

DailyNews

THE PAPER
THAT
INFORMS
AND
EDUCATES

Thursday November 27, 2025 No. 213

<https://dailynews.gov.bw>

Business

Council moves to
boost revenue

Page 6

Dikgang

Dipalo tsa go ikgapela
botshelo ga borre di a
tshwenya

Tsebe 7

Arts & Culture

Denim & White Party
Saturday

Page 9



Policies review ideal

President Advocate Duma Boko (left), Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (second left), Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa (centre), Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima (second right) and Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Modise at the second session of the Economic Committee of Cabinet in Gaborone yesterday. President Boko emphasised that Batswana should view themselves not as passive recipients, but as active architects of national projects. The session examined key reforms, including decentralisation, constitutional review implications and the effectiveness of long-standing structures such as landboards. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

STORY PAGE 3

SECURE THIS SLOT

on contract and enjoy great
discounts.

Call 365 3500

Available
only on
Digital
copy

Thursdays

District receives over P5m for road fund levy

By Kehumile Moekejo

MABUTSANE - The P5.7 million Road Fund Levy received by the Mabutsane District is earmarked for gravelling roads in Khonkhwa, Lefhoko and Morwamosu, the district council chairperson, Mr Tuelo Zulu has said.

Addressing a full council session on Monday, he said the

money would also fund the installation of solar streetlights in Sese. He noted that the projects would be outsourced to speed up the implementation process.

Additionally, Mr Zulu noted that installation of solar streetlights in Morwamosu, Khakhea, Khonkhwa and Keng was expected to be completed next month.

“Let me highlight to you that

we have a long-standing project of installation of solar streetlights in Morwamosu, Khakhea, Khonkhwa and Keng.

I am pleased to inform you that the site has been officially handed over to the contractor and we expect this project to be completed by the 19th December 2025,” he said.

He further noted that in-house gravelling of roads in Maokane,

Khakhea and Kokong, which commenced in Maokane this month, was expected to be completed by end of March 2026.

He said the Maokane project, which was anticipated to be completed by mid-January 2026, included the paving of 400 metres of road by local artisans.

Regarding the Constituency Community Programme (CCP), the chairperson noted that the district was making strides in improving the road network following the successful procurement of plant machinery.

“Despite the initial challenges encountered of inadequate plant operators, this initiative bears fruitful results as we are currently doing the projects in-house and this has enabled the department to cover more kilometres as opposed to when

the contractor was engaged,” he noted.

He said the ongoing gravelling and paving projects at Sese were ahead of schedule, something which he attributed to the collaboration with other districts. He also noted that while the issue of water ponding still needed to be addressed, the projects created employment opportunities for a total of 48 people, eight of which were artisans from Sese/Betesankwe ward. He noted that this aligned with his road map, which called for the empowerment of local communities.

“By investing in our own people, we are fostering a sustainable model that nurtures skills, builds capacity and enhances the quality of life for all our residents,” he said. **BOPA**



Mabutsane District Council chairperson, Mr Tuelo Zulu (left) and deputy Mr Obakeng Melome during a full council session on Monday. Mr Zulu said the P5.7 million Road Fund Levy allocated to the district was earmarked for gravelling roads in Khonkhwa, Lefhoko and Morwamosu. Photo: Kehumile Moekejo

Chairperson appraises council on social, infrastructure challenges

By Naomi Leepile

TSABONG - For the second quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year, Tsabong District Council received only P17.1 million of the expected P40.6 million Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

This shortfall, council chairperson, Mr Elias Motlhanke

said created challenges in funding projects.

Speaking during a council meeting, he expressed concern over the council’s financial challenges, as the country was facing a slow economic performance.

He further said the Werda-Makopong/Kokotsha Water

Supply Scheme Project Phase 1 was currently behind schedule, achieving only 61 per cent completion against the planned 91 per cent.

Mr Motlhanke indicated that the Kokotsha Reverse Osmosis Plant was now expected to be operational by February 2026. “Despite the delays, the project has successfully employed a total of 59 locals.”

He said the district’s health facilities also continued to struggle with supply issues, as drug stock levels remained below the expected target.

Vital drug availability at Tsabong Primary Hospital, he said stood at an average of 68.4 per cent.

On safety and security, the chairperson reported a worrying trend in rural communities.

While property crimes showed a decline, he said stock theft increased significantly by 33 per cent, with incidents rising from 24 to 32 cases.

On education, Mr Motlhanke acknowledged the persistent challenge of indiscipline amongst students.

The district leadership recently held a consultative Kgotla meeting, bringing together parents, teachers, and community members in a dialogue to resolve these issues, he said. **BOPA**

By Chendzimu Manyepedza

SELEBI PHIKWE - Selibe Phikwe Town Council has completed 20 projects under the Constituency Community Projects Funds (CCP) programme, says the council mayor, Mr Oageng Makgosa.

Speaking during a full council session on Monday, he said as of last month, all projects set to be implemented through the CCP, valued at P16,469,162.47, were completed and operational, and during the rollout of these projects, more than 200 people from Selebi Phikwe were employed temporarily.

Mr Makgosa noted that some of the completed projects included the maintenance of tribal administration facilities, upgrades and maintenance of internal roads infrastructure, installation and maintenance of streetlights, as well as the construction of culverts and storm-water drainage systems.

He said the primary goal of these developments were to facilitate the efficient movement of goods and services around the town, safeguard against flooding in prone areas, improve illumination, and enhance service delivery.

Regarding social and human development, Mr Makgosa said government was undertaking a comprehensive review of many socio-economic empowerment programmes to enhance their relevance, efficiency and sustainability.

Furthermore, he noted that Youth Development Fund had not yet opened applications for the current financial year, as it was still under review.

However, he pointed out that interventions to address the high unemployment rate were being rolled out.

Therefore, this includes

promoting a cooperative philosophy aimed at encouraging individuals to work in groups to mobilise resources and support one another.

On other issues, Mr Makgosa shared that social matters affecting youth in Botshabelo, such as teenage pregnancy and substance abuse that continued to be detrimental to their lives and future were a cause for concern.

Thus, to mitigate these challenges, he said outreach services were conducted at Mojamorago and Boikhutso Junior Secondary Schools to provide a youth-friendly environment for learning.

“Outreach programmes were a deliberate effort to increase awareness of services offered at clinics and promote their utilisation, and the response has been positive. To further enhance the outreach initiatives, the Council, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, were working to revive community-based health structures at ward level,” he said.

On issues of security, Mr Makgosa reported a decrease in serious and prevalent offences compared to the previous period from July to September 2024.

A total of 53 offences, including break-ins and sexual assaults, were registered during this period this year, compared to 80 cases recorded last year during the same period.

He commended law enforcement agencies for their efforts, which include foot patrols and task teams deployed in crime-prone areas.

Moreover, he noted that these initiatives had improved the visibility of law enforcement officers on the ground and ultimately contributing to reduction of criminal activities. **BOPA**



Republic of Botswana

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Information Services informs the public that the DailyNews website: <https://dailynews.gov.bw> and the Kutlwano website: <https://kutlwano.gov.bw> are currently down and the matter is being attended to.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



First Lady Kaone Boko (centre) arriving for the launch of Mpepu Programme in Takatokwane on Tuesday. She said safeguarding the rights and future of children demanded a united front and could not be accomplished individually. Photo: Mothusi Galekhutle

Campaign strives for respectful, inclusive society

By Keetile Bontsibokae

MOGODITSHANE - The long-held stereotype that a boy child must be groomed to be tough is a harmful norm that must come to an end, Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Ms Lesego Chombo has said.

Delivering a keynote address to kickstart 16 days of Activism against Violence on Women and Children in Mogoditshane on Tuesday, Ms Chombo who decried stereotypes that glorified negative masculinity, called on men to take the lead reshaping such norms by teaching the boy child positive masculinity. She urged dikgosi, fathers, brothers and men’s sectors to mentor the boy child in their communities, shaping them into protectors of society rather than agents of harm.

The campaign held under the theme: UNiTE to end Digital Violence Against Women and Girls will run from November 25 until December 10, to mobilise communities, raise awareness and foster partnerships to end violence against women and children in all its forms.

Ms Chombo said the theme highlighted that for many women and girls, no place was completely safe. Violence infiltrates homes, schools and workplaces, and

with the rise of technology, it is now widespread on digital platforms,” she said. Therefore, Ms Chombo challenged stakeholders to intensify public education on Botswana’s cyber laws, particularly the Cybercrime Act and the Data Protection Act, noting that enforcement remained weak and gender dimensions were often overlooked. Ms Chombo said government had put mechanisms in place through the Cyber Crime Committee and the Botswana Police Service Cyber Crime Unit.

However, she said both required further strengthening to fulfil their mandates effectively in investigating and prosecuting online gender-based violence.

“It is imperative to note the gender disparities that are further complicated by the digital divide.

We therefore have to ensure that there is concerted effort to close the digital gender gap, and that women and girls are part of the digital decision makers as this is the only guarantee to safe and sustainable communities,” she said. She urged all to unite at every level to end violence against women and girls both online and offline. She stressed that digital violence was not merely a technological problem, but a violation of human rights that silenced women, restricted participation and undermined national equality goals.

“The 16 Days Campaign is not only about protecting women and girls. It is about shaping a more respectful, inclusive and just society for us all. Let us ensure our digital and physical spaces are free from gender-based violence,” she said. **BOPA**

Government policies review key to nation aspirations

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - President Advocate Duma Boko has underscored the urgent need for reflection on government policies to ensure they align with the nation’s guiding aspirations and strategic direction.

Officially opening the second session of the Economic Committee of Cabinet yesterday, President Boko said the committee provided an ideal platform to examine national priorities such as institutional reforms, constitutional review implications, decentralisation, and the effectiveness of long-standing structures, including landboards.

“We are ready to reflect on these policies and assess if they assist us to move in the inspired true north direction,” he said.

The President stressed that policy review must not only

assess intent, but also consider implementation, taking into account existing operational frameworks.

He emphasised that the anticipated Constitutional Review process should be factored into current reflections, noting that policy and institutional alignment must anticipate forthcoming national transformation.

President Boko said the Constitutional Review process would interrogate existing institutions, their functions, and generate recommendations aimed at optimising their effectiveness.

“The constitutional review process will be a complex manner. When we look at the Bogosi institution, we will have to reflect very carefully on the dynamics, the historical context and engage in serious analysis as well as determine how the institution can be revamped,” he said.

First Lady launches Mpepu programme

By Mothusi Galekhutle

TAKATOKWANE - First Lady Kaone Boko has launched Mpepu programme, which aims to safeguard the future of children.

Speaking at the launch in Takatokwane on Monday, Ms Boko characterised the challenges children were experiencing as troubling and urged the community to back programme.

She emphasised that safeguarding the rights and future of children demanded a united front and could not be accomplished individually.

Ms Boko stressed that while children’s rights were universal, the settings and methods utilised to nurture them varied, as a result, she called for coordinated action to preserve their rights.

The First Lady explained that the Mpepu programme had two primary areas of focus, with the first pillar emphasising maternal and infant care, ranging from general health to nutrition, since inadequate nutrition adversely impacted both the physical and mental development of children.

Still under this pillar, First Lady highlighted that they cared for persons living with disabilities, ensuring they received proper support.

She mentioned that the second pillar centres on the safety and protection of children, pointing out that children became victims of sexual exploitation, sometimes even while under the watch of their parents.

She regretted that despite child exploitation being a crime, it persisted as many cases were not reported and sometimes parents withdrew cases.

Additionally, Ms Boko said Mpepu programme addressed gender-based violence (GBV).

She said the programme had positive masculinity and femininity initiative, which taught both sexes to live harmoniously, in efforts to address GBV.

She expressed concern that male children had often been neglected in terms of guidance and capacity building to live respectfully alongside their counterparts.

Ms Boko explained that GBV affected children who witnessed it and may become abusers themselves or develop violent behavior in future.

She also mentioned that the programme aimed to rehabilitate perpetrators of GBV.

Ms Boko spoke about plans to visit prisons to interact with inmates, focusing on addressing issues and empowering them, particularly teenage offenders.

She described child-friendly police centres as a positive initiative and started that through Mpepu, they intended to collaborate with these centres.

The First Lady expressed their intention to work with the Ministry of Health to enhance youth-friendly clinics.

She added that their goal was to protect children from pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

From time to time, she said, they ran different campaigns to further these goals.

When presenting the multi-sectoral standard operating procedures for a child-friendly justice system, Assistant Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Augustine Nyatanga, said the manual would serve as a guide for dealing with children’s issues to ensure their rights were safeguarded and their well-being was preserved.

These procedures, he explained, would assist those handling cases involving children and help protect children by addressing existing gaps.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for State President, Ms Goitsema Morekisi commended the initiative, stressing its emphasis on maternal and infant care.

Ms Morekisi highlighted that caring for children was a shared responsibility and urged the community and families to collaborate with the First Lady in nurturing children and supporting the growth and wellbeing of young people.

Kgosi Visco Tsiane of Takatokwane voiced concerns about school dropouts and pregnancies among 12-year-olds children in the village.

He pointed out that the withdrawal of defilement cases because the offender was the family’s breadwinner was worrying, stating that this jeopardised the children’s future. **BOPA**

DailyNews

Published by: Department of Information Services
37795 Wellie Seboni Drive
Private Bag BR 139 Gaborone

bopa@gov.bw
dailynews@gov.bw

Online Edition: <https://dailynews.gov.bw>

Printed by: Government Printing and Publishing Services

Editors

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

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

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

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

For Adverts Call:
365 3555 / 3587 / 3591 /
3592 / 3593 / 3599 / 3620

Head of Marketing
Ms Lucretia Chima
Tel: 365 3574
Email: lchima@gov.bw

Circulation 20 000 per day except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.



Government to address payments backlog

GABORONE - Government continues to play significant and catalytic role in the country's economy such as being a major investor through national development programmes, a major employer and procurer of goods and services both directly and through State Owned Enterprises.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeane Ntsima, said the ministry was conscious that government's procurement behaviour directly affected business liquidity, competitiveness and overall private-sector confidence.

"Government and State Owned Enterprises form a substantial share of the market for many citizens owned companies especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)," he said adding that timely procurement and timely payment were essential to sustaining the health of business ecosystem.

He said commercial success around the world depended on reliable cash flow while delayed payments weakened a business's ability to pay employees on time, service loans with financial institutions, procure inputs, restock and sustain operations, growth and job creation. Furthermore, Mr Ntsima said delayed payments had a ripple effect across the value chain, lowering productivity and dampening private sector growth.

On the other hand, he said failure by any arm of government to pay on time undermined business ability.

This, he said, was of particular concern to citizen owned enterprises and youth owned startups that often operated with limited working capital and heavily relied on predictable cash flow.

Mr Ntsima highlighted that the mandate of the ministry was to facilitate trade, enterprise growth,

and creation of an enabling environment for private sector.

He said the ministry of trade, together with the Ministry of Finance were already working together to address the backlog of unpaid invoices adding that a task force had been established to verify outstanding invoices, prioritise invoices for SMEs and citizen owned companies.

"Government has adopted digital procurement, payment reforms and the ministry is developing a policy position on prompt payment and resolve bottlenecks," he said.

In addition, Mr Ntsima said that included collaboration with Business Botswana, Citizen Entrepreneurial Agency and Local Enterprise Authority. Member of Parliament for Kgatleng West, Dr Unity Dow had asked the minister whether he appreciated that government played a significant role in the economy of Botswana.

Dr Dow wanted to know if the minister appreciated that government directly or indirectly through State Owned Enterprises and Entities was a significant procurer of services offered by private companies and individuals.

She also wanted to know if the minister appreciated that business or commercial success in Botswana and anywhere in the world depended on timely payments for services provided and goods sold and if the minister was aware that failure by government to timely pay for services and goods procured from private businesses undermined those businesses ability to in turn, meet their financial obligations.

She said the ministry would be failing in its mandate if it ignored the damage to specific businesses in particular and the economy in general and did not address the current crises of unpaid invoices by government. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko responding to the State-of-the-Nation Address debates in Parliament on Tuesday. He said government was working on solutions to the nation's challenges that would be expressed through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme and the 12th National Development Plan.

Photo: Phenyio Moalosi

Boko envisions quality life for all

By Pako Lebanna

GABORONE - Akin to American civil rights activist, the late, Rev. Dr Martin Luther King Jnr, President Advocate Duma Boko has pronounced himself to be a dreamer who is driven by vision of a transformed Botswana society with quality life for all.

Debating in Parliament on Tuesday in response to Members of Parliament debate on the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA), President Boko said he believed in having a structural ambition that drove his leadership.

He said at this juncture in Botswana history, the country needed leaders who were able to go beyond graphically lamenting about the nation's challenges, but who offered practical solutions to solve them.

During the SONA debate, President Boko said he had listened intently but was disheartened to hear many legislators listing the condition of schools, roads, healthcare crisis, whereas the electorate was aware of the challenges and required solutions.

The President said his government was working on solutions to the nation's challenges that would be expreseed through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and the 12th National Development Plan (NDP 12).

He said the Botswana economy

found itself in a perilous situation since the country had relied heavily on one commodity, diamonds, and the economy was not diversified.

President Boko said in the face of natural diamonds facing competition from synthetic diamonds, Botswana had to involve the parastatal, Debswana and state owned Okavango Diamond Company, to market the value of natural diamonds to the world.

The country had to work on strengthening its position in the diamond industry, the President said, and this would include working on acquiring a majority stake in De Beers, acting on the advice of some of the industry's best global minds.

He said natural diamonds had a discreet and insular market and Botswana would work on a strategy to have greater influence in the industry and market.

On governance, President Boko said he believed in the separation of powers between the executive, legislature and the judiciary.

He added that the constitutional review process would work on ensuring such structural changes in governance as well as parliamentary independence and oversight.

He said Botswana currently ran a hybrid system which combined the presidential and the parliamentary systems. The constitutional review process might lead to a parliamentary system with a directly elected president and

the executive (Cabinet) possibly serving outside the legislature, as it happens in other jurisdictions, but that would be determined by national stakeholders, President Boko said and cautioned that in paving the route to a constitutional review, Parliament and other stakeholders should be mindful not to create a system they would not be able to control in future.

He noted that the country's independence era constitution had thus far overseen stability, and effort to modernise it should never be in haste, haphazard, or pursuing immediate personal interests, but should be well thought out in the long-term best interest of the nation.

President Boko said the proposed establishment of the constitutional court would lay the foundation for the constitutional review process and become an apex court where legal disputes could be brought to their logical conclusion.

He said it was also important to entrench second and third generation rights, which were economic and cultural rights, as they positively enjoined the state to provide rights such as healthcare and education for all or the right to work and fair wages.

In relation to healthcare, President Boko said the Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital had been built on public funds and the state had to ensure that the facility was not converted into a private facility. **BOPA**

Cattle purchase aims to boost dairy output - Mathoothe

By Bonang Masolotat

GABORONE - The procurement of 1 000 Girolando cattle from Brazil by the government will boost the dairy industry, Serowe North MP and Assistant Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe, said on Tuesday when debating the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA).

He said the move would significantly reduce the country's import of dairy products and increase capacity to produce its own milk from 13 to 60 per cent.

Such a significant increase he said would also reduce the country's import bill, hence the procurement was worthwhile. He said the cattle from Brazil came with veterinary technical support, adding that the

issue of Foot and Mouth was also a point of consideration when opting for the Brazil market.

Mr Mathoothe said this was unlike in the past when the then government bought cattle in the USA, breeds that were already in the local market. On other issues, Mr Mathoothe said water reticulation remained a major concern however, Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) had qualified staff who could carry out such work in-house.

He expressed a concern that the high prices demanded by Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) could be a hindrance to Batswana seeking to connect electricity to their farms.

The MP said that companies tended to overcharge government, hence it was necessary to ensure that subcontractors engaged by the

BPC did not overcharge and the costs passed to customers.

He said the Constituency Community Project funds should be released expeditiously, noting that Serowe constituencies had agreed to buy roads maintenance machinery. Mr Mathoothe said that Batswana were appreciative of the interventions brought by the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) government, such as the increase in old age pension and Technical and Vocational Education and Training allowance, which increased from P300 to P1,900.

He said the UDC government stopped the previous government's inequality in dealing with tertiary students.

Lobatse MP, Mr Kamal Jacobs, called for the protection and

welfare of law enforcement officers saying, the police, soldiers, and prison officers must be adequately supported. He said he welcomed the absorption of special constables into the Botswana Police Service as permanent and pensionable employees since that would improve their welfare and career progression. Also, he said he welcomed projects scheduled for Lobatse Constituency among them the upgrading of the Lobatse prison facility and construction of the SSG regional camp office with 75 staff houses. Others include land servicing for Special Economic Zones Authority and Lobatse waste water master plan, developments Mr Jacobs said were a sign that government was delivering steadily on its promises.

Mr Jacobs said that the Youth

Development Fund must also be streamlined such that young people gained access to skills, capital, and markets. This, he said would be a way of grooming healthy young entrepreneurs and opening more doors for creating jobs and changing lives. Mr Jacobs said that although he was alive to government's health sector commitments, there was an urgent need to upgrade Athlone Hospital to modern standards, and S'brana Psychiatric Hospital into a regional centre of psychiatric excellence as well as developing a regional referral hospital in Lobatse for all medical specialties.

He also said that gender-based violence remained a moral, social, and national emergency, requiring strong law enforcement mechanisms to address. **BOPA**

‘Invest in agriculture, secure future’

By **Pako Lebanna**

GABORONE - Agriculture produces the food that sustains life and livelihoods and any forward thinking society should invest in it as the cornerstone of its economy, the Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture also Good Hope/Mmathethe Member of Parliament (MP), Dr Edwin Dikoloti has said.

He said in Parliament that government intended to improve the sector’s contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the long term, and as an immediate measure to support small scale farmers hence introduced the Lemang Dijo Programme.

Dr Dikoloti said the ministry had already started rolling out some sector based programmes such as the first generation extension programme ‘A Di Tsale’ working in conjunction with the Ministry of Trade, through the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA).

He added that it was important to provide investment in roads

that linked production areas with markets and in improving the conditions of the farming areas.

While noting that unemployment, poverty and the delay of developmental projects had been a thorn in the flesh of society, Dr Dikoloti said the recent State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) had provided the hope of jobs and income being created through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), which could lead to a new dawn.

Dr Dikoloti said he had been in constant communication with his constituents and they were encouraged to hear the President state that education was a basic right.

He said the construction of more classrooms at Nthwalang Junior Secondary School had assisted learners to be taught in a more dignified environment.

Furthermore, Dr Dikoloti expressed the belief that when the country’s fiscal position was improved the development projects

they had been yearning for would be realised. He said these included the upgrade of the Ramatlabama, Mabule and Mogojojo health posts and for the Pitsane health facility to include maternity care as part of their services.

He asked for a road linking Mmathethe-Bray-Werda, what he called the ‘Dr Micus Chimbombi Highway’ which he said would benefit his constituents through linking their villages such as Kaangwe and Metlobo. He said this had long been proposed and his constituents looked forward to its realisation as well as the Molapowabojang-Mmathethe road.

Nonetheless, he said they were pleased that the Borobadilepe-Hebron-Mokatako road was under construction and had created 102 jobs during the construction phase.

Dr Dikoloti called for the revival of the Construction Industry Trust Fund (CITF) centre at Phitshane-Molopo, which was established to offer training in bricklaying, wall plastering and floor tiling but had

since become a white elephant.

The Barolong Vocational Training Centre (VTC) he said was more functional and his constituents were pleased with the increase in vocational students’ allowances.

Meanwhile, Kgatleng Central MP, Mr Mpho Morolong cautioned his party, the governing Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) to refrain from being complacent and to rather focus on delivering.

He said their 2024 general election victory and recent Kgalagadi South by-election triumph, should not blind the UDC from the reality that there was still a lot of work to be done to address national development, and they should be modest with their electoral gains until they had translated them into tangible developmental achievements.

Mr Morolong commended President Advocate Duma Boko for basing senior appointments on meritocratic and inclusive

considerations, saying this led to progress and nation building but cautioned government to be careful not to neglect to appoint people who might be less educated but resourceful.

He said it was disappointing that the 12th National Development Plan (NDP 12) did not have sufficient Kgatleng District projects, and if that stayed the same, the area would remain stagnant.

Mr Morolong said the Deborah Retief Hospital used to have an eye clinic, but patients were now forced to go elsewhere to get optical health care.

Additionally, he lamented that the Mochudi Sub Land Board was underperforming to the point where he felt they needed to be disbanded.

In order to alleviate housing shortage, Mr Morolong called for the agricultural land at Sebele in the Gaborone North constituency to be converted to residential and industrial use. **BOPA**



Mr Gerhardus Esterhuizen from Struizendam reading Afrikaans news at Radio Botswana studios on Tuesday. Tati East legislator, Mr Tlhabologo Furniture welcomed government’s introduction of indigenous languages on BTV and Radio Botswana, calling it a long-awaited step that aligned with the BCP’s advocacy.
Photo: Phenyio Moalosi

Furniture praises introduction of indigenous languages

By **Bonang Masolotatse**

GABORONE - The introduction of indigenous languages on Botswana Television (BTV) and Radio Botswana news is a welcome development that resonates with the ideals of the Botswana Congress Party (BCP).

Tati East legislator, Mr Tlhabologo Furniture, said on Tuesday when debating the State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA).

The BCP has for a long time, advocated for the introduction of indigenous languages in national discourse, Mr Furniture said and congratulated government for the development.

Beyond introducing indigenous languages on national broadcasters, Mr Furniture said the BCP advocated for children up to Standard four, be taught in their mother tongues.

Mr Furniture also hailed government’s decision to declare Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital a public facility.

Nonetheless, he said unemployment still persisted under the new government, despite promising to create 100 000 jobs in their first year in office.

He said the ruling party

appeared to be dragging its feet on the introduction of political party funding, although they were in favour before being in government.

Mr Furniture said that it was easy for the ruling party to pull resources to gain political advantage but it would be disappointing if they went back on their word on political party funding.

Talking about Tati East constituency, the legislator said it faced water shortage, a situation that the Botswana Democratic Party government had said would be addressed through the Greater Francistown Master Plan but nothing had been said by the new government.

Also, he said introducing local per diem for public service employees had negatively affected the tourism and hospitality industry.

Mr Furniture cautioned that President Advocate Duma Boko’s proposal of a 24-hour government coupled with insourcing, could balloon the wage bill, which the World Bank had raised concerns about.

Boteti East MP and Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang, hailed the SONA for showing ambition to grow the

economy, particularly agriculture from contributing only two per to the GDP to contributing six per cent.

He said doing so would benefit Boteti District with its vast land that could be used for farming. Also, he said the government should look into how it taps into the industrious age group of people between 36 to 60 years, who could prove valuable to the country.

Mr Atamelang also said the government was desirous in doubling tourist arrivals into the country, and Boteti could also offer a lot in that regard.

He said there was a lot of untapped tourist offerings in Boteti areas such as Makgadikgadi Pans and Boteti River, which could contribute in promoting the sector.

The SONA he said was forward-looking, as it detailed how NDP 12 and the Botswana Transformation and Economic Plan would create much needed employment opportunities across various sectors. In addition, he appreciated the drugs and rehabilitation centre that would be opened in Serowe, saying it would help in the fighting against drug and substance abuse, especially among young people. **BOPA**

Ministry approves 301 dual citizenship applications

GABORONE - The Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs has so far received and approved 301 applications for dual citizenship since the promulgation by Parliament of the legislation that provided for dual citizenship.

The portfolio minister, Major General Pius Mokgware told Parliament on Monday that apart from Citizenship by Investment, the Citizenship Act had provisions that allowed migrants including African Immigrants to obtain citizenship in Botswana under the categories of employees, directors/ Investors, immigrants, students and spouse of citizens.

Maj. Gen. Mokgware said additionally, the ministry had taken an initiative to review the Citizenship Act hence it was currently introducing legislation reforms to align with the current national economic growth priorities which included introduction of multiple citizenship.

The current provision for dual citizenship, he said only catered for Batswana by birth or descent therefore, left out the rest of the migrants who would otherwise want to obtain Botswana citizenship and not renounce other citizenship(s).

Maj. Gen. Mokgware stated that currently, some migrants were reluctant to apply for Botswana citizenship, for fear of losing their native identities as such, the multiple citizenship was a way of opening the economy and attracting investors of note envisaged to boost Botswana’s economic developments.

He said the other initiative the ministry had embarked on was review of the citizenship assessment tools, to enable objectivity in the assessment of the citizenship applications intended to guide the selection of worthy immigrants.

The ministry, he said was also in the process of assessing the impact of statelessness in communities

along the border, particularly in the North East, Okavango, Borolong, Kgalagadi, Kgatleng, Bobirwa and Tswapong, areas aimed to facilitate, regulate, assess and grant eligible migrants affected by statelessness.

The integration of such migrants into the communities would ultimately enhance Botswana’s economic growth, Maj. Gen. Mokgware said.

He said the ministry had developed a Botswana Migration Policy which would pave way for sectoral policies on labour, tourism, diaspora engagement and others, to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

The minister said the current administration had adopted a whole of government approach to address migration matters and the engagement of development partners dealing with migration, to help shape migration policies, saying, the obvious difference between the current administration and the previous one was that the current did not view migration as a problem but an opportunity for development.

Maj. Gen. Mokgware was answering a questions from Okavango West MP, Mr Kenny Kapinga who wanted the minister to update the House on any progress he had made since the promulgation by Parliament of the Dual Citizenship legislation.

Mr Kapinga also asked for other initiatives the ministry intended to embark upon, to enable productive and law abiding African Immigrants to obtain citizenship in Botswana, apart from the citizenship by investment initiatives which had been announced by the President and if there was notable difference between the current and past administration with regard to Immigration Policy.

If any, Mr Kapinga wanted the minister to draw the attention of the House to such difference. **BOPA**

Council moves to boost revenue

By Marvin Motlhabane

KANYE - In a move to unlock alternative revenue streams, Kanye District Council (KyDC) has initiated the registration of a Special Purpose Vehicle in the form of a private company limited by shares, to be known as KyDC Ventures (Pty) Ltd.

The process began after the council approved a proposal in its previous session to reserve the company name, in line with a council resolution. Speaking at the fourth and final ordinary Full Council Session of the year on Monday, which marked the end of the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, the Council Chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgosithebe, said the session was held under the theme: The Wheels Turn Slowly, But They Do Turn.

Mr Kgosithebe explained that

the theme reflected the current challenging financial situation, noting that the administration had inherited nearly empty coffers from the previous regime. He attributed the strained finances largely to sluggish global diamond sales, a factor beyond the council's control.

Despite these difficulties, he said the significant milestones achieved by government in just 12 months should inspire renewed hope.

"Life cannot come to a standstill during this difficult period," he stressed, adding that the council must tap into its own untapped revenue sources to sustain service delivery.

Regarding the company registration, Mr Kgosithebe confirmed that the process was underway, with a draft constitution being prepared using the template provided by

the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA). This step, he said, was necessary to prevent the reserved name from expiring without progress.

He assured councillors that the final draft of the company constitution would be presented to the full council for consideration and approval.

The appointment of the Board of Directors would follow, after extensive consultations and in line with guidance from the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

A task team has also been formed to develop a comprehensive business model outlining key sectors of operation, financing mechanisms, and governance structures for the company.

On development projects, Mr Kgosithebe reported that the district initially received P2.8

million for routine maintenance of internal roads and streetlights.

An additional P14.1 million has since been allocated for similar works.

These projects were currently in the scoping phase, with procurement to follow immediately. Once completed, he said, the initiatives would improve road drivability, enhance village aesthetics, and deliver economic benefits to local communities.

From the initial P2.8 million, P785,000 has been spent to procure 247 solar batteries from the Botswana Institute of Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) for the maintenance of solar-powered streetlights.

Mr Kgosithebe expressed concern over the frequent knocking down of streetlight poles by motorists, urging

continuous community education on the importance of protecting public infrastructure.

He noted that such damage diverts funds from other critical needs, especially at a time when government revenue had declined sharply due to low diamond sales.

In other developments, Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) was replacing rotten electricity poles across villages under Kanye District Council to improve network stability and reliability.

The exercise may cause planned power interruptions, with affected communities to be informed of specific dates and times in advance. BPC has apologised for any inconvenience and pledged to minimise disruptions.

Mr Kgosithebe also highlighted the national free electricity connection programme launched in April 2024. To date, 2,927 applications have been received from Kanye District Council villages, of which 983 customers have been connected, while the remainder have been assigned to contractors.

However, BPC continues to battle widespread vandalism and theft of network equipment. Since the beginning of the year, 932 cables have been stolen in Kanye and surrounding areas, with only 319 replaced.

Mr Kgosithebe appealed to community leaders and residents to help raise awareness and report suspicious activities.

Speaking to BOPA in an interview post the presentation of the speech, Councillor for Molapowabojang West, Mr Themba Setimela, commended the chairperson's report, particularly the allocation of funds for internal road upgrades.

He also welcomed the allocation of 2 000 plots by the Land Board under the Bonno Housing Scheme, which has attracted three housing investors. He further expressed excitement about the planned construction of the Mmankodi-Kanye, Kanye-Jwaneng, and Mmathethe-Kanye roads.

Councilor for Ga-Segwagwa, Mr Mogorosi Naolagosi, appreciated the government's decision to plough one hectare for each farmer despite the suspension of agricultural subsidies, noting its importance during the rainy season.

However, he expressed disappointment that the long-awaited Ga-Segwagwa access road was not mentioned in the address. He urged the council to prioritise it under the proposed 10 km access road policy, emphasising that Ga-Segwagwa is a large village deserving proper infrastructure. BOPA



Councillors during the fourth and final full council session of the year in Kanye on Monday. Council Chairperson, Mr Morapedi Kgosithebe said in an effort to unlock alternative revenue streams, the council had initiated the registration of a Special Purpose Vehicle, a company known as KyDC Ventures. Photo: Courtesy of Kanye District Council

Egypt SCzone attracts investments

CAIRO - The Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) has attracted investments totaling US\$11.6 billion over the past three and a half years, with Chinese investors accounting for a substantial 50 per cent, chairperson of the SCZone Waleid Gamal El-Dein announced on Tuesday.

He made the remarks while attending the "Jiangsu-Egypt Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference" held in the Egyptian

capital Cairo.

The event aimed at solidifying the commercial and investment partnership between companies from China's Jiangsu Province and Egypt.

The chairperson highlighted the SCZone's growing appeal as a platform for global investments, attributing its success to well-developed infrastructure, the integration of its six ports and four industrial areas, and competitive incentive packages

for investors.

He emphasised that Chinese investments demonstrated the strength of the economic ties between Egypt and China, as well as the strong interest Chinese companies had in the SCZone.

During the conference, the Egyptian official highlighted the extensive cooperation with the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone inside the SCZone.

This partnership currently

encompasses over 200 industrial, service, and logistics projects with total investments exceeding US\$3 billion, he said, adding that the volume of cooperation with Chinese investments in the West Qantara Industrial Area has surpassed US\$700 million.

Established in August 2015, the SCZone covers 461 square km along the Suez Canal and boasts six ports and four development areas. West Qantara is one of the key industrial zones. Xinhua



Modulasetilo wa khansele ya Palapye, Rre Kabo Ketshogile (fa gare), mothusa modulasetilo, Rre Moiseraela Lasarwe (molemeng) le mokwaledi, Rre Oboikanngo Kuti kwa phuthegong ya khansele bosheng. Rre Ketshogile a re khansele e mo letlhokong la madi mo go feletseng go baka gore ditirelo dingwe di emisiwe. Senepe: Portia Rapitsenyane

Letlhoko la madi le kgoreletsa ditirelo

Ka Portia Rapitsenyane

PALAPYE - Letlhoko la madi le pateleditse khansele ya Palapye go seegela fa thoko ditlhabololo tse e neng e na le maikaelelo a go di dira mo ngwageng ono.

Se, se builwe ke modulasetilo wa khansele, Rre Kabo Ketshogile mo potsolosong jaaka fa bokopano jwa khansele eo bo tswetsetse.

A re ngwaga ono ke ngwaga o o thata ka puso e sena madi mme go le mo khanseleng gore e itirele letseno go tlatsa mo go leng teng.

Rre Ketshogile o ne a supa fa ba boipelego ba ne ba sekaseka batlhoki ba gantsi ba tlhokanang le thuso mme bangwe ba tshwanelwa ke go seegelwa fa thoko ka mo go ba sekasekeng go ne ga lemogiwa fa ba ka ithusa.

A re letlhoko la madi le ne gape la pateletsa khansele go emisa dijo dingwe tse di neng di jewa kwa dikoleng tse dipotlana.

Le fa go ntse jalo, Rre Ketshogile a re khansele ya Palapye e dirile maiteko a go dira madi ka ditsela dingwe tse ba solofelang fa di tla a ba thusa. A re e ne ya re fa ba ntse ba leba ditsela tsa go itirela letseno ba lemoga fa khansele e ntse e sa dire go le gontsi go phutha madi a e tshwanetseng go a phutha mme ba tswa letsholo go ikopanya le bangwe ba dikgwebo ba ba beileng ipapatso ya bone mo thoko ga ditsela mme ba sa duela khansele pele ba dira jalo.

A re ba ne ba felela ba dira ditumalano le bone mme ba ba fa sebaka sa gore ba ntshe ipapatso eo ba bo ba sala ditsela tse di maleba tsa go dira ipapatso morago mme go sa nneng jalo khansele e tla a di ntsha. O tlhalositse maiteko a mangwe a ba a dirileng a go buisanya le ba ba rekisang mo mekgwatlheng gore ba dire ditieseletso tsa go dira jalo kwa khanseleng.

Rre Ketshogile a re mo nakong eno khansele ya Palapye e kwadisitse khamphani e ka yone e tla a batlang ditsela tsa go dira madi.

Fa a bua ka ditlhabolo tsa kgaolo ya Palapye, Rre Ketshogile o ne a supa fa sekole se se botlana se se ntseng se agiwa kwa Palapye se tlaa bulwa mo ngwageng o o tlang.

A re leina la sekole le emetse go amogelwa ke lephata la tlamelo ya bana le thuto go tswa kwa moding go ba neela tetla ya leina la sekole.

Rre Ketshogile a re khansele

ya Palapye e tlaa dira ditsela tse di mo teng ga motse e bo e baakanya dipone tsa mosepele tse di senyegileng ka e filwe madi a selekanyo sa P17 million go dira se. A re ba ne gape ba kgona go kaba ditsela tse di neng tsa senngwa ke dipula tse di mashetla tse di neng tsa baka merwalela fa ngwaga ono o simologa. **BOPA**

Ba rebotswe go itlhophela kgosi

Ka Thuso Kgakatsi

ZUTSHWA - Banni ba Zutshwa ba gakolotswe go tswaledisa thulaganyo ya setso e ba ntseng ba e dirisa ya go itlhophela Kgosi.

Tshwetso e, e tserwe ke lekoko le le neng le romilwe ke tona ya merero ya magae le tsa bogosi, go rarabolola kgang ya bogosi jwa motse oo.

Lekoko leo le ne le rometswe go sekaseka ngongorego ya ga Rre Johannes Motlhaetsi, yo o neng a ipelaetsa gore o amogilwe tshwanelo ya go nna mo setilong sa bogosi jwa Zutshwa.

Fa a buisa phuthego ya kgotla, moemedi wa lekoko, Kgosi Aobakwe Phetlhu wa Hebron, o supile fa dipatlisiso di supa gore bogosi jwa Zutshwa bo simolotse ka tlhopho ya morafe, ka jalo go le maleba gore motse o tswelele ka thulaganyo eo ya go itlhophela Kgosi.

“Re lebile kafa motse wa lona o simolotseng ka teng, ka jalo tswelolang le tlhopho baeteledipele ba bogosi,” Kgosi Phetlhu a tlhalosa. A re morago ga go reetsa ngongorego eo, e e tsereng malatsi a mabedi, go supagetse fa motse wa Zutshwa o tlhologile ka merafe e le mebedi e leng Basarwa le Baselebe.

“Baselebe le Basarwa ke batho ba ba tswang kgakala ba tshela mmogo ka kagiso lerato le tlotlano,” Kgosi Phetlhu a bolela.

Kgosi Phetlhu o ne a re ba

eletsa gore morafe wa Zutshwa o tswelele ka kagiso le tshwaragano, a gakolola gore ba tshwanetse go tshela ka tekatekanyo go sena ope yo o lebelang ope kwa tlase

A re dipatlisiso tsa bone di supa fa motse wa Zutshwa go sena ope yo o lebanweng ke bogosi ka jalo ba ka tswelela go itlhophela kgosi ya bone.

Kgosi Phetlhu o tlhalositse gore fa Zutshwa o simologa, morafe o ne wa bona gole botlhokwa gore ba tlhophe yo o ka ba etelelang pele, e bile go sena le faele dituelo ka nako eo.

“Bogosi jwa motse ga boa tlhomiwa ka setso sa bogologolo, mme go ne go tlhophiwa moeteledipele go ya ka tlhokego ya nako eo,” a supa. O gateletse gore motse wa Zutshwa o na le batho ba bantsi ba ba nang le dikitso ka go farologana, ka jalo a gakolola gore ba dirise dikitso tseo go thusa kgosi wa mo nakong eno go tswelela mo tirong ya gagwe ya bogosi.

“Ke kopa gore le neele kgosi tlotlo e e mo tshwanetseng, mo lebakeng le a le neetsweng ke puso, go fitlhela ka 2028, fa jaanong le tlaa fiwa sebaka sa go seka-seka gore a o santse ana le bokgoni jwa go tswaledisa,” a kopa jalo.

Fa a bua ka ditso tsa Zutshwa, a re motse oo, ga ona dingwaga tse dintsi thata, tse go ka buiwang ka bogosi jwa one.

A re ba dirile dipatlisiso tse di tseeneletseng go itse gore motse wa

Zutshwa o tlhologile jang, a supa fa motse oo o simolotse ka thulaganyo ya Remote Area Programme, e e simolotseng ka ngwaga wa 1969-1970's, e seng kwa dingwageng tse di kwa morago jaaka bangwe ba supa. Ka ntsha ya se, o gakolotse fa bokete jwa kgang bo le mo dingwageng tse motse o simolotseng teng.

Kgosi Phetlhu, o supile fa ba sa dumalane le moipelaetsi, e leng Rre Motlhaetsi ka mabaka a gore thulaganyo ya bogosi, e supa fa kgosi wa ntsha wa Baselebe e le ka dingwaga tsa 1800's.

A re tlhaloso e e ntshitsweng ke Rre Motlhaetsi ka bogosi ga e

tse di maleba fa ba tswa mo tseleng.

Fa a tlhalosa maikaelelo a letsatsi, mogolwane wa tsa bong mo Okavango Rre Budani Madandume o boletse fa go le botlhokwa gore borre ba sireletse seriti sa go nna tlhogo ya lelapa, go tlhokomela e seng go kgokgontsha.

Rre Madandume o ne a re lefatshe leno le na le dikgetsi tse dintsi tsa kgokgontsho ya bong mme borre e le bone ba dira melato ka dipalo tse di kwa godimo.

Ka jalo o ne a re go botlhokwa go rutuntsha bana ba basimane ba sale bannye ka go dirisa seriti sa bone sentle.

O ne a re borre ba tshwanetse ba nna le thulaganyo e e ba fang sebaka sa go buisana ka diemo tse di ba amang, a re go dirwe makgotla a borre kgotsa go tsosoloswe makgotla a borre a a neng a le teng bogologolo.

A re letsatsi la mafatshefatshe la segopotso sa botsogo jwa borre le diretswe go ipelela borre ka tse di molemo tse ba di dirang mo lefatsheng ka kakaretso le go lemoga dikgwetlho tse di haphegileng tse di amang borre fela. **BOPA**



Rre Johannes Motlhaetsi (bobedi mojeng) yo o neng a ipelaetsa gore o amogilwe tshwanelo ya go nna mo setilong sa bogosi jwa Zutshwa a le kwa phuthegong ya kgotla e e neng e tshwerwe ke lekoko le le neng le romilwe ke tona ya merero ya magae le tsa bogosi, go rarabolola kgang

Mental health concern in Botswana

By Tshiamiso Mosetlha

SEROWE - Mr Botswana finalist, Mr Emmanuel Sedimonyana, who will compete with 12 other finalists during the pageant grand finale slated for November 29 in Gaborone, has raised concerns about mental health issues among young boys in Serowe.

As part of the competition, Mr Sedimonyana is working on a project focusing on mental illness among boys.

He expressed concern during a courtesy call to Serowe main kgotla, seeking community support, noting that many, especially young boys, were affected by this issue.

Mental health, he stated, was a serious health issue requiring a coordinated, society-wide response. He noted that mental health challenges could arise at any stage of life, including from childhood.

“Mental illness is a significant and growing public health concern in the country and globally,” he said. He noted that cases of mental illness were rising, with statistics indicating a high number of affected individuals.

He explained that substance and alcohol abuse among youth were common causes of mental illness. He also said that financial problems were among leading

factors contributing to mental illness and that discrimination and social stigma were major barriers preventing people from seeking help.

“Most people with mental health issues are neglected, physically and verbally abused, and do not receive support from family members,” he said.

He said such people need a stronger support system involving families, communities, and coworkers. He said members of the community must be aware that people with mental disorders have equal rights as those mentally sound, and not be relegated to the lower levels of humanity.

Mr Sedimonyana noted that it was vital for members of the community to be taught how to handle people with mental illnesses, hence the need to engage community leaders to help spread awareness.

Dr Abadia Isaac from Sekgoma Memorial Hospital stated that they had been receiving many cases of mental disorders, stating that it was unfortunate that the facility could only accommodate ten patients at a time.

He said most of the people affected were men who only visit the hospital when the disease worsened. Some people, he said, do not take medication as prescribed, resulting in overdose cases. **BOPA**



Botswana Television cameraperson, Mr Paycheal Segale (left), Justice Key Dingake (centre) and MISA Botswana representative, Mr Kabo Ramasia at Commonwealth Governance Forum side event for the media in Gaborone on Monday. Justice Dingake urged the media to remain vigilant watchdogs and hold leaders accountable without fear. He also appealed to journalists to safeguard their independence, resist capture, stay informed and uphold strong principles in the era of digitalisation and social media.
Photo: Felicity Male

Serowe celebrates men

By Keamogetse Setilo

SEROWE - Sports Volunteers Movement also sensitised the public about prostate cancer and the potential role of sports in addressing tsuch issues.

Sports is a vital factor in men’s health, Mr Moses Moloko, secretary general of the Sports Volunteers Movement, said friday during the community sensitisation drive marking the beginning of Men’s Day celebrations in Serowe.

He shared that sports provided not only physical health

advantages but also a means for emotional and mental wellness, a resource he asserted could assist in diffusing feelings and clarifying thoughts.

“Sports isn’t solely about maintaining health; it serves as an outlet for negative thoughts, frustrations, and heightened emotions that we men frequently carry within us. It can prevent a lot of issues, allowing you to express your feelings and steer clear of situations where you might lash out at others or commit acts of gender-based violence,” he noted.

The event featured marches and various physical activities to promote awareness about men’s health, mental wellness, and gender-based violence.

Additionally, he opined that the advantages of sports for health surpass those of an unhealthy lifestyle, mentioning that participating in sports decreases likelihood of acquiring non-communicable diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity, which adversely impacted one’s life.

To this end, he encouraged everyone to adopt a healthy lifestyle and promote awareness of topics concerning sports, GBV, and wellness.

Dr Boitshoko Lethapa from Trusted Care Medical Centre said despite cancer being one of the top causes of cancer-related fatalities in men, men rarely undergo health screenings on it.

She observed that men frequently avoided testing, much less seeking guidance from healthcare providers for sexual health issues, and often only

pursued consultations when it was already too late.

“Unlike women, men often avoid seeking medical advice on sexual reproductive health and frequently face severe outcomes from issues that could have been managed effectively with early detection,” said Dr Lethapa

Furthermore, she said prostate cancer was one of the types men frequently avoided being tested for; often claiming the rectal exam was too intrusive, but preferred blood tests as a screening option.

She is of the view that all men should be screened for prostate cancer, thus urging everyone to examine their bodies, observe any changes that signaled concerns, and undergo yearly screenings for early diagnosis and treatment of health issues for better results.

Appreciating Sports Volunteers Movement’s efforts, Serowe District Council chairperson, Mr Atamelang Thaga hailed the initiatives and thanked everyone for taking part in the activities, noting that the same solidarity spirit in sports and collaboration should be utilised to inspire more men to prioritise their health and overall well-being.

“Leverage this unity you’ve demonstrated to raise awareness and direct resources towards encouraging more men to prioritise their health and let this not solely revolve around physical activity; may the lessons learned here touch countless lives and protect individuals from prostate cancer and avoidable mental health predicaments,” he said. **BOPA**

Securing Land Title Deeds affect landboard efficiency

By Relief Lephutshi

KANYE - Land Information System (LIS), which encompasses surveying, allocation, land registration, conveyancing, printing and issuance of certificates, is facing an ineffective delivery process.

This has proven to be a significant hindrance to the ongoing estate development program by Bonno Housing programme, which requires swift turnaround times.

The concern was highlighted during Ngwaketse Landboard meeting on Monday, where members pointed that the delays were impacting on the

programme and investors.

According to board Secretary Mr Godiramang Moepeng, such challenges resulted in substantial backlog of undelivered Secure Land Title Deeds (SLTs) for Ngwaketse Landboard.

He noted that past land allocation system was much better since it had not much logistics. However he cautioned that any consideration to allocate land outside LIS required careful review to avoid decisions that could expose the board to legal issues. Currently, investors from Bonno Housing are facing delays in obtaining secure land titles, leading to some seeking private land allocation services.

In other discussion, the board meeting also focused on the proposed revenue Support Grant ceilings. They noted that the suggested amount of P57,917,890.00 was approximately P3 million lower than the current budget, primarily due to the underperforming economy.

Commenting on the proposed budget, board chairperson Mr Bobby Tlhabiwe expressed concern about the challenges of operating with limited finances.

“We need to implement a rigorous collection program,” he said, adding that the leniency previously practised should come to an end. **BOPA**

ADVERTISE HERE

YOUR BRAND + OUR AUDIENCE = SUCCESS

 659 6315 | 625 0353 | 533 0379 | 297 8237 | 261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500

 <https://dailynews.gov.bw>

 DailyNewsbw

Denim & White Party Saturday

By Relief Lephutshi

KANYE - Ranaka is gearing up for a vibrant lifestyle celebration as the first annual Denim & White Party is set to take place on Saturday at Down the Stream Gardens, along the Mogobane-Kanye Road.

The event also marks an early activation of the festive season and promises a day full of entertainment, featuring live performances, fun games, a swimming-pool chill zone, 5-a-side soccer, children's activities, braai spots, a restaurant, and a fully serviced campsite for guests wishing to stay overnight.

Headlining the show will be one of Botswana's celebrated artists, Chokoma, supported by a dynamic lineup of local talent including Ditiro Leero, DJ Sunlight, Ashley Gops, Morwa Tsankana, DJ Bistar, DJ Stokie, Da Coloi, Uncle Dipopae for children's entertainment, MC Tido of RB2, DJ Anthem of Duma FM, and many more guest performers and DJs.

Speaking to *BOPA* in an interview, the event organiser Larona Gasennelwe, popularly known as DJ Zoski, described the Denim & White Party as a lifestyle event designed to bring people together for a day of fun, fashion, and music.



Ashley Gops

"It is all about good vibes, great music, and creating lasting memories with family and friends

in a relaxed outdoor setting.

We will have professional security personnel and proper crowd-control measures in place,"he said.

"We want people to enjoy themselves comfortably, but we still encourage responsible drinking and respect for the environment and fellow guests," he advised.

Entrepreneurs will also benefit from the event, with vendor stalls available for food, drinks, and merchandise.

Interested businesses can reach out via the event's social media platforms or contact the organisers directly for stall pricing and availability.

Reflecting on the challenges of organising such an event, DJ Zoski mentioned securing sponsorships, coordinating logistics, and ensuring smooth operations on the day.

"But with community support and dedicated partners, we are always able to deliver memorable experiences," he said.

The event is sponsored by Zoski Promotions, Dust Off Sneakers Laundry and GM Markets.

Tickets are already on sale at Dust Off Sneakers Laundry (by Shell, opposite Mongala Mall). Prices are P30 for children, P60 for adults, and P100 for a double ticket. *BOPA*



Chokoma supported by a dynamic lineup of local artistes will headline the first annual Denim & White Party scheduled for Saturday at Down the Stream Gardens, along the Mogobane-Kanye Road.



Uncle Dipopae will be one of the performers at the Denim & White Party event.

Cultural space set to advance archival development

SHANGHAI - A multi-functional cultural space jointly launched by international brand Chanel and the Power Station of Art (PSA), a Shanghai-based museum dedicated to contemporary art, was unveiled in this east China metropolis on Monday.

Enhancing functionalities, the venue, named: Espace Gabrielle Chanel, is a renovation and upgrade of the third floor of the PSA.

The venue is now composed of a library, a theater, exhibitions space and a riverside leisure terrace, thereby integrating humanistic reflection, design exhibitions, pioneering performances and cultural leisure.

Spanning 1 700 square meters, the library hosts a wide range of books, reaching 50 000 volumes of essential reading materials and audiovisual resources featuring art, design, architecture, culture and social sciences.

Notably, rich materials on Chinese contemporary art can also be found among them.

The library aims to serve both enthusiasts and professionals.

The theater, containing 300 seats, is able to accommodate diverse events -- ranging from video art and theatrical performances to sound experiments and press conferences.

Integrated with the exhibition space, it carves out a place for imagination and offers a highly immersive atmosphere for visitors.

Boasting a panoramic view of Shanghai's Huangpu River, the 300-square-meter riverside terrace has both a coffee area and a family-friendly relaxation zone providing visitors with a more relaxing and leisurely experience.

"Espace Gabrielle Chanel" is a long-term strategic partnership between Chanel and the PSA, which was forged in May 2024.

Their collaboration will continue to focus on various pursuits, such as advancing archival development and supporting relevant research efforts.*Xinhua*



Minister of Sport and Arts, Jacob Kelebeng after lighting the Special Olympics National Games 2025 torch to mark the start of the games in Lobatse on Monday. He said the games called for inclusion and challenged stereotypes in a bid to build a world where people with disabilities were celebrated for their sporting excellence. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

Special Olympics promotes inclusivity

By Calviniah Kgautlhe

LOBATSE - The Special Olympics National Games are currently underway at Lobatse Sports Complex and has attracted participation of persons with disabilities from across the country.

In his address on Monday, the Minister of Sport and Arts Jacob Kelebeng said the games reaffirmed government commitment to inclusive access to sport for persons with disabilities.

He noted that the games called for inclusion, dismantling barriers and challenged stereotypes in a bid to build a world where people with disabilities were celebrated for their sporting excellence.

He said President Advocate Duma Boko had from the inception of the new government in November last year, declared to lead a human rights-oriented government.

"Today, we demonstrate that inclusion is not a favour, it is a right. Today, we say that accessibility is not optional, it is essential. We say dignity of our people is not negotiable, it is an obligation," he

said. Kelebeng appreciated the athletes for their participation and stakeholders who continued to drive the movement with passion and vision.

Special Olympics board chairperson Tebogo Mangadi appreciated the regions who managed to participate such as South, South Central, North, Kweneng, and Kgalagadi, adding that some of the regions did not make it due to resource constraints.

She said all athletes underwent compulsory medical checks as per the requirements of Special Olympics international standards. In addition, she said they went through eye testing and those who required glasses would be assisted.

She appreciated Boitekanelo College and private doctors amongst others for assisting to carry out the requirement as well as the Family Forum which brought parents of children with intellectual disability.

She also extended appreciation to Youth programme, Sibling programme, and the American Embassy for developing Athletes leadership

capabilities.

Mangadi said inclusivity of intellectually disabled people in sports was critical adding that it must be reflected in drawing and implementation of government programmes and policies.

The Special Olympics board chairperson said the board had since resolved to channel the prize money won by athletes during World Special Olympics toward building houses for them.

Mangadi said while the money was not enough to complete the houses they had built in the past, challenges also included acquiring plots for them which took longer.

"We have since kept prize money for those who had competed in the past as they do not have plots," she said and requested for fast tracking of plot allocations.

She also called for Special Olympics prize money rewards to be increased to enable them to construct befitting houses for the athletes.

For her part, Boipelo Lekolori, a

parent taking care of an intellectually disabled child, pleaded for more to be done to ensure effective facilitation when they sought help in government offices.

Furthermore, Lekolori said as caregivers they needed to be supported, adding that there were programmes and policies in place, which they felt, were not adequately cascaded down.

She also called for inclusivity in sports for the intellectually disabled that were talented but were out of school to make it easier for them to partake in the Special Olympics.

For his part, Lobatse Town Mayor, Aron Ganakgomo appreciated the athletes for their participation.

Outstanding athletes would be selected for the World Special Olympic games billed for Chile in South America in 2027.

The games also form part of the preparations for the African Union Sports Council Region 5 Youth games slated for Mozambique in December 4 to 13 next year. The games which started on Sunday end tomorrow. **BOPA**