

BOTSWANA

Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES



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‘Use local resources to drive rural economy’

Chendzimu Manyepedza

MMADINARE

Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe has urged stakeholders in Mmadinare to build business ideas around local resources, saying doing so could unlock major opportunities across the value chain and accelerate rural economic transformation.

Speaking at the official opening of the Mmadinare Rural Development Summit yesterday, Mr Gaolathe said the constituency was endowed with assets that remained under utilised.

“The Mmadinare constituency is particularly rich in natural assets, such as fertile agricultural land, diverse tourism attractions, and vital water resources. When fully leveraged, these resources can enhance economic growth and development within the region,” he said.

He said achieving that required a deliberate approach anchored in collaboration, coordination and clear responsibilities, a key principles of the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, BETP.

“This approach will help to viably make use of local resources that can stimulate entrepreneurship, create a sense of inclusion towards economic transformation, and generate employment opportunities in rural areas,” the Vice President said.

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Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe addressing residents of Mmadinare and surrounding villages during the Mmadinare Development Summit yesterday. He urged stakeholders to build business ideas around local resources, saying doing so could unlock opportunities across the value chain and accelerate rural economic transformation. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

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Lefhoko library construction commences

Khumile Moekejo
LEFHOKO

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, the Land Cruiser Club Botswana and Desert Bushwalk, collaborated to build a smart library worth P1.2 million in Lefhoko.

Speaking at the ground breaking ceremony, Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of Lesotho hailed the project as a dream builder for the young people of Lefhoko and surrounding areas.

She noted that the collaborative initiative was a moment of hope and vision that would bridge the education gap between rural and urban communities.

The Queen underscored the importance of impactful partnerships that work toward a common goal and driving development.

“What is being built here is far more than bricks and mortar, it is an investment in knowledge and human potential and in hope itself. Today we lay the foundation for opportunity, empowerment and a brighter future. We are investing in our children, our youth and generations yet unborn,” she said.

She said the library would contribute toward transforming the lives of people and breaking cycles of poverty within communities through the doors that would be opened by knowledge.

Queen Seeiso further appreciated the limitless possibilities that the facility would provide not only to students but also to other segments of the society.

She encouraged other industry players to play their part and contribute toward such sustainable investments through various ways

as a way of giving back to the communities.

“The greatest legacy we can leave is not measured by material wealth but by opportunities we create for others to flourish,” she noted.

The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa appreciated the gesture, which he said resonated with the government’s development agenda premised on partnering with various stakeholders to drive the social development and protection mandate under his ministry.

He further noted that the

library would not only improve infrastructure development for Lefhoko Primary School but would also go a long way in contributing to enhancing quality public education.

He said the library was an investment that would uplift the lives of people in Lefhoko and its surrounding, as well as benefit upcoming generations.

The president of the Land Cruiser Club, Mr Thapelo Olopeng said their vision was to partner with other stakeholders to empower communities and contribute toward development through social responsibility.

“We have decided not to only focus on clubbing, we partner with government, private sector and communities to assist where necessary among the society, hence we are here to launch this great programme,” he noted.

He said they have been contributing in various ramifications in schools and local authorities in different parts of the country since they started operating in 2018.

He said through assistance from other strategic partners, they were ready to pledge with the government for transportation in challenging terrains. **BOPA**



Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of Lesotho performing the groundbreaking for the construction of a smart library in Lefhoko recently. The project is funded through a partnership between Land Cruiser Club Botswana and Desert Bushwalk. Photo: Khumile Moekejo

Ministry sets Maun college as mining centre of excellence

Gaolethoo Kgatitswe
MAUN

Maun Technical College (MTC) is set to become Botswana’s Mining Centre of Excellence following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Higher Education and MMG Khoemacau, a partnership expected to strengthen technical skills development and produce graduates equipped to meet the demands of the country’s expanding mining sector.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Maun, Minister of Higher Education, Mr Prince Maele, described the agreement as a milestone in strengthening collaboration between government and the private sector, saying it reflected a shared commitment to developing a highly skilled workforce capable of driving Botswana’s economic transformation.

“This partnership reflects our shared commitment to developing a highly skilled workforce that will not only support Botswana’s mining industry but also contribute meaningfully to the broader

growth and transformation of our economy,” he said.

Mr Maele said the partnership would pave the way for the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) by October 2026, which would formally designate Maun Technical College’s West Campus as Botswana’s Mining Centre of Excellence.

He said the region had become one of Botswana’s fastest-growing mining corridors, making it the ideal location for a specialised institution that would prepare graduates for careers in the mining industry while supporting national development.

“This initiative is far more than a mining project but is an investment in our people, our institutions, our communities and our future,” he said.

The minister said government had repositioned Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a key driver of industrialisation, innovation, job creation and economic diversification, adding that the partnership translated national policies into practical action.

He said students would benefit

from internships, industrial attachments, mentorship programmes, workplace demonstrations, guest lectures and specialised short courses designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry expectations.

Minister Maele also commended MMG Khoemacau for its continued investment in skills development through graduate employment opportunities, industrial attachments for students and lecturers, the donation of modern mining equipment and the enrolment of four Maun Technical College hospitality graduates as Chinese cuisine specialist trainees.

On behalf of MMG Khoemacau, Director of Finance, Mr Wei Gao, said the company viewed the partnership as an important investment in Botswana’s future workforce.

He said establishing the Mining Centre of Excellence would strengthen collaboration between industry and educational institutions, ensuring graduates acquired practical knowledge and workplace experience required by the country’s growing mining

sector.

“The Centre will help bridge the gap between classroom learning and workplace readiness by producing graduates with the practical skills required by industry,” he said.

For his part, Member of Parliament for Maun West, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama, welcomed the partnership, saying it would create opportunities that extend beyond the mining industry.

He said improving access to quality technical education would enhance employment prospects for young people while stimulating economic activity and improving livelihoods within local communities.

“Quality education opens doors to opportunities and this collaboration will empower our communities with skills that improve livelihoods and prepare young people for meaningful employment,” he said.

He further said that government alone could not develop the workforce of the future, just as industry could not meet its skills requirements without strong educational institutions. **BOPA**

Botswana intensifies push for HIV cure

Lesedi Thatayamodimo
GABORONE

The global fight against HIV should no longer be limited to lifelong treatment but should focus on achieving a cure.

“A mature diagnosis no longer means lifelong treatment, but a condition that can be cured. For millions of people around the world, that day brings hope,” said Botswana Harvard Health Partnership (BHP) chief executive officer, Dr Gaerolwe Masheto. He acknowledged that finding a cure for HIV was one of the greatest scientific challenges of the modern era.

“While tremendous progress has been made in controlling HIV, we are refusing to accept lifelong treatment as the final chapter of this epidemic. Instead, we choose to pursue one of the greatest scientific challenges of our time, finding an HIV cure,” he said.

Dr Masheto praised Botswana’s transformation from one of the countries hardest hit by HIV to an internationally recognised leader in HIV prevention, treatment and research, an achievement driven by scientific excellence, visionary leadership, strong partnerships and community trust.

The BHP he said had worked alongside government and international collaborators over the past two decades, to produce landmark research that had influenced global HIV treatment guidelines and improved the lives of millions of people worldwide.

But even with these positives, the fight against HIV remains unfinished, because nearly 40 million people globally live with HIV and rely on lifelong antiretroviral therapy.

“While treatment has transformed HIV into a manageable chronic condition, it is not a cure. The scientific, social and economic burden remains significant, reminding us that our work is far from complete,” he said.

Dr Masheto said Botswana continued to position itself at the forefront of HIV research, with BHP undertaking multidisciplinary studies ranging from laboratory science to implementation research, community engagement and policy development.

“Behind every scientific breakthrough is a human story, child, mother, father, family and community waiting for the day when HIV no longer requires lifelong treatment,” he said.

The quest for an HIV cure may be one of the greatest challenges of our generation, but history has repeatedly shown that impossible challenges become possible when brilliant minds unite around a common purpose, Dr Masheto added. **BOPA**



Dr Gaerolwe Masheto

Botswana and Angola move to seal landmark Defence Pact

Lorato Gaofise
GABORONE

Botswana and Angola are on the verge of signing a landmark Defence Cooperation Agreement aimed at strengthening joint efforts against growing regional security threats, including organised cross-border crime, cybercrime, and wildlife trafficking.

Speaking during a courtesy call by Angola Minister of National Defence, (Retired) General Lúcio Gonçalves Amaral, in Gaborone on Monday, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, said the agreement would provide a formal framework for deeper military cooperation, intelligence sharing, and joint operations, marking a significant step in relations between the two nations.

Additionally, Mr Mohwasa said the agreement would enhance the capacity of both countries to respond effectively to emerging security challenges.

The evolving security environment, he said, demanded stronger partnerships built on trust, timely information sharing, and coordinated responses to increasingly sophisticated transnational criminal networks.

“These threats do not recognise national boundaries, and they require responses that are equally coordinated and founded on trust, timely information sharing, and effective collaboration among neighbouring states,” he said.

The minister revealed that technical experts from both countries were refining the

Memorandum of Agreement ahead of its planned signing during an upcoming State Visit, signalling that implementation could begin without delay.

Once concluded, Mr Mohwasa said the agreement was expected to pave the way for cooperation in professional military education, joint training exercises, exchange programmes, strategic dialogue, and the sharing of operational experience between the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and the Angolan Armed Forces.

Botswana, the minister said, also hoped to expand collaboration into defence-related industries, including equipment maintenance, logistics, specialised technical training and defence technology, arguing that such initiatives would strengthen national security while promoting skills development and economic growth.

He expressed concern over rising regional criminal activities, revealing that Botswana was experiencing an increase in cattle rustling in the country’s northern region. Preliminary investigations, he said, suggested links to organised transnational criminal networks exploiting regional transit corridors.

Mr Mohwasa said the growing threats reinforced the need for stronger intelligence sharing, coordinated investigations, and joint operational planning among neighbouring states.

Furthermore, Minister Mohwasa paid tribute to the historic ties between Botswana and Angola, recalling Botswana’s support for Angolan refugees during the country’s civil conflict



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (right) and Angola Minister of National Defence, General Lúcio Gonçalves Amaral during a courtesy call in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Mohwasa said Botswana and Angola were set to sign a Defence Cooperation Agreement to strengthen collaboration in combating regional security threats, including organised crime, cybercrime and wildlife trafficking. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

and acknowledging Angola’s contribution to Southern Africa’s liberation struggle.

He particularly highlighted the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale, which he said helped accelerate Namibia’s independence and the end of apartheid in South Africa.

For his remarks, General (Rtd) Amaral called for the swift conclusion of the defence cooperation agreement, saying the long-awaited pact would usher in stronger military ties and deepen collaboration between the two countries’ defence forces.

He said significant progress had already been made in harmonising the agreement, expressing confidence that it would soon be signed.

The agreement, Gen Amaral said, would open the door to more meaningful cooperation between the armed forces of Botswana and Angola, while also strengthening the long-standing friendship

between the two Southern African nations.

“We have made notable progress in harmonising the terms of the agreement we intend to sign, which will pave the way for more fruitful cooperation between our Defence Forces,” he added.

He also appealed to Botswana to facilitate the establishment of a resident Botswana Defence Attaché in Luanda, saying the move would enhance reciprocity and strengthen diplomatic and military engagement between the two countries.

The Angolan minister described the visit as an important milestone in advancing bilateral relations, saying Angola attached great importance to expanding defence cooperation with Botswana.

The relationship between Botswana and Angola, he said, was rooted in a shared history and had continued to grow through regional cooperation under the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Gen Amaral highlighted the two countries’ joint participation in the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) as evidence of their shared commitment to promoting peace and security in the region.

He added that the growing partnership was guided by the vision of Presidents João Lourenço of Angola and Advocate Duma Boko of Botswana, whose commitment to strengthening bilateral ties had created fresh momentum for cooperation.

Expressing optimism about the discussions, the Angolan minister urged officials from both countries to ensure the meeting produced practical outcomes that matched the strong friendship and expanding opportunities for defence collaboration between Botswana and Angola. **BOPA**

‘Use local resources to drive rural economy’

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Mr Gaolathe called on community members, local businesses and government agencies to work together to identify bankable projects that add value locally rather than exporting raw materials.

“I urge all stakeholders, including community members, local businesses, and governmental agencies, to come together and identify viable projects that can maximize the value of local resources,” he stated.

Regarding the Botswana Economic Transformation Plan (BETP), Mr Gaolathe said it served as a comprehensive roadmap designed to promote inclusion and sustainability in the country’s economic transformation efforts through the sustainable use of natural resources.

Mr Gaolathe emphasised that the BETP was designed to foster unity and collaborative efforts among key stakeholders, including local communities, the government, and the private sector.

He noted that this partnership was essential for unlocking the vast economic potential inherent in the nation’s natural resources.

Mr Gaolathe underscored that the success of the BETP hinges on a unified purpose, innovative thinking, and strong citizen participation, reinforcing that each stakeholder has a crucial role to play in the nation’s collective progress.

He reassured the community



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe (second left) being welcomed by officials at the Mmadinare Development Summit yesterday. The Vice President said the constituency’s rich agricultural land, tourism potential and water resources could drive economic growth and development if fully utilised. Photo: Baldwin Nyamande

that the government remained committed to implementing supportive policies, investing in infrastructure development, and providing resources to empower communities to actively engage in the country’s economic transformation agenda.

The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa who also serves as the Member of Parliament for the Mmadinare Constituency addressed the pressing issue of rural-to-urban migration.

He emphasised that this trend posed challenges that adversely affected both governmental operations and the social fabric of local communities.

Mr Motshegwa pointed out that one of the keys to mitigating migration was in developing and promoting viable business projects that leverage local resources.

He stated that by focusing on sustainable initiatives tailored to the unique strengths of rural areas, communities can create jobs and retain their population.

He urged young people in these communities to adopt a proactive approach rather than relying solely on traditional employment opportunities or social grants for financial stability.

He encouraged the youth to explore entrepreneurial ventures, adding that by tapping into their creativity and local resources, they can establish businesses that not only provide personal income but also contribute to local economic growth.

The two-day summit brought together traditional leaders, farmers, tourism operators and government officials to map investment opportunities in agriculture, water use, and tourism in the Mmadinare area. **BOPA**

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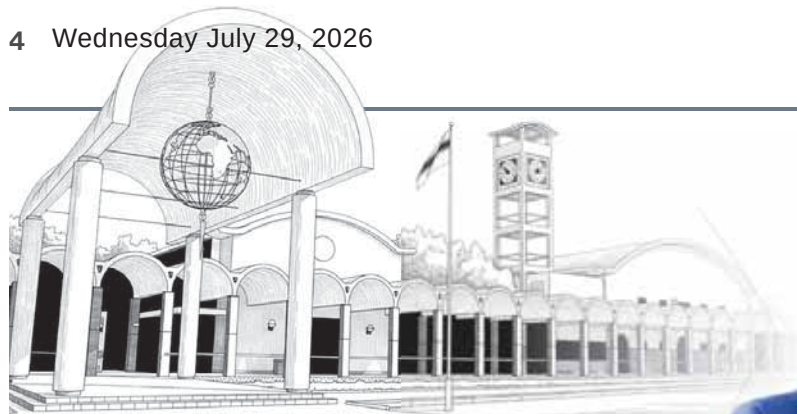
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PARLIAMENT 2026

MPs express differing views on student-friendly transport motion

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

It is not sustainable for the government to take the responsibility of introducing safe and student friendly buses as there are already some existing laws and policies in place to ensure safety of passengers is not compromised, says Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa.

He said this in Parliament on Monday when debating a motion tabled by the MP for Maun West, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama, which requested the house to resolve that the government should introduce safe and student-friendly school buses by establishing a comprehensive nationwide policy framework to ensure the safety, efficiency and accessibility of school transportation.

Mr Mohwasa, a specially elected MP, argued that there were some acts such as Road Traffic Act and Road Transport Permits Act among others that prioritised safety.

Introducing buses, he said, would be a major burden to government and called the mover of the motion to revisit and redefine it as it was silent and confusing, but appreciated that the majority in the house agreed that there was a problem in the society as far as transporting of school children using donkey carts was concerned.

Mr Mohwasa stressed that the issue at hand was being addressed as the government had decided to abolish the use of donkey carts for transporting school children, instructing local councils to replace them with safe, roadworthy and covered motor vehicles to ensure safety was not compromised.

The government, he said was equally concerned that learners were vulnerable and exposed to the risk of traffic crashes and harsh weather conditions, hence an instruction to ensure the protection and well-being of learners during transportation.

“Every parent shares the goal of ensuring their children travel to and from school safely and it seems this motion seeks to ensure transporting children becomes the



The motion tabled by Maun West MP Mr Carterpillar Hikuama, calling for the introduction of a nationwide policy framework on safe, student-friendly transport, was approved by Parliament on Monday.

responsibility of the government. This will be impossible because it is not sustainable,” he added.

MP for Kgalagadi South, Mr Tokyo Modise, who supported the motion, stated that some councils were at an advanced stage in implementing the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs instruction of abolishing the use of donkey carts, citing the Tsabong District Council, which he said had started transporting some learners using safer transport.

He wished the council could extend the assistance to learners at secondary school, acknowledging that the donkey cart transportation was exposing learners to safety risks, including adverse weather conditions.

Nata/Gweta MP and also Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse argued that the motion was proper, stating that a secure child transportation ecosystem relied on vehicle integrity, driver accountability and supervision, hence it was crucial for the government to consider providing safer transportation.

No one, he said was blaming relevant ministries for failure to implement existing laws and policies, noting that at the moment, children were suffering because they were not using a mode of transport that was safe, hence the motion called for the government to re-look at the matter. While he appreciated that the local councils had been instructed to identify and implement modern, safe and appropriate means of transporting learners, he noted that the motion did not refer to government alone but it called for a policy framework to guide even private transportation.

“Although some legislators restricted their debates to the

use of donkey carts, we should understand that the government has a duty to ensure that even private school buses are regulated properly because some transportations do play loud music exposing children to social ills such as smoking and drinking,” he noted.

Kgalagadi North MP, Mr Reason Lekutlane said some areas such as Kgalagadi and Okavango were totally disadvantaged due to the terrain, citing that the envisaged buses could not travel due to bad road networks.

He wished the government could consider improving road infrastructure in such areas so that people could get motivated and buy buses, hire qualified drivers and make travel safer.

Moshupa/Manyana MP, Mr Karabo Gare also supported the motion, saying as legislators, they were aware of challenges faced by school going children as some travelled long distances to access education and thus posed them to danger. He appreciated the government efforts in place to assist with transport but stated that was not enough as in other areas, learners had to be transported early in the morning due to shortage of transport provided by government.

“In Ranaka, we have special education learners who are picked around 4am and thus forces families into a difficult trade-off regarding children’s well-being. This motion is good as it calls for a tailor made solution to address challenges on the ground,” he added.

Furthermore, Mr Gare highlighted that some families were economically challenged to ensure their children were taken care of in terms of transportation to schools. **BOPA**

Student-friendly transportation policy motion sails through

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

Parliament has approved a motion requesting government to introduce a nation-wide policy framework on safe, student-friendly transport.

The motion by MP for Maun West, Mr Carterpillar Hikuama aims to shift from an ad-hoc transport system to a standardised national service, focusing on four key objectives of establishing a ‘Gold Standard’ for school vehicles with safety protocols. It intends to create a regulatory authority for monitoring school transport providers, ensuring equitable transport access for students in rural and low-income areas and integrating school bus routes with school schedules to optimise student transit time.

Mr Hikuama said school transit should be professionalised and school buses turned into a mobile extension of the classroom where safety was non-negotiable.

He said the cornerstone of a robust education system, rested not only in the quality of classrooms but in safe, accessible journeys to school, where inconsistent standards currently undermined youth well-being and equity.

Mr Hikuama said the motion also addressed a student-friendly element where emphasis was on a secure and respectful transport environment for students; with vetted personnel trained in child safeguarding and first aid, zero-tolerance policies against bullying and climate comfort to maintain a dignified space.

These measures, he said, aimed to protect lives and enhance the overall efficiency and accessibility of school transport, shifting it from vulnerability to empowerment.

He said socio-economically, the motion justified that dedicated school transportation improved educational outcomes as students who arrived safely and punctually were better prepared for learning and also addressing the issue of chronic absenteeism often linked to transport issues.

The MP emphasised that the motion enhanced child protection, as dedicated school buses would lower risks of abduction, traffic accidents and harassment associated with public transit.

Additionally, he said a national policy framework would provide economic relief by subsidising transportation costs for parents, effectively serving as an indirect tax cut for working-class families.

Commenting in support of the motion, MP for Nkange, Mr Motlaleemang Moalosi said the policy would ensure learners were protected from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse during their commute.

He said the policy would establish strict zero-isolation rules, enforced vetted multi-adult supervision and maintained transparent tracking protocols with a multi-layered security strategy that eliminated opportunities for bad actors.

Mmopane/Metsimothabe MP, Ms Helen Manyeneng said the motion, which was long over-due would guarantee safe transport of learners and protect them from severe weather ailments.

Also, in support of the motion, Tonota MP, Mr Gaefele Sedombo,

who raised the issue of donkey carts, said they were not a safe mode of transport as they lacked basic safety measures.

He also said traffic laws did not have set clear safety rules for animal drawn carts; therefore, he said government should introduce safe, efficient and accessible school transportation.

Meanwhile, Tati West MP also the Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa said government recognised evolving road safety and child protection standards that necessitated safer and more dignified transport for students.

He said government took a step with the issuance of a Savingram on February 2026, which directed the termination of donkey carts for transporting learners; which had been introduced as a temporary solution in 2016 for learners living over five kilometres from school, particularly in remote areas.

Consequently, he said councils had been instructed to prioritise learner safety, utilise licensed transport operators and ensure effective monitoring of transport services.

While some councils, with support from the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, were already implementing these directives, Mr Hunyepa said financial constraints were affecting universal implementation.

Mr Hunyepa further said efforts were being made by government to explore partnerships with the private sector and development partners to provide adequate transport services.

He said the implementation of the Savingram was underway, with some schools already providing the necessary safer transport and authorities collecting data to identify areas lacking service and ensure future adjustments, aiming to enhance safety and dignity in transportation for school learners.

Serowe North MP, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe said the motion reinforced what government had already put in place through the Savingram.

He said where funds permitted; government would put in place school buses for learners.

Responding to the comments, Mr Hikuama said Botswana could learn from nations with unified school bus policies; such as Namibia, which enacted stricter bus standards and saw a 40 per cent reduction in youth accidents while South Africa’s Learner Transport Programme has improved safety and access for over 670,000 students, reducing fatalities through GPS and safety measures.

Moreover, he said because of the country’s geographical dynamics, the learner transport policy should not rely on a one-size-fits-all approach.

He said the policy would ensure that connections between rural poverty and urban opportunities were built, creating safe spaces for students to prepare for exams and addressing the unfair advantages based on children’s locations.

Despite challenges in funding and logistics, Mr Hikuama said successful examples from Namibia and South Africa showed these issues could be overcome through political will and strategic mapping. **BOPA**



Assistant Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Mr Motsamai Motsamai told Parliament that the Ramatlabama National Artificial Insemination Laboratory, maintained a genetic resource base with a total of 474 384 semen straws in storage.



Ministry reviews injury compensation claims

GABORONE

The Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs is currently undertaking a national verification exercise to determine the status of all workers compensation files and to establish an accurate position of workplace injury compensation claims.

Answering a question in Parliament on Monday, the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Major General Pius Mokgware said the exercise was to be completed by the end of 2026/27 financial year.

The minister stated that there were currently 5774 cases pending, which could be summarised into two categories; 4627 cases, which were awarded but yet to confirm payment and 1147, which were awaiting assessment, referrals and second opinion on medical examination. He indicated that the waiting period for settlement for compensation at the moment differed from district to district due to distribution of business concentrations, citing an example that Gaborone was generally two months as compared to other places like Lobatse, Selebi Phikwe and Kasane, which would usually take a month to get them fully settled.

However, the minister said they were inundated with appeals for compensation, some of which, were more than a year and which were usually those that were not awarded compensation because they didn't qualify during assessment.

Furthermore, the minister said as part of the review of the Worker's Compensation Act, the issue of fixed period for processing and payment of compensation was being considered.

He said parallel to the process of verifying existing files, the ministry had also developed an electronic database that would later be used to develop an occupational Health and Safety Management System. This envisaged system, he said was expected to integrate registration, processing, tracking and settlement of compensation claims.

The minister said this project was included in the National Development Plan 12 under automation of labour administration process, adding that once completed, the system would be interfaced with the Labour Management Information System (LIMIS) to strengthen data management, access, integrity and transparency.

He was responding to a question from the MP for Mogoditshane East, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang who had asked the minister to state the total number of workplace injury compensation claims, which were currently pending and the average waiting period for settlement.

He also asked whether the ministry had plans to introduce fixed time limits for the processing and payment of compensation claims and to adopt information and communication Technology (ICT) systems that would expedite claims lodgment, tracking and settlement, thereby improving transparency and accountability.

BOPA

At least 14 static AI camps support livestock improvement

GABORONE

The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture operated 14 static Artificial Insemination (AI) camps across the country during the 2025/26 breeding season.

Answering a question in Parliament on Monday, the Assistant Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Mr Motsamai Motsamai said 14 of the 16 camps were operational, with the exception of Makalamabedi and Ncojane, which did not admit cattle.

"The Makalamabedi AI camp faced a shortage of grazing resources due to extensive veld fires, while the Ncojane camp was constrained by saline water conditions that negatively impacted cattle conception rates," Mr Motsamai said.

He said the static camps were spread across 14 districts to ensure farmers in both rural and peri-urban areas could access breeding services closer to home.

Mr Motsamai said the network included Goodhope AI in Goodhope District, Tsatsu AI camp in Kanye District and Ramoalosi AI camp in Letlhakeng District. He said in the south-west, services were available

at Sekgwasentsho AI camp in Jwaneng/Mabutsane District and at Kgainyane and Phuduhudu AI camps in Hukuntsi District.

The assistant minister said Farmers in the west could access Chobokwane AI camp in Gantsi District and Ncojane AI camp in Charleshill District.

In the central region, he said the camps were located at Dibete AI camp in Mahalapye District, Morupule AI camp in Serowe District and Makoro AI camp in Palapye District.

The eastern part of the country was served by Sefhophe AI camp in Bobirwa District, he noted.

Mr Motsamai said in the north, the ministry ran Makoba and Makalamabedi AI camps in Boteti District, with an additional Makalamabedi camp under North West District, as well as Nokaneng AI camp in Okavango District.

On the availability and pricing of semen, Mr Motsamai said the Ramatlabama National Artificial Insemination Laboratory (NAIL), maintained a robust genetic resource base with a total of 474,384 semen straws in storage.

"Local semen accounts for the majority, comprising 207,739 straws for beef cattle and 115,929 straws for dairy, alongside 127,460

straws from bulls originally imported from the United States and Australia but now produced locally," he said.

Mr Motsamai said foreign semen, directly imported, included 21,606 straws for beef and 1,650 straws for dairy.

He said local semen was sold at either P30 per straw or P75 per straw depending on the genetic origin of the bull.

"Foreign semen is sold strictly at its import cost, with no markup applied, a deliberate policy designed to cushion farmers against the high expenses of international procurement," Mr Motsamai said.

He said the dual sourcing and pricing model ensured that Botswana farmers had equitable access to both domestic and global genetics, while safeguarding affordability and strengthening the national livestock improvement programme.

On accessibility, Mr Motsamai said Ramatlabama NAIL and the AI centres provided nationwide access to advanced livestock breeding services. "The AI centres are located strategically across Botswana to reach out to small scale farmers. Whilst Ramatlabama operations are structured to

combine centralised laboratory functions with decentralised district support," he said.

He added that farmers could access services through frontline extension officers, while genetic material from Ramatlabama bulls was distributed via a comprehensive semen catalogue available in district offices.

"In addition, the laboratory facilitates the sale of semen and AI accessories, and runs structured training programmes for AI technicians to build national capacity," Mr Motsamai said.

He said farmers might also directly engage with Ramatlabama NAIL by telephone or through physical visits to procure semen of their choice, purchase insemination consumables, refill semen flasks with liquid nitrogen and undergo hands-on AI training.

Mr Motsamai was responding to a question from the MP for Mogoditshane West, Mr Galenawabo Lekau, who had asked the minister to update the House on Artificial Insemination Centres and to state how many were functioning, how many semen straws were available and at what price, and how Ramatlabama farm was accessible to Batswana and AI technicians. BOPA

Disease control gates manned through paired staffing

GABORONE

The Assistant Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Mr Motsamai Motsamai says gatekeepers and night watchmen are usually posted in pairs so that the disease control gates are always manned even when one gatekeeper is on leave.

Answering a question in Parliament on Monday, he said his ministry was aware of the directives regarding overtime management, Circular Savingram of August 7, 2014 on Management of Overtime Payment for Non-Commuted Employees. Mr Motsamai indicated that he was also aware of the current staffing challenges affecting gatekeepers and night watchmen at disease control gates and due to budgetary

constraints, it was not always possible to engage temporary employees for all disease control gates across the country.

He said the ministry would continuously engage casual or temporary employees to alleviate shortages prioritising critical gates when funds permitted.

"I want to assure you that these staffing gaps are not a deliberate measure to contain public overtime costs at the expense of farmers, but a purely budgetary constraint that cause staffing gaps across the department," he said.

Mr Motsamai also stated that the ministry endeavoured to deliver on its mandate that included efficient operating disease control gates in spite of the constraints that already were alluded to.

He said whilst it was not desirable for the veterinary gates to be unmanned, in those eventualities, farmers were urged to exercise discretion and due care including ensuring that the gates were closed.

Mr Motsamai was responding to a question from the MP for Serowe West, Mr Onalepelo Kedikilwe who had asked the minister to apprise Parliament on the exact directives of the current savingram regarding overtime management for veterinary gatekeepers and night-watchmen at disease control checkpoints.

He also asked if the minister was aware that when a staff member went on leave, the post was left vacant rather than being temporarily filled or covered

through relief duties.

Mr Kedikilwe also asked the immediate measures the ministry was taking to address the major delays experienced by farmers, who were frequently left waiting at unmanned gates, forced to open gates themselves, or forced to rely on passing individuals to gain entry.

He asked the minister whether these staffing gaps were a deliberate measure to contain public sector overtime costs at the expense of agricultural logistics and why the ministry does not openly communicate its official position to the public so that farmers know whether they were legally authorised to operate these disease control gates independently when no official was on duty. BOPA



Value chain key to industrial growth -Ntsima

Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship, Mr Tiroeaone Ntsima at the 10th Anniversary Trade Up North Expo in Francistown recently. He said Botswana's next phase of industrial development would be driven by value chains that connected mineral resources, manufacturing, entrepreneurs, skills and markets. Photo: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata

Kelebogile Taolo
FRANCISTOWN

The Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship says Botswana's industrial future must be built through value chains and stronger collaboration between government, industry and entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the 10th Anniversary Trade Up North Expo in Francistown recently, minster Tiroeaone Ntsima, said development should move beyond mineral extraction to creating industries around mines.

"Botswana's next chapter of industrial development will be written through value chains not by Government alone, and not by industry alone, but by connecting our mineral resources, manufacturing capability, entrepreneurs, risk capital, skills and markets," Mr Ntsima said.

He said government and the private sector must use procurement

to build companies that could create sustainable jobs, invest in equipment and compete for larger work. To do this, large buyers should provide more visibility into future procurement so that local firms can prepare and access finance. The Minister added that Botswana must also look beyond its borders. "Our aim should not be simply to replace an imported product on a shelf, it should be to build firms capable of placing Botswana-made products on shelves and industrial sites across the region," he said.

Mr Ntsima committed that the Ministry would work with stakeholders to identify priority inputs for local production, align supplier development with demand, and mobilize industrial finance, noting that the expo should produce a shortlist of products for local manufacture and key constraints requiring government action.

"The Trade Up North Expo will have served its purpose if these

conversations continue after the exhibition stands have been packed away," he stressed.

For his part, the Mayor of the City of Francistown, Mr Gaone Majere, said the conference marked an important milestone, not only for Trade Up North, but for Botswana's journey towards building a vibrant, diversified, and globally competitive economy.

He pointed out that for ten years the platform had served as a catalyst for dialogue, collaboration, innovation and investment to unlock the immense economic potential of Northern Botswana and the nation as a whole.

Mr Majere said Francistown occupied a unique strategic position within Botswana and the Southern African region, serving as the gateway to northern Botswana and a critical link connecting the country to neighbouring markets across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

"The city is perfectly positioned

as an anchor for the African Continental Free Trade Area. This strategic location presents enormous opportunities for investment in logistics, manufacturing, mining services, agro-processing, tourism, property development, healthcare, education and the digital economy," Mr Majere said.

He affirmed that the City of Francistown remained committed to creating an enabling environment for investment through improved infrastructure, efficient service delivery as evidenced by the city council's institutionalisation Quality Management Systems, good governance and strategic partnerships with both the public and private sectors.

"The future of Botswana's economy will increasingly depend on collaboration. Government cannot do it alone. The private sector cannot succeed in isolation. Local authorities cannot transform communities without partnerships," he said. **BOPA**

Ross Breeders pioneers Botswana poultry exports

Mmoniemang Motsamai
ARTESIA

Ross Breeders has made history as the first poultry exporters in Botswana, dispatching a consignment of 90 000 hatching

eggs to Mozambique.

Speaking at the send-off ceremony in Artesia recently, Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti described the export as the beginning of a sustained weekly export

programme.

He added that it was a milestone reflecting the growing confidence that the regional markets have in Botswana's poultry.

"This affirms our capacity to become a leading regional hub for poultry production and supply of high quality poultry products," he said.

Conversely, he said Botswana was contributing meaningfully to regional food security, trade and economic growth.

The project would create meaningful opportunities for commercial and small farmers and further stimulate local economy.

He stated that government was committed to unlocking sustainable employment opportunities within the Agriculture sector that had set a target of 250 000 jobs by the year 2029.

"Today's milestone demonstrates the resilience of our agricultural sector despite confronting challenges in the meat industry such as Foot and Mouth Disease," he said.

Dr Dikoloti also said through the Agriculture Policy, which placed strong emphasis on commercialisation, value chain

development and export-led growth - the Ross Breeders investment was well aligned.

Master Farmer Feed Director, Mr Allan Bradford said the company provided 60 per cent of day old chicks in Botswana.

He said the Ross 308 has also expanded to supplying small farmers with day old chicks and that as at May over 300 000 chicks were produced for local chicken farmers.

Mr Bradford stated that the hatchery was producing 690 000 eggs per week and that the intention was to produce 2,4million chicks a month for local market and export.

He said it was important for the country to be self-sufficient in the poultry industry and that access to key genetics for the industry was crucial in achieving that goal.

Master Farmers Feed boasted key genetics to provide farmers with best stock of day-old chicks coupled with quality feed produced by the organisation.

A total of P85million has so far been spent on the unfinished Artesia hatchery, while four breeder houses were constructed at a cost of P35million, he said. **BOPA**



Master Farmer Feed director, Mr Allan Bradford said the hatchery was producing 690 000 eggs per week and that the intention was to produce 2,4 million chicks a month for local market and export. Photo: Washa Bofelwang

BUSINESS SERVICES

Zimbabwe annual ZiG inflation eases to 3.2 per cent

HARARE - Zimbabwe's annual inflation rate in the local Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) currency eased to 3.2 per cent in July from 4.7 per cent in June, according to data released Monday by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT). Month-on-month ZiG inflation dropped to 0.1 per cent in July from 0.6 per cent in June, ZIMSTAT said. However, month-on-month US dollar inflation rose to 0.3 per cent in July from 0.1 per cent in June, while annual US dollar inflation held at 3.1 per cent, the agency said, noting that the main drivers of inflation during the month were housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels. However, monetary authorities expect inflation to stay within single digits throughout 2026 owing to a tight monetary and fiscal policy stance. **Xinhua**

Industrialisation week to boost regional value chains

JOHANNESBURG - The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Week kicked off in Durban, South Africa, on Monday, with a focus on advancing regional industrialisation and strengthening value chains. Addressing the opening of the event, South Africa Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Parks Tau called for greater efforts to develop regional value chains, upgrade economic infrastructure and remove trade barriers. Tau said the Southern Africa region has for too long relied on exporting raw materials while importing finished products, a pattern that has constrained industrial development and job creation. "Industrialising our critical minerals gives us a chance to change that trajectory." **Xinhua**

EAC central bank governors commit to single currency

DAR ES SALAAM - The East African Community (EAC) Monetary Affairs Committee (MAC) has reaffirmed its commitment to introducing a single East African currency by 2031, pledging to deepen regional financial integration. According to a statement issued on Monday by the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, the commitment was made during the committee's 29th ordinary meeting, held on July 24 in Kampala, Uganda, which brought together central bank governors and senior officials from EAC member states. The committee said the region's economy remained resilient despite global uncertainties, with growth projected at 5.2 per cent in 2026, above the sub-Saharan African average of 4.3 per cent. The meeting reviewed progress toward the 2031 single-currency target, citing advances in monetary policy reforms, regional payment systems and institutional capacity building. However, the committee noted uneven progress in meeting the macroeconomic convergence criteria, urging partner states to strengthen policy coordination and accelerate reforms. **Xinhua**

Dikgang

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Mokgatlho o agela ba Gakgatla kgotla

Keetile Bontsibokae
GAKGATLA

Ba ba mokgatlho wa Kebajoy Foundation ba bone go tshwanela go agela ba Gakgatla lerako la kgotla ya Setswana la sennela ruri le le lopileng P20,000.

Fa amogela kago ya kgotla mo boemong jwa morafe ka Labothlano, Kgosi Kgari Sechele III wa Bakwena o tthalositse fa kgotla ele lefelo le le botlhokwa mo botshelong jwa Motswana ka le dirisiwa go kopanela merero ya morafe.

A re kgotla ke lefelo le Batswana ba kopanelang kwa go lone go buisana ka ditlhabololo kgotsa ka sepe fela se morafe o a bong o bona go tlhoka gore o thulanye ditlhogo mabapi le sone.

“Fa re na le dilo dingwe tse di re tshwenyang, tse re tshwanelwang ke gore re di logele maano, re kopanela mo lefelong lone le le bitswang kgotla,” ga bua Kgosi Kgari.

O ile a gatelela gape gore le mo puong ya Setswana go na le mafoko a dirisiwang a supa fa kgotla e le lefelo la boleng jaaka Motswana are, “mafoko a kgotla a mantle otlhe,” e le sesupo sa gore mongwe le mongwe o na le kgololesego ya go ntsha maikutlo le dikakanyo tsa gagwe mo kgotleng.

Kgosi Kgari a re kgotla e rotloetsa boitsholo jo bo eletsegang mo setshabeng, ka jalo batho fa ba le mo kgotleng ba rotloedwa go bua ka tsela e e rileng, ba dirisa mafoko a a amogelesegang gore kgotla e tswelela ka go tlotlwa.

Ka jalo, o gateletse botlhokwa jwa gore botlhe ba tlhomamise gore le fa ba amogela ditlhabololo, ga ba fetole bokao jwa kgotla ka gore e fa morafe seriti.

Kgosi wa Gakgatla, Kgosi Lenyetse Moshapa a re o itumeletse bontle jwa kgotla ya gagwe.

“Batsadi ba me jaanong le bone bontle jo bo dirilwang fano ke ba mokgatlho wa Kebajoy. Se se nkgatlhang ke gore, se se dirilwang fa, re kgonne go babalela tikologo ka re sa rema ditlhare jaaka e le tlhologo,” ga tthalosa Kgosi Moshapa.

Kgosi Moshapa a re mo ngwaong ya Setswana, kgotla e tshwanetse go agiwa ka dikota tsa setlhare sa moselesele mme a re ka jaanong mo nakong eno setlhare seo se nyeletse mo thoteng ya Gakgatla ka ntlha ya go sa somarelwang sentle, ba bone go le botlhokwa go tsweledisa serodumo sa kgotla ka go tswa ka megopolo e mengwe.

Motlhami wa Kebajoy Foundation, Mme Joyce Kesiilwe a re ba bone go le botlhokwa go dira lerako la kgotla ya Setswana la sennela ruri. **BOPA**



Mohumagadi Masenate Mohato Seeiso wa Lesotho (molemeng) le mogolwane kwa CSI Concepts Foundation, Dr Olivia Nthoi ba le kwa moletlong wa go ipelela matsalo a ga Mohumagadi Mohato Seeiso le dingwaga di le some tsa Desert Bushwalk kwa Jwaneng bosheng. Dipoele tsa moletlo oo, di tlaa thusa lekalana la thuto e e faphegileng la sekole se se botlana sa Dinonyane kwa Jwaneng. Senepe: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

Tlhabiwe o akgola makgotlana a kabo ditsha

Relief Lephutshi
KANYE

Modulasetilo wa lekgotla la kabo ditsha la Ngwaketse, Rre Bobby Tlhabiwe o galaleditse maiteko a makgotlana a kabo ditsha a GaNgwaketse gore ba bo ba feditse go sekaseka le go tsaya ditshwetso tse di mabapi le dikopo tsa lefatshe.

Rre Tlhabiswe o tthalositse se kwa Kanye ka Mosupologo,

a re o lemogile maiteko a gore makgotlana a kabo ditsha a fitlhelela dinako le dielo tse lephata le solofetseng go dira tiro ka tsone.

A re se, ke tolamo mo go tsamaiseng merero ya go aba lefatshe le fa go na le dikgoreletsi tsa kiletso bolwetse ja tlhako le molomo.

O kaile fa makgotlana a netefaditse gore ditiro di tshwana le kabo ya lefatshe le

go rarabololwa ga dikgotlhang tsa kabo ya lefatshe, di tswetsetse sentle le fa go na le letlhoko la madi.

Rre Tlhabiwe a re mo makong e no e barui ba tlhobaediwang ke bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo le go tswalwa ga mebaraka, tiego ya go aba lefatshe ga se selo se b aka batlang go se utlwa.

O lebogile maloko a makgotlana a kabo ditsha go tsibogela kopo ya gore makgotla le setshaba ba

thuse ka go ithaopa go tsosolosa le go aga molelwane wa taolo matlhoko a leruo segolo jang kwa kgaolong ya Barolong le dikarolo dingwe tsa GaNgwaketse kwa bolwetse bo tshwerweng teng.

Rre Tlhabiwe o tthalositse fa maloko a ikopantse le ba lephata la matlhoko a leruo, go aga molelelwane go tswa kwa Ntlhantlhe mme ebile ba solofete go tshwara jalo go fitlha kago eo e wela kwa dipolaseng tsa Banyana.

A re lekgotla la Ngwaketse le na le lenaneo la go akaretsa le go dirisa maitemogelo a lone go tswa mo go tlhagogeng ga bolwetse jwa tlhako le molomo.

Se se akaretsa go tsaya ditshwetso ka kabo lefatshe mo isagong, jaaka go babalela meelawane e e tlogetsweng go nna dikganedi, go fokotsa mafulo a lefatshe le le tlhakanetsweng, ka go dirisa mokgwa wa kabo lefatshe la mafudiso a a faphegileng. **BOPA**

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A pastor convicted of rape, Goitsekgosi Mojadigo of Divine Anointing International Church appearing before Chief Magistrate Ms Queen Moanga-Leburu of Mochudi Magistrate Court on Monday. While giving evidence in his ongoing three-count defilement trial, Mojadigo denied ever having a sexual or romantic relationship with the complainant. The defence case continues on August 28. Photo: Washa Bofelwang

Ramaphosa urges joint African efforts for lawful migration

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday called on African countries to work together to promote lawful and orderly migration while addressing the underlying factors that drive people to leave their home countries. Ramaphosa made the remarks in Johannesburg, South Africa at the opening of the First Ordinary Session of the Seventh Legislature of the Pan-African Parliament, amid heightened concerns over recent attacks targeting foreign nationals in South Africa.

Expressing regret over the mistreatment and killing of foreign nationals in the country, Ramaphosa said such incidents were partly fuelled by misinformation and prejudice. He also acknowledged concerns among South Africans over the social and economic impact of illegal migration.

“As the South African government, we have taken a firm stance against any form of intimidation, vigilantism, or violence directed at foreign nationals,” Ramaphosa said. “Our response must combine firm, fair, and effective immigration management with an unwavering

defense of human dignity and the rule of law.”

He said migration should be managed in a way that upholds the rights and dignity of all people, respects international conventions, and promotes social cohesion. The president urged African countries to work together to address the factors driving migration, including conflict, instability, governance failures, poverty, and social discord. He said the continent must work to silence the guns, strengthen inclusive governance, and expand economic opportunities.

Nelson Muffuh, United Nations resident coordinator in South Africa, said human mobility had long been part of Africa’s history and development. “Challenges relating to migration and displacement cannot be addressed through stigma, exclusion or vigilantism, but through sound public policy, regional cooperation and adherence to the rule of law,” Muffuh said.

South Africa has seen a rise in attacks targeting foreign nationals in recent months, with some migrant-owned businesses forcibly closed by vigilante groups and several people killed in the violence. **Xinhua**

Tanzania eyes global capital for Vision 2050 development

DARES SALAAM

Tanzania on Saturday called on international investors to support the implementation of its National Development Vision 2050, a long-term blueprint projected to cost US\$1 trillion over the next 25 years, according to a statement issued by the country’s Ministry of Finance on Sunday.

Tanzania Minister for Finance Khamis Mussa Omar made the appeal during a strategic investment roundtable held at the London Stock Exchange (LSE) in the United Kingdom, as part of efforts to mobilise global capital for the country’s development agenda, said the statement.

The roundtable was held a day after Tanzania listed its first Tanzanian shilling-denominated

offshore bond on the LSE.

Omar said about 70 per cent of the required financing was expected to come from the private sector, while the government would mobilise the remaining 30 per cent through public resources.

He highlighted key investment areas including the standard gauge railway, energy generation, ports, airports, agricultural value addition and critical minerals, urging investors to capitalise on Tanzania’s stable market conditions, predictable tax policies and investor-friendly environment.

Omar noted that despite global challenges, Tanzania’s economy grew by 5.5 per cent in 2024 and 5.9 per cent in 2025, with a growth projection of 6.3 per cent for 2026. **Xinhua**

Serowe man faces rape charges

Keamogetse Setilo
SEROWE

A 23-year-old man from Marulamantsi Ward in Serowe is facing rape charges involving a 16-year-old girl.

According to the Serowe Station Commander, Superintendent Poloko Oteng, the suspect allegedly entered the victim’s home in Mokolojwane Ward on Saturday night while she was asleep and raped her.

He is further alleged to have stabbed her in the neck with a sharp object before fleeing the scene.

Superintendent Oteng said the victim managed to alert family members who were within the same homestead.

They contacted the police and the victim was rushed to Sekgoma Memorial Hospital for medical assistance, where she was treated and discharged on the same day.

He added that the police were able to apprehend the suspect after he was identified by the victim.

The suspect is currently in police custody and is expected to appear before the magistrate for arraignment.

Superintendent Oteng expressed deep concern over the rise of sexual violence in the region, noting that 27 rape cases were registered in the district during the April-to-June quarter.

He appealed to men to be protectors rather than predators in society, emphasising that rape caused not only physical harm, but also long-term psychological trauma.

He also urged residents to assist the police by spreading anti-crime messages and reporting criminal activities in a timely manner. **BOPA**

Industrialisation to boost regional value chains

JOHANNESBURG

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Week kicked off in Durban, South Africa, on Monday, with a focus on advancing regional industrialisation and strengthening value chains.

Addressing the opening of the event, South Africa Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Parks Tau called for greater efforts to develop regional value chains, upgrade economic infrastructure and remove trade barriers.

Tau said the Southern Africa region had for too long relied on exporting raw materials while importing finished products,

a pattern that had constrained industrial development and job creation.

“Industrialising our critical minerals gives us a chance to change that trajectory. It means moving from extraction to beneficiation, advanced manufacturing and integrated regional value chains. It requires investment in infrastructure, technology and skills, and closer regional policy cooperation,” Tau said. Tau noted that the meeting came amid geopolitical fragmentation and disruptions to global supply chains.

He added that the changing global environment also presented opportunities for the region to accelerate industrial development through infrastructure, agriculture

and the transformation of critical minerals.

Acknowledging slow progress in implementing the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap adopted in 2015, Tau cited declining donor funding as one of the challenges, stressing that the region ‘must drive our own agenda and pursue partnerships that support beneficiation and value addition at source’.

Regarded as one of the region’s largest public-private platforms for industrial development, the event will run from Monday to Friday, bringing together policymakers, business leaders, investors and other stakeholders to promote regional industrialisation. **Xinhua**

DRC registers 3 200 Ebola cases

KINSHASA

The number of confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has reached 3 200, with the death toll rising to 1 405, according to the latest situation report released by the country’s health authorities late Sunday.

The report, covering data through Saturday, said the country had also registered 571 recoveries.

A total of 773 patients remained in isolation, while 125 new confirmed cases and 51 confirmed deaths were reported over the previous

24 hours.

The report said Ituri Province remained the epicentre of the outbreak, accounting for 89 per cent of all confirmed cases.

The epidemic continues to be driven by population movements, insecurity, artisanal mining activities, and cross-border travel with Uganda and South Sudan, according to the report.

Authorities said they would continue strengthening surveillance, scaling up response measures and limiting further spread of the virus. The report said

the outbreak remained in a phase of sustained transmission, with a high level of virus circulation.

Treatment capacity also remained under pressure. North Kivu Province had 171 patients in isolation despite a capacity of 141 beds, corresponding to an occupancy rate of 121.3 per cent, while nationwide bed occupancy stood at 82.1 per cent.

Declared on May 15, the ongoing Ebola outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo virus and has spread from the northeastern province of Ituri to five provinces. **Xinhua**



KINSHASA - The Democratic Republic of the Congo health authorities has revealed that Ebola cases have reached 3 200, with the death toll rising to 1 405 with 571 recoveries. Photo: Xinhua

Arts & Culture

Initiative to celebrate young achievers

Loago Thomas
GABORONE

The 7th edition of Botswana Youth Awards and Festival, an event that aims to recognise and celebrate the achievements, creativity and resilience of young Batswana will be staged in Gaborone on December 12.

Born in 2014, the event will run across roughly 20 categories grouped into four broad sections. Under Economy an Innovation, young people will compete for titles such as Youth Entrepreneur of the Year, Youth in Technology and Digital Innovation, Youth in Green Economy and Climate Action, Youth in Agriculture and Food Systems, and Youth in Tourism and Creative Hospitality. Under Society and Impact, categories include Youth Humanitarian and Community Leader, Youth Advocate for Human Rights and Social Justice, Youth Champion for Health and Wellbeing, Youth Champion for Disability Inclusion, and Youth in Education and Skills Development. The Culture, Media and Influence section covers Youth in Creative Arts, Culture and Heritage, Youth Fashion and Style Icon, Youth Media Personality of the Year, Digital Influencer of the Year, Youth Content Creator of the Year, and Most Impactful Youth of the Year. Finally, the Spotlight wards recognise Youth Sportserson of the Year, Youth Faith Leader of the Year, and the Diamond 60 Youth Female and Male Leaders of the Year, categories that tie into Botswana’s 60-year journey since independence in 1966 and the stories of young people who have shaped the nation along the way. Closing date for applications is August 24. Sky Clouds managing director, Bruce Nkgakile, said many people in Botswana struggled to believe they could achieve what people in other parts of the world had accomplished. “It is important for us to have safety nets, programmes and projects similar to this, that try to encourage everyone to keep pushing and to keep going. To somebody else, it’s just an award. No, it’s not just an award,” said Nkgakile. Nkgakile described the awards as recognition for the work, sleepless nights, toil, risk-taking and every sacrifice that young people had made, calling it fuel that

kept them moving forward. He also expressed hope that relevant stakeholders, particularly government and the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs, would support the initiative. Sometimes, it means removing the obstacles that stand in the way of young people delivering on their potential, said Nkgakile. For his part, event director, Kagiso Morebodi, acknowledged that many young people were demoralised and going through challenges because they had been shut out, something that weighed heavily on their mental health. **BOPA**



Botswana Youth Awards event director, Kagiso Morebodi during the launch of the 7th Botswana Youth Awards and Festival 2026 in Gaborone recently. The awards, which celebrate the achievements and creativity of young Batswana, will be held in Gaborone on December 12. Photo: Phenyio Ramatu



NEW YORK - Vice chairperson of Triple Five Worldwide Group, Justin Ghermezian speaking at an event to promote tourism for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the United States. South China’s Guangdong on Sunday showcased its vast cultural and tourism resources in the United States, inviting American visitors to experience the region’s diverse attractions. Photo: Xinhua

Guangdong province showcases tourism appeal in New Jersey

NEW YORK

South China’s Guangdong province on Sunday showcased its vast cultural and tourism resources in the United States, inviting American visitors to experience the region’s diverse attractions. A delegation from Guangdong presented the province’s landscapes, cultural heritage, cuisine and tourism opportunities at American Dream, a major shopping and entertainment complex in New Jersey. Hundreds of visitors watched performances featuring Yingge dance, known as the “Chinese warrior dance,” a lion dance and Cantonese folk songs. They also viewed videos introducing Guangdong’s scenic spots, intangible cultural heritage, local cuisine, signature events and transportation offerings. A photo exhibition featuring dozens of tourist destinations across Guangdong was held alongside the event. “Guangdong is a feast for the eyes, a paradise for food lovers and a shoppers’ delight,” said Wu Huaqin, an official with the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province. Wu said the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area was moving toward becoming a world-class region. The event is expected to serve as a bridge for friendship and understanding, bringing people closer together and creating more development opportunities, Wu added. Guangdong combines China’s rich cultural heritage with the vitality of modern development, making it an important window for the world to better understand

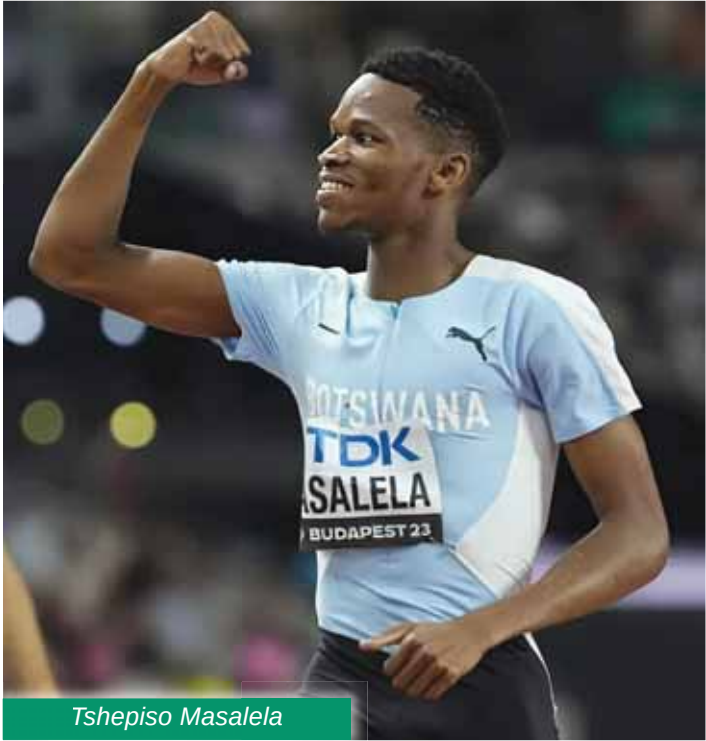
China, said Ma Xiaoxiao, deputy consul general of China in New York. “As people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States continue to grow, I believe the Greater Bay Area will become an increasingly attractive destination for American visitors seeking to experience Chinese culture and witness China’s development firsthand,” Ma said at the event. The event also sparked interest among local visitors eager to learn more about China. “I will be going to China in September to visit it. So, hopefully I learn more about it here,” said Nancy, a New Jersey resident who gave only her first name. Nancy told Xinhua that she would participate in an exchange programme this autumn and had been studying Chinese after previous trips to Beijing, Shanghai and Sichuan. Jason, a visitor from New York who gave only his first name, said he hoped to travel to China someday and planned to learn Mandarin first to make his trip easier. He also said he was interested in exploring China’s transportation system. For American Dream, the event represented more than a cultural showcase. “At American Dream, we believe our mission goes far beyond being a retail and entertainment destination,” said Justin Ghermezian, vice chairperson of Triple Five Worldwide Group, developer of American Dream. “This event is not only a wonderful celebration of Guangdong’s culture and tourism, but also the beginning of continued collaboration and partnerships.” **Xinhua**



Team Botswana fired up



Kemorena Tisang



Tshepiso Masalela



Prince Selepe



Treasure Moremi



Oratile Nowe

Anastacia Sibanda
GABORONE

Team Botswana enters a critical, high-stakes day of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games today, with local athletes anchoring a packed schedule across boxing, athletics and lawn bowls as they chase semi-final berths and podium finishes.

The collective focus of the nation turns toward Europe as the athletes prepare to test their limits against some of the world's finest athletes.

Botswana Chef de Mission Tebogo Ntesang said in an interview that the squad was fully prepared.

Ntesang said all the athletes were completely locked in, adding that morale remained high across the camp, with the entire delegation deeply motivated by Treasure Moremi's inspiring performance after he successfully punched his ticket to the quarterfinals.

All eyes will now be on the boxing ring as Moremi steps up for the most significant bout of his career.

Competing in the 60kg lightweight division, he is scheduled to square off against India's Sachin Schin in their highly anticipated quarterfinal clash.

The stakes could not be higher for the young boxer, as a victory

in this match will officially secure a coveted semi-final berth and guarantee a podium finish for Botswana.

On the athletics track, the nation's formidable running contingent is primed to open its campaign across both distance and sprint disciplines.

Oratile Nowe will compete in the 800m semi-finals after finishing second in round one, heat one with a time of 2:02.11.

Botswana hurdler, Kemorena Tisang will also start his campaign in the 400m by competing straight in the semi-finals. Tshepiso Masalela will step onto the track first, enduring a gruelling test of stamina in the opening round of

the men's one-mile qualifiers.

Shortly after, the focus shifts to pure speed as the sprinting duo of Oratile Justice and Prince Selepe lines up for the men's 200-meter round-one heats, with both men aiming to lock down automatic qualifying spots for the next round.

Meanwhile, the action on the lawn bowls greens promises a tough, technical day of tactical manoeuvring against veteran international opponents.

In the men's pairs division, the powerhouse duo of Kaizer Geche and Charles Iteko will fly the national flag in a highly anticipated matchup against tournament favourites England.

Boikhutso Mooketsi will

take to the green alone in a crucial women's singles rubber, matching wits and precision against a formidable competitor from Guernsey.

Meanwhile, Botswana's boxing camp suffered a blow on Monday after at national flyweight star Lethabo Modukanele was eliminated in the Round of 16.

The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games bronze medallist bowed out of the competition following a 5-0 unanimous decision loss against India's Sakshi Chaudhary.

The two pugilists squared off in a highly anticipated Women's 51kg clash at the Scottish Exhibition Centre (SEC). **BOPA**