

# BOTSWANA Daily News

THE PAPER THAT INFORMS AND EDUCATES



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## Moment of pride here



Ferdinand Omanyala

Collen Kebinatshipi

Letsile Tebogo

Kayla White

Gabby Thomas

Obakeng Kamberuka

Jerome Blake

Andre De Grasse

### History in motion...

For the first time ever, World Athletics Championships touches down on African soil and Botswana stands proud as host.

The world's finest athletes have arrived, carrying their flags and the weight of nations.

This is more than a competition, it is a statement. Botswana is not just welcoming the world, it is claiming its place in it.

Every stride, every heartbeat, every finish line will echo a continent rising. Africa has waited and Botswana delivers.

Photos: Pheny Ramatu



University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris (left) and Embassy of Japan in Botswana deputy head of mission, Mr Ogawa Shin during the handover of books to the university in Gaborone recently. The embassy donated over 140 books through the Read Japan Project, which aims to enrich academic resources and deepen understanding of the Japanese culture. Photo: Washa Bofelwang

## Japan donates books to University of Botswana

Mpho Mosojane  
GABORONE

The University of Botswana has received a donation of over 140 books through the Read Japan Project, aimed at enriching academic resources and deepening understanding of Japanese culture.

The comprehensive paperback collection offers thought-provoking insights into Japanese culture, language, and heritage.

It spans a wide range of subjects, including politics, media, popular culture, and geology.

The project seeks to enhance knowledge transfer to Botswana and the wider SADC region by providing valuable perspectives on Japan.

It also aims to stimulate intellectual discourse and broaden academic engagement beyond traditional Japanese studies.

This donation is among the outcomes of a Memorandum of Understanding between the

University of Botswana and National University of Akita.

The partnership led to the establishment of the Study in Japan Global Network Project office in Botswana.

Housed within the Faculty of Humanities, the office aims to create accessible pathways for students to study in Japan, including scholarship opportunities.

It also focuses on equipping beneficiaries with basic Japanese language skills to reduce language barriers.

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Professor Thapelo Otlogetswe, expressed appreciation to the Read Japan Project for allowing the university to select books tailored to its needs.

"These books, which we personally selected, will be highly relevant to our audience.

They go beyond language to include cultural aspects, ensuring

that our students are well-prepared to adapt and settle when they go to Japan," he said.

Since its inception, the Read Japan Project has contributed significantly to improving literacy and access to academic resources, donating over 1 400 books globally.

According to Kashima Kohei, First Secretary in charge of Public Relations and Culture at the Embassy of Japan in Botswana, the initiative was designed to promote a balanced and comprehensive understanding of Japan through international knowledge-sharing programmes.

The project is administered by the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research with financial support from the Nippon Foundation.

It has previously benefited local institutions such as Botswana Open University, the Institute of Development Management, and the Botswana National Library Service.

**BOPA**

## Kgalagadi North prepares for polio campaign

Samantha Gabaeme  
HUKUNTSI

As the country is ramping up efforts to safeguard its polio-free status, health authorities are preparing for a comprehensive door-to-door vaccination campaign targeting children under the age of five in Kgalagadi North District.

Updating the Hukuntsi District Development Committee recently, Public health specialist, Dr Solomon Tegegne, has warned that although the country had no confirmed polio cases, they remained at heightened risk due to ongoing circulation of the virus in the region.

He cautioned that the highly contagious virus could resurface and leave young children suddenly weak or paralysed.

"To hold that risk at bay, the first round of the campaign will run from May 5 to 8, during which health teams will move from homestead to homestead administering oral polio vaccines," he said.

Dr Tegegne explained that the house-to-house strategy was

designed to reach children in remote villages with limited access to health facilities.

He added that the approach would also help identify unvaccinated children, provide caregivers with vital information and address concerns directly, thereby building trust in communities where misinformation could spread rapidly.

Dr Tegegne stressed that the success of the first round would be critical in setting the pace for the second phase scheduled for June 8 to 11.

"For many families in Kgalagadi North, this will be their only direct contact with the campaign and their only opportunity to secure protection for their children before the virus crosses the border," he said.

Polio, Dr. Tegegne noted, spreads primarily through the faecal-oral route, particularly in areas with poor sanitation, adding that its prevention depends on immunisation.

"The oral polio vaccine works by building immunity in the gut, effectively stopping the virus from multiplying and spreading.

That is why we are targeting 95 percent coverage, the threshold required to create community-wide protection," he explained.

He further indicated that in preparation for the rollout, 18 vaccination teams comprising vaccinators, recorders and mobilisers will be deployed.

He said the teams would undergo training ahead of the campaign to ensure efficiency and accuracy.

He noted that the campaign, however, faced early logistical challenges as at least 18 vehicles and drivers were required to reach every homestead across the vast district.

For her part, Kgalagadi North District Commissioner, Ms Veronica Rabakane, revealed that the shortage of vehicles was raised during a stakeholder meeting, prompting intervention from various government departments.

"Despite initial setbacks, including mechanical faults that grounded some vehicles, we were able to secure the full fleet through collaboration and reassignment," she said.

She noted that in a district where

## Botswana Red Cross Society aids Khwai residents

Esther Mmolai  
MAUN

In a response to severe and persistent flood situation in Khwai Botswana Red Cross Society has activated a Disaster Response Emergency Fund.

The fund will embark on a drought response initiative, named Flood Response Project, to address the immediate humanitarian needs of affected population.

The project will run for six months with the aim to stabilise living conditions, reduce health and protection risks and support early recovery where feasible.

It will target the most affected and vulnerable households including families whose shelters were damaged and those that experienced severe livelihood disruption.

Botswana Red Cross Society Counsellor, Ms Karabo Muzila informed the District Disaster Management Committee that successful implementation of the project would depend on collaboration with district leadership and other key stakeholders.

Ms Muzila said the project was aimed at providing timely, coordinated and dignified humanitarian assistance to flood affected households in Khwai.

She said the overarching objective was to promptly stabilise living conditions for affected families, reduce immediate health, sanitation and protection risks and enable early livelihood recovery where conditions allows.

"This project adopts an integrated multi-sectoral approach to ensure that assistance addresses the interconnected needs created by the floods rather than responding to individual needs in isolation,"

she added.

She said more attention would be given to households with children under the age of five, pregnant and lactating women, elderly-headed households and families facing compounded vulnerabilities.

Through the project, Ms Muzila said victims will be offered immediate financial relief for purchasing food and meeting essential needs.

According to Ms Muzila, about 150 households would receive blankets and mattresses and 50 would get tents and tarpaulins for immediate shelter.

Victims will also be provided with portable solar lights, issued with vouchers for quality building materials to repair their shelter.

Furthermore, Ms Muzila highlighted that food vouchers would be given to 50 vulnerable households to address malnutrition risks over two months through retail partners while 50 farmers will receive agricultural input vouchers.

With regard to health component, she said given the risk of malaria, diarrhoea and other public health threats, some interventions will be put in place citing risk communication and community engagement to raise awareness of disease prevention, early health-seeking behaviour and safe practices.

Ms Muzila said psychosocial support would also be integrated to address both physical and emotional impacts on the affected households and responders.

Assistant District Commissioner, Ms Omphile Mogorosi welcomed the project saying it would minimise the impact and prevent further suffering.

Ms Mogorosi assured BRCS support from the disaster committee to ensure smooth implementation and success of the relief project.

She concurred that the floods situation had left many households in a panic attack due to displacement and loss of essentials, adding that psychosocial support was critical to combat long term trauma caused by loss of home and livelihoods.

In addition, she said the families also needed medical relief and urging Red Cross officials to consider increasing drugs availability in the local health facility as well as mosquito nets.

She noted that flooding created stagnant water, which served as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, causing spikes in malaria and diarrhea diseases.

Due to severe rainfall that resulted in widespread flooding across multiple districts, Khwai village experienced high volume of rainfall that led to overflowing water bodies which significantly disrupted the lives of the communities.

The floods destroyed mud huts leaving families displaced and exposed to harsh weather conditions while many households lost essential belongings including bedding, clothing and food further deepening their vulnerability.

Beyond physical damage, the floods interrupted income generating activities as access routes became impassable resulting in livelihood shocks that reduced households' income. **BOPA**

**BOPA**

# SADC and WFP renew partnership to tackle food insecurity

**Lesedi Thatayamodimo**  
**GABORONE**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reaffirming their long-standing partnership to address food insecurity, climate shocks and humanitarian challenges across Southern Africa.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, in Gaborone Tuesday, SADC executive secretary, Mr Elias Magosi, described the agreement as a vital step in strengthening cooperation between the two institutions following the expiry of the previous MoU in 2024.

“Our meeting today is a clear reaffirmation of our commitment to a partnership that has grown stronger over the years and remains relevant to our peoples,” said Mr Magosi said.

He highlighted the ongoing food insecurity affecting the region, driven largely by climate-related shocks such as droughts and floods, as well as intermittent conflicts.

He noted that SADC was still recovering from the severe 2024 drought, which prompted a regional humanitarian appeal of US\$6.4 billion.

He said the renewed MoU focuses on key priority areas including food security, nutrition, social protection, disaster risk management and empowerment of women and youth.

Mr Magosi emphasised that youth empowerment was central to the agreement, pointing out that young people made up nearly 60 per cent of the region’s population, approximately 76 million individuals.

“Empowering youth is not only an act of inclusion, it is an investment in sustainable development and long-term stability,” he said, adding that the partnership would expand opportunities in agriculture, climate adaptation and emergency response systems.

He also stressed the importance of gender equality, noting that women played a crucial role in food production and community resilience but continued to face

barriers in access to resources and decision-making.

Mr Magosi further said the agreement also aimed to enhance regional systems such as vulnerability assessments, local food procurement and school feeding programmes.

He highlighted the role of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC), a relatively new regional hub designed to improve disaster preparedness and response.

Mr Magosi called on WFP to support the centre through logistics expertise, resource mobilisation and training opportunities for young professionals in humanitarian operations.

WFP regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Mr Eric Perdison, described the renewed MoU as a strategic vehicle, to translate regional policies into practical systems that protect vulnerable communities.

“This renewal comes at a critical moment,” Mr Perdison said, reiterating rising climate shocks, food insecurity, displacement and fiscal pressures across the region.

He said according to WFP, nearly 45 million of the world’s 318 million food-insecure people lived in Southern Africa, with 7.7 million children under five suffering from malnutrition.

The region also hosts over 10 million internally displaced persons and more than one million refugees. Mr Perdison noted that the previous MoU delivered significant results, including strengthened vulnerability assessments, expansion of home-grown school feeding programmes and improved disaster preparedness systems.

He pointed out that today, national school feeding programmes supported through the partnership reached approximately 22 million children across Southern Africa.

The collaboration has also advanced food fortification, local procurement and agricultural value chains, while laying the groundwork for stronger emergency response systems through logistics, data and early warning tools.

Under the renewed agreement, SADC and WFP, Mr Perdison said would shift toward a more strategic approach focused on systems strengthening and regional coordination, with key priorities including early warning systems, anticipatory action, adaptive social protection and climate-resilient agriculture.

He said disaster risk management would remain a flagship area, with particular emphasis on operationalising SHOC and enhancing cross-border humanitarian logistics.

Mr Perdison underscored WFP’s broader role beyond food assistance, highlighting its expertise in supply chains, data systems, emergency telecommunications and logistics.

“The renewed MoU provides an opportunity to position the SADC-WFP partnership as a strategic platform for regional resilience and preparedness,” he said. **BOPA**



Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana CEO, Captain Thuto Toise (right) and Mr Lesang Maswabi from Mmegi Newspaper during a media briefing on the upcoming AviaDev 2026 conference in Gaborone. Captain Toise said the conference aimed to position aviation as a key pillar of national development, boost tourism, attract airline route development and ensure sustainable air services to Botswana. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

## Aviation ambitions soar

**Ndingililo Gaoswediwe**  
**GABORONE**

**Botswana’s aviation sector is poised for a major transformation, driven by ambitious plans to expand infrastructure and attract international airlines.**

Global carriers such as Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines have already expressed interest in entering the market, although capacity constraints at local airports and runways remain a key challenge.

To address these limitations, the Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) is undertaking a strategic overhaul that includes plans to expand the Kasane runway and construct a new airport in Maun within the next three to five years.

CAAB chief executive officer, Captain Thuto Toise, shared the developments on Tuesday while providing an update on the Botswana Air Access Initiative and the upcoming AviaDev Africa 2026 conference.

He said the infrastructure upgrades would strengthen connectivity to the northern region, improving access for both business and leisure travellers.

Launched in August 2024, the

Botswana Air Access Initiative brings together key stakeholders including CAAB, Botswana Tourism Organisation, Botswana Investment and Trade Centre, and the Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB).

The initiative seeks to enhance domestic, regional and international air services, positioning Botswana as a strategic business hub in Southern Africa.

Captain Toise said strengthened partnerships with airlines had already resulted in increased non-stop flights, boosting the country’s visibility in key international markets.

Among recent developments, Ethiopian Airlines has introduced a route connecting Maun to Addis Ababa, while Airlink launched direct flights between Cape Town and Gaborone.

South African Airways has resumed services between Gaborone and Johannesburg, and Proflight Zambia has added a seasonal Livingstone-Maun route.

These developments are expected to significantly boost air capacity, with international seat availability projected to rise by 40 per cent from approximately 460 000 seats in 2024 to over 640 000 by 2026.

This surge in capacity demonstrates growing recognition of Botswana as not only a leading tourist destination but also a thriving business hub.

Captain Toise emphasised that the initiative goes beyond attracting airlines, focusing also on ensuring

their long-term sustainability.

As part of this effort, CAAB is providing measures including access to passenger and cargo data, marketing assistance, and coordinated engagement with government stakeholders.

Looking ahead, the next phase will target priority markets such as the United States and Europe, while also strengthening the operations of Air Botswana to ensure a balanced and sustainable route network.

Meanwhile, AviaDev Africa 2026, scheduled for June 10-12 in Gaborone, is expected to attract over 450 delegates, including airline executives, airport authorities and tourism officials, to discuss the future of aviation on the continent.

The conference will also feature a familiarisation tour of the Okavango Delta, offering international airline decision-makers first-hand experience of one of the world’s leading safari destinations. HATAB chief executive officer, Ms Lily Rakobong, said the aviation sector was critical to economic growth, noting that increased connectivity would drive foreign exchange earnings and job creation.

She also called for improved immigration processes to ensure seamless travel and maximise the benefits of enhanced air access.

As Botswana pursues economic diversification, aviation is emerging as a key enabler, with stakeholders emphasising the need for infrastructure that supports efficient movement of both visitors and businesses. **BOPA**

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# Celebrating Nationhood

## Looking back, what opportunities do you wish you could have explored?



Orateng Jaramo

Looking back, I wish I had explored more opportunities that required me to step forward with confidence and trust in my own voice. There were moments where I held back whether in sharing my ideas, pursuing leadership roles, or fully embracing spaces that challenged me to grow. I realise now that growth often comes from taking chances before you feel completely ready.

**Otlhe Kolaatamo**

Wish I had a chance to be given a grant like yaho FAP, LIMID, CEDA OR CHEMACHA. I would be far in farming.

I could have focused on building my business and learning business and financial management.

I wish to be more intentional with my time by focus on my goals, taking consistent action, and exploring more opportunities in general. I also want to grow through innovation and cultural exchange, while building meaningful connections and learning skills for the future.

Looking back, one opportunity I wish I had explored earlier is taking on leadership roles and pursuing my business ideas. I

hesitated because I didn't feel fully ready and was afraid of making mistakes.

One thing I wish to do is to not forget to put God first in everything I do and stop telling everyone what's going on in my life because not everyone needs to know my struggles, my plans or wins. I owe no one an explanation, my silence is my weapon.

The regret of missed opportunities haunts me, the chances I could have taken, the things I could have done better, the plane I was supposed to catch, the job offer I should have accepted. If only I had been in the right state of mind or better shape to do so. What stings the most is knowing I wanted to try but never did leaving me with nothing but 'what ifs'.

Looking back I wish I could have started my own business as I am a talented and creative individual when it comes to food. Again back then there were many opportunities for young people to get government funding to start their own businesses, I only realised how talented I am when I was already over 35.

Sometimes I wish life could

show us the future so we don't waste time on things that aren't going to be ours forever. This made me motivated to work harder in life and be successful so I can explore the beauty of this world.

Looking back, I realise life isn't only about achievements, it's about the experiences, lessons, and connections along the way. I wish I had given myself more space to explore those fully.

An opportunity I missed and wish I could have explored is Studying Accounting at school. "Do accounts," my life mentor said. I didn't. Now I came to realise that Accounting isn't just a subject, it's the language of money, business, and freedom - And I could have been studying it for FREE back then. I skipped it, but I refuse to skip the skill now.

If someone sees that potential in you, Take it.

I wish I had passed my studies as I was given free education. Unlike other countries where people paid for their education, I could have appreciated my government by passing. It was easy to go to other countries to further our studies but I didn't use that opportunity.



Kedibonye Danster



Otlhe Kolaatamo



Otsetswe Mosweunyane



Maria Ngonga



Motlalepula Moupanaga



Keletso Tsaatsela



Sakhile Ncimbi



Queen Thema



Lame Komoki



Poloko Mogotwe

### Fa o leba kwa morago, ke menyetla efe e o eletsang o kabo o e dirisitse?

#omang

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# DailyBusiness

## Crop system reopens to clear outstanding transactions

### GABORONE

The Temo Crop Management System will reopen temporarily to allow farmers and service providers to complete pending transactions under the Lemang Dijo programme for the 2025/26 cropping season.

A press release from the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture says the system will be accessible from April 30 to May 7.

The release says the window is specifically intended for processing outstanding transactions that were not finalised before the official close of the season.

Therefore, all affected stakeholders, including micro-scale farmers, tractor owners and animal draught power service providers, are urged to take advantage of this period and no claims for tillage services will be accepted after May 7, hence critical for participants to meet the deadline.

The release also states that to complete transactions, service providers are required to submit supporting documentation, including coordinates of the planted field or a GPS-tagged photograph of the field and an affidavit from the farmer confirming that the service was rendered.

It further says payments will not be processed until all required documents have been submitted and successfully verified.

Furthermore, it says all service providers must ensure compliance with financial requirements, including submission of Know Your Customer (KYC) documentation to the National Development Bank (NDB) and confirm that their bank accounts are active to facilitate payments. It also states that any



Farmers have been urged to take advantage of the temporary reopening of the Temo Crop Management System to complete pending transactions under the Lemang Dijo programme for the 2025/26 cropping season. A press release from Ministry of Lands and Agriculture states that the system will be accessible from April 30 to May 7.

transactions not completed within the stipulated timeframe will be considered invalid and will not be

honoured.

“The ministry urges all farmers and service providers to adhere

strictly to these timeliness and requirements to avoid financial loss,” reads the release. **BOPA**

## Kenya launches Huawei-supported digital classroom to boost connectivity

### NAIROBI

Kenya's efforts to bridge the digital divide gained momentum on Tuesday with the launch of a Huawei-supported digital classroom in an informal settlement in Nairobi.

The Mukuru Digital Classroom, which was unveiled as part of the

Connected Africa Summit 2026 underway in Nairobi, leverages a public-private partnership to boost connectivity among underserved communities.

The digital classroom aims to improve digital literacy and learning outcomes among children and youth in the settlement. William Kabogo Gitau, cabinet secretary for information, communications,

and the digital economy, said the digital classroom aligned with the government's focus on expanding connectivity to stimulate growth of a knowledge-based economy and unlock jobs for young people. Through a partnership with Safaricom, East Africa's largest telecoms firm, Huawei supported internet connectivity at the Mukuru Digital Classroom, in

line with the company's corporate social responsibility commitment to promoting digital inclusion. Located within the Mukuru affordable housing complex, the digital classroom is equipped with modern infrastructure, including 20 new laptops, aiming to equip young learners with market-relevant digital skills. **Xinhua**

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### South Africa extends temporary fuel levy relief

**JOHANNESBURG** - South Africa on Tuesday announced an extension of temporary fuel levy relief measures to cushion households from rising fuel prices following the Middle East conflict. The National Treasury and the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources said in a joint statement that a temporary reduction of R3 per liter in the general fuel levy for petrol, first announced on March 31, will be extended until June 2. The initial relief measure, which took effect on April 1 and was due to end on May 5, was introduced to provide limited short-term relief to households amid rising fuel prices, the statement said. The departments said the continued Middle East conflict has kept pressure on global oil prices, leading to increases in domestic fuel prices. **Xinhua**

#### Leaders call for urgent implementation of SDGs

**ADDIS ABABA** - Leaders of the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) Commission on Tuesday called for faster implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. The call was made during the opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Speaking at the event, Claver Gatete, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, said Africa's progress toward the implementation of the SDGs, especially in water and sanitation, energy, and infrastructure, was slow and continued to worsen inequality across the continent. “Despite progress in expanding water access systems, lack of safety, reliability, and quality continues to constrain health, productivity, and economic transformation across the continent.” **Xinhua**

#### Business forum to promote trade in Africa

**TUNIS** - The ninth International Forum on Financing Investment and Trade in Africa (FITA 2026) opened Tuesday to promote trade and business across the region. More than 15 partnership agreements are expected to be signed with chambers of commerce and international institutions. Furthermore, three major projects benefiting Tunisian companies in Africa will be announced, according to local media. The event is taking place in a complex global geopolitical and economic context, and despite declining international support, rising prices, and geopolitical instability, Africa is not collapsing; on the contrary, it is transforming itself even further, said Anis Jaziri, president of the Tunisian-African Business Council. “We are witnessing a profound qualitative shift.” **Xinhua**

# Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

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# Kgari o kopa Bakwena go aga leobo

Booster Mogapi

MOLEPOLOLE

**K**gosi Kgari Sechele III o kopile morafe wa Bakwena go aga sesha leobo la kgotla-kgolo ya Molepolole le le neng la lora morago ga go tshosedwa ka molelo ka ngwaga wa 2023.

Kgosi Kgari o ntshitse kopo eo mo phuthengong ya kgotla ka Labobedi mo Molepolole jaaka a ne a biditse morafe go ba begela ka tshimolodiso ya lenaneo la Mosalagae, le maikaelelo a lone e leng go aga leobo leo sesha.

A re leobo ke karolo e bothokwa ya ngwao ya Setswana mme ebile le sireletsa morafe fa o le mo diphuthengong tsa kgotla ka nako ya fa loapi le sa iketla jaaka mo dipuleng le serame.

Kgosi Kgari a re nako e gorogile ya gore Bakwena ba ithulaganye mme ba baakanye leobo la kgotla ya bone.

A re sebe sa phiri ke gore puso ga e age maobo a kgotla, ka jalo tiro eo, ke boikarabelo jwa morafe.

A re komiti ya Mosalagae e e eteletsweng pele ke Rre Steven Mogotsi e setse e segile tema ya se ba eletsang go se fitlhelela. A re komiti eo e dirilwe ke Bakwena ba e rileng ba utlwa mokgosi wa go aga leobo ba e intsha sethabelo gore ba dire tsotlhe tse di kgonagalang go dira moalo wa leobo le go kokoanya madi a go le aga.

O ne a supa fa kago ya leobo leo e se tiro e e motlhofo, ka jalo e batla gore Mokwena mongwe le mongwe a nne le seabe mo go thuseng mo kagong ya lone. Kgosi Kgari a re komiti ya Mosalagae e setse e ikgaogantse ka ditiro mme ba setse ba tswa go tsaya malebela mo go ba ba setseng ba dirile tiro ya mofuta o.

A re ba setse ba supile dikakanyo tsa gore ba eletsa leobo le nna jang mme ga se tiro e ba ka e diriang ba le nosi ka gore ba tlhokana le dikakanyo le megopolo ya morafe.

“Fa e le gore go tlhokana le madi a a duelang ditena, samente kana moagi, komiti e tla ikgolaganya le morafe, mme o bone gore o dira jang madi go duelwa tse di tlhokwang”.

Kgosi Kgari a re ga a dumele go na le ope yo o sa lemogeng bothokwa le bomolemo jwa go nna le leobo ka jaana e le gone kwa morafe o kopanelang teng fa o na le dikgang. “Re ipua teng re bo re ikaga mme ebile le baeteledipele ba sepolotiki ke gone fa ba kopanang le morafe teng.

Modulasetilo wa komiti ya Mosalagae, Rre Mogotsi a re ba simolotse tiro ya bone ka kgwedi ya Mopitlo.

Are komiti e dirilwe ka maloko a le masome a mabedi, a re ba ne ba

ikokoanya jalo go tsibogela kopo ya ga Kgosi Kgari ya gore morafe wa Bakwena o eme ka dinao go aga leobo

Rre Mogotsi a re ba filwe dikgwedi di le lesome le boferabobedi, go wetsa tiro eo mme ba ne ba ikgaoganya ka dikomiti di le nne go fefosa tiro ya bone.

A re ba kgonne go bula polokelo ya madi le banka ya ABSA e e bitswang Mosalagae, ka jalo morafe o kopiwa go latlhela sepe se mongwe le mongwe a ka se kgonang go thusa mo kagong sesha ya leobo la Kgotla.

O ne gape a tshephisa morafe gore sengwe le sengwe se ba se dirang se ya go nna mo pontsheng ka gore tiro e ba e romilweng ga se ya komiti ke ya morafe.

Rre Mogotsi a re keletso ya bone ke go aga leobo la madi a kanang ka P20 million, la maemo a ntlha mme le sa latlhe boleng jwa ngwao ya bone.

Rre Mogotsi a re moakanya ke gore ba age leobo le le ka tsenyang batho ba le sekete. Bakwena ba ne ba itumelela le go atla kgang ya kago sesha ya leobo.

Ba ne ba supa fa seo se raya Bakwena botlhe mme ba tshwanetse go ema ka dinao go rurifatsa gore ba dira se Kgosi a se ba roletseng ka jaana Setswana se re, “Lefoko la kgosi le agelwa mosako.”

Rre Melehe Gaolaolwe a re go tshwanetse gore ba eme ka dinao go aga leobo mme seo se raya botlhe gore ba tsenyeng diatla mo dikgetseng go thusa. Rre Moshakanyana Motshweneng o ne a leboga komiti ya baitlhaopi ya Mosalagae go etelela tiro ya leobo pele mme a supa fa a sa etetse poelo morago, gore tiro e dirwe e wele.

A re keletso ya gagwe ke gore go dirwe selo sa sennela ruri se se ka kgonang go emelana le diemo tsa phetogo ya loapi.

Ene e rile go le pele, mothusa Kgosi ya Bakwena, Kgosi Lawrence Mhaladi a leboga morafe go tla ka dipalo tse di nametsang.

A re kago ya leobo e raya Bakwena botlhe mme a re o tshepa gore ba tla ema ka dinao go dira tiro eo mmogo.

O ne a ba kopa gore ba eme komiti nokeng ka go ba thusa ka tsotlhe tse ba di tlhokang. Mopalamente wa Molepolole Borwa, Rre Shima Monageng o lebogetse Bakwena go atla mogopolo wa ga aga leobo mme a re ba tshwanetse ba dire mmogo mme ba itetle go etelwa pele ke komiti eo.

Rre Monageng o lebogile maloko a komiti ya Mosalagae ka jaana ba itlhaopile go dira tiro e e bokete ya morafe, ebile e tlhokang le bonatla le boineelo. **BOPA**



Kgosi Kgari Sechele III a re nako e gorogile ya gore Bakwena ba ithulaganye mme ba baakanye leobo la kgotla kgolo ya bone, le le saleng le lora morago ga go tshosedwa ka molelo ka ngwaga wa 2023.

## Puso e tsweletse ka go fokotsa ditshenyegelo

Kelebogile Taolo

FRANCISTOWN

Puso e tsweletse ka go somarela sekgwama sa setshaba ka go emisa dilo di le mmalwa. Mopalamente wa Francistown Borwa, Rre Wynter Mmolotsi, o tlahositse se kwa phuthengong ya kgotleng kwa Tshwaragano, Francistown bosheng.

Rre Mmolotsi a re puso e tseretse tshwetso ya gore theko ya dilwana le ditirelo tsa puso di dirwe kwa lephateng la tsa madi ( Ministry of Finance) fela. A re se, se tlaa morago ga go lemoga gore puso e ne e dirisa madi a mantsi thata fa maphata a ithekela.

“Mo nakong e e fetileng, maphata a ne a ithekela, mme go lemotshengile fa dithothwa di ne di le kwa godimo fela thaata,” Rre

Mmolotsi a supa.

Tshwetso e a re e thusitse puso go boloka madi a selekanyo se se fetang P500 million. Rre Mmolotsi a re tsela e nngwe gape ya go fokotsa tiriso ya madi e e kwa godimo mo pusong, e nnile go fokotsa mesepele ya bodirelapuso go simolola kwa go Tautona, ka selekanyo sa sephatlo.

“Madi a mantsi a ne a jewa ke mesepele e mentsi ebile e tsenya badiredi ba bantsi, mme mo nakong ya gompiano, mesepele e fokoditswe ka sephatlo, ka jaana go ne go duelwa maroko le dijo mo palong e e kwa godimo,” Rre Mmolotsi a tlahosa.

O kaile fa go sa tlhole go na le kopo ya madi a tlaletso (supplementary budget) ke maphata, ka gore maphata a kopilwe go dirisa madi ka

kelotlhoko gore a kgone go lekana ditiro.

Rre Mmolotsi a re mo palamenteng e e sa tswang go wela, e e neng e itebagantse le kgaoganyo ya madi a setshaba, puso e tseretse tshwetso ya gore dikgwebo tse di ikemetseng di etelele pele mo go tswakanyeng itsholelo ya lefatshe, di simolole go dira dithoto.

Re batla itsholelo e leng gore dikhamphani di dira dithoto, e seng mo khamphani e rekang metsi kwa mabentleneng a bo e rekisetsa puso, re batla dikhamphani di itirela, gore di kgone go hira batho, Rre Mmolotsi a tlahosa.

Mo go tse dingwe, Rre Mmolotsi a lekoditsetse banni ka tlhabololo ya magae ( Rural Development Policy), a supa fa go tlaa dirwa maiteko a go ngoka babeeletsi go dira dikgwbo kwa magaeng.

“Se, se tlaa tlisa ditlhabologo kwa bathong ba ba kwa magaeng, go tlhabolola o ne magae ga mmogo le go thusa go fokotsa phudugo ya batho, go tswa magaeng go ya kwa ditoropong,” Rre Mmolotsi a supa.

O solofeditse banni gore le fa lefatshe le mekamekane le mathata a itsholelo, malwetsi le tse dingwe, puso e leka ka bojotlhe go busetsa tsotlhe mo taolong.

Monni wa kgaolo, Mme Ontiretse Olebile, o kaile fa mogopolo wa toll gates o tshwanetse go diragadiwa ka jaana o ka direla lefatshe letseno jaaka fa go diragala kwa Zambia, South Africa le mafatshe a mangwe.

Mme Lindiwe Saulos ene o ne a kopa mopalamente go sekaseka dikoketso tsa babereki ba Ikageng, a kaya fa seemo sa botshelo se bifela pele. Rre Boniface Nyadza o ne a tlatse mo mafokong a ga Mme Paulos a re, babereki ba Ikageng ba gopolwe. **BOPA**



Moagi wa kgotla ya Tshwaragano kwa Francistown Block 9, Mme Ontiretse Olebile kwa phuthengong ya kgotla e e neng e buisiwa ke Mopalamente wa kgaolo, Rre Wynter Mmolotsi ka Labobedi. Mme Olebile a re puso e simolodise tiriso ya di toll-gate go thusa go dira madi a a tlaa baakanyang ditsela fa di senyegile. Senepa: Ogopoleng Kgomoethata



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Relays Gaborone 26

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# Arts & Culture

## Anuli album focuses on revival, family and culture

Keetile Bontsibokae  
MOLEPOLOLE

In an industry constantly chasing new sounds and fleeting trends, some artists choose to build legacies instead. For Evans Modubule, better known as Mr Tagg, the creation and revival of Anuli is not just a musical project, but a statement of endurance, identity and cultural pride.

Founded in 2010, Anuli is an Afro-pop group born out of Mr Tagg's deep roots in Botswana's music evolution.

A pioneer in contemporary local sound, Mr Tagg made his mark producing for some of the biggest Afro-pop and kwaito acts of the late 1990s and early 2000s, including Unik Attractions, Dvayne, Thulie and the late kwaito icon Mapetla. His production touch also shaped works by Ashley Gops, cementing his place among the country's influential music architects.

At a time when many believed his chapter in the industry had closed, Mr Tagg chose reinvention over retreat.

Originally formed in South Africa alongside Nkosi and Mbaki Dumako, Anuli recorded an album that never saw the light of day, and the group eventually faded into silence.

But in 2026, the vision was reignited this time, with a more intimate and intentional approach.

The reborn Anuli is now a family trio comprising Andrew 'Semene' Zachariah, his brother, David 'Skitikiti' Zachariah, and their niece, Mpho 'Teemane' Zachariah.

All natives of Tlokweng, the trio

*'Anuli is a Swahili word meaning joy. That is exactly what we want our music to bring, upliftment and relatability'*

blends generational talent with shared heritage, creating a sound anchored in chemistry and cultural authenticity.

"Anuli is a Swahili word meaning joy. That is exactly what we want our music to bring, upliftment and relatability," explained Mr Tagg.

True to that vision, Anuli's music remains grounded in Afro-pop, a genre that aligns seamlessly with Mr Tagg's strengths as both producer and composer.

Under Real Deal Records, in partnership with Puo Communications, he writes and produces all of the group's material, ensuring a consistent and signature sound.

Their debut album, *Radikoloto*, is a 10-track offering that explores themes of love, resilience and social realities. Songs such as *Nkosheng*, *Nthate Nna*, *Leave Me Alone*, and

*Tlokweng* weave together everyday experiences with melodic richness.

At its core, the album carries a strong social message advocating for healthy relationships and stable family structures in a time when many households face strain.

During a recent performance at Cresta Lodge's Golden Nights event, Teemane spoke passionately about the inspiration behind the title track.

"Many homes today feel like places of conflict rather than comfort. Couples are struggling, relationships are under pressure, and peace is fading. Through our music, we want to encourage stability and love in families," she shared.

The song *Radikoloto* also reflects the economic hardships faced by many, portraying the emotional toll of financial strain within

relationships. Speaking on Duma FM's Music Box Show, Teemane described the song as a message of hope.

"It is a reminder to support each other, even in difficult times. Things will get better, go tla siama," she said, embodying the role of a supportive partner navigating hardship.

Beyond the music, Anuli's performances are a visual celebration of African heritage. Their stage presence defined by vibrant traditional attire and energetic choreography draws inspiration from 1960s kwela culture, with dance moves that echo the golden era of township rhythms.

With Anuli, Mr Tagg does not chase modern trends. Instead, he refines a timeless Afro-pop sound; rich, organic, and deeply rooted in

African identity.

Recent performances alongside established acts such as Alfredo Mos and Ephraim Maatla have signaled the group's growing presence and potential longevity in the industry.

An admirer, Sir Tawana, praised Mr Tagg's signature production style, noting the powerful backing vocals that define Anuli's sound. Another fan, Mfundo Mpisana, described the music as beautiful, adding that its appeal transcends language barriers.

Kagiso Morebodi, simply called it what many are beginning to believe: "Big songs."

As Anuli continues to rise, one thing is clear this is more than a comeback. It is a carefully crafted revival, driven by experience, family bonds, and a commitment to storytelling through sound. **BOPA**

Anuli, an Afro-pop group born out of Mr Tagg's deep roots in Botswana's music evolution. Their debut album, *Radikoloto* is a 10-track offering that explores themes of love, resilience and social realities. Photo: Courtesy of Anuli

## Brick-and-mortar bookstores turn to digital tools

**JINAN** -China's brick-and-mortar bookshops, once under pressure from the growth of online reading and e-commerce, are now adopting digital tools in an effort to reconnect with readers.

Founded in 2014 in Binzhou, east China's Shandong Province, Puhe Reading Space began as a small traditional bookshop reliant on book sales.

When online competition squeezed margins, it moved away from price wars and began using digital platforms to cultivate reader communities.

"Online channels such as our e-shop and WeChat groups allow us to maintain full-lifecycle engagement with our members," said Wang

Hong, the bookshop's founder. She added that the bookstore also

uses livestream sessions as a kind of "online living room," where staff and long-time readers can deepen their connections through cultural conversations.

A recent national reading survey showed that the overall reading rate among Chinese adults rose to 82.3 percent in 2025.

However, digital formats now dominate the market, with nearly 80 per cent of readers using mobile phones to meet their literary needs.

Industry experts said brick-and-mortar bookstores will need to offer immersive, in-person experiences that digital reading cannot replicate, turning bookstores into part of a broader lifestyle.

"Even in the internet era, people cannot confine all aspects of life to the virtual world," said Ma Ruijie, an associate professor at the School of Journalism and Communication,

Nankai University.

To draw people back into physical spaces, some bookstores are experimenting with formats that go beyond traditional reading, combining immersive in-person experiences with digital tools to reshape how readers engage with books.

In a shopping mall in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou, a bookstore has introduced five small theaters that stage scenes from classic books as immersive performances, turning what was once a quiet retail space into a cultural venue.

In Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, a bookstore has developed a circular reading model through an online mini-programme, allowing readers to resell books after finishing them while receiving recommendations based on their

reading habits. Puhe has also embraced artificial intelligence (AI), hosting workshops that teach readers how to turn passages from classic literature into visual posters.

"AI has not replaced reading," Wang said. "Instead, it has become a powerful tool for broadening cultural reach."

Across the sector, such efforts reflect a broader rethinking of the services that bookstores try to provide.

Physical bookstores remain irreplaceable as cultural and social spaces, where readers seek not only books, but spiritual resonance and a sense of belonging, said Zhao Jianying, a professor at the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

He added that digital reading and physical reading serve different functions and are complementary

rather than substitutes.

"Digital reading solves the problem of access, while physical bookstores and print reading enable deeper engagement," he said.

That shift is also seeing strong policy support. A regulation on promoting nationwide reading, which took effect in February, encourages brick-and-mortar bookstores to improve reading conditions and carry out reading activities, while strengthening their role in providing public reading services.

This year's government work report for the first time calls for supporting the development of physical bookstores.

China is home to about 120 000 brick-and-mortar bookstores. Against this backdrop, some long-standing bookstores are beginning to return. **Xinhua**

# DailySport



## Meet Gaborone26 team Botswana

**Anastacia Sibanda**  
**GABORONE**

Representing the pride and pace of Botswana, the Debswana World Athletics Relays team brings together a formidable blend of seasoned champions and

explosive young talent. From the traditional sprinting strongholds like Kanye and Maun to the rising stars of Nshakashokwe and Etsha, these athletes embody the spirit of the country's rich athletic heritage.

As they take to the global

stage on May 2-3, this squad carries not only the hopes of their home villages but the momentum of a country that has become a world leader in relay racing. Below are the men and women ready to leave their mark on the track. **BOPA**

### The Men's Team



**Name:** Boitumelo Masilo  
**D.O.B:** 05-08-1995  
**Home village:** Sefhare  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Justice Oratile  
**D.O.B:** 21-05-2006  
**Home village:** Nshakashokwe  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Collen Kebinatshipi  
**D.O.B:** 13-02-2004  
**Home village:** Lotlhakane East  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Bayapo Ndori  
**D.O.B:** 20-06-1999  
**Home village:** Tutume  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Leungo Scotch  
**D.O.B:** 28-02-1996  
**Home village:** Maun  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Lee Eppie  
**D.O.B:** 18-05-1999  
**Home village:** Palapye  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Kabo Rankgwe  
**D.O.B:** 25-08-2003  
**Home village:** Ramotswa  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Lefatshe Seleka  
**D.O.B:** 01-06-2006  
**Home village:** Kanye  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Letsile Tebogo  
**D.O.B:** 07-06-2003  
**Home village:** Kanye  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Jayson Mandoze  
**D.O.B:** 05-05-2002  
**Home village:** Maun  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Godiraone Lobatlamang  
**D.O.B:** 17-01-2003  
**Home village:** Kanye  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Thuto Masasa  
**D.O.B:** 21-08-2000  
**Home village:** Palapye  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Xholani Talane  
**D.O.B:** 25-09-1997  
**Home village:** Motlhabaneng  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Prince Selepe  
**D.O.B:** 18-02-2006  
**Home village:** Kanye  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Calvin Omphile  
**D.O.B:** 21-05-2001  
**Home village:** Letlhakane  
**Event:** 4x100 metres

### The Women's Team



**Name:** Obakeng Kamberuka  
**D.O.B:** 08-09-2003  
**Home village:** Etsha  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Kennekae Batisani  
**D.O.B:** 03-03-2001  
**Home village:** Sebina  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Naledi Monthe  
**D.O.B:** 01-08-2003  
**Home village:** Tonota  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Galefele Moroko  
**D.O.B:** 16-07-1997  
**Home village:** Tsau  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Karabo Mantswinyane  
**D.O.B:** 26-08-2004  
**Home village:** Senete  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Lebitso Mokorofu  
**D.O.B:** 08-09-1999  
**Home village:** Khumaga  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Golekanye Chikani  
**D.O.B:** 14-03-2002  
**Home village:** Tutume  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Gaolape Senyama  
**D.O.B:** 22-11-2001  
**Home village:** Tsau  
**Event:** 4x400 metres



**Name:** Nancy Budzani  
**D.O.B:** 26-03-1996  
**Home village:** Sebina  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Kesego Kgari  
**D.O.B:** 27-05-2006  
**Home village:** Hunhukwe  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Loungo Matlhaku  
**D.O.B:** 24-03-1995  
**Home village:** Khakhea  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Boitshepisio Kelapile  
**D.O.B:** 04-03-2002  
**Home village:** Makalamabedi  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Lame Kewamodimo  
**D.O.B:** 17.06.2004  
**Home village:** Serowe 2004  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Same Mhutsiwa  
**D.O.B:** 05-03-2007  
**Home village:** Kanye  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Katlego Kaisara  
**D.O.B:** 27-11-2003  
**Home village:** Tonota  
**Event:** 4x100 metres



**Name:** Tshegofatso Bojosi  
**D.O.B:** 01-01-1998  
**Home village:** Matsaudi  
**Event:** 4x100 metres