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VP warns against risky PPP deals



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe during the official opening of Public Private Partnerships training in Gaborone on Monday. He said PPPs must not expose Botswana to unsustainable long term financial obligations since private financing did not eliminate the burden on taxpayers. Photo: Phenyo Ramatu

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe
GABORONE

It is fitting for government to mobilise private capital in order to accelerate development amid constrained public finances while maintaining strict safeguards to protect fiscal sustainability.

However, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) must not expose Botswana to unsustainable long term financial obligations since private financing does not eliminate the burden on taxpayers, says Vice President and Finance Minister, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe.

Speaking at the official opening of a week-long practical PPP training workshop in Gaborone Monday, Mr Gaolathe said government could no longer rely predominantly on public expenditure to finance major infrastructure and economic transformation priorities, including energy, water, transport, healthcare, education, agriculture and digital services.

PPPs offer an important mechanism for mobilising private investment and expertise, improving public service delivery and ensuring better value for money, provided projects are properly structured and assessed, Mr Gaolathe explained.

Again, he cautioned that privately financed projects could create substantial government obligations through guarantees, availability payments, revenue commitments and termination clauses, potentially placing pressure on public finances for decades.

Mr Gaolathe cited international experiences as evidence that poorly allocated risks and unrealistic revenue projections could undermine fiscal stability, stressing that a project's commercial viability did not automatically make it affordable for government.

Botswana has identified approximately 17 projects in its existing PPP pipeline, some of which form part of the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and they include: strategic water infrastructure, wastewater management initiatives and the proposed upgrading and dualling of the A1 highway.

Mr Gaolathe said priority was to accelerate the preparation and implementation of projects already identified under the country's development programmes rather than establish parallel project pipelines.

He also revealed that the Ministry of Finance was at an advanced stage of securing a project preparation and investment readiness facility to strengthen project appraisal, transaction structuring and the development of commercially credible investments.

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Ntsima condoles with Khoemacau mine community

Esther Mmolai
TOTENG

The loss of four lives during a road accident at Khemacau Copper Mine is not only a blow to the mine, but also the entire nation, says Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima.

Mr Ntsima, who visited the mine to condole with management, employees and families, said he considered it important to stand with them during the difficult time.

"We are deeply shocked by the fatal incident and our thoughts and prayers are with the deceased families and loved ones during this difficult time of grief and sorrow. I also extend my sincere wishes for a speedy recovery to all employees who sustained injuries in the crash," he said.

The minister also commended the mine's emergency response team for its efforts in managing the situation.

He said he trusted that the ongoing investigations by the mine and police would establish the cause of the accident and help strengthen safety measures to ensure compliance with applicable health and safety standards.

The accident, which occurred on October 19 between Bosetu and Zone 5, involved a 75-seater bus and a combi carrying 11 occupants. It also left nine seriously injured.



Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima

The deceased, four males aged between 35 and 37, hail from Maun, Gweta, Moreomato and Lobatse.

Earlier, Khoemacau Copper Mine Health and Safety Manager, Mr Gomolemo Gaolathe, told the minister that the mine had launched an internal safety investigation to establish the root cause and prevent a recurrence.

He said safety remained the mine's first value and that it was committed to safeguarding all employees and visitors to its operations.

He said some of the employees who had been receiving medical care had since been discharged from hospital.

He added that the mine was working with the respective contractor companies to ensure that bereaved families received support.

Mr Gaolathe said the mine had also initiated activities to provide psychosocial support to the deceased's colleagues and other employees at the site, noting that the tragedy had affected the entire workforce.

Meanwhile, Assistant Superintendent Bathuseng Lesotho of Sehithwa Police Station said while investigations into the accident were ongoing, preliminary suspicions were that the combi driver had failed to negotiate a curve, resulting in the head-on collision.

Assistant Superintendent Lesotho emphasised the importance of vigilance and alertness among all road users to prevent similar tragedies. ***BOPA***

Fiscal constraints deter unification of Mookane JSS

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa says current fiscal constraints present challenges, hindering among others, the unification of Mookane Junior Secondary School.

Addressing Ntlo ya Dikgosi in Gaborone on Monday, Mr Hunyepa said funds permitting, upgrading Mookane JSS to a unified secondary school would be considered.

"The idea of unifying Mookane JSS was brilliant considering its large catchment area which comprised Mmaphashalala, Dibete, Pallaroad, Poloka, Dovedale and others," he said.

Mr Hunyepa said the Ministry had planned to construct an additional 20 staff houses at the school to support its future capacity and operational requirements through the Development Manager (DM) model.

However, he said the implementation of the project had been affected by the ongoing revocation process of the DM model. The project therefore, he said, would be implemented upon completion of the revocation process.

Addressing other issues affecting the Ministry, Mr Hunyepa said they were aware of the state of disrepair of Tsabong Unified Secondary School, adding that most of the schools were in the same state.

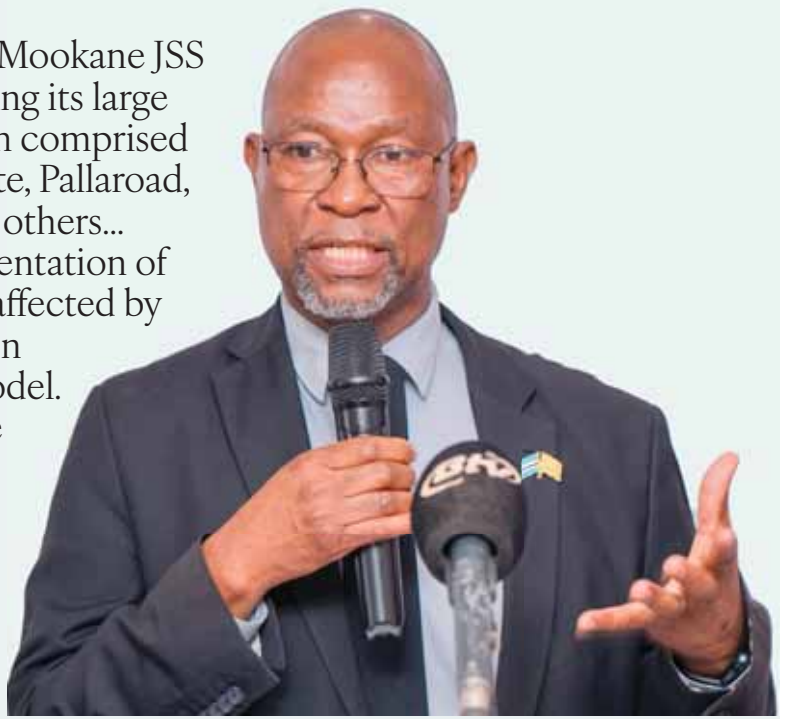
He said the school was earmarked for full cycle maintenance during the current financial year.

Mr Hunyepa said the tender for Tsabong Unified SS rehabilitation works was currently at the adjudication stage and the project was expected to be completed before the end of the coming financial year.

He said the scope of works would include the rehabilitation of the boys' ablution blocks, repairs to the hostel boilers to ensure the availability of hot water and restoration of electricity and lighting in all the classrooms.

He added that the school had engaged 34 temporary teachers for term, two of which were covering for substantive teachers on study leave while the other two were covering for those on sick leave.

> "The idea of unifying Mookane JSS was brilliant considering its large catchment area, which comprised Mmaphashalala, Dibete, Pallaroad, Poloka, Dovedale and others... However, the implementation of the project had been affected by the ongoing revocation process of the DM model. Therefore, it would be implemented upon completion of the revocation process."
>
> **Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education Mr Justin Hunyepa**



"The remaining 30 temporary teachers have been engaged to address increased enrolment resulting from school expansion. The Ministry continues to engage all relevant stakeholders to rationalise resources and to adjust the school's establishment register in order to accommodate increased enrolment," he said.

Currently, he said the school has 16 vacant posts, of which seven had been filled with the appointed teachers expected to assume duty on December 1, while the Ministry was in the process of filling the remaining nine vacant posts, anticipated to be filled before the commencement of first term in January 2027.

Mr Hunyepa said they were looking into improving the working and living conditions of teachers as well as availing books and other learning materials for a conducive learning environment.

He was responding to questions posed by Specially Elected Member of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Isabella Tshipana, who wanted to know whether the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education would consider upgrading Mookane JSS to a unified school due to its strategic location where two mines were emerging and the availability of learners from nearby villages.

Another Specially Elected member of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Light Babeile from Kgalagadi South also asked the minster whether he was aware of the bad state of disrepair of Tsabong Unified Secondary School, non-functional boys ablution block, the use of cold water because there was no firewood and the engagement of temporary teachers that compromised the school results. ***BOPA***

Donated vehicles and equipment to enhance wildlife operations

Portia Keetile
KASANE,

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has donated two Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP).

The donation is aimed at improving response times for conservation patrols and human-wildlife conflict (HWC) management.

In addition, IFAW donated camping equipment to Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Chobe and Ngamiland to capacitate communities in their natural resources' conservation efforts.

Handing over donations in Kasane on behalf of IFAW on Friday, Mr Azzedine Downes said the vehicles aligned with IFAW's overarching mission to ensure that animals and people were able to thrive together in shared landscapes.

He stated that central to this initiative was a focus on wildlife ranger welfare.

"Frontline rangers can only effectively safeguard wildlife, manage severe physical exhaustion and putting their lives on the line with adequate rest and support," he said.

He said the newly commissioned rapid-response vehicles restore a sense of safety and confidence among local residents living alongside wildlife.

Accepting the donation Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mr Charles Mojalemotho expressed deep gratitude to IFAW for their unwavering support of national wildlife conservation efforts.

He acknowledged that government faced persistent financial constraints and limited resources, hence making it increasingly challenging to fully execute its conservation mandate.

He extended an appreciation to the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) Secretariat for facilitating the strategic partnership, which he noted was vital to fulfilling the region's shared conservation agenda.

Mr Mojalemotho said the vehicles strengthened wildlife monitoring and foster long-term coexistence, ensuring that the people living alongside Chobe's wildlife were protected.

Pertaining to the camping equipment comprising of tents, stretchers, kitchenware, tables and chairs, he said it served as a vital enabler to help local communities participate meaningfully as stewards of their natural resources.

He noted that community escort guides played an indispensable role in the ecosystem, by reaching remote areas that government wildlife officers often could not access hence the equipment came in handy to make their job easier.

Mr Mojalemotho noted that the data collected by the escort guides on the ground filled critical gaps in national wildlife tracking.

For his part, KAZA Executive Director, Dr Nyambe Nyambe said the new fleet and specialised field gear would enhance operations for wildlife officers and CBOs. He pointed out that the sheer volume of wildlife in the region inevitably lead to heightened contact between animals and local populations hence noted that deploying dedicated multi-terrain vehicles, would ensure wildlife officers responded swiftly to reports.

Dr Nyambe said the newly donated camping equipment was aligned with the government's commitment to the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) framework, particularly in strengthening regulatory compliance requirements.

"This field gear serves as an operational backbone for community-led environmental monitoring," said Dr Nyambe. ***BOPA***

Botswana needs credible NGOs - Speaker

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Botswana needs a credible, well-supported non-profit sector working alongside government and business to drive its next growth economy, Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse has said.

He made the remarks at the fourth edition of the Botswana Business Sustainability week hosted by Green Loop Foundation in Maun recently.

Mr Keorapetse said NGOs contribution was often undervalued and yet they were pivotal in driving national development agenda.

He said NGOs were not bystanders to national development, nor were they simply recipients of goodwill, but were strategic partners.

Critically, he said they converted national commitments into measurable impact on the ground where it was needed most.

The Speaker also appreciated that some of their works were to protect environment and wildlife, strengthen communities, advance research and advocacy, bringing evidence and the voices of citizens into public decisions, as well as mobilising public participation and testing locally relevant solutions, often well before those solutions were taken up at national scale.

He hailed the Green Loop Foundation for building a platform that brought the full sustainability ecosystem into one place, namely business, Parliament and government, NGOs, researchers and communities.

Through its initiatives such as the One Million Tree Pledge, the Hippo-roller and households' solar lights, the foundation, he said had shown that sustainability was not an abstraction, but a practical undertaking.

"I am encouraged that this programme addresses directly how communities and non-profits organisations can access grants, prepare competitive applications, and sustain their funding beyond government. A strong nation needs a strong civil society," he added.

The summit was held theme: The Business of Sustainability: Activating Private Sector Leadership to Drive Botswana's Next Growth Economy and its goal is to move corporate and institutional conversations from high-level commitments into measurable, fundable and actionable local execution. ***BOPA***



Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Dithapelo Keorapetse (left) and MMG Khoemacau Mine's Supply chain director, Mr Alex Lyu (right) during the Botswana Business Sustainability week in Maun recently. He said Non-Governmental Organisations contribution was often undervalued, yet were pivotal in driving the national development agenda. Photo: Esther Mmolai

European Union funds development programme with P122m

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe says government is implementing the Botswana Green Value Development for Job Creation Programme, which is a four-year project on green value chains for horticulture and tourism.

Responding to question posed by Tswapong Region representative at Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Thebe Monyepele in Gaborone on Monday, Minister Mathoothe said the project was funded by the European Union (EU) to the tune of P122 million and was being implemented by the International Trade Centre in collaboration with the government of Botswana.

He said the project was designed to contribute to the diversification of Botswana's economy and creation of decent jobs through strengthening of ecotourism and horticulture value chains.

"Its emphasis on women, youth-led enterprises, rural communities, vulnerable groups, small scale farmers and cooperatives within the operational areas. This programme entails funding of SMEs through a grant scheme and trade-related capacity building," he said.

Mr Mathoothe said Expression of Interest (EOI) for the programme was currently being shared through different channels including posters, local newspapers and through various online platforms.

He said that would enable those eligible businesses and other actors to participate in the programme, adding the deadline for submission was October 30.

He also said government remained committed to creating an enabling environment that empowered rural entrepreneurs, strengthened local value chains enhanced access to finance and expanded market opportunities so that all Batswana could participate meaningfully in the growth and diversification of the economy.

The Minister said the ministry also promoted rural entrepreneurship through a combination of financing, enterprise development, skills training, mentorship, and market linkage programme and value chain interventions.

He said during the 2026/2027 financial year, training was conducted for 18 cooperatives across the country, reaching 338 members of cooperatives including board members, cooperative members and employees on cooperative philosophy, corporate governance, record keeping, group dynamics and mindset change.

"The trainings were also extended to potential groups among youth, People Living with Disability and women," he said.

Currently, he said Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) supported an active portfolio of about 1 506 enterprises of which 654 were micro, 754 were small and 98 medium enterprises across the districts.

On the Wealth Creation Programme, he said it had funded 31 400 people in rural areas since inception.

Responding to Kgosi James Khumanego of Ngwaketse West Region, who wanted the minister to address issues relating to the Chema Chema Scheme, Minister Mathoothe said a total of 1 763 applications valued at P18, 133,945 were approved in his region.

"Out of these, 326 clients have received their funds while seven clients received partial disbursement. There are currently 1 430 applicants still to receive disbursement".

He said Chema Chema was discontinued in February 2025 due to among others, government cash flow challenges. ***BOPA***



Botswana is looking to horticulture and tourism to drive economic diversification and job creation through a P122 million European Union-funded Botswana Green Value Development for Job Creation programme aimed at strengthening value chains over the next four years.

Gaolathe warns against risky PPP deals

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The facility is expected to help government assess projects more efficiently and bring investment-ready opportunities to the market without compromising due diligence or procurement standards.

Mr Gaolathe urged public officials to strengthen capacity to evaluate financial models, negotiate complex agreements and assess risk allocation, warning that pressure to accelerate development should not justify bypassing established approval processes.

He said government would retain responsibility for determining whether projects were economically justified and which delivery models offered the best value for public resources.

He said Botswana's success should ultimately be measured by improved infrastructure, reliable public services and economic opportunities created for citizens rather than the number or value of PPP agreements signed.

Meanwhile, SADC Development Finance Resource Centre executive director, Mr Zwelibanzi Sapula, cautioned that PPPs must be carefully assessed to ensure affordability, value for money and the sustainable delivery of public services.

Mr Sapula said not every public infrastructure project was suitable for private-sector financing, stressing the need for realistic feasibility studies, transparent procurement and proper risk allocation.

He said well-structured PPPs could help governments address growing infrastructure demands by combining private finance, technical expertise and management capabilities, while linking payments to service delivery and performance.

Private financing ultimately has to be repaid through user charges, government payments or both, making affordability for citizens and the sustainability of public commitments critical considerations, Mr Sapula said

Officials were urged to strengthen project selection, contract management and performance monitoring to protect the public interest and ensure reliable services. ***BOPA***

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DailyBusiness

BoB advances digital payments to support business growth

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

The Bank of Botswana (BoB) is advancing initiatives to modernise the country's payment systems, with digital payments expected to support business growth, improve transaction efficiency and strengthen economic diversification, particularly in tourism-dependent economies such as Maun.

Speaking at an economic briefing for the Maun business community at Maun Lodge on Monday, BoB Governor, Mr Lesego Moseki said efficient and accessible payment systems were important in helping businesses navigate a challenging economic environment and unlock new opportunities.

He highlighted the bank's work on the National Retail Payments Switch and other digital payment initiatives aimed at improving interoperability, facilitating government revenue collection and strengthening connections between payment service providers.

"For Maun, where tourism plays a significant role in the local economy, accessible and reliable payment systems could also help businesses reach a wider market while supporting links between tourism operators, local suppliers and other enterprises," he said.

Mr Moseki noted that businesses across the country were operating under pressure from weak global diamond demand, geopolitical tensions, changing trade arrangements and rising operating costs.

He said the aforementioned challenges have affected consumer demand, business confidence and cash flow, while lower mineral revenues had placed pressure on government finances and foreign exchange reserves.

Mr Moseki said economic reforms should translate into tangible improvements for businesses and citizens, including reduced administrative delays, faster approvals, lower operating costs and better opportunities.

He identified tourism and retail trade as important areas through which, Botswana could broaden its economic base beyond traditional sources of revenue.

"It is important to strengthen connections between tourism businesses and local producers, including farmers, artists, transport operators and entertainers, to ensure that tourism expenditure generate wider benefits within the domestic economy," he said.

Mr Moseki said improving payment infrastructure was one way of supporting connections between tourism and local producers, particularly as businesses sought more efficient and affordable ways to receive payments and manage transactions.

He also underscored the need for financial services to respond to the realities of different businesses, noting that tourism operators often dealt with seasonal income, retailers require working capital, and small suppliers could struggle to secure financing despite having confirmed orders.

He called for financing solutions that reflected their needs, supported by reliable business information, sound credit assessment and responsible lending practices.

Member of Parliament for Maun West, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama, said the briefing came at an important time when businesses had to navigate both national economic developments and global pressures.

He said Maun's economy, driven by tourism and hospitality alongside agriculture and aviation, required economic insights that reflected the region's distinct circumstances.

Mr Hikuama observed that monetary policy and exchange rate movements were not merely technical matters, as they directly influenced borrowing costs, cash flow, import and export competitiveness and consumer demand.

He said Maun's reliance on international tourism and regional trade made the local economy particularly sensitive to exchange rate movements and foreign exchange availability.

Moreover, Mr Hikuama called for a banking sector that went beyond stability to ensure greater accessibility, saying financial institutions should align credit facilities and risk assessments with the realities faced by local businesses.

"This included supporting tourism operators, managing seasonal business cycles and farmers investing in infrastructure, while ensuring that financial stability translated into accessible banking services, affordable credit and modern payment systems," said Mr Hikuama.

He said dialogue between policymakers and the business community was essential to ensuring that economic policies were grounded in local realities and contributed to citizen empowerment. ***BOPA***



Bank of Botswana Governor, Mr Lesego Moseki said efficient and accessible payment systems were important in helping businesses navigate a challenging economic environment and unlock new opportunities.



Business leaders and stakeholders attending the Bank of Botswana's economic briefing in Maun on Monday, where discussions centred on economic developments, digital payments, access to finance and opportunities to strengthen local enterprises. Photo: Gaolethoo Kgatitswe

Mineral beneficiation next opportunity

Chendzimu Manyepedza
SELEBI PHIKWE

Mineral beneficiation is said to be a pivotal factor that could catalyse the country's next phase of economic transformation.

Speaking during a three day Botswana National Front (BNF) Special Conference in Selebi–Phikwe over the weekend, renowned Agro Economist and Strategist Dr Howard Sigwele said the platform presented significant opportunities far beyond the traditional diamond mining sector that had long dominated the national economy.

Dr Sigwele, who is a member of the Strategy and Manifesto team for BNF, said for a nation whose economic framework has long been anchored in diamond mining for several decades, it was crucial to explore diversification of production through the process of beneficiation.

Dr Sigwele emphasised that the concept of value addition would not only enhance the economic value of raw materials but also signified a strategic shift in economic policy that could prove beneficial.

He said diversifying beyond reliance on raw material exports, the country could significantly mitigate the risks associated with over-dependence on a single resource, which could lead to economic vulnerability in volatile markets.

Moreover, this transition, he said could pave the way for new jobs creation across various sectors, fostering a resilient economy that could not only create a more stable economic environment but also empower local communities and industries to thrive.

Dr Sigwele's presentation was part of discussions aimed at prompting the BNF, within the context of the UDC led government, to reconsider economic strategies and identifying pathways that would not only promote sustainable growth but also improve the livelihoods of Batswana.

Dr Sigwele urged the need for the government to continuously advocate for policies that extended beyond merely setting a minimum wage floor.

He highlighted the necessity of developing more comprehensive strategies that empower workers to achieve a decent and dignified standard of living throughout their working lives and into retirement.

Themed; 'The Second Phase of the Struggle: From Political Power to Economic Emancipation,' the conference served to reflect on past policies and conduct a comprehensive review of strategies as the party transitions from opposition politics to its collaborative role within the UDC led government. ***BOPA***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

South Africa public debt stabilises - Ramaphosa

JOHANNESBURG - South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday welcomed progress in restoring the country's public finances, saying public debt had stabilized for the first time in nearly two decades. The government has maintained a primary budget surplus since 2023, meaning its revenue has exceeded expenditure excluding debt-servicing costs, Ramaphosa said in his weekly newsletter. He said the improved fiscal position would allow the government to further reduce debt, lower borrowing costs and increase investment in public infrastructure, which he described as an essential driver of economic growth and job creation. His remarks followed the presentation of the 2026 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement in Parliament last week by Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana. ***Xinhua***

Mnangagwa pushes for value addition in COMESA

JOHANNESBURG - Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa has called on African countries to turn their vast natural resources into engines of industrialisation, job creation and shared prosperity, declaring that the continent must take charge of its economic transformation through local processing and stronger regional cooperation. He made the call soon after receiving the "Tools of Power" from outgoing COMESA Authority of Heads of State and Government chairperson, Kenya President William Ruto, at the 25th COMESA Summit recently. Addressing fellow Heads of State and Government, President Mnangagwa said the region's resource endowment should translate into tangible economic benefits for its people rather than remain an untapped source of wealth. ***New Ziana***

Anthropic files for IPO and reveals soaring revenue

NEW YORK - US artificial intelligence (AI) company Anthropic publicly filed its prospectus for an initial public offering (IPO) on Monday, which could become the largest stock market debut in history. Anthropic intends to list its Class A common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the ticker symbol ANT, according to a release on the company's website. Both the company and existing shareholders will sell shares, with Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley named first among 24 underwriters. The company is expected to begin trading in mid-November, and backers hope for a valuation of up to US$2 trillion though some investors weighed a figure closer to 1.5 trillion dollars, according to Reuters. ***Xinhua***

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Ngwao letlotlo la botshelo

Mothusi Galekhutle
MABOANE

Tona wa metshameko le bodiragatsi, Rre Jacob Kelebeng a re ngwao ke letlotlo le le ka tokafatsang matshelo a Batswana, jalo go botlhokwa go ithuta mo bagolong le go e sireletsa gore e tle e akolwe ke dikokomane tse di tlang.

Fa a bua kwa moletlong wa ngwao go ipelela dikgafela kwa Maboane ka Labotlhano, Rre Kelebeng o kgothaditse Batswana go inaakanya le ngwao a re ke yone eka bolokang tshaba eno.

O lebogile boeteledipele jwa Maboane le komiti e e neng e rulaganya moletlo wa dikgafela go phutha morafe go ipelela thobo.

Molalediwa wa tlotla go tswa kwa moepong wa diteemane wa Jwaneng, Rre Oscar Kitsi, a re meletlo ya ngwao jaaka dikgafela, e tshwanetse ya nna segakolodi mo Batswaneng gore ba boele kwa temong.

Rre Kitsi a re Batswana ba tshwantse go tsaya temo-thuo ka tlhoafalo ba dirisa ditsela tsa segompieno tse di babalesegileng, go itepetepanya le phetogo ya loapi.

A re go lema go ka fokotsa gore Botswana a ikaege ka dijo tse di tswang kwa mafatsheng a sele.

Rre Kitsi a re banana ba inaakanye le temo ka e ka boloka dikokomane tse di tlang.

O supile fa bagologolo ba ne ba aga difalana go boloka thobo, go netefetsa gore ka dinako tsa leuba morafe ga o bolawe ke tlala.

Modulastilo wa komiti ya dikgafela, Rre Motswakhumo Setabo, e ne o kaile fa nako e gorogile gore banana ba inaakanye le temo, segolo jang e e tlhabologileng, go itepatepanya le seemo sa phetogo ya loapi le go nna le dipoelo tse di bonalang. ***BOPA***



Bangwe ba ba neng ba tsile go rotloetsa moletlo wa ngwao wa dikgafela kwa Maboane ka Labotlhano ba akola dijo tsa Setswana.



Tona wa metshameko le bodiragatsi, Rre Jacob Kelebeng o kgothaditse Batswana go sireletsa ngwao gore e tle e akolwe ke dikokomane tse di tlang.

Ba rotloediwa go bereka ka natla le botswapelo

Amantle Onneng
LECHENG

Maloko a dikomiti tsa ditlhabololo tsa metse ya Tswapong Bokone ba rotloeditswe go berekela ka natla le botswapelo. Se, se builwe kwa ithutontshong ya maloko, e e neng e tshwerwe ke khansele ya Palapye kwa Lecheng.

Modulasetilo wa khansele, Rre Kabo Ketshogile, o tlhalositse fa tiro ya go etelela setshaba e le bokete ebile e tlhoka moeteledipele wa motia.

O tlhaloseditse maloko gore go tlhophiwa ga bone go supa fa ba tshepiwa ke morafe.

Rre Ketshogileo o kgotlhaditse maloko go tsaya tiro ya bone ka tlhoafalo, a re ba tswe ka megopolo ya go direla metse ya bone le go itlhamela ditiro.

O kopile maloko a dikomiti tsa ditlhabololo tsa metse go tsenya letsogo gongwe le gongwe jaaka kwa dikokelong le dikole, go tokafatsa le go tlhabolola metse.

A re ba etelele morafe ka seriti le boammaruri, go itsa go gotlhagotlhana.

O gakolotse maloko go berekisanya sentle le go reetsa megopolo le dikgakololo tsa botlhe, a re go le gantsi, bagodi, ba-na-le bogole le bana ba kgaphelwa kwa thoko.

O ba rotloditse go itshola ka boitshwaro jo bo letlelesegang a re go tlotla maloko le bogogi jwa motse, go botlhokwa.

Rre Ketshogile o kopile maloko a komiti ya ditlhabolo tsa motse go ikgapha mo go senyetseng setshaba ka go dira jalo go busetsa metse kwa morago.

Go utswa le go itirisetsa dithoto tsa komiti a re ke tshenyetso setshaba e moeteledipele a tshwanetseng go ikgapha mo go yone.

Mogolwane wa lephata la tsa boipelego, Rre Kagiso Seroke, o rotloeditse maloko go direla setshaba ka botswapelo a re ba seka ba nyema moko.

O ba kopile go ithuta go tshwara sephiri sa komiti, go itsa dikgotlhang mo metseng ka go anamisa dikgang tse e seng boammaruri go kgaoganya morafe.

Rre Seroke a re ka nako e ntsi, morafe o nna o ngongorega ebile baeteledipele ba nna ka go kgobiwa ka mafoko, a kopa maloko go tlhokomologa tsotlhe tse di ka ba dielang nako. ***BOPA***

Kgosi o kgala bojalwa jo bo seng ka fa molaong

Goweditswe Kome
ZWENSHAMBE

Mothusa kgosi kwa Zwenshambe o kgadile thekiso ya majalwa a a sa letlelelweng mo malwapeng, a supa fa morula, mokuru, khadi, setopoti le jwa madila, e le o ne a a letlelelwang. Fa a bua kwa phuthegong ya kgotla kwa Zwenshambe bosheng, Kgosi Godfrey Mafa, a re sekipa se ntekane, laela mmago, GD6, modaefoko le amangwe ga a ka fa molaong ebile a sa letlelelwe go titielwa go rekisiwa.

Kgosi Mafa a re fa motho a batla go rekisa bojalwa jwa Setswana, go tshwanetse gore go bo go na le ntlo e a rekisetsang mo go yo ne.

A re fa go rekisiwang bojalwa teng, go tshwanetse ga nna le matlwana a boitiketso e seng gore batho ba eme gongwe le gongwe ka go dira jalo e le molato.

O kaile fa Chibuku e tshwanetse go rekisiwa kwa marekisetsong a yone kana depot.

Kgosi Mafa a re Chibuku e e rekisiwang e le bopi, motho o ka e reka a bo a ya go bo dira, a nwa le ditsala mo lwapeng mme jone, ga bo tseelwe teseletso.

A re go le gantsi ka go tlhoka kitso, banwi ba bojalwa ke bo ne ba o fitlhelang ba gwetlha gore bo titielwe, ka jalo a rotloetsa morafe go ithuta molao go itsa go tlhoka kitso.

"Molato o ba ka o lebisiwang ke madi a a ka tshwarang Dipula tse di makgolo a matlhano go ya go dikete tse pedi tsa Dipula," Kgosi Mafa a tlhalosa. A re ba babalele bana ka go tlhomamisa gore ga ba ba rome go rekisa bojalwa le diritibatsi. ***BOPA***



CHOPPIES 23RD BIG BIRTHDAY BONANZA

P2 MILLION CASH PRIZE

8X Toyota Compact SUVs

8X SUZUKI Mini Pickup Trucks



CHOPPIES
Great value for your money!


Welcome Remarks by **Choppies Botswana Category Manager Mr Boniface Tebogo.**


Minister of Sport and Arts Mr Jacob Kelebeng delivering his **keynote address.**


Choppies Group CEO Mr. Ram giving an overview of the **Bonanza Competition.**


Supplier Foreword by **Bashi Ngwato of CA Sales**


Testimonial videos of the **past winners** of the **Bonanza Competition.**


Minister Kelebeng and **Mr. Ram** unveiling the **P2 million Grand Prize**

Two lucky Choppies Stores customers from the north and southern part of the country will smile all the way to the bark each **P1million richer** at the end of this year's **23rd Choppies Big Birthday Bonanza competition.**

The local retailer has also availed **three** Toyota Land Cruiser FJ **off-road SUV's** to three other lucky customers and **six Suzuki super carry trucks or matshelonyana** at the grand finale of the competition slated for January next year.

A whooping **P100 000 worth of gift vouchers** is expected to be shared amongst lucky customers across all **Choppies stores every Saturday** while the other prize is a **3nights stay at Wilderness camp for two adults.**

Welcoming guests at the **Choppies Big Birthday Bonanza prizes** reveal on the 16th October **Choppies Botswana Category Manager Mr. Boniface Tebogo** said once again the competition was an exciting opportunity and memorable moment for **Choppies Stores** customers.

He said it was a heartfelt thank you to all stakeholders as the retailer embarked on its proud tradition with excitement.

Mr. Tebogo said behind every purchase was a customer making a choice to support and trust the brand. He said **Choppies Stores** valued the loyalty of its customers and provided an opportunity to give back.

Tebogo said it was a moment of resilience and dedication to those who had shown commitment to the building of the brand.

He said they displayed great determination and strength despite challenges encountered along the way and such partnership and successes was worth celebrating.

CA Sales representative **Mr. Bashi Ngwato** said they had established **a lasting partnership** with **Choppies** over the years.

He said his company was proud to be part of the life changing competition and they understand how it had touched many lives.

Providing the **Bonanza** overview **Choppies Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Ramachandran Ottapathu** said since its inception back.

in 2003, the competition started small but had grown in leaps and bounds owing to the contributions of partners, customers and **Choppies** selfless staff.

He applauded **Choppies** customers and said they continued to contribute to the retail giant's growth and brand.

For the last 23 years in existence **Mr. Ram** noted that most impressive edition was when a young lady who was an amputee won a motor vehicle.

He said it was the most joyful experience to watch close to three million people waiting with bated breath the announcement of the eventual winner of the grand prize.

For his keynote address **Minister of Sport and Arts Mr Jacob Kelebeng** appreciated Choppies Management together with its partners for the endeavour as he said it was in line with government's vision and mission to empower **Batswana.**

He said the **Bonanza competition** was one of **Botswana's** most celebrated customer promotions which has had a remarkable journey.

Minister Kelebeng said he was encouraged by initiatives such as the **Bonanza** which were supporting national development aspirations.

He said the story of **Choppies** through the **Bonanza competition** was an example that businesses could do more than provide goods and services but could be partners in providing an inclusive and empowered **Motswana**.

Mr Kelebeng said as **Botswana** grappled with challenges of poverty and economic uncertainties among others initiatives such as the **Bonanza** were commendable as they ensured that **Batswana** were provided with sustainable livelihoods and participated in the economy.

In his closing remarks **Choppies Chief Operations Officer Mr Koos Pieterse** was thankful for their suppliers for making the **Bonanza** dream a reality.

He applauded staff and their loyal customers for making massive contributions to the competition over the years.

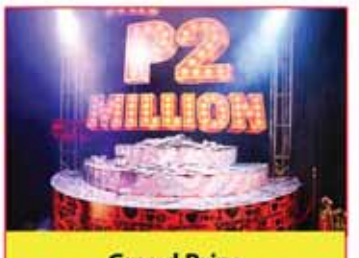

Choppies Group Chief Operations Officer Mr. Koos Pieterse delivering a **vote of thanks.**


Local musician Chokoma and **his dancers** provided entertainment and the theme song of the **Bonanza Competition** during the prizes reveal


Minister Kelebeng cuttin the **Big Birthday Bonanza** cake.


Mr. Ram unveiling the **Suzuki super carry truck** *Matshelonyana.*


Minister Kelebeng unveiling the **Toyota Land Cruiser FJ SUV vehicles**



Grand Prize

COMPETITION PRIZES

3 x Toyota Compact SUVs



8 x SUZUKI Mini Pickup Trucks



Cash: P2 Million (P1 Million x 2 winners)

Weekly Vouchers: P100,000 every Saturday

Trip: 3-night Wilderness Camp stay for 2 adults

Arts & Culture

Magamole rising House-Kwasa star



Lame Magamole, popularly known by his stage name Ziccos, is an upcoming artiste making his mark in the House-Kwasa genre.

Phodiso Rankwe
RAMOTSWA

Emerging on the Botswana music scene with vibrant energy and authentic storytelling, Lame Magamole, popularly known by his stage name Ziccos, is an upcoming artiste making his mark in the House-Kwasa genre.

At 23, the singer, who was born in Lobatse, raised in Tonota and is currently based in Gaborone, draws deep inspiration from his upbringing, which he considers the heartbeat of his music.

Balancing his artistic aspirations with his education, Magamole is a third-year Criminology student at Botho University College.

Music runs in his family, with his father, Opelo Ramorukuru, popularly known as Mchacos, having played a significant role in inspiring his musical journey.

Ramorukuru was a member of Street Gang, a four-member house-kwasa group based in Gaborone West that rose to fame with its chart-topping hit, *Sukunyetsa Bana Ba Utlwe*.

The group made a notable entry into the music industry around 2005 before taking a hiatus.

Growing up under the influence of his father's musical background inspired Magamole to pursue his own path as a musician and songwriter.

Despite entering an already competitive music industry featuring established house-kwasa artists such as Slizer and Charma Gal, Magamole has remained determined to carve out his own identity.

He has chosen house-kwasa as his signature sound, seeking to distinguish himself by blending modern musical elements with traditional rhythms.

Expanding his artistic footprint, Magamole has also collaborated with South African artist Mathaba Dakalo, popularly known as Libopie.

He is currently working on his highly anticipated debut album, *Kwa Le Kwa*, which he hopes will showcase his artistic growth, creativity and commitment to the Botswana music industry.

Beyond music and his academic pursuits, Magamole is also an entrepreneur.

He is the founder and director of Ziccos Entertainment, which has a team of 10 members, including a manager, DJs and dancers.

When he is not in the studio, performing or studying, he also engages in small business ventures. Magamole believes his approach to house-kwasa sets him apart from other emerging artists.

He incorporates contemporary elements into his music while placing emphasis on stage presence, visual presentation and energetic live performances.

He combines distinctive audio and visual elements, which he believes give him a competitive edge on stage.Among his career milestones so far is a performance at the Real Tea event, which he considers one of his biggest achievements.Magamole hopes to expand his brand significantly over the next five years by growing his fan base, securing major performance opportunities and building a lasting legacy in the music industry.

He also hopes to collaborate with established artists, including Charma Gal, as he continues to develop his career.

With his debut album in the works, academic studies underway and entrepreneurial ambitions growing, Magamole is determined to establish himself in Botswana's entertainment industry. ***BOPA***

Gong Master Remembrance Show returns to Ranaka

Marvin Motlhabane
KANYE

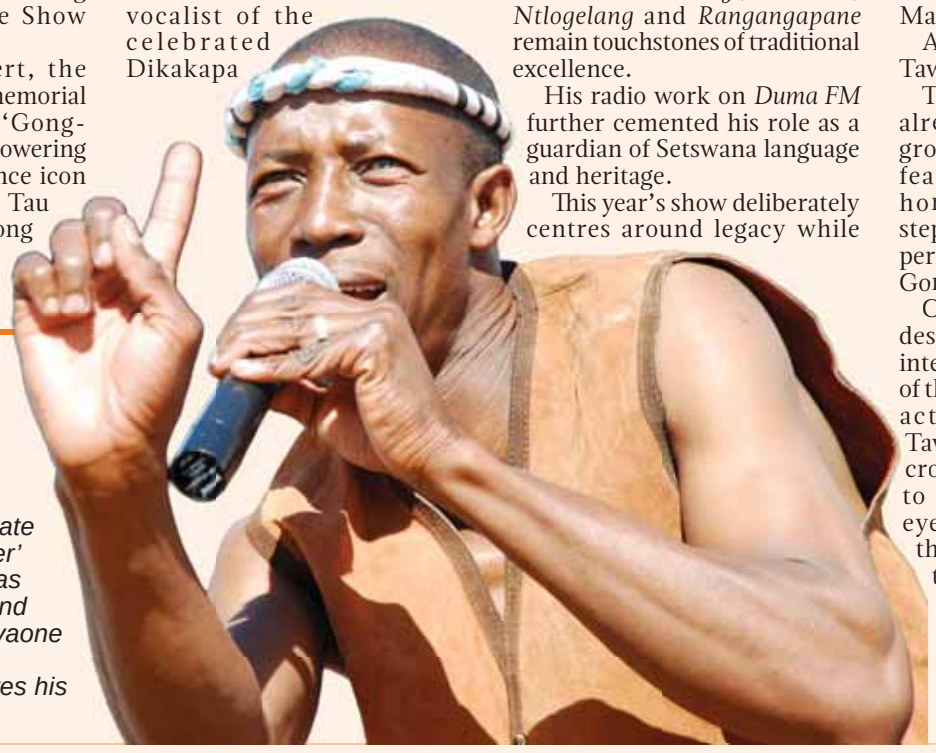
The grounds of Down the Stream in Ranaka are set to pulse with the heartbeat of Botswana's traditional music on Saturday as the second edition of the Gong Master Remembrance Show takes centre stage.

More than a concert, the event stands as a living memorial to the late Mponang 'Gong-Master' Ketshabile, the towering traditional song and dance icon affectionately known as Tau Ya Koma, the Lion of Song and a powerful platform to mentor and elevate his son, Kaboyaone 'Tawana Ya Koma' Ketshabile, as he carves his path in the industry. Gong Master, who passed away in 2023 at the age of 50, left a mark on Botswana's cultural landscape.

A co-founder and former lead vocalist of the celebrated Dikakapa traditional troupe, he later soared as a solo artist under the Tau Ya Koma banner, weaving rich Setswana storytelling, rhythmic innovation and cultural pride into songs that still echo across the nation. Tracks such as *Mosasankegi*, *Sankoma*, *Ntlogelang* and *Rangangapane* remain touchstones of traditional excellence.

His radio work on *Duma FM* further cemented his role as a guardian of Setswana language and heritage.

This year's show deliberately centres around legacy while handing the baton to the next generation.



The second edition of the Gong Master Remembrance Show will take centre stage in Ranaka on Saturday. The show aims to celebrate the late Mponang 'Gong Master' Ketshabile and serve as a platform to mentor and elevate his son, Kaboyaone 'Tawana Ya Koma' Ketshabile, as he carves his path in the industry.

The thrilling lineup includes Franco and Afro-musica, Vee-Mampeezy, Dr Vom, Ditiro Leero, Tshumu, Bona GNT, Makwakwa, Ramonyaku and South African artiste Keitumetse Mangate.

At the heart of the bill is Tawana Ya Koma himself.

The young artist, who has already performed alongside groups such as Dikakapa and featured in tribute concerts honouring his father, will step into the spotlight as both performer and living link to the Gong-Master's enduring spirit.

Co-organiser Ditiro Leero described the occasion, in an interview, as both a recognition of the late legend and a deliberate act of mentorship, giving Tawana Ya Koma the stage, the crowd and the cultural weight to grow under the watchful eyes of the very community that raised his father. He said the second edition promises a heavyweight gathering of traditional and contemporary music heavyweights, turning Ranaka into a temporary capital of song and dance.

Leero assured fans that the stage will blaze with the energy of established traditional ensembles that once shared the circuit with Gong-Master, alongside rising voices who carry the same flame of cultural pride.

The lineup is designed to move seamlessly between pure traditional rhythms, Tswana-pop innovations and the high-octane dance styles that keep village grounds and urban stages equally alive.

Fans can anticipate thunderous group performances, call-and-response anthems, and moments of quiet homage when the music pauses to honour the man whose roar still defines the genre.

Beyond the music, the festival carries a deeper cultural charge.

It returns traditional performance to the soil of Ranaka, Gong-Master's own roots, allowing elders, youth and cultural practitioners to gather in celebration rather than mourning. Gates open early on Saturday, with main performances expected to run into the evening. Organisers are urging fans to arrive on time to support the food and craft stalls. ***BOPA***

DailySport

Extension Gunners lie in wait for Sua Flamingoes

Marvin Motlhabane
KANYE

Lobatse Stadium will be the venue for a key Botswana Premier League midweek clash tonight when Extension Gunners host Sua Flamingoes.

The Lobatse side currently sits among the top six on the log, at the sixth spot, with nine points and will be aiming to climb higher, while the Sua town lads are in third place with strong form and high confidence.

Gunners CEO, Karabo Molemele expressed satisfaction with his team's start to the season and noted that they are doing well in the Premier League standings.

Molemele highlighted the potential impact of a positive result.

"Our victory against the Flam Boys would see us occupying the third spot in the league with 12 points," he said.

He added that Mapantsula have already faced the majority of the top eight teams and some of the toughest sides on the table, with only Sua Flamingoes and Orapa United remaining among the stronger opponents.

"This puts our team at an added advantage to perform well as the league progresses," Molemele maintained.

The CEO also spoke positively about the composition of the squad, describing it as very strong, tough and well built to take on any team, noting that it is made up of new players who may not be star names but bring flair to the game.

Sua Flamingoes public relations officer Mentor Hulela revealed that the squad's spirits and morale had been significantly uplifted by their weekend African Hero Top 8 victory.

He confirmed that the team is in a good position and largely injury-free, with only Simisane Mathumo unavailable due to suspension.

While acknowledging that they suffered defeats in their last two visits to Lobatse, Hulela insisted that history would not repeat itself tonight.

The fixture will pit two competitive sides against each other under floodlights. ***BOPA***



Some of the six athletes of Team Botswana that will be representing the country at the upcoming Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Senegal from October 31 to November 13 during a send off ceremony in Gaborone on Monday. Botswana will participate in athletics, judo, boxing and swimming. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

Team BW off to youth Olympics

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Botswana will be represented by a team of six athletes at the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar-Senegal, which will run from October 31 to November 13.

The team is made up of Mpho Maano and Geza Reinious from Athletics, Precious Masaba from Boxing, captain Theresa Tagarira from Judo, Melodi Saleshando and Tema Modirelabangwe from swimming.

Speaking at the official send-off ceremony for Team Botswana on Monday, the Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng said investing in sport was a high return strategy for youth empowerment, national health and global brand visibility.

He encouraged corporate entities to partner with the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) to help young athletes build sustainable professional careers.

He challenged the delegation to adhere to strict clean sport principles, sportsmanship and fair play at all times and compete with integrity.

The minister implored the athletes to embody Botho, urging them to let their conduct both on and off the field reflect the foundational humility, dignity and respect of Botswana's national culture.

He encouraged the team to strive for peak performance by trusting their preparation, executing their skills, and performing on the international stage with confidence.

BNOC president, Tshepo Sitale said they were confident that athletes would represent themselves and the country well.

"We have not set a target for them, our objective is simple, we want them to enjoy the games and give their best," he said.

Sitale also encouraged parents to support their young children to participate in sport and give them opportunities to develop their talents.

"Instead of allowing them to spend their time playing in the streets, let us guide them toward sport," he said. ***BOPA***