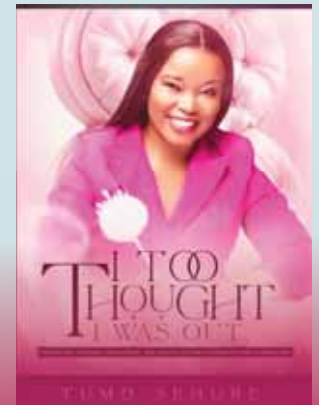


# Zone 6B registers suspected case of Foot and Mouth Disease

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*I Too thought  
I Was Out*  
advocates for  
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DIKGANG

Bakgweetsi  
ba gwetlhiwa  
go fetola  
boitsholo

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# Letsholathebe records improved medical supplies

Availability of medicines including essential ones and other medical supplies has improved from 15 per cent to 30 per cent, with another consignment expected before the end of this week.



*Letsholathebe Memorial Hospital superintendent, Dr Lebogang Mokotedi said in December, vital drugs were at 75.5 per cent, essential drugs at 63.9 while necessary drugs remained at 52.1 per cent with an order fill rate of 21 per cent from Central Medical Stores.*

# Government sets aside P97m for FMD interventions

Thandy Tebogo  
KANYE

Government has approved the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) response plan for immediate implementation with P97 million allocated for urgent interventions. This was revealed by acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Mr David Tshere on Tuesday when addressing the public on government's FMD preparedness control. Also, the minister announced an initiative toward a shared financial responsibility model, with the

Business Botswana having pledged P1 million already. The National Development Bank has been appointed to administer funds contributed by the private sector development partners and members of the public. As the FMD outbreaks in South Africa and Zimbabwe continued to pose a risk of incursion into Botswana, Mr Tshere noted that Botswana's intention was to ensure that FMD was controlled at a regional level, adding that the transition moved away from a government-driven model to one that actively involved communities, farmers and the private sector.

As such, he called on Botswana to partner with government in controlling the disease including providing financial support amid prevailing fiscal constraints.

As part of mitigation efforts, he said government had established a Foot and Mouth Disease Command Centre, chaired by the Office of the President to coordinate inter-ministerial responses.

The centre operates a call centre with both a toll-free line and a WhatsApp contact, he said.

Furthermore, he said community

As part of mitigation efforts, Mr Tshere said government had established a Foot and Mouth Disease Command Centre, chaired by the Office of the President to coordinate inter-ministerial responses.

participation would be central to disease prevention and control efforts, including regulating livestock movement through kraaling and herding animals away

from high-risk areas. Mr Tshire said response teams had been deployed along border areas to restrict the movement of cattle from South Africa and Zimbabwe into Botswana.

“Movement restrictions have been imposed in border villages in Ramotswa, Borolong, Kgatleng, Bobirwa, Tutume and the North East District. Disease surveillance has been intensified in these areas, with livestock movement permitted only for animals destined for slaughter and subject to authorised movement permits,” he said.





Kgalagadi North Member of Parliament Mr Reason Lekutlane (centre), Kgosi Samuel Motlhaope of Maake (second left) and other district leaders during a consultative constituency kgotla meeting in Maake recently. Mr Lekutlane cited poor contract management by engineers and technicians responsible for overseeing projects, as being among reasons for inefficiency. Photo: Thuso Kgakatsi

## Poor contract management delays projects

Thuso Kgakatsi  
MAAKE

Failure to enforce contractual guidelines by relevant officials has contributed to the slow pace of developments in Kgalagadi North, says the area MP.

Mr Reason Lekutlane said delayed projects under local and central governments continued to hinder socio-economic development in the district.

He made the remarks during a consultative constituency kgotla meeting in Maake recently, where he cited poor contract management by engineers and technicians responsible for overseeing projects, as being among reasons for inefficiency.

Excessive leniency toward non-performing contractors, he said, had resulted in stalled projects and increased costs for government.

"There are clear guidelines outlined in contracts, but our own personnel often become too lenient even when contractors are not complying. This ends up costing government and setting the district back," he said.

Mr Lekutlane expressed concern that prolonged project delays had negatively affected the livelihoods of residents while placing a heavy financial burden on government.

To address the situation, the MPs constituency office is developing a programme aimed at strengthening project oversight, accountability and compliance. Beyond that, the MP said he had established a District Development Database that captured all ongoing and outstanding projects in Kgalagadi North.

The database, will assist to track progress, identify challenges and in making informed recommendations to accelerate project completion.

Mr Lekutlane underscored that projects that had stalled for more than six years should not exist because there were set procedures to be followed in dealing with contractors who failed to meet their contractual obligations.

Responding to residents' requests for two additional council seats for Maake wards, Mr Lekutlane explained that the matter fell under the mandate of the Delimitation Commission and advised residents to present their case when the commission visited the village.

Although the village's population currently stands at about 500, a

figure below the required 1 200 for a council seat, he noted that proximity to other villages could be considered.

Turning to road infrastructure, the MP described the condition of the Lehututu-Maake road ought to be graded while awaiting tarring.

It is such poor conditions that he said demotivated public officers to work in the area and contributed to service delivery challenges, including water, electricity and staffing shortages.

Mr Lekutlane said more than 870 kilometres of roads in Kgalagadi North required upgrading, because improved road infrastructure was

critical to uplifting communities and accelerating developments in the district.

Village Development Committee chairperson, Mr Samuel Motlhaope, raised a concern that there was no dedicated ambulance that served the village, but currently relied on a double-cab van that was not suitable to transport patients.

Mr Motlhaope said the vehicle serviced Maake and Hunhukwe, a situation that often left the former without transport during emergencies.

He however commended the Hukuntsi District Council and Diamond Botswana for drilling a community borehole to provide water for livestock, a project that proved beneficial to the village.

**BOPA**

**Project delays under local and central governments continue to hinder socio-economic development in the district.**

Gontle Merafhe  
GABORONE

School feeding is a powerful, multi-sector investment that strengthens education systems, improves child wellbeing and support local economies.

This was said by African Union Senior Education Policy Officer, Dr Caseley Stephens, during the 11th African Diaspora Scientific Federation breakfast meeting in Gaborone recently.

He explained that well-designed school feeding programmes improved health and welfare outcomes, reinforced social protection systems and built community resilience, while increased school attendance and retention.

"It connects nutrition, health and education in one powerful strategy. It contributes directly to human capital formation and long-term economic productivity," Dr Stephens added.

He further highlighted that school feeding aligned with the

African Union Agenda 2063, particularly Aspiration One, which envisioned a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable Africa driven by its people.

He further said the holistic impact of school feeding was precisely why its relevance continued to grow across AU member states.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Steve Botlhasitse said school feeding programmes were central to Africa's development agenda.

Mr Botlhasitse stressed that access to meals was a key retention tool, warning that learners were more likely to miss school when food was unavailable.

"If learners are not given meals in our schools, they will somehow miss school," he said.

As such, he urged stakeholders, including the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs and the tourism sector to adopt a proactive approach to sustaining school feeding

## Road projects priority - Salakae

Keetile Bontsibokae  
MOLEPOLOLE

Government has prioritised the construction of roads connecting villages with production units.

According to Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Noah Salake some of the roads incorporated in the National Development Plan (NDP) 12 was the tarring of the Rasasa-Lentsweletau-Diphuduhudu road and the Lentsweletau-Medie road.

Addressing Lentsweletau residents recently, Mr Salakae also confirmed that one of the roads in need of attention included the 47km Metsimotlhabe-Kopong-Lentsweletau tarred road, which was considered for resealing.

Earlier on, Lentsweletau/Lephepe Member of Parliament, Mr Tshenolo Bogatsu had raised a concern on the status of roads in his area of jurisdiction.

He said the road network in the constituency was dominated by gravel roads, which affected economic prospects, among other things.

Mr Bogatsu cited the Kopong-Gaborone North road and Kopong-Bokaa road as some of the projects, which could have been incorporated in NDP 12, as they served as linkages between production areas.

He said the Kopong-Bokaa road had the potential to spur economic growth by linking villages in production areas with other economic drivers and enabled residents to create employment or establishing businesses along the route.

However, he said he was hopeful that with the potential to reopen the Medie Coal Mine in the near future, the area's economic activities would get desired injection for growth and improve livelihoods.

As such, he called on government to consider expanding the railway line infrastructure by constructing a railway line connecting Medie mine with the main line in Artesia.

He said the railway line could be an alternative route for transporting coal to reduce damages on the road by trucks on the Letsweletau-Medie

**'Road networks in the constituency are dominated by gravel roads, which affect economic prospects.'**

road.

For his part, Medie/Kweneng Ward councillor, Mr Letsholathebe Legodi shared the same sentiments with the area MP on the state of Lentsweletau-Medie road.

He said trucks, which used to ferry coal from Medie mine, impacted the road surface, adding that dust from the road was equally a health hazard to the community, a challenge to crop production as well as general being of the environment.

Mr Legodi said motorists and public transporters were also affected by the status of the road, adding that the Medie-Kweneng gravel road was in need for regular grading to improve its current condition.

Lentsweletau Village Development Committee chairperson, Mr Charles Mathupi appealed to Minister Salakae for provision of funding to patch potholes, instal streetlights and remarking of the Lentsweletau-Kgope and Lentsweletau-Dikgathong roads.

Mr Mathupi also said there was need for the construction of a bus rank in Lentsweletau.

He further said while there was shortage of public transport along the Lentsweletau-Gaborone route, the Department of Road Transport Services had indicated that it was not possible to issue new permits for the route as all time slots were taken. **BOPA**

## 'School feeding more than a meal'

programmes.

"We must plan ahead and find solutions to ensure that meals are nutritious, safe and accompanied by clean water and good hygiene practices is essential," he said.

Extending an invitation to the business community, Mr Bothasitse said partnerships could help strengthen systems, scale effective practices and build resilience so that every school, in every community, could reliably provide safe and nutritious meals.

"Your backing in school feeding programmes is an investment in Africa's future workforce and communities," he said.

Also addressing the meeting was Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ms Veronica Mochotlhi, who traced the evolution of Africa's school feeding agenda, noting that it gained momentum following a 2016 study visit to Brazil focused on home-grown school feeding models.

She said the initiative linked local farmers to school feeding programmes, boosting nutrition,

education and local economies.

Ms Mochotlhi said following that engagement, African heads of state resolved to establish the Africa Day of School Feeding, which debuted in Niger as an annual event.

She noted that the 2025 Africa Day of School Feeding was commemorated in the Central African Republic under the theme: A Decade of Nourishment: Celebrating the Past, Securing a Just Future.

Looking ahead to 2026, she said the focus would be on inspiring action, sharing knowledge, identifying barriers and co-creating solutions to strengthen school meal policies, governance and financing.

She added that each year should highlight progress, discuss challenges and mobilise support to scale up these programmes so that they reached every child in Africa.

Meanwhile, Botswana is set to host the 11th African Diaspora Scientific Federation commemoration on February 28. **BOPA**



# Zone 6B registers suspected case of Foot and Mouth Disease

## GABORONE

Zone 6B has registered suspected cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) at the Jackalas 1 crush in the Tsamaya Extension Area in the North East District.

A press release from the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture has consequently imposed immediate movement restrictions of all cloven-hoofed animals in the area and has also revoked all permits, which had been issued.

“The movement of all cloven-hoofed

animals is prohibited, except within Disease Control Zone 2 (Ngamiland and Okavango) and Zone 1 (Chobe).

All issued permits are revoked with immediate effect,” the release says.

The ministry has also announced prohibitions on movement of livestock feeds, trophies, skins, hooves and fresh products, including meat and fresh milk, from cloven-hoofed animals between zones, out of Zones 6B, 3C (Maitengwe), 3B and 7.

It has also suspended the export and importation of cloven-hoofed animals and their fresh products and the associated permits that have been issued are similarly revoked with immediate effect.

The press statement states however that the importation of processed products including pasteurised milk, UHT milk, and cooked products is allowed.

The ministry requests farmers to take care of their animals by herding and kraaling them to prevent them from straying into other districts or neighbouring countries.

Farmers are also encouraged to ensure that cattle are fully identified with BAITs ear tags, zonal and owner brands, as well as to cooperate with government officials carrying out further disease investigations, to prevent the potential spread of the disease.

The ministry urges farmers, members of the public and stakeholders to remain vigilant and report any signs of illness in livestock to the nearest offices of the Department of Veterinary Service or to the Botswana Police Service. **BOPA**

## Govt sets aside P97m for FMD interventions

...from page 1

In a move to reduce the risk of FMD transmission, he said the holding period for stray cattle had been reduced from three months to 14 days, adding that unclaimed stray cattle would be slaughtered at the Botswana Meat Commission abattoir, with proceeds directed towards FMD control measures. Mr Tshere said government continued to enforce strict veterinary protocols for livestock that strayed into neighbouring FMD-affected zones.

As of January, he said 48 cattle had been destroyed after crossing into South Africa and Zimbabwe. Mr Tshere highlighted that compensation of P700 would be paid to cattle owners and P200 for goats if animals cross into red zones or show signs of FMD.

The exercise, he said, was being carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, cattle producers and non-cattle producers.

Mr Tshere emphasised that FMD posed a severe threat to agriculture due to its high contagiousness and environmental resilience.

He also encouraged dikgosi to use mophato systems to help control the spread of FMD, citing Bobirwa as an area where the approach had yielded positive results.

A dedicated communication team has also been established to disseminate information, while sensitisation through kgotla meetings has already been conducted in villages including Ramotswa, Borolong, Mochudi and Tutume Districts. **BOPA**



Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) infection control unit officer carrying out hygiene control measures in Lobatse recently, as all vehicles entering the BMC abattoir facilities are disinfected to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease. Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Mr David Tshere has called on Batswana to partner with government in controlling the disease including providing financial support as government has set aside P97 million for FMD interventions. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe

# Letsholathebe hospital records improved medical supplies

Esther Mmolai  
**MAUN**

Letsholathebe Memorial Hospital in Maun is showing signs of recovery as availability of medicines including essential ones and other medical supplies has improved from 15 per cent to 30 per cent, with another consignment expected before the end of this week.

This was revealed by the hospital superintendent, Dr Lebogang Mokotedi during Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa’s tour of the hospital on Tuesday.

“Drugs availability and other medical commodities have gradually improved this year as compared to last year and we are expecting more orders before the end of the month. Despite the shortage, we have been trying our level best to offer quality services with the little we had,” revealed Dr Mokotedi.

It was reported in December that the hospital was experiencing shortage of drugs and non-drug commodities and that inconsistent supplies of the required commodities affected patient management, especially those requiring to be assisted on emergency basis.

By then, vital drugs were

reported to be at 75.5 per cent, essential drugs at 63.9 while necessary drugs remained at 52.1 per cent with an order fill rate of 21 per cent from the Central Medical Stores.

She also apprised the minister that they had ensured the security of medicines in the facility as all medication storage was restricted to only authorised personnel.

To further strengthen security, she stated that their intention was to install alarms and CCTV cameras in drug storage areas.

Regarding feeding of patients, she said it also remained a serious challenge due to financial constraints citing that they operated under a tight budget where allocation of funds for food services was limited.

Another challenge was shortage of ambulances as only six out of 18 were functional, saying the shortage affected the flow of referrals to both Francistown and Gaborone.

Dr Mokotedi also reported a shortage of medical specialists, among them a surgeon, a gynaecologist and a physician, explaining that currently they were operating with one gynaecologist, whose services patients waited 24 to 26 months to access.

Despite the challenges, she shared some of their achievements

citing that facility recently underwent refurbishment for both the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the theatre to improve service delivery.

The ICU, which was officially opened last year August had not been fully operational due to structural anomalies and equipment issues.

Currently, the hospital management has procured equipment and awaiting staff and its functionality was hailed as a major milestone for the hospital, enhancing critical care capabilities for Maun and surrounding districts.

“The introduction of this unit is a significant upgrade to the hospital’s capacity to handle critically ill-patients locally. We now need a doctor who will man the unit,” Dr Mokotedi said.

In addition, she informed the minister that a new haemodialysis unit was also introduced, which was being operated on a public-private partnership basis.

For a long time, patients had to travel long distances to as far as Francistown to access kidney health services and Dr Mokotedi praised government efforts to bring quality health services including highly specialised ones.

For his part, Minister Mohwasa praised employees of the hospital for their resilience and high level

of commitment in delivering quality services despite working under difficult conditions.

He appreciated that staff had demonstrated resilience and a strong sense of moral duty to maintain quality patient care in the face of several challenges, which include drug shortages.

Mr Mohwasa assured the hospital management that the Ministry of Health was working around the clock to address the challenges at hand so as to improve service delivery.

He said the ministry was working hard to address the issue of shortage of medicines by ensuring that they reached every hospital and clinic across the country on time.

Mr Mohwasa admitted that there was shortage of drugs, which he partly blamed on corruption by suppliers and an inefficient procurement system.

He emphasised that government was however working tirelessly to improve the efficiency of the medicine supply chain.

The minister and his entourage toured some sections of the hospital including the pharmacy, some laboratories, and specialised units to appreciate challenges.

He also visited the outpatient department where he interacted with patients queuing for services. **BOPA**

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# ‘Youth central to economic reform’

Lorato Gaofise

## GABORONE

Botswana stands at a defining economic crossroads, with leadership warning that the growth model, which sustained the country for decades can no longer guarantee jobs, prosperity or stability.

As global conditions tighten and the diamond industry undergoes structural change, the country is being urged to rethink its future, with young people cast as the central drivers of a new economic era.

This was the message delivered by the Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, when he addressed the Budget Pitso for Youth in Gaborone on Tuesday. He cautioned that both the global and domestic economies had entered what he described as a “new normal.”

The Youth Budget Pitso was convened to ensure continued engagement and meaningful participation of young people in the national budgeting process.

Mr Gaolathe said global economic growth was expected to slow, particularly in advanced economies that absorb a significant share of Botswana’s exports. At the same time, he noted that long-standing

pillars of the domestic economy were weakening.

Falling diamond prices, reduced production and the rapid expansion of lab-grown diamonds are steadily eroding the country’s traditional economic base.

“In previous crises, Botswana experienced strong V-shaped recoveries. That pattern is no longer holding. We cannot continue to do the same things and expect different results,” he said.

Although diamonds still contribute about 30 per cent of government revenue, the Vice President expressed concern that declining sales were weighing heavily on exports, foreign reserves and fiscal buffers.

He said lab-grown diamonds now command approximately 20 per cent of the global market, intensifying competition and underscoring the urgency of economic diversification.

Against this challenging

backdrop, Mr Gaolathe pointed to Sub-Saharan Africa as a rare bright spot, projected to record positive growth over the next two years.

He identified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a critical opportunity for Botswana to expand domestic production, reduce import dependence and access regional markets through a more competitive export base.

However, he warned that economic transformation would ring hollow if it failed to confront unemployment, particularly among young people. With youth unemployment estimated to be approaching 40 per cent, he described the situation as “unacceptable” and incompatible with Botswana’s development aspirations.

“This cannot be the new normal. If our policies and budgets do not reduce unemployment, then we are failing,” he said.

Mr Gaolathe added that the forthcoming 2026/2027 National Budget, anchored in the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, would prioritise a private-sector-led, export-driven economy. This will be supported by targeted skills development, innovation and modern infrastructure aimed at creating sustainable jobs.

“We have transformed before. This generation must now do it again,” he said.

The message to the nation’s youth was both a warning and a call to action that Botswana’s future prosperity will depend not on past successes, but on the willingness to adapt, innovate and place young people at the centre of economic renewal.

As the country confronts an uncertain global environment and the limits of its traditional growth engines, the choices made now in policy, investment and human capital will determine whether Botswana’s “new normal” becomes a story of resilience and reinvention, or one of missed opportunity. **BOPA**



Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe (left) interacting with Botswana Accountancy College students during the Budget Pitso for the Youth in Gaborone on Tuesday. He emphasised the need for sector-specific innovations and the development of inclusive ecosystems to fund diverse businesses, adding that small-scale enterprises should be encouraged to work in groups and form partnerships. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

## South Africa hits 10million international arrivals in 2025

South Africa’s Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille announced Tuesday that the country received a record high number of international arrivals in 2025, hailing tourism as a key driver of economic growth, investment and job creation.

**CAPE TOWN** - In a statement, the minister said the country welcomed 10.48 million international arrivals for the year 2025, a 17.6 per cent increase compared to 2024.

De Lille highlighted that South Africa’s global competitiveness was further recognised last year, with the country being named “Best Destination: Africa 2025” by the Travel Weekly Readers’ Choice Awards.

She added that Cabinet had endorsed the Tourism Growth Partnership Plan, led by the Tourism Business Council of South Africa. “The first priority is ease of access,”

said De Lille. “The Department of Home Affairs is implementing an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system, starting with key markets including India, China, Mexico, and Indonesia, following a successful pilot during the G20 Summit.” According to the minister, the full rollout of the ETA system was projected to create between 80 000 and 100 000 jobs.

De Lille also stressed that tourist safety remained a critical focus, with 1 500 tourism monitors deployed nationally during the festive season, including over 400 supporting the Border Management Authority.

“Tourism currently sustains 1.8 million direct and indirect jobs, with one job created for approximately every 13 international arrivals,” she said.

Last year, South Africa held the inaugural Tourism Infrastructure Investment Summit, introduced the G20 Tourism Hackathon, and launched an artificial intelligence-powered travel assistant for North American travelers.

De Lille further noted the importance of meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) tourism, emphasising the country’s strength as a business

events destination. “In the current financial year, 51 MICE bids were secured, generating an economic impact of R894.5 million (about US\$56 million).

Meetings Africa 2025 generated R690 million rand and supported 1 200 jobs, while Africa’s Travel Indaba contributed over R610 million and supported more than 1 000 jobs,” the minister said.

Following the successful hosting of the G20 Tourism Ministers’ Meeting, she pointed out that the World Economic Forum would host a Special Davos Meeting in South Africa next year. **Xinhua**

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ghana targets monetary stability in 2026

**ACCRA** - Bank of Ghana Governor Johnson Asiamah has said that efforts to maintain stability will serve as the litmus test for monetary policy in 2026. During the first Monetary Policy Committee meeting of the year, Asiamah said on Monday that the central bank felt the actual work to sustain the early gains had just begun, instead of basking in the success of last year’s measures to restore macroeconomic stability and credibility in the Ghanaian economy. Key macroeconomic indicators showed that Ghana’s inflation rate declined further to 5.4 per cent in December 2025, down from 23.8 per cent a year earlier, with reserves growing to US\$13.8 billion from 8.9 billion a year earlier. **Xinhua**

Türkiye seeks EU customs union update and visa liberalisation

**ANKARA** - Türkiye’s priority goals in its relations with the European Union are to update the Customs Union agreement and advance visa liberalisation, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Tuesday, pointing to persistent bottlenecks in ties with the bloc. “We currently have several objectives ahead of us. One is the updating of the Customs Union agreement, and the other is the implementation of the visa liberalisation agreement,” Fidan told a joint news conference with visiting French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noël Barrot in Ankara. Fidan said the talks focused on ways to deepen bilateral trade, economic, and political ties, as well as on overcoming obstacles in Türkiye-EU relations. He said Ankara and Paris exchanged views on concrete steps to move the process forward and discussed other outstanding issues. **Xinhua**

China cuts ¥2.8 trillion in tax to support innovation

**BEIJING** - China’s tax and fee cuts as well as tax refunds to support sci-tech innovation and manufacturing exceeded ¥2.8 trillion yuan (about US\$401.4 billion) last year, tax authorities revealed Wednesday. The incentives have greatly facilitated the development of new quality productive forces, said Hu Jinglin, head of the State Taxation Administration, at a national taxation work conference. The country’s total tax and fee revenue reached ¥33.1 trillion in 2025 on the back of steady economic growth and other positive factors, according to data released at the conference. China’s GDP grew 5 per cent year on year in 2025, meeting the annual target. In breakdown, the tax revenue, before deducting export tax rebates, rose 2.7 per cent year on year to reach ¥17.8 trillion. **Xinhua**



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Tona wa lephata la dipalamo le dikago, Rre Noah Salakae a re ditsela dingwe tsa kgaolo ya Kgalagadi Borwa di akareditswe mo lenaneong la NDP12.

# Puso e tlaa aga ditsela dingwe kwa Kgalagadi Borwa

Cathrine Simane  
TSABONG

Tona wa lephata la dipalamo le dikago, Rre Noah Salakae a re maikaelelo a puso ke go tlabolola le go aga ditsela tse disha mo lefatsheng leno mme sebe sa phiri ke itsholelo e mo nakong eno e santseng e reketla.

Tona Salakae o buile se mo phuthegong ya kgotla mo Tsabong ka Mosupologo jaaka a ne a rerisana le morafe ka ditsela tsa kgaolo ya Kgalagadi borwa tse di akareditswe mo lenaneong la National Development Plan 12 (NDP12).

O tlhalositse fa lephata la gagwe le neetswe boikarabelo jwa go tlhokomela le go tlabolola ditsela tse di golaganyang metse mme tse di fa gare ga motse tsone e le boikarabelo jwa dikhansele.

O boletse fa ditsela ya Kokotsha- Tsabong-Mc Cathy's Rust, Khuis-Gakhibana-Khawa, Bokspits-Transfrontier Park, Tsabong-Hukuntsi-Lokgwabe-Mabuasehube Gate Road, Mmathethe-Bray-Werda di akareditswe mo lenaneong la ditlhabolola la NDP12 fa tsela ya Khuis-Khawa yone e sa akarediwa ka ntlha ya itsholelo e e kwa tlase.

Tona a re tsela ya Omaweneno -Tsabong ya bolelele jwa 37km e

e neng e abetswe madi a a fetang P25 Million go tlabololwa, e le mo seemong sa 83 per cent mme e ne e tshwanetse go wediwa ka kgwedi ya Motsheganong 2025.

O boletse fa e ne ya salela kwa morago ka ntlha ya boitseme jwa Rakonteraka le tse dingwe.

Tona Salakae a re maitemogelo a bone mo lephateng ke gore go na le bo Rakonteraka bangwe ba ba ikgagapelelang madi fa ba thapilwe ke puso mme ditumalano e le gore ba duele babereki seelo sa P4 000 ka seo se ka thusa go tokafatsa matshelo a bone.

Tona o ne gape a rerisana le go utlwa maikutlo a morafe mabapi le molao wa Roads Traffic Act 1972 a tlhalosa fa o setse o fetilwe ke nako mme o tshwanetse ke go shafadiwa go itepatepanya le seemo sa nako eno ka dikotsi tsa tsela le tsone di setse di tsere phekelo e sele.

O boletse fa go shafadiwa ga molao oo go tlaa thusa go aga bakgweetsi go tsaya boikarabelo jo bo eletsegang, go thibela go baka

dikotsi le dintsho ka di felela di ama itsholelo mo lefatsheng leno.

A re kakanyetso ya go shafadiwa ga molao oo, e akaretsa wa go dira tseletso ya go kgweetsa go tsaya sebaka sa ngwaga tse pedi go na le pele jaaka baikopedi ba ne ba neelwa sebaka sa kgwedi tse thataro go pasa matshwao, dipale le tlhatlhobo ya tsela.

O boletse fa gape molao kakanyetso o mongwe e le wa go oketsa dikatlholo tsa botlhe ba ba kgweetsang ba sena ditselletso go tswa kwa go P1 000 go ya ko go P2 000.

Tona Salakae o ne a supa fa tlolo molawana o, e rotloedwa ke batsadi bangwe ba ba tlhokang boikarabelo ka ba neela bana dikoloi ba sena ditlankana tsa go kgweetsa mme ba felele ba baka dikotsi tse mo gongwe di felelang di baka dintsho.

Ka jalo tona o ne a gakolola batsadi go emisa go dira jalo.

Maikaelelo a puso ke go tlabolola le go aga ditsela tse disha mo lefatsheng leno, sebe sa phiri ke itsholelo e mo nakong eno e santseng e reketla.

## Bakgweetsi ba gwetlhiwa go fetola boitsholo

Gaboselwe Olesitse  
MMADINARE

Banni ba Mmadinare ba tlhalositse fa ba se kgalhanong le koketso ya madi a dipalamo tsa setshaba. Ba buile se mo phuthegong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke mothusa tona wa dipalamo le dikago e bile e le mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Boteti Botlhaba Rre Keoagile Atamelang kwa motseng oo ka Mosupologo.

Se e ne e le tselediso ya morero ka mogopolo wa go oketsa ditlhwatlhwa tsa dipalamo tsa setshaba. Banni ba kopile gore e re go okediwa ditlhwatlhwa go tsibogelwe le go baakanya ditsela tsa mo motseng ka di se mo seemong se se siameng. Mongwe wa banni ba motse Mme Nnonofo Mokotedi o tlhalositse fa bagwebi ba dipalamo tsa setshaba ba lebile dikeletso tsa bone mme ba sena kgalthe go ya go thusa setshaba. E rile a ba kgwa dikgaba tona Atamelang o ne a tlhalosa fa a utlwile seelo sa banni mme a kaya fa ditsela tsa fa gare ga motse di le mo tlhokomelong ya khansele ya Bobirwa. Rre Atamelang o ne a tlhalosa fa ditlhwatlhwa tsa dipalamo tsa setshaba di tshwanetse go seka sekwa morago ga ngwaga tse pedi mme go setse go le lobaka go sa okediwe.

O tseletse ka go tlhalosa fa lephata le tseletse ka go sekaseka le go baakanya molao, o mongwe wa o ne e leng wa tiriso ya diritibatsi. O ne a re molao o lemoga bojalwa e le jone seritibatsi se se sa letelelweng fa motho a kgweetsa le ntsa go na le tse dingwe tse di borai tse di ka dirang gore tlhaloganyo ya motho e bo e sa bereke sentle.

E rile a tsibogela tiego ya go dirwa ga tsela ya Mmadinare-Robelega ya dikhilomethara tse di masome mane, Rre Atamelang o ne a tlhalosa fa e le boammaaruri go nnile le tiego gore kago ya tsela e simolole mme ba santse ba setse kgang ya teng morago.

Rre Atamelang o tlhalositse fa puso e latlhelwa ke madi a mantsi mo go direng ditiro tse bontsi ja tsone di felelang di pala go fela mme ba le mo ditshekatshekong gore ditiro dingwe puso e di itirele.

Mo go itebaganyeng le bagwebi ba dipalamo tsa setshaba ba ba sa saleng ditsamaiso morago, Rre Atamelang o ne a tlhalosa fa puso e tlaa ba gagamaletsa setoropo mo bangwe ba bone ba tlaa amogiwang ditselletso tsa bone. O ne a rotloedwa bagwebi ba dipalamo tsa setshaba go fetola boitsholo jwa bone gore ba kgone go thusa setshaba ka fa go tshwanetseng ka teng, a tlhalosa fa go se maleba gore go bo go ka okediwa ditlhwatlhwa mme ditirelo tse ba di neelang setshaba e se tse di itumedisang.

Rre Atamelang o ne a tlhalosa fa dipuisano tsa ba lephata la dipalamo le ba mhama wa dikoloi tsa setshaba di sala di simologile ngwaga o o fetileng ka kgwedi ya Phalane.

Go solofetswe gore e re ka kgwedi ya Moranang mono ngwaga ditlhwatlhwa tsa dipalamo tsa setshaba di bo di ka tsholetsega. **BOPA**



# Court remands duo in custody for murder

MOLEPOLOLE

Two women appeared before Chief Magistrate Thebeetsile Mulalu of Molepolole Magistrate's Court on Monday charged with the murder of 61-year-old Kagiso Lesetedi of Go-Dinti Ward in Molepolole.

The accused, Gaokgakala Tlotleng (46) of Jerusalem Ward in Moshupa and Rosina Banoge (44) of Moatlhodi Ward in Khudumelapye, face a single count of murder in connection with Lesetedi's death on or about January 22, 2026, at or near Go-Dinti Ward in Molepolole, Kweneng District.

Prosecutor Sergeant Koketso Motshoganetsi applied for the duo to be remanded in custody, arguing that investigations were still at an initial stage.

The court heard that Tlotleng, who is unemployed, is alleged to be the deceased's former girlfriend, while Banoge, a salesperson at Smart Mortuary where the deceased was also employed, is said to have been his current girlfriend at the time of his death.

Presenting the facts, acting Station Commander of Molepolole Police Station, Assistant Superintendent Future Modisadife, told the court that police were investigating a murder case and that the deceased's body had not yet undergone a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death.

He said Lesetedi died on January 22, 2026, and the matter was reported to the police on January 24, 2026, by his cousin. The cousin allegedly told police that he had been approached by a 44-year-old woman, identified as the deceased's former girlfriend, who claimed that Lesetedi had been killed by his current girlfriend through food poisoning.

Following the report, police arrested the two women, who are now charged in connection with the death.

Assistant Superintendent Modisadife said the circumstances surrounding the death remained unclear, but investigators suspected the alleged offence might have been jointly planned by the two accused, despite one of them later reporting the matter. The accused were remanded in custody and will appear again for mention on February 19, 2026. **BOPA**



Member of Parliament for Serowe West, Mr Onalepelo Kedikilwe (right) and Marulamantsi Ward councillor, Mr Tshenolo Galatwe during a kgotla meeting in Serowe on Tuesday. Mr Kedikilwe urged constituents to assess the country's competing needs, particularly pressing challenges in the health and education sectors, to make an informed and independent decision should the country go for referendum regarding the establishment of Constitutional Court. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

## Kedikilwe highlights necessity to prioritise needs

Keith Ketl  
**SEROWE**

Member of Parliament for Serowe West, Mr Onalepelo Kedikilwe has implored constituents to assess the country's competing needs in order to make informed decision during a looming Constitutional Court referendum.

Speaking during a kgotla meeting in Marulamantsi Ward in Serowe on Tuesday, Mr Kedikilwe said it would be amiss for him to influence constituents to vote against or in favour of the establishment of the ConCourt.

Therefore, he said assessment of the country's competing needs would inform constituents to make an appropriate decision. when casting a ballot during a referendum, pointing that it was every individual's right to universal suffrage.

Furthermore, he said universal suffrage guarantees voting rights to all adult citizens, regardless of gender, race or socio-economic status, thus he noted influencing them would be an infringement

of the said rights.

He said their 'yes or no' for the establishment of ConCourt was dependent on assessment of competing needs, hence the need to prioritise pressing issues.

**Mr Kedikilwe said it was paramount to consider prioritising pressing issues such as health and education sectors, which were bedevilled with challenges and needed urgent attention.**

For his part, Headman of arbitration Kgosi Onkemetse Magola of Marulamantsi concurred that there was a lot of competing needs in the area that needed urgent attention.

He said Marulamantsi ward that fell under the catchment area of Mannathoko Primary School in Serowe was too far from the school for pupils more especially beginners and therefore expressed the wish to have standard one to three classes established in the area.

Also, Kgosi Magola decried that over 50 children in Marulamantsi were not schooling and have become street children.

He underscored that his area of jurisdiction was facing economic challenges and should be given similar treatment as other abodes of Basarwa people descent such as Malatswae, Mmashoro and Dimajwe.

To this end, he said such categorisation would accord Marulamantsi residents an opportunity to substantially benefit from special dispensation programmes.

However, constituents were of the view that pressing issues needed urgent attention and therefore should precede ConCourt. They emphasised that they were not against the idea to

establish the ConCourt but hinted its timing was off.

Residents requested for a clinic in the area, arguing that there was too much congestion in other health facilities where they accessed services.

Constructing a clinic in Marulamantsi would also spare residents time and distance they to endured in search of medical services, they said adding that a plot for the facility was readily available at Sebabi ward.

On other issues, a resident Ms Barulaganyi Kgaogano decried some irregularities in awarding tenders for bread supply in schools.

She also complained about delay in payments after supplying bread, which she noted, did not argur well with business.

Ms Kgaogano is of the view that remunerations for people engaged either on attachment or internship basis at various government ministries should be commensurate with their qualifications because 'they performed similar tasks as their permanent and pensionable counterparts'. **BOPA**

## Botswana and China medics conduct online consultations

GABORONE

Medical experts from China and Botswana on Tuesday held an online case discussion meeting.

Members of the 17<sup>th</sup> batch of the Chinese medical team to Botswana and their local counterparts specialising in urogenital medicine at hospitals in the southern African country shared experiences during the online meeting with colleagues

from the Fuzhou University Affiliated Provincial Hospital in China's southeastern Fujian Province.

They discussed three medical cases to seek second opinions on the treatment of complicated patients.

Ivan Kgetse, superintendent of Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital, praised the initiative, saying the online case discussion would go a long way toward improving the delivery of medical care and

advancing Botswana's healthcare system.

"We have a better chance to compare how other teams treat their patients and then come up with better ways to assist those seeking medical attention with the resources we have," Kgetse said.

For his part, Chen Gang, president of the Fuzhou University Affiliated Provincial Hospital, said the online case discussion would help strengthen ties between the hospitals.

"We hope we can help many patients through such meetings in the future," Chen said via video link, adding that he expects Botswana medical staff to visit the Fuzhou University Affiliated Provincial Hospital for further in-person exchanges.

Since 1981, 17 groups of Chinese doctors and nurses have been sent to work in hospitals in Gaborone and Francistown, totaling more than 500 medical professionals. **Xinhua**



Arts & Culture



Tumo Sehube said she did not only write about her experiences, but did some diligence in researching about mental health.  
Photo: Courtesy of Tumo Sehube



## Archaeological findings unveil Western Han Dynasty settlement

XI'AN

Archaeologists in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, have unveiled a well-organized Western Han Dynasty (202 BC-25 AD) settlement during the excavation of the Sanjiu relic site, according to an announcement by the Shaanxi provincial institute of archaeology.

Located 0.6 kilometers to the eastern wall of the ancient Chang'an City, the Sanjiu relic site sits in Xi'an's Weiyang District. The excavation in 2025 also uncovered a Northern Wei cemetery, Song Dynasty graves, and Qing Dynasty pottery kilns.

The Western Han settlement, spanning from the mid-Western Han to the Xin Dynasty, was bisected by a north-south ditch. East of the ditch, eight large courtyard-style houses stood along a cross-shaped road network, collectively forming a central hub for food processing.

West of the ditch included bone-processing and smelting workshops alongside dwellings, yielding 78 kilograms of bone and shell materials, iron tools, and ornaments such as bone earrings and shell beads, evidence of a possible jewelry workshop.

"The settlement reveals previously unknown aspects of suburban organisation near Chang'an City," - said Zhang Yanglizheng, head of the project, emphasizing its value for studying Western Han social structures. **Xinhua**



TUNIS - An exhibit at the Bardo National Museum in Tunisia. The exhibition features archaeological pieces, including sculptures, fragments and terracotta from the site of Zama. Photo: Xinhua

# I Too thought I Was Out advocates for mental health

Keetile Bontsibokae  
MOLEPOLOLE

Nata - In an effort to advocate for mental health awareness, Tumo Sehube, a native of Nata, has made a significant mark as a French teacher, mother, entrepreneur, and self-made mental health advocate with her new book titled: *I Too Thought I Was Out*.

"Writing this book was a way of speaking for those who cannot, for myself, and mostly for my father who has been mentally challenged since I was three years old," she shared.

The process of writing was challenging, as she faced her past experiences while striving to present a narrative that would honour her journey without casting blame on those she has encountered in life.

Despite these hurdles, Sehube successfully wrote a book that resonates with a wide audience, offering relatability, healing and guidance for readers navigating their own struggles.

In addition to her writing, Sehube runs an online boutique and works as a real estate agent. She reflected on the impact of her father's mental health status,

which once brought her feelings of hopelessness.

"I thought it was the end of a sane me. But somehow I made it, and that is why I have shared my story to save others out there," she said.

Sehube emphasises that no one is immune to mental health challenges, explaining that the brain, like any other part of the body, can sustain injury or malfunction.

This makes awareness and understanding of mental health issues crucial. Her inspiration to write *I Too Thought I Was Out* stemmed from attending

Ndiko Muzila's book launch, where a speaker highlighted the profound impact literature can have in reaching unseen audiences.

"I have always had this impression that God has sent me to the people, and then I knew writing a book would be perfect because I am naturally not good in regular interactions," Sehube stated.

Drawing influence from the writings of Maya Angelou, Sehube hopes her book will continue to inspire and empower others in their mental health journeys. **BOPA**





Kiplimo  
to defend  
Barcelona  
Half  
Marathon  
title

# Sankoyo battle administrative blows

Esther Mmolai  
MAUN

In the rugged landscape of the First Division North (FND), football is often described as a battlefield. But for Maun's favourite Sankoyo Bush Bucks, alias Ngurungu Boys, the most damaging strike of the season did not come from a rival's counter-attack or a last-minute goal. Instead, it came from a lapse in paperwork that has left the Ngurungu Boys fighting an uphill battle for redemption.

The club, legendary for its resilient spirit, recently found itself on the losing end of a league management ruling that saw them stripped of vital points, not for their performance on the pitch, but for a stadium that remained empty when it should have been roaring.

The controversy dates back to November 22 last year, a date that was marked on the calendar for a high-stakes clash against Chobe's Ferry Wonderous FC. The Maun Sports Complex was supposed to be the stage, but when match day arrived, the gates were locked to the teams.

While the club alleged a 'double booking' orchestrated from as far away as Gaborone, the First Division North (FDN) committee was unmoved by verbal explanations. Without solid evidence of booking receipts or cancellation letters, the committee invoked the strict mandate of Article 9 of the BFA Play Rules, which culminated into a walkover victory for the visitors and a heavy blow to Sankoyo's league standing.

For many clubs, a mid-season points' deduction would be a death knell for morale.

However, the club's interim chairperson, Anderson Thiya said in an interview that they had accepted the penalty because

they viewed football as a military battlefield where players were seen as warriors.

"We are hopeful that we will rise up in the log standings despite suffering a deduction of points," Thiya said.

The 'warrior' philosophy is currently being put to the test. Sitting ninth with 13 points, the Ngurungu Boys are a team characterised by beautiful, fluid football that, until now, has lacked a clinical finish. They are a side that traces their roots to the elite Premier League, playing with grace that often opposes their mid-table position.

To turn Thiya's military metaphors into reality, the club has used the recent period to beef up the squad and the chairperson remains optimistic that the infusion of new talent will bridge the gap between creating chances and converting goals.

The strategy will see them focus on the future and Thiya insists that players are not demoralised, but fully aware of the administrative error and are reportedly more committed than ever to clawing back the lost ground. The high morale in the camp suggests a team that is not just playing for points anymore, but playing for pride.

However, the ruling serves



Sankoyo Bush Bucks during a previous game. The team lost crucial points after an administrative error over a double-booked stadium.

"We are hopeful that we will rise up in the log standings despite suffering deduction of points"

Anderson Thiya,Sankoyo Bush Bucks club's interim chairperson

as a blatant reminder of the professionalism that is required to survive in the upper echelons of the local football.

For his part, FDN chairperson, Gosaitse Diboko said while the league understands the challenges of venue management, the rules were indifferent to circumstance without documentation.

"Sankoyo management communicated their challenge with us a day before the match that there is a double booking and we advised them to look for an alternative venue but promised that they will handle the situation at hand and that was not the case. Procedurally, they should do things in writing. There was no proof, hence our ruling," Diboko said.

Meanwhile, as the Ngurungu Boys prepare for their upcoming fixtures, their mission is to find the goals that had eluded them on field and also ensure that off field, their administrative defense is as tight as their backline. **BOPA**

## KAMPALA

Uganda's star distance runner Jacob Kiplimo will defend his title at the Barcelona Half Marathon in 2026, Uganda Athletics confirmed.

Uganda Athletics President Dominic Otuchet said Kiplimo and compatriot Ezekiel Mutai are set to compete in the race, scheduled for February 15.

Fresh from winning a third consecutive men's senior gold medal at the World Athletics Cross Country Championships earlier this month in Florida, Kiplimo aims to extend his record-setting run in Barcelona. "I can confirm that after running at the World Athletics Cross Country in Florida early this month, Kiplimo has entered for the Barcelona Half Marathon," Otuchet told Xinhua on Tuesday.

Otuchet said Kiplimo's participation is significant because he is the current men's world record holder in the half marathon and set the mark at the Barcelona race last year.

Kiplimo ran 56 minutes, 42 seconds to break the men's half marathon world record in Barcelona in 2025. The women's world record is held by Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey, who clocked 1:02:52 at the Valencia Half Marathon in 2021.

Last year, Kiplimo also won the Chicago Marathon. He remains the youngest Olympian in Uganda's history, having competed at the 2016 Rio Games at age 15, and claimed the under-20 title at the World Cross Country Championships in 2017. **Xinhua**

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