Embracing the Reset Agenda | “Adopting mindset change will result in self-actualisation among our people” President Mokgweetsi Masisi

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#BWmindsetchange

**Agric. transformation priority**

President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (left) and Gaselemogwe Senai, CEO of Water Utilities Cooperation (WUC) (second left), at a presentation by WUC Smart Prepaid Metering Solution Programme manager Mr Odirile Lelhatshane (second right) and Mr Kabelo Mphotho, IT project engineer, during the opening of the Ghanzi Show on Friday. President Masisi highlighted the government’s dedication to transforming the agricultural sector by integrating cutting-edge agricultural technology for improved and optimised outcomes. Photo: Godfrey Mpuse
First Lady, Merck Foundation partnership empowers women

By Gentle Merafe

GABORONE First Lady Neo Masisi says in collaboration with Merck Foundation she has plans to uplift women from poverty.

Speaking during a visit to Old Naledi recently where the foundation donated sewing machines to the community, Ms Masisi said in partnership with Kgosi Mohlhaltsi Pale, they had noted that gender-based violence (GBV) on women was on the rise and needed mitigation strategies.

Since the women groups were not registered, beneficiaries were identified through the help of the Village Development Committee (VDC).

Ms Masisi said alleviating poverty and fighting GBV, they collaborated with the foundation which assisted with sewing machines.

She said they prioritised women in low-income areas and communities below the poverty datum line because the goal was to leave no one behind.

Further, the First Lady noted that the foundation had a foot print in other parts of the country and that they planned to spread their net further.

Ms Masisi said poverty and stigma made women vulnerable and that female headed households had partners who controlled or abused them, adding that it was hidden and that many went unreported. ‘If it’s not them, we know it’s their daughters,” she said.

She said by sewing and selling their products, women would empower their daughters indirectly and that there would be less child sexual abuse, saying that due to poverty some mothers had sold their children.

Ms Masisi told Old Naledi women that they had identified a seasoned fashion designer who would transfer skills to them.

As for her part, Old Naledi Umbrella VDC chairperson, Ms Monene Kgositutle acknowledged that they received four sewing machines, and that they used them to make school uniforms, track suits and other items to generate income.

Merck Foundation representatives said they were impressed with the zeal and enthusiasm that they had seen and that the project would develop and improve the women’s livelihoods.

Botswana, The Bahamas strengthen ties

By Moshe Galeragwe

GABORONE - In a continued effort to deepen their bilateral relations and explore opportunities for trade, Botswana and the Commonwealth of The Bahamas have engaged in a series of high-level visits and discussions.

The recent events included President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi’s state visit to The Bahamas in September last year, followed by an official visit to Botswana by The Bahamas Prime Minister, Mr Phillip Davis, in March this year.

Today, Botswana is set to welcome the Governor General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Ms Dame Cynthia Alexandra Pratt, on a state visit at the invitation of President Masisi.

This visit comes at a time when both nations are making significant progress in enhancing their bilateral relations, particularly in sectors such as tourism, finance, trade, and investment.

Following Mr Davis’s official visit, the leaders of Botswana and The Bahamas announced plans to expand cooperation in areas such as tourism, education, agriculture, and finance by June 2024.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on political consultations has already been signed, along with an MoU between Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) to facilitate student and staff exchanges, joint research projects, and academic programme development.

Moreover, Botswana has extended scholarships and graduate spaces to students from The Bahamas, while The Bahamas has provided access to a depository facility at the Grand Bahama Port to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

During discussions, the leaders also addressed political and security issues in their respective regions, acknowledging the prevailing peace and stability in Southern Africa with some noted exceptions.

Mr Davis thanked Botswana’s commitment to lift the embargo, allowing women to develop and improve the country’s economy.

He also expressed gratitude to the Botswana government for the annual Desert Racing competition.

Meanwhile, a press release from Ministry of Foreign Affairs says Governor General Ms Alexandra Pratt state visit from July 29 to August 2 aims to further strengthen bilateral relations, as well as establish new and existing political dialogue.

While in Botswana, the Governor General will hold official talks with President Masisi and also receive updates on the implementation of decisions emanating from the official visit to Botswana by the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Mr Phillip Davis in March 2024 as well as the visit undertaken by President Masisi to The Bahamas in September 2023.

Additionally, the press release says the Governor General will among others visit the Diamond Trading Company Botswana (DTCB).

It says Botswana and The Bahamas established formal diplomatic relations in May 2006. Over the years, the two countries have enjoyed cordial relations and have cooperated in various areas including education, particularly in the higher learning sector.

The Governor General will be accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Frederick Mitchell and senior government officials.

By Jeremiah Sejabosigo

LOBATSE - First Lady Neo Masisi says Machana Primary School is a little one in evidence of government’s commitment to make education accessible to every child in Botswana.

Ms Masisi highlighted this during her tour of the school, accompanied by the Queen of Lesotho Kingdom Mmaseenate Mohato Seeiso on Friday.

She said the school, which is in a small settlement of Machana several kilometres between Jwaneng and Pitseng, provided an opportunity for children from the settlement to access education close to the homes instead of having to travel long distances for school.

“The objective of this tour is to show Her Majesty the Queen of Lesotho clear evidence of strides made by the government of Botswana in the education of our children. It was a gesture to show her results of the effort made by President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi to help children and families access education in their village without having to travel to Pitseng,” she said.

She expressed gratitude to Debswana Mine in Jwaneng for its continued support of the school.

Queen Seeiso, who was in Botswana for the annual Desert Bush Walk, commended the effort made by government to make education accessible to children living in remote areas.

“The effort made by the government of Botswana to provide children in Machana with a school is a commendable one. Children should be provided with an enabling environment to access education which is key for their development as future leaders of the country,” she said.

Queen Seeiso donated stationery to the school.

The school head, Ms Mary Mbiuki pointed out that Machana Primary School had experienced significant growth since 2018. Ms Mbiuki said they started with 59 pupils and seven teachers and little infrastructure.

She said they currently had 230 pupils and 13 teachers.

In terms of infrastructure, she said they had one block of permanent classroom, seven temporary classrooms and seven temporary toilet blocks.

Moshupa District Council deputy chairperson, Mr Peter Sethelo shocked First Lady and Queen Seeiso for visiting the school and donating stationery.

He said they understood that the school had provided encouragement to learners to perform better and ultimately improve performance of the school.

“I also thank First Lady Masisi, the Patron of Machana Primary School for the usual support of the school,” he said. BOPA
Jwaneng underground production commences 2034

By Kehunile Moekejo

JWANENG — Plans to transition Jwaneng Mine from open pit to underground mining are progressing well, says Jwaneng Mine acting general manager, Mr Goteose Gødiele. He said the underground production, expected to commence in 2034 when the open pit period lapses, was expected to extend the lifespan of the mine beyond 2050.

Speaking during a mine tour by First Lady Ms Neo Masisi on Friday, who was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of Lesotho, Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Boitumelo Gomahodimo and Bangwaketse Moubamagadi, Maseti Gaseitswe, he said an Australian company, Redpath, was already on the ground doing preliminary works for the project.

“Our underground project started at the beginning of this year, and because we cannot do not have enough skills locally, we have engaged a contractor from Australia. They have started preliminary works and we are progressing very well,” he said.

Additionally, Mr Gødiele said they had embarked on sustainable initiatives intended to diversify the economy and drive economic activities beyond diamond mining. He noted that through the Diamond to Motion project, they were already mobilising farmers in the region in an endeavour to improve livestock productivity. He also noted that plans were underway to build a state-of-the-art agricultural park in Jwaneng to improve livestock productivity, food security and employment through agriculture.

“Further, he said they intended to intensify telling the Botswana natural diamond market was to ensure that it was quite low. “Our production per unit is very low. Statistics show low birth rates of less than 50 per cent in the main productive animals annually, high mortality rates for both cattle and small stock alike,” he said. All these, he said required a turn-around where productivity in agriculture was quite low.

“Government prioritises investing in agriculture as a primary sector that caters for big commercial farmers. Letlotlo and Thuo Letlotlo to the Ghanzi district agricultural show’s role as a beacon of growth for the people of Ghanzi and itself as a not-to-miss event in Botswana’s calendar, the show had succeeded in creating a conducive environment for farmers, business community and individuals through the creation of employment opportunities in transport operation, catering services, hospitality and artworks for the people of Ghanzi and beyond,” he said.

Mr Masisi said the show had encouraged gainful farming to some of those who interacted with it as it inspired some to venture into farming, while because of its influence, some had grown from being small subsistence farmers to become big commercial farmers.

Minister of Agriculture Mr Fidelis Molao concurred that government was indeed investing on re-establishing farming as one of the mainstays of the economy by reversing the current status quo where productivity in agriculture was quite low.

“Our production per unit is very low. Statistics show low birth rates of less than 50 per cent in the main productive animals annually, high mortality rates for more than 10 per cent are also recorded, low off-take for both cattle and small stock alike,” he said. All these, he said required a turn-around that encompassed the adoption of good management practices that could help enhance productivity levels. Mr Molao said as part of its interventions government had prioritised agriculture and the use of digital technology to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

“In view of the foregoing, government has partnership with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to remodel Lobu small stock farm into a smart farm by introducing smart productions and management systems. The technologies deployed include data management systems, animal health monitoring and online auctions and virtual trainings,” he said.

Another intervention he said was the upgrading of the Ramatlabama AI Centre from being a cattle AI centre to being an all-round national assisted reproductive laboratory, adding that a robust drive to build capacity in the area of human resource was also ongoing. Giving a vote of thanks, Ghanzi North MP, Mr John Thiite, expressed gratitude for the Ghanzi district agricultural show’s role as a beacon of growth and opportunity for local farmers and businesses.

The celebrations, not only reflected past achievements but also the district’s optimism for the future, benefitting both the region and the nation, he said.

Mr Thiite acknowledged government for introducing and implementing initiatives crucial for agricultural sector growth, acting as catalysts for innovation and transformation.

On other issues, the legislator highlighted several ongoing projects in the district, including land servicing, infrastructure development, clinic expansions, school construction and road improvements such as the Bere-Kagae access road and the East-West Hanahau-New Xade tarred road.
Ministry prioritises temporary teachers’ payments

GABORONE - Ministry of Education and Skills Development continues to reprioritise its budget to ensure timely payments of temporary teachers.

Responding to a Parliamentary question on Thursday, the Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development, Mr Aubrey Lesaso said the ministry spent around P27 million on monthly basis for payment of temporary teachers because, hence around P324 million required for the whole year. Sometimes, he noted, the ministry experienced shortage of funds.

The assistant minister highlighted that the 2023/2024 temporary teachers budget of P93 million was approved, adding that the amount had since proven to be insufficient.

Mr Lesaso explained that due to the nature of terms of temporary employment of being paid on the last day of the month, temporary teachers were subjected to delays in payment of salaries.

Meanwhile, he pointed out that the ministry currently had 3,708 temporary teachers across Botswana with 1,186 in the Central region, 531 in North West and South regions respectively.

He also said the total number of vacancies nationally was 1,101, of which 674 vacancies had been appointed for and awaiting assumption of duty by the teachers.

“The remaining 427 are at various stages of recruitment and are expected to be filed by the end of term three,” said Mr Lesaso.

Member of Parliament for Maun East, Mr Goretetse Kekgonegile had asked for an update on temporary teacher programme as well as the number of temporary teachers and their concentration per region.

MP Kekgonegile also wanted to know the total number of vacancies nationally and target financial year of filling the posts.

He further wanted to know the 2023/2024 budget for temporary teachers as well as reasons as to why workers were always paid late and mitigation strategies in place to correct the anomaly.

Mr Lesaso said the five year average enrolment for TTC was 333 at Tonota TTC, 330 for Molepolole TTC and 428 for Serowe TTC.

With regards to future use of Lobatse Teacher Training College, Mr Lesaso said there were no plans for the purpose of producing teachers because there were two other institutions being Serowe and Tlholoeng colleges of education, which served that purpose.

He pointed out that Lobatse TTC will continue being used for other government business.

Lobatse MP, Dr Thapelo Matsheka, said the government should not only take responsibility for teachers, but should also cater for students:

He said that was in line with the government’s decision to upgrade the colleges of education to offer programmes at bachelor’s degree level.

Mr Lesaso said the five year average enrolment rates for teacher training colleges in Botswana focussing on Tonota, Molepolole and Serowe colleges of education were conceptualised in 2018. He said only P4m was provided at the time, hence the decision to construct them in phases.

Mr Lesaso said that therefore meant that an additional P8m would be required to complete each satellite.

He said the funds would cater for the construction of kitchen and dining hall, training workshops, expansion of ablution locks as well as increasing office space to accommodate new staff members.

Mr Lesaso explained that under the Transitional National Development Plan, expansion of CITF satellite centres was allocated P6.5m adding that although the allocated funds were not enough, they were sufficient to add at least one new programme for each of the satellite centres.

The centres, located at Thamaga, Chobibe, Moreomoato, Tsau, Kazungula, Senyawe, Nkange and Old Naledi are operational and have enrolled trainees.

Mr Lesaso explained that the ministry’s original plan was to build the centres in three phases, but due to financial constraint, all the centres were still in phase one of their development.

He highlighted that phase one included offices, materials/supplies stores, and three workshop labs, without shelter for bricklaying, plastering and carpentry.

Mr Lesaso explained that each satellite had a set of programmes earmarked for it, based on its location, major economic activity as well as the natural resources found in the area.

Giving an example, he said the Kazungula satellite would offer programmes related to hospitality and tourism, Moreomoato would offer cultural training related to basket weaving and grass roof thatching, while Chobibe would offer programmes related to food preservation and processing due to its endowment with agricultural produce and wild fruits.

“Thamaga satellite centre is earmarked to offer additional training programmes like electrical installation, plumbing and piping fitting, hairdressing and beauty therapy, painting and decorating, drapery and flower arrangement and horticultural farming once it is operating in full capacity,” he said.

Thamaga/Mukwakwane MP, Mr Palelo Moteosane had asked about the status of CITF around the country, especially Thamaga centre.

Vice President Slumber Tsogwane (right) and Mr Lesaso at Parliament on Thursday. Mr Lesaso said P8m was required for completion of Construction Industry Trust Fund satellite centres across the country. Photo: Gutsang Lesego

Completion of CITF satellites requires P8m

GABORONE - Ministry of Education and Skills Development requires P8m in order to complete all Construction Industry Trust Fund (CITF) satellite centres across the country.

Responding to a question in Parliament, Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development, Mr Aubrey Lesaso said the plan was that every satellite must operate with a minimum of eight programmes in order to be considered to be operating at full capacity.

He said the budget for construction of one satellite centre was estimated at P12 million at the time when satellites were conceptualised in 2018. He said only P4m was provided at the time, hence the decision to construct them in phases.

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Vice President Slumber Tsogwane (right) and Mr Lesaso at Parliament on Thursday. Mr Lesaso said P8m was required for completion of Construction Industry Trust Fund satellite centres across the country. Photo: Gutsang Lesego
By Lesedi Thatayadimo

GABORONE - The Ministry of Minerals and Energy is reviewing and amending the Mines and Minerals Act to align it with best practices around the world.

Presenting the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill 2024 in Parliament on Wednesday, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Lefoko Moagi said the Act was reviewed and amended in order for Botswana to remain competitive.

He said the amendment sought to modernize the minerals legislation and align it to policy aspirations, as well as to accommodate views raised by stakeholders and to rectify hitches where there were discrepancies.

He said developments in the industry made it necessary for the ministry to review the current Act.

Proposed changes, Mr Moagi said, included clause 6 of the bill which amends section 12 of the Act to introduce a new subsection that requires the holder of a mineral concession to beneficiate the minerals produced in Botswana as far as it is economically feasible and to the satisfaction of the minister.

The clause further amends section 12 to provide that mineral concession holders give preference to Botswana citizens, companies incorporated in Botswana as well as companies registered in Botswana, including manufacturing companies in Botswana and for the submission of reports to the minister, every three months, on all activities provided for under section 12 of the Act.

Mr Moagi said clause 4 of the bill amends section 3 of the Act to permit the minister to ensure that in the public interest, the needs of the livestock economy were met by the mineral resources produced in Botswana before being exported.

He spoke of Clause 32, which amends section 65 of the Act by providing that an applicant for a mining license or retention license or renewal thereof shall prepare and submit an environmental impact assessment and the mining license shall not be granted until the environmental assessment is authorised in terms of the Environmental Assessment Act.

Mr Moagi also said government was willing to increase penalties to curb harm to the environment.

Debating the bill, Lobatse MP, Dr Thapelo Matsheka said it was government’s intention to develop and promote the private sector and therefore advised that the ease of doing business in the country should not be impeded.

Citing clause 27, Dr Matsheka said plans were underway to ensure that mineral power to minister could cause misships, and would not empower citizens.

He also said the Ministry of Agriculture, Gariep Ramogapi was against the escalation of penalties, arguing that the P1 million charge was too steep for an ordinary Motswana.

The five Bills included the Standing Committee on Remuneration and Members of the National Assembly, Councillors, Nito Ya Dikgosi and Specified Officers Amendment Bill.

The Bill sought to remove the specified officers from the committee so that their salaries and allowances will no longer be reviewed by it, but by the Directorate of Public Service Management as is the case with all other civil servants.

Specified officers are by definition those that are appointed directly by President, such as the IEC secretary, the Director of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions and the Chief Justice among others.

The other Bills that were passed were the Specified Officers Salaries and Allowances Amendment Bill and the Judicial Services Amendment Bill.

The two Bills are entwined with the first Bill, meaning that amendment of the first one would make their amendment consequential.

The two sought to amend the Specified Offices Salaries and Allowances Act and the Judicial Services Act in order to give effect to Directive No 4 of 2024, which adjusted public service salaries by five per cent across the board with effect from April 1.

This will ensure that once the seven judicial officers have been detached from the committee that has been reviewing their salaries, they will now be eligible for arrears accrued since April 1 2024.

Legislators also unanimously passed the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, which among others, aimed to promote citizen participation in the mining sector as well as promoting local beneficiation of minerals to ensure that the country benefitted from their value chains.

The Bill also sought to increase penalties on violations by mining license holders, as well as setting stringent requirements for miners to ensure proper rehabilitation of land post mining.

Another Bill that was voted for unanimously by legislators was the Deeds Registry Amendment Bill.

When presenting the Bill, the Minister of Lands and Water Affairs, Dr Kefentes Mxwinila had explained that the proposed amendments would ensure that the Deeds Registry office only dealt with immovable property while movable property security interests would be undertaken by the Collateral Registry office.

He said that currently, the movable and immovable property securities were all under the Deeds Registry office, which was overwhelming the office.

By Olekantsie Sennamose

GABORONE - Parliament on Monday passed five Bills of proposed to amend various Acts.

The five Bills included the BOPA 2024 and Deeds Registry Amendment Bills.

Mr Moagi also said government would consider to know reasons behind failure to provide the cattle brand certificate.

Still in Parliament, the Assistant Minister of Agriculture, Mr Molotsi Molutsi said plans were underway to match expiry dates of farmer’s keeper identity cards with that of the cattle brand certificate.

Mr Molutsi said his ministry also planned to propose a Bill amending the BOPA 2024 and Disease of Cattle Act and Diseases of Animals Regulations in order to facilitate the merge of the expiry dates of farmer’s keeper identity cards with that of the cattle brand certificate.

Serowe West legislator, Mr Ouaapelelo Kekikwe had asked if there were any plans by the ministry to match expiry dates of farmers keeper identity cards with that of the cattle brand certificate.

Meanwhile the Minister of Health, Dr Edwin Dikoloti has told Parliament that his ministry was aware of the need for maintenance at Serowe clinics.

“My ministry through the Serowe DMMT and VDCs is currently creating a database of locally based companies to engage them on maintenance of public health facilities. Moreover, the clinics have been prioritised in order of need of service so that critical ones are attended to first,” he said.

Dr Dikoloti said plans were that clinics in Serowe be engaged in the next financial year, adding that currently, they were being kept in an operational status through minor and reactive maintenance, which was done as and when required to ensure that service delivery was not interrupted.

Dr Dikoloti was responding to Serowe North MP, Mr Baratwiwa Matshothe who had wanted to know when the ministry intended to maintain Serowe clinics. BOPA

By Okelembeli Sennamose

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Bull donation drive to boost country’s GDP

Be Keonee Majoto

GHANZI - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi has donated 18-months-old Brahman bulls to Ms Susan Ramoswaane of Ghanzi South constituency and Mr Tlhahologo Setima of Ghanzi North.

The two are the latest beneficiaries of President Masisi’s bull donation initiative whose objective is to encourage livestock farming among citizens.

The President donated to the duo on Friday during the official opening of the annual Ghanzi district agricultural show, where he emphasized his dedication to seeing agriculture contributing significantly to Botswana’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He highlighted the importance of transforming the sector to make it a sustainable appealing venture, especially for the youth.

“As we move towards attaining our aspirations espoused in Vision 2036, we should ensure that no one gets left behind. The national affluence that we are working towards should encompass us all, and these donations (of bulls) are one of the building blocks to that kind of life,” he said.

Ghanzi district agricultural coordinator, Dr Kefilwe Makgetho said Ms Ramoswaane started farming in 2017 with five cattle, which due to good management practices, had multiplied to 33 while the other beneficiary, Mr Setima, who started with 25 cattle, now had a herd totalling 53.

Grateful for having benefitted from the programme, Mr Setima promised that he would in future donate back to the bull donation initiative so that others could also benefit.

Ms Ramoswaane was gifted an 18-months-old bull by President Masisi at the Ghanzi Agricultural Show on Friday. President Masisi said the bull donation initiative would see agriculture contributing significantly to Botswana’s GDP.

Aspiring entrepreneurs receive praises for business ideas

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Twenty groups participating in the business ideas pitching initiative known as Thorn Pitching have been praised for building an inclusive economy as spelt out in the national Vision 2036.

Mr Molomo said a National Transformation Strategy was formulated to address concerns that not enough was being done to edge Botswana forward in that respect as well as provide a guiding framework to the country’s development processes.

He said the strategy, a sector-based approach, the purpose of which is to guide the implementation of Vision 2036, had identified agriculture among the sectors that could help Botswana realise its aspirations.

“The year 2036 is approaching and this calls for each of us to contribute in our own little way,” he said. BOPA

The commendation was one-year anniversary of the mindset change campaign and capitalised on community-based approach, the purpose of which was to guide the implementation of Vision 2036.

The initiative, focused on the significance of mindset change concept.

Mr Kelebetseng encouraged a positive shift in mindset and challenged the groups to seize economic opportunities by seeking support from funding institutions to bring their projects to fruition, noting that many groups planned to utilise natural resources and waste materials in their ventures.

The top five groups selected from the competition were Sexaxa Aquaponics, Gokwee Tsoo, Matlapana Beach Group, Phuduhudu Cultural Village group, and Lenaka Design, each showcasing promise in their respective business ideas.

Mr Boitslwarello Rapedana, a senior district officer, said the objective was to inspire a shift in mindset and cultivate creativity among groups, emphasizing the role of parents in instilling an entrepreneurial spirit in the youth to combat unemployment and foster self-reliance. BOPA
President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi on Friday joined scores of people who thronged Ghanzi Show in celebration of its 50th anniversary and the milestones it has achieved thus far. President Masisi said the show sustained longevity since its inception in 1974, which made it one of the most successful district agricultural shows in the country and worthy of celebrating its achievements. He said government was committed to transforming agriculture sector more efficiently and productively so that it was able to contribute handsomely towards efforts to achieve national food security. Dr Masisi said if every Motswana was to effectively use programmes at their disposal such as Temo Letlotlo and Thuo Letlotlo to create wealth for themselves, they would build and enhance both household and national food security.

1: President Masisi touring kraals at show.
2: Farmers parading their cattle.
3: Pupils from schools around Ghanzi also came in numbers.
4: Some delegates who graced the show.
5: Kare Tsha Cultural Group entertaining guests.
6: Cattle handlers showing their animals for judging.
7: Spectators were treated to a spectacular horse race.
Ba akgola mananeo a puso

**Ghanzi**:
Mo lebelo la go gogela Botswana mo maengong a mma kgwebo ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O lebogetse tse go tshwara kgwebo sentle.

Mme Kgotla Kgositsile o le bopo a kgwebo kgwedi a fele a le ngwadi bome ya go nna le kgwebo. O m'gwa e bopo se a le a basi a bana ya gqiqe na lela fa tshwara kgwebo. Mo lebelo la go gogela Botswana mo maengong a mma kgwebo ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O lebogetse tse go tshwara kgwebo sentle.

**Masisi le Merck Foundation ba aba metshine**

**Gabone**:

"Bontsi jwa mekgatlo ya bomme ga e a kwadwa. Jaal re re a le tshwenelela ka thusa go tshwara kgwebo. Bontsi jwa mekgatlo ya bomme ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O m'gwa e bopo se a le a basi a bana ya gqiqe na lela fa tshwara kgwebo. Mo lebelo la go gogela Botswana mo maengong a mma kgwebo ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O lebogetse tse go tshwara kgwebo sentle.

**Ka Kgotla Merafe**

**Maele**:

"Bontsi jwa mekgatlo ya bomme ga e a kwadwa. Jaal re re a le tshwenelela ka thusa go tshwara kgwebo. Bontsi jwa mekgatlo ya bomme ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O m'gwa e bopo se a le a basi a bana ya gqiqe na lela fa tshwara kgwebo. Mo lebelo la go gogela Botswana mo maengong a mma kgwebo ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O lebogetse tse go tshwara kgwebo sentle.

**Ka Kgotla Merafe**

"Bontsi jwa mekgatlo ya bomme ga e a kwadwa. Jaal re re a le tshwenelela ka thusa go tshwara kgwebo. Bontsi jwa mekgatlo ya bomme ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O m'gwa e bopo se a le a basi a bana ya gqiqe na lela fa tshwara kgwebo. Mo lebelo la go gogela Botswana mo maengong a mma kgwebo ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O lebogetse tse go tshwara kgwebo sentle.

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**Ka Kgotla Merafe**

"Bontsi jwa mekgatlo ya bomme ga e a kwadwa. Jaal re re a le tshwenelela ka thusa go tshwara kgwebo. Bontsi jwa mekgatlo ya bomme ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O m'gwa e bopo se a le a basi a bana ya gqiqe na lela fa tshwara kgwebo. Mo lebelo la go gogela Botswana mo maengong a mma kgwebo ya go ntsa diyo tse di leka angokgeng ba letho. O lebogetse tse go tshwara kgwebo sentle.
Water provision improves countrywide
Government makes strides in improving water security

GABORONE – The past six years have seen a significant improvement of the water supply and distribution through the implementation of National Water Master Plan projects.

This has been anchored on President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi’s determination to ensure water security for the citizens, with 98 per cent of the country’s population currently having access to potable water.

This development has helped moisten Botswana’s semi-arid terrain, and quench the thirst of a nation whose salute embazoned across the coat of arms is a call for rain, “Pula!,” writes Pako Lebanna.

When the President took the oath of office in April 2018, it coincided with the onset of the eleventh National Development Plan (NDP 11), which was in effect from April 2017 to March 2023. At the time, we were experiencing severe water shortage countrywide, as a drought-prone country.

President Masisi pushed for us to develop a sustainable water infrastructure,” Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) chief executive officer (CEO), Mr Gaselemogwe Senai says in an interview.

Mr Senai says the past six years have seen Botswana vastly improve its water security infrastructure countrywide.

He says the country already had the National Water Master Plan of 1991, which was last reviewed in 2018.

But there was a backlog of projects as finances were focused on other development initiatives, and water projects were deferred. President Masisi then set the tone for water projects to be delivered,” he states.

While the country was faced with a challenge of both water supply and distribution, a decision was taken by the line ministry and WUC to first prioritise the supply of water, through projects such as the second phase of the North South Carrier (NSC2) and Masama Wellfields.

He explains that the Masama Wellfields was developed as an emergency project to close supply deficit in the short term, while the NSC 2 and expansion of Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant to double the current 110 million litres (ML) per day to 220 ML per day, addressed the medium term demand,” he says.

He adds that water shortfall in the greater Gaborone area was reduced from 30 per cent to 15 per cent by the Masama project, while the practical completion of NSC2, the construction of a pipeline from Palapye to Gaborone and a state of the art water treatment plant, will see the extinguishing of the water deficit for the current planning horizon.

“In addition, NSC 2.3 has seen the reinforcement of the supply of water, pumping water from Mmamashia to Gaborone, also being able to be pumped in the opposite direction, Oodi to Sebele to the Airport Special Economic Zone area (SEZA) as well as from Mmamashia to Forest Hill, where we built the second largest water reservoir in Southern Africa,” he reveals.

He adds that the areas benefiting from this improved water supply include Gaborone, Mogoditshane, Mohudi cluster of villages, Tlouweng, Bamotswa and other villages in the South East District; Kweneng East Cluster of villages, Tlouweng, Endile, Bopakana and Kweneng South.

Mr Senai says most of these projects are complete or awaiting commissioning and have led to the country’s water security situation drastically improving.

A challenge that still remains is rusty internal pipelines in villages such as Tswapong cluster of villages, as Mosolotshane, Morolane and Ilkowane.

In a project funded through the World Bank, 52 villages in the North East were connected to the Ntimbale Dam supply, while the Botswana Emergency Water Efficiency and Security Plan worked on the provision of water to Boteti Southern and Central cluster villages.

“Further north, the Maun Phase II Water Supply and Sanitation project was done in four phases, including the upgrading of water supply system and sanitation works, while the state of the art Kasane Water Treatment Plant, financed by the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism as part of the Kasane-Kazungula Development Plan, was to benefit the Chobe area.

On the Western side of the country, the drilling and rehabilitation of boresholes at Kake, a pump station and the construction of a 110 km pipeline to Charleshill will improve water supply to villages in Ghanzi District.

Another project to supply Hukuntsi, Tshane, Lokgwabe and Lehututu in Kgatlagadi North and develop a pipeline to Ncojane in Ghanzi South will also remedy the water shortfall.

Mr Senai says all these projects are complete or awaiting commissioning and have led to the country’s water security situation drastically improving.

A challenge that still remains is rusty internal pipelines in villages such as Kanye and Molepolole.

“We first had to address the issue of water supply, and we will attend to water distribution over the upcoming twelfth National Development Plan (NDP 12).

In the interim we will look to conduct reinforcement works to try to alleviate the situation,” Mr Senai says.

Another concern for water authorities has been poor water meter reading and complaints from consumers about their bills.

“We have piloted the introduction of a smart pre-paid meter reading, piloted in Block 8, Gaborone on July 26. By March 2025, we plan to have installed 60 000 such metres in the Greater Gaborone area, then within three years, we intend to have installed 550 000 plot connections countrywide,” he guarantees.

Steadily, President Masisi’s commitment to the United Nations (UN) Water Conference in 2023 at the UN headquarters in New York, United States, to place provision of water and sanitation services at the forefront of the national development agenda and to achieve the sixth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG6), of ensuring access to sanitation and water for all, begins to fruition. BOPA

Mr Senai said water shortfall in the greater Gaborone area was reduced from 30 per cent to 15 per cent by the Masama project.
**WUC commits to community empowerment**

**By Malebogo Lekula**

**Ghanzi** - What started as a simple gesture between Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) and the Ghanzi show committee three years ago, has developed into a formidable partnership that promises to leave a lasting legacy. Through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, WUC aims to promote agricultural activities for improved food security production in the country.

Speaking during the Ghanzi show 50th anniversary on Friday, chief executive office, Mr Gailemogwe Senai said they were now bestowed with the responsibility to provide water supply for agricultural purposes at farms in an affordable manner. He said having been the main sponsor of the show for the past three years, they have constructed a brick and mortor water closet ablation block to promote clean environment in the public space.

Mr Senai also indicated that under their CSR model, they would consider reticulating water to the exhibition kraals in near future.

On other issues, Mr Senai mentioned that some long pending water projects like the Ncojane-Kgalagadi North water upgrade, Charleshill-Ghanzi, Ghanzi water and sanitation upgrade as well as the Kanye-Molepolole network reinforcement works would be constructed under the Transitional Development Plan.

Moreover, he said other scheduled water expansion networks to ensure continuous adequate water supply would be done under NDP 12.

Ghanzi show committee chairperson, Mr Thuso Mackenzie, commended WUC for their unwavering support that had positively contributed in the expansion of the annual show.

"I have to admit, the partnership we have with WUC has been a fruitful journey, they are indeed an agent of change," he applauded.

Mr Mackenzie further mentioned that, through their partnership, WUC has so far pumped P750 000 in a period of three years to support the organising committee to put up a magnificent show.

He added that the ablation block project was constructed at a tune of P150 000 and called for other companies and individuals to follow suit in order develop the show grounds.

Moreover, Mr Mackenzie commended all the Ghanzi show organising committees from as early as 1974 to date for their heroic vision of growing the show to greater heights.

He said through all the hard work demonstrated, the show had attained an important recognition in the country and even beyond borders and they were duty bound to maintain that status.

**North-South Carrier project blessing to southern region**

**By Tebagano Ntshole**

**MOLEPOLOLE** - Completion of the North-South Carrier (NSC) II and related projects has enabled government to provide water to communities in the southern parts of the country.

Among the projects is the Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant, which is reportedly the biggest in the SADC region. It draws water from Dikagatleng and Letsibogo dams as well as connected wetfields.

The project has also enabled water to be pumped to other areas such as Lobatse and Ramotswa as government aims to provide every corner of the country with potable water.

This led to the construction of the Mmamashia-Gamononyane pipeline, which is to augment water supply in Thamaga, Moshupa, Kanye and Molepolole.

It is on this background that in October 2021, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Gamonyane-Molepolole pipeline and associated works. Following the pipeline completion last year, President Masisi is expected to commission it on a date to be set.

The 43-kilometre Gamonyane-Molepolole addresses water shortage in Molepolole and nearby villages such as Mmanoko and Gamononyane.

The P895 million project includes a water pipeline from Mmamashia-Gamononyane to Mosini reservoir, which has a capacity of 20 million litres, Mathabanelo pump station, Gamodubu reservoir, Gamononyane pump station and another reservoir in Sasakwe.

With the project now complete, government has embarked on another major project, the Molepolole water project, which includes the rehabilitation and expansion of water distribution networks, construction of pump stations and a waste water management system.

The project started in October and is expected to be completed in April next year.

However, he said they had challenges as they had to secure land from its owners. “This resulted in the project being behind by 10 per cent, but I believe the project will be completed on time,” he says.

He added that 136 people had been engaged in the project. Related projects, including sewer lines, will soon be undertaken.
By Calviniah Kgautlhe

**TSABONG - An Emergency consultancy project is underway to enhance water resource management.**

Backed by the World Bank to the tune of US$1 million, the project started in January with its completion expected in November.

In an interview, a project team member and water engineer at the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Onalekutlo Kenabatho, explains that Botswana is in the process of developing a national water resources drought preparedness and management plan, along with an early warning system to manage hydrological drought in the country and ensure adequate supply.

She says the project is meant to establish an integrated drought monitor, draw a preparedness plan and build stakeholder capacity.

“The project is at the consultation stage and approval of interlaced system designs. It targets the improvement of water conservation efficiencies through promotion of practices and technologies that enhance water conservation, such as efficient irrigation techniques and water-saving devices,” she says.

She adds that the project targets to improve policy and institutional frameworks through recommending policies, regulations and institutional capacities to support effective drought management and sustainable water resource stewardship. She highlights that the project is necessitated by the fact that Botswana depends on both surface and underground water with major contributions from the Okavango, Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers. The country has only 42 000 registered boreholes yet still grapples with water challenges such as low recharge rates and insufficient monitoring. “Botswana contends with high evaporation rate of 2 000mm per annum, inconsistent and scarce rainfall, shared water courses with other Southern African countries, which are subject to regulation by the SADC Protocol on Shared Water Course as well as frequent droughts,” she adds.

Also, she says Botswana’s flat terrain makes it hard to explore other potential damming sites for additional water sources and the country is prone to repeated droughts that affect both its water resources and economy.

As such, she says some measures are in place to deal with the challenges, which include development of a national water resources drought preparedness and management plan, an early warning system and a water resources drought management centre.

Ms Kenabatho says assessments conducted from 2014 to 2016 are now recognising that the main water sources that contribute 3.3mm3 while wastewater re-use is at minimal, which is only beneficial in urban areas.

She further reveals that the project is progressing well as the team is currently engaging stakeholders to incorporate their input in the plan, working with an Italian consultancy company Studio Galli Ingegneria (SGI) to proactively implement the National Drought Management Strategy (NDMS) through the implementation of a Water Resources Drought Management Centre.

A representative of SGI, Mr Leonard Dikobo, says there is growing worry over the reactive way of dealing with drought, which mainly focuses on managing crises as they arise.

“The reactive approach only deals with the effects of drought, and not the reasons why certain areas are vulnerable to it in the first place,” Mr Dikobo says.

He adds that supply of fresh drinking water is facing more challenges with prolonged droughts being a major factor. Severe droughts and climate change, like those experienced from 2014 to 2016, are now recognised as significant obstacles to achieving sustainable growth, economic development, better agricultural output, and meeting the water needs of homes and businesses in Botswana.

The project, he says will come up with an early warning system, a mechanism designed to detect and alert people or organisations to potential hazards, risks, or threats before they escalate into emergencies or disasters.

He explains that the early warning system involves monitoring of various indicators or signals related to natural disasters like droughts.

“In an early warning system for drought, several indicators or signals can be monitored to assess and predict drought conditions. These indicators include meteorological indicators, remote sensing and soil moisture indicators, hydrological indicators such as monitoring flow of rivers and streams to assess water availability and drought impacts on water bodies as well as measuring groundwater levels in wells and aquifers,” he says.

He also reveals that the proposed decision support system will comprise water evaluation and planning tool that will be hosted at DWS Hydrological Drought Centre and the Database and GIS Web User Interface hosted at the Department of Shared Digital Services.
GABORONE - The steelpipe water project, alias North-South Carrier 2.2, with a 1.2-metre diameter has come to its practical completion and Water Utilities Cooperation (WUC) has already started pumping water from both the pump stations located in Lemone and Mmamabule.

In a recent media brief, WUC chief executive officer, Mr Gaselemogwe Senai said the project, with about 50 years' lifespan and runs from Palapye to Gaborone, takes over from the previous North-South Carrier 2.1, which due to budgetary constraints, had to be commissioned to channel water from Dikagatlhong to Palapye.

Mr Senai said the pipeline would end in Mmamashia where they were constructing one of the biggest water treatment plants in Southern Africa, which originally carried about 110 million litres a day, and now in its revamped status would carry 220 million litres per day.

He said the pumped water had already passed Tewane on July 11, and expected to reach Mmamashia month end.

He added that according to their planning, they had anticipated that by the time the water arrived in Mmamashia, the plant would be fully completed.

However, he said, all pending items within the plant would be completed in two to three weeks and their water supply plans would officially become operational then. This would bring a long-lasting solution to water shortages that have been observed over years in southern Botswana.

Regarding completion of WUC major projects, Mr Senai said already they finished Gamononyane-Molepolole, Gamononyane-Kanye, Mmamashia-Gaborone, East Gaborone-Gaborone Dam to allow them to pump water to the dam and also to enable them to pump water back to other regions whenever there was a shortage.

He added that there was yet another pipe which pumped water from Oodi via Gaborone North, Sebele to Airport (Special Economic Zone area). WUC has also completed a pipe that branches from Mmamashia via Gaborone West to the Forest Hill reservoir, which carries a capacity of 92 million litres.

Mr Senai said this tank would become the centre for water reticulation in greater south and west of Gaborone. The corporation has also completed the Lobatse Water Master plan. He said this was by far the biggest pipeline that ran from Gaborone to Lobatse, and proceeded all the way to Good Hope to provide 32 villages with water.

Both the Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant and the Forest Hill reservoir did not have water yet as they were awaiting water from the North-South Carrier 2.2. Once the water reached these sites, then they will start pumping into the Forest Hill tank to service Lobatse and Good Hope areas.

The corporation has also completed the necessary infrastructure in Kanye and Molepolole and they were alternating provision of water to these places as they still experience water shortages since waters from the north have not reached the south yet.

Mr Senai said when commissioning the Gamononyane Pump Station, they started on a 15 per cent deficit; hence it was important for waters from the north to reach the south. At present they were engaged with interchanging distribution of the little waters available between Kanye and Molepolole.

Mr Senai said not all was lost as Molepolole storage tanks were full to capacity.

He said the demand for Molepolole stood at 13 million litres per day. In the past, they could only distribute eight million litres daily from the reservoirs.

The problem, Mr Senai said, was that water did not reach households properly as a result of pipe infrastructure layout, which was insufficient and not satisfactorily accessible. Nevertheless, in 2020 WUC completed the design on pipe layout and was awaiting money to carry it out.

About dam levels, Mr Senai said their capacity at the moment was worrisome and low compared to last year.

For instance, he said, the 400 million cubic litre capacity Dikagatlhong Dam, which remained the main source of water for both central and south region of Botswana, last year this time around was at 92 per cent, but this year it is at 74 per cent.

However, he assured that this dam could still support these regions with water for the next 24 months without any rain. The Lotsane Dam was nearing its state of dryness at 23 per cent. The Gaborone Dam is 46 per cent full, Bokaa Dam at 47 and Letsibogo Dam at 45 per cent.

When commissioning the Gamononyane Pump Station, WUC said it started on a 15 per cent deficit, hence the importance of pumping water from the north to the south.
Mr Baitshenyetsi said the existing plant, which was constructed in June 2000, had gone past its life span and would be upgraded to meet the rising demand to the tune of P18.1 million.
Lobatse Water Supply Master Plan: Desirous effort to quench thirst

By Baleseng Batlotleng

RAMOTSWA - Government’s ambitious journey towards sustainable water supply continues countrywide with major infrastructural projects. One such is the Lobatse Water Supply Master Plan (LWSMP).

The plan was conceptualised to address water deficits in the Gaborone-Lobatse corridor, being the Ramotswa Cluster (Ramotswa, Mmankegodi, Manyana and Mogonye), Otse Police College, Mogobane, Otse, Lobatse, Good Hope Sub-district, Malapowaboang, Kjomokastiwa and Mmamathethe.

Lobatse Water Supply Master Plan project manager, Mr Nhlanhla Mbuli explained that the plan was conceptualised before the Water Sector Reforms that recommended major restructing of the water sector, which included amongst others, the separation of water resources management from water service delivery.

Mr Mbuli, who is also lead engineer at the Water Utilities Corporation (WUC), said WUC took over all water and wastewater service delivery in the country.

"WUC made master plans on a regular basis, thus the Lobatse master plan included other villages along the corridor. It was started in 2020 with the construction part, it was initially planned as far back as 2007 but did not take off the ground due to other reasons," he said.

He said the project was conceived in 2009 to alleviate acute water shortages in Lobatse management centre, with beneficiaries being areas along Gaborone-Lobatse corridor and villages in the Good Hope Sub-district area. Mr Mbuli said when the LWSMP took off in 2020, it was done in two phases.

The scope of phase one entailed construction of a pump station at Forest Hill reservoir site near Kgale Hill, a 53km (900millimetres) pipeline from Forest Hill to Lobatse, and construction of a 16 million litres concrete reservoir at Lobatse and installation of telemetry infrastructure.

"The Forest Hill pump station is designed to pump 63 million litres per day on a welded steel pipe with several offtakes along the way to supply some areas on the corridor. The pipeline connects to the northern reservoir just after Nnywane Dam," he added.

Mr Mbuli said the 10 offtakes along the pipeline supplied areas such as new Kgale development area, Molokodi, Molokodi Nature Reserve, Sentlhane and Lion Park, Crocodile Pool, Ramotswa through the Rankepe reservoir, Mogobane, Otse Police College, Seuwane development area and Otse before connecting to the northern reservoir.

He said phase one of the LWSMP project was completed but not yet commissioned as they awaited completion of the North South Carrier 2.2 project that would facilitate operation of the plan.

Mr Mbuli explained that phase one of the plan was to be completed within 12 months but the daunting challenge was the advent of the COVID-19 scourge. He said they faced a number of challenges such as the high prices of steel and supply mainly due to accessibility and transportation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr Mbuli said phase two of the LWSMP entailed the Lobatse township only. He said the over P360 million project would take water from the northern reservoir to a 10 million litres tank then up to the Crescent pump station to supply to a pipeline to Barolong area.

He added that part of phase two was the network reinforcements, which would look into old pipes in the Lobatse reticulation and replace where necessary.

In addition to improving water supply in the Gaborone-Lobatse corridor for domestic needs, the LWSMP infrastructural development would facilitate major projects in Lobatse such as the Lobatse Milk Afirc and Leather Park.

On full operation, the transmission pipeline from Gaborone to Lobatse will convey 63 million litres of water per day as compared to the current 14 million litres that is supplied to Lobatse, Barolong and surrounding areas, which poses a serious supply challenge.

The existing water supply system comprises of a pump station at Gaborone Water Works through a 500 mm ductile iron pipeline from Gaborone to Botlle booster, pump station at Botle and a 600mm glass reinforced pipeline from Botle to Nnywane Water Works near Lobatse.

From Nnywane, water is pumped to Hillside Reservoir, which distributes water to other distribution reservoirs in Lobatse and also supplies Crescent pump station that boosts water to Barolong villages.

Mr Mbuli explained that the existing scheme had surpassed its design life span and could no longer cope with the water demand for the area. He said this had resulted in the need for implementation of LWSMP to be able to sustain water supply needs for the area for the design horizon of 20 years.
Resident rejoice over water supply

By Kgotsofalang Botsang

SELEBI PHIKWE - The completion of Selebi Phikwe-Serule Water Transfer Scheme in 2023 means residents of villages in the surrounding area now have access to potable water. The scheme has connected Damochujena, Serule, Gojwane, Topisi, Moreomabele and some parts of Mmadinare to the 100 million cubic metre Letsibogo Dam located a stone throw away from Mmadinare. The residents can only rejoice over the steady supply of water, years after grappling with shortage of water. “The project has made a big improvement in our daily lives and has addressed water shortage in Mmadinare,” said Kgosi Maureen Mphoeng beaming with happiness. The project entails a pipeline network from the upgraded Selebi Phikwe treatment plant to Damochujena, Serule-Gojwane, Moreomabele and Topisi as well as setting up of reservoirs and water distribution pipeline networks in the respective villages, ending the dark days of full time water bowsing and low yielding boreholes. She said Mmadinare had grown significantly over the years, with the coming of Mmadinare Senior Secondary School resulting in high demand for water. She said the project came at the right time when government introduced new programmes that left no one behind to achieve sustainable development and prosperity for Batswana. “These programmes will work best where there is access to reliable clean water supply, electricity, roads and other amenities,” she said, commending government for ending the water woes in Mmadinare. Kgosi Mphoeng said the project breathed some life into Mmadinare and would go a long way in transforming many lives. Kgosi Mphoeng also warned against vandalism of the WUC infrastructure. “Water is life and we are appealing to our community to report any breakdowns or leakages to avoid water supply disruptions,” she said. Damochujena development committee chairperson Ms Oable was also ecstatic at the development, saying it was now time for new beginning. She said residents now enjoyed constant supply of clean water, adding that some even started their backyard gardens to sustain their families. However, she urged the corporation to extend water pipelines to reach the entire village to enable residents to apply for standpipe connection. Reflecting back, she explained that when government constructed the North South Carrier pipelines, expectation was that their village would be in the first batch to be connected, but that did not happen despite their proximity to the pipelines. She said despite all these, residents remained patient to enable government to supply water to Gaborone and some southern villages for domestic and industrial consumption. “Despite the challenges, we kept hoping that one day things would change because we believed that every dark cloud has a silver lining,” she said. Meanwhile, government also went further to improve the water situation in Selfophie and Tobane, where WUC embarked on another project to upgrade Selfophie water tank to a 500 cubic metre on an 18 metre stand while in Tobane a 300 cubic metre tank had been erected on an 18 metre stand. BOPA
The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (Authority/PPRA) is mandated in terms of Section 91 of the Public Procurement Act of 2021 (the Act), as read with Section 100 of the Act, to maintain an up-to-date register of contractors and to suspend or delist contractors who are found to have breached the Code of Conduct for Contractors and/or who have failed to abide by the terms of their contracts with Procuring Entities. Pursuant to this mandate, the Authority is required under Regulation 156 of the Public Procurement Regulations (the Regulations) to establish a Suspension and Delisting Committee whose function shall be to investigate contractors’ compliance to the Code of Conduct for Contractors, inclusive of conducting disciplinary hearings and recommending appropriate disciplinary action to the Authority. In carrying out its mandate, the Suspension and Delisting Committee shall report to the Board of the Authority.

The Authority hereby calls for Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified individuals interested in serving as members of the Suspension and Delisting Committee.

1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Interested candidates must possess the following qualifications and experience:
   i. A minimum Bachelor’s degree qualification law, procurement, investigations, auditing, accounting, engineering and related fields, (e.g. full architecture qualification, Quantity Survey) or any degree relevant to the regulatory and oversight mandate of the Committee. (Master’s degree would be an added advantage).
   ii. Minimum ten (10) years of professional experience, at least 5 of which should have been at Senior/Executive level.
   iii. Demonstrate understanding of the mandate and functions of the Authority.
   iv. Be duly registered and a Member in good standing with their professional body.

2. TERM OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS
Members shall be eligible to hold office for a period not exceeding four (4) years, and shall be eligible for re-appointment for an additional term not exceeding four (4) years.

Members may not serve more than two (2) terms consecutively. The candidate should have sufficient time and commitment to fulfil this role.

3. INTEGRITY AND ETHICS
Eligible candidates should be individuals of a distinguished person with high integrity and must demonstrate strict adherence to the highest ethical standards.

4. REMUNERATION
The Committee is a Statutory Committee of the Authority. Members shall receive allowances in accordance with the rates set by the Board from time to time.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Interested Candidates must submit a letter of Expression of Interest including motivation for appointment and Curriculum Vitae inclusive of 2 (two) traceable references in a sealed envelope marked EOI/SUSPENSION AND DELISTING COMMITTEE which should be deposited in the tender box on the ground floor at tender opening hall and addressed to:

   The Chief Executive Officer
   Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
   Private Bag 0058
   Gaborone

Or by email to lmoremi@ppra.co.bw with the subject line EOI/SUSPENSION AND DELISTING COMMITTEE

Physical submissions will be received at the PPRA premises at Plot 8913, Gaborone West Industrial Site, Gaborone and be submitted in the tender box on the Ground floor.

6. DEADLINE
Applications close at 16:00hrs on 9th August 2024

Non-compliant submissions will not be considered and late submissions will not be accepted.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further consideration.

7. DISCLAIMER
The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications or request for further information or clarification from one or all the applicants or to cancel or withdraw the process in whole or in part.

Requests for should be submitted no later than 3 (three) days before the deadline by contacting Mr. L. Moremi, Acting Senior Legal Officer at 3602020 or lmoremi@ppra.co.bw.
**FARM WORKERS**

Looking for farm workers. Write to Joseph Masarwa, P O Box 1615 Gaborone.

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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

**SBO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT VACANCY:**

Requirements include

- Degree in electrical and mechanical engineering
- 10 years experience

**VACANCIES**

**FASHION DESIGNER NEEDED**

Up and coming fashion designer needed. Call or whatsapp: 77854547

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**ADVERTS**

**KASANE**

625 0353

**TSABONG**

654 0323

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

365 392/357/358/359/3911

The owner of Plot 33755, in Mogoditshane intends to undertake an extension of the Property, change of land use from single family residential to Dormitories and a subdivision of the plot into two portions. Any objections or inquiries should be directed to the Physical Planning Office at Mogoditshane-Tamaga District council on Tel: 267 3105615 within 14 days of this notice.

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**NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION**

The owner of plot 696 and 697 at Botshong would like to change land use of their plot from residential to mixed use (commercial and multi-residential). For any objections contact Gabonere City Council on +267 960 7400 within 14 days of the publication hereof.

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**FARM WORKERS WANTED**

For farm workers. Write to Joseph Masarwa, P O Box 1615, Gaborone. Contact: 27 233 993 / 76 177 335.
**NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 34 OF THE TRIBAL LAND ACT, 2018**

In accordance with the provisions of the Tribal Land Act of 2018, Section 34 thereof, notice is hereby given of a proposed transaction with the following details:

**DETAILS OF PROPOSED TRANSACTION:**

Botswana Power Corporation proposes to sublease the hereinafter described properties to Selebi Phikwe Solar (Proprietary) Limited (a non-citizen) to design, finance, construct, own, operate and maintain a solar photovoltaic electric generating plant at the properties and for that purpose, Selebi Phikwe Solar (Proprietary) Limited has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with Botswana Power Corporation.

**1. DESCRIPTION OF LAND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plots</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Measuring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plot 1179-NQ</td>
<td>Land at Ngwato, Botswana</td>
<td>68.0761 hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plot 13-NQ</td>
<td>Land at Mmadinare Village, Botswana</td>
<td>68.0761 hectares</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CO-ORDINATES:**

- **BEACON A:** Y
- **BEACON B:** Y
- **BEACON C:** Y
- **BEACON D:** Y
- **BEACON E:** Y
- **BEACON F:** Y

**NAMES OF PARTIES:**

- Botswana Power Corporation
- Selebi Phikwe Solar (Proprietary) Limited

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF DEED OF TRANSFER**

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned intends applying for a certified copy of Deed of Transfer No. 266/99 (dated 30th day of December 2000) in respect of the land mentioned property, namely:

- **Proposed transaction:** [Details of transaction]
- **Date of publication:** [Date]
- **Publication period:** [Period]

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- **Proposed transaction:** [Details of transaction]
- **Date of publication:** [Date]
- **Publication period:** [Period]
The anticipated environmental impacts of the project and the proposed mitigation measures to respond to both negative and positive environmental impacts.

Parameter
Description of Impacts
Proposed Mitigation Measures

Air Quality and Climate Factors
Decrease air quality in the local area from producing dust and greenhouse gas emissions.
Shift and reduce coal-based power generation with carbon-free generation.

Biodiversity
Local landscape design to take note of environmental constraints such as wind directions.

Biodiversity (Flora & Flora)
Loss of vegetation and land for agriculture due to bush clearing.
Preserve ecosystem functions, and connectivity.

Surface and Groundwater Impacts
Risk of pollution threats, and contamination to the surface water systems.
Monitor and control pollutants along the local underground water bodies.

Local charge of groundwater levels (zone of depression) due to industrial de-watering.
Monitoring of abstraction volumes

Landscape aesthetics
Disbush and ground leveling cannot hinder landscapes.

Acoustic quality
Increases in ambient noise levels due to construction and operational activities.

Rustle Resistance
Risk of land pollution due to waste generated during the construction and operation stage.
Policies & Plans for waste reduction; recycling, recovery or energy recovery

Traffic Congestion
Increased number of road traffic accidents.
Maintain speed restrictions and follow all road rules. Introduce public transport, pedestrian walkways.

Social and Cultural Heritage
Archaeology and Culture Heritage
Risk of loss of damage of archaeological materials and cultural heritage resources.
Follow the recommendations of the approved Archaeological Impact Assessment. Monitoring during clearings and excavation. Any chance finds must be reported.

Occupational health and safety
Increased instances of HIV/AIDS and STI infections, increased instances of TB and Malaria.

Socio-Economic and Development
Creation of Employment
Increased short- and long-term employment opportunities within the Selebi Phikwe area.

Regional economic development
Diversification of the local economy and Regional economic development.
Community development induced by the Local Empowerment Drive (LED) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Skills transfer
Skills transfer and development.
The professional foreign workers transfers specialized and critical skills to the hired local workforce.

NOTIFICATION
Notice issued in terms of Section 10 (2) of the Environmental Assessment Act, (CAP 65:07)

Notice for PUBLICATION of STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) for the PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT of SELEBI PHIKWE, SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (SEZ) MASTER PLAN (Urban and Landscape Design) and DEVELOPMENT OF SELEBI PHIKWE, SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE Master Plan (Urban and Landscape Design) are summarised herein:

c. Description of the Project
Gaborone Archtiects Comapny was awarded a service contract for the development of Selebi Phikwe, Special Economic Zone Master Plan (Urban and Landscape Design) to prepare a feasible Business Case that will drive investments into the Selebi Phikwe SEZ. Gaborone Phikwe SEZ is earmarked for mining and base metal beneficiation zone with supporting agro-processing, tourism, textile and garment manufacturing and medical devices and logistics hub sections. The site area is an attractive local and international investment location, contributing to the economic growth of the Town and Nation, it will be transformed into the green growth economy.

d. Location of the Project/Development
Selebi Phikwe SEZ lies in the southern outskirts of Selebi Phikwe Towning. The site area within two jurisdictions i.e., Selebi Phikwe Town Council in the north, and Boteti Tlhabologa Land Ltd. in the south. It also falls within the boundaries of the former BCL Mines, now owned and operated by Premier Nickel Resources (PNO). The boundaries are adjoin, with all the southeast side and the sityline the in the southeast sides.

e. The anticipated environmental impacts of the project and the proposed mitigation measures to respond to both negative and positive environmental impacts.

Annexure: The following anticipated impacts are likely to occur during the construction, operation, and decommissioning stages.

f. Other documentation is also attached at the Thapelo District Environmental Coordinator, Department of Environmental Protection, Private Bag 3527, Selebi Phikwe and 236-38520 Fax or hand delivery at the Department of Environmental Protection, Plot 2220, Gaborone, Selebi Phikwe 09-0502.

g. Correspondence

rsolution:**

KITSISO
Kitsiso e, mohlabakgo no ritha ya Tshatso ya molao ya Tshetshetsho Tsekiso ya Bolesoi (Environmental Assessment) Tshekiso ya Bolesoi (Environmental Assessment)

KITSISO SEDLOKO Boplela le mo obolela a Sekiseng ya Tshatso ya molao ya Tshetshetsho Tsekiso ya Bolesoi (Environmental Assessment)

KITSISO SEDLOKO Bbolela le mo obolela a Sekiseng ya Tshatso ya molao ya Tshetshetsho Tsekiso ya Bolesoi (Environmental Assessment)

KITSISO SEDLOKO Bbolela le mo obolela a Sekiseng ya Tshatso ya molao ya Tshetshetsho Tsekiso ya Bolesoi (Environmental Assessment)
Botswana Defence Force is pleased to announce to the general public that limited vacancies exist for OFFICER CADETS Post.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
a. Botswana citizens both male and female.
b. Should be in possession of a valid National ID card (Omang).
c. Aged between 18-28 years.
d. Be physically and mentally fit.
e. No adverse criminal records.
f. Minimum height of 160cm for males and 155cm for females.
g. Minimum body weight of 55kg for males and 45kg for females.
h. Female candidates must not be pregnant at recruitment and/or during training.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION
Aspiring candidates should have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, and should indicate their preferred Career field and Code of interest in line with their qualifications. Candidates are ONLY allowed to apply for one (1) career field, however, the Commander has the prerogative to deploy candidates where he deems fit.

OFFICER CADETS

INVITATION TO JOIN THE BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE

d. 20% BDF allowance (X-factor).
e. Free medical care.

SELECTION PROCESS
All candidates will have to undergo a selection process which includes the following:
a. Physical Fitness Assessment (2.4km Run, Push-Ups and Sit-Ups).
b. Comprehensive Medical Examination in accordance with BDF Recruitment Medical Standards.

MANDATORY TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT:
Successful candidates shall undergo a 12 months Basic Military Training. Upon completion of training, officers must be ready to serve in various geographic locations and environmental conditions.

Certified copies of National Identity Card (Omang), relevant educational certificates/documents, transcripts, CV and references must be attached.

ALL APPLICANTS ARE TO APPLY ONLINE USING THE LINK BELOW:
https://online.bdf.org.bw

ONLY THOSE WITH CONSTRAINTS IN USING THE LINK SHALL BE ALLOWED TO SEND THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:
The Commander
Botswana Defence Force
Private Bag X06 Gaborone
Reference: O/CDT: VAC 1/24

Closing date: 09 August 2024

MULTIPLE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS (i.e. ONLINE AND POSTAL MAIL SUBMISSION) AND HAND DELIVERIES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

Only successful candidates will be shortlisted for recruitment and selection.

For Enquiries call:
366 2135 / 71 373 483 / 74 735 532.
By Kehumile Moekejo

JWANGEN - Vice President Slumber Tsogwane has applauded the continuous support and commitment of the Desert Bush Walk local organising committee, Resego Komanyane. He said the Desert Bush Walk was not only beneficial to curb non-communicable diseases, but it also contributed towards the socio-economic aspect for the less privileged and small businesses.

He was speaking at the Desert Bush Walk 2024 edition held in Jwaneng on Saturday. “This initiative has grown over the years, and last year part of the proceeds were used towards funding research and innovation at the University of Botswana, while the rest went to charitable organisations. In addition, this event contributes towards the economic growth of the west district through various sectors such as hospitality and informal sector businesses,” he said.

Furthermore, Tsogwane noted that the presence of this year’s guest walker, Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso, was testament to the good relations that Botswana shared cordial relations with other countries in the region. “Her presence strengthens political and economic ties between Botswana and Lesotho, and we do not take this for granted,” he noted.

For her part, Queen Seeiso said her son was warm and loved by people. “I have no doubt that we will see more Basotho coming in large numbers to participate in this event. “I have no doubt that we will see more Basotho coming in large numbers to participate in this event.”

Divas Keps' mother, Kepaletswe said like any child, Divas Keps had a normal naughty childhood but very intelligent child. “I called him Dailazoo and he called me Mumzola,” said Kepaletswe.

His brother, Thapelo Kepaletswe appealed for his brother's legacy to continue. “We need to carry on and pursue his legacy of digital literacy and realise a Botswana of knowledge-based economy,” said Thapelo.

Divas Keps was passionate about the creative sector, which saw him along with others, establishing Bana Ba Mmala Trust, an organising committee of Son of the Soil event in 2009.

Not only was he a culture devotee, but also a techno whiz who founded Global Media Incorporated. He amassed extensive and professional experience in the areas of design, development and operation of online portals, development and implementation of digital technologies, development and implementation of digital literacy programmes, training on digital literacy across Southern Africa as well as digital transformation and cyber security awareness strategy development and training; availing his expertise not only in Botswana but beyond as trainer and speaker.

During a memorial service on Friday, Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Thulagano Segokgo said Divas Keps' work had an impact on government as an information technology (IT) professional.

By Ketshapelie More

GABORONE - David Kepaletswe, chairperson of Bana Ba Mmala Trust has been described as focused, determined, driven and a passionate visionary especially in the areas of technology and creativity.

Kepaletswe, known as Divas Keps, who died on July 20 due to pneumonia, was buried at Phomolong Cemetery on Saturday.

“My son has always had the love for computers. He was a techno whiz who never interested in home activities,” said Divas Keps’ mother, Kedzeng Kepaletswe when paying tribute to her son.

She said her son was warm and loved by people.

Kepaletswe said like any child, Divas Keps had a normal naughty childhood but very intelligent child. “I called him Dailazoo and he called me Mumzola,” said Kepaletswe.

He acknowledged his contribution to the formulation of Maulamalo Policy, and the development of the sector as a whole.

“We are a nation that values our culture and the development agenda,” he said. “As a government, we are committed to ensuring that Botswana is a knowledge-based economy and we are determined to continue in that direction.”

He added that Divas Keps was a visionary advocate for technology across Africa, his unwavering commitment and support to advancing ICT knowledge and practice has left an indelible mark on our continent.

“Divas Keps was a passionate advocate for technology across Africa, his unwavering commitment and support to advancing ICT knowledge and practice has left an indelible mark on our continent. As we reflect on his life, we remember his tireless efforts to bridge the digital divide, empower IT professionals and foster collaboration,” said president of Technology Information Confederation Africa (TICON Africa) David Gowu in his message.

Born in Kgagodi, Divas Keps was also an avid traveller and reader. Tourism was a passion and significant business interest which saw him curate projects such as Visis and Explore South Africa in conjunction with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of South Africa (CSIR), e-Tourism Botswana and e-Tourism Namibia among others.

His expertise and experience in the IT space led him to appointments on various boards and committees such as High Level Consultative Council, National Economic Diversification Council, World Forum on Information Technology, PPADB Steering Committee, and COBIT. BOPA

Kepaletswe’s mother (right) singing Se o Ndadimling Sone during the funeral in Gaborone on Saturday. Photo: Oogopoleng Kgomoethata

Meanwhile, a member of the Desert Bush Walk local organising committee, Resego Komanyane said even though they faced challenges this year, particularly with sponsors, they managed to attract enough number of participants. She applauded the hikers for their continuous support and commitment towards charitable projects they embarked on.

She also appreciated that the number of hikers increased by 450 from last year, with new participants from Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Namibia. “Our hikers have increased this year, we have close to 4 500 walkers this year from the 3 000 we had last year,” she said.

BOAPA
BDF VI women off to winning start

By Thato Mosinyi

GABORONE - BDF VI women’s Botswana Volleyball Federation League campaign got off to a good start on Saturday with an impressive 3-0 victory over Kalavango as the race for the top honours continued over the weekend following a lengthy lay off.

With both teams showing a bit of rust and unfitness due to a long break from competitive volleyball, it was nonetheless BDF VI that made their intention clear from the word go winning the first set 25-21.

Nine of stars in their line up among them Tsebo Morape, Pako Luke and Bokamoso Maputako were on song.

BDF VI had the best start, easily racing to a four-point lead over their youthful opponents.

Kalavango, however did not take things lying down in the second set and took an early five-point lead but were nonetheless the architects of their own downfall.

Despite the experience of middle-blocker, Monica Alfred and Gaone Lemphiletse, Kalavango squandered many golden opportunities in the tying minutes of the second set thus allowing BDF VI to fight their way back and narrowly win the second set 25-23 thus putting the game beyond Kalavango’s reach heading to the third set.

Led by Pearl Sekalela and her powerful serves, Kalavango fought hard to claw their way back into contention in the final set and impose themselves on the game but however failed midway as they run out of energy to go down 25-14, thus losing all sets.

Speaking during post-match interviews, coach Matthews Banny credited the players for their valiant efforts despite a long break from playing.

“This was a brilliant performance following a very long break away from competitive volleyball and we are so impressed with the teams fitness level, but we cannot judge ourselves based on week one performance because the league is like a marathon,” he said.

Banny said it was evident that players fitness levels were below par as most players faded as the game progressed, something which he was hopeful would improve during the course of the season.

He said going forward, the team would build on the weekend’s victory in competing for the league championship come end of the season.

Kalavango’s Gaone Lemphiletse (second left) attempting to block a shot from BDF VI’s Bokamoso Maputako (right) during Botswana Volleyball Federation league game in Gaborone on Saturday. BDF VI won 3-0.

Photo: Gothusang Lesego

Anotiding policy in offing - Sitale

By Anastasia Sihanda

GABORONE - Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture through the Department of Sport and Recreation (DTCB) has sponsored the Botswana Swimming Sport Association (BSSA) with P3 million for the year.

Speaking at the sponsorship launch on Thursday, DTCB marketing director, Sebola Serumola, said they would spend P1 million each year to support the development and promotion of Botswana swimmers through a Long-Term Athlete Development programme.

“Through an annual financial commitment of P1 million, we are fully devoted to helping these athletes realise their potential and achieve excellence on the global stage,” he said.

He said at the DTCB, they believed in the power of partnerships, and their collaboration with the BSSA emboldened their commitment to nurturing and empowering the next generation of swimmers in the country.

Furthermore, he said their main aim was to provide support that would enhance the performance and strength of athletes but also prepare them for the prospects of 2028 Olympics.

One of the most significant aspects of this partnership, he said was their belief in the transformative power of sports, particularly in promoting youth participation in athletics.

Serumola said at DTCB they recognised the importance of providing equal opportunities for all athletes, regardless of their gender or age.

Through their involvement in youth and sports projects, he said they aimed to instil a sense of discipline, confidence, resilience and determination in the next generation of athletes, paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable sporting community.

Furthermore, he said as an organisation deeply committed to sustainability, they acknowledge the importance of aligning their present actions with the needs of future generations.

“Our strategic sustainability priority revolves around the principle of promoting sustainable practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the future.

We understand the responsibility we bear towards our communities and the environment, and we are dedicated to making a meaningful and lasting contribution to the world around us,” he said.

The BSSA president Kgaotsang Matthews said they would use the funds to support, two groups of swimmers being the development squad of youngsters aged between 12-15 and senior squad.

She said they would provide the necessary enablers to support the athletes to thrive, such as high performance camps at the High Performance Centre in Pretoria South Africa with world-renowned Olympic coach, Rocco Matthews.

She said they would also provide strength and conditioning support, sports psychologist support and physiotherapy support.

A key component for the BSSA, she said was their coaches, adding that the programmes could never be a success if they did not consider coaches as the centre of the athlete’s success.

“There is no point building all this support around the swimmer, when we are not working with the coach. The coach is pivotal to the programme, as the implementer. We as the BSSA have therefore established the High Performance Coordinating Office in Pretoria with our coaches where they discussed all the technical components that need to be in place for this programme to work,” she said.

She said as swimmers went to the High Performance Centre, they would be accompanied by a coach from their clubs, so that they would continue with what they had learnt at the centre.

By Anastacia Sihanda

Committee senior vice president, Tseho Sitala said this at the Anti-Doping policy development consultative meeting in Gaborone on Saturday.

“For purposes of fulfilling obligations under the UNESCO Convention of 2005, government is currently developing an anti-doping act and the policy will serve to operationalise it,” he said.

The policy, he said would therefore help to harmonise, coordinate and deliver effective anti-doping programme to prevent intentional and unintentional doping.

By ratifying the UNESCO Convention of 2005, he said government agreed to implement the code and to abide by the tenets thereof.

Currently, he said the only instrument that related to anti-doping activities was the Botswana Anti-Doping Rules, which were not enough to sufficiently and effectively embed anti-doping activities in sport, which was at risk from doping activities.

Sitala said it was important that members were informed on anti-doping matters especially those that concerned them so that they could operate effectively in line with the rules and support athletes meet their responsibilities under the code.

National Anti-Doping coordinator, Fred Seno said government was committed to safeguarding the integrity of sport, protection of clean athletes and competition.

Government of Botswana has established the National Anti-Doping Coordinating Office (NACDO) and is currently developing a law that will guide anti-doping activities in Botswana, he said.

Botswana, he said had signed the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport of 2003.

Further, he said Botswana had also ratified the UNESCO International Convention against doping in sport in 2005.

By ratifying the convention, he said states parties formally declared commitment to the pursuit of clean sport based on the principles set out in the World Anti-Doping Code.

Seno said to achieve the purpose of this convention, states parties undertook to adopt appropriate measures to promote the prevention of and the fight against doping in sport, with a view to eliminate doping.

University of Botswana head of Sport Science, Dr Dawn Tladi said an anti-doping policy was long overdue, given that a number of athletes had been sanctioned for doping.

Dr Tladi said UB’s Department of Sport Science was a consultant of the policy, adding that they had a team of qualified personnel to assist accordingly.

She said it was important for stakeholders to undertake collective responsibility to ensure that athletes competed on a level playing field where success was determined by talent, dedication, hard work and not illicit substances.
By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana Swimming coach, Sidingulwazi Sibanda has commended swimmer, Adrian Robinson for his resilience in his Olympic debut in Paris on Saturday.

Robinson finished in fourth position with a time of 1:02.70 in the 100m men breaststroke, a position he had targeted.

He later moved to third position after De Lara of Mexico was disqualified. However, he did not make to the next round as he was ranked 27th after all the heats, which left him out of the qualification bracket.

Sibanda said the swimmer who was second seconds out of qualification, went out well in the first 50m and faded towards the end of the second 50m.

He said the future looked bright for the swimmer as he was only 20-years-old and headed to the next Olympics. Sibanda said they were expecting to make early qualification for the next Olympics.

“However, there is a lot that we have learnt, and we will continue to observe as we will be watching our supporters back home,” he said.

Robinson said he was happy with his performance. “It was very close,” he said.

“The future looks bright for Robinson”

“I felt the immense support from Team Botswana and our supporters back home. Competing at the Olympics has always been a lifetime goal, and achieving it was incredibly fulfilling,” he said.

The swimmer said he had a lot to learn and work on the sport and personally, adding that he had dedicated countless hours to reach this point.

“And while there’s much more to do to achieve an Olympic medal, I’m committed to working harder every day. This is just the beginning,” he said.

Robinson said his next long-term goal was to compete in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, given that he had high expectations for his performance and results.

The African Games bronze medalist said he was prepared for the journey ahead.

Robinson could not advance to the semi-final of the 100m breaststroke at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games as he was ranked 27th after all heats, which left him out of the qualification bracket.