in Banbridge, Northern Ireland, affirmed his commitment to Botswana, citing the unwavering support he has received from Batswana throughout his childhood.

He said that the decision followed discussions with his team, which include his mother, Topo Ditshupo, who encouraged him to embrace the opportunity to represent his motherland.

"My team and I agreed that I should choose Botswana because of the moral support Batswana have given me through thick and thin, from infancy until now," he said.

Born on January 1, 2015, Karabo has been developing his football career in Northern Ireland, where he features for a local youth side. His early exposure to competitive football has given him a platform to sharpen his skills and nurture his ambitions.

Primarily a striker and winger, the youngster is recognised for his attacking prowess, particularly his goal-scoring instincts and proficiency from free kicks.

His football journey is closely tied to a family with deep roots in the game as he is the nephew of former Township Rollers and Zebras midfielder, Maano Ditshupo, who also had a stint with Northern Ireland side Lisburn Distillery before making his mark in local football.

Karabo's development has been further supported by his mother who played a key role in nurturing his passion and commitment to the sport.

His determination and discipline have raised expectations about his future prospects, with his standout performances during the 2025/2026 season earning him both player of the season and top goal scorer accolades.

His decision to join Botswana's Under-15 marks a significant milestone in his young career while offering the nation another promising prospect.

For the young striker, the opportunity to wear Botswana's national colours was not merely about football, but also about acknowledging the support and connection he had maintained with the country despite growing up abroad. ***BOPA***