

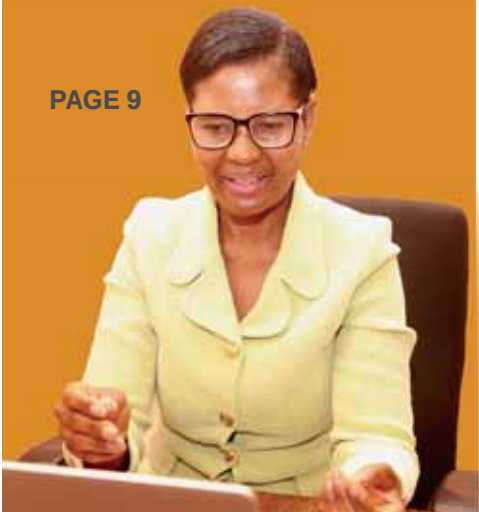
BOTSWANA

Daily News

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President Advocate Duma Boko viewing the 1 305.4-carat diamond recovered at Karowe Diamond Mine. Speaking during a Cabinet meeting at the Office of the President yesterday, Lucara Botswana Managing Director, Ms Naseem Lahri said the diamond was the 10th stone weighing more than 1 000 carats recovered at the mine since operations began. She said the latest discovery reinforced Lucara's position as a leading producer of large, exceptional diamonds and demonstrated the continued strong demand for these rare stones in the luxury market. While the sale of diamonds has plummeted, Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo, stated that it was pleasing to note that the diamond market was on a rebound and receptive of the large stones, and the pricing also quite buoyant. She said efforts were bearing fruit to promote and market Botswana diamonds through the House of Botswana, a partnership between government and De Beers, as well as key stakeholders in the mid and downstream diamond industry. Photo: Phenyo Moalosi

Ministry cautions on veldt fires

GABORONE

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism says the country continues to experience wildland fires in various parts of the nation.

A press release from the ministry says these fires pose significant threat to human life, property, livestock, wildlife, natural ecosystems and the country's tourism resources.

The release says the prevailing dry season, coupled with high temperatures, strong winds and high fuel loads, has increased the likelihood of fire outbreaks.

As a result, fires have spread rapidly under prevailing windy conditions, requiring swift and coordinated suppression efforts.

It also states that since the start of the fire season, 30 wildland fire outbreaks have been recorded nationwide.

During the week ending July 24 this year, it says, 10 new fire ignitions were reported and these were successfully suppressed within one to two days, depending on the severity of the fires and the accessibility of the affected areas.

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Public Accounts Committee probes DIS on governance

Mpho Mosojane
GABORONE

Embracing a culture rooted in strong governance, with a leadership that values accountability and transparency can help the course of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS), the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairperson, Mr Taolo Lucas, has advised.

Appearing the before the

committee on Monday, the Directorate on Intelligence and Security (DIS) Director General, Brigadier Peter Magosi, was probed on facilitating the accelerated promotion of several DIS officers, including his wife who moved from C2 directly to E2 salary scale, a development that he said was justified.

“Denying my wife a promotion simply because of my association to her is itself unfair. She was promoted alongside five other

officers who joined DIS at a similar period. I was simply doing my job in managing staff development,” said Brig. Magosi.

The committee also enquired about a 10-day international official trip that cost around P333,000 that the Director General embarked on alongside other officers including his wife, raising issues of possible conflict of interest.

Another enquiry was with regard to Tautona Lodge, whose

procurement price was P58 million against a valuation of P52 million, the figure, which, Brig. Magosi explained was inflated by Value Added Tax.

On other issues, Brig. Magosi identified youth unemployment as an emerging threat to national security cautioning that if left unaddressed, could lead to emotional unrest, political instability and criminal activity.

He further advised that the DIS internal HR restructuring

process, aimed at strengthening institutional effectiveness and better responding to emerging threats, was at an advanced stage.

The Director General stated that the organisation’s decisions and activities were done within its mandate and in the best interest of national security.

He also announced that he would retire October 13, after an eight-year stint at the helm of the intelligence agency. He would be 63 years old. **BOPA**

Letsile Tebogo foundation to assist cancer patients

Gontle Merafhe
GABORONE

Olympic champion, Letsile Tebogo has launched Letsile Tebogo Charitable Foundation to assist cancer patients, survivors and their families.

Marking the launch of the foundation in Gaborone on Tuesday, Chairperson of Ntlo ya Dikgosi and Kgosi Malope II of Bangwaketse, said supporting cancer survivors was a collective responsibility rather than an individual or government commitment.

“No single institution can address these challenges alone. Government plays a pivotal role in the healthcare delivery,” he said.

Kgosi Malope II said healthcare professionals provided expertise, compassion and treatment while the corporate sector contributed resources, innovation and sustainable partnerships.

He further said civil society organisations brought communities together while individual citizens contributed to volunteerism, advocacy and generosity.

Kgosi Malope II said when the above-mentioned sectors unite with a common purpose, remarkable transformation become possible.

“This is what we need as a country. It is therefore encouraging to witness representatives from

diverse sectors gathered for one cause,” he emphasised.

He also said the launch of the foundation was a testament to the resilience that Batswana had as well as embracing the spirit of Botho.

Additionally, he said development was not only measured by economic growth or infrastructure but was also reflected in how Batswana cared for those facing life’s greatest challenges, adding that a nation became stronger when its most vulnerable people were supported with dignity, compassion and opportunity.

Kgosi Malope II also said the foundation came at a time when the country had to unite around a cause that transcended politics, social status, religion and background as cancer affected all directly and indirectly.

For his part, Orange Botswana acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gobe Mbayi said at Orange Botswana they believed technology should serve humanity and that businesses had a responsibility to create a positive social impact beyond commercial success, support education, promote health and create opportunities for a brighter future.

Mr Mbayi said when the Olympic champion became part of Orange Botswana, they recognised in him a set of values that mimicked theirs being excellence, integrity, resilience and genuine purpose.



Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo (left) and his sister, Ano at the launch of the Letsile Tebogo Charitable Foundation in Gaborone on Tuesday. The foundation will focus on initiatives that improve the quality of life of cancer survivors and their families. Photo: Washa Bofelwang

“Today is a new chapter through Letsile Tebogo Foundation, and we are proud to stand with you, and walk the journey with you,” he committed. He said they saw the foundation as a vision of awareness where women were encouraged to prioritise their health, where families received hope when they needed it the most and were committed to working hand in hand to amplify the important message. Mr Mbayi invited partners to get on-board whether through funding, advocacy, volunteerism, or simply encouraging someone to go for schooling.

Orange Botswana donated P250,000 to Letsile Tebogo Charitable Foundation.

Letsile’s sister, Ano Tebogo read the speech on behalf of her teary and broken brother and founder of Letsile Tebogo Charitable

Foundation, saying the foundation was birthed and shaped by love, loss, hope and an unwavering determination to serve others.

She said the foundation was established from a conviction that no cancer survivor should feel forgotten once treatment ended.

“Many survivors struggle with depression anxiety, unemployment, expectation to fill out appointments, social isolation and the constant fear that the disease may return. Families carry that burden alongside them. Healing therefore, is about more than medicine. Healing requires compassion,” she said.

Ano said their vision was to ensure that no cancer survivor in Botswana ever walked that recovery journey alone.

She said their work would focus on providing psychosocial

counselling, emotional support, cancer awareness, early detection campaigns, survivor support groups, empowerment programmes, skills development, healthcare support groups, initiatives and strategic partnerships that improved the quality of life for survivors and their families.

“As we look ahead, our ambition is not measured by the number of offices we build nor by the amount of money we raise, our success will be measured by transformed lives, by survivors who smile again, by the father, the mother who regains hope, by the father who finds strength, by the child who learns that illness should never take our ultimate. That is the bottom line we want to build,” she said.

The First Lady, Ms Kaone Boko graced the launch. **BOPA**

Over P24 billion worth of investment in the pipeline

Thato Mosinyi
GABORONE

Efforts are ongoing to implement a series of flagship programmes with the aim to lure in investment worth P24 billion in the next 12 months.

Appearing before Parliament Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday, Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship permanent secretary, Mr Joel Ramaphoi, stated that the ministry anticipated over P9 billion of investment in the manufacturing industry which was likely to create 19 000 jobs.

“In other sectors, we anticipate to inject capital injection of P15 billion based on the pipeline that we have for ourselves. And this has got the potential of

creating about 6 000 jobs. In total, with what we have planned for ourselves for the next 12 months, we anticipate to have a capital injection of P24 billion on investments and job creation of about 25 000 jobs,” he said.

In line with the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and National Development Plan 12, Mr Ramaphoi indicated that the ministry was mandated to focus on up scaling high-value chain development and focusing more on high-value manufacturing.

This, he said was the only avenue through which the country could upgrade the SMEs and unlock business development opportunities in the value chains of primary commodities.

Additionally, Mr Ramaphoi stated that the volume of exports

increased during the period under review exceeding the P6.5 billion target to reach P7.3 billion.

But this, he said was without challenges citing the raw export product basket as the main challenge with at least 60 per cent of SMMEs dealing in single product.

“This is to say, even though the effort is to promote export led growth model, the challenge is, most of our SMMEs are still exporting under-specified product portfolio, which again exposes them to vulnerabilities of the external shocks,” he said.

To remedy the challenge, Mr Ramaphoi indicated that the ministry was consistently engaging with the regional and global sourcing firms to unlock market development opportunities for these SMMEs.

He stated that capacity building for SMMEs was also ongoing, to enable them to tap into the lucrative markets availed by the commencement of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement.

When it comes to value of investment, especially domestic investments, Mr Ramaphoi noted that the ministry attained P7.8 billion against the targeted of P4.7 billion during the period under review.

“Again, the challenge that we are facing as a ministry is a lack of financial resources to drive domestic investment, while the fiscal challenges have actually limited the scope of financing options. There is even a limitation in the CEDA financial services because of the current financial constraints,” he said.

With regard to foreign direct investment, Mr Ramaphoi indicated that the ministry obtained P6.9 billion in direct foreign investment against the targeted P5.3 billion.

He nonetheless attributed the minimal growth to slow economic advance and a serious budget constraint, which was now limiting the ability to take the services to the nation.

The situation, he said was compounded by the widening deficit, which now made it inherently difficult to get the support needed to deliver on the business mandates. He said some of the interventions put in place to address the situation was the P1.3 billion enterprise and SME support funds as stated in the 2026/2027 appropriation Bill. **BOPA**

Botswana calls for AU unity in securing global posts

ADDIS ABABA

Botswana has urged African Union member states to strengthen unity and coordination in selecting candidates for positions in international organisations, saying a united approach is crucial to ensuring Africa’s interests are effectively represented globally.

Speaking at the opening of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System on Monday, Minister for International Relations, Dr Phenyio Butale said Africa’s representation in global decision-making bodies remained a priority.

Dr Butale chaired the meeting on the sidelines of the 49th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council in Addis Ababa.

He said the committee’s work extended beyond procedures. Its role was also to ensure Africa secured its rightful place in international institutions where key global decisions were made.

The committee has an important responsibility to identify and endorse candidates

with integrity, competence and commitment to advancing the continent’s interests, Dr Butale said. He added that the process should be guided by solidarity, fairness, transparency and regional balance.

He commended African countries for past successes achieved through cooperation. The continent has secured support for many of its candidates because of unity, timely endorsements and cooperation between the committee, the AU Commission and African diplomatic missions in New York, Geneva and Rome, he said.

However, Dr Butale noted several challenges still affected Africa’s performance such as delays in responding to calls for applications reduce time for campaigns, making it more difficult for African candidates to compete.

He cautioned against multiple African countries nominating candidates for the same position, saying such competition divides support.

Dr Butale also expressed concern that some AU-endorsed candidates do not receive full

backing from member states. He said poor coordination between the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa and African diplomatic missions abroad further weakened the continent’s collective voice.

He urged member states to address these shortcomings and strengthen cooperation so that Africa spoke with one voice on international representation.

“The committee’s immediate task is to improve coordination, strengthen consultation among member states and ensure Africa presents credible and competitive candidates for key positions in international organisations,” he said.

Africa’s success in multilateral institutions depended not only on having representatives but also on strategically positioning highly qualified candidates throughout the election process, Dr Butale emphasised.

During the meeting, the committee was expected to interview candidates seeking endorsement for important positions within the international system and to agree on a single African candidate where necessary, in line with committee

rules.

Dr Butale encouraged delegates to consider the review to be presented by AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, particularly on issues requiring the committee’s attention.

He expressed confidence that the committee’s deliberations would be guided by the spirit

of Pan-Africanism in advancing the continent’s interests on the global stage. **BOPA**

Minister for International Relations
Dr Phenyio Butale



Ministry cautions on veldt fires

...from page 1

The release further states that resources were optimised at all levels, with significant support from the private sector, which donated food supplies and water to sustain firefighting teams.

It also says the fires in Khutse and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) were successfully contained and extinguished through a coordinated multi-agency response.

At present, it says three fires remain active, including one in Kweneng District, one in Kgalagadi District and one in Ngamiland District.

The ministry reminds the public that preventing wildland fires is a shared responsibility and every individual, community, farmer, business and visitor has a role to play in safeguarding the country’s natural heritage and protecting lives, livelihoods and property.

The public is also advised to exercise caution when using fire by avoiding lighting

of fires in open areas during windy conditions to ensure that all fires are completely extinguished before leaving the area, including cigarette butts and other potential ignition sources, reducing fuel loads around homesteads and other vulnerable areas and promptly reporting any new fire ignitions to the relevant local authorities.

The release further says the ministry appreciates the continued cooperation of the public and encourages all citizens and residents to remain vigilant throughout the fire season.

To ensure timely access to information, it says the ministry will continue to provide daily fire updates through its various media platforms. **BOPA**



Ministry of Environment and Tourism has warned that veldt fires have reached critical levels across the country, with 30 outbreaks reported since the start of the fire season and three fires still active in Kweneng, Kgalagadi and Ngamiland districts.

Police roll out vehicle leasing pilot in Gaborone

Tumisang Moilwa
GABORONE

The Botswana Police Service has expanded its vehicle leasing pilot project to Gaborone, with the handover of nine new vehicles aimed at boosting policing operations and testing whether outsourcing fleet management can work nationwide.

The vehicles were handed over at Broadhurst Police Station on Tuesday as part of a pilot being run in both Gaborone and Maun in partnership with Avis Rent A Car.

The Commissioner of Police, Ms Dinah Marathe, said the Gaborone phase would be used to assess the effectiveness of the leasing model and determine if it could offer a sustainable solution to the service’s transport challenges.

“The model will help us maintain high fleet availability while reducing financial and

operational costs associated with vehicle ownership, maintenance and repairs,” Ms Marathe said.

She added that reliable transport was critical to ensure officers could respond to incidents and deliver services to communities in a timely manner.

Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa, said the Police Service had been grappling with a shortage of vehicles, with the number of non-operational or damaged vehicles now exceeding those that were working.

“The lack of reliable transport can also affect public perceptions. Sometimes members of the public assume officers are unwilling to respond, when in reality they may be unable to attend to cases due to a lack of vehicles.”

He expressed hope that the leased vehicles would support daily operations and contribute to

crime-fighting efforts in Gaborone and across the country.

The nine vehicles were officially handed over by Avis Rent A Car General Manager, Mr Unathi Sigabi, to the Minister, who then presented the keys to the Commissioner. The ceremony ended with officers starting the vehicles and sounding their horns, as police and members of the public ululated in celebration.

Of the nine vehicles, one will be deployed to each of Phakalane, Oodi and Gaborone North policing areas. The remaining vehicles will be stationed at Broadhurst Police Station.

Member of Parliament for Gaborone North, Mr Shawn Ntlhaile, said public safety remained a top priority and thanked Avis Rent A Car for supporting the initiative.

“I hope these vehicles will not only benefit Gaborone but also



Commissioner of Police
Ms Dinah Marathe

assist surrounding areas,” Mr Ntlhaile said. He called on the public and other stakeholders to come forward and support efforts to improve safety.

The leasing pilot is expected to give the Police Service data on the effectiveness and sustainability of the model before a decision is made on a wider national rollout. **BOPA**

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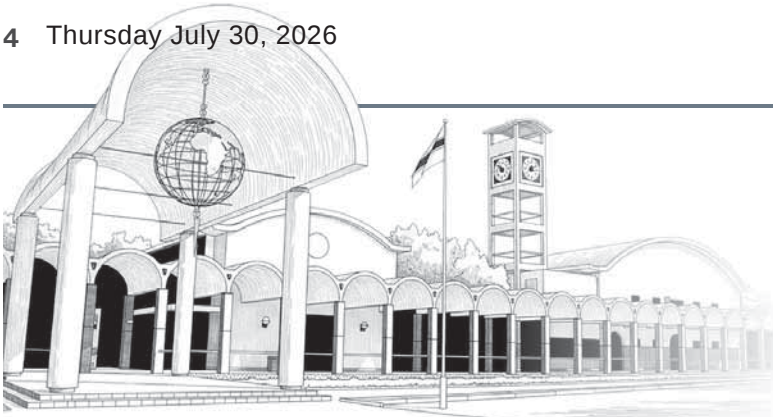
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PARLIAMENT 2026

Bill seeks to create national research and innovation council

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

The Minister of Communications and Innovation Mr David Tshere has presented before Parliament the National Research and Innovation Council (NRIC) Bill of 2026, which aims to create the National Research and Innovation Council.

Mr Tshere told Parliament on Tuesday that the council would be tasked with overseeing the national policy on research, development and innovation and address funding challenges by implementing a governance model tailored to Botswana's needs as well as collaborate with key stakeholders in the National System of Innovation (NSI).

He also said the Bill would enhance coordination to avoid redundancies, as well as promote and fund research initiatives while facilitating the translation of local knowledge into innovations for sustainable development.

Establishing the council as the central coordinating entity for Botswana's NSI, Mr Tshere said it would enhance the value chain from research to product/service, increase funding for research, science, technology and innovation (RSTI) through local partnerships and ensure a well-coordinated RSTI landscape.

He said the council would promote collaboration between academia and industry, strengthen linkages with both local and international institutions and reduce redundancies in research.

Mr Tshere therefore said Botswana's research and innovation would gain international recognition, leading to the establishment of more enterprises, higher international ratings and improved community participation in RSTI activities.

He further said sustainability of the council would involve implementing a blended revolving financing model to mobilise resources from the private sector, financial institutions and donors.

The minister said the council would initially be funded by budgets from Departments of Research and Knowledge Business, Innovation and Technology as well as the

Botswana Innovation Fund Secretariat.

Additionally, he said key revenue streams would include government appropriations for foundational research, local and international partnerships as well as payments for coordination services such as accreditation.

Currently, Mr Tshere said Botswana's NSI involved regulators, policymakers and knowledge generators, including public and private education and research organisations.

He said key players such as BITRI, NARDI, BVI, BGI and partnerships with institutions like Harvard and Baylor conducted applied research and technological development to foster innovation and inform decision-making across various sectors, particularly in STI activities. Mr Tshere also said educational institutions such as UB, BOU, BIUST, BUAN, BAC, Botho University, Limkokwing University and Ba Isago University also provided higher education essential for developing national research and innovation capacity, though currently on a smaller scale.

Additionally, Mr Tshere said NGOs and commercial entities engaged in research to foster innovation that aligned with their business strategies and promoted competitiveness and market growth. He said despite the developments that were taking place, the national landscape such as establishment of institutions and development of policies, Botswana NSI was underperforming, ranking 87th out of 139 in the Global Innovation Index of 2025, with a research and development intensity below 0.5 per cent of GDP, far from the targets of one per cent set by the African Union and two per cent nationally.

This, he said was as a result of weak national coordination, poor stakeholder collaboration, institutional changes leading to fragmentation, an unsustainable financial model reliant on public funding, lack of laboratory accreditation and insufficient skills and infrastructure in universities.

Therefore, he said building and maintaining credibility for Botswana's research and innovation oversight body was essential for transparency and fairness among stakeholders.

The minister said foreign partners preferred a formal, autonomous council for partnerships, necessitating an independent oversight body with clarified roles and responsibilities to enhance national research and innovation competitiveness globally. **BOPA**



Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse said in recent weeks, significant quantities of critical medicines had arrived in the country, including essential antibiotics, medicines for treatment of blood pressure, diabetes, pain and allergies.

Medicine supply improves

Esther Mmolai
MAUN

The government has made progress in stabilising medicine supply situation with major deliveries of essential drugs and other medical commodities in public health facilities across the country.

Updating Parliament on Tuesday on medicines and other medical supplies in the country, the Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse said in recent weeks, significant quantities of critical medicines had arrived in the country, including essential antibiotics, medicines for treatment of blood pressure diabetes, pain and allergies.

He cited that just in the current month, the government received seven-month supply of the much-awaited antibiotics as well as first line antihypertensive like furosemide, HCT and amlodipine, individually and in their combinations.

Also the country has received first line antidiabetics like metformin among others and Mr Ookeditse noted that accordingly, since June 2026, the availability of diabetes medicines had improved from 31 per cent to 44 per cent, heart health medicines from 17 per cent to 38 per cent, anti-infective products from 22 per cent to 36 per cent, when compared to three months ago, when the situation was really bad.

He said additional consignments of other medicines continued to arrive with further deliveries expected all the way until September 2026.

The assistant minister said access to essential medicine was one of the cornerstones of a

functional health system, hence the government fully recognised the anxiety and inconvenience experienced by patients whenever medicines were unavailable.

"We acknowledge these concerns and assure this house that restoring a reliable supply of medicines remains our number one priority. We will not rest until this milestone is achieved," he added.

With these recent arrivals and the others anticipated in the coming weeks, Mr Ookeditse highlighted that they did not expect any shortages for anti-hypertensive, anti-diabetics and antibiotics for the next six to seven months and that would give them time to make orders for more without any pressure.

Furthermore, he stated that last Thursday, they received more on the anti-allergy medicines and long-awaited pain management products, noting that on the HIV space, they continued to receive the core first line drugs like dolutegravir based formulation including dual therapy, with most deliveries expected to be completed by end of this month.

He said Global API challenges for some second line drugs had been noted but should be resolved in the coming month.

Moreover, he said that the government has 33-line items in transit comprising IV fluids, anaesthesia medications as well as emergency drugs and over 45 other line items to be ready for shipping starting next week.

Based on the current consumption patterns, the assistant minister revealed that these medicines were expected to sustain the national requirements for approximately six to seven months and this represented a major milestone in restoring confidence in the public

medicines supply system and provided a much-needed buffer as broader reforms continued to take effect.

Mr Ookeditse noted that they were working with their international partners as well as local and regional suppliers, citing that a long-term supply plan was taking shape, helping to significantly bring down the price of the commodities.

He also said government had implemented several immediate interventions to restore medicine availability.

Mr Ookeditse said they were informed that in March 2026, the Ministry of Finance granted the Ministry of Health an exemption from selected provisions of the Public Procurement Act through Statutory Instrument No. 35 of 2026.

According to Mr Ookeditse, that had provided greater flexibility for strategic procurement while maintaining transparency, accountability and preference for locally manufactured medicines where appropriate.

In addition, he said emergency procurement had been undertaken both locally and internationally to replenish depleted stocks and throughout the process, government had ensured that all medicines procured were registered or appropriately authorised by the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority to guarantee their safety, quality and efficacy.

He also reiterated that the government had also prioritised timely payment of suppliers, with payment processes now being expedited to meet the prescribed 30-day service standard, adding that the intervention was rebuilding supplier confidence and improving the reliability of deliveries. **BOPA**



Minister of Communications and Innovation Mr David Tshere

Ministry develops long-term contracts to boost medicine supply

Esther Mmolai
GABORONE

The Ministry of Health is in the process of developing long-term framework contracts with both local and international suppliers to ensure more predictable and sustainable medicine supplies.

Briefing Parliament on Tuesday, the assistant minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse revealed that government was also further pursuing government-to-government partnerships with friendly nations like the United States of America and the United Arab Emirates to improve access to essential medical supplies, reagents and equipment while also securing more affordable pricing arrangements.

Mr Ookeditse was speaking on the current situation regarding the availability of medicines in public health facilities and to outline the measures government is implementing to stabilise and strengthen the national medicines supply system.

The long-term solution, he said rested in transforming the entire medicines supply system, hence the government has therefore, prioritised comprehensive reform of the Central Medical Stores (CMS) under the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).

He said such reforms included modernising governance structures, strengthening procurement systems, introducing an Electronic Logistics Management Information System (e-LMIS) with track and trace capability to provide real-time visibility of medicine stocks, improving warehousing and logistics infrastructure and building a sustainable supply chain capacity.

Mr Ookeditse noted that the roll out of the e-LMIS was aimed to

cover approximately 20 per cent of the facilities consuming 80 per cent of medical supplies, adding that would significantly improve forecasting accuracy, inventory management, traceability and accountability of stocks.

“We are also working closely with the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to strengthen last-mile distribution from districts to clinics and health posts,” he said.

The assistant minister said beyond these immediate interventions, the government was implementing medium-term reforms designed to build greater resilience within the medicines supply chain and CMS was continuing to use international pooled procurement mechanisms through organisations such as UNICEF, UNFPA, the Global Drug Facility and the Global Fund to secure medicines at competitive prices.

Mr Ookeditse further noted that the government was also committed to participate in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Pooled Procurement Services.

To improve distribution, the government he said continued to outsource the primary distribution of medicines from CMS to 130 health facilities across the country and Parliament was informed that performance standards required scheduled deliveries within 72 hours and emergency deliveries within 24 hours.

He said that the government was also working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank to strengthen the governance and leadership model of CMS, thereby enhancing efficiency, transparency and institutional performance.

While challenges remained, Mr Ookeditse appreciated that there were encouraging signs of improvement, citing that

strong performance has been maintained in several priority programmes, including vaccines under the Expanded Programme on Immunisation, antiretroviral medicines and cancer medicines.

He assured that his ministry would continue to closely monitor medicine availability across the country and implement further corrective measures wherever necessary, including on observed delays in distribution of medicines from the CMS to health facilities.

Although, he acknowledged that the ministry was doing well in some areas that included IV fluids, medicines for Asthma, sexual reproductive health conditions, eye health conditions as well as non-drugs like POP-bandages, surgical and disposal gloves, orders have been made and the health teams were actively making follow ups with suppliers for immediate deliveries.

In order to improve the security of medicines, Mr Ookeditse said that the ministry was working on a project to ensure that there was enhanced security surveillance by installing CCTVs in hospital pharmacies and other areas where medicines were stored.

Mr Ookeditse said that would help to ensure that all medicines destined for patients reached them. The ministry, he said was also aware of delays in conducting orthopaedic procedures on trauma patients in health facilities explaining that the delay was due to shortage of funds for procurement of implants.

“I am happy however, to report that we have since been able to source funds to pay our local suppliers for orthopaedic implants. We expect that orthopaedic procedures for trauma patients, will resume in a month’s time and despite this promising news, we however, still have challenges with our arthroplasty procedures,” he added. **BOPA**



Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education
Mr Justin Hunyepa

Govt moves to improve timely delivery of Tsabana

GABORONE

The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs has committed to working with local authorities to ensure Tsabana food rations were transported to health facilities on time to guarantee continuous supply to beneficiaries.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday on behalf of the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, the Assistant Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Mr Justin Hunyepa said the ministry remained committed to ensuring uninterrupted availability of the supplementary food commodity despite distribution challenges experienced in some areas.

He said Selebi Phikwe East, which was served by Botshabelo, Lesole, Tapologong and South East clinics, had a monthly target of 2 578 beneficiaries

and the district received 4 000 bags of Tsabana on June 26 for distribution during July.

Mr Hunyepa said although the allocation was not sufficient to provide the recommended ration to every beneficiary, the district rationalised distribution to ensure all eligible children continued to receive Tsabana.

“Children aged six to 18 months received two 2.5kg bags instead of the recommended three, while those aged 19 to 36 months received three 2.5kg bags,” he said.

He further said the ministry would continue engaging local authorities to improve the transportation of food rations to health facilities to avoid disruptions in supply.

The assistant minister was responding to a question from MP for Selebi Phikwe East, Mr Kgoberego Nkawana, who had sought an update on the status of provision of Tsabana food in Selebi Phikwe East Clinics. **BOPA**

MPs unite behind National Research and Innovation Council Bill

Ketshepile More
GABORONE

Legislators have expressed support for the creation of the National Research and Innovation Council (NRIC), saying it will be instrumental in the country’s economic diversification.

Debating the NRIC Bill of 2026 presented by the Minister of Communications and Innovation, Mr David Tshere in Parliament on Tuesday, MP for Lentsweletau/Lephephe, Mr Tshenolo Bogatsu said research guided and supported national growth by providing structured access to data, policy frameworks and economic indicators.

He said research created opportunities by driving innovation, solving real-world problems and building valuable skills.

Mr Bogatsu also said with the council established, government would be able to commercialise

scientific discoveries and laboratory innovations into market-ready products and services through technology transfer, intellectual property protection and industry partnerships.

Serowe North MP, Mr Baratiwa Mathoothe said the establishment of the research council would drive successful industrialisation in development by enabling technology adoption, boosting productivity and guiding targeted economic policy.

He said research councils have helped developing nations transition from basic resources extraction to advanced manufacturing and sustainable growth. Also, he said research was important for indigenous knowledge systems as it drove cultural preservation, promoted environment sustainability and fostered cognitive justice by validating local worldviews alongside formal science.

Moshupa/Manyana MP,

Mr Karabo Gare said research would lead to diversification by uncovering new market gaps, building adaptive technological assets and fostering cross-disciplinary teamwork.

Hence he said research had proved to build the foundation for creativity by supplying new inputs, uncovering hidden patterns and defining unique problem spaces.

Furthermore, Mr Gare said youth-led innovations backed by the council could actively lower the national import bills by replacing foreign goods with local solutions.

He said a developing and import-reliant economy like Botswana, where food and tech imports regularly spike, leveraging research to empower young innovators was a core strategy for achieving economic self-sufficiency.

Specially Elected MP, Major General Pius Mokgware also supported the Bill, saying research

assisted in planning, allowing government to accordingly allocate funds and resources.

He also said research helped on trends of climate change by providing the data, innovation and risk assessments needed for smart action.

Maj. Gen. Mokgware said having a research council would enable researchers to track global warming patterns and advise on data with regard to crop resilience, green technology and measure agricultural economic impact, noting that research was important in planning for growing population development as well as shape policies.

Also, he said research helped in closing the wealth gap by identifying effective policies, improving education systems, and guiding social programmes.

Moreover, he said research provided critical insights, data and foresight that helped leaders and nations prepare for geopolitical shifts.

Nkange MP, Mr Motlhaleemang Moalosi said he fully supported the Bill and advised that it look into international best practices in order to serve Botswana better and be sustainable.

He raised issues of Intellectual Property (IP) saying the council should be clear on who owned the IP for funded research entities and/or individuals.

Mr Moalosi also said the Bill should focus on economic output, especially job creation.

He further said the Bill should provide for the council’s board composition to include more of industry players over academics to ensure market relevance and innovation. The MP said government should consider rationalising ministries to reduce research bureaucracy.

Mr Moalosi said the Bill should enable the council to provide research funding for problem solving research ideas, adding that there should be robust vetting in awarding funding. **BOPA**

DailyBusiness

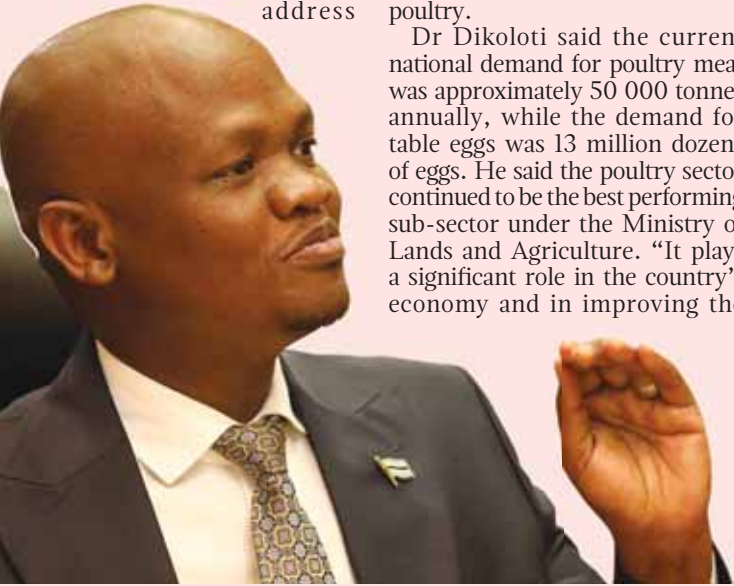
Poultry industry attains self-sufficiency

GABORONE

Parliament has been informed that the poultry industry has achieved self-sufficiency in chicken meat and eggs and is preparing to penetrate export markets.

Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, the Minister of Lands and Agriculture Dr Edwin Dikoloti said the Poultry Liaison Committee, an advisory board that had been operational for over 15 years, was driving the success of the industry.

Dr Dikoloti said the committee convened monthly to address



Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Dr Edwin Dikoloti said the poultry industry had achieved self-sufficiency in chicken meat and eggs and was preparing to penetrate export markets.

supply chain issues and was chaired by the private sector while the ministry served as its secretariat. He said the poultry industry value was expected to grow from P3,5 billion to P10 billion by 2030.

Dr Dikoloti said 10 000 people were currently employed by the industry on its different value chains. The minister said the Botswana Livestock Commercialisation Project (BoLCoP), which would be launched in October in partnership with International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), would commercialise small livestock value chains including poultry.

Dr Dikoloti said the current national demand for poultry meat was approximately 50 000 tonnes annually, while the demand for table eggs was 13 million dozens of eggs. He said the poultry sector continued to be the best performing sub-sector under the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture. “It plays a significant role in the country’s economy and in improving the



The current national demand for poultry meat is approximately 50 000 tonnes annually.

livelihoods of Batswana,” he said.

The minister explained that the current annual production levels of poultry meat was 46 059 tonnes and that the table egg production stood at 14,7 million dozens of eggs. He said poultry producers in Botswana were currently producing excess poultry products in the form of Further Processed Chicken (FPC) to supplement the domestic demand. The minister said the products were supplied to Quick Service Restaurants (QSR) with the well-known name of special cuts or value-added products.

Dr Dikoloti further told Parliament that over the past three years, the poultry sector had recorded production of meat of 51 000 tonnes in the year 2022/2023 and 51 400 tonnes in 2023/2024.

“A total of 50 062.44 tonnes was produced from previous year over the target of 50 000 tonnes,” he

said. The minister stated that during the financial year 2022/2023, the table eggs production recorded a total of 14,5 million dozens, while a total of 13,2 million dozens was recorded for the year 2023/2024.

He said 14,7 million dozens of eggs was produced in the previous year over the target of 13 million dozens.

Dr Dikoloti was responding to a question from the MP for Shoshong Mr Moneedi Bagaisamang, who had asked the minister to state the current national demand for poultry meat and table eggs as well as the current production levels for the two.

Mr Bagaisamang had also asked whether the country was currently producing poultry products in excess of domestic demand and the extent of any surplus production recorded over the last three years.

BOPA

Modisaotsile on rise to the top

Amantle Onneng
PALAPYE

Mr Samson Modisaotsile, a 32-year-old from Bobonong now based full-time in Palapye, has built a reputable welding and aluminium business.

Mr Modisaotsile battled unemployment for a very long time, finding comfort in selling tomatoes and trying everything he could to survive. One day, while selling tomatoes on the street, his uncle who ran a welding business in Francistown specialising in car trailers, invited him to come learn the trade.

After years of learning from his uncle, Mr Modisaotsile was encouraged to relocate to Palapye to start his own venture.

He moved there in 2014, using all his savings to buy the tools needed to launch the business successfully.

That is when he started his company, General Trade and Manufacturing Supplies. Explaining the name, Mr Modisaotsile said the sky is the limit, and he did not want to restrict himself by specialising in just one trade. “Not specialising in one business means more security, more learning, and more chances to grow. Have two to three related skills so when one is down, the others can carry you,” he explained.

Determined to succeed, Mr Modisaotsile joined a Zion Christian Church (ZCC) affiliated chamber of commerce that helped members



General Trade and Manufacturing Supplies founder Mr Samson Modisaotsile at his workshop in Palapye. The former tomato vendor said learning welding from his uncle gave him the opportunity to establish a successful manufacturing business after years of unemployment. Photo: Portia Rapitsenyane

learn about entrepreneurship and business growth. That is where he discovered organisations such as the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) and the Youth Development Fund. He submitted a business proposal, attended interviews, and successfully received funding.

“I was successfully funded P100,000 and I expanded my business,” he said.

Mr Modisaotsile, now runs a blooming enterprise with 10 employees, three administrative officers and seven welders.

They no longer focus solely on trailers, having expanded into making aluminium windows and doors, sliding gates, carports, and burglar bars, among other products. “I can confidently tell you that we

deliver everywhere in the country, and we recently delivered as far as Shakawe,” he noted.

When sharing his challenges, he said that the lack of specialised welding supply shops in Palapye forces him to travel regularly to Gaborone and Francistown.

He also noted that welding materials are very expensive from suppliers, which makes his own products costly to price in order to make a profit. Because of the high costs, he plans to China to source materials directly from the factory.

Mr Modisaotsile shared that there are many welding businesses in Palapye, but he will continue to make unique products and bring his customers’ visions to life.

Even though he faces many

challenges, he remains optimistic about the future and aims to make more products and find new ways to grow his business.

He says his faith and discipline keep his business going, and following business rules has helped it grow. The entrepreneur encourages the youth to stop waiting for jobs and start businesses in areas like agriculture, fashion and design, welding, and carpentry to make a living and create jobs to improve the country’s economy.

He also thanked the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) and the then Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development for its funding and support, which helped improve his business. **BOPA**

BUSINESS SERVICES

AfDB forecasts
Kenya economy to
grow 4.6% in 2026

NAIROBI - Kenya’s economy is projected to expand by 4.6 per cent in 2026 before picking up slightly to 4.7 per cent in 2027, the African Development Bank (AfDB) said in a new report released on Tuesday. The lender said while the East African nation grew by an estimated 5 per cent in 2025, the anticipated slowdown this year stems from heightened global uncertainty and rising fuel costs. Kenya’s projected growth trails the East African regional averages of 5.9 per cent in 2026 and 6.4 per cent in 2027, and the gap is largely driven by exceptionally strong performances in several faster-growing neighboring economies, the AfDB said in its Country Focus Report 2026. The AfDB expects Kenya’s inflation to tick up to 5.4 per cent in 2026, remaining well within the Central Bank of Kenya’s target range of 2.5 to 7.5 per cent.

Xinhua

Rwanda to phase out
2G and 3G networks

KIGALI - Rwanda’s Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and Innovation has announced the decision to phase out 2G and 3G mobile network technologies. The nationwide switch-off of 3G services is scheduled for June 30, 2027, followed by the retirement of 2G services, according to a statement issued on Monday. The transition will free up network capacity currently used to run two generations of aging technology, allowing mobile operators to invest fully in expanding and strengthening 4G and, over time, 5G coverage across the country. For consumers, this means faster internet, clearer calls, fewer dropped connections and better access to mobile banking, government e-services, education, and health platforms that increasingly depend on modern networks, the ministry said.

Xinhua

IMF board approves
US\$371m for Ghana
reform review

ACCRA - The executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the final review of Ghana’s just-ended economic reforms, paving the way for the immediate release of the final US\$371 million to the country. According to an IMF press release issued Monday, the latest approval brings Ghana’s total disbursements under the three-year arrangement to US\$3 billion since the reform programme began in May 2023. “Ghana’s performance under the program has been broadly satisfactory. Since the program’s approval, substantial gains have been achieved in macroeconomic stabilization and debt sustainability, including a sharp decline in inflation and a near doubling of reserves by 2025,” the release said. It also noted that the West African cocoa, gold, and crude oil exporter has recorded a surplus in its primary fiscal balance, while the risk of debt distress returned to moderate. The economy grew by 6 per cent in 2025 and 6.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2026.

Xinhua

Dikgang

PAMPIRI YA THUTO LE DIKITSISO

Ipapatse Fa Leletsa

659 6315 | 625 0353 | 533 0379 | 297 8237
261 0480 | 241 3402 | 365 3500

Ba itlamile go baya ditsha kgwedi le kgwedi

Keetile Bontsibokae
MOLEPOLOLE

Ba lekgotlana la kabo ditsha la Molepolole ba re monongwaga ba tsositse dinao go tlhomamisa gore baikopedi ba bewa ditsha tsa bonno le tsa kgwebo.

Modulasetilo wa lekgotlana, Rre Moemedi Babitseng, a re ba tsibogetse dilelo tsa baikopedi mabapi le go salela kwa morago ka go aba ditsha kwa Molepolole le metse e e mo tikologo.

A re ba sa le ba sega tema e ka 2023 kwa Gamodubu mme go tsweng foo, ba ya go baya ditsha kwa Mmanoko.

O supile fa ba ne ba kgona go baya palo ya ditsha e e namentsang, selo se se neng sa itumedisa banni ba metse eo.

Rre Babitseng a re le fa go ntse jalo, ba santse ba tlaa ikgata motlhala go ya go baya ba ba iseng ba bewe mme a re ba santse baya go bua le beng ba masimo.

Monongwaga go simolotse go baya ka Mopitlo kwa Suping kwa go beilweng ditsha di le 134, tse 120 kwa Magokotswane, mme ka Motsheganong ba boela gape kwa Magokotswane kwa go beilweng ditsha di le 300.

“Ka Seetebosigo re beile ditsha di le 173 kwa Magokotswane, ka Phukwi jaana re tshwanetse go baya ba le 300 gone kwa Magotswane, e ntse e le



Baikopedi ba tsile go bewa ditsha tsa bonno kwa Molepolole ka Labobedi. Modulasetilo wa lekgotlana la kabo ditsha la Molepolole, Rre Moemedi Babitseng, a re ba tshwanetse go baya ditsha tsa bonno di le 300 kwa Mogokotswane mo kgwedding eno. Senepe: Keetile Bontsibokae

mo thoteng ya mantswe a Magotswane,” Rre Babitseng a tthalosa.

A re le mororo e rile ka 2023 fa komiti ya nako eno ya lekgotlana la kabo ditsha e tsaya marapo ba fitlhetse palo ya baikopedi ba ditsha kwa Molepolole e feta dikete tse di masome a mabedi.

A re palo eo, gantsi ga se ya boammaruri ka gore bangwe ba

baikopedi ke ba ba setseng ba beilwe kwa metseng e mengwe ka jalo, ba kgaphelwa ntle ke molao wa peo ya lefatshe mo tsetlaneng ya 58 (i) e e reng; Motswana mongwe le mongwe o lekanwe ke go bewa setsha se le sengwe mo lefatsheng la toropo le mo lefatsheng la morafe.

Rre Babitseng a re se, se raya gore fa go ka direga gore

moikopedi a iphitlhele a ikopetse kwa mafelong a fetang bongwe, o ka boela morago dikopo tse dingwe mme a kgethe setsha kwa lefelong le a le ratang go setswe morago molao le tsamaiso ya kabo ditsha.

A re palo e e wetse tlase fela thata fa e sa le go simololwa go baya ditsha monongwaga le go dirisa molawana o nankotsweng

‘Ka Seetebosigo re beile ditsha di le 173 kwa Magokotswane, ka Phukwi jaana re tshwanetse go baya ba le 300 gone kwa Magotswane.’

fa godimo.

“Re baya dikopo tsa 2006. Go lebe ga gore ka ngwaga oo mo Molepolole go ne ga nna le seemo sengwe se re sa se tlhologanyeng gore baikopdei ba nne ba ntsi thata.

A re ba itlamile gore fa bapotiedi ba lefatshe ba gololola moalo wa ditsha, lekgotlana le tla baya tse di leng teng ka ponyo ya leitho ke ka moo ba itlamileng gore ba tswelwele ka go aba ditsha kgwedi le kgwedi.

“Bonyenyane jo re bo bonang go tswa kwa Department of Surveys and Mapping re a bo baya.

Ga rena go emisa go baya go fitlhelela khuduthamaga ya nako eno e rola marapho ka kgwedi ya Mosetlha mme re solofela gore ba ba tlaabong ba tsaya marapho mo go rona ba tlaa tswelwedisa fa re tlaabong re eme teng,” ga tshepisa Rre Babitseng.

Rre Babitseng a re ga ba nne ba remelele mo Molepolole fela mme ba ya go baya le kwa metseng e tshwana le bo Mogonono kwa a reng sebe sa phiri e tla nna gore ba santse ba ya go nna fatshe ba bua le beng ba masimo ka gore ba neele lekgotlana la kabo ditsha masimo a bone.

Fa a tlatla modusetilo mopotiedi wa lefatshe, Rre Kago Modise, a re go bo jaanong tiro ya peo e fefogile kwa Molepolole ke gore ba ile ba itshwaraganya le ba makgotlana a mangwe a kabo ditsha ka lenaneo le ba le biditseng ba re ‘motshelo’ le ka lone ba neng ba batla go kopanela tiro ya go thusa go dira dithulaganyo tsotlhe tse ditlhokegang gore lefatshe le bewe.

Mongwe wa ba ba abetsweng setsha ka Labobedi kwa Masugankwe gone kwa Magokotswane, Rre John Mmadintsi, a re o sa le a ikopeetse setsha seo ka ngwaga wa 2006 mme a re o itumetse ka jaanong o tlaa fuduga kwa gaabo ka a setse a godile. O ile a kopa botlhe ba ba beilweng ditsha gore ba seka ba di rekisa, mme ba di tlhapolole ba nne mo go tsone ka go bona setsha gape go le thata mo metlheng eno.

Mme Portia Mmelara a re le ene o itumetse thata ka gore jaanong a tla kgona go agela bana ba gagwe. **BOPA**



Modulasetilo wa African Union Panel of Facilitators, yo gape e leng Tautona wa pele wa Nigeria, Rre Olusegun Obasanjo (molemeng), leloko la lekalana leo, e bile e le Tautona wa pele wa Botswana, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (bobedi molemeng), leloko, gape e le Tautona wa pele wa Central African Republic, Mme Catherine Samba-Panza (bobedi mojemeng) le mothusa modulasetilo, yo e bile e leng Tautona wa pele wa Ethiopia, Mme Sahle-Work Zewde ba le kwa dipuisanyong tsa thulaganyo ya kagiso ya African Union kwa Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo bosheng. Rre Obasanjo a re se se dirang gore mathata a Democratic Republic of Congo a nne thata go rarabololwa ke dikgatlhago tsa itsholelo tse di leng teng kwa lefatsheng leo, mo kgaolong le mo lefatsheng ka bophara ka ntlha ya khumo ya lone ya ditswammung. Phuthago e ne e tsenwe ke ba-na-le seabe ba ba farologanyeng go sekaseka tse di setseng di fitlheletse le go nonotsha tirisanyo mmogo mo go tsiseng kagiso ya sennelaruri kwa Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Senepe: Felicity Male

Budget constraints stall increase in police manpower

GABORONE

Mogoditshane is one of the largest and fastest-growing villages in the country, with a 2026-projected population of 98,889. Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said the Botswana Police Service has deployed a total of 265 police personnel to police the area. He said based on the projected population of 98 889 and the current deployment of 265 police personnel, the police-to-population ratio in the Mogoditshane policing area stands at one police officer to 373 people. Mr Mohwasa explained that the current ratio places considerable operational pressure on the officers serving in the area, particularly given the rapid population growth, urban developments and increasing socio-economic activities within Mogoditshane. Minister Mohwasa further stated that Mogoditshane police station also covered Metsimotlhabe, Mmopane and Ledumadumane. He said it was the ministry's desire to increase police manpower in the country, including at Mogoditshane. However, he said due to budgetary constraints, there were no plans to substantially increase police personnel in Mogoditshane. Nevertheless, Mr Mohwasa said the government



Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Moeti Mohwasa

was constructing police stations at Ledumadumane and Mmopane, which would alleviate the current pressure from Mogoditshane police station. He said the stations were to be completed by end of August this year and it was expected that upon completion, police officers would be deployed to these new facilities. Mr Mohwasa was responding to a question from the MP for Mogoditshane East, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang, who had asked the minister the current number of Botswana Police Service officers deployed to Mogoditshane and the ratio of police officers to the resident population. Mr Barongwang had also wanted to know if there were plans to increase police presence in Mogoditshane, given the rising incidents of crime and public safety concerns in the area, particularly in light of the opening of the new police station, so as to strengthen law enforcement capacity and improve safety. **BOPA**

Operational issues delay ID replacements

GABORONE

The delays experienced in the issuance of replacement of National Identity cards since the beginning of the year have been occasioned by a combination of operational and manpower challenges. Answering a question in Parliament on Tuesday, the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Major General Pius Mokgware stated that the primary contributing factors for the delays included capacity constraints in terms of available numbers of personnel within the production process resulting in a substantial backlog of applications awaiting processing. He remarked that these also included aging production equipment, which had experienced frequent mechanical breakdowns and required regular maintenance, thereby affecting production efficiency. Maj. Gen. Mokgware indicated that in order to mitigate these challenges, the ministry had implemented several interventions including extended working hours, redeployment of staff to critical production process, continuous engagement with suppliers to expedite the maintenance of production equipment to maximise operational availability. He told Parliament that these interventions had resulted in steady reduction of the backlog,

hence production continued to improve. The minister stated that his ministry was experiencing a gradual improvement of production eradicating the current backlog as the implemented interventions took effect. He said through stable increase of personnel deployment and continued optimisation of production processes, the ministry expected normal turnaround times for placement Identity Cards to be progressively restored over the coming months. "My ministry remains committed to ensuring that all eligible applicants receives their IDs as expeditiously as possible and will continue to monitor production performance and implement additional measures where necessary," he said. He said the National Registration (Amendment) Act, 2025 provided for the use of passport or driver's license by individuals awaiting replacement of identity cards, hence advised affected individuals to make use of this provision. Maj. Gen. Mokgware shared that the Act stated as thus, "An identity card issued in terms of this Act shall be deemed to be the primary source of identification of a person: Provided that where such identity card is defaced, lost,

damaged or expired a valid passport issued in terms of the Immigration Act and a valid driver's license issued by the relevant authorities in Botswana in terms of the Road Traffic Act shall be used as a form of identification until such identity card had been replaced. Notwithstanding the provisions of the proviso to subsection (4), a person whose identity card had been lost damaged or had expired shall produce proof that he has applied the replacement of his identity card when using his passport or driver's license as proof of identity." He stated that his ministry had already shared information about this provision with stakeholders and the public through various platforms and awareness efforts were ongoing. Maj. Gen. Mokgware was responding to the MP for Shashe West, Mr Jeremiah Frenzel who had asked the minister to state the cause of delay in issuing replacement cards for National Identity Cards (Oman) since the beginning of this year and when this shortfall would be addressed. He further asked if the minister would consider issuing a public statement indicating that upon producing a renewal receipt together with the old Oman, then both private and public services might be rendered as some residents decried the lack of assistance despite producing receipts. **BOPA**

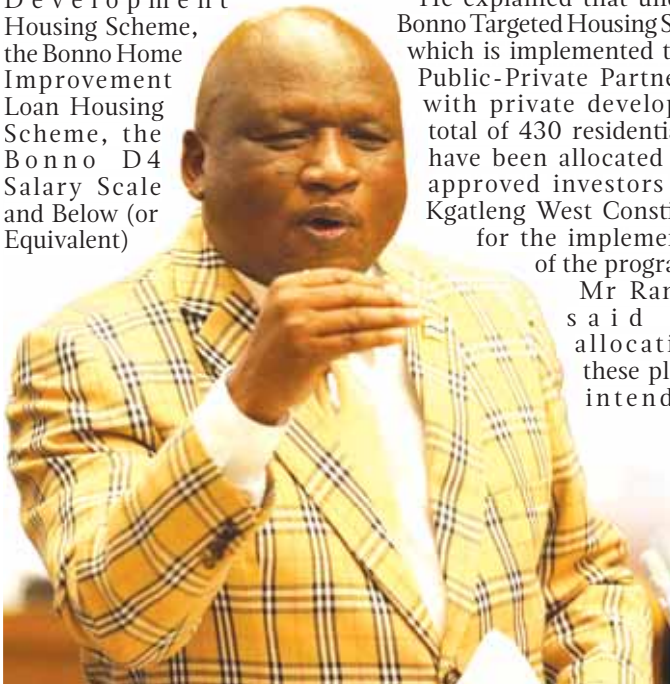


Minister of Labour and Home Affairs Major General Pius Mokgware

Ramogapi updates on Bonno progress in Kgatleng West

GABORONE

The Bonno National Housing Programme comprises several housing schemes designed to facilitate access to housing for different segments of society. Answering a question in Parliament on Monday, the Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi said these schemes included the Bonno Turnkey Development Housing Scheme, the Bonno Home Improvement Loan Housing Scheme, the Bonno D4 Salary Scale and Below (or Equivalent)



The Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Mr Onneetse Ramogapi

Housing Scheme, the Commercial Housing Scheme, the Bonno Targeted Housing Scheme (Private Sector-Led) and the Destitute Housing. The minister said since the inception of the programme, a total of 130 housing units have been planned for Kgatleng West comprising of six Bonno Turnkey houses, one Bonno D4 Salary Scale (or equivalent) house and 123 commercial housing units. He explained that under the Bonno Targeted Housing Scheme, which is implemented through Public-Private Partnerships with private developers, a total of 430 residential plots have been allocated to two approved investors in the Kgatleng West Constituency for the implementation of the programme. Mr Ramogapi said the allocation of these plots was intended to

facilitate the construction of affordable housing units, expand access to home ownership, stimulate local economic activity and contribute to sustainable community development within the constituency. In addition, he said a total of 560 plots for housing units have been availed for Kgatleng West. He said housing units and plots under the various Bonno National Housing Programme schemes have been allocated across different locations in Kgatleng West as follows. Three Bonno Turnkey housing units in Artesia, two Bonno Turnkey housing units in Kgomodiatshaba, and one Bonno Turnkey housing unit in Bokaa, one Bonno (D4) Salary Scale (or Equivalent) housing unit in Artesia; 123 BHC commercial housing units in Pilane. He said the Pilane project was delayed by connection of both portable water and sanitation connection. Under the Bonno Targeted Housing Scheme, the minister explained that there were 69 residential plots in Artesia and 361 residential plots in Rasesa. With regards to progress made so far to date, the minister explained that under the Bonno Turnkey Housing Scheme, one housing unit has been completed, while the remaining five were under construction. The minister said the Bonno D4 Salary Scale (or Equivalent)

Housing Scheme was currently at the mobilisation stage, while the Commercial Housing Scheme has reached an overall completion level of 93 per cent. He said the land allocated under Bonno Targeted Housing has been planned, detailed and surveyed and the survey records have been submitted to the Department of Surveys and Mapping for examination and approval. The ministry, he said has signed Development Agreements and awaited lease agreement from the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture. He said all companies appointed under the Bonno Turnkey Housing Scheme, Bonno Home Improvement Loan Housing Scheme, Bonno D4 Salary Scale and Below (or Equivalent) Housing Scheme, and the Commercial Housing Scheme were wholly Botswana-owned companies. The minister said of the two companies appointed under the Bonno Targeted Scheme, one was a Botswana-owned company and the other was a South African company. He said both companies would be issued with subleases over the allocated land and would enter into Development Agreements with government to facilitate the implementation of their respective housing projects. Mr Ramogapi explained that the ministry entered into a Development Agreement where the ministry allowed a developer

to build and thereafter recouping costs through sale of the property to the end beneficiary, who is a Motswana. He said the model could either be rent to buy or outright purchase, adding that the developer was given the land for free and at the end the value of the land was excluded from the selling price, making it cheaper for the beneficiary. The minister explained that Kgatleng West Constituency has a total of 130 housing units under construction, comprising; Bonno Turnkey, Bonno D4 Salary Scale (or Equivalent) and Commercial Housing units. Mr Ramogapi said the first 50 units have been completed, pending bulk servicing of water, which was to be completed by the end of January 2027. In total, the minister said 100 houses have been completed. He was responding to a question from Kgatleng West MP, Dr Unity Dow who had asked the minister to make a statement on the total number of plots allocated for Bonno National Housing Programme in Kgatleng West. She also wanted the minister to further state the villages where these plots were, progress made to date, the citizenship of the companies appointed to undertake the project and the terms of the said appointment; and the expected date of completion for the first 50 houses. **BOPA**

Arts & Culture



Khama III Memorial Museum Curator Gase Kediseng said many of Botswana's cultural artefacts were held in museums abroad, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States. She said 45 artefacts collected in the GaMmangwato area by Reverend William Willoughby in the 1890s had since been repatriated, marking a major milestone in Botswana's heritage restoration efforts.

Artefacts repatriation drive paramount

Thato Fane and Tumelo Obusitse
SEROWE

History is the heritage and patrimony of mankind in the lessons of the past that gives priceless inspiration for the future.

A nation's culture resides in the hearts and soul of its people. Cultural heritage define uniqueness of individuals and help appreciate cultural diversity.

Thus, heritage and culture highlight people's roots, identity and connection to the past.

Therefore, in view of the indispensable value of items of historical significance or artefacts Botswana has embarked on a massive drive for repatriation of such items.

Speaking in an interview, Khama III Memorial Museum curator and cultural expert, Gase Kediseng said Botswana artefacts were around the world in museums, more especially United Kingdom and United States of America.

She said such artefacts were collected during the 18th century; with Rev. William Willoughby in the 1890s collecting a good number of such items in GaMmangwato territory that were deposited at Brighton and Hove museums, UK of which 45 of the items were returned to Botswana marking a landmark restitution for the repatriation

exercise.

She said the repatriation created a lot of curiosity and debate about the items creating lingering questions in people's minds; 'where could be other Botswana artefacts.'

She said what came to the fore was that Botswana artefacts were all over around the world.

Furthermore, she said Khama III Memorial Museum was interested in finding information about documents, photos' visitors to Bechuanaland from Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Russia, among others from 1850-1966.

Of particular, she noted the museum was interested in Emili Holub, a Czech doctor, who spent time in Bechuanaland in the 1870s who was a close friend to Kgosi Khama III.

She said Holub collect items along GaMmangwato region that were deposited at Emili Holub Museums in Czech Republic and Slovakia that she said they would contact for more information.

She opined that there was a likelihood that they might be visitors from Central Europe to Bechuanaland that they did not know about at all, thus triggering an intensive research.

In addition, she spoke of the need to make follow-ups on artefacts, pointing a 19th century, as Ngwato fertility doll was spotted in a Spanish museum in Spain.

She said such a doll was used to perform rituals for women who could not conceive or to thwart barrenness for both sexes.

"Our next move was to repatriate Botswana items from Iziko Museum in Cape Town, South Africa," Ms Kediseng said.

Kediseng said Iziko Museum was willing to return Botswana items. She cited that among the prominent Botswana items that were in South Africa was a six pounder

field cannon dubbed 'the Nelson or Lord Nelson' which was used by Kgosi Sechele I of Bakwena, believed to be in a certain museum in Mafikeng.

She is of the view that it was a massive project that would need an engagement of government for assistance.

Moreover, she said Botswana had seen the value of getting the country's heritage back and remained optimistic that going forward the government would provide the necessary support for repatriation, funds permitting.

Appreciating the continuous support of government, she said it continued to fund museums across the country though it could look like a drop in the ocean.

"Repatriating items is a very expensive exercise and therefore we might not be able to get all our items and that laws in other countries preventing repatriation of such items was not helping the situation, thus triggering a need for more consultation," she said.

She spoke of the need to expand museums to increase storage capacity of such facilities to enable more repatriation to materialise as limited space was posing a challenge to the repatriation exercise.

She said more funding was also needed for the exercise and was grateful that international universities citing the University of Toronto were funding repatriation from European museums

which was not the case within the African continent.

She said such universities were interested in African artefacts to teach their students African history, which was why they were funding the repatriation project from their native countries which bore testimony that heritage was of paramount importance.

Thus he implored donors within the continent to come on board to ensure the repatriation exercise was fully accomplished and that the kind of infrastructure should preserve historical items for posterity.

On preservation of documents, she said people should be cognisant of the fact that they were corrodible, thus they needed to be digitised.

BOPA



Khama III Memorial Museum Curator Gase Kediseng



IPC trains locals in para sport development

Mmoniemang Motsamai
MOCHUDI

The inaugural training on sports for mobility under the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)'s development model that was held in Mochudi recently saw at least 55 trainees being roped in for enrolment into para sports training sponsored by the IPC and Toyota Mobility Foundation.

The sports for mobility is a pathway for Paralympic development and the two-day training was followed by a sport festival, with the intention of scouting for talent in different sporting codes and preparing local talent for upcoming international Paralympic Games.

In an interview, the Paralympic Association of Botswana (PASSOBO) president, Tshepo Mafereka said the training was meant to expand sporting activities for people living with disabilities, empowering trainees about para sport and coaching, refereeing and officiating in order for them to be able to scout for talent in schools and different institutions that dealt with people with disabilities.

Mafereka said training would in future create a platform for individual mentoring and follow-up sessions that would ensure that participants were guided for the Paralympics.

"Many Batswana do not participate in para sport because they are not aware of its existence and PASSOBO reaching out to IPC is meant to grow talent in Botswana," he said.

He said the para sport festival featured five codes including blind football, wheelchair tennis, goal ball, para-athletics, para powerlifting to expose people with disabilities to different sporting codes.

"We demonstrated these sporting codes for children and community of people disabilities in Mochudi and surrounding villages for them to appreciate and carve their paths in what they were interested in," he said.

He said four districts had been identified for the launch of sport festival and Kgatleng was the starting point as it hosts a number of institutions for people with disabilities.

He said other launches would be held in Palapye, Francistown and Jwaneng.

Mafereka said the intention was to win the support of communities to ensure that the work of unearthing talent did not lie with PASSOBO alone.

The move, he said would further increase grassroots participation in para sport and help in the establishment of a sustainable national para-athlete pathway.

Deputy chief executive officer of IPC, Kristina Molloy said the intention for training locals and launching para sport festivals was meant to attract more people with disabilities to participate in sports even at the elite level of Paralympic Games.

She said the IPC worked with 185 committees across the world to build capacity for more coaches and

officials so that more people with disabilities could have the chance to participate in para sport

For his part, director of sports in the Ministry of Sports and Arts, Moeti Godisamang said the ministry remained committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate, compere and excel in sport at every level.

In that regard, he said the sport festival provided an excellent platform to showcase a range of para sport activities available in Botswana.

Godisamang encouraged community members to appreciate not only the athletic ability on display, but the determination, resilience and discipline that athletes demonstrated every day.

He commended PASSOBO for the continued commitment to advancing para sport in Botswana.

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Paralympic Association of Botswana (PASSOBO) president, Tshepo Mafereka addressing participants during a two-day para sport training workshop. The training equipped coaches, referees and officials with skills to identify and nurture sporting talent among people with disabilities in schools and other institutions.
Photo: Courtesy of PASSOBO

Soccer fiesta takes centre stage

Loago Thomas
GABORONE

Four premier league giants are set to battle it out at the 5th Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta at the Jwaneng United Stadium from Friday until Sunday.

According to vice chairperson of the tournament, Njabulo Gilika, this year's invited teams include Jwaneng Galaxy, Mochudi Centre Chiefs, Gaborone United Football Club and African Stars Football Club from Namibia.

Gilika said the fiesta had always made a point of including a club from outside Botswana, an intention the organisers planned to keep, rotating in different international teams over time.

He noted that the tournament came during a pre-season stage, and was meant to help local teams prepare for the season ahead.

He singled out Jwaneng Galaxy Football Club, who would be competing in continental football, which needed to be match-ready before the domestic season started.

Gilika said alongside the fiesta's community focus, organisers were also mindful of supporting the country's football on the continental stage.

He said proceeds from the tournament would go toward supporting the village of Thankane, which organisers had identified as facing a number of challenges in education, health and accommodation for civil

servants.

He said the fiesta aimed to help address the needs of civil servants in the village and for learners to have adequate facilities.

Speaking on behalf of chief sponsor Barloworld, Derick Musa said the tournament had grown beyond its original focus on men's football since its inception, with women's soccer teams now also taking part.

He framed the tournament as more than a competition, describing it as a platform for player development, encouraging participating clubs to use the fiesta as a chance to birth new players who did not feature the previous season.

Musa added that Barloworld's support extended beyond

football to sports development more broadly, with the aim of creating alternative career pathways for young people with an interest in sport.

One of the team representatives, Mochudi Centre Chiefs assistant coach Alex Malete echoed the value of the fiesta as a chance to sharpen up before the season, calling for team cohesion and the integration of new signings with established players as top priority at the moment.

Malete added that the tournament would also give newer players valuable game time, offered supporters some early season action, and allowed teams to work out and correct mistakes before the league could get underway. BOPA



Jwaneng Mine GM's Soccer Fiesta vice chairperson, Njabulo Gilika (centre), Gaborone United coach, Sean Conner (left) and Barloworld representative, Derick Musa during a Fiesta press briefing in Gaborone on Tuesday. Four premier league giants are set to battle it out at the 5th Jwaneng Mine General Manager's Soccer Fiesta at the Jwaneng United Stadium from tomorrow until Sunday.
Photo: Phenyo Ramatu