

# BOTSWANA Daily News

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## Bill targets DCEC independence

A major legislative overhaul is imminent for the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) as a new draft Anti-Corruption Bill is set to hit Parliament in July alongside ongoing de-linking project aimed at granting the entity full operational independence.

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Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa addressing Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime officers during a staff engagement meeting in Gaborone on Tuesday. He encouraged them to continue to uphold integrity, confidentiality and ethical conduct as the institution intensified its fight against corruption and economic crime. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

# DailyNews

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# Judiciary remains indispensable - Mohwasa

Gontle Merafhe  
GABORONE

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Moeti Mohwasa has called on the judiciary to ensure that public sector reforms remain anchored in fairness and constitutionalism, arguing that the proposed Public Service Act No. 5 of 2026 will only succeed if judges protect the dignity of the ordinary citizens it is meant to serve.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day judges' workshop on the Public Service Act No. 5 of 2026 on Tuesday, Minister Mohwasa said the judiciary remained indispensable in interpreting laws and policies to protect the core principles of justice.

The minister emphasised that the engagement of judges in interpreting the law was what ensured that state implementation of such reforms remained guided by reason and constitutional bounds.

He noted that in pursuing the national goals set out in the State of the Nation Address (SONA), the Budget Speech and National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12), leaders must remember that development was only meaningful when it tangibly reached the public.

"A policy is only successful when a citizen's life becomes a little more bearable, a little more dignified and a little more hopeful because of it," he said, adding that citizen welfare must remain the ultimate metric of success.

He also stated that the Public Service Act No. 5 of 2026 was not just reform for the sake of administration, but represented shared responsibility to rebuild trust, improve service delivery and ensure that the nation was served with clarity and dignity, without forgetting the ordinary citizens who depended on public services.

Consequently, the minister described the workshop as a vital space for state institutions to engage in honest dialogue, not as competing centres of power, but as collaborative arms of a single state responsible for one people.

"We are here to ask difficult but necessary questions, how do we improve efficiency without undermining fairness? How do we strengthen discipline without weakening dignity? How do we build a Public Service that is firm, but also humane and just?" he asked.

He encouraged participants to engage openly and responsibly, urging them to approach the discussions as citizens who were ultimately accountable to the



Judges during a two-day workshop on the Public Service Act No. 5 of 2026 in Gaborone on Tuesday. Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said the Public Service Act No. 5 of 2026 was not just reformed for administration sake, but a responsibility they carried to rebuild trust, improve service delivery and ensure that the nation was served with fairness, dignity and clarity. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

hopes of the people, rather than strictly as detached interpreters of the law.

Responding on behalf of the judiciary, Chief Justice Gaopalelwe Ketlogetswe observed that Botswana functioned as a transitional democracy regarding the separation of powers among the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

Chief Justice Ketlogetswe underscored that, beyond interpreting the law, the judiciary held the constitutional responsibility of keeping the executive accountable and ensured that it remained within legal boundaries when exercising its powers.

He noted that the judiciary relied on government to adhere to such rules so that the courts can effectively discharge their duties.

**"A policy is only successful when a citizen's life becomes a little more bearable, a little more dignified and a little more hopeful because of it."**

Furthermore, the Chief Justice addressed the collaborative nature of governance, explaining that while the arms of government coexisted independently, they must work together constructively to sustain the state's democratic

framework. He clarified that the workshop was a mutual engagement rather than a strictly judicial directive.

"We interrogate the issues that they want us to discuss and when we think it will be mutually beneficial, we agree. Once we agree to take part in training of this nature, it does not become a purely judge-led initiative," he added.

He further noted that the workshop offered an important opportunity for judges to understand the latest changes in labour-related laws. Such knowledge, he said, would shape how the courts interacted with various aspects of the proposed Public Service Act No. 5 of 2026, its accompanying regulations and the directives issued by the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM). **BOPA**

# Botswana shapes formal foreign policy

Bonang Masolotatse  
GABORONE

Botswana is developing a formal foreign policy document in response to rising geopolitical tensions and a rapidly shifting global order.

Addressing the Foreign Policy Pitso stakeholders meeting Tuesday, Minister of International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale said the realignment of the global order was fuelling geopolitical tensions worldwide, making a codified policy approach necessary to produce a clear, written framework that guided the country's external relations and protected its national interests.

"The rule-based order, which Botswana largely subscribes to, is under threat as countries, especially major global powers, increasingly look inward in terms of national security, maximisation of economic leverage and exertion of soft power instruments," Dr Butale told the Pitso, which had brought together diplomats, academics and government officials to assess how Botswana should engage a world marked by shifting alliances and economic uncertainty.

"The threat to multilateralism forces us, as Botswana, to remain vigilant and be strategic in advancing our national interests

**"Human rights will not be treated as an isolated principle, but as a cross-cutting foundation that informs our diplomacy, partnerships and decision-making"**

**Mr Thuso Ramodimoosi,  
Permanent secretary in the  
Ministry for International  
Relations**



and foreign policy objectives," the minister said.

He added that the meeting was an opportunity to develop a framework leading to an outcome document that was ambitious and progressive, while reaffirming the country's values and ideals and remaining adaptable to the reality and unpredictability of the international system.

To attain the desired national development outcomes, he said economic diplomacy had been identified as a priority and key driver for attracting foreign direct investment, growing trade and investment as well as securing markets for local exports.

"These are critical for creating employment, diversifying the economy and increasing Botswana's visibility internationally," he added.

To that end, he said the ministry, in partnership with relevant stakeholders and missions abroad, aimed to leverage national transformation strategies such as National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) and the Botswana Economic and Transformation Programme (BETP) to advance economic diplomacy and achieve the ambitious target set in Vision 2036 of becoming a high-income country.

The ministry, he said was also

poised to attract foreign direct investment, secure partnerships for economic diversification and capacity building and facilitate Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) to position Botswana as a favourable destination for investment and business.

For his part, permanent secretary, Mr Thuso Ramodimoosi said the current draft foreign policy was developed through a rigorous process spanning over a decade, which began with the establishment of a task force on foreign policy.

Mr Ramodimoosi said the Pitso would review the work done so far as the ministry pursued deliberate and practical integration of human rights across all areas of foreign engagement.

"Human rights will not be treated as an isolated principle, but as a cross-cutting foundation that informs our diplomacy, partnerships and decision-making," he said.

At its core, he said Botswana's foreign policy was about safeguarding national interests while contributing meaningfully to the global community.

He said the draft affirmed commitment to protecting sovereignty, ensuring safety and welfare of citizens and advancing

inclusive socio-economic development and also recognised that prosperity was deeply interconnected with regional and global stability.

He also indicated that draft objectives were anchored on protecting and advancing the country's national interests while promoting democracy, human rights, peace and sustainable development.

"The policy seeks to preserve Botswana as a free, united and democratic state, while ensuring the safety, dignity and welfare of all Batswana," he added.

He further said the policy also projected Botswana as a principled, peaceful and reliable partner committed to ethical diplomacy and constructive global engagement, adding the policy was not the responsibility of government alone.

On one hand, Mr Kenny Kapinga, a member of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Security, underscored Parliament's role in the day-to-day running of foreign policy.

Mr Kapinga noted that all governments dealt with foreign policy, hence it was important that everyone understood the country's approach. **BOPA**

# Boko urges councils to drive economic diversification

Chendzimu Manyepedza  
**SELEBI PHIKWE**

President Advocate Duma Boko has urged council chairpersons and mayors to focus on strategic and practical solutions that promote economic transformation. He advocated for innovation, local leadership, and inclusive growth to effectively tackle the challenges facing communities across the country.

President Boko made these remarks on Tuesday while addressing the Council Forum in Selebi Phikwe, a gathering that convened civic leaders to discuss critical local governance issues with a view to improve service delivery.

He noted that while Botswana has long depended on a diamond-based economy, declining diamond sales have created economic challenges.

Consequently, he emphasised



President Advocate Duma Boko

the need to shift from a mineral-reliant economy to a dynamic, digitally inclusive one that provides opportunities for all citizens.

The President acknowledged several pressing challenges facing the country, including high youth unemployment, inadequate

healthcare and deteriorating infrastructure.

He attributed some of these issues to a deeply unequal economic structure that marginalises a significant portion of the population.

He explained that this disparity limited access to opportunities and hindered social cohesion and stability.

To combat this, President Boko urged council top-brass to continuously seek sustainable methods for generating socio-economic growth that would empower local authorities to deliver better services and enhance livelihoods.

He stressed that implementing these strategic solutions was essential for bridging the gap

between current circumstances and the aspirations of local authorities.

“Assessing the current challenges and identifying specific areas for enhancement are strategic solutions that can create a clearer pathway for achieving more effective and responsive service offerings that meet the needs of the community,” he said.

Furthermore, President Boko called on local authorities to set aside political differences and work collectively, emphasizing that their primary focus must be the welfare of the citizens rather than advancing political interests.

He reminded leaders that despite their different party affiliations, mayors and council chairpersons share a common responsibility to

serve the nation.

For his part, the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshagwa, stated that the forum served as an opportunity for introspection and sharing developmental ideas to achieve positive results.

Also, he noted that the forum provided a platform to engage directly with President Boko and outline exactly what local authorities need to hoist the country to greater heights.

Mr Motshagwa underscored the need to upgrade certain sub-districts, noting that some were geographically too large for effective service delivery, while others were densely populated.

**BOPA**

## BOMRA moves to regulate traditional medicine

Bonang Masolotatse  
**GABORONE**

The Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BOMRA) plans to bring traditional medicine under regulation as part of its current five-year strategy.

Appearing before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises on Monday, Chief Executive Officer Dr Seima Dijeng said the framework was already included in the strategy, which is now in its second year.

He said the process would not be straightforward, partly because some practitioners remain reluctant to share their knowledge.

That hesitation is understandable, he explained, given past instances where traditional knowledge was taken out of the country and practitioners lost the chance to benefit from it.

To address this, BOMRA intends to work with traditional practitioners, academia and government bodies including the Ministry of Health and Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA).

“Indigenous knowledge must be protected and supported so it can grow and create income for rural communities,” he said.

He added that BOMRA had already begun engaging communities trading in traditional medicine at Dibete, with help from the local leadership.

Dr Dijeng also warned about the illegal online sale and advertising of medicines, saying unregulated products from within and outside Botswana were reaching consumers.

He said BOMRA had secured convictions against several sellers for illegal advertising, but conceded that the fines were not a sufficient deterrent. The authority is now reviewing the penalties to make them tougher, he said.

He stressed that BOMRA's role was to ensure that products on the market are quality-assured



Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BOMRA) CEO, Dr Seima Dijeng (left) and director of finance and administration, Mr Kitso Leburu appearing before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises in Gaborone on Monday. Dr Dijeng said BOMRA had begun engaging communities trading in traditional medicine at Dibete, with help from local leadership. Photo: Pheno Ramatu

and certified. On funding, he said BOMRA remained largely dependent on government grants, with regulatory fees accounting for only about 20 per cent of revenue.

The target is to raise this to around 50 per cent by the end of the strategy period.

He cautioned, however, that

full self-sufficiency through regulatory fees alone would be undesirable, as it could create the impression that the regulator was open to influence.

Since its establishment seven years ago, BOMRA has licensed four laboratories, seized more than 100 counterfeit products, and

registered over 3 000 products for use by procuring entities.

The main challenges, he said, were limited capacity to reach rural areas and ongoing supply chain disruptions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and the country's financial constraints.

**BOPA**

## Bill targets DCEC independence

Lesedi Thatayamodimo  
**GABORONE**

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That was shared by Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, during a staff engagement meeting in Gaborone on Tuesday.

Addressing DCEC officers, Minister Mohwasa urged them to uphold integrity, confidentiality and ethical conduct as such structural shifts took place.

The minister emphasised that regular interactions with employees were vital for strengthening institutions through honest dialogue, collective reflection and shared purpose.

Acknowledging the current economic hardships facing many Batswana, Mr Mohwasa warned

that corruption severely worsened such struggles by diverting critical resources away from public services.

“Every Pula stolen from public resources is medicine taken away from a patient, a classroom delayed, a road left unfinished or an opportunity denied to the youth,” the minister said.

He emphasised that the DCEC's mandate extended far beyond investigations and case management, saying the organisation was a vital guardian of public trust and national integrity.

The minister commended both management and staff for their professionalism, particularly progress in addressing employee welfare and curbing internal information leaks.

He reiterated government's

commitment to further improving staff welfare, despite ongoing financial constraints affecting the broader public sector.

Mr Mohwasa also highlighted that the DCEC remained central to driving the National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), particularly as the nation endeavoured to elevate its governance and accountability standards.

With public scrutiny intensifying, particularly from oversight bodies like the Public Accounts Committee, the minister welcomed the rising number of high-profile corruption investigations and court cases.

He noted that such developments demonstrated government's commitment to

fighting crime without fear or favour.

Beyond the upcoming July Parliamentary sitting, the minister noted that work was wrapping up on the National Anti-Corruption Policy.

He also urged staff to prepare for the swift implementation of recommendations from the recently released National Forensic Audit Report, emphasising that the public expected institutions to act decisively and fairly whenever wrongdoing was uncovered.

The minister further expressed confidence in the agency and reminded the officers that the fight against corruption was ultimately a fight for justice, public trust, economic recovery and the country's future credibility.

**BOPA**

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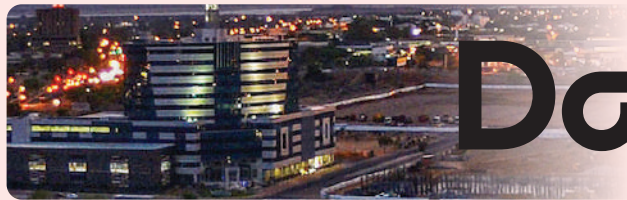
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# DailyBusiness



Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi (left), European Union Ambassador to Botswana and SADC, Ms Petra Pereyra (second left), Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeane Ntsima (centre), International Trade Centre executive director, Ms Pamela Coke-Hamilton (second right) and Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti at the launch of the Green Value Chain Development for Job Creation Programme in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Mmolotsi described the programme as a timely intervention that aligned with Botswana's broader ambitions to diversify the economy, strengthen ecotourism and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities. Photo: Felicity Male

## Botswana advances green economy

Lorato Gaofise  
GABORONE

Botswana is intensifying efforts to position itself as a regional leader in sustainable tourism and green economic development following the launch of the Green Value Chain Development for Job Creation Programme, an initiative funded by the European Union aimed at promoting inclusive growth, environmental sustainability and employment creation.

In his remarks at the official launch in Gaborone on Monday, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi described the programme as a timely intervention aligned with Botswana's broader ambitions to diversify the economy, strengthen ecotourism and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Mr Mmolotsi commended the EU for its continued support towards Botswana's economic transformation agenda, describing the bloc as one of the country's most dependable development partners.

"The EU has been a long-standing and valuable partner to Botswana and to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism," he said.

The minister revealed that on May 12, 2026, the ministry had also launched another EU-supported initiative focused on the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area landscape. The project seeks to strengthen biodiversity conservation, improve protected area management and build economic resilience and green jobs for communities living along the Botswana-South Africa border.

According to Mr Mmolotsi, the newly launched Green Value Chain Development for Job Creation Programme further demonstrates the growing partnership between Botswana and the EU in advancing sustainable development and conservation-driven economic growth.

"Today we mark yet another milestone through the launch of the Green Value Chain Development for Job Creation Programme. This initiative demonstrates our shared commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection, inclusive economic growth and the empowerment of local communities," he said.

Mr Mmolotsi noted that the initiative came at a crucial time as Botswana seeks sustainable economic growth through tourism expansion and green enterprise development.

He said the programme's focus on strengthening linkages between tourism and horticulture could significantly reduce dependence on imports while creating opportunities for local producers and small businesses.

"The Green Value Chain Programme is a welcome initiative because it promotes cross-sectoral linkages between ecotourism and horticulture. Locally produced horticultural products supplied to tourism facilities will enhance local sourcing, reduce imports and strengthen the authentic ecotourism experience," he added.

He further stated that the initiative directly supported implementation of Botswana's National Tourism Strategy and Master Plan, which advocated for tourism product diversification and stronger tourism value chains.

Despite Botswana's reputation as a premier ecotourism destination, Mr Mmolotsi acknowledged that the sector continued to face challenges, including limited product diversification and shortages in specialised tourism skills. He expressed confidence that the programme would help address those gaps by strengthening ecotourism standards, promoting sustainability and improving market access for local enterprises.

"A key deliverable of this programme is to enhance ecotourism certification and further develop Botswana's ecotourism offerings," he said.

To improve quality assurance, credibility and competitiveness in international markets, the minister said the Botswana Tourism Organisation would play a central role in strengthening the country's ecotourism certification system.

"As the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, through the BTO, we are committed to strengthening Botswana's ecotourism certification framework and making it more accessible to small and medium enterprises as well as community-based tourism enterprises," he said.

Mr Mmolotsi added that improving certification standards would support the integration of

local horticultural produce into tourism supply chains, broadening economic opportunities for rural communities and farmers.

The minister also welcomed consultations led by the International Trade Centre involving stakeholders such as the Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana, the Botswana Community-Based Organisations Network and tour operators.

According to Mr Mmolotsi, stakeholder engagement would ensure that community-based

tourism organisations and smallholder farmers become primary beneficiaries of the programme.

The Green Value Chain Development for Job Creation Programme forms part of the EU's broader support for Botswana's transition to a greener and more diversified economy.

The initiative is expected to unlock opportunities in sustainable tourism, enterprise development, climate resilience and green job creation, particularly for youth and women. **BOPA**

## Northern Trade Fair celebrates 30 years

Kelebogile Taolo  
FRANCISTOWN

Business Botswana's Northern Trade Fair is celebrating 30 years this week in style bringing together entrepreneurs, policymakers and regional partners under one roof.

The event will be officially opened by the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeane Ntsima, who is also Member of Parliament for Francistown East today while minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa is also expected to deliberate on public-private cooperation and its role in economic growth.

Held under the theme: Value Chain Revolution: From Local Resources to Global Markets at the Business Botswana Grounds in Gerald Estates, the theme underscores the need to move the country beyond raw resources.

Business Botswana Public Relations Officer, Ms Patience Lebotse revealed in an interview on Tuesday, that the theme was indeed a direct call for economic diversification noting that it challenges Botswana to tap into all sectors of the value chain.

"This them also aims to see Botswana businesses trading within Africa and beyond as the event is designed to connect small and large enterprises to explore available

opportunities," she said.

Ms Lebotse also said the trade fair turns 30 at a time when Botswana was pushing for economic diversification and highly involvement of the private sector in leading the country's economy.

A highlight of this year's programme, Ms Lebotse indicated was the Botswana-Zambia Business Forum, scheduled for Wednesday which would bring together business people from both countries to identify trade and investment opportunities.

"This platform will offer discussions on where Botswana and Zambians can collaborate to trade better," Ms Lebotse said.

Furthermore, she noted that this year, 120 businesses have registered to exhibit citing that the number was slightly lower as compared to last year, attributing the low number to the economic crisis still facing the country.

However, she appreciated that the range of sectors remained broad, covering close to 98 per cent of private sector.

Ms Lebotse encouraged Francistown residents to attend in good numbers and engage with exhibitors noting that this year entrance was free with gates open from 2pm to 6pm until Thursday, May 29.

On Friday and Saturday, May 30-31, the fair will run from 8am to 6pm with lots of activities. **BOPA**

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Zimbabwe among top tobacco-dependent economies

**HARARE** - Zimbabwe now ranks as one of the most highly concentrated tobacco-dependent economies globally. Addressing a post-cabinet media briefing in Harare Tuesday, Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Zhemu Soda said tobacco accounts for approximately 10 to 15 per cent of Zimbabwe's agricultural GDP, a percentage significantly larger than in other top global producers like Brazil. Between 2025 and 2026, Zimbabwe's tobacco exports surged by 62.3 per cent in volume and 67.5 per cent in value, with China remaining the primary destination by accounting for roughly 60 per cent of total exports, Soda noted. Tobacco is a crucial agricultural export earner for the country, which produced 354.8 million kilograms of the "golden leaf" worth US\$1.2 billion during the 2024/2025 production and marketing season. **Xinhua**

#### Ethiopia authorises banks to issue export permits to China

**ADDIS ABABA** - The National Bank of Ethiopia on Tuesday announced a decision to allow commercial banks in the country to issue permits for exports to China. The Ethiopian central bank said that based on the general economic and financial cooperation agreement between the Ethiopian and Chinese governments, all export permits for goods destined for China were previously directed to be processed exclusively through the country's state-owned Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. In a move aimed at streamlining the East African country's foreign trade sector, enhancing competitiveness, and creating a more accessible environment for exporters, the bank noted that it has officially lifted the previous restriction. Effective from Tuesday, all licensed commercial banks in the country are fully authorised to issue export permits, manage documentary credits, and handle all related banking transactions for goods destined for China, it said. **Xinhua**

#### Africa needs stronger financial systems - AfDB

**BRAZZAVILLE** - The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) kicked off Tuesday in Brazzaville, Congo. Ludovic Ngatse, chair of the AfDB Board of Governors and Congolese minister of economy, planning, statistics and foresight, said the meetings provided an important platform for participants to discuss the bank's future financing priorities and mark a turning point in the adjustment of its financial architecture. AfDB Group President Sidi Ould Tah said Africa's development must be driven by African leadership, noting that African countries needed to strengthen their financing architecture and turn the continent's opportunities into tangible development outcomes. Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso said African countries should build a more coordinated financing framework in key areas. **Xinhua**

# Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

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Banni ba Ghanzi ba le kwa kgotleng go itseela ka tsebe tekodiso ka kgang ya bogosi jwa motse wa bone go tswa mo mopalamenteng wa Ghanzi Rre Noah Salakae ka Mosupologo. O ne a gwetlha ba malwapa a bogosi go fefosa ditshwetso ka baemedi ba bogosi ka ntlha ya gore morafe o kokonelwa ke go tlhoka thuso mo ditirelong tsa lephata la makgotla a Setswana.  
Senepe: Malebogo Lekula



# Salakae o gwetlha ba bogosi go rarabolola dikgang tsa kemedi

Malebogo Lekula  
**GHANZI**

Morafe wa Ghanzi o lela ka go tlhoka go bona thuso ya ditirelo tsa lephata la makgotla Setswana ka go santse go sena kgosi le mothusi wa gagwe kwa motseng oo.

Mme, seemo, se Mopalamente wa Ghanzi, Rre Noah Salakae a re seka rarabololwa ke baemedi ba malwapa a bogosi go tswa Goora Thamae le Setima gore morafe o tle o bone thuso.

Fa a buisa phuthego ya kgotla kwa Ghanzi ka Mosupologo, Rre Salakae, yo gape eleng tona wa lephata la dipalame le dikago, o kopile ba malwapa a monwana o ba supileng gore maemo a bogosi jwa Ghanzi a ba lebane, go direla morafe ka botswapelo, mme ba kgaphele kwa ntle dikgang tse di ka bakang tiego ya go baya dikgosi.

Rre Salakae o ne a tsibosa baemedi ba malwapa a bogosi go fefosa dikgang go itsa kgonagalo ya go patika puso go ba tseela ditshwetso.

O supile fa tiego ya go tlhonga wa kgosi le mothusi wa gagwe di tsala tiego mo ditirong tsa morafe tsa Setswana tsa go itepatepanya le

go tsosolosa ngwao le tse dingwe jaaka go salela morago ga ditshoko tsa makgotla a Setswana.

Rre Salake o gateletse gore dikgang tsa bogosi di tlhokana le go tshwarwa ka matsetseleko e le tsela nngwe ya go dibela serodumo sa bogosi.

Mo go la gagwe, Kgosi Esau Molehele, go tswa kwa kgotleng ya Morama kwa Ghanzi, a re go tlhoka kgosi le mothusi wa gagwe, go ba beile ka fa mosing ka ba retelelwa ke go ntsha ditirelo tsa puso ka bonokopila.

Kgosi Molehele o gwetlhile ba bogosi go nna seopo sengwe ka megopolo gore dikgang dipe fela tse di ka tswang di ba tlhokisa boroko ba kope bagakolodi gore ba kgone go di rarabolola go dibela serodumo sa bogosi.

Fa ba a kgwa tona dikgaba, tona wa pele, Rre Johnie Swartz a re ba malwapa a go lebilweng mo

go bone a bogosi, ba rarabolole dikgang tsa bone ka matsetseleko.

Rre Swartz o ne a ntsha mogopolo wa gore ka morafe o babaletswe ke go tlhoka bogosi jwa bogosi, Rre Salakae a ba isetse kopo kwa go tona wa tsa lephata la dikgaolo le tsa ngwao, go ba fa sebaka sa go itlhophele kgosana yo ka ene ba

dumelang gore o ka nama a tukisa molelo mo lekgotleng.

Le fa go le jalo, Rre Salakae o ne a solofetsa morafe fa a amogela tshutiso ya bone mme a tlaa e fetsetsa kwa go ba ba maleba, gore morafe o kgone go bona dithuso tsa puso go santse go letilwe kgang ya moruthutha go wela. **BOPA**

## Banni ba Maape ba ipelega

Amantle Onneng  
**MAAPE**

Kgosi Matshwenyego Rantsiavana wa Maape a re morafe o tsera ditshwetso ya go ipopa setlhopha, go rema ditlhare tse di kitlaneng mo thoko ga tsela.

O buile se, fa a amogela mopalamente wa Tswapong South, Dr Kesitigile Gobotswang kwa phuthegong ya kgotla bosheng.

Kgosi Rantsiavana a re banni ba supile kगतlhego ka go ipopa setlhopha go ntsha ditlhare ka di godile thata, di sira bakgweetsi mo ba ka felelang ba bakile dikotsi.

O tlhalositse fa tsela eo, e na le ditlhare tse di kitlaneng thata, disana le dikhuti ka jalo e tshwara metsi ka lobaka, bogolo jang ka nako ya dipula.

A re ba setse ba ikuetse kwa khanseleng ya Mahalapye ka seemo se, mme ga go nko e tswang lemina.

Kgosi Rantsiavana a re tsela eo, e botlhokwa thata ka e le yone e ba tshwaraganyang le metse e mengwe e bile e thusa go tsamaisa ditlhabolola.

A re le ntswa tsela eo e sa tshelwa sekontere e tshwanetse ya tlhokomelwa ka go nna e gopiwa kgapetsa-kgapetsa, mme mo nakong eno e se mo seemong se se sa itumediseng.

Fela jaaka banni ba Maape, ba Mhalapitsa le bone ba lela ka seemo sa ditsela, se se sa

itumediseng, ka jalo ba kopile mopalamente, Dr Gobotswang go bua le ba lephata la ditsela go tsibogela seemo se.

Kgosi Johan Rakumako go tswa kwa Pilikwe o ne a supa fa tsela eo e na le dingwaga tse dintsi e sa gopiwe mme e setse e le dikhuti le gore motlhaba o setse o kokoanye mo go yone, ka jalo e le mo seemong se se sa babalesegang.

Fa a tsibogela matshwenyego a bone, modulasetilo wa khansela ya Mahalapye, Rre Outule Segolame o ne a tlhalosa fa didirisiwa tsa khansela tsa go baakanya ditsela di se mo seemong se se siameng mme a re e tla a re di siama ba tsibogele dilelo tsa bone.

Rre Segolame a re khansela e itse ka seemo sa ditsela tseo ka go farologana, ka jalo fa seemo se boetseng manno, e tla dingwe tsa tse di tsibogelwang ka bofefo jo bo ka kgonagalang.

Fa a tswa la gagwe mopalamente wa kgaolo, Dr Gobotswang o kopile banni go nna pelotelele ka lefatshe le santse le sena madi.

A re madi a fiwang dikgaolo a tsile go dirisiwa go tlhabolola metse ya bone ka go tsibogela matshwenyego a bone ka go farologana.

O lebogetse banni ba Maape go nna le kगतlhego ya go ntsha sekgwa se se kitlaneng se hupeditse tsela ya bone, morago fa go lemoga fa go tla tsaya nako ba emetse khansela gore e ba thuse. **BOPA**

## Moruti Senase o tlaa bolokwa ka Matlhatso

Grace Sebape  
**LOBATSE**

Moeteledipele wa kereke ya Word To Africa, Reverend Phillip Senase, yoo tlhokafetseng Motshengong a tlhola malatsi a le lesome le boferabongwe, o tla bolokwa kwa Molapowabojang ka Matlhatso.

Rev. Senase o tlhokafetse a le dingwaga di le masome a ferabongwe le motsotso.

Moemedi wa lelwapa, Rre Moutlwatsi Moeti o buile jalo mo potsolotsong le BOPA, gore moswi o ne a eteletse pele kereke ya Word to Africa go simologa ka ngwaga wa 1996 ka maikaelelo a go godisa lefoko la Modimo, kwa bathong ba ba kgakala le ditlamelo.

A re bontsi jwa nako, moswi o ne a abele ba ba tlhokileng lesego

dijo le diaparo.

Rre Moeti o boletse gore mo tirong ya gagwe, Rev. Senase o ne a inakantse thata le ditiro tsa setshaba a dira mo go feteletseng a sa ipone tsapa mo di nakong tse di ntsi.

Rre Moeti a re Rev. Senase o ne a tlotliwa ke banni ba Lobatse le metse e e mabapi, a itsege ka tsa tshidilo maikutlo, go direla setshaba, go rapelela balwetsi ga mmogo le go tlhoma baeteledipele ba diphuthego tsa dikereke ka go farologana.

A re Rev. Senase ke mongwe wa basimolodisi ba lekgotla la baruti mo toropong ya Lobatse ka dingwaga tsa bo 1970, a bolela fa a kile a nna modiredi wa tsa manyalo, jaaka a ne a letlanya malwapa.

Go ya ka Rre Moeti, moswi o

tsholetswe kwa Sepopa ka ngwaga wa 1935, mme a dira dithuto tsa gagwe tse di potlana kwa Sepopa go feleletsa kwa sekolong sa Moremi III Memorial kwa a neng a fenywa lokwalo lwa borataro ka ngwaga wa 1951.

A re moswi o ne a hirwa ke ba makgotla a Setswana ba Tawana Tribal Administration e le mokwaledi go simologa ka ngwaga wa 1952, a tlogela tiro eo, mme a hirwa ke ba matlhabelo a Botswana Meat Commission go bapatsa nama le ditswa kgomong kwa mafatsheng a a mabapi.

A re o ne a beraka a kopantse le go tsena sekole go simologa ka ngwaga wa 1975-1981, mme a tlhomiwa go nna moruti mo kerekeng ya Lontone (UCCSA) ka ngwaga wa 1983 pele ga a etelela kereke ya Word To Africa. **BOPA**

# Chobe Holdings gifts council 300 anti-rabies vaccines

Esther Mmolai  
MAUN

In an effort to support the fight against Rabies, Chobe Holdings has donated 300 doses of anti-rabies vaccine worth P50 000 to North West District Council.

The district has been hard hit by Rabies, registering 157 dog bites cases and four confirmed rabies deaths of female children under the age of ten years, between January and March 2026.

The situation has pushed the council authorities plead with the business community, development partners to come on board to reinforce commitment and efforts toward eliminating human rabies.

Handing over the vaccines on Monday, Chobe Holdings managing director, Mr Lempheiditse Odumetse said the statistics of deaths and dog bites

recorded underscored the urgent need for strengthened prevention and response measure hence coming on board.

Mr Odumetse said the donation formed part of the company's commitment to advancing public health, protecting livelihoods and community wellbeing.

"Following the plea by the council, we found it fit to step up and support community health initiatives. We do appreciate that the district health teams have implemented awareness campaigns, case management and other interventions but the scale of the outbreak has placed significant pressure on available resources," he added.

Mr Odumetse further noted that Rabies remained one of the deadliest yet preventable diseases.

He believed the support would assist in expanding vaccination efforts and strengthening the district response.

Mr Odumetse appealed to other business entities to follow suit with pledges to increase provision of vaccines and immunoglobulin to save lives.

Chairperson of Health Committee and also Councillor for Moeti ward, Mr Pheny Moshongo appreciated the support saying it came at the right time when Rabies was a threat to both people and animals.

He appreciated that the vaccines would indeed strengthen their ability to combat the disease and protect lives.

North West Council Chairman, Mr Itumeleng Kelebetseng also thanked Chobe Holdings for their generous support saying it would make a huge difference.

In an interview, Deputy Council Secretary for Primary Health Care, Dr Sandra Maripe-Ebutswe appreciated that availability of Rabies vaccines in health facilities had improved as they recently received a consignment of 600 doses from Central Medical Stores.

Dr Maripe-Ebutswe also highlighted that dog bites cases have increased from 136 to 157 since January this year.

She appreciated that since the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) carried out humane destruction of dogs roaming the streets the situation has improved significantly as there were no casualties recorded from April to date.

She also indicated that they were working closely with DVS as they were also vaccinating all pets citing that their target was to vaccinate 15 000 pets.

"We have so far vaccinated over 12 000 pets, thanks to the support of other organisations like Maun Animal Welfare Society which contributed to our success rate," she added.

With regard to culling of dogs roaming the streets campaign, she said as of May 15, 2026, about 250 dogs have been killed noting the campaign would continue until end of the year.

Dr Maripe-Ebutswe appealed to members of the community to keep their pets confined and report any bites immediately to any health facility. **BOPA**

# Sepopa set for one-stop GBV support centre

Kedirebofe Pelontle  
GUMARE

Government has approved a one stop center for survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) to be constructed at Sepopa, Okavango District.

Okavango District Council (ODC) deputy chairman, Mr Brian Samoka said when opening the ongoing full council meeting on Monday noting that land has already been secured for the project.

The facility, he said would complement efforts made by the district in the fight against GBV.

The deputy chairman also stated that there are programmes in place in the district aimed for empowerment of women entrepreneurs through climate smart agriculture and enterprise development implemented in partnership with development partners.

On other matters, Mr Samoka commended healthcare workers and stakeholders in the district for successful completion of the first round of the National Polio Vaccination acknowledging that the district has attained 100 per cent of its vaccination target in the campaign that ended on May 07.

"This achievement reflects the dedication of our healthcare workers, the cooperation of our communities and the strength of primary healthcare system," he said. He further urged parents and guardians to ensure that children adhered to the second round of the vaccination scheduled for June 08-11 this year. **BOPA**



Dignitaries at the National AIDS Candlelight Memorial held in Lobatse recently, as part of the build-up activities towards the World AIDS Day to be held on December 1. National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency deputy national coordinator, Ms Tebogo Hlabano said Botswana had made progress towards the global UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals with 95 per cent of all people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 98 per cent of those diagnosed on sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 98 per cent of all people on ART having achieved viral suppression. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

# Botswana on track to meet and sustain UNAIDS HIV targets

Calviniah Kgautlhe  
LOBATSE

Progress has been achieved in HIV and AIDS treatment and prevention towards the global UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals, says National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency deputy national coordinator, Ms Tebogo Hlabano.

Speaking during National AIDS Candlelight Memorial held in Lobatse as part of the build-up activities towards World AIDS day to be held on December 1, Ms Hlabano said Botswana had made remarkable progress towards the global UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals with 95 per cent of all people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 98 per cent of those diagnosed on sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 98 per cent of all people on ART having achieved viral suppression. This, she noted meant that the country was close to meeting and sustaining the UNAIDS targets by significantly reducing HIV transmission and improving quality of life for people living with HIV.

Nonetheless, she said HIV and AIDS remained a significant public health challenge in Botswana, impacting the lives of many citizens, adding that Botswana was among the four most affected countries globally, with an incidence rate of 0.2 per cent, which translated to 2 200 new cases reported annually according to the 2021 BAIS V. She highlighted that the national HIV prevalence stood at 20.8 per cent which represented approximately 329 000 adults living with HIV.

She noted that women were more affected with a prevalence rate of 26.2 per cent compared to 15.2 per cent among men, adding

that infections remained unevenly distributed between genders.

Additionally, she said adolescent girls and young women were 3.5 times more likely to acquire HIV compared to adolescent boys and young men.

Ms Hlabano said Botswana continued to witness treatment gaps such as children and adolescent girls and young women living with HIV not accessing treatment.

Men on the other hand responded slowly to HIV testing thus were not enrolled on treatment. She noted that the recent shortage of medicines in healthcare facilities including HIV commodities could reverse the gains achieved thus far.

For her part, the UNAIDS country director for Botswana and Namibia, Dr Kai Zhou said over the past four decades, the global HIV response had achieved remarkable progress.

In 2024, she said over 31.6 million people accessed lifesaving treatment, which stood at 77 per cent of the total number people living with HIV globally.

She highlighted that new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths had fallen to their lowest levels since the early 1990s, adding that reduction in new infections and AIDS-related deaths had been strongest in sub-Saharan Africa. She said Botswana has demonstrated political commitment, investment, and community engagement where people living with HIV were living long, healthy, and productive lives.

She cautioned that AIDS fight was not over yet as there were still 9.2 million people worldwide who could not access HIV treatment, adding that in 2024 there were 630 000 AIDS-related deaths and 1.3 million people acquired HIV.

Dr Zhou emphasised that the global HIV response was at a critical juncture where progress was real and measurable, but it was increasingly vulnerable to converging crises, including decline in external financing, high debt burden in the countries most affected by HIV, a growing number of humanitarian crises, and a regression in human rights.

The daily realities faced by people living with HIV were inequalities, stigma, discrimination, and gender-based violence which continued to slow progress, especially among vulnerable populations and marginalised communities.

As such, she noted, the significance of holding International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, saying it was one of the world's oldest and most important grassroots movements in the HIV response as it provided communities with a space to mourn, to heal, to remember loved ones, and to stand together against stigma and discrimination.

With regards to Lobatse which has been selected to host this year's World AIDS Day, deputy Town Clerk for Primary Health Care, Ms Goitsemodimo Choene said according to Botswana AIDS impact survey, HIV prevalence rate amongst ages 15-64 for Lobatse district was 13.4 per cent. Nationally, she said prevalence was sitting at 20.8 per cent with males at 15.2 per cent while for females it was 26.2 per cent.

Additionally, Ms Choene said HIV/AIDS continued to affect many families and communities nationwide, noting that even though Botswana had made remarkable progress in HIV awareness, treatment and prevention still remained a serious concern. She said in Lobatse District, a total of 8 145 people had been tested from April 2025 to March 2026 and 132 of them had tested HIV positive and were immediately enrolled on ARV treatment.

At present, she said there were 5 965 patients on treatment, of whom 5 945 were virally suppressed.

She said 214 clients were lost to follow up, explaining that they were nonetheless working tirelessly to locate them to enrol them.

With regards to Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission (PMTCT) in the district, a total of 147 infants were born to HIV positive mothers and all of them tested HIV negative, indicating the success of the PMTCT programme, she said. **BOPA**

# Arts & Culture



## Bothman turns hobby into entrepreneurship

Keith Ketl

SEROWE

For many, a hobby is simply a way to pass the time. But for Maria Bothman, a hobbyist's leatherworking story became the icing on the cake of a remarkable journey, moving from humble beginnings to mastering a timeless craft. While the narrative of a hobbyist turning into an entrepreneur after experimenting with simple designs is common, many of the world's most prominent brands began exactly this way.

What sets Bothman apart is her role as a creative artisan who seamlessly blends traditional and modern styles to deliver deeply appealing and impressive products. She effortlessly pairs hands-on technical mastery with imaginative innovation, driven by a deep connection to the materials she shapes. Beyond mere artistic expression, she excels at overcoming limitations, often repurposing materials or utilising unique methods to bring her concepts to life.

At Semane ward in Serowe, there is no better example of these traits than Bothman, the owner of a thriving leatherworks business who is actively demystifying the craft. Having started at a tender age, her journey from leather fashion design hobbyist to established entrepreneur transcends boundaries and defies the odds.

In an interview, Bothman assures customers that they are in the right spot whether they need a

well-made leather sheath, pouch, wallet, belt, bag, saddle, hat or sandals. Her diverse catalogue also includes traditional attire, wedding mats, drums and various other leather accessories.

Her journey into professional crafting began in 2000, when she attended the Rural Industries Innovation Centre (RIIC) in Kanye to hone her skills, courtesy of Kgosi Khama IV of BaGammangwato. It was there that she truly mastered the art of creating a wide variety of leather products.

Bothman expresses immense gratitude to Kgosi Khama IV for the noble gesture. The opportunity, she notes, came at the perfect time as it broke a cycle of poverty brought on by unemployment and gave her the platform to rise above the competition in a crowded fashion design market. As a token of appreciation and a marker of how much she has grown, she recently designed custom cushions and hangers for Kgosi Khama IV.

Bothman's artistry, which defines elegance at its best, has earned her well-deserved recognition at several high-profile exhibitions. She marked her entry into the competitive scene with a commendable placement at the Gender Affairs Expo in Gaborone, before soldiering on to the Francistown Business Expo, where she scooped first place out of 50 contestants.

Her winning streak continued at the Serowe Agricultural Show, where she snatched both first and second place across different categories, and culminated at the Serowe District Council Expo, where she secured first place



Leatherworks business owner, Maria Bothman believes her business plays a pivotal role in promoting culture and tradition within the Gammangwato territory. She is pondering her next big move to establish a school where she can teach the artistry to the youth. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

overall.

"The business has been a saving grace, meeting my family at their point of need. I even built a two-and-a-half-room house entirely from the proceeds," Bothman shares proudly. Based at the busy bus rank in the heart of Serowe, the business serves a diverse clientele. Bothman sells to individuals, weddings and local pageants, including the Remote Area Dwellers (RADs) beauty pageants. Her ingenuity has also caught the eye of the tourism and education sectors, local hotels

and lodges purchase her items for interior decoration, while schools frequently buy her pieces for Borankana (school traditional dance groups).

She also supplies local cultural groups and poets, with prices varying depending on the complexity of the product to ensure that there is something for everyone. Her smallest items, such as leather bracelets, sell for P20 each, while her premium items, including custom two-piece traditional attire, go for P550 each.

The enthusiastic Bothman is

pondering her next big move to establish a school where she can teach this artistry to the youth. She believes her business plays a pivotal role in promoting culture and tradition within the Gammangwato territory.

By passing this legacy and craft down to upcoming generations, she hopes to preserve a piece of cultural heritage that is otherwise at risk of extinction. Armed with passion and constant innovation, Bothman is doing far more than selling leather, she is keeping history alive. **BOPA**

# DailySport

## Baggy Blues eye fourth win in Côte d'Ivoire clash

Anastacia Sibanda  
GABORONE

The Botswana senior men's cricket team, affectionately known as the Baggy Blues, are gearing up for a tough test today as they face Côte d'Ivoire at the BCA Oval 1.

Fully locked in on securing their fourth consecutive victory, the hosts look to maintain their perfect record in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Africa Qualifier A.

In an interview, head coach, Stanley Timoni acknowledged that Côte d'Ivoire was a highly competitive side, but emphasised the team's laser focus.

For Botswana to guarantee qualification, they need to win all six of their tournament matches and finish first in the group.

"We have played three and we are left with three including Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Rwanda. We are now focusing entirely on the next match," Timoni said.

Looking at their current form, commitment and home-ground advantage, the Baggy Blues are well-positioned to continue their dominance.

Timoni said he was satisfied with his team's performance so far and praised their dedication as they navigated the campaign in each game.

Botswana kicked off their flawless 3-0 start by making their intentions clear in the opening match, defeating Sierra Leone by 70 runs after posting an impressive 166/5 and restricting the visitors to 96/7. Capitalising on home turf, they followed up with a 10-wicket

victory over Mali.

On Monday, the hosts secured another commanding 71-run win against Cameroon. Choosing to bat first, Botswana posted a solid 149/5 in their allocated 20 overs, while Cameroon struggled for momentum and was choked out at a meagre 78/8.

With three games down, Botswana must now navigate their remaining fixtures against Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Rwanda.

The high-stakes tournament features seven competing nations in total, including Cameroon, Mali and Sierra Leone.

The stakes could not be higher for the participating sides.

The top two teams from the qualifier would advance to the ICC 2027 Africa Regional Final, where they would clash with higher-ranked regional sides for a coveted ticket to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2028. **BOPA**

Botswana senior men's cricket team, known as the Baggy Blues, are gearing up for a tough test today as they face Côte d'Ivoire at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Africa Qualifier A in Gaborone.

Photos: Washa Bofelwang

