

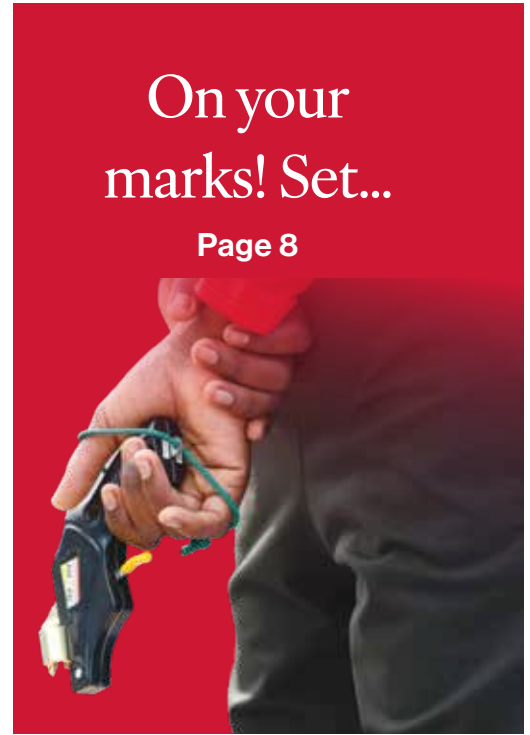
BOTSWANA Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES



Molelwa calls for joint cultural event

Page 7



On your marks! Set...

Page 8



BUSINESS

FMD outbreak delays opening of abattoir

Page 4

DIKGANG

Batsadi ba kopiwa go tsaya maikarabelo

Tsebe 5

ARTS & CULTURE

Xwalla da Cash champions Afrokhoi sounds

Page 7

Boko hails outgoing Algeria envoy



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and outgoing Algeria Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Abdelmalek Tigharghar during a courtesy call at the Office of the President in Gaborone yesterday. President Boko congratulated Ambassador Tigharghar for a successful tour of duty. The President appreciated the role he played in strengthening bilateral relations between Botswana and Algeria. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

STORY PAGE 3

What is one thing you wish to start doing differently to improve your life?

PAGE 6



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Botswana and DRC deepen military ties

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

Botswana and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have committed to deepening bilateral military ties.

This followed a high-level meeting between Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa and his DRC counterpart, Mr Guy Kabombo Muadiamvita, Monday.

The two nations are set to formalise a defense cooperation framework aimed at enhancing regional stability, intelligence sharing and joint military training.

Minister Mohwasa said Botswana would continue to grow the cooperation that already existed between the two countries, with clear milestones to determine the right direction.

With regard to the military exchanges, Minister Mohwasa said his ministry would task relevant officials to engage with DRC officials to have a document that could guide their interactions going forward.

He said the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), as an army within SADC, would engage and invite the DRC military to their exercises and also establish if they could be allowed to do training in Botswana as it was practice with other countries within SADC.

Furthermore, Mr Mohwasa said Botswana was committed to contribute to the stability of the DRC.

"The stability of the DRC is important for the economic growth of Africa and the stability of DRC is important for the stability of SADC," he said.

He therefore said as SADC member states, their focus should be on complementing each other and ensuring that they built a bulwark that would not allow any attack on anyone. He noted that SADC member states should defend their region and ensure that there was stability within the region as well as the African continent and the rest of the world. He said SADC, Africa and the world needed peace and stability, thus Botswana was willing to strengthen its relations with DRC further.

For his part, Mr Muadiamvita said the DRC held with great importance its relationship with Botswana, which he said was based on regional solidarity, individual experience and shared government responsibility. He said Botswana played an important role in political leadership, institutional coordination and strengthening regional peace and security mechanisms.

Mr Muadiamvita commended Botswana government for the peace effort in DRC.

"Through SADC mechanisms and support for various initiatives aimed at stabilising the western region of the country, Botswana's contribution whether political, diplomatic, institutional or regional plays a valuable role in the pursuit of lasting peace," he said.

He further referenced the mediation for the inter-Congolese dialogue between 2000 and 2003, which were led by the late former President Sir Ketumile Masire,



Democratic Republic of Congo Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence and Veterans, Mr Guy Kabombo Muadiamvita (left) and Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa during a courtesy call in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Mohwasa said Botswana would continue to grow the cooperation that already existed between the two countries, with clear milestones to determine the right direction. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

saying the dialogue led to the signing of the SADC Political Agreement 2002, which was a practical factor in implementing a new approach to helping the Congolese people reconnect with their political memory.

"It is necessary to build a direct, regular and improved relationship between the DRC and Botswana. I hope that our ministries can

establish a political and institutional dialogue based on consultation, trust and the gradual identification of concrete areas of cooperation," he added.

Again, he said Botswana's good governance and stability, based on the quality of its institutions and its commitment to democracy, can be of benefit to them.

He also stated that Botswana was

a valuable partner for reflection and cooperation in several defence-related fields, hence they were exploring areas such as establishing a framework for direct consultation between the two ministries, identifying priority areas for bilateral military cooperation and cooperating on matters of common interest, particularly those related to intelligence, combating

transnational criminal networks, illicit arms trafficking, mineral trafficking and other issues that undermined regional stability.

He also noted that it would be of mutual benefit to encourage development programmes, exchange of officers and expertise and improved coordination within regional peace and security mechanisms. **BOPA**

Govt bets on tourism diversification to drive economic growth

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Government is betting on tourism diversification to drive inclusive growth and high-value investment, with a target of doubling the national economy by 2036.

Addressing this year's Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB) conference recently, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi informed delegates of the need to build stronger inter-district tourism circuits to transform local tourism from isolated attractions into integrated and high-value experiences.

He stated that building stronger inter-district circuits was essential to meeting the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) goal of extending tourist stays to 7.9 nights and making tourism the top Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contributor by 2030.

Mr Mmolotsi noted that diversification was no longer optional given that creating connected travel routes increased visitor satisfaction and encouraged longer stays necessary to sustain

the industry.

He also emphasised the need to shift attention to visitor behaviour, noting that the average length of stay among international tourists had been declining.

He indicated that in 2019, visitors stayed an average of 6.3 nights, but by 2025, that number had fallen to 4.9 nights.

Regarding expenditure, he said the average tourist spent per day rose from P1 328 in 2022 to P1 718 in 2023, before fluctuating to P1 493 in 2024 and reaching P1 183 in 2025.

Minister Mmolotsi argued that such figures highlighted why building stronger circuits remained essential to give travellers reasons to stay longer, travel wider and spend across a broader tourism value chain.

He further emphasised the need to connect Maun to Francistown, Kasane to Gaborone and the Okavango Delta to the Tsodilo Hills, saying by linking wildlife offerings to culture, heritage, conferencing, sport and urban experiences, the sector can create a more holistic product.

"Our goal must be to build a Botswana in which the visitor who comes for the delta stays for culture,

travels onward for business and returns again for events, heritage or leisure.

That is the Botswana we must build and I urge you all to be part of this chapter that will shape the sector and economy of this country," he said.

Minister Mmolotsi highlighted that such integration was why the BETP was critical to transforming the economy by 2036, saying the programme sought to double the size of the national economy, create more than 512 000 jobs, and attract P514 billion in cumulative investment.

Within that national ambition, he said the BETP envisioned Botswana as Africa's premier destination for authentic experiences, setting a target of 2.7 million tourist arrivals by 2033.

"These are not merely targets on paper, they speak to the kind of tourism economy we are determined to build, one that is more diverse, more inclusive, more geographically spread and more resilient," the minister added.

He further stated that tourism was fundamentally about livelihoods and national pride and in the 2025/26 financial year, 223 new tourism

enterprise licenses were issued, with citizens owning the majority. However, he pointed out that citizen presence in higher-value and capital-intensive segments such as concession-area lodges, remained limited.

"If tourism is to be truly inclusive, then citizens must have a stronger foothold not only in the number of businesses but also in the segments that attract the largest investment and generate the highest returns," he said.

On one hand, he said through the National Tourism Strategy and Master Plan, government aimed to create 5 000 additional jobs by 2030.

"Behind each of those jobs is a household. Behind each of those jobs is dignity.

That is why the diversification agenda matters so deeply," he added.

Meanwhile, the conference was held under the theme: Re-defining Tourism Strategies to Reshape the Botswana Tourism Landscape, a theme the minister described as a call to action to collectively re-imagine the nation's approach to growth. **BOPA**

Boko hails outgoing Algeria envoy

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

President Advocate Duma Boko has commended the outgoing Ambassador of Algeria, Mr Abdelmalek Tigharghar, for his role in deepening bilateral ties and advancing economic cooperation

between the two countries at the end of his tour of duty.

Speaking during a courtesy call to bid Ambassador Tigharghar farewell yesterday, President Boko praised him for serving with distinction and for laying a strong foundation for enhanced bilateral relations across various sectors

during his two-year tenure.

The President described Algeria as a remarkable country and the largest by landmass in Africa, adding that its vast potential presented opportunities for both nations to further strengthen their partnership.

Such relations, he said, should be nurtured more broadly within multilateral associations and continentally, where any gains would be consolidated.

He reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to exploring existing memoranda of understanding and potential agreements between the two countries for the benefit of their citizens.

"We forge ahead in ensuring that

this relationship is beneficial for all through exploring all grounds that could be beneficial to all," he said.

President Boko also urged the outgoing ambassador to take a piece of Botswana with him and remain loyal to advancing the country's interests, with focus on narrating to the world Botswana's positive story of peace and good governance.

For his part, Mr Tigharghar appreciated the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect that characterised his mission.

He commended Botswana's peaceful 2024 transition of power, describing it as a testament to the country's strong commitment to the rule of law and its reputation

as a beacon of peace and stability.

Mr Tigharghar said his tenure provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen relations between Algeria and Botswana across multiple sectors.

He highlighted the importance of institutional partnerships and noted achievements such as the promotion of people-to-people exchanges. To further enhance bilateral cooperation, he underscored the need to establish structured consultation mechanisms to better showcase the resources and opportunities available in both countries.

He also expressed optimism about sustaining and expanding ongoing collaborations. **BOPA**

Minister warns trusts against hostile takeover

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

Community based Organisations (CBOs) have been warned against hostile takeover as such behaviour can shake investor confidence, trust and halt community development projects.

Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi revealed this in Maun recently during an engagement with members of CBOs that some community trusts were grappling with internal fights, maladministration and fund embezzlement that had hindered their effectiveness and warned them to stop the habit as it can damage their reputations.

Hostile takeover and their fights, he said could significantly increase investor uncertainty often causing a decline in confidence citing that some board of trustees lease concessions to investors and then micro manage limiting their operations.

He also stated that some investors influence some board members to lease them concessions, subdivide them, appealing to CBOs to do the right thing.

Failure to do so, he said would force the government to look for another working model to ensure smooth operations. In order to increase investment, CBOs were urged to ensure investors do not live under the environment of uncertainty so that they expand their operations.

"Master of the high court is busy with trust issues because of hostile takeover by some members of the board who put their interests first at the expense of community resulting in court cases.

This is worrisome because the trust core mandate is to sustainably manage natural resources so that they benefit community not individuals," he added urging CBOs to take tourism as a business that could reduce poverty and create employment opportunities.

For a long time, some community

trusts, Mr Mmolotsi said had been generating P8 million to P10 million annually but that revenue did not reflect in their communities because it was wasted on court cases.

Furthermore, he said plans are underway to subdivide big concession to ensure other communities without concessions benefit.

Moreover, he said some big concessions, are underutilised as investors only focus on small portion while the other remain idling.

The minister also informed the gathering that the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) act was signed early January this year and regulations would soon be finalised.

The implementation of the act, he said was delayed by the regulations but hoped that by June, they would be in use.

The minister also assured community trusts that the government has no intentions to take over trusts as some people think that the development of the act may take their powers.

He explained that the act aims to formalise and strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources by local communities, ensuring they derive economic benefits from wildlife and tourism.

The act focuses on enhancing CBOs transparency and accountability, addressing mismanagement and ensuring funds are used for local community development. North West district commissioner, Mr Thabang Waloka concurred that poor governance had paralysed many trusts operations citing weak generation of revenue, maladministration and infights.

However, he appreciated that with the CBNRM act in place, trusts will embrace best practices and build stronger, more resilience organisations that truly serve their communities.

He acknowledged that some trusts are excelling as they are implanting tangible projects citing Okavango Community Trust which owns a general dealer, a mortuary, hardware, a lodge and a cultural village benefiting five villages of Seronga, Betsha, Eretsha, Gudingwa and Gunotsoga respectively.

For their part, some members of the CBOs called for capacity building of trusts saying it is crucial for sustainable development and developing sound governance structures.

Capacity building, they said should focus on strengthening community structures and promoting sustainable economic opportunities to boost community resilience. **BOPA**



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (centre) addressing a press conference on the recently adjourned session of the 13th Parliament in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Mohwasa said Parliament has passed 17 bills and three key national policies, a major acceleration of the national transformative agenda. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

Parliament enacts 17 bills to support development agenda

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

Government has marked a significant legislative milestone after passing 17 bills and three key national policies during the recently adjourned session of the 13th Parliament, a major acceleration of the national transformative agenda.

In the endeavour to put in place an effective legislative and policy framework to support the execution of such an agenda, the 17 bills from the 13th Parliament were passed into Acts of Parliament and will only become laws once assented to by the President, as provided for in Section 87 of the Constitution.

Briefing the media on Monday, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, stated that the meeting also passed three government policies, reflecting significant progress from the first meeting, which only passed six government bills.

Minister Mohwasa noted that it was government's commitment to continuously review and renew laws and policies to ensure that they remained relevant to the national development agenda, as well as emerging regional and international issues that required adjustment if the country was to become a well-respected nation.

"As the Umbrella for Democratic Change government, we have embarked on the important task of reviewing existing laws to promote inclusive growth and quality lives which was the overall theme of the UDC's 2024 election manifesto,"

Mr Mohwasa said.

He stated that government would, in reviewing existing laws or policies, never lose sight of the human rights-focused agenda of the UDC government.

Mr Mohwasa further noted that the passing of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 14 of 2025) was one of the milestone government achievements in line with nurturing human rights advocacy.

Of the 66 legislators in attendance on the day, 50 voted in favour, while 15 voted against and one MP did not participate in the voting exercise.

Gazetted in July 2025, the Bill sought to amend the Constitution to remove constitutional jurisdiction from the High Court, providing a specialised court for constitutional interpretation and the validity of laws. The Bill also sought to amend the Constitution in order to establish a Constitutional Court as part of the country's judicial system and final arbiter on constitutional matters, aiming to protect fundamental rights and strengthen judicial checks.

With the country currently operating on a budget deficit, Mr Mohwasa noted that it was equally important for Parliament to pass the second reading of the Stock, Bonds and Treasury Bill (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 2 of 2026), which aimed to amend Section 20 of the Stock, Bonds and Treasury Bills Act of 2005 by raising the statutory ceiling on outstanding public debt and government-guaranteed debt from 40 to 60 per cent of the Gross

Domestic Product (GDP).

He said Parliament also adopted the National Youth Policy 2026-2036 and its Implementation Plan, a defining step forward for young people which was also testament of government full intent to transform the livelihoods of the youth.

The National Youth Policy 2026-2036 aims to address that which had not worked for young people in past policies and aligned itself with National Vision 2036, National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).

The framework is anchored on five strategic pillars with strong emphasis on digital transformation and economic inclusion, by integrating STEAM and TVET education with AI and innovation, the policy would to prepare youth for a future dominated by technology while simultaneously fostering entrepreneurial skills and global competitiveness.

Minister Mohwasa further stated that Parliament also adopted the Revised National Policy on Rural Development as well as the National Agricultural Policy of 2025.

Regarding to private members' motions, he stated that 25 motions were submitted for consideration, of which four were negated, three were adopted, while the debate on two motions was not concluded at the time Parliament adjourned on April 17. He indicated that of 447 questions submitted, 293 were noticed while 281 were answered. **BOPA**

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Daily Business

'Build job-creating enterprises'

By Portia Rapitsenyane
PALAPYE

Bagodi Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS) has been encouraged to build enterprises that create jobs, sustain livelihoods and strengthen the communities.

Director in the Department of Cooperative Development, Ms Moipidi Nkwane made the call at the recent launch of the newly registered Bagodi SACCOS (formed by retired police officers) in Palapye.

Ms Nkwane implored Bagodi SACCOS members to aim to make a difference and touch lives through their society and utilise their cooperative identity as a source of strength to secure the welfare of the members while contributing meaningfully to the national agenda of economic empowerment and sustainable development.

She also encouraged them to model Bagodi SACCOS to live up to its name 'the older generation' by honouring the past, safeguarding the present and creating a resilient and inclusive future.

"The strength we carry into retirement is sufficient to make us proud, secure and able to enjoy our lives with dignity. Yet, let us also remember that in African tradition, responsibilities do not end with retirement. Respect is sustained not by age alone, but by remaining resourceful and purposeful. A retiree who is broke and disengaged risks losing the honour that comes with years of service," she said.

She therefore appealed to members to use Bagodi SACCOS as a platform to transform their collective discipline into economic resilience, through fruitful deliberations guided by wisdom and a shared vision for growth and prosperity.

Ms Nkwane said the launch of Bagodi SACCOS marked the beginning of a transformative journey, where collective vision and unity as retired police officers would now be channelled into building financial empowerment, solidarity and sustainable livelihoods.

She congratulated Bagodi SACCOS members for the remarkable step that they had taken, adding that what began as an informal modest scheme had now transformed into a registered cooperative society, reflecting their discipline, foresight and commitment to sustainability.

She said by choosing the cooperative path, they had secured a foundation for their own livelihoods while setting an inspiring example of resilience and innovation for others.

"Through this SACCOS, you have demonstrated that service to the nation does not end with retirement, it continues in building prosperity, uplifting communities and leaving a lasting legacy," she said.

Ms Nkwane stated that the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, supported Bagodi SACCOS for its alignment

Through this SACCOS, you have demonstrated that service to the nation does not end with retirement, it continues in building prosperity, uplifting communities and leaving a lasting legacy

with national economic goals and urged the cooperative to prioritise women recruitment to enhance diversity and sustainability.

She noted that ahead of them lied a mammoth task of implementation and compliance, with responsibilities and accountabilities that cannot be taken lightly.

Furthermore, she emphasised that the prosperity and sustainability of their SACCOS would depend on building a strong governance foundation to ensure transparency in operations and adhere faithfully to cooperative principles and values.

However, she assured them that while such may sound straightforward given the discipline and background of their membership, cooperating for a good cause was not always easy.

She urged them to build and sustain a culture of accountable leadership, robust financial management systems and operations guided by sound policies and regulations.

She added that compliance with anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism and counter proliferation financing protocols, together with respect for prudential requirements, must be at the heart of their operations. **BOPA**



Director in the Department of Cooperative Development, Ms Moipidi Nkwane at the launch of Bagodi SACCOS in Palapye recently. She said the launch of Bagodi SACCOS marked the beginning of a transformative journey, where collective vision and unity as retired police officers would now be channelled into building financial empowerment, solidarity and sustainable livelihoods. Photo: Portia Rapitsenyane

FMD outbreak delays opening of abattoir

Naomi Leepile
TSABONG

Government has postponed the official opening of the Tsabong Multi-Species Abattoir, which had been scheduled for May, citing the ongoing Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak.

Acting Minister of Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti confirmed that the outbreak has made it impossible for the state-of-the-art facility to open its doors to the public as planned. He described the delay as a strategic move to protect the integrity, reputation and goodwill of the facility.

"Opening an export-led and export-ready abattoir while the disease is active in containment zones is risky. It has potential for

international blacklisting before the first carcass could even be processed," Dr Dikoloti said.

The minister stressed that the facility remained a priority, but its success rests on the nation's ability to eradicate the Foot and Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV) in the coming months. The Veterinary Services Department has set an ambitious target of three to six months to suppress the virus.

Dr Dikoloti highlighted progress in the Good Hope District, where vaccination rates have soared above 95 per cent. Approximately 20 000 animals have already been vaccinated in the Ramatlabama area. However, he warned that vaccination is not a 'cure-all.'

"Vaccination fundamentally changes the status of the herd,

impacting cattle prices, ownership protocols, and movement within containment zones," he said.

Calling for honesty among farmers, the minister urged them to report FMD-related issues to authorities promptly. He quoted a Setswana proverb, Tla re seka ra baa thako le molomo botsetsi, a warning against hiding signs of the disease.

He likened compliance with FMD measures to the biblical story of Naaman, who was healed after humbling himself to follow Prophet Elisha's instructions to wash seven times in the River Jordan.

"Absolute compliance with movement restrictions and veterinary protocols is the only path to prevent further dwindling of the national herd," Dr Dikoloti said.

To bolster containment efforts, government plans to strengthen and potentially double patrols along zone boundaries to curb illegal livestock movement.

The minister also called for a revival of volunteerism, commending Mephato and volunteers already assisting.

He further appealed to the clerical community to pray for the nation and the eradication of the disease.

Despite the delay, Dr Dikoloti said the farming community remained adamant that the FMD outbreak would soon be 'a thing of the past.'

He assured the public that the battle would be won only if all stakeholders cherished the value of maintaining cattle health. **BOPA**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Officials call for harnessing science and technology

ADDIS ABABA - African officials have called for urgent and coordinated actions to harness science, technology and digital innovation as key drivers of economic transformation and sustainable development. They made the call during the eighth African Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum, held by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) from Sunday to Monday in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. Ugandan Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Monica Musenero Masanza stressed the need for concerted continental efforts on STI as a central pillar to Africa's socio-economic transformation, industrialization, value addition, and job creation. **Xinhua**

Norway, Ukraine sign agreement to launch drone production

OSLO - Norway and Ukraine have signed an agreement to launch joint production of Ukrainian drones in Norway, the Norwegian government said on Monday. The agreement was signed in Kyiv by Norway's Ambassador to Ukraine Lars Ragnar Aalerud Hansen and Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Sergiy Boyev, according to a statement from Norway's Ministry of Defense. The Ukrainian manufacturer has told the Norwegian Ministry of Defense that it expects the first Norwegian-produced systems to be delivered to Ukraine before this summer, the statement said. Norwegian Defense Minister Tore Sandvik said the cooperation marks 'an important and concrete step' toward deeper Norwegian-Ukrainian defense cooperation. The agreement will also facilitate bilateral industrial cooperation, including efforts to strengthen supply chains and establish joint research. **Xinhua**

Symposium to unlock trade benefits

NAIROBI - Kenya hosted a high-level symposium on Monday to strategise on maximising China's zero-tariff policy, a move seen as a major milestone in strengthening economic and trade ties between the two countries. The event, themed 'Zero Tariffs, Infinite Opportunities,' brought together government officials, enterprise leaders, and business associations from both China and Kenya to discuss the effective implementation of the policy, which is set to take effect on May 1. Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Guo Haiyan said all parties agreed that the zero-tariff policy is a significant milestone in upgrading China-Kenya economic and trade cooperation, noting that by reducing institutional costs, the zero-tariff policy has significantly enhanced the competitiveness. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

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Go bothokwa go fa bagolo tlotlo le seriti - Motshegwa

Lindi Morwaeng
RAMOTSWA

Go bothokwa go fa bagolo tlotlo le seriti le go ba lemoga ka ba le bothokwa mo setshabeng.

Se se builwe ke tona wa lephata la dikgaolo le merero ya tsa selegae Rre Ketshogile Motshegwa kwa moletlong o o neng o diretswe bagodi go lemoga karolo ya bone mo setshabeng ka Labotlhano kwa Ramotswa.

Tona o ne re go maleba go tlamela le go tlhokomela bagodi ka ke bone batshereganyi le bakaedi mo setshabeng, e bile ba tliša kgolagano le bothale mo setshabeng le mo malapeng tota.

“Bagodi ke bone ba tlišang tshereganyi mo setshabeng ka e bile go na le kwelo tlase ya boitshwaro le boikgapo mo bananeng bone ba go dumelwang fa e le bone bagodi ba lefatshe leno ba kamoso,” tona Motshegwa a kaya jalo.

O tswetse a tšhalosa gore se se dirilweng ke bagokaganyi ba moletlo oo ke tlotloetso mo setshabeng go tsaya malebela go ya pele gore mang le mang a gwehlhege go direla bagodi tlotla le tšhwanelo eo ya go ba lemoga.

O bile a gatelela gore seo se ruta banana gore ba kwatabolotse mo go bone go isa lefatshe leno ko pele.

Le fa go ntse jalo o tšhalositse fa e le boikarabelo jwa puso go tlhokomela bagodi ka ba sa tlhole ba na le tokololo, le gone go lemoga seabe sa bone mo setshabeng, a tšhalosa fa dikatso tsa bagodi tse di dirwang ke puso e le tšela nngwe ya go ba tlamela.

Fa godimo ga moo tona a re go bothokwa go rotloetsa botsogo kwa moding jaaka go itšhidila mmele.

Ka jalo a re di khansela di tšala dira mafelo a itšhidilo mmele go rotloetsa batho gore ba itšhidile.

Fa a tšwa la gagwe mongwe wa balalediwa ba tlotla Mme Ndiko

Muzila a re go lemoga batsadi ke go dira se Modimo a se batlang, segolo thata ka jaana go tšhelwa mo malatsing a go sa tšholeng go tlotlwa bagolo kgotsa batsadi.

Mme Muzila a re le ntswa ditšhwanelo di siame, o tšhalositse fa ditšhwanelo e le dilo tsa tšhaloganyo fa tlotlo yone e le selo sa pelo.

A re fa gotwe bagolo ke dipilara go tewa gore bothale le bokaedi bo kwatwabololwa mo go bone. Ka jalo a re o tšhwentswe ke gore setšhaba se latlhegetswe ke ngwao ya go itse gore mogolo mongwe le mongwe ke motsadi .

A re tšhaba e e sa lemogeng batsadi kgotsa bagolo ke mo ka e latlhegileng.

Dr Lesego Ramaphane gotsa sepateleng sa Marina, o tšibositse bagolo ka bothokwa jwa go tsaya botsogo jwa bone tsia ka jaana botsogo jwa bone e le botshelo jwa bone.

O gakolotse bagodi gore ba tšhwanelo go itšhokomela ka dilo tse ba di dirang tsatsi le letsatsi jaaka go itšhidila mebele ka ditiro tsa lelwapa tsa tsatsi le letsatsi le go ja dijo tsa Setswana.

A re fa ba itšhokomela ba felela ba dira gore botshelo jwa bone bo nne mo taolong ya bone. O rotloeditse bagodi go tšibogela go ya bongakeng go itšhatlhobela malwetsi ka go farologana ka e bile malwetsi a a sa tšhelanweng a ile magoletsa.

Morulaganyi wa moletlo oo e bile e le mosimolodise wa Bagaka ba Pele foundation Rre Kelemogile Ramasu a re moletlo oo, o setlhogo sa one e leng ‘Go lemoga bagodi jaaka dipilara mo setshabeng’ maikaelelo a one ke go keteka moletlo ka go tlhola le bagolo ba fiwa ditirelo ka go farologana le dithuto tsa botsogo, go ba tšhatlhobela makoa ka go farologana le go ba ntlafatsa jaaka go ba beola meriri. A re tse tšotlhe ke sekao sa go lemoga karolo e ba e dirileng mo setshabeng. **BOPA**



Modulasetilo wa khansela ya Palapye Rre Kabo Ketshogile, (bobedi molemeng) jaaka a ne a ile go lekola kokelwana ya GooSekgweng bosheng. O gakolotse dikomiti tsa ditšhabololo tsa motse le ya batsadi le barutabana go tsaya karolo mo go tšhabololeng metse ya bone. Senephe: Portia Rapitsenyane

A dikomiti di thuse go tšhabolola metse

Portia Rapitsenyane
PALAPYE

Modulasetilo wa khansela Mya Palapye, Rre Kabo Ketshogile, o gakolotse dikomiti tsa ditšhabololo tsa motse le ya batsadi le barutabana go tsaya karolo mo go tšhabololeng metse ya bone.

O ne a re dikomiti bogolo jang ya ditšhabololo tsa motse, di tšhwanelo go tšibogele diemo tse e ka kgonang go thusa mo go tsone.

O buile se fa etetse kwa Gootau, Matlhakola, Manaledi, Goosekgweng, Mokungwane le Lecheng, kwa kgaolong ya

tšwapong bokone, go bona seemo sa dikago tsa puso le go itseela ka tšebe dikgwetlho tse di ba lebaneng.

Rre Ketshogile o kaile fa dingwe dilelo tsa metse, e le tse ba ka di tšibogelang, ka di sa lope madi a a kalo.

O kgalemile maloko ba go utlwalang fa le fa madi a le teng, a sa a dirise a supa fa madi a komiti ya ditšhabololo tsa motse a sa tšhwanela go nna fela a sa dirisiwe mo ditšhabololong tsa motse.

A re badiri ba lenaneo la Ipelegeng ba kopiwe go thusa go tšhagola kwa dikoleng le go phepafatsa dikago mo diemo tse go a bong go sena mophepafatsi

e le ka lebaka la gore o a bo a le mo botsetsing kana a seyo ka nakwana.

Go supagetse fa dikole di lebanwe ke letlhoko la ditlo le dijo tsa baithuti gareng ga tse dingwe, fa dikokelwana ka go farologana di tšhalelwa ke dipilisi tsa madi a matona (high blood pressure), dipilisi tse di kokobetsang ditšhabi (pain killers) le melemo wa allegex.

Rre Ketshogile a re fa ba sena go bona seemo, khansela e tla a tšhanya tšhogo go bona gore e ka thusa fa kae ka ponyo ya leitlho. A re dikgang tse di sa ameng khansela o tšala di romela kwa maphateng a a lebaneng go thusa. Ends **BOPA**

Batsadi ba kopiwa go tsaya maikarabelo

Thokozani Matiba
METSIMOTLHABE

Thuto le kgodiso ya ngwana ke boikarabelo jwa batsadi ka tšhwaragano ya barutabana, gore ngwana a gole a na le maikarabelo le isago e e kgatlhisang.

Mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Mmopane/Metsimotlhabe, Mme Helen Manyeneng o supile

bothokwa jwa tšhwaragano ya batsadi le barutabana, go ntsha maduo a a bonalang mo dithutong tsa bana.

O ne a bua kwa kopanong jwa batsadi le barutabana kwa sekoleng sa Ikageng kwa Metsimotlhabe, a re maitsholo a baithuti a e seng o ne, ke sengwe sa dilo tse di bakang maduo a ditšhatlhobo a a kwa tlase.

Mme Manyeneng o gateletse gore ngwana ke wa motsadi mongwe le mongwe ka ebile, fa ngwana a supa maitsholo a a sa itumediseng, ga go phoso gore motsadi a kope thuso mo boeteleding pele jwa motse go tšhanya ngwana mo tšeleng.

O kopile batsadi go sa loba fa ba babalelwa ke mabaka a botshelo ka se, se kgona go ama tiro ya ngwana ya sekole.

Mogokgo wa sekole, Mme

Kesaobaka Matsoma a re ngwana fa a tsena mo dingwageng tse di lesome le boraro go ya kwa go tse di lesome le boferabongwe, o na le go fetoga maikutlo mo go tšhokang tšhwaragano ya motsadi le morutabana.

A re go tšhanya letsogo mo sekoleng ga batsadi, go ka lere diphetogo mo matšhelong le dithuto tsa bana.

Fa a tšhalosa maikaelelo a bokopano le batsadi, Morutabana wa Guidance and Counselling, Mme Tumedi Anigwo o supile fa go le bothokwa go nna le dipuisano ka boitekanelo jwa bana, magareng ga batsadi le ba na-le-seabe, go abelana dikgang tse di amang bana le batsadi.

A re go dira jalo go tšhofofatsa go bua le bana. Mme Anigwo o

kopile batsadi go emisa go kopana le barutabana fela fa ba tšala go amogela maduo a bana a paka.

Mo boemong jwa batsadi monni wa Metsimotlhabe gape e le mogokgo wa pele wa sekole, Mme Tšhesana Mmesetse o gateletse bothokwa jwa gore sekole se itsege ka maitsholo kgatlhisang.

A re a paka ya sekole e seka ya amangwa le ditiro tse di bosula, bana ba emise go gobeya mebila ba e apere fa ba se mo sekoleng, matlo a boithutelo a nne a le mo seemo se se siamemg ebile yo o o senyang dithoto tsa sekole a tšeelwe dikgato.

Mookamedi ebile e le mosimolodisi wa sekole sa Dawn Bell, Moruti Ndiko Muzila, o supile fa batsadi ba sa tlhole ba tšhokomela bana. A re didirisiwa tsa maranyane le madi ke tsone tse di emiseditseng

tlhokomelo ya batsadi.

A re batsadi ba tšhokomologile boikarabelo jwa bone, ba bo rwesitse barutabana.

Moruti Muzila o kgothatitse batsadi go emisa go nna bonolo thata mo baneng gape, ba nne le botsala jo bo supang pharologano gareng ga ngwana le motsadi.

Mokhanselara wa legare la Metsimotlhabe, Rre Seabo Marumo o boletse fa a bereka go kgalema baithuti ba ba jang ditagi, le go kopanela dikobo mo dijarateng tse di matlotla. A re go bothokwa gore baithuti a rutiwe ka bodiphatsa jwa ditagi le boimana ja bana.

O kgothatitse batsadi go nna le botsalano le bana ba bone, gore ba gololesege go bua maikutlo a bone le bana, ba supegetse bana lorato le tlotloetso. **BOPA**

Celebrating Nationhood

What is one thing you wish to **start doing** differently to **improve** your life?



Vivian Kgakgamatso

To choose my self more and being informed enough (educate), and stop trusting people too much. Trust my self more and give my self credit for the effort i put in everything i do and hustle harder for my family and not being afraid to take risks when it comes to hustling.



Refilwe Moatshe

Being open minded to different people, cultures. We can learn so much and become better people by simply being curious about that which is different from what we are accustomed to, a growth mindset.



Refilwe Pheto

One thing I want to start doing differently is how I treat myself. I want to reduce self doubt and increase confidence in myself, change my daily habits and work on improving my mental health. I want to focus on being more productive, building a better routine and learning to live more in the present than the past.



Joseph Rakadi

One thing I want to start doing differently is choosing my circle with more intention. I've learned that who you walk with shapes where you go. I want friends who challenge me, pray with me, and celebrate my wins without envy. #Quality over quantity.

Discipline and decision-making. I want to fully own every decision I make and be more intentional about my actions. Like former president Seretse Khama Ian Khama once said, discipline is key, without discipline, there is chaos. I believe real change in my life starts with that foundation.



Kedirelang Buka

I want to start keeping everything for me not telling everyone what I'm doing, and not exposing everything I'm doing. Also I want not to talk too much, just staying home cutting all the unnecessary visits. Just focusing in God to protect my life.



Kopo Mosweunyane

To be more consistent in prayer and discipline. Small daily habits will help me grow spiritually, academically and personally.

I wish I had been more selective about the voices I listened to. Not every opinion deserves influence over your life.

I also wish I had taken more risks and stepped out of my comfort zone earlier.

Growth comes from taking chances, and sometimes fear holds us back from opportunities that could shape us.

Godfrey Dictator

One thing i want to change is drinking alcohol as I believe that i spend a lot of money on it.

I would wish to have explored the opportunity of schooling outside the country.

Nnyladzi Hloma



Motheo James

The one thing I want to start doing differently to improve my life is using my time more intentionally.

Being an actor, a hustler, and a student at Limkokwing University means I have many goals: I want to earn more, improve my living standard, pass my modules, and appear more in the creative industry. To achieve all of this, I need to plan my days better, set priorities, and stay consistent.

By changing how I manage my time, I believe I can create a healthier balance, grow financially, and build my presence as a creative.



Pontso Mazenyane

Well I'do start being more constituent with life plan, adhere strictly to the goals I set and avoid procrastination at all costs.



Paul Bogatsu

One thing I want to start doing differently to improve my life is becoming more disciplined and consistent in everything I do. I want to focus more on my goals, use my time wisely, and avoid distractions that don't help me grow. I know this is the time to build my future, learn new skills, and make better decisions so I can have a stable and successful life ahead.

Ke eng se o batlang go se **dira ka pharologanyo** go **tokafatsa botshelo** jwa gago?

Arts & Culture



Shigyakao Cultural Group performing at the Wayeyi Cultural festival in Gumare recently. Wayeyi community royal representative from Namibia, Mashazi Qamaywa appreciated the ties shared by the Wayeyi in Botswana and Namibia, advocating for the preservation of the Wayeyi legacy through festivals and documentation. Photo: Kedirebofe Pelontle

Molelwa calls for joint cultural event

Kedirebofe Pelontle
GUMARE

It is in the best interest of the diverse tribes residing in the Okavango District, to come up with a collaborative cultural event that would unite them.

The event would celebrate their rich cultural diversity and heritage while strengthening unity of Hambukushu, Wayeyi and Basarwa, tribes found in the region.

Kgosi Moitshepi Molelwa of Gumare suggested, during the recent Wayeyi Cultural Festival that was held in Gumare.

The same sentiments are shared by Wayeyi community Royal representative from Namibia, Mashazi Qamaywa, who appreciated the ties shared by the Wayeyi in Namibia and Botswana, who advocated for

the preservation of the Wayeyi legacy through festivals and documentation.

He said more could be done through hosting inter-games and bilingual story telling activities.

The Wayeyi are known for being peaceful and co-existing well with other cultural groups, a virtue that should be preserved in Botswana and Namibia, said Qamaywa. **BOPA**



Kgosi Moitshepi Molelwa

Xwalla da Cash champions Afrokhoi sounds

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Kabelo Xakarara, a Sanchima native popularly known as Xwalla Da Cash, discovered his passion for music at a young age while in Standard 3 at Kathiana Primary School, Shakawe.

"I started as a traditional dancer in Standard 3, and later joined the Shakawe Junior Secondary School band as a dancer, backing vocalist, and drummer," said Xakarara, who commands the stage under the name Xwalla Da Cash.

Now based in Ghanzi, the 34-year-old artist identifies his genre as Afrokhoi, a unique fusion of San and Khoi cultural influences prominent in the

western parts of Botswana.

"I chose Afrokhoi because I wanted to bring something different to the music industry and incorporate my cultural traditions, especially tsutsube, into contemporary music. Being Mosarwa, this is part of who I am," he explained.

Xakarara credits his musical journey to the influence of the late Afro-kwasa legend Sisco Bee, as well as Nigerian star Tekno.

Over the years, Xwalla Da Cash has released several projects, including albums such as *New Style*, *Take Over*, and *Intshwarele*. He has also recorded more than 20 singles, with his latest release being *Chipi ke Chipi*.

His debut 12-track album, *New Style*, was recorded in 2019 at MAC Records and produced by

Operrance Pasi, also known as MAC Pasi, from Zambia.

"I titled it *New Style* because I was introducing Afrokhoi music, a blend of *tsutsube* and *rhumba*. Today, the genre is gaining momentum through artistes like Chokoma and Juu Matere," he said.

Chipi ke Chipi delivers an energetic mix of rhumba rhythms and tsutsube-inspired beats, creating a sound that resonates deeply with African audiences.

Chipi ke Chipi means who you are is who you are, it is about embracing your identity, Xwalla explained.

Nicknamed 'Phoko ya Mosarwa', the artiste has performed at several notable events, including the 2018 Miss World Communications

sponsored by Mascom, Miss Ghanzi shows, the Tro Music Festival alongside Chokoma, Batte Hoo in Maun, and most recently, Golden Nights with Alfredo Mos.

Xwalla's ultimate dream is to see Afrokhoi music grow into a defining element of Botswana's cultural identity.

Lorato Rodgers expressed pride in his work: "Every time I watch Xwalla's music videos, I feel proud. You are doing well, keep pushing. Music is in your blood," she said.

Keenekgosi Mhapha from Sanchima reflected on Xwalla's journey, "I have seen his passion since 2006 when he joined the school band and traditional dance group. It was clear he was destined for greatness." **BOPA**

DailySport



On your marks! Set...



Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

In just three days, the heavy silence that precedes a gunshot will settle over the track, followed by the rhythmic pulse that every sprinter knows by heart - "On your marks, get set, go!"

On May 2-3, Botswana becomes the epicentre of the track and field world. The Debswana World Athletics Relays will see athletes from 40 different nations descend upon the capital, all hunting for podium finishes. But while the world watches the clock, the local crowd will be

watching their own and it awaits the roar of the Blue, Black and White as Botswana braces for the Relays glory.

In international athletics, the home crowd is often cited as the invisible teammate. Normally, during these competitions, the host team receives a deafening wave of cheers that their competitors simply cannot match. The burning question remaining is, is Team Botswana ready to channel that energy into a state of frenzy?

The pressure is immense, but the camp remains a fortress of calm.

For star sprinter Letsile Tebogo, the mission is that the team has spent their time sharpening their skills in the quiet of Boteti, away from the noise of the city.

"I think we are ready to fight for our country," Tebogo said, his focus unshakable. "Preparations have been going well... we asked the management to minimise meetings because, during race week, we need to focus. If there were queries, we left them in Boteti."

His teammates share that quiet confidence. Bhekimpilo Eppie noted that the team is ready to deliver, while Obakeng Kamberuka emphasised that the time for talking is over.

"The

"Preparations have been going well... we asked the management to minimise meetings because, during race week, we need to focus. If there were queries, we left them in Boteti."

coaches have done their part. What is left is for us to execute what we have been doing at training... we have to step up and deliver," Kamberuka said.

Behind the scenes, the preparation has been a gruelling journey from Letlhakane to the capital. Coach Justice Dipeba has been monitoring every stride, particularly looking at the transition from the FNB Botswana Golden Grand Prix held this past Sunday.

"The focus is where we wanted it. We had athletes competing on Sunday and saw some good times, but we will finish up this week by focusing strictly on speed," Dipeba said.

Ensuring those 'speed machines' remain operational is the team physiotherapist, Clement Gauthuse.

Preparations are complete. The training is done. Now, it is over to you, Mr Starter.
Photos: Phenyo Ramatu



Letsile Tebogo

Coach Justice Dipeba

Obakeng Kamberuka

Bhekimpilo Eppie

O-Green steps in for Debswana World Relays

Pako Lebanna
GABORONE

As excitement builds ahead of the historic World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026 scheduled for this weekend, O-Green, a pioneering renewable energy company, has become one of the event sponsors.

The sponsorship was announced on Monday during a joint press conference with the Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture.

O-Green Project Director and Okavango Solar Director, Dzhasur Tashpulator, said the company would provide refreshment stands for volunteers and athletes, as well as smart watches, branding banners, and flags to enhance the visibility of the event across the city.

O-Green Sustainable Energy, an Omani renewable energy firm, is currently developing the recently commissioned 500 MW solar-plus-battery project in Maun.

Tashpulator added that the company aimed to build a long-term partnership with Botswana athletics by upgrading training equipment for athletes and offering a one-year sponsorship contract to the top three finishing athletes from Team Botswana.

"We also plan to provide Garmin running smartwatches to the top six performing athletes and offer a one-year sponsorship contract to the top three finishing athletes from Team Botswana," he said.

O-Green's Manager for National Workforce and Local Content Development, Aber Ali Al Kalbani, emphasised the company's commitment to sustained collaboration beyond the event, noting their interest in supporting the revival of school sports.

"To commit to a long term partnership we would like to sit with the Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture to unpack the matter of school sports and see how we can reintegrate them", she stated.

Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Jacob Kelebeng, expressed appreciation for the sponsorship, noting that it would address critical needs and contribute to the success of the landmark event.

The relays will take place at the National Stadium this Saturday and Sunday. **BOPA**