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on Sunday

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Masisi to reshuffle cabinet



Rakgare

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FRUSTRATED BY THE POOR performance of some cabinet ministers, President Mokgweetsi Masisi is caught in a dilemma and is considering a shakeup of the Executive arm of government, The Patriot on Sunday has learnt. Source whisper that Masisi was supposed to announce a reshuffle on Thursday morning before travelling to Namibia to meet his counterpart President Dr Hage Geingob on an official visit but chose to hold the decision in abeyance. It is expected that Masisi will soon pull the trigger, cracking the whip on some underperforming ministers.

University of Botswana (UB) political science lecturer, Mokaloba Mokaloba says Masisi is in a dilemma whether to reshuffle cabinet or not. He said Masisi may have not reshuffled cabinet for a number of reasons, including that he may not want to distract his government plans amidst the Covid-19 pandemic ravaging the

- Fire, hire interrupted by Namibia trip
- Underperforming ministers to be dropped
- Masisi has limited options in BDP backbench -Analyst

globe.

In addition, Masisi observed that Masisi is limited in terms of his substitutes regarding the available ruling Botswana Democratic (BDP) MPs who are currently seating in backbench. "Loyalty has also been key within BDP when they make ministerial appointments," said Mokaloba.

Highly placed sources have revealed that Masisi is considering to take complete overhaul of his cabinet by dropping poor performing ministers but he is also in quandary to choose their successors. "Reshuffling has been put on hold. Masisi is contemplating to reconfigure his cabinet which will see some underperforming ministers losing their posts as he tightens performance screws. Masisi is not happy at all with his cabinet. Dissident ministers are in danger," said the source.

Sources allege that among ministers earmarked to be dropped include Tumiso Rakgare (Minister of Youth Empowerment), and assistant ministers Dumedzweni Mthimkhulu (Presidential Affairs) and Buti Billy (Youth Empowerment) with Simon Mavange, Thapelo Letsholo and

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Curfew relaxed, Booze back!

- Covid19 vaccines arrive in March, movement eased
- Community based care takes centre stage
- Alcohol sold on take-away during week days ONLY
- Discotheque, night clubs remain closed

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PRESIDENT MOKGWEETSI MASISI has pleaded with Batswana to accept vaccination without any hiccups because the safety of any vaccine brought into the country will be verified by Botswana Medical Regulatory Authority (BOMRA).

Addressing the nation on Friday night, Masisi pleaded with community leaders, civic organisations and politicians to unite in encouraging communities to embrace and submit to vaccination to save lives. He reiterated that, as communicated by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the first batch of 100 000 AstraZeneca doses will be expected in the country by the end of March 2021.

"First to be given a dose will be Health workers who will take the lead, followed by other Frontline workers. Those living with other commobidities and the elderly will then follow before the vaccination programme is rolled out to the rest of the population. Those who, for various reasons cannot access vaccination centres will be followed to their homes to be given a dose," said Masisi reiterating heartily



Masisi

that vaccines should not be considered a cure but only help the immune system to fight diseases.

"Our people should be encouraged to be eager to take the vaccines as soon as they become available. Refusal to take vaccines endager one's life and the rest of the population," warned Masisi.

Masisi said government has been looking into different available options for the vaccine, and will acquire different types depending on the Covid-19 variants currently detected in Botswana.

He assured that once the vaccines are procured every person currently

living in Botswana will be eligible to be given a dose. "The disease does not discriminate on gender, physical features etc. Everybody will be given a dose. If we manage to secure excess doses we will share with our neighbours. Countries that tried to close out other nations have failed to contain the disease because the pandemic has affected everybody everywhere in the world," said Masisi.

Reiterating the point, Deputy Coordinator of the Presidential Task Force Professor Mosepele Mosepele said herd immunity can only be achieved in a population when a certain percentage of the population has been vaccinated. There excluding foreigners will defeat attempts to achieve herd immunity, he warned. Prof Mosepele said continuous evaluation of the performance of the vaccines will be carried out as the vaccination programme continues.

The first phase to vaccination programme is scheduled to cover 72% of the population, wherein 100 000 doses of AstraZeneca are expected in the first batch of vaccines due end of March. Another 30 000 is expected in the second batch of vaccines. Botswana has placed a request for the acquisition

of AstraZeneca, Covax and Pfizer (suitable for people aged 16 and above) vaccines. Other vaccines are suitable for people aged 18 years and above.

Botswana has also entered into agreement in principle with neighbouring Namibia for a back up on the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines should other avenues face challenges. The two neighbours have also encouraged universities in both countries to enter into a MoU for research on the development of covid19 vaccine, Masisi revealed.

Curfew relaxed

Meanwhile, Masisi announced the relaxation of movement restrictions reducing the duration of the curfew to between 2200hrs -0400hrs starting 01 to 31 March 2021. From tomorrow (Monday, 01 March 2021) alcohol sales will be allowed strictly on take-away basis during week days ONLY while Discos and night clubs remaining closed. Masisi expressed concern about continued illegal gatherings, which remain the major super spreaders of covid-19 leading to increasing positive cases when people do not practice social distancing, wear masks or use sanitisers.

800 JOBS ON THE LINE

Majwe, Debswana divorce

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OVER 800 WORKERS WILL BE thrown into the streets at the end of March 2021 when the curtain falls on the relationship between Majwe Mining JV and Debswana.

As the Covid-19 rampages throughout the world and threatening the economies of countries and jobs of individuals, employees of Majwe Mining Joint Venture are facing another predicament coming their way, retrenchment. The clock is ticking very fast for the termination of contract between Debswana Diamond Mine and Majwe Mining

and the real victims being the workers are facing a bleak future. Since arriving in Jwaneng few years ago, Majwe Mining have been an integral part of the Jwaneng community and the villages surrounding the mining town. Early this year, the mining community was shocked when Debswana announced the termination of their multi- billion Pula Cut 9 contract with Majwe Mining. The contract had run for 18 months since April 2019. The initial contract duration was nine years,

from 2019 to 2027.

Though Debswana is adamant that those who have been working for Majwe Mining will be absorbed by the company and local companies that will be engaged, inside sources revealed that the opposite is the truth. "There is no how they can absorb all those retrenched by Majwe Mining because the post they are occupying now are already filled up," revealed a highly placed source at the mine.

To compound the problem,

diamonds are not doing well in the market and Debswana might also consider right sizing its staff, said a source at Majwe Mining. Information gathered by this publication is that over 800 employees will not be absorbed back into mining as their posts are either already filled, oversubscribed or will become redundant.

Majwe Mining Public Relations Officer, Archibald Ngakayagae, referred enquiries on the exact number of workers who will not be

absorbed into Debswana to the latter. In turn Debswana Corporate Affairs Manager- External, Agatha Sejoie, said Majwe Mining and not them, are best placed to respond to questions raised by *The Patriot on Sunday* in relation to looming job losses.

Meanwhile, Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) have called on Botswana government to prioritise the inclusion and participation of citizens in the mineral development sector of the economy.

"This position has been espoused in the NDP 11, Citizen Economic Empowerment Policy (CEE) and the draft Minerals Policy of 2018.

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THE DAWN OF A NEW ALLIANCE

Parents complain about Measles vaccine

- Children react badly to the vaccine, parents blame MoHW
- Government reassures the nation

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A MONTH AFTER THE Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) rolled out a nationwide campaign to vaccinate children between the ages of nine months and five years old against measles, a flood of grievances have been reported by parents and guardians. Major concerns surround the side effects of the Rubella vaccine, with many alleging that it is making children sick, developing symptoms like coughing, difficulty breathing, fevers, vomiting, diarrhea and weight loss. Last week parents and guardians vented their frustrations on social media, sharing with others how their children were responding to the vaccine, claiming that the iting how the situation was in fact getting worse by the day. Speaking to The Patriot On Sunday, one parent who preferred to share their story anonymously, said he initially assumed his daughters were suffering a mild cold from playing in the rain but panicked when the cough became unusually persistent. “My daughters were vaccinated on 2 February and shortly after, they both had an abnormal cough that worried me, because it came with an unfamiliar shortness of breath and loss of appetite. I had to test myself and the kids for Covid-19 and our results were negative and that’s when It dawned on me to seek medical attention,” he said,

adding that the children were diagnosed with a chest infection at a private clinic. Although they received antibiotics to treat it, two weeks later, recovery was slow and he had to take them back to a clinic for a second prescription. While a good number of parents also seemingly went back to local health clinics to seek professional medical help, it would appear the paracetamol that was prescribed by medical staff has little to no positive effect at all. Some parents were worried sick imagining the worst possible scenario, and were quick to assume that their children were showing signs of Covid-19, going as far as having them tested for the virus only to realize a bit later, that the sickness pattern, is as a result of the vaccine. Director of Health Services, Dr Malebogo Kebabonye, said after the vaccination campaign, MoHW has recorded only 16 reports to date of which most are well on their recovery journey. “Adverse effects are a known phenomenon following immunization, and we normally classify them as minor to severe. Some will happen immediately while some can be experienced while the child is at home,” said Dr Kebabonye. She further emphasized the safety profile of the vaccine because it is the same one, they have regularly used in the previous under 5 years immunization schedule. Parents are encouraged nonetheless to report any worrisome symptoms to the nearest clinic.

Queer tribe yearn for acceptance

- ‘Our biggest challenge is accessing basic services such as healthcare, police stations’
- Endorsing LGBTIQ rights will pave the way for peadophiles -Police Officer
- Sexual minorities shunned in Religious, Educational institutions

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THE LESBIANS, GAYS AND Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO) community has gone through a rollercoaster of events since their journey towards having their rights recognized in the country. The experience has and is still a challenging one as the ice surrounding their organization and its members in society has not melted. LEGAGIBO was established in 1998 but only managed to successfully get registered in 2016. This speaks volumes of the hardships they have to endure for being different from what is perceived as morally and socially acceptable. Their greatest achievement is the decrim case of 2016, prompting government to decriminalize homosexuality. Communications Officer for LEGABIBO, Matlhogonolo Samsam came forth to speak on the experiences and challenges that come with belonging to the LGBTIQ society. “There is definitely a long way to go as far as society is concerned with accepting and understanding what we are about however our biggest challenge right now is accessing basic services such as healthcare facilities or getting assistance from the police in cases of GBV as equally as the next heterosexual,” Samsam said. She insists there have been instances where transgender individuals have shied away from hospitals out of fear of being ridiculed by

nurses for their transition and how they choose to identify. “Utlwa gotwe, hee semangmang, tla o mpontshe hee, is this a man or woman, type of remarks and these tend to crush one’s confidence and they ultimately leave without getting the help they need,” she explained. LEGABIBO has held workshops with different civil organizations including health workers and while a few seem to understand, a great bunch of them are still lagging behind. The number of LGBTIQ GBV victims that seek counselling with LEGABIBO personnel is apparently not in sync with the cases reported at police stations. According to Samsam, there have been occasions where some of these victims have failed to open cases against their abusers, especially gay men because when they get to the police offices, they are mocked for ‘failing to fight back in defense, akere ke banna botlhe’. “Although we continue to engage the police and educate them about our community, we have gone the extra mile to request statistics that show how many of our cases go reported and if they were successfully attended to, but we have not received anything from the police,”added Samsam. The poor reception from the police workforce was further confirmed at a recent workshop with police officers in Kasane, where LEGABIBO was explaining the decrim case and its importance as a human rights issue. “One officer asked if society would not



Samsam

be paving a way for social ills such as pedophilia, by endorsing LGBTIQ rights, thereby insinuating that we were a social ill,” Samsam said. Public relations officer for the Botswana Police Service (BPS), Dipheko Motube insists they are currently unaware of any such mistreatment. “We are not aware of the alleged discrimination of individuals based off of how they choose to identify,” he said. Motube further mentioned that if anyone was treated otherwise, they should report the specific police station and police officer who did not assist them accordingly. “We take people’s human rights seriously and stand firmly against any form of discrimination and so anyone who received unsatisfactory service should desist from going in circles reporting to the media and rather speak to the relevant people in the polic workforce, be it the commissioner himself,”. As far as statics of GBV cases are concerned, Motube says they do

not compile reports according to association but rather offense and there is no way they can be in a positon to offer LEGABIBO statistics specific to members of the LGBTIQ community. He said according to the constitution, everyone is and must be treated equally and that is exactly what they strive to do everyday as the police. There are a number of issues that are not in black and white for all to see and LEGABIBO is concerned that stakeholders are not forthcoming to address them together. Currently, there is confusion over civil and national registration of LGBTIQ members, especially for intersex individuals and transgenders. According to Samsam, some of their members are constantly given the run around, not necessarily because the law prohibits one not to change how they choose to identify, but because of the attitude of the person at the front desk offering assistance. “I think it would be better if there were clearer policies around registration and the responsible service providers informed and educated so as to avoid the stagnancy and avoid taking them to court as in the case of Mrs Tshepo Ricki Kgositau-Kanza, who had to go the legal way so she could ultimately identify as female and get married,” she mentioned. Samsam went on to say how such cases are misrepresented even in the media and often draw the wrong kind of attention towards the LGBTIQ community. It would be unfair however to state that there has been no positive feedback completely, especially from the healthcare department. We are working closely with the Health ministry and Gaborone DHMT to fight the discrimination and to close the gap in service provision,” Samsam said. Other sectors include Religion and Education. “We are closely working with Global Interfaith Network, to offer counselling to LGBTIQ members who have been humiliated in churches, often referred to as demon possessed, to help them understand that they should accept themselves as they are and still be religious, they don’t have to choose,” said Samsam. She added that they as an organization, have an ongoing research on LGBTIQ persons in the education sector and are hoping to do targeted advocacy on LGBTIQ rights, and if all goes well, perhaps even request for the curriculum to change and be a bit more accommodative of their community. BONELA provided housing and mentorship to LEGABIBO prior to 2016, while the latter was fighting to be legally recognized and registered. Although LEGABIBO operates independently now, BONELA still offer support and work together on a number of projects. Policy and Legal Coordinator for BONELA, Tebogo Gareitsanyane said they continue to collaborate on community engagement with LEGABIBO. “Where grievances or violation of rights may occur, we as BONELA facilitate access to certain spaces, such as decision making boards of various organizations responsible for designing strategic policies so LEGABIBO may be able to communicate with them” she added. Gareitsanyane also mentioned that BONELA offers capacity building to LEGABIBO ensuring they have a sound structure but also by mobilizing resources which they later sub grant to them.

Gambling rakes in P79m

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PUBLIC FUNDS amounting to P79, 940,116 are lying idle in a private account at the Gambling Authority because relevant authorities at the parastatal and government enclave are failing to set up a levy Fund to remit the funds to government coffers. According to Gambling Authority 2019/21 report, the funds were collected as licence levy payable to Levy Fund compared to P58, 126,868 in 2018/19. The collection of the levy by the Gambling Authority has raised questions from the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the past who questioned why funds are collected through the levy when there is no fund order to remit to government. Gambling Authority Chief Executive Officer, Thulisizwe Johnson, has indicated that they have taken a decision to keep the funds in a separate bank account to ensure that it did not get used for the authority’s operations. Johnson defended the collection of the levy saying that their interpretation of the Act through which Gambling Authority was established, was

- No Fund order to pass the money to Govt



Johnson

that licensees were obliged to continue paying a certain amount of their gross gambling revenues as per the provisions of the Act. It was on that basis that the Gambling Authority began to collect funds even before a Fund Levy could be put in place, he stated. “The Authority considers License Levy collected as amounts collected on behalf of the Levy Fund and has recognised as a liability and included under current liabilities pending the establishment of the Levy Fund and finalisation of its structure, control and administration. The accounting treatment will depend on the final conclusions relating to its structure, control and administration upon its establishment,” reads the report. On the Casino entrance fees, the Authority managed to collect P1, 584,904 in 2020 compared to P1, 597,459 in 2019. One of the major issues that affect casino industry is harmful gambling habits which led to some squandering

their money even property. To address the issue, Gambling Authority introduced a responsible gambling strategy which is supported by a counselling and psychosocial treatment strategy that is coupled with an exclusion programme. According to the report there were 36 exclusions, including 1 relapse and only 18 managed to exclude themselves. 20 people have been excluded for 4 consecutive years according to the report. The total number of people who have been excluded for four (4) consecutive years is 20. According to Gambling Authority financial report the organisation spent P136, 588 on Covid-19 crisis management, Responsible Gaming Costs 2,025,348, Total expenditure 49,261,983 40,224,948, and Salaries and wages 20,468,438 1 9,841,367 Johnson said in their efforts to protect the funds from mismanagement as has been the case with other levies, they have in addition to keeping the money in a different bank account, had the account audited to further ensure the safety of the funds.



TENDER NOTICE RFP001/2021 PROVISION FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR SECHABA BREWERY HOLDINGS LIMITED- SBHL

- Tenders are invited from suitably qualified and experienced companies registered with **PPADB Code 319** to provide Sechaba Brewery Holdings with external audit services. **Preference will be given to suitably qualified and experienced citizen owned companies.**
- Documents will be emailed to the interested bidders after paying a non-refundable fee of P560.00 from 08:00hrs to 1530hrs hrs on weekdays with effect from **16 February 2021 up until 9 March 2021. Youth registered companies** will purchase the tender documents at 50%. The payment can be deposited on the below account referencing the tender number and title.
- Proof of payment should be emailed to: sechaba@bdc.bw

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Account Name	Bank	Account Number	Account Type	Branch Name	Swift Code
Sechaba Brewery Holdings Limited	Standard Chartered Bank	0100157480500	Current	Head Office	SCHBBWGXXXX

- The tender submission **19th March 2021 1000hrs**.The submissions should be forwarded to sechaba@bdc.bw
- Proposers should submit the documents in a zip file/folder format NOT exceeding 10MB. All documents must be in PDF format and must be password protected. Two Password protected folders must be submitted for Technical and Financial Bids to sechaba@bdc.bw.The password shall be unique for each folder. On receipt of bids, proposers will be provided instructions on how to submit the related passwords to the documents.
- Bidders may submit their queries on the RFP in writing to sechaba@bdc.bw. In order to ensure fairness and transparency, telephone enquiries regarding the tender will not be responded to.Any communication seeking clarification will need to be received by BDC no later than 7 days before the due date.
- Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing, BDC is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender offer, nor incur expenses in the preparation thereof.

Masisi to reshuffle cabinet

FROM PAGE 1

Lesaso likely to get into the cabinet. Mavange is the MP for Tati West and he is tipped to be the Assistant Minister of Youth whilst Beauty Manake (assistant minister of agriculture) is tipped to take charge of the youth ministry. “Kanye North MP Letsholo is earmarked for the assistant minister of trade and industry. Aubrey Lesao will see himself as the assistant minister of lands and Mmadinare MP Molebatsi Molebatsi would be transferred from ministry of trade to agriculture as assistant to Karabo



Mthimkhulu Gare,” disclosed source. A questionnaire sent to the Press Secretary to the President

Batlhalefi Leagajang on Thursday regarding the cabinet reshuffle was not responded to at time of going to print. BDP MPs are pleading with Masisi to drop the ministers who are disrespectful to Parliament. According to the backbenchers, they want the ministers such as Rakgare and Eric Molale fired. “We have submitted to the President through vice president Slumber Tsogwane the list of the ministers who should be relieved the duties as they are failing. We have been long pleading for deadwoods and arrogant ministers to be dropped as they don’t respect

us,” said one BDP MP. Also, backbenchers said removal of Dr Kwape as Health Minister was a wrong move therefore they anticipate that the ministry of health should be given to effective person to replace Dr Dikoloti. Masisi reshuffled the cabinet last year in August after the then Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation (MIAC) Dr Unity Dow resigned. She was replaced by Dr Lemogang Kwape, who was then replaced at health ministry by Dr Edwin Dikoloti while the MP for Mmadinare Molebatsi Molebatsi was also promoted to the cabinet as assistant minister of Trade and Industry.

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Majwe, Debswana divorce

FROM PAGE 1

Botswana Mine Workers Union supports the implementation of these policy frameworks, and recognizes the competitive advantage that Botswana has in mineral extraction,” reads part of a statement from BMWU on Wednesday.

BMWU argue that the economic recovery of the country, which is largely dependent on mining should be driven by its citizens or citizen owned enterprises. The mine workers union believes that government’s divestment of its shares invested in various commodities should be awarded to citizen owned companies and this will serve as an indicator to the implementation of citizen economic empowerment policy.

Desert Bushwalk
Regarded as one of the biggest hiking excursions in Southern Africa, Desert Bushwalk is one of the events that will be severely affected by the termination of Majwe Mining JV as they were the main sponsors.

In an interview, organizer of the Desert Bushwalk Archibald Ngakayagae said they will continue with the event though it will be an uphill battle.

“We will try though they were one of our main sponsors and assisted with resources,” he said.

The Desert Bush Walk managed to raise funds for the construction of a Creative Learning Centre at Sese Primary School, donated P235, 600 to the Ministry of Basic Education on behalf of the 14 primary schools in Jwaneng/ Mabutsane. In 2018 they raised P200 000 which was



Reatile

also donated to the Ministry of Basic Education towards the construction of a reception classroom at Kanaku Primary School in Jwaneng/ Mabutsane region.

The Desert Bush Walk which has been included in the Botswana Tourism Organisation calendar of events has previously attracted participants from South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, East Africa, Australia and Germany and Nigeria.

Dark cloud
MP for Jwaneng/ Mabutsane, Mephato Reatile said the termination of the Majwe Mining contract has covered the constituency with a heavy black blanket of sorrow, pain and despair. “As much as we advocate for citizen economic empowerment, the manner in which the Majwe Mining contract was terminated is disheartening because the hopes and aspirations of workers were raised when it was renewed. Some workers took out financial

loans and now they are going to sink into depression and poverty,” said Reatile, adding that Majwe Mining is one of the most effective companies who met their production targets.

More importantly for the community, Reatile said Majwe Mining’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy was very effective and changed lives in Jwaneng/ Mabutsane constituency. “They touched the lives of ordinary people in the Jwaneng/ Mabutsane constituency and helped the village development committees with income generating projects,” said the saddened Reatile.

From Mabutsane village, about 100km North west of Jwaneng township, Kgosi Kgakgamatso Moletsane said the termination of the contract has relegated them back to a poverty stricken community. “Majwe Mining employed most of our youth, who in turn supported their families here in Mabutsane. The termination

of the contract means that they have been condemned back to poverty,” he declared in a sad voice.

On CSR, Kgosi Moletsane said recently the company launched a clean up campaign competition for all villages in the constituency. “We expect the outcome of the competition next week. There are a lot of other developments they have undertaken in our villages,” said Kgosi Moletsane.

The Mabutsane Sub District Council has also commended Majwe Mining for participation in the socio-economic development of the communities within their Zone of Influence (ZOI). According to the Sub Council Chairperson, Kgopolo Setammere-Ramosesane, the sub-district council would have fallen short in their efforts to take services to the people had it not been for the benevolence of companies like Majwe Mining.

He expressed gratitude to Majwe Mining for coming to their aid especially in the face of the pandemic the world is currently grappling with.

Two of Majwe Mining Employees also received individual Awards as they utilised the company’s Staff Volunteerism Programme. Through the SVP our employees extend their care and compassion to communities within our ZOI. The two, Othusitse Siane and Neo Moswete have built a two and half house for a needy family in Maokane and provided monthly groceries for a needy family in Lefhoko Village respectively.

Rastafarians commemorate Black History month

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RASTAFARIANS FROM across the country recently commemorated the black history month at Khama III Memorial Museum with pictorial exhibition of artefacts, the display of Rastafarian music, poetry and lessons on history of Botswana.

In an interview, Khama III Memorial Museum Curator and Rastafarian elder Scobie Lekhutile said black history month which is commemorated annually during the month of February, originates in the United States of America and is a celebration of achievements African- Americans.

Lekhutile said black history month should not be a one month thing, but should be celebrated every day. He, however said this year’s commemoration is a first in Serowe and it is also the first time celebration was emphasized on Botswana History and culture.

When describing Botswana history, Lekhutile said eventhough Botswana has different tribes with their different cultures, he however said all these tribe falls under the same basket, which is the Botswana history. He said while some tribes may believe their history is more important than the others, he nevertheless indicated that no



Rastafarian elder Scobie Lekhutile

history or culture is better than the other in Botswana. “ That is what has made us unique as Batswana, because there is no time in history where any village was built out of bloodshed, we never fought because of culture differences or along tribal lines, this had always been our strength,” he added.

Furthermore, Lekhutile indicated that the pictorial exhibited artefacts that include, clothing, tools, ornaments, jewellery, beadwork, basketry, containers and others are items

that were taken from Botswana in the 1890s and are currently displayed at Brighton Museum in the United Kingdom, are important part of Botswana history. He explained that, most of the items that were taken from Botswana and other African countries often had great significance in their communities. “The importance of return of these artefacts is that they will remind us of our history, some had great significance to the community that were taken from, some even had medicinal

purposes,” he said. He further encouraged Batswana and other Africans to work hard to bring back more important artefacts back home. Lekhutile said while plans are underway to bring the items back from Brighton Museum to Botswana, and it is a commendable effort, he however said, the local museums should also be in a good state to preserve them well when they arrive.

He said more often museums are overlooked when it comes to funding, therefore he implored the government to invest in museums as they play a major part in the identity of the country.

“The museum should be equipped and given proper equipment to be able to properly preserve these artefacts, there is no need to take them from where there are properly preserved and then bringing them home only to be destroyed,” he said.

He emphasized the need to bring local museums to a world standard, including training museum personnel not only how to preserve the artefacts in the museum but with knowledge. “Being a curator is a whole science, to an ordinary person an exhibited sandals can be just that, but as a museum person I can tell you, how long the sandal had been worn, the weight of the person who had worn it by just looking at the wear and tear of it, so we need to train people in this area,” he said.

‘Give sub land boards own mandates’ - Maforaga

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PALAPYE SUB LAND BOARD chairman Isaac Maforaga had called for the decentralization of the Ngwato Land board. Ngwato Land board which is the biggest land board in the country with 15 sub land boards, is currently struggling with over 400 000 people who are on the waiting list for residential and agriculture plots. In a recent interview with The Patriot on Sunday, Maforaga announced that, as new board, they have already put the issue of decentralising Ngwato Land board on the table. “We have realised that there is need to fast track or facilitate decentralization of Ngwato Land board and give sub land boards mandates so that they will be able to run as full fledged land boards,” he said.

Maforaga said Palapye is no longer an ordinary village, indicating that while it may not have yet been given the status it deserves, the bottom line is

that it had superseded the village status. “For Palapye sub land board to still be relying on Main land board it’s a disadvantage on our part, take a typical example of Palapye Land board and Maunatlala Land board, Palapye currently has 96 000 people on the waiting list and Maunatlala Land board has 16 000, but when Ngwato Land board distribute resources, we are given the same number of staff, same number of vehicles, and this is a challenge,” he said. “What we are simple saying is that there should be decentralization so that we can be able to run our own resources and be able to identify how we can distribute our resources looking at our needs,” he added.

The chairman, also said the current rate at which Palapye is growing had attracted people to the village including surrounding villages. Therefore this have further contributed to the sub land board experiencing high influx of transfers of plots which had further overwhelmed the staff as they are unable to keep up.

“We are under staffed, we need to be equipped with better resources because if we still depend on the organization for our funds, we will continue to be unable to keep up the speed at which Palapye is growing,” he said.

He said Palapye Sub land board need at least three (3) secretaries so that they will be able to keep up with number of board meetings. “It is usually difficult to schedule other meetings to push the work because usually the Secretary will be busy with minutes from the previous board meeting, if there were more than one Secretary then we will be able to focus on other meetings,” he said. “It is time Palapye land board is treated as one of the biggest regions which needs proper attention,” he added.

Meanwhile Palapye sub land board new chairman said he intend to have significantly reduced the current waiting list at the end of his three year contract. “There is need to come up with strategies, and I must thank the Minister as he had given us task

as land boards to come up with strategies in place of how best we can do to achieve reduction of waiting list,” he said.

He indicated that he had noticed that the waiting list across the country are not a clean list. “The reason why I say they are not clean list is that you will find that one person have applied to 5 land boards, obviously he/she is recorded in all these land boards, so they are counted as being in the waiting list in all these land boards, so I don’t see any need of one person appearing in as many as 5 waiting lists,” he said. He suggested that each individual should be allowed to have three (3) applications at areas of priority.

Furthermore, Maforaga emphasized the need for land boards to enter registered plots in the stardust. “stardust is more like a record where everyone who is on the waiting list or have been allocated a plot is registered, however the problem comes when as Palapye sub land board we keep stardust indicating who is in the waiting list, who has attained plot, but when other land boards don’t keep it, it end with one person given plot multiple times therefore disadvantaging others,” he explained. Moreover, he said the sub land board has negotiated with the ministry to start a cost recovery pilot project. He indicated that to allocate one with a serviced plot with developed road, electricity, water and sewage cost government excess of one hundred and five thousand pula (P105000.00) per plot. He said the sub land board is negotiating with the Ministry so that people can pay part of the bill.

“The minister had given us a task to start pilot project here in Palapye of cost recovery, and we suggested that from the P105000.00, people pay 5000 Pula and the government the rest, but the Ministry said the 5000 pula is too steep,” he said. “We are still working at a figure we will settle with, maybe we will charge 5 pula per square/ meter for serviced areas, 3 Pula for semi serviced and for subserviced 2 Pula per square meter,” he added.

He further said that it is high time land boards hire full time physical planners instead of relying on council for physical planners, he said this has often contributed to delays in allocation of land and therefore contributing to the current long waiting lists. “The ministry should come up with mitigations to bring back the physical planners or appoint those who will work with land boards full time or even allow us to hire our own, so that we help Batswana diligently and on time,”

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Savings	0%-0.25%	0%-0.25%	500
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6 months	1.55%	1.56%	1,000
12 months	1.65%-1.7%	1.66%-1.71%	1,000
24 months	1.75%	1.76%	1,000
Over 24 months	1.75%-1.8%	1.76%-1.81%	1,000

THE ABOVE INTREST RATES ARE APPLICABLE W.E.F 09 OCT 2020

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‘Butterfly’ demands freedom

■ Challenges DIS, High Court ruling



Maswabi

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THE LEGAL BATTLE between Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DIS) and suspended spy, Welheminah Mphoeng Maswabi is far from over.

Through her attorneys, Ndadi Law firm, on Thursday Maswabi filed an appeal against a judgment of the High Court late last year which confirmed the decision of the spy agency to restrict her movement and freeze payment of overtime allowance. The appeal is against the whole judgment, which was delivered by Lobatse High Court Judge Tebogo Tau.

Maswabi is praying to the Court of Appeal to set aside the decision by the Director General of DIS Brigadier Peter Magosi stopping her fixed allowance and declared nullity as it unlawful.

“The court a quo held that principles of natural justice require that an appellant be given a hearing prior to an adverse decision being taken against her and nonetheless found the decision that did not accord the appellant an opportunity to make representations lawful,” reads grounds of appeal.

Maswabi argues that Judge Tau did not make a determination that the allowance is fixed on her salary therefore it does not

depend on whether she has earned it or not. “The court failed to further address the issue of Section 35 (3) of the Public Service Act that provides that the salary shall not be withheld during the period of suspension,” reads the appeal papers.

On the restriction of movement, she argues that she doesn’t have a claim against the DIS based on a written contract with respect to the issue when in fact it was no longer a contested issue before the court. “The Appellant had conceded to the issue and consequently abandoned the particular relief sought against the respondent. Therefore the court made a determination on an issue that was no longer before it,” reads the reasons for the appeal.

DIS won a case of restricting Maswabi’s movement and stopped payment of her overtime allowance. Earlier in 2019, Magosi restricted Maswabi’s,

Soon after Maswabi was interdicted and charged on the 17th October 2019, with three counts of possession of unexplained property, financing terrorism and false declaration of a passport, Magosi ordered her never to leave her duty station without authorization thus restricting her freedom of movement. Last year December, the High Court declared magosi’s instructions lawful according to the DIS Act.

Serowe dairy plant comatose

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THE SEROWE DAIRY plant, which was built in 2011 for more than P8 million, ceased to operate in 2019 due to breakdown of machinery and has never benefited farmers from Serowe and surrounding villages of Palapye, Tswapong and Mahalapye.

In an interview with Serowe Milk Marketing Association Chairperson Meshack Matshambane during a tour of the plant by Serowe sub district councillors, he said the plant only operated without problems until 2013, and thereafter started developing mechanical problems due to lack of proper maintenance.

He said maintenance on the milk processing plant, which is owned 95 percent by the government and 5 percent by the farmers, was the responsibility of government. “Originally, the responsibility of maintenance of the plant was with the government. However after realising that they were dragging their feet and reluctant to service the plant, we decided to take the responsibility of servicing it, because we didn’t want to loose business,” he said.

He mentioned that, the mechanical problems persisted as the plant was working on and off until 2019 when they now ceased operating as they were now financially unable to keep up with its maintenance. “We have reported it to the animal production office in Serowe, and they have told us they reported it to the relevant



Serowe dairy plant

authorities in Gaborone and were told it will be fixed soon, but nothing had happened until now, no one had come to fix it,” he said.

The association chairman said even though during the production farmers dragged their feet to bring milk to the plant, he however said those who brought milk, it was enough to supply Serowe and there were major benefits. “We managed to make profit from this plant and at the end of the day when we received our

checks, we were able to pay our farm assistants, buy medication for the livestock and put food on our table,” he said.

Matshambane implored the government to fix the plant, so that it will continue to benefit its intended beneficiaries and the country which is importing most of its milk especially from South Africa.

The area councillor Setlalekgosi Molefhe said ever since the plant was built it had never properly benefited its beneficiaries, because when it

was handed over some of the equipment that are used to store milk were unavailable

“This plant was built with a lot of money, but it is not operating as we speak, before its handing over, there should have been proper inspection to make sure it is working, because it was handed over with some machinery not in working condition,” he said

Serokolwane ward Councillor further said it is unfortunate that while the government continue to spend a lot of

view the plant as an economic opportunity which can benefit Serowe and surrounding communities including the country.

He mentioned that in his 2021 budget speech, the minister of finance indicated that the dairy plant will be catered for under the development budget given to the Ministry of Agriculture.

He said, as the sub district they intend to work hand in hand with the farmers association. “Strategically, we are the ones who can encourage our community and the associations to bring milk to the plant so that it can fully operate,” he said.

For her part Serowe Sub district, Animal Production Officer Tsholofelo Mngama said when fully operational, the 8 000 litres capacity plant can pasteurise 24 000 litres of milk per day, operating in 3 phrases of 8 hour shift. “If there is sufficient milk, it can pasteurise and bottle 24 000litres of milk per day, operating 3 phases of 8 hour shift,” she said.

She said some of the developments that they hope to introduce when the plant start operating is to have a Milk collection centre in Palapye where people in the vicinity of Palapye including Tswapong will bring their milk there, where it will be collected by refrigerated trucks to the plant.

She indicated that the plant have the potential to employ a lot of people when it is fully operational, and further implored young people to show interest in dairy farming as it has future.

Kablay, Motsamai warn MPs against greed

■ Urge MPs to focus on workers issues for now ■ MPs want salary adjust to cushion tax increases -claim

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BACKBENCHERS, LED BY Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Members of Parliament (MPs), are alleged to have chickened out of demanding a salary increase, which they were planning to propose to party Chairman and vice president Slumber Tsogwane that at least their allowances be adjusted.

On the backdrop of government’s decision to increase taxes effective of 1st April 2020, worried MPs are said to have been mulling to request for a small hike to parry impacts. In an interview, Chief Whip Liakat Kablay said there is no way MPs could request for salary hike as the budget shows that the economy is in recession.

He said it would be greediness and unreasonable if MPs make such demands on government during a difficult financial year, given the fact

that the economy is poised for disaster.

Liakat said following tax hikes and introduction of new levies, salaries could be adjusted in any other sector but for them as politicians it is highly unlikely. “Taxes would affect every citizen in a bad way and we politicians included. We would not be rushing for salary increase but rather hope that developments as budget in our constituencies contained in the National Development Plan (NDP 11) are prioritized immediately,” said Kablay, buttressing that given the circumstances there is no way cabinet would accept the MPs salary demands but he is optimistic that civil servants and MPs will get an adjustment when the economy recovers.

Kablay, who is MP for Letlhakeng/ Lephephe, said the level of unemployment particularly amongst youth is worrisome adding that he anticipates government would address the issue.



Kablay

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) whip Motsamai Motsamai concurred with his counterpart that legislators should not demand any salary hikes although taxes have

jobs cut loom. The outspoken Ghanzi South MP added that the workers in the private sector would be highly affected by the impending tax increases and new levies as compared to those in civil service. “This budget shown that the worst is ahead for us as the foreign reserves are drying up fast. If the little that is left is not utilized wisely, the country will be bankrupt beyond recovery,” he said.

Meanwhile, Motsamai said it is worrying that government has blown P12 billion from foreign reserves but there is nothing on the ground that shows how the money was used in a year. He believes that government would use COVID-19 as scapegoat while corruption blows funds. “Government said that fighting COVID-19 was a top priority but the reality on the ground tells a different story. We are grappling with shortage of equipment to fight the disease yet money is gone. In Ghanzi the situation is very bad as

people are isolated in old buildings,” Motsamai lashed out.

MPs last increased their car allowance by 10% last year in the middle of the pandemic. Their decision to unanimously increase their perks led to public outrage with their counterparts in councillors protesting the hike and omitted from 6% salary hike that was given to civil servants. So, the councillors countrywide demanded that they get the same perks but to no avail to date.

The Parliamentary Committee on Finance and Estimates in its report raised concern regarding the significant decline in foreign reserves calling for government to account for used P12 billion. The committee chaired by MP for Kanye North Thapelo Letsholo recommended that the minister of Finance, Dr Thapelo Matsheka should account with a detailed report on how money was spent.

Sub land boards

FROM PAGE 4

he said.

The chairman also said the ministry should consider creating a unit that will deal with the issue of undeveloped plots as there are a lot of plots that are currently undeveloped. He said plenty of land which could be allocated to Botswana who are willing to develop remained unutilised for as many as 30 years. “According to the land board policy, you have to mark your plot within six weeks after allocation, and after you receive the certificate if it is residential, it is stipulated that you have to have developed within 5 years, that’s the covenant between the land board and the people, unfortunately people don’t respect that, some even take 30 years, but after 30 years we believe is abandonment of land,” he said. He however said they are currently in consultation with the ministry for a way to repossess plots that had been undeveloped for 30 years not only

in Palapye but across the country, so that they can be put to use. “It is stipulated in black and white that 30 years is abandonment of plot, but we don’t want to take plots from people without proper consultation with them because we believe in consultation,” he said.

Palapye Sub land board chairman also decried the extend at which Botswana are selling their land to foreigners and cautioned them against the practice. He said as the land board they can only advise against the practice as their hands are tied to take any further action.

Maforaga also advised government to increase tenure of land board members to 5 years as the current 3 years is short for members to fulfil their road maps. “They should increase the time frame to the previous 5 years so that members are able to achieve what they have set for themselves at the beginning if their terms,” he said.

Tlokweng Land Board allocates only 4 plots

■ Batlokwa very unhappy, demand answers ■ Land reserved for commercial purposes ■ Land Board owed P482 million in rental arrears

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ELIJAH KATSE, THE newly appointed chairman of Tlokweng Land Board is poised to face first litmus test concerning a long standing land impasse in the village with morafe unhappy over land processes. Katse’s fellow tribesmen, Batlokwa demand that he must address their land concerns as soon as possible revolting against his land board’s slow progress in allocating them residential plots. The embattled Tlokweng Land Board have only managed to allocate four (4) residential plots in 2020 amid discontent by Batlokwa to Land Board for giving priority

to commercial land allocation. Tlokweng Sub District Council Chairman Phillip Mfolo has revealed this week during the council session that the land board is struggling to allocate land due to shortage of readily available land. Mfolo disclosed that from April 2020 to date, the land board allocated four (4) residential plots emanating from resolution of disputes, appeals and other issues brought before the land board.

So, a worried group of Batlokwa backed by some of Dikgosi are intending to summon the board leadership to come out clear and reveal their plans on how they will deal with delayed land allocation. In an interview, one senior Batlokwa royal said there

has been misappropriation of land in the village with huge chunks of land is lost in dubious processes with morafe not consulted at all.

Displeased Kgosi who preferred anonymity said Batlokwa are disadvantaged but the investors continue to be given land adding that he believes it’s time for the Land Board should be investigated.

“It seems that some of our colleagues in Bogosi are aware of what is going on the tenders such as TLB\ 02\2016\2017) which has been since allocated by the land board. We demand that the part of land should be given to residential plots. Our land is being embezzled,” said anxious Kgosi.

Batlokwa have been at

loggerheads with the land board questioning dubious allocation of land whereby priority is given to commercial purposes as entailed in the Tlokweng Development Plan.

Last year, worried Batlokwa group led by Tlokweng 2019 Alliance for Progressives (AP) candidate Chris Bogatsu unsuccessfully petitioned the land board against awarding of land for business plots.

But the Land Board continued with allocating the land for the tender TLB\02\2016\2017 which was disputed with the Land Board moving against wishes Re Bana le Basirelets Ba Motse wa Tlokweng concerned that petitioned the Land Board and now another fresh fight

is looming. Also, Batlokwa in 2018 protested the proposals of controversial development plan (2001-2025) which entailed allocating the land for commercial purposes so as to allow for new developments.

A heated argument ensued between Batlokwa Paramount Chief Kgosi Puso Gaborone and his morafe who opposed their chief for strongly supporting the plan together with the land board.

However, Mfolo says the completion of the development plan is currently under review

He said the much unwanted development plan by aggrieved Batlokwa is expected to facilitate the land board and all its stakeholders in addressing a lot of inherent land issues of

Tlokweng.

“It also worth noting that since this financial year, Land Board has also rendered 13 agriculture and the 67 residential transfer, 3 agriculture and 19 residential registration, 4 agriculture and 78 residential compliance certificates, , 7 agriculture and 17 residential inheritances,” said Mfolo.

He said Tlokweng Land Board is currently owed a total of P482, 224.88 in Lease Rental arrears adding that total collection of these arrears as at 28th January 2021 is P107, 980.06, equivalent to 22%.

Efforts to reach Land Board Chairman Katse were futile as his mobile phone was off at press time.

‘Botswana uses Israeli cyberespionage tools’

SURAYA DADOO*

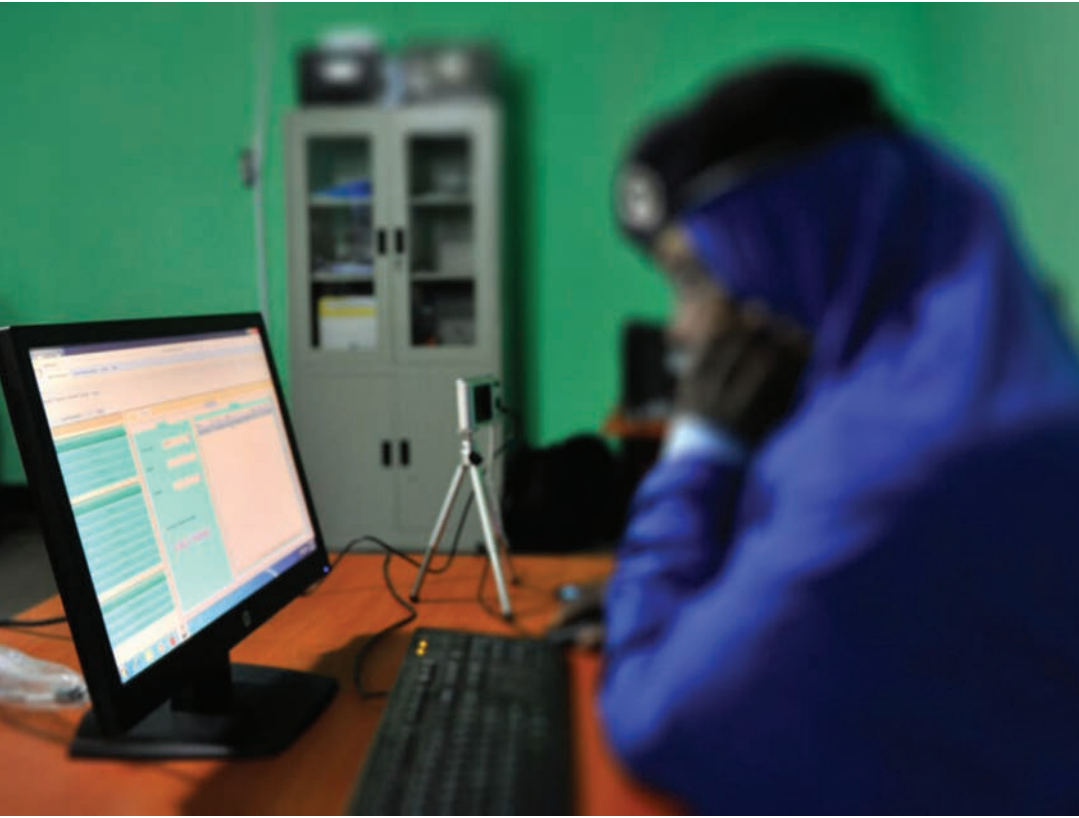
A RECENT REPORT detected several government agencies using Circles’ platforms to snoop on texts, calls and locate private individuals.

Seven African countries were detected using Circles’ cyberespionage platforms. Credit: Amisom.

As internet penetration and smartphone usage increases across Africa, digital spaces have become increasingly important in organising opposition movements. In response, several governments have at times shut down the internet or blocked social media apps.

More recently, however, some regimes have turned to digital surveillance technology for more subtle ways to crush resistance. In a recent report titled Running in Circles, the University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab – which investigates digital espionage against civil society – details how 25 governments around the world are using tools developed by the Israeli telecoms company Circles. Its technology is sold to nation-states only. It intercepts data from 3G networks, allowing the infiltrator to read messages, emails, and listen in on phone calls as they occur. Using only a telephone number, a Circles platform can also identify the location of a phone anywhere in the world within seconds without a warrant.

Circles is affiliated with the notorious NSO Group, whose Pegasus spyware has been widely used to spy on human rights defenders and journalists. Unlike that technology, however, Circles’ tools does not require targets to click on a malicious link. It works by exploiting flaws in Signalling System No.7 (SS7), the set of protocols that allows



networks to exchange calls and text messages between each other. SS7 is predominantly used in 2G and 3G systems, which in 2019 became the leading mobile technology in sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for over 45% of all connections.

With the faster and possibly more secure 4G networks years away from becoming the standard for mobile connectivity in Africa, Circles technology is ideal for power-hungry African leaders looking to spy on critics. Indeed, of the 25 countries identified as likely to be using Circles’ tools, seven are on the continent.

Nigeria

Citizen Lab detected two Circles systems being used in Nigeria. It identified one likely client as being the Nigerian Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), while a 2016 investigation

by the Premium Times found that the governors of Delta and Bayelsa states used Circles to spy on opponents. Nigeria has a long history of surveillance technologies being used against civil society and government critics. Femi Adeyeye, a Lagos-based political activist who has been detained several times, cites several cases – such as those of Omoyele Sowore, Abubakar Idris Dadiyata and Stephen Kefas – in which Nigerians have been swiftly traced, arrested and detained after criticising the government. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has also reported numerous cases of the Nigerian authorities targeting journalists’ phones.

“We are already in the worst stage of dictatorship,” says Adeyeye. “Freedom of expression, media, and political association have been further weakened by this spying technology.” He

suggests that political analysts now self-censor, particularly since witnessing the government’s infiltration of the #EndSARS movement against police brutality in late-2020. “They have seen how people have been traced, their passports seized, bank accounts frozen and they have been forced to go into exile,” he says.

Zimbabwe

Three Circles platforms were detected in Zimbabwe. The use of one dates back to 2013, while another was activated in March 2018. The Zimbabwean government has long targeted its critics and opponents. Last year, investigative journalist Hopewell Chinono and opposition politician Jacob Ngarivhume were detained ahead of anti-government protests. Circles technology may be facilitating this repression.

Equatorial Guinea

In Equatorial Guinea, Circles technologies have been operating since 2013. For 40 years, President Teodoro Obiang has kept power partly by suppressing opponents by using torture, extra-judicial executions, arbitrary arrests, and the persecution of political activists and human rights defenders. Obiang has violently crushed protests and ignored demands for electoral reforms and term limits. Surveillance methods could be an important part of his toolbox.

Morocco

Morocco’s Ministry of the Interior has been a Circles Client since 2018. Rabat has a history of leveraging digital technology to unlawfully target human rights activists.

Botswana

Despite being hailed as one of Africa’s most democratic countries, Botswana’s Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DISS) is linked to two Circles surveillance systems dating back to 2015. The DISS is known for targeting journalists investigating political corruption. According to Moeti Mohwasa, spokesperson for the opposition Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), Israeli companies have been selling spying software to the Botswana government for years. He alleges that this equipment has been used to eavesdrop on opposition politicians and union leaders.

Kenya

Citizen Lab detected a Circles system being used in Kenya. This did not surprise Suhayl Omar, who researches policing, surveillance, and militarism in Nairobi. “In Kenya, freedom of expression and media freedoms are under constant threat. The [Uhuru] Kenyatta regime has waged a war against constitutionalism and any form of opposition in Kenya,” he says. “The Kenyan government relies heavily on surveillance of its citizens to crack down on any form of opposition.”

Zambia

Zambia appears to be another Circles client. Its government also has a record of using surveillance against its critics. In 2019, authorities arrested a group of bloggers who ran an opposition news site, allegedly with the aid of a cyber-surveillance unit in Zambia’s telecommunications regulator used to pinpoint the bloggers’ locations. It is not known if a Circles system was used but the technology has these capabilities.

Should the Israeli government be held responsible?

The ultimate responsibility for using these surveillance technologies lies with the government agencies that pay huge sums for them. However, some campaigners argue that the Israeli government shoulders some responsibility too for allowing questionable tech firms such as Circles to operate and by providing them with export licenses.

Israeli minister Zeev Elkin has refuted this suggestion, insisting that “everyone understands that this is not about the state of Israel”. But many disagree. “The Israeli regime has actively enabled the authoritarianism of Uhuru Kenyatta,” says Omar. Mohwasa makes the same argument regarding the government in Botswana which he suggests is increasingly eroding civil rights. “Israel is aiding these dangerous trends,” he adds.

In January 2020, Amnesty International filed a lawsuit in Israel calling for the Defence Ministry to ban the export of invasive spying software. In July, a court denied the request. According to some analysts, the sale of spying equipment is in fact an important part of Israel’s diplomatic charm offensive in Africa.

Tel Aviv has been forging closer partnerships with governments on the continent in recent years in the hope of diminishing African solidarity with Palestine and gaining supportive votes in the UN. Helping rulers stay in power – even at the cost of widespread popular freedoms – is one way to make friends.

https://africanarguments.org/
*Suraya Dadoo is a freelance writer based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Development Policy Needs a Review

THERE ARE WORDS LIKE sustainable development, ecosystem, green technology, climate change, global warming etc. which have become ornamental for all of us, especially for politicians and policy makers. It seems they are confusing the innocent people by repeating it again and again. Earlier hearing such beautiful words from a responsible person one would feel confidence with a hope that the government is fully aware of the issues. People expects that they and would certainly deal with it effectively. But hearing again and again and doing nothing on the ground, people get irritated. Reason is very obvious. Their policies are just opposite and actions contradictory to their statements. Recent catastrophe of Uttarakhand is classical example of our deeds and greed.

Though land slide and flash floods are common phenomena in the Himalayas, but the kind of destruction witnessed this time is unparalleled in recent history. Now frequency of recurrences have increased many fold and with higher magnitude. Earlier Alaknanda and Bhagirathi had experienced worst in the recent past and now massive flooding from a glacier burst or massive land slide in Uttarakhand’s Chamoli district has been reported in the Dhauliganga River and Joshimath on Sunday, February 7th, 2021. The deluge has caused damages to Rishiganga Power Project in Tapovan area. “Houses collapsed, the roads and bridges swept away in the turbulent flood waters. Nearly 200 causality are being reported. However the actual assessment of the loss of life and damages are yet to be ascertained.

Over the years increased frequency and magnitude of flash floods in Uttarakhand Himalaya is worrying the environmentalist. Here I have peeped into the history of the tragic incidences taken place during the recent past and tried to understand the sequences of events and possible correlations. Thereafter have drawn some conclusions.

On 6 September 1893, a tributary of the Alaknanda River called Birahi Ganga was blocked by ~5000 million tonnes of rock mass that rolled from 900 m high valley flank. The debris blocked the river forming a lake 270 m high, 3 km wide at the base and 600 m wide at the summit. It was estimated that the lake would have taken at least a year to fill. The dam would partially breach only after the water began to topple it, which would cause flash floods in the downstream till Haridwar. Around May 1894, pilgrim traffic on the way to Kedarnath and Badrinath was diverted to the new pedestrian route which was constructed much above the anticipated flood level. Similarly, eight suspension bridges between Chamoli and Haridwar were dismantled in order to protect them from being washed away from the anticipated flood. As predicted, on 25 August 1894, water began to trickle over the dam and at midnight the dam was partially collapsed, sending flood surges downstream. The flood lasted until the morning of 26 August causing unprecedented damage to the property around Srinagar town; however, no loss of life was reported.

After a gap of 75 years, on the night of 20 July, 1970, the Alaknanda valley witnessed the second major flood. This was attributed to a cloudburst on the southern mountain front in the Alaknanda valley (between Joshimath and Chamoli). According to an estimate, flood transported about 15.9 × 106 tonnes of sediment within a day. The catastrophe was so large that it wiped out the leftover of the 1894 Gohna Lake. In addition, a roadside settlement between Pipalkoti and Helong called Belakuchi in the Alaknanda valley was washed away along with a convoy of 30 buses by the roaring Alaknanda River. Besides, 13 bridges were swept away to Haridwar, around 10 km stretch of the Ganga canal was clogged with sediment and uprooted trees.

These painful tragedies were widely discussed at various forum. Finally it was concluded that the possible reason may be due to massive deforestation for various so called developmental projects. According to the experts, deforestation in the Himalaya has a trivial effect on erosion, run-off and thus flooding. But there are groups of people particularly the local inhabitants, who strongly believed that the flood owed its genesis to the large scale commercial forest felling in the preceding years which caused the Himalaya to respond violently against the unscientific human interference. In fact, recent scientific studies support the conclusion that flood and deforestation in the Alaknanda valley have close correlations.

It would be appropriate to mention here that the 1970 Alaknanda flood was responsible for raising the ecological consciousness of the people that finally resulted in the birth of the now world-famous Chipko movement in 1973. This movement became very popular among the people and forced the government to work in line with environmental protection.

According to Wasson et al. All of the large floods in the Alaknanda river catchment appear to be the result of landslide dam bursts rather than glacial lake bursts, and these are likely to continue and possibly worsen as the monsoon intensifies over the next century. The floods generated by the breaching of landslide-induced dams carry large amounts of sediment that may dominate the sediment yield in the Himalaya.

During last ten years we have occupied almost every inch of the land surrounding Kedarnath temple, for

making commercial settlements around the temple defying the law of the nature. When we compare with half a century back, one can see a big change with large number of commercial settlements in the Kedarnath valley. Study of the Alaknanda valley reveals that in absence of large scale landslides during the recent flood and the glacier deposits located far up in the rain-shadow zone, it is pertinent to speculate that the sediments were locally generated by unnatural processes. According to an estimate, nearly 11,100 km of road has been constructed during 2000–2012 and currently 70 hydropower projects are operational and 199 are mushrooming fast at various stages of development. During recent years, 900 km of roads were constructed but unfortunately by flouting the EIA norms, in the name of religion. Environmentalists have expressed their concerns over the serious violations of the EIA norms. Considering the extent of human interference, it is likely that the terrain sustainability is precariously balanced. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology has examined and analysed these incidents in details took place in recent years.

The nature has warned us again and again with clear indications to stop venturism into areas that are vulnerable, sensitive and flood-prone. But our greed has ignored such warnings. We occupied the river banks, did illegal constructions of hotels, commercials buildings, obstructed the river streams and ultimately had to pay the people dearly this time. It was nature’s fury indeed to begin with, however, the tragedy was amplified by human folly.

The 1991 earthquake knocked the Uttarkashi (Garhwal) region on 20 October with a magnitude of 6.8 and a maximum intensity of IX. This thrust event was instrumentally recorded and occurred along the Main Central Thrust in the Uttarkashi and Gharwal regions. High intensity resulted in the deaths of at least 768 people and the destruction of thousands of homes. The United States National Geophysical Data Centre indicates that 7,500 homes were damaged and another 7,500 were destroyed while the IITK report shows that up to 42,400 houses were damaged.

The Malpa landslide was one of the worst landslides in India. On 18 August 1998 at 3.00 a.m., massive landslides wiped away the entire village of Malpa in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, in Kali Valley of Higher Kumaon division of the Himalayas. The rock fall started on 16 August bringing down huge rocks which initially killed three mules. A total of 221 people died, including 60 Hindu pilgrims.

The Chamoli Earthquake occurred on 29 March, 1999 in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand with a magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale. The earthquake was the strongest to hit the foothills of the Himalayas in more than ninety years. Approximately 103 people died in the earthquake. According to a study, the Himalaya Range has been undergoing crustal shortening along the 2,400 km long northern edge of the Indian Plate which resulted in the formation of several thrust faults including the Main Central Thrust (MCT), the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT) and the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT). The MCT consists of three sub-thrusts: MCT I, MCT II and MCT III. Many earthquakes have occurred along these thrust faults. It is believed that this earthquake may be associated with these fault systems.

Apart from the Chamoli district, the quake affected other districts like Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Bageshwar, Uttarkashi, Pauri Garhwal, Kanpur, Shimla, Delhi and Moradabad etc. Among these, Chamoli and Rudraprayag were the worst affected.

The death toll was 103. Several hundred people injured and approximately 50,000 houses were damaged. Over 2,000 villages were affected by the earthquake. Electricity, water supply and communication were also severely affected by the earthquake.

There were torrential rain in the entire region caused the death of ten people and 38 others are missing as a result of the 2012 Himalayan flash floods. Several houses were washed away and the Char Dham yatra has been suspended leaving the pilgrims stranded. Labourers at the Assi Ganga hydel power project are reported to be missing in the Uttarkashi region. Nearly 30 homes had been washed away in the Garhwal region after the Gangotri Bridge collapsed. A major chunk of the Gangotri National Highway has also been washed away. Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Uttarakhand state disaster management forces took part in the rescue operations.

Earlier Kedarnath of Uttarakhand experienced the worst tragedy of the century. On 16 June 2013, a multi-day cloudburst cantered in this region caused devastating floods and landslides becoming the country’s worst natural disaster since the 2004 tsunami. The reason the floods was that the Uttarakhand state and adjoining areas received heavy rainfall, which was about 375% more than the benchmark rainfall during a normal monsoon. This caused the melting of Chorabari Glacier at the height of 3800 meters, and eruption of the Mandakini River which led to heavy floods near Gobindghat, Kedarnath Dome, Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Western Nepal. The debris blocked up the rivers, causing major overflow. According to figures provided by the Government of Uttarakhand, more than 5,700 people were “presumed dead”, 2232 houses were damaged, 1520

roads in different parts of Garhwal were badly damaged and about 170 bridges had washed away. According to economists, the tourism industry in Uttarakhand will suffer a loss of ~12,000 crore rupees, which is around 30% of the state’s GDP.

Although the Kedarnath Temple itself was not damaged, its base was inundated with water, mud and boulders from the landslide, damaging its perimeter. Many hotels, rest houses and shops around the temple in Kedarnath Township were destroyed, resulting in several casualties. Most of the destruction at Kedarnath was caused by a sudden rapid melting of ice and snow on the Kedarnath Mountain, 6 km (3.7 mi) from the temple, which flooded the Chorabari Lake (upstream) and then Kedarnath.

The Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh announced ₹10 billion (US\$140 million) aid package for disaster relief efforts in the state. Several other countries and state governments millions as financial assistance.

The 2021 Uttarakhand flood began on 7 February 2021 in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. It is believed to have been caused due to a landslide, an avalanche or a glacial lake outburst flood.

The flooding in the Chamoli district, affected notably in the Rishiganga River, the Dhauliganga River, and in turn the Alaknanda—the major headstream of the Ganges.

The scientist, glaciologists and experts in rock sciences are converging on the view that the cause of the Chamoli deluge was most probably a landslide and not a glacial lake burst.

Dr. Mohammad Farooq Azam, Glaciology & Hydrology, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, says with that the incident occurred due to the fracture of a hanging glacier [about 0.2 sq. km in size] together with snow and rock avalanches, at a 5,600-metre altitude near the Trishul peak. Though it is hard to fully ascertain the source of the water and slurry, our current hypothesis is that the water accumulated locked in the debris-snow below the glacier was released when the glacier-rock mass fell. This was a drop of almost 2 km before hitting marshy land. Since the temperature in the region is sub-zero, river level is much lower than it would be in the monsoon.”

At least 140 people are confirmed to have been killed and around 50 are missing. The majority of those missing are thought to be workers from two hydropower plants.

Scientific Reasons and Conclusions
A careful study of all the above calamities including the recent one taken place in Uttarakhand has been done by the various scientific institutions of the country and abroad. These reputed institutions include; Utah State University, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology , G B Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, I I T, Kanpur, I I T, Roorki and various others have agreed that main reason of all the above tragedies are excessive and mindless human interference with Himalayan ecosystem.

Important reasons of the above calamities may be summarised as follows:

1. It is unequivocally agreed that unscientific and ill planned developmental activities undertaken during recent decades like illegal construction of roads, new resorts, hotels and commercial buildings on fragile rivers are the main reasons of the calamities;
 2. Government’s relentless pursuit of more than 150 hydroelectric projects in the watersheds of the state to harness up to 27 gigawatts of power are considered the second important reason;
 3. Improper management and disposal of muck was identified as one of the factors that aggravated the floods in 2013 is also a culprit.
 4. Climate change is considered as biggest threat to the ecosystem of the Himalayas. Rise of temperature in the atmosphere is leading to the melting of the glaciers eventually cause floods;
 5. Loss of glaciers poses two profound risks of leaving behind rock debris that creates dams, and if these debris dams burst resulting into floods.
 6. Northern India has experienced increasingly large rainfall in June since the late 1980s causing adverse impact on the Himalayas;
 7. The increase in rainfall appears to be associated with a tendency in the upper troposphere towards amplified short waves;
 8. The phasing of such amplified short waves is tied to increased loading of green-house gases and aerosols; etc.
- Keeping in view of the above analysis and conclusions it is almost clear that now we cannot ignore environment anymore and a full stop is needed. We will have to bring a change in the policy and planning of the future developmental process. First of all any developmental project a scientific approach may be made mandatory at all the vulnerable places. Secondly, capacity building in all the ministries and departments may be done for sufficient number of environmental experts to overcome the problems. Thirdly, accountability should be fixed for any irresponsible decision, may be it a politician or administrator. Fourthly, the violators of environmental laws should be declared as the crime against humanity and the punishment may affect their lifelong carrier besides the prescribed one. Lastly, we will have to learn how to respect the environment as we have seen the consequences.
- Hope we will learn a lesson at least now from these horrible tragedies of the recent past before it is too late.

Opinions, Reviews & Analysis



ADAM PHETLHE
ON SUNDAY!

I HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT THE subject matter pre the era Covid-19 pandemic. I feel the urge to write about it during the pandemic where probably more than ever before, all hands are required to be on deck. But not when senior public servants have divided loyalties-to serve their own personal interests via their business entities doing business with government and, providing another loyalty to the same government to ensure public policy is complied with for public good. Public policy in the context of this conversation will mean complying with the rule book particularly the Public Service Act, the Public Service Charter and other relevant instruments to ensure uninterrupted and quality service to members of the public. In the era of Covid-19 pandemic, the public purse we are told, has shrunk big time with everyone expected to do more with the little the country has. The exigency of service provision during this pandemic, will dictate that senior civil servants take decisions on the procurement of goods and services without necessarily going through the normal processes and procedures. This, in and of itself, provides a possible gateway to public policy impediment in many respects. I am specifically targeting the senior civil servants for the reasons that given their executive positions in the civil service, they are in many respects placed at privileged positions of power and authority to manipulate and direct public

Civil servants' business interests impede Public Policy implementation

policy to their advantage; they are better remunerated to form companies which stand a better chance of winning high value tenders accompanied by high value returns; they are in a better position to influence the outcomes of tender processes and procedures for themselves and their buddies; they are better positioned to benefit from insider knowledge privilege. To be fair, not all of them may not necessarily be owning companies but could still use their offices to influence tenders or similar processes one way or the other. Consequently, they stand to personally benefit than junior civil servants whose companies are of low value returns like dimausu (tuck shops). Government and some public service trade unions agreed during the tenure of the former President Ian Khama that public servants form companies to be able to benefit, for example, from tenders for government projects to augment their salaries. I am really disappointed that some public sector trade unions had the audacity to fall into this self-serving trap instead of fighting hard to better the conditions of their members including wages. Self-serving in the sense that not all civil servants could form companies. Only those who could stood to benefit. An arrangement like this one will always be a fertile ground to possibly breed high value malfeasance, corruption and abuse of office amongst others because it is highly impossible to serve two masters at the same time. The Public Service Charter pillar 5 under 'Freedom from Corruption' provides that 'Public confidence in the Public Service requires that the behaviour of all Officers must be above reproach. Corruption comes in many guises, and once it takes root,

it is extremely difficult to eradicate. Bribery consists in the giving or receiving of improper benefits in relation to the duties of Public Officers. Rewards or inducements may include cash bribes, free participation in businesses....Public Officers are required not only to be on their guard against corruption, abuse of office and influence peddling in all its forms, but actively to participate in the fight against corruption....' By any measure, the current arrangement of public servants actively involved in private business activities with the employer, government, is in serious conflict with the Public Service Charter. As it stands, the Charter is as good as not there. Botswana like all other countries at present, is suffering from severe economic downturn as a result, principally, of Covid-19 pandemic. Senior civil servants among them Permanent Secretaries as accounting officers of their ministries, have to be on top of their game in terms of ensuring that every Thebe is prudently used and accounted for. It doesn't look however that this will be the case. The 37% wasteful expenditure talked about in the budget speech should be case in point. This wasteful expenditure happened in front of these accounting officers individually and collectively. Part of being an accounting officer is to ensure that public funds are strictly adhered to as already stated. While on one hand it is fair to state that the whole of the wastage is not necessarily as a result of corruption and malfeasance, it is fair on the other to suggest that part of it could be a consequence of possible corruption occasioned by unfair business dealings. The unfair business dealings in most instances breed



conflict of interest-cum-corrupt activities between the employer and the employees in this instance senior civil servants through their companies and government. Those who deal with numbers say for every P1 billion, P 370 million is wasteful expenditure. For every P 3 billion, P 1 billion is lost. If it is true that P 1 billion is wasted for every P 3 billion government releases for economic development pursuant to the betterment of Botswana's socio-economic circumstances, imagine what difference such wastage could have made. A huge difference I would argue! It should not be far-fetched to suggest that in all past financial years, this has been the trajectory. The current policy has worsened the situation. This being the

case, government shouldn't have entertained, let alone agreeing to the actual adoption of such bad policy because by and large, it has created a lot of some of the ills impeding service delivery by the civil service. It is fair to suggest that this could cause animosity between civil servants who own companies and benefit therefrom and those who don't. But it is political expediency more than the public good which is aided and abetted by those public sector trade unions that the policy was adopted. The ruling party had lost confidence from civil servants during the 2011 public service strike which resulted in teachers and other cadres declared essential service with many of them dismissed from the public service. The policy was adopted in my view to win back

such confidence and like I have said, with deleterious consequences. This issue seems to escape Members of Parliament from the opposition in terms of bringing a Motion to rescind the policy. I do not expect the majority party MPs to bring such Motion for obvious reasons. School boy arguments validating the policy of civil servants doing business with government have been, and still are that they are Botswana and therefore entitled to do such. It has been suggested that civil servants declare their business interest to their supervisors or something to that effect. The thing is that such declaration if it ever happens, is made to an individual who himself/herself may be owning a business and therefore conflicted by the mere fact that his/her company is doing

business with government. Whatever arguments are mitigated to validate this bad policy, I am resolute that the policy is very bad for Botswana and Batswana. In South Africa for example, civil servants through their companies or those close to their immediate families have been prohibited from doing business with government (about seven years or so ago) after it was discovered that such companies had siphoned billions of Rand from government through nefarious means borne out of conflict of interest, lack of good corporate governance, abuse of office and so on. With the senior public servants at the heart of ensuring that Public Policy is implemented and timeously delivered to improve the socio-economic circumstances of Batswana, this is demonstrably unachievable if such senior public servants have divided loyalties-one and the big chunk to themselves and the rest of the crumbs regrettably, to Batswana. The fact that about sixty one Covid-19 related corruption cases have been recorded possibly in front of these senior civil servants since the pandemic broke last year is possibly due in part or whole to the divided loyalties I alluded to above. A senior public servant is reportedly at the centre of influencing a tender at Botswana Television. Similar situations predictably obtain elsewhere in the public service. The sooner government and those public sector trade unions who agreed to this policy rescind it, the better for the country to implement Public Policy for the public good of Botswana. I am prepared to be persuaded otherwise as always. Judge for Yourself! Covid-19 virus still remains our immediate threat. Let us comply with the health protocols. adamphetlhe08@gmail.com



IGNATIUS NJOBVU
HEART OF THE MATTER

WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR not the world is transforming, especially in matters concerning human relations. Of particular interest, is the transformation in the patriarchy arrangement of things. Most of us have been brought up believing that being a good provider means

Help men relate well with their empowered women



supporting a family financially. A man was defined by how much money he did amass for his wife and children. In a number of ways, a woman played the supporting partner to her man. A man would always find ready-cooked food, ironed cloths and everything was always ready for him to go execute his duties well and by extension providing for his family financially. This kind of arrangement between a man and his woman existed for centuries until now when we are experiencing some changes. Today's relationships are different. Women are empowered. Women are furthering their education and pursuing their careers more and more. They have become more creative in their professions, attracting huge salaries in the process. The business world today is heavily hinged to the capabilities of women. Women empowerment is further exacerbated by the various universal statutes which are geared towards uplifting women. Many institutions for example have 'quarters' reserved for women. This includes financial grants. To a larger extend, this has enabled women to compete for business opportunities with their male counterparts. Some even thrive much better in their business because they possess other soft skills necessary to make it in the business world. The transformations that are happening have triggered for some changes in the manner in which a

man can relate to a woman. Truth be told, a man can no longer expect his woman to have a meal ready by the time he arrives from work because they might probably just arrive at the same time. A man can no longer afford to relax after arrival hoping that his woman (who might just have arrived as well) would start running around the house to prepare a meal and some warm water for him to eat and bath. And most definitely, a man can no longer expect a tired woman to perform wonders in the bedroom after her hectic schedule at work. In all honest, these changes are still not seating well with the male upbringing. I even wonder if women themselves are psychologically ready for what is currently happening. The truth is that being empowered as a woman is one of the most important things that can happen in our society right now because women are the carriers of the culture and predominantly the primary care givers. How and what woman teach our young girls and boys, is reflected in the society we exist in (Tiffany Kelly, 2017). There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women (Kofi Annan). More important than financial or professional achievement, a 21st century man is defined as having personal success with his family. Today's man defines strength as having character and integrity above physical and financial dominance. Otherwise such a definition would greatly reduce the

integrity of a man in the event that his woman is financially dominant. That being said, we need to ask ourselves if indeed such changes are in consonant with the natural order of a man-woman relationship. Allow me to be brutally honest with my view, which might not necessarily be a fact. My almost 40 years' experience as a man tells me that women need more than just 'attention' from their male partners. I believe that financial security is one very important factor that a woman looks for in a man. Most certainly, experience and statistics has proven that. In addition to that, many relationships founded on such an arrangement prove to last forever. It is my view that as men and as women, we are naturally gifted differently. A man is naturally a risk taker. A woman is naturally a teacher of love and care. These differences in character are what should complement a man and a woman. My suspicion is that women had a change of heart in the course of time. I suspect that men subjected women to lots of abuse including neglecting their financial obligations towards their women. For some time now, women have been left to fend for themselves and their children. Their male partners would have vanished without trace. These type of experiences force women to perceive men as mere partners and not family financial providers, hence the need for them to pursue their own careers. As men therefore, we need to work hard for our families. We need to show care to our wives/girlfriends by financially supporting them. By so doing, women will pray and hope that we succeed as men knowing fully well that our success is their success by extension. Women automatically submit to any man who provide financial security and does not subject her to abuse. If you can do that as a man, I can assure you that a ready-cooked, warm meal will always be available for you. injobvu1981@gmail.com

The voice of civil society is urgent

24TH FEBRUARY 2021

THE UMBRELLA FOR Democratic Change (UDC) Member of Parliament for Mahalapye East, Honourable Yandani Boko's electoral reform motion must be passed by Parliament without fail this Friday. Botswana has lost its integrity in democratic credentials, including upholding of free, fair and credible general elections. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) MPs must support this motion to help redeem their party's integrity. The motion comes just after the release of the IEC National Stakeholders Evaluation Report for the 2019 General Elections. Honourable Justice Abednego B Tafa, the IEC Chairperson, describes the 2019 general elections as "highly charged and competitive political environment."

The Report is concerned by the diminished electoral integrity of Botswana General Elections. The stakeholders included Civil Society, Academia, Media, Political Parties, Electoral Commission of Zambia, Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and the Secretariat of the Commissions Forum of SADC (ECF-SADC). The report acknowledges that the 2019 general elections encountered multiple challenges including multiple entries on voter registers, widespread online interference on the electoral process, absence of legal framework to ensure accountability and transparency. The report listed 20 key recommendations for strengthening of the electoral processes towards enhancing their credibility. Vision 2036, on the other hand, observes: "Effective electoral management system and regular free, fair and credible election of leaders into office are important ingredients of a democratic system. All these are premised on an electoral system that is acceptable to the majority of the electorate. The electoral management system will offer fair, free and credible elections that ensure elected representatives



Boko

are chosen in a manner consistent with the electorate's aspirations and preferred voting system. Our electoral system will satisfy the ever evolving expectations of citizens. Our electoral management system will be anchored in an independent, efficient electoral management body." The current National Development Plan (NDB11) states that "the Electoral act and electoral processes will be reviewed during NDP 11 with a view to improving electoral service delivery in preparation for the 2019 General Elections and beyond." It is on this basis that Boko's motion should be passed by parliament as it is emphasising government positions. This is also an opportunity for the BDP government to redeem its battered integrity of poor implementation of recommendations. Should the BDP reject this motion, Botswana should not respect any policy, plan, programmes or vision as it will be clear that the government cannot uphold its commitments. So far, BDP led government promises are comical jokes. We raise this concern because Hon Kabo Morwaeng's preliminary response last Friday in Parliament clearly demonstrates that the BDP is gearing towards rejection of this motion. The general civil society and citizens in general have a civic duty to lobby the BDP MPs to pass this motion. The consequences of rejecting this motion will not be good to the socio-economic

development of this country as well as its political stability due to citizen frustrations. The complacent BDP beneficiaries may see the fear of possible insurrection as ludicrous. This statement talks directly to the BDP MPs who hold the key to this motion. It also cautions the civil society organisations and Batswana in general on the precarious state of our future. We never thought Botswana corruption would be at this magnitude, but today we are up to our eye balls, sinking in corruption. The peaceful nation tag is hanging on a thin thread. When things start falling apart, businesses, churches, schools, hospitals, farms, and so on will close down and only security forces will be up and running. The voice of the civil society is therefore very crucial. We call out to Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO), Business Botswana, Botswana Federation of Trade Unions (BFTU), Botswana Federation of Public Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU), Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA Botswana), Botswana Council of Churches (BCC), Students organisations and several other organisations to stand up and ensure electoral reforms as per the several IEC Stakeholders report, Vision 2036, NDP 11 and other official documents on electoral reforms are implemented. Civil society cannot afford to remain so silent when democracy is under serious threat and betrayal by the BDP government. Boko's motion comes on the backdrop of controversial 2019 general elections and resultant petitions. This motion will therefore put to rest most of the controversial electoral provisions. Hon Boko's motion reads: That this honourable house resolves to request government to amend the electoral act to ensure independence of the electoral commission to guarantee free, fair and credible elections. JustinHunyepa@UDCLabourSecretary

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Wakeup call to NGOs: Covid-19 and our Collective Vision

GOBE TAZIBA*

“ IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE OUT OF your comfort zone. We are all out of our comfort zone. The world is out of its comfort zone.” (Dr. L. Kwape; 2020)

Botswana has a history of social activism going back several years. In fact, civic society organizations and NGOs are more, or less, as old as the Republic itself; with many traditional such organizations predating the coming of freedom and self-determination. However, the sustainability of such organizations has been a key and topical issue for just as many years. In recent years a significant number of high impact community serving NGOs have regrettably closed down due to varying reasons; but chief among them, lack of funding, poor management, and institutional fatigue. Indeed, it is worth emphasizing that the life span and suitability of NGOs in Botswana has always been a fragile, and very often, contentious issue in Botswana public space before the bewildering arrival of the dreadful COVID-19 pandemic.

The arrival of Covid-19 has both ignited and brought into sharp relief the sustainability of NGOs and their relevance to both development practice and public discourse. If the NGO fraternity wishes for any reason to plan, or refocus its growth trajectory or readjust and assert itself in public it is important that we look closely at several things. First, the issue of relevance. Second, sustainability. Next, efficiency, and finally how we operate.

I want to argue that COVID-19 has provided an opportune moment for us to reassess ourselves, and perhaps, reorient our operational models going forward. Some people may disagree. But one thing is certain: Covid-19 has affirmed the necessity of such voluntary organizations in the development process. It has also proved and highlighted the undeniable significance of their strong, vibrance and relevance. During this period the role of NGOs in complementing our country's COVID-19 response agenda has been acknowledged and celebrated widely.

There is no denying, for example, the health infrastructural significance of NGOs in rural areas and depressed urban ghettos; especially our efforts in issues where government has limited resources. NGOs have been critical in the distribution of COVID 19 Information, Education and

Communication (IEC) material, the transcription of COVID 19 messages to brail and sign language, the translation of COVID 19 messages for target audiences; in COVID 19 public education awareness and screening and testing assisted and supported by the National AIDS & Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA). We have assisted immeasurably in the provision of much needed counseling services, the provision of shelter for GBV victims and in ensuring uninterrupted supply and access of medical supplies to patients, especially during hard lockdown periods. We were upon to help, we answered the call, and we are still the boots on the ground, providing essential care and using innovative systems, including the latest in tech and social media to help Batswana out of the most challenging problems arising from this disease burden.

However, one should also hasten to highlight that our contributions in this regard could have benefited the country and its noble citizens much more had we been genuinely involved from the initial planning stage. It is unfortunate that the role and space of NGOs in the national response was a not well defined, and a great number of NGOs lost a significant amount of valuable time and resources trying to negotiate their role and space in the response. However, we are grateful the majority of them end up squeezing themselves in and are currently doing a fantastic job to deliver to the best of their ability, and more continue to join our efforts.

Economists the world over advise that though COVID 19 is not only a health issue, and that it has gravely affected economies. Locally it is widely reported that the pandemic has consumed large amounts of government revenue, crippled a lot of revenue streams and has brought a significant proportion of our private sector to its knees. This means that the majority of conventional NGO funders; government structures, development Partners, the private sector and high-net families and individuals that used to support/ fund NGO operations do not and/or will not have the resources sufficient to do so in the foreseeable future. It therefore goes without saying that the funds they would normally channel to NGOs support will most certainly not be there or in some cases reduced significantly. This is a clear indication that the survival and operation of NGOs cannot be business as usual going forward.

Like all other sectors, NGOs will have to adopt what is commonly termed the 'New Normal'. What does the NGO 'New Normal' look like? It will have to be centered on a high impact principles of sustainability, proficiency and cost efficacy. NGOs will need to integrate a great deal of innovation in their operations and services. Some of the convectional ways of doing things will not fly anymore. Social entrepreneurship (SE) is one of the way NGOs have aggressively and relentlessly pursued going into the 'new normal' models.

SE has been defined and understood differently by different authorities. Some have defined it as a cause-driven business whose primary reason for being is to improve social objectives and serve the common good. Although profits are not the primary motivation behind a social enterprise, revenue still plays an essential role in the sustainability of the venture. Its background and objective is to ensure self-sustained community services by generating revenues through select business operations in partnership with the corporate world, or directing opening ventures for the same purpose in the open market. The profits are reinvested into the operational cost of the NGO to ensure, or at least boost its continued survival.

It is important to acknowledge the SE model is no longer a foreign, or far-fetched, model. Some NGOs in Botswana have started successfully implementing and championing it. Tebelepele has set up a thriving Testing & Training Institute which undoubtedly boasts and diversifies its revenue streams and sustainability. In the same spirit BONASO in collaboration with the US Embassy, USAID and the Fullbright Programme, has embarked on a landmark 'Breaking New Ground' project. The national project seeks to socialize Social Entrepreneurship concepts, frameworks, business models and tools among interested ecosystem partners mentioned above. The project also seeks to explore possibilities for facilitating the right legal environment to establishing thriving Social Enterprises in Botswana which will ensure sustainable and adequate funding for CSO's partners in Botswana. This is envisaged to contribute towards sustainability for CSO partners in Botswana by increasing their capacity to mobilise human, financial, and material resources domestically. The project looks at the need to establish



Gobe Taziba

strategic partnerships as well as strong sincere mentorship and access to affordable professional services by the CSO's (BONASO; 2019).

Furthermore, experience in the Botswana NGO landscape shows that a huge majority of NGOs rely on one donor/grant for their survival. The risks associated with such a reality are obvious. Its dangers are very predictable. Overreliance on one source for survival is a not sustainable and the future under such circumstance is never ever guaranteed. COVID 19 has taught us that it doesn't matter how water tight and lucrative the contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is, anything is possible. Without a doubt, 'Force Majeure Clauses' - will be a standard and prominent feature of NGO grant contracts and MoU's. Force majeure clauses are contractual clauses which alter parties' obligations and/or liabilities under a contract when an extraordinary event or circumstance beyond their control prevents one or all of them from fulfilling those obligations; (Moore; 2020).

As resources available for NGO funding continue to dwindle amid Covid-19 and other competing development pressures, NGOs might want to readjust and resort to other funding models, like, for example, 'Resource Pooling'. Resource Pooling is a resource management concept used to define the act of grouping resources together (asserts, equipment, personnel, effort etc) for the purpose of maximizing

advantage and minimizing risk (PMI; 2018). Experience with NGOs in Botswana shows that some organizations have strategic resources which are underutilized, but under such a resource mobilization model, underutilization can be avoided, untapped resources will be directed towards other efforts to significantly ensure widespread institutional sustainability of organization(s). For instance there are NGOs that were fortunate to have received large buildings as donations, most of these buildings far exceed the organisation's operational capacity, therefore a significant portion remains underutilized and sometimes not used at all.

At the same time other NGOs are struggling with operating space and on the brink of collapsing. In actual fact, some NGOs have already closed shop due to lack of affordable office space. This is a clear case were NGO resource pooling would come to the rescue. NGOs with additional office space could offer space to NGOs in need of office, for subsidized rental or exchange of personnel services that the host NGO would otherwise have had to pay for from their already over stretched and dwindling resource base. The other option would be for NGOs deciding and agreeing to engaging specialized personnel such as finance administrators / managers. By so doing a group of 3 to 4 NGOs could share the wage bill of such professional, with that individual scheduled to rotate

among the NGOs on agreed dates to ensure financial procedures and processes are in order. Experience with NGOs in Botswana shows that most NGOs incur relatively high costs of maintaining and retaining certain personnel such as finance cardres yet critical interrogation of NGO operations and financial transaction shows that there is not major financial activity in most organizations, largely owning to single donor and single project dependency, and consequently most finance managers in the fraternity are largely a grossly underutilized resource.

I have had conversations with a few finance people that have served in the NGO space before; and majority of them state 'feeling underutilized' as their main reason for ditching the NGO environment. A large number of NGO captains will also attest to the factor that one of their most frustrating headaches is retention of finance cardres. However, international best practice indicates NGO resource pooling in this regard could provide longer lasting solution to this hurdle whilst advancing NGO sustainability at the same time. Resource pooling might also encourage NGO collaborative partnerships culture in Botswana. Collaborative Partnerships are agreements and actions made by consenting organizations to share resources to accomplish a mutual goal. Collaborative partnerships rely on participation by at least two parties who agree to share resources, such as finances, knowledge, and people. The essence of collaborative partnership is for all parties to mutually benefit from working together (Saltiel; 1998).

Experience shows that the culture of collaborative partnerships among NGOs in Botswana is very low and not common, and this may be due to the fact that resources available to support NGOs in the past allowed and encouraged this state of affairs. However, as stated earlier the resources that used to be available are no longer there and keep reducing by the day, therefore continuing as if nothing has changed will be suicidal.

NGOs need to talk to each other and partner with each other in a spirit of common good and long-term survival. NGOs without experience and presence in certain parts of the country should collaborate with NGOs that have experience and presence in those parts. The current practice is that

NGOs opted to set up offices in areas they traditionally didn't operate from, incurring all operational costs associated with this exercise, in some cases for short-term projects, instead of talking to NGO(s) already operating in that space to drastically reduce operational costs and increase chances of the initiative staying afloat after the grant period.

One of things NGOs in Botswana have been taking for granted is documenting and broadcasting of the amazing work they do for this country. NGOs need to invest a bit more time and energy on documenting and broadcasting their work. This may help us market our wonderful work to stakeholders locally and internationally. The internet provides a huge space and opportunity in this regard, and possibilities are limitless.

In conclusion NGOs must update, and upscale. We live in a world of great instability and many uncertainties. To cope and remain relevant we must change the way we do business. The problems of the modern world, from climate crisis to Covid-19, demand a new way of looking at the world, a new way of doing things. And if we are to lessen the pain and suffering inflicted by such pandemics and natural calamities we really ought not to be complacent. Addressing Botswana during the early days of COVID-19, former Minister of Health – Dr. L. Kwape advised, "If you feel you are out of your comfort zone. We are all out of our comfort zone. The world is out of its comfort zone."

This is the spirit NGOs in Botswana need to embrace. Discomfort is increasingly becoming an integral part of our lives. The new normal has arrived. NGOs have amazing strength and potential. Government realizes and accommodates this reality. Development partners know this and Batswana have long embraced us.

Let's continue to do the good work. No matter the daunting tasks facing us today. The future lies ahead and that future is evident in our unified efforts to make this a better world. We will continue to have a democratic space to function as citizens, to do our moral duty.

But to succeed we must focus on one thing: Sustainable impact.

Gobe Taziba is a team member at BONASO & a member of the Tripartite Think Tank. He can be reached at: gobe.taziba@bonaso.org / gtaziba@yahoo.co.uk*

Grand Challenges foster innovation, directing research

DR DOUGLAS LETSHOLATHEBE*

AS WE CONVENE ON THIS virtual platform, let me thank you all for taking the time to be with us this afternoon. I would also like to give special thanks to the panelists who shared their perspectives and vision on research and innovation requirements for addressing Africa's challenges. The Government of Botswana has made commitments to supporting research and innovation as a means to attain the national vision 2036; a knowledge-based economy.

In our efforts to achieve this, my Ministry has committed funds during NDP 11, under the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP), to stimulate innovation and procurement through the Botswana Innovation Fund, a special fund gazetted under the Finance Management Act.

The Botswana Innovation Hub, which is soon to be re-branded as the Digital and Innovation Hub has been tasked with administering this Special Fund on behalf of the Accounting Officer, i.e. the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tertiary Education Research Science and Technology.

The Botswana Innovation Hub submitted a proposal to the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA), an initiative of the African Academy of Sciences, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and Global partners, to launch the Grand Challenges Botswana as a unique but collaborative initiative under the Grand Challenges Africa initiative. The Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa) programme seeks to promote



Dr Letsholathebe

Africa-led scientific innovations to help countries better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by awarding seed and full grants to the continent's most impressive solutions. It supports big, bold impactful innovative ideas that have a potential for impact, scale, and sustainability. The Grand Challenges family of initiatives seeks to engage innovators from around the world to solve science, technology and innovation, health, and developmental challenges. Grand Challenges initiatives are united by their focus on fostering innovation, directing research to where it will have the most impact, and serving those most in need. The Grand Challenges methodology has a proven track-record and has

delivered world class solutions in science, technology and innovation on the continent. I am pleased to note that in Botswana we already have some recipients of Grand Challenges Africa funds. Their innovations include that of Eco-rangers which provided training for cattle herders to minimise the negative impacts of climate change and alien plant invasions to wetlands and riparian zones; and Young Love which aims to empower girls to make safer sexual choices to reduce their risk of pregnancy and contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

To further enhance the impact of GC Africa, GC Botswana seeks to spotlight the significance of the Grand Challenges approach, with special emphasis on challenges

specifically for Botswana tailored around national pressing challenges. It is on this basis that as we launch Grand Challenges Botswana, we hope to build upon the success of the GC approach and tap into the existing capacities in expertise, specialized infrastructure, robust processes, seed and grant funds to deliver impactful and commercially viable solutions. Launching Grand Challenges Botswana today, gives me renewed hope that we are on course towards achieving our national Vision 2036 aspirations. The Challenge on Agriculture and Tourism solutions is out for innovators, developers, entrepreneurs, and researchers to participate. We are seeking space science solutions that will make

use of datasets from our initiative to design and launch a micro satellite. This will tackle some of our national challenges going forward. The current call for proposal will be funded through the Botswana Innovation Fund. Future challenges under this partnership will address among others Covid-19 pandemic with special emphasis on digital solutions as we embrace the new normal. We are looking at a five-year implementation plan with AESA in which we target supporting key projects that will scale commercially locally and regionally, building a portfolio with potential to create jobs. For innovation and technology-driven entities coming out of initiatives such as these, the current service offering under the Botswana Innovation Hub including incubation/acceleration and commercialization of those deserving projects will remain even after it has fully transformed into the Digital and Innovation Hub.

I therefore urge the research and innovation Community in Botswana, to proactively participate. Stand up and be counted. I wish to thank the African Academy of Sciences through the Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA) initiative for having committed to this novel collaboration. My commitment and support to this course remains, as I will constantly engage the Research and Innovation community for feedback, as well as to appreciate progress in the implementation of this initiative.

**Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology Dr Douglas Letsholathebe during the LAUNCH OF GRAND CHALLENGES BOTSWANA (Part of Grand Challenges Africa) by Botswana Innovation Fund*

‘Conduct of Presidents must be beyond reproach’

MBOKI CHILISA*

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE the moral compass ,in any democratic country, of what constitutes good governance. He should be exemplary to the civil service and all citizenry. When it comes to issues of insider trading, corruption and nepotism; perceptions and optics are very important. The conduct of the office and the holder thereof should be seen at all times to be beyond reproach.

It is disheartening that at a time when our levels of poverty are at an all time high, and we are asking the public, the vast majority of whom are struggling, to dig deep into their pockets and increase their contribution to the national treasury through higher taxes, we continue to fail to prioritize good governance and justify conduct that is clearly objectionable on the basis that past Presidents were just as bad.

There is need for urgent change in our attitude towards senior public officers, members of the cabinet and the President doing business with the Government that they run. Holding high public office should never be seen as an opportunity to enrich oneself and make-up for the lost years. It is the greatest honour and privilege which can be conferred upon any person by his/her fellow citizens.

Normalizing conduct that is not consistent with the best governance practices fuels a culture of corruption. The public can no longer afford to continue funding corruption. The financial position that the country is in today, is not what it was during Masire's time.



Chilisa

Much higher governance standards are urgently required today in order to keep the country afloat.

We don't seem to have learnt much from what happened in South Africa, where the Presidency was in the pocket of a family because of his dubious business partnerships. The receipt of gifts of material value, whether it be shares or livestock, by members of cabinet should be criminalized and punishable through the stiffest of penalties, otherwise the country will become mortgaged to a few people with ill-gotten wealth.

Ours is supposed to be a constitutional democracy and not a kleptocracy.

**Private Attorney, MISA Chairman Facebook post*

De Beers buoyant on growth

- Group expect better recovery in 2021
- Positive demand for diamond industry
- 2020 bruising as revenues drop by 30%



Rowley [PIC:OMANG KILANO]

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BLUE CHIP DIAMOND COMPANY De Beers Group is buoyant that its business will bounce back this year as compared to 2020 due to the promising demand in diamonds since the start of the year.

De Beers Executive Vice President Diamond Trading, Paul Rowley, while presenting the Group's 2020 financial results, said the Group revenue stood at \$3.4 billion in 2020 as compared to the \$4.6 billion posted in 2019, representing 30% decline. But he is buoyant of growth amid 2021 outlook.

"2020 was unprecedented year for the diamond industry globally and we also suffered from the effects of Covid-19. Containment measures such as the lockdowns impacted negatively on our business operations. There have been significant challenges for the rough diamond industry," he said.

The buoyant De Beers Group executive said there has been high demand for diamonds in 2021 and therefore recovery is imminent. But he cautioned that the business has to be vigilant too.

Rowley added that the company's target in 2021 is to produce between 32 and 35 million carats.

According to him, the production target is informed by the promising signals of recovery in the diamonds sales as most of De Beers' top markets are showing resilient economic recoveries.

Anglo American, the parent company of De Beers, recently revealed that the rough diamond output at De Beers Group declined by 14% on its production report of fourth quarter (Q4) of year 2020.

The company said the decline was driven by continued planned reductions in response to the lower demand for rough diamonds caused by Covid-19 and operational challenges at the Orapa

mine. Anglo America owns 85% of De Beers Group, the world's leading diamond company, with the remaining 15% owned by the Government of Botswana and both mining diamonds through Debswana mines.

"In Botswana, production decreased by 28% to 4.3 million carats, driven by the planned treatment of lower grade material at Jwaneng, where production decreased by 56%. This was partly offset by a 9% increase at Orapa due to a planned improvement in grade despite a slower than anticipated plant restart in December following scheduled maintenance as well as power supply interruptions affecting plant availability," said Anglo American while reviewing Botswana.

But, Rowley said De Beers anticipates recovery at all Debswana mines in 2021. De Beers, a diamond mining giant which operates across the whole value chain of the lucrative industry, said it underwent massive transformation in 2020 so to withstand the pandemic heat wave.

Rowley indicated that as part of accelerating the transformation, the Group down streamed its operations and announced new brands like 12 Forever goals as well consumer markets division. Giving update on community response in 2020, De Beers Group Chief Financial Officer, Susanne Swanniker-Tetty said the company cushioned the communities it operates in amidst Covid-19. She said that included the launch of Building forever 2030 goals – the sustainability and commitment goals by which the Group intends to build partnerships for thriving communities.

The Group's 12 Building Forever ambitious sustainability goals for the coming decade include achieving gender parity throughout its workforce, a diamond producing partner countries and being carbon neutral within its own diamond mining operations by 2030.

Botswana remains in EU list of tax havens

- Country accused of refusing to address shortcomings

MOROCCO AND NAMIBIA have been removed from the European Union's list of tax havens after successfully implementing reforms to bring their tax systems up to the EU's required standards. In a statement Monday, the EU however said the island nation of Seychelles, Botswana and Estawani are still on the list.

The countries on this list "have refused to engage in dialogue with the EU or to address the shortcomings in good tax governance," the statement noted.

In February last year, the EU granted Namibia and Morocco an extension to continue reforms already undertaken since 2019 to adapt their tax laws to the requirements of the institution. The deadline expired August 31 and December 31, 2020. With 11 other countries and

territories, Brussels believes that Seychelles has a "major problem of transparency" in tax matters. In 2017, the 27- member states agreed to establish a list of uncooperative developing countries and territories in tax matters.

The institution said: "This list is part of the work of the EU to fight against tax fraud and tax evasion." The evaluation criteria used relate mainly to tax transparency, tax fairness and the implementation of the Minimum Standards for the Transfer of Profits (BEPS).

However, the EU list does not seem to take into account the current debate on taxation in the world. Very few African countries are recipients of the proceeds of international taxation, which costs the continent \$25 billion a year, according to the international NGO Tax Justice Network. [africanews.com]



BOB Governor Mose Pelaelo

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

VAT increase to fuel inflation growth

- Govt adjusts VAT to 14% from 12%
- BoB cautions of high inflation risks
- Economy to grow by 8.8% in 2021

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THE CENTRAL BANK, BANK OF Botswana (BoB), forecasts that government's decision to increase the Value Added Tax (VAT) from 12% to 14% will increase inflationary pressure by 1.44% in Q2 of 2020.

Statistics Botswana's (SB) Consumer Index Data showed that inflation increased from 2.2% in December 2020 to 2.3% in January 2021, representing 0.1% growth amid a trembling economy.

But, BoB says inflation is forecast to revert to within the objective range in second quarter of 2021.

This, according to BoB, is as a result of taking into account the expected increase in the domestic demand in response to the accommodative monetary conditions such as the increase in VAT.

Bank Governor Mose Pelaelo while presenting bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision on Thursday said the risks to the inflation outlook are assessed to be balanced. "Upside risks relate to the potential increase in international commodity prices beyond current forecasts, aggressive action by governments and major central banks to bolster demand as well as the anticipated supply constraints due to travel restrictions and lockdowns,

though abating," he said.

Domestically, Pelaelo said accelerated implementation of the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) or additional rise in government levies and taxes could lead to higher inflation.

"These risks are moderated by weak domestic and global economic activity, which could be exacerbated by the periodic lockdowns and other forms of restrictions due to emergence of new COVID-19 variants and the possible decline in international commodity prices," he added. Furthermore, BoB cautions that implementation capacity constraints could hinder the

effectiveness of policy stimulus and ERTP initiatives, thus resulting in lower inflation.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected a sharp deterioration of economic growth for Botswana by 7.7% in 2020, compared to the earlier contraction of 8.9% before rebounding to significant growth of 8.8% in year 2021.

The IMF forecasts the domestic economy to contract by 9.6 percent in 2020 compared to the decline of 5.4 percent in the April 2020 World Economic Outlook, before rebounding to a growth of 8.6% in 2021. But BoB says that even with

recovery projected in 2021, the contraction in 2020 equates to more than a year's loss of output growth.

"Economic activity in South Africa also remains subdued and the South African Reserve Bank projects GDP to have contracted by 7.1 percent in 2020, but to rebound to the growth of 3.6 percent in 2021. Global output is estimated to have declined by 3.5 percent in 2020 but to also rebound to a growth of 5.5 percent in 2021, on account of expectations of a vaccine-powered strengthening of activity and additional policy support in major economies," Pelaelo buttressed. Meanwhile, Bank of Botswana decided to maintain the Bank Rate at 3.75 percent again.

Lucara spends P200m in Karowe

- Buoyant on mine underground project
- Karowe mine license extended to 2046
- \$514 million is project estimated budget

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LUCARA SAYS DURING THE YEAR ended December 31, 2020 it spent over P200m (\$18.7 million) on its Letlhakane-based Karowe mine's underground expansion project.

Lucara revealed the developments on its Quarter 4 2020 sales and operational results this week, saying the money was spent on project execution activities including a geotechnical test pitting and drilling and completion of two pilot holes at the shaft locations.

The company is embarking on mining underground at its wholly-owned top gemstone producer based in Botswana in effort to expand mine's output level.

"The company was able to complete on-site earth works and geotechnical studies by using local contractors while a State of Emergency remained in effect in Botswana. Long lead time item orders were also placed for shaft muckers, and hoist and the winder refurbishment was also initiated. In addition, the power



Lahri

[PIC:OMANG KILANO]

line engineering and detailed shaft design and engineering (consistent with the original targets for 2020) progressed," the diamond company maintained.

Furthermore, the company said the government of Botswana swiftly approved the proposed power line route and granted a 25-year extension to the Karowe Mine License to 2046 as well.

"The recent recovery of two high value +300 carat stones continues to highlight extraordinary nature of the Karowe resource and underpin the rationale for the underground expansion, extending our mine life out to at least 2040. In late 2020, the Government of Botswana has also granted Lucara a mining license extension for 25 years," said Lucara CEO and President, Eira Thomas.

Lucara said it has sufficient to cover the remaining open-pit life (to 2026) and the expected life of the proposed underground expansion, currently planned to 2040, thus more mining at Karowe.

"The company is actively exploring opportunities to arrange debt financing for the underground expansion for those amounts which

are expected to exceed the company's cash flow from the operations during the construction period. The underground expansion programme has an estimated capital cost of \$514 million and a five-year period of development," Lucara stressed. Lucara Botswana Managing Director Naseem Lahri has said the positive results of underground feasibility study are motivating that the Karowe underground project will be realised. She said that in an effort to expand their mine, they would tap into new technologies as well. Meanwhile, the company said it has recorded \$42.4 million in revenue during the Q4 of 2020.

The contribution to revenue includes diamonds sold through a combination of regular tenders, Clara, and through the HB Antwerp under the supply agreement announced in July 2020.

Lucara continues to have a strong availability of working capital, including \$4.9 million in cash at the end of Q4 and \$19.5 million available from a revolving term credit facility with no long-term debt.

Furthermore, Lucara Diamond Corporation revealed that mining and processing operations continued without interruption at the Karowe mine where more than 98% of workforce is Batswana.

Power Metal encouraged by drilling at Molopo Farms



A REPORT HAS IDENTIFIED 14 NEW targets in the feeder zone, with priority targets recommended to be ranked for follow-up ground exploration

Power Metal Resources PLC has said drilling by 18.26%-owned Kalahari Key Mineral Exploration Pty Ltd was providing further encouraging signs at the Molopo Farms Complex project in Botswana.

A second, angled hole at the project has been drilled to a final depth of 598 metres in ultramafic rocks and the drill core, along with that from the first drill hole, have been transported to Lobatse where it is being cut by the Botswana Geoscience Institute.

An agreement has also been signed with the University of Witwatersrand in

Johannesburg, with selected quarter core samples to be sent to the university's geology department this week for mineralogical and thin section analysis.

Logging the second cut core has identified disseminated sulphide mineralisation below 500m drill hole depth, notably in the section marked as a target by the geophysics, further to disseminated sulphide mineralisation identified around 308-313m depth from the initial core inspection announced last month.

A report received from Aster Funds Ltd in Toronto has identified about 14 new targets in Molopo's feeder zone, with priority targets recommended to be ranked for follow-up ground exploration.

On top of that, down-hole geophysics

data is expected to be acquired in the next phase of the current programme, which is expected to help identify any massive sulphide mineralisation proximal to the disseminated sulphides.

"Identification of additional visible sulphides deeper in hole KKME 1-6 gives further encouraging signals to the prospect of discovering significant mineralisation within the Molopo Farms Complex," said Power Metal's chief executive, Paul Johnson.

"So far we are encouraged by the indications from core logging, and await assay results and mineralogical studies to confirm the sulphide minerals present. To be absolutely clear we make no assumption as to which sulphide minerals are present and await the assay results, and those results will

likely guide the next exploration steps.

"The identification of up to 14 new targets for ground exploration in the feeder zone from the Aster Mapping also adds to the evidence of district scale prospectivity.

"Substantial new data continues to be generated on a relatively untested environment, advancing a journey of discovery in a geological setting where there is the clear potential for large scale metal deposits."

The AIM-listed explorer and developer has previously agreed to lift its stake in Kalahari Key up to 40% by funding US\$0.5mln of further exploration at the site by the end of April. So far it has spent almost US\$393,000 of this. *[proactiveinvestors.co.uk]*

Strong price recovery continuing into 2021 – Lucara

Canada-headquartered Lucara Diamond Corp said on Monday that the strong price recovery of the fourth quarter has continued into 2021, and a stable, positive price environment was forecast for the year.

FOLLOWING AN INCREDIBLY challenging year in 2020, the diamond industry began 2021 with a healthier supply-demand balance than it had had at any stage in the past five years, the miner, which operates in Botswana, said.

Lucara posted fourth-quarter revenue of \$42.4-million, up from \$41.3-million in the third quarter, but down from \$56-million on the prior-year quarter. The miner obtained an average price of \$402/ct in the fourth quarter, compared with \$365/ct in the third quarter. In the previous-year fourth quarter, the average price was \$568/t.

For the full-year, Lucara posted revenue of \$125.3-million, compared with \$192.5-million, and achieved an average price of \$335/ct, compared with \$468/ct.

The miner reported a net loss of \$26.3-million for the year.

"The measures that Lucara took early in the pandemic, including the decision not to sell rough diamonds in excess of +10.8 ct after the first quarter, helped protect and support prices for large, high value diamonds that account for more than 70% of our revenues.

"These efforts in conjunction with our transformational supply agreement with HB Antwerp executed in July, resulted in strong price recoveries by fourth quarter, a trend which has continued into 2021," said CEO Eira Thomas.

Reporting on progress at the Karowe mine extension project, in Botswana, she



Thomas

said that Botswana had granted Lucara a mining licence extension for 25 years.

"This is a critical milestone for the underground project, paving the way for the completion of a supplementary debt financing in support of full project sanction, anticipated in the second half of 2021."

The underground expansion programme has an estimated capital cost of \$514-million and a five-year period of development. *[miningweekly.com]*



Know your corporate leader

Full Name: Hon. Cllr Jeffery Sibisibi

Institution: Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA)

Position: President

Date of joining: 11 March 2020

Nature of business: Local Governance

Mitsubishi Motors opens first full dealership in Gaborone

Mitsubishi Motors extended its reach into Africa by adding a new fully fledged Mitsubishi dealership in Gaborone

“BB MOTORS, RUN BY THE BHAMJEE family, approached us as the African representative of Mitsubishi Motors towards the end of 2020 for the rights to upgrade its existing Mitsubishi Motors Service Centre to a full-fledged dealership, and it made sound business sense,” says Nic Campbell, General Manager of Mitsubishi Motors South Africa.

The new dealership, known as Mitsubishi Motors Gaborone, owned and managed by the BB Motors group, offers a showroom for new vehicle sales, including a comprehensive workshop. The Bhamjee family, owners of BB Motors, have been in the motor industry for the last 42 years.

“Our new Mitsubishi dealership offers a full range of brand-new Mitsubishi vehicles available on the African continent,” says Zain Bhamjee, who takes up the role as Dealer Principal.

“We believe in the importance of an honest relationship with our customers, and it is on this value that we have built our brand. We will always be open and honest about our products and services.”

Bhamjee’s team of Mitsubishi executives includes Nelson Moremedi as Sales manager and Ebrahim Malek as Service manager.

The new dealership is situated at Plot



17955, Luthuli Road, Gaborone, and will be open for business on weekdays from 07:30 to 17:30 and on Saturdays from 08:00 to 12:30.

“Mitsubishi Motors South Africa does not have a share in the Botswana dealership,” says Campbell. MMSA operates 58 dealerships and service centres in Southern

Africa and assists with dealerships or service centres in all its neighbouring countries (Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mocambique as well as Eswatini (Swaziland) but not Lesotho (which is served by the Ladybrand branch).

This includes two in Malawi and two in Zambia, with Mitsubishi Motors Botswana

now an independent dealership.

MMSA also operates a Mitsubishi service centre, Mitsubishi Motors Molapo, in Tlokweng Road, Gaborone.

“Mitsubishi owners now have access to 59 dealers and service centres all over Southern Africa where they can have their Mitsubishi Pajeros, Tritons and everything else in the MMSA stable pampered or even upgraded to the latest versions,” concludes Campbell.

Bhamjee says the team is extremely excited about their new dealership after running a Mitsubishi Service Centre over the last few years. “Mitsubishi owners or prospective customers are invited to visit us at the new premises,” invites Bhamjee.

Mitsubishi Motors Botswana will offer the complete range of Mitsubishi vehicles from its new dealership.

“We are proud to offer all new models – from the Eclipse Cross, ASX and Outlander to the popular Triton and Pajero Sport,” says Sales Manager Nelson Moremedi. “We are confident that we will sell four or more new vehicles per month from the start and will offer a wide range of used Mitsubishi vehicles as well.”

Mitsubishi Motors Gaborone will celebrate the opening of its new dealership with a range of special offers to be announced soon. *[Mitsubishi Motors]*

Economy to grow 8.8% in 2021 - BoB

BOTSWANA’S ECONOMY IS FORECAST to grow by 8.8 per cent in 2021, an official said Tuesday.

The improvement is premised on conducive financing conditions associated with accommodative monetary policy and a sound financial environment, said Moses Pelaelo, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) Governor when presenting the 2021 monetary policy statement in Gaborone, Botswana’s capital city.

“In addition to the accommodative monetary policy and a sound financial environment, the mid-term review of the National Development Plan 11, supported by effective implementation of the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan, provides added impetus for positive economic prospects,” said Pelaelo.

Based on available data, Pelaelo said the current projections suggest that domestic inflation will, in the short term, revert to and remain within the bank’s medium-term objective range of 3 to 6 per cent.

“The implementation of monetary policy will continue to focus on entrenching expectations of low, predictable and sustainable inflation, through timely responses to price developments while at the same time taking due care to ensure those policy decisions are consistent with durable financial stability and support sustainable economic growth and employment creation,” he said. *[XINHUA]*



Pelaelo

De Beers hikes diamond prices again



complete standstill in the first half of last year. Strong holiday sales in the U.S. and positive signs from the Chinese New Year have seen buyers rush to replenish their stocks of rough stones.

De Beers is tapping that demand after the Anglo American Plc business was forced to make deep price discounts last year. The increase at this week’s sale in Botswana follows price gains of about 5% last month, the biggest in years. The company also edged prices higher in December.

The price rises were once again focused on the biggest and most expensive diamonds. Prices for rough stones that would produce a 2-carat to 4-carat polished gem climbed more than 7%, the people said.

The price increases at the two previous auctions didn’t deter customers -- the cutters, polishers and traders who dominate the industry’s midstream -- with De Beers reporting it’s biggest sale in three years in January. Still, some industry participants have raised concerns that the market is running too hot, risking a slump later in the year.

The strong sales so far will be a boost for Anglo American, which is set to report earnings later this week. Its peers have already given billions of dollars in dividends back to shareholders, amid surging prices of commodities including copper and iron ore. *[bloomberg.com]*

BY THOMAS BIESHEUVEL

DE BEERS LIFTED DIAMOND PRICES at its third consecutive sale as an industry-wide recovery from the coronavirus pandemic gathers pace.

The world’s biggest diamond producer raised prices by about 4% at its second sale of the year, according to people familiar with the situation who asked not to be identified because the information is private.

A spokesman for De Beers declined to comment.

Diamond prices are rebounding after the pandemic brought the industry to an almost

Molimi appointed head of TPS at Stanbic

KABO MOLIMI HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS Head of Stanbic Bank Botswana’s Transactional Products and Services (TPS), having assumed the role on the 1st of February 2021.

Said Stanbic Bank Botswana Head of Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB), Sheperd Aisam, “We are truly excited to welcome Kabo to the team, and confident in the value he brings to the business and indeed to our clientele. In the evolving and dynamic space that CIB is, it takes not only suitably qualified individuals to make a mark and

leave a lasting impact, but ones who remain unrelenting in their passion and desire to change the lives of our clients. At Stanbic Bank, we believe that Botswana is our home and we drive her growth. This passion and purpose is very much alive and embodied in Kabo and further enhances the level of expertise we offer our clients.”

Kabo holds a Bachelor of Accountancy Degree from University of Botswana and has successfully completed the RMB Management Development Programme. He wields a wealth of knowledge in the Corporate and

Investment Banking space, with 15 years of banking experience. Kabo is not new to Stanbic Bank, having started his career in Stanbic Bank’s Private Banking in 2005. More recently, he headed the Trade and Working Capital business at RMB. Additional prior experience includes being a Relationship and Sales Manager in Client Coverage and Global Markets respectively.

Transactional Products and Services supports corporate clients looking for the best solutions for their working capital and trade finance needs.

This includes solutions such as cash management, investor services, Business Online and treasury management, to name a few.

TPS supports the wider ambition and focus of the Bank to make dreams possible for clients to demonstrate that, with Stanbic Bank, It Can Be. Stanbic Bank continues to invest in means to enhance its ability to support the hopes, dreams and aspirations of clients, through its capabilities, expertise and international recognition such as Best Investment Bank in Botswana.

Alosa wins Business Den top prize



Kgosiile

BY CROSS KGOSIDIILE *

THE BUSINESS DEN IS A PROJECT THAT we as BDC hold dearly. It aims to reach out to budding, ambitious and self-driven youth entrepreneurs, to allow them to secure funding on a grant basis accompanied by mentorship and networking opportunities. The competition was opened to young citizen entrepreneurs between the ages of 18-35, with ideas for either a new or existing business seeking expansion opportunities.

As Botswana's main investment arm with a mandate to finance commercially viable projects, we are happy to have launched this initiative, to help our young entrepreneurs in their quest to take their ideas to the next level. The competition was open to businesses across all sectors, to align with our mandate of investing in commercially viable projects in all sectors of the economy. Entrepreneurs are naturally attracted to

each other; they enjoy sharing each other's experiences, they create partnerships with each other whenever such opportunities arise. Building such an ecosystem takes years of effort, and most of all, it requires an approach to business growth and planning that sometimes is hard to appreciate. It is my hope that from this initiative, many more partnerships will flourish amongst yourselves.

What is striking about entrepreneurs is that they do not fear failure. If you were to meet an entrepreneur or innovator who has not had some kind of failure, you might question whether they've done anything meaningful.

The truth is that among entrepreneurs, failure is welcome as it provides a learning plat-form. The great inventor Thomas Edison was once asked how he could remain optimistic, after failing thousands of times. He responded that he had not failed, but

rather discovered 10,000 ways that would not work. This also pointed out that failure is just delayed success, and that is the kind of attitude that is at the heart of success.

Why are we here today? We are gathered here today to recognise talent and determination. Last week, we had the pleasure of hosting these young people where they delivered their business pitches to a panel of seasoned judges, battling it out for funding of up to P500, 000.00. Once again, let me commend you for the work and passion that you put into your presentations. There is not a grain of doubt in my mind that you will all go far.

With that said I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Alosa Group of Companies for their outstanding delivery and proving to be worthy of the Business Den prize. Invention and innovation do not occur without a strong and powerful motive. Great ideas come from great minds, and

great minds go where they are welcome.

The winning project of Alosa Group of Companies will be kept in the Business Den for eighteen months, where BDC will provide constant monitoring and evaluation while playing a mentorship role until the project is mature and can graduate. Through BDC's collaboration with Africa Youth Entrepreneur Summit (AYES) and Angel Networks Botswana (ANB), support through mentorship and networking opportunities will also be provided.

Congratulations ALOSA and to all the finalist, may you continue to shine, persevere, and grow in all your future endeavours.

*Cross Kgosiile is the Managing Director of Botswana Development Corporation (BDC). This is part of his speech the prize giving ceremony of The Business Den competition which has been won by the Alosa Group of Companies.

Reflecting on Botswana's 2021 Budget Speech



Dr Matsheka

BY TAIMUR KHILJI

Economist, UN Botswana Resident Coordinator's Office

THIS YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH WAS THE first of its kind. Unlike prior ones, it was delivered virtually.

A lot was said. The speech was wide-ranging; it covered topics from achieving food security to the inefficacy of parastatals. Many of the issues touched upon were not new, such as high levels of youth unemployment; the inefficiencies associated with public spending; the perils of economic dependence on minerals; along with the stock and trade macroeconomic issues. There were almost no surprises, as almost all the issues brought up are part of the collective consciousness of Batswana.

A speech of this nature is also perhaps best analyzed by paying attention to what it did not say or said in a cursory manner. To its credit the speech did focus on development issues and clearly outlined steps the government was either taking or was going to take to address the issues. However, toward the end of the speech (on page 29), the minister announced,

'Mr. Speaker it will also be necessary to borrow from external sources. My ministry is currently in negotiations with development finance partners for possible loans to finance budget deficits.'

To mitigate some of the damage due to CVOID-19, Botswana has been drawing down on its reserves. Future budgets are expected to incur deficits and therefore it has become 'necessary to borrow' to finance the budget shortfall. The government will have to ensure that investments made now reap dividends and off-set the cost of borrowing. Raising taxes has to be accompanied by a concerted effort to boost equitable growth. A debt trap must be avoided at all costs.

The issue of inequality was marked by its absence from the speech. In one sense, inequalities were present in the background and in the abstract when the Minister touched upon issues of poor productivity and competitiveness, youth unemployment, and the economic impact of COVID-19. However, addressing inequality escaped concrete mention, which is surprising especially as inequalities have likely worsened in the wake of, and during the pandemic. Botswana remains one of the most unequal countries in the world.

First and foremost, an economic recovery that doesn't explicitly target inequalities will likely disappoint and further deepen inequalities. A recovery that doesn't, as a

matter of priority, narrow the income gap, that doesn't dramatically aim to improve health and education outcomes, that doesn't bridge the widening digital divide will not be a robust one. It will be a skewed recovery at best, or not be a recovery at all for the majority.

Second, if the problems are incorrectly identified, then it follows the solutions are unlikely to be the appropriate ones. For example, issues around inefficiencies in public spending and poorly performing state enterprises is perhaps less about putting in place proper accounting/ monitoring systems and embarking on a privatization drive and tied more closely to political economy considerations such as maintaining a system of patronage and fraternity. On the one hand, patronage has helped keep the peace and maintain a certain social order. However, if Botswana aims to prosper as a nation, it will have to find alternative and equally effective ways to avoid conflict, while also developing and fostering institutions that are effective and purpose driven.

Given that inequalities and inequities have perpetuated despite an explicit focus on social spending (i.e. social protection, health and education) indicates that the issue is one that requires deconstructing political economy mechanisms that reinforce inequalities and continue to maintain a significant proportion of the population at a relatively low level of income.

Third, the approach to developing strategies and conducting reviews has to change. For a small country (population of 2.3 million), there is no dearth of well-crafted strategies and policies. Leaving aside the important issue of policy implementation, conducting reviews and developing more strategies (in their current guise) is a cumbersome and expensive process that takes away critical human resources at a time when the opportunity cost of doing so is extremely high. When COVID-19 was at Botswana's doorstep, the government moved quickly to institute preventive measures that helped dramatically reduce the onset of the virus. This was done in a hasty and practical way, albeit with rigor, paying attention to what had worked (now and in the past) in other countries. It is with similar urgency and pragmatism that the government needs to address its longstanding issues for which strategies and policies are in place, but the issues remain.

Fourth, having witnessed how competitive the global economy has become, the emphasis on an export-driven growth model, one predicated on goods, is misplaced. Services are likely to drive growth now and in the near future. It is a sector showing some results and promise and will likely play a key role in the economic recovery if guided and incentivized in the right way. The competitiveness that the east Asian miracle economies exhibited during the 80s and 90s was during a different era and with a characteristically different labor force. There is unlikely to be a repeat performance.

Finally, and in conclusion, Botswana and Batswana have much to be proud of. There has been tremendous progress since independence. A global recovery from which Botswana is likely benefit is on the horizon. However, it is critical that the toxic mix of high inequality, high unemployment and relatively high poverty must be addressed with the same urgency directed at preventing COVID-19. Otherwise, Botswana risks leaving many behind and deepening the chasm between the have and have nots.



Afinitas Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of Botswana) (Registration number BW00001543844)
("Afinitas" or the "Company")

ANNOUNCEMENT TO AFINITAS SHAREHOLDERS

Relating to:

- the proposed termination of the listing (the Delisting) of all the Company's issued shares (the Shares) from the Venture Capital Board of the Botswana Stock Exchange (the BSE); and
- the arrangement whereby the Company will repurchase the Shares of any Public Shareholder that does not wish to remain a Shareholder post the Delisting, at the Cash Consideration (the Exit Opportunity)

Transaction Advisor and Botswana Transfer Secretaries



Botswana Sponsoring Broker



Imara Capital Securities
(A Member of the Botswana Stock Exchange)

BACKGROUND

A Circular regarding the Delisting has been issued on 12 February 2021 and distributed to Shareholders. The Circular is also available from the Company's website, the X-News portal of the BSE, Imara Capital Securities and Corpserve Botswana.

The Circular provides information pertaining to the proposed Delisting, including background information on the Company's current and prospective operating environment, recommendations from the independent directors of the Company, a report from the independent expert providing their opinion on the Cash Consideration payable to those Shareholders participating in the Exit Opportunity, undertakings from major Shareholders and includes notice of a General Meeting of Shareholders to consider the special resolutions required to be passed for the Delisting to be effected.

ACTION REQUIRED BY SHAREHOLDERS

Shareholders should carefully read the Circular in its entirety and if you are in any doubt as to the action that you should take, please consult your agent, broker, banker, legal advisor, accountant or other professional advisor immediately. The Circular contains a Form of Proxy which should be completed and returned as per the instructions on the Form of Proxy if you are unable to attend the General Meeting.

In the event that the special resolutions are not passed by the requisite majorities at the General Meeting, the Shares will remain listed on the BSE and no further action is required from Shareholders.

In the event that the special resolutions are passed by the requisite majorities at the General Meeting, the Delisting will take place on or about 21 April 2021.

- Shareholders who wish to remain Shareholders post the delisting are not required to take any further action and their new Share certificates will be sent to their registered address on or about 21 April 2021
- Shareholders wishing to participate in the Exit Opportunity must complete a form that will be distributed to all Shareholders (via X-News and email) on the Record date of 12 March 2021 tendering the Shares they wish the Company to acquire in terms of the Exit Opportunity. The form must be received by Corpserve Botswana, via email at contactus@corpservebotswana.com or by hand at Unit 206, Showgrounds Close, Plot 64516, Fairgrounds, Gaborone or by post to P O Box 1583 ADD, Gaborone, to be received no later than 16 April 2021.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

The definitions and interpretations commencing on page 4 of the Circular shall apply mutatis mutandis to those used in this announcement and the dates and times set out hereunder.

Circular, including notice of a General Meeting, to be distributed on X-News and posted to Shareholders	12 February 2021
General Meeting – to be held virtually at 10.00am	05 March 2021
Results of the General Meeting published	09 March 2021
Record Date and distribution of application forms for participation in the Exit Opportunity	12 March 2021
Opening of Exit Opportunity	15 March 2021
Closing of Exit Opportunity	16 April 2021
Latest date for settlement of the Cash Consideration pursuant to participation in the Exit Opportunity	21 April 2021
Posting of new share certificates in respect of Shares following the Termination of listing of Shares on the BSE and closure of the Exit Opportunity	21 April 2021
Expected date of Termination of listing of Shares on the BSE, on or about	21 April 2021

Note: The above dates and times are subject to change at the discretion of the Company. Any such changes will be publicly announced on the BSE's X-News service.

What is Financial Education?

MATILDA: “LAST WEEK MY BOSS SENT US for a staff training session on Financial Wellness. The session was very motivating and exciting. I feel energised and positive – but the problem is I don’t know what to do next”

Learning how to Manage my Money

Many motivational speakers focus on our emotional turmoil and our stress relating to our money. They run sessions that tell us that we too can be rich – encouraging us to start businesses, buy property, invest in shares – promising that this is the ‘magic bullet’ that will make us not only wealthy, but happy too. However, motivational speakers neglect to teach life skills that help us change our ways. Often, their talks do not impart life skills that we can actually put into action and use. We come away from the session wanting to do something about our financial situation, but lacking the fundamental skills and knowledge about what to do. Most of us didn’t learn good money habits from our parents. We therefore need to be taught the right ways about how to manage our money. We need step by step lessons on what to do in many real

life situations.

What do we need to learn?

Some examples of these that are current in life today are: Getting out of Debt; Learning How to Budget; Understanding how to Plan Future Spending; Smart Shopping – making money go further; Realising when an offer is a Scam that will lose money; Knowing the risks in an Investment; Looking after my family’s financial future. These are just a few of the life skills that we should all be taught in our lives to help us understand and manage our money better.

Modern Life is Tough

Today, we are all bombarded by advertisements, messages, and images promising us that we can be happy if only we are able to purchase an item. From insurance policies to fridge freezers, from jewellery to cellphones, everything today is sold to us by the promise that we will be happier once we have it. We need the skills to make the right choices, and the discipline to understand that happiness is living within our means. That way we won’t get to the end of the month and have no money for



transport, or get to the end of the year and find we’re in debt over our heads.

Biased Education

Sometimes people and companies offer to teach us about money for free. These usually have an ulterior motive – they usually want us to trust them so that they can sell us something.

Beware, this type free training can be biased – it’s not about giving you skills and teaching you good habits, but portraying how life is in a biased way - the topics often lean toward an underlying agenda.

How do we know who we can trust?

First look at the authorities for guidance:

All training in Botswana must be conducted with BOTA’s stamp of approval. The Botswana Training Authority pre-approves all courses, training institutions and trainers. Go to www.bota.org.bw or call 3657200 and they will guide you to training companies that are regulated and compliant.

Choosing Financial Education

When weighing up your options in choosing a Financial Wellness provider, ask yourself the following questions: How does the company providing the training make their money?; Ask the company if they will attempt to sell anything to your staff?; How long is the course, is it long enough to teach life skills, or does it sound more like a talk?; What additional material and tools will they provide your staff to assist them gain financial freedom?; Are they qualified as trainers?; Does this company you are considering have BOTA Accreditation for their course and trainers; and is their company registered with BOTA. (Remember, the law specifies that all companies engaging training may only do so

with BOTA accredited providers, even if you are not intending to claim the costs back from BOTA).

Financial Wellness Education

Financial Wellness Education should empower us to change our lives. Make sure you are taught life skills in your training sessions. Make sure the trainer gives you the tools to change your life, and then follows up with to make sure you are the right path to a changed life.

A one hour talk will neither change your life, nor teach you any real skills. Putting a sticky plaster on our debt problems won’t make you better, demand a real education. Ask for a proper financial wellness day, where you are taught to change your life.

*Author: Cynthia Tsumake – Marketing Manager with S.C.I. Training (Pty) Ltd.
© S.C.I. Training run financial wellness programmes that are BOTA accredited in Botswana. For help and information contact them on 72309719 or training@scifinancial.com
* Names in this article have been changed*

The 2021 Budget Speech: No thanks to business as usual



PAKO THUPAYAGALE & LEANO BABITSE
Ninety One Botswana Proprietary Limited

FINANCE MINISTER THAPELO MATSHEKA railed against waste and inefficiency in public finances and counselled that government should spend within its means or risk falling down the slippery slope of unsustainable fiscal policy. In the face of persistently weak growth, rising spending and falling revenues something had to give: the government’s balance sheet. The economy has been experiencing structural decline in the pace of growth since the start of the millennium while the fiscal balance (specifically the excess of spending over revenues) has been accelerating over the past 5 years. The deficit hit a record high of P21 billion or nearly 12% of GDP in the 2020/21 fiscal year amplified by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Against this background, the 2021 budget sets out an ambitious plan to reverse these trends by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our public finances, by among others widening the revenue base and reigning in government spending. The thorny issue of rightsizing the civil service and taking a harsher line against inept parastatals were also highlighted, and not for the first time though. Previous ministers have sounded the alarm and thrown down the gauntlet. Why is this time different? And, why should we expect more concerted efforts in addressing these trends? For starters the magnitude of the deficit is huge (exceeded only by the deficit of 12.4% recorded in the aftermath of global financial crisis in 2009/10; but then our fiscal buffers were significantly larger than today). The deficit also comes at a time when the economy’s trend growth is significantly lower than history (the IMF estimates our long-term real GDP growth at around 4%, a level that is too low to create good paying jobs and help achieve the nation’s development objectives). Last but not least, it is projected that the FY 2021/22 budget deficit which is forecast at around P6 billion will be financed entirely from borrowing as the government has run down its savings. This is a new and uncomfortable experience and the jury is still out as to whether in the medium to long-run this will be the norm or not. (We think it’s more likely than not).

The government has set itself the ambitious goal of bringing its fiscal deficit down to between 2% and 3% over the next two fiscal years. We worry that lower real and nominal growth coupled with likely expenditure side overshoots, exacerbated by necessary (and ongoing) COVID-19 relief funding (as well as other contingencies) will continue to undermine the government’s efforts to achieve fiscal consolidation at least in the short term. In addition, the reliance on diamond revenues to cover budgetary shortfalls longer-term needs to be addressed otherwise we run the risk of not moving forward, but backwards. More urgently the level, growth and mix of government spending has to be clamped down. Our sense is that over the short run the government still hopes that the revenue side of the ledger will come through whereas control of the expenditure side is were immediate and direct success can be registered. Poor ‘value-for-money’ is reflected in poor service delivery and

is ultimately an unfair tax on citizens, especially the tax paying public. The quality of government spending is not in sync with expectations. This point is acknowledged in the budget. Poor ‘value-for-money’ is reflected in poor service delivery and is ultimately an unfair tax on citizens, especially the tax paying public. This, in turn, leads us to consider the composition of government spending. For too long we have seen the growth of recurrent spending (i.e., salaries, operational costs, and subsidies etc) at the expense of the development expenditure (i.e., capital investments) and the related growth of a ‘capital gap’ which ultimately constrains the growth of the economy’s productive capacity (or potential output). Meanwhile salaries and pensions are forecast at around 50% of the recurrent budget. Put differently, at currently around 15% of GDP the governments wage bill is considered excessive relative to the size of the overall economy (< 10% of GDP is considered sustainable) and more pointedly with respect to the quality of services the state delivers. In line with the focus on getting more ‘bang for your buck’ the government plans to gradually reduce the wage bill to around 12% by 2022/23 by more careful alignment of jobs with personnel and cutting redundancies. The economics is clear. Government spending must slow. Inefficient parastatals must be closed. The public service must be leaner. The wage bill must drop. If the Botswana government was a company, shareholders would be clamouring for a turnaround strategy and spending on loss making entities would have long been frozen. This is where the economics meets the reality of Botswana’s political economy. The medium-term economic outlook will depend heavily on the successful implementation of critical structural reforms, which grow the economy by building productive capacity within the economy. This is well recognised by market participants. The elephant in the room of course relates to whether policy makers can handle the short-term flak, for the greater good.

The effects of the pandemic have served to highlight Botswana’s vulnerability to shocks and the importance of building resilience into our economic system. Specifically, the economy’s over reliance on the diamond sector for growth, exports and revenues means the economy is always in the crosshairs. While the pandemic is far from over, some of its more deleterious impacts are subsiding and other structural factors are reasserting their influence. A substantial infrastructure deficit, insufficient fiscal revenue mobilisation, weak labour markets, and a stifled business environment continue to weigh on the country’s economy. In this context our budget woes can be traced, in large part, to low growth. The implementation of the budget priority areas and some of the key reforms listed in the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) – starting with the implementation of back-logged projects and easing the cost of doing business – will boost confidence, investment and growth. Higher growth rates will broaden the tax base and ease the debt ratios/fiscal metrics. And, a concerted attempt by government to reduce spending and improve service delivery could sow the seeds of a new era. On the other hand, a business as usual approach will simply lead us down the proverbial rabbit hole. [Ninety One Botswana Proprietary Limited]

Minerals Development Company Botswana (Pty) Ltd (MDCB)

TENDER NOTICE

The invitation is reserved for 100% citizen owned companies only

RFQ No. MDCB 3/5/8 I (1)

PROVISION OF ONLINE MINING AND MINERAL MARKET INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SERVICES AND TOOLS FROM A REPUTABLE AND ESTABLISHED SERVICES PROVIDER FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY BOTSWANA (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED

Tender Collection Address

Minerals Development Company Botswana (PTY) Ltd
Plot 54351, CBD, Exponential Building
Reception, 6th Floor
Tel: 3810300, or by email from: gmahlaka@mdcb.co.bw

Requirements

Documents may be collected during working hours from Monday to Friday between 0830 and 1630 hours from 1st March 2021 upon producing proof of payment. A non-refundable payment of P500 per tender documents shall be made to the MDCB Bank Account before collection of tender documents. Bank Details are as shown below. Youth owned companies shall purchase at half price upon proof thereof.

Payment should be made into the following MDCB account:

Minerals Development Company Botswana (Pty) Ltd
First National Bank
Account No.62452018122
Branch Code.281467
Branch Name. First Place Gaborone SWIFT Code: FIRNBWGX

The closing date

Closing date for submission of the tender **19th March 2021 at 1000hrs.**

Tender documents are to be delivered by hand, email or sent by courier to the MDCB Contact Person only using the details stated above. Submissions received after closing date and time will not be accepted.

Enquiries

Queries or clarifications relating to the issuance of these documents may be addressed in writing not later than seven (7 days) before closing date to gmahlaka@mdcb.co.bw or at 3810329

Gaborone University College of Law & Professional Studies



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lifestyle

Pan-African womanhood celebrated

ZERRIN OTENG*

SET TO LAUNCH THIS MARCH, AMAKA Studio (AMAKA) is a digital media publisher dedicated to celebrating Pan-African womanhood in all its vigour, diversity and dynamism. The platform was founded in 2020 by 24-year-old Nigerian-American Adaora Oramah.

With a mission to tackle the challenge African women face in finding culturally relevant content that speaks to their experiences, needs and interests, AMAKA sets to break new ground.

The publication will spotlight stories from a perspective that speaks directly to the lived experiences of women in Africa and across the diaspora - an audience that is under-served and under-represented when it comes to mainstream media. A particular focus for AMAKA is to bridge the gap between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Content will focus on Fashion & Beauty, Lifestyle, Music, Politics & Society,

Business & Innovation, Health & Wellness and Arts & Culture.

AMAKA is spearheaded by CEO Adaora Oramah, a writer and photographer who studied at NYU and LSE. Inspired by photographers such as Nadine Ijewere, Ruth Ginika Ossai, Renell Medrano, Adaora has previously contributed to platforms such as Quartz Africa, AYO Magazine and New African Woman Magazine, and worked in strategy and marketing at VICE, OkayAfrica, Omnicom's RAPP Worldwide and Aruliden. Her varied experience in content creation, marketing strategy and photography gives her a strong foundation for developing impactful creative narratives and she sees AMAKA as a big reflection of her career as a creator and creative strategist.

Driven by a desire to create a haven for African women that she believes her, her mother and her sisters would have benefitted from growing up, Adaora founded AMAKA to give a platform to

stories that amplify African women's voices and experiences. Adaora feels, 'There hasn't really been a clear dedication to amplifying these stories properly and, you know, I think a lot of women just felt that the African story is always conveyed through a Western lens. I think this is about taking ownership and autonomy of our stories and the whole idea is to try to authentically implement that.'

It's particularly important to AMAKA to give a platform to a new generation of Pan-African changemakers and cultural-leaders that aren't receiving their rightful spotlight from other media outlets. AMAKA CEO, Adaora Oramah said, 'I feel like a lot of women are often marginalized or sidelined in these conversations so I think it is our duty to highlight women who are really making a change in various industries and creative spaces. AMAKA is a purpose-driven endeavor with social development at its core, dedicated to developing Africa's creative infrastructure and economy. Working in collaboration



Adaora Oramah

with large Pan-African entities and SMEs, we aim to contribute to the development of Africa's creative industry through educational content, webinars, workshops, panel discussions, funding opportunities and more.'

It's important to Adaora that AMAKA is a fully-inclusive community for all African women from across the world, however they identify. AMAKA is a platform that serves to celebrate and empower the

modern African woman - in all of her nuance and strength.

Along the way, AMAKA aims to cultivate and unify a powerful community of dynamic African women from across the globe, centred around shared experiences.

AMAKA brings together talented media and content specialists with a wealth of experience from across the industry, who have notably worked with Teen Vogue, The New York Times, DAZED Media,

Complex, HBO, VICE, Boiler Room, OkayAfrica, Universal Music and more. Predominantly led by African women and women from the African diaspora, amongst the new faces at AMAKA are Ivie Ani as the Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Director and Zerrin Oteng as the Marketing and PR Manager. The new team is dedicated to publishing engaging and relevant content for African women.

**Brand Marketing & PR Manager*

US teens help Botswana youth



Joe Dajani, Omar Abdel-Reheem, Tomas Harbut and Sean Ibrahimian

JANICE NEUMANN*

WHEN FOUR FRIENDS SAW A VIDEO last year about the lack of educational resources and other basic necessities in some African countries, they didn't think too much of it. But then Joe Dajani, Omar Abdel-Reheem, Tomas Harbut and Sean Ibrahimian got to thinking about how much they had as compared with children in other parts of the world.

After some brainstorming, they got to work asking for book and financial donations through social media, public libraries and going door to door. They teamed up with the African Library Project, which will help build a primary school library in Botswana that the teens are helping fund and stock with the more than 1,000 books they have gathered so far.

'They've dubbed their project the Alliance for African Education and plan to send school supplies as well in another shipment. "We thought, 'How can we help them, what can we do?'" said Dajani.

Books have always been important to the four friends, who were students at Sandburg High School in Orland Park when they watched the video. "It's our belief that

education is really important and books are a really big part of that," said Harbut, an avid reader like his friends. "We can't physically go there, so we thought this would be the best alternative.

"Especially nowadays with COVID-19 and everything, it's really not easy for those countries," Harbut said.

Each said they grew up with parents who grew up facing hardships in their home countries and encouraged their children to help out. Ibrahimian, who now attends Hinsdale Central High School, said volunteering at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox and at a pharmacy motivated him to find other ways to help out.

"It really taught me about empathy and sympathy toward other patients and people," Ibrahimian said. "I liked the fact that we could do our part in the community and give back what we were blessed to have in regard to education." Abdel-Reheem said his parents faced challenges growing up in Egypt. "They came from a relatively humble background," he said. "They told me about all these opportunities we have here that in Egypt they didn't have.

"The reason they became doctors was just for the sole idea of helping other people.

Duha Dajani, Joe Dajani's mother, said

her son and his friends carried out their project all on their own, without prodding or help from their parents. "He came home one time and he's telling me about this organization, that they had been collecting books from libraries and he just needed to get together with his friends to finish organizing those books," Dajani said. "I want him to keep going, I don't want him to just feel that nobody values his work. I am really proud of him."

Dajani noted she and her husband are from the Middle East, where people couldn't always afford education, the internet and there sometimes weren't even libraries.

"We know what the differences are, so we always tell them you have to appreciate what you have and (take) any chance you can to help other people," Dajani said.

The teens' other volunteer stints have included cleaning equipment or greeting visitors at the information desk at Palos Health in Palos Heights.

Information about the students' project and how to donate is at Alliance for African Education, <https://allianceforafricaneducation.org/>.

**Janice Neumann is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown.*

DumaTau Camp revives Elephant Conservation

LAUREN JADE HILL

ON REOPENING MID-2021 following a complete transformation, DumaTau Camp will offer an immersion into Wilderness Safaris' new elephant conservation program. Mid-2021 will see the much talked about reopening of DumaTau Camp and launch of its neighboring sister camp, Little DumaTau. Tying in with this opening, Wilderness Safaris is also launching a brand-new conservation safari for the newly opened camp's future guests. When travelers are able to return, they'll be given the opportunity to take part in a life-changing experience in support of collaring elephants in Botswana's private Linyanti Wildlife Reserve.

Throughout the coming year, Wilderness Safaris will collar 10 elephants in partnership with Ecoexist—an organization seeking to foster coexistence between elephants and people in northern Botswana. Through this initiative, the partnership aims to gain greater insight into elephant movement patterns and in the process identify potential elephant corridors between rural communities to then limit human-wildlife conflict in those areas.

"With the data obtained from satellite collars fitted to elephants in the Linyanti, we can make an informed and important contribution to sustaining a balance between the safety and livelihoods of local

community members, and the necessary and natural unfettered movement of elephants between protected areas", explains Neil Midlane, the group impact manager for Wilderness Safaris.

Wilderness and Ecoexist hope that the collaborative management of these corridors will eventually enable free movement of elephants between Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Angola.

On a six-night itinerary, guests who sign up for this conservation-driven experience will spend time with the elephant researcher at DumaTau, set out in a helicopter to visit the research base of Ecoexist and gain insight into the human-wildlife conflict issue and the action that's being taken to address it. Guests will then meet the local Kgosi (chief) and help to install a water hand-pump in the community. This trip combines three nights at DumaTau with another three nights at Vumbura Plains in the Okavango Delta. "For almost four decades, Wilderness Safaris has used our ecotourism business to generate sustainable economic value, for conservation and rural communities, from Africa's priceless wilderness and wildlife," says Midlane. "Despite the current challenges, we feel an immense sense of responsibility to ensure that our people and our wildlife continue to benefit.

This exciting itinerary will help to keep this going and at the same time, provide a truly unique experience for conservation

and community-minded travelers."

The entire value generated from these conservation safaris will be used to cover the costs of the collaring operation, along with the installation of a borehole pump in a nearby community.

Staying at the new camp

Setting out on this conservation itinerary also means experiencing Wilderness Safaris' new-look DumaTau Camp, which is now joined by Little DumaTau comprising just three tented suites for a more exclusive stay. Having been a part of the Wilderness Safaris collection since 1997, the original DumaTau Camp has undergone an extensive renovation and upgrade, placing it—along with its exclusive new neighbor—in the safari specialist's Premier portfolio. Both camps pair spacious suites with decks, plunge pools and indoor and outdoor showers, as well as sleep-out Star Beds.

While staying at DumaTau, guests will also be able to enjoy a new wellness space, which is situated between the two camps, consisting of a shaded deck, spa and lap pool, snack deli and safari boutique.

As Wilderness Safaris camps operate in private concessions, guests won't see any other vehicles while they're out exploring the wildlife-rich surroundings.

Anyone interested in the elephant conservation itinerary can contact the Wilderness Safaris private concierge ScottV@wilderness-safaris.com. [<https://www.forbes.com/sites/>]



Herbie’s Haven host Ungraded Show



Debra Freeman on Callaho Guiseppe

SARAH WARD

AN UNGRADED TRAINING Show was held at Herbie’s Haven Stables and Havenspride Stud, Rureitse, over the weekend of 20th/21st February, 2021 by kind permission of Seamus and Bridget O’Neill. Covid regulations were observed. Khuli Sibanda was on duty at the entrance to the show-grounds where she took visitor’s temperatures, sanitised their hands and recorded their contact details. Everyone was required to wear face masks or buffs and socialise in small groups. The show started on Saturday morning at 7.30am with Advanced, Elementary, Novice, Preliminary and Walk and Trot DSA dressage tests being ridden. On Sunday the show-jumping course was open for walking at 7.30am and the show-jumping started at 8.00am with a Competition in Two Phases Art 274.1.5.2 followed by a Table A2 239.2 Speed Class. The Dressage Judge was Bridget O’Neill and her Scribe was Bridget Tippins. The dressage results were calculated by Bridget O’Neill. The Show-Jumping Course Designer and Course Builder was Bridget O’Neill. She was helped in the arena building the jumps by Khumo Rasekedi, Brian Malazi, Alphious Moyo and Jerico Moyo. The Show-Jumping Judge was Teresa Fitt. Her Time Recorder was Camilla Joyner and their Scribe was Angela Tilney. Camilla was also a Trainee Judge on Sunday.

The entry fees were BWP100.00 per class. Entries were also taken on the day. Each rider paid a Medical Levy of BWP50.00 on Sunday. Stabling, with fresh bedding provided, cost BWP100.00 for the duration of the show. There were no rosettes, prizes, prize money or grading points awarded at this show. A horse was only allowed to start a maximum of two times on Saturday for the dressage and three times on Sunday for the show-jumping. It was not necessary to wear a jacket for this show but shirts were to be tucked in neatly. All aspiring dressage judges and dressage scribes, show-jumping judges, course designers and course builders were invited to scribe, judge, help in the judges box and build jumps in the arena throughout the weekend.

The arenas were beautifully prepared, watered and raked by Sindiso Khumalo and Brian Mlalazi. Bridget provided her own water for the arenas.

The professional medical company, Rescue One, was represented by the man himself, Patrick Proctor, a professional paramedic in Advanced Life Support. He had a full advanced life support unit, an emergency medical kit and ambulance on standby on Sunday.

Catering was available and Mary Machachanje prepared delicious bacon and egg rolls with a selection of hot and cold drinks throughout the weekend. She was helped on Sunday by Praise Banda.

Thank you to all the enthusiastic riders who transported their horses to the show-grounds. Allan and Tammy Bradford drove the long, hot and tiresome journey all the way from Notwane through ongoing chaotic road-works and hectic

weekend traffic. This journey took two and a half hours on Saturday afternoon. Other riders transported their horses within Rureitse. Thank you for all your efforts. We welcome new horse/rider combinations to their first show at this venue; In the dressage Kate Henricksen rode Judd’s Rocket, Michaela Bradford rode Midnight Ula and Emma Loo rode her newly owned gelding Wohlstand A Kind Of Magic. In the show-jumping Gemma Bradley rode Adele Jooste’s homebred mare Cordova Lorelei, Leyla Snater rode Tishie de la Harpe’s gelding Bricabrac, whom she is leasing and Michaela Bradford rode Farnham Lugano.

Bridget designed and built two fabulous, flowing show-jumping courses with inviting jumps. They were particularly friendly courses for the new horse/rider combinations and the young horses that were at the show.

The Competition in Two Phases Art. 274.1.5.2 had twelve jumps with thirteen jumping efforts comprising of five uprights, five parallels, one double combination, one hogs back and four changes of rein. Jump one, a yellow, black, white and orange upright with yellow wooden wings was approached through the Start on either rein, straight on in five strides to jump two, the green, white and orange Irish Flag parallel, land left and around to jump three, a red, green and white upright with green and white wall wings, land left and on a left curve to jump four, a black and white parallel with a white plank filler, land left and around to jump five, a black, white and maroon upright with white gate fillers, straight on in four strides to jump six, a blue, white and red parallel with white gate fillers, land left and around to jump seven, a blue, white and black double combination of an upright and two strides to a parallel, land right and around to jump eight a yellow, white and black upright with yellow box fillers, land right and around to jump nine, the Tropika Botswana turquoise, black, white and yellow parallel with larger yellow and smaller blue box fillers, land left and around to jump ten, a white, black and green hog’s back, land left and around to jump eleven, a blue, white and red parallel with a white gate filler, land right and around to jump twelve an upright of white planks and through the Finish. The yellow wooden wings on jump number one were built as fillers from 0.90cms upwards and the green and white wall wings on jump number three were built as fillers from 0.80cms upwards and the larger yellow fillers on jump number nine were built as fillers from 0.90cms and upwards. This class started with 0.60cms and went up to 1.00M.

The Table A2 239.2 Speed Class had ten jumps with eleven jumping efforts, comprising of four uprights, four parallels, one double combination, one hogs back and three changes of rein.

This friendly, welcoming and relaxed show ended mid-morning on Sunday when the temperature was 30degrees. There were 9 riders on Saturday; 4 were citizens, 5 were non-citizen riders. There were 10 riders on Sunday; 3 were citizens, 7 were non-citizen riders.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

Case no; CVHGB 002180- 17

In the matter between;

PAYNTER FAMILY TRUST

PLAINTIFF

and

EQUIPMENT SALES AND SERVICES (PTY) LTD

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following moveable property of the Plaintiff will be sold by Public Auction by the Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows;

Dates of Sale;

Conditions of Sale;

Time;

Venues;

11th march 2021
EFT or Bank Guaranteed Cheque, After conclusion of sale
11h00
Along Kazangula Road, Adjacent BDF and Choppies Shopping Complex Kazangula

Property to be sold;

1. Hamm Roller

2. Komatsu W380 Loader LD 11

B 118 ANS
s/n # KMT WA 032C0162233 #

The Deputy Sheriff is not obliged to accept any bids

All items sold as they are, no warranty is expressed and or implied.

PS Note;

COVID -19 Protocols and Regulations will be enforced during the auction sale

a. Wear Face Masks

b. Sanitize/Wash hands

c. Complete attendance register

d. Take Temperature tests

e. Social distance.

Dated at Francistown on this 18th day of June 2020

Deputy Sheriff; Z.Mashamaite
Cell no; 77 491215/74271019
c/o Equipment Sales Botswana Pty Ltd
P.O.Box 502077
Gaborone
72401889

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

Case no; CVHGB 002180- 17

In the matter between;

PAYNTER FAMILY TRUST

PLAINTIFF

and

EQUIPMENT SALES AND SERVICES (PTY) LTD

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

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Date of Sale;

Conditions of Sale;

Time;

Venue;

8th March 2021
FT or Bank Guaranteed Cheque, Immediately after the conclusion of the sale
09h00
Palapye Quarries Yard; Palapye

Property to be sold;

1. Bell B 20 D Dump Truck

2. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

3. Komatsu PC 300/7 Excavator

B 361 AJR
B 700 AKZ
s/n KMPTC 06002045785

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following moveable property of the Plaintiff will be sold by Public Auction by the Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows;

Dates of Sale;

Conditions of Sale;

Time;

Venues;

8th March 2021
EFT or Bank Guaranteed Cheque, After conclusion of sale
15h00
Plot NQ 62, Old Matsiloje Road, Francistown

Property to be sold;

1. Toyota L/Cruiser

2. Toyota L/Cruiser

3. Toyota Diesel Bowser

4. Generators x 2

B 122 ADB
B 389 AMF
B 782 AUJY

The Deputy Sheriff is not obliged to accept any bids

All items sold as they are, no warranty is expressed and or implied.

PS Note;

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a. Wear Face Masks

b. Sanitize/Wash hands

c. Complete attendance register

d. Take Temperature tests

e. Social distance.

Dated at Francistown on this 18th day of June 2020

Deputy Sheriff; Z.Mashamaite
Cell no; 77491215/742 71019
c/o Equipment Sales Botswana (Pty Ltd
P.BOX 502077
Gaborone
72401889

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT GABORONE

Case no; CVHGB 002180 - 17

In the matter between;

PAYNTER FAMILY TRUST

PLAINTIFF

and

EQUIPMENT SALES AND SERVICES (PTY) LTD

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following moveable property of the Plaintiff will be sold by Public Auction by the Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows;

Date of Sale;

Conditions of Sale;

Time;

Venues;

10th March 2021
EFT or Bank Guaranteed Cheque,
09h00
Plot 9801, Opposite Nortex, Near BMC Circle (Old G & S W/Shop) Phase 4 Francistown

Property to be sold;

1. Komatsu H M 3000 Dump Truck;

2. Komatsu Dozer D65E

3. Komatsu Excavator PC 300

4. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

5. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

6. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

7. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

8. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

9. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

10. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

11. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

12. Bell B 40 D Dump Truck

13. Telehandler

14. Hitachi Excavator 1200

15. Komatsu PC 200 Excavator

16. CAT 725 Dump Truck

17. Hitachi ZAXIS 520 LCR Excavator

18. Hitachi EX 1200-5 Excavator EX 1200 SC

19. Hitachi EX 1200 Excavators/n HCM18FOOK00003212

20. Shantui Dozer SD 32W(scrap)

21. Komatsu Dozer 275 AXS

22. Komatsu Dozer s/n 65510

23. Hitachi Excavator ZAXIS 470 LCR

B 313 ALD
B 240 AIZ
B 772 AKY
B 565 AMH
B 512 AMH
B 516 AMH
B 568 AMH
B 568 AMH
B 572 AHM
s/n AEB 1348105R002033
s/n AEB 1348105R002062
B 366 AJR
B 393 ACW
s/n 18JO010001387
s/n 256484/AE 113861
s/n 7822055
s/n HCMJUG 00E 00020369
s/n HCM18E00J2838
s/n HCM18E00J2838
s/n 257382
s/n 65510

The Deputy Sheriff is not obliged to accept any bids

Some items sold as they are, scrapped, stripped, damaged or otherwise with no warranty expressed and or implied.

COVID – 19 Protocols and Regulations will be enforced during the auction sale

a. Wear Face Masks

b. Wash and or Sanitize Hands

c. Complete attendance register

d. Take temperature test

e. Social distance.

Dated at Francistown on this 18th day of June 2020

Deputy Sheriff; Z Mashamaite
Cell no; 77 491215/ 7421019
c/o Equipment Sales Botswana Pty Ltd
P.O.Box 502077
Gaborone
72401889

JUDGE – SEGOPOLO

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HELD AT LOBATSE

CVHGB – 000889 -20

In the matter between:

STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED

Plaintiff

and

KINGSLEY MAKGOLELA

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court, the following immovable property will be sold by public auction by DEPUTY SHERIFF NONOFO MABINA to the highest bidder as follows:-

DATE OF SALE:

TIME:

VENUE:

FRIDAY, 26th MARCH 2021
14:30HOURS
LOT 25970, GABORONE

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD: Certain piece of land being Lot 25970, Gaborone, measuring 450m² held under Deed of Transfer No. 1181/2010 dated the 21st May 2010 made in favour of Kingsley Makgolela together with some developments thereon comprising of a screen wall, 3 bedroomed house, sitting room, store room, 1 ensuite, toilet and bathroom, kitchen, attached servants quarter, water and electricity.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021

BAOLEKI ATTORNEYS
Plaintiff's Attorneys
Plot 131, Unit 11 Nkwe Square,
Gaborone International Finance Park
P O Box 45111
GABORONE

(Ref: MMB/nm/001843)
Deputy Sheriff Nonofa Mabina
Cell no. 71657100/71801582

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

Case no. CVHGB 002180 - 17

In the matter between;

Paynter Family Trust

Plaintiff

and

Equipment Sales and Services (Pty) Ltd

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Judgment of the above Honourable Court, the following moveable property of the Plaintiff will be sold by Public Auction by the Deputy Sheriff to the highest bidder as follows;

Date of Sale;

Time;

Venue;

9th March 2021
09h00
Farm 10, Old Matsiloje Road, Francistown

Payment;

Cash, Bank Guaranteed cheque and or EFT Immediately after the sale

Property to be sold;

1. Power Star Water Bowser

2. Scania Horse Tractor

3. Henred Fruehof Lowbed

4. Power Star Water Bowser

5. Toyota Hilux

6. Toyota Hilux

7. Toyota Hilux

8. Toyota Hilux

9. Power Star Water Bowser

10. Power Star Water Bowser

11. Toyota Hilux

12. Toyota Prado

13. Toyota Hilux

14. Toyota Hino

15. Toyota Truck

16. Mini – Bus

17. Busaf Trailer

18. Komatsu Excavator PC 300 (stripped) (s/n 45404)

19. Komatsu Grader (stripped)

20. Komatsu W 93 R

21. Bell B 20 D Dump truck (AEB 1348105R002089)

22. Bell B 40 D Dump truck (AEB 1348105R002049)

23. Hitachi Excavator (HCM 18 FOOK 32112)

24. Hitachi Excavator (HCM 18 EODJ00002038)

25. Hitachi Excavator ZAXIS 470 LCR s/n HCMJUF00023529

26. Mercedes Horse Tractor (Vin No:W069542416K382343)

27. Mercedes Horse Tractor

28. Personnel cargo open truck

29. Komatsu Excavator (s/n PTC 090E020 20323)

30. Komatsu Excavator (s/n PTC 200/7) S/n C 73230)

31. Komatsu excavator 10 (s/n 20619) PC 450 LC 7

32. Komatsu PC 200 (C200-7 256484)

33. Komatsu Grader (s/n H 410111/6 GB 41)

34. Komatsu Grader (s/n LD 11K6Z09)

35. Komatsu loader W 320/5 (scrap)

36. Komatsu loader W 250/5 (scrap)

37. Liebherr Dozer 754 s/n VAU20990L2T009685

38. Mercedes crane truck (scrap)

39. Bell 670 D Grader

40. Bobcats S130 (scraps)

41. Mercedes trucks x 2 (scraps)

42. Samag Water Bowser

43. Mercedes Water Bowser

44. Top Tech Lathe machine

45. Gold seal welding machines

46. 12 mt containers x 2

47. 6 mt container x 1

48. Concrete Mixer (scrap)

49. Armour vehicle with winch

50. Various Grader teeth/blades/Parts

51. Water Bowser

B 731 AOV
B 486 ALI
B 344 AUF
B 595 ATU
B 163 AUT
B 855 AUO
B 747 AKO
B 434 AHJ
B 621 APC
B 864 AOC
B 961 AVA
B 701 ATA
B 645 APN
B 447 AMR
B 761 AUT
B 685 AXM
B 953 AUF
B 772 AKY
B 687 AEA
B 696 AGM
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
B 863 AHW
B769 ADM
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
Nil
B 588 ACJ
B 879 ADI
Nil
Nil
B 767 AJU
B 854 AOO

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

52. Garden table and 6 chairs

53. Four plate stoves; 1 gas,1 electricity

54. 7 x L-Shape office desks

55. Defy Refrigerator

56. 5 Poe sofas

57. 6 bar stools

58. 1 coffee table

59. Corner display units x 2

60. Pool table

61. Piano

62. Gym equipment

63. Dining table and 6 chairs

64. Computers x 3

65. Printers x 5

66. 8 X Office chairs

67. Water pump

PS; All items are sold as they are, stripped, scrapped, damaged or otherwise, no warranty expressed and or implied

The Deputy Sheriff is not obliged to accept any bid.

COVID 19 Protocols and Regulations will be enforced during the auction.

a. Wearing Face Masks

b. Washing and or sanitizing hands

c. Complete attendance register

d. Temperature tests

e. Social distance

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS 18TH DAY OF JUNE 2020

Deputy Sheriff Z. Mashamaite
Cell; 77 491215/7421271019
c/o Equipment Sales Botswana (Pty) Ltd
Box 502077
Gaborone
Cell:72401889



‘I am a copy of Infantino’

[PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

Letshwiti for CAF post

MACLEAN LETSHWITI, THE Botswana Football Association (BFA) president, has launched a campaign for election to occupy one of the two slots available to COSAFA in the Confederation of Football (CAF) board.

Letshwiti is facing Arthur De Almedia Silva of Angola, Feizel Ismael Sidat of Mozambique and Elvis Raja Chetty of Seychelles. Addressing the COSAFA annual general meeting in South Africa last Sunday, Letshwiti said good governance, which encompasses integrity, transparency and accountability is inevitable for football administrators.

“We cannot talk about development if you don’t have the basics right. We have to do things

correctly with good governance at the top of the agenda,” he said, adding that good financial prudence is one component that can attract investors to football.

“I am a copy of the current FIFA president, Gianni Infantino. When he got into power most people did not have faith in him, but he got basic components of governance right, hence now many believe in him,” Letshwiti said.

Mining magnate, Patrice Motsepe of South Africa who owns African club champions Mamelodi Sundowns, was endorsed by the 14 member COSAFA in his bid to takeover CAF presidency. COSAFA president, Phillip Chiyangwa, said Motsepe is the perfect candidate to tackle the challenges faced by African football. He said the region is

confident that Motsepe would emerge victorious at an elective congress scheduled for March 12 in Morocco. “We are at a crucial stage for African football which requires strong and decisive leadership. That is how we will grow the game and provide the future we all want to see for African football,” said Chiyangwa.

Infantino at COSAFA

Meanwhile, FIFA President Gianni Infantino was a special guest at the COSAFA Annual General Meeting in Johannesburg last Sunday, where he congratulated regional associations for their contribution to the growth of the game in recent years. He emphasised the importance of the continent in the development of football in the next four years, calling for the increased number of participants from African nations at

FIFA tournaments. “We all have to work for unity, to bring everyone in Africa together. I said this to you at the CAF congress. We are all FIFA, we have to work together to have a united Africa, for global football’s sake. Africa needs to start to get back what it has given to world football,” said Infantino.

COSAFA President Dr Phillip Chiyangwa decried that the AGM comes on the back of a global pandemic that has ravaged the beautiful game, presenting numerous challenges. “Covid19 has prevented many players from playing football. Notwithstanding the challenges we have strategized, and we have not failed. In 2020 we held four consecutive tournaments over a span of six weeks,” he said.

The AGM resolved to align

COSAFA statutes with those of CAF, while retaining its independence. For example, going forward COSAFA the Executive Committee will include at least one woman representative. A Women’s Club Champions League, will also be introduced, adding an exciting new chapter to the COSAFA calendar. The new project is funded by FIFA Forward and enjoys support from CAF for zonal qualifiers. “Our women’s and youth tournaments would not have been possible without the insight of Infantino, who saw the merit in supporting them. He put FIFA’s money where his mouth is (through the FIFA Forward grant). He promised to provide support and he has,” Chiyangwa added.

In addition, a new Ethics Board has also been created and will act in line with FIFA and CAF statutes.

Motsepe seeks CAF presidency

- Campaign Manifesto launched on Thursday
- Backed by COSAFA at AGM last Sunday



Motsepe

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS owner Patrice Motsepe’s bid for the presidency of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) hit the home straight this week when he unveiled his plans in the race for the most powerful seat in the continental game.

Motsepe’s attempt to assume the presidency has gained momentum in recent weeks and he enjoys staunch backing from SA Football Association (Safa) president Danny Jordaan, Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (Cosafa) president Phillip Chiyangwa, Nigeria Football Federation president Amaju Pinnick, SA’s regional neighbours Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, and West Africa’s Sierra Leone, among many others.

The 14 COSAFA nations pledged their support for Motsepe after an annual general meeting of the regional nations held in Gauteng last Sunday. The Sundowns boss will have been encouraged by their support as he attempts to assume the office Madagascar’s Ahmad Ahmad appears to be fighting hard to keep. Ahmad, banned

from football for five years by Fifa for ethics violations in November 2020, was last month reinstated temporarily as Caf president by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Cas) pending an appeal, which is to be heard on March 2.

CAF’s executive committee, in a heated meeting that Ahmad stormed out of a week ago in Yaounde, Cameroon, reportedly rejected the Cas reinstatement, and resolved it would ultimately be Fifa’s decision whether Ahmad would be eligible to run on March 12.

The COSAFA nations confirmed that Motsepe would have their backing as they believe he is the best candidate to lead Caf into a new era of transparency and good governance. The meeting was attended by Fifa president Gianni Infantino, sport minister Nathi Mthethwa, Jordaan and other regional football leaders.

Motsepe is running against Jacques Anouma of Ivory Coast, Augustin Senghor of Senegal and Mauritanian Ahmed Yahya for the Caf presidency in the March 12 elective conference in Rabat, Morocco.

<https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/>

2022 AFCON qualifiers

Warriors, Zebras name squads

WARRIORS COACH, Zdravko Logarusic, on Tuesday named an enlarged squad for the decisive final two 2021 AFCON qualifiers next month. Zimbabwe take on Botswana in Gaborone, on March 25, in the penultimate round of the qualifiers. The Warriors then host Zambia, at the National Sports Stadium, four days later.

The COSAFA trio are fighting for the remaining sole ticket, from the group, as champions, Algeria, have already qualified for the finals in Cameroon next year. With Botswana having already named their squad, dominated by home-based players, Loga was forced to delay announcing his men for the crunch battles. The Croatian gaffer, who remains winless in charge of the Warriors, was scheduled to name the provisional team last week. But, he delayed his move, waiting for Zifa to get feedback from English clubs, on the availability of some of the players.

Some key players, like Tendayi Darikwa, Marvelous Nakamba, Jordan Zemura and Adam Chicksen, who are based in England, could be affected by regulations related to preventing the spread of Covid-19.

The complications are not set to affect the Warriors alone.

The Desert Foxes talisman, Riyad Mahrez, is also based in England, where he plays for Manchester City. If the Citizens bar Mahrez, from coming for the next Afcon qualifiers,



Zebras player ,Tihalefo Molebatsi [L] in action against Algeria last year [PIC:PRESSPHOTO]

it means the Desert Foxes will not have one of their best weapons.

That could work in favour of both Zambia and Botswana, who have outstanding matches, against the

African champions.

National teams general manager, Wellington Mpandare, confirmed Logarusic will announce the squad on Tuesday. “The squad will be

announced on Tuesday (tomorrow). The announcement was supposed to be done last week but we delayed hoping to get feedback from English clubs about the availability of some of the players we are hoping to get. There is hope that we will get the feedback this week but we have resolved to name an enlarged squad of over 30 players in the provisional squad. If we can’t get the players from England then their places will be filled by those we would have named in the provisional team on Tuesday (tomorrow),” Mpandare said.

Loga is also facing another dilemma, with no guarantees players based in the United States, will also make it. Last time, when Zimbabwe were preparing for the back-to-back fixtures against Algeria, Loga named two United States-based players, Tendai Jirira and goalkeeper Tatenda Mukuruva. However, due to Covid-19-related logistical complications, the pair failed to travel for the assignments. “Obviously, that is also another source of concern. We are not sure whether those in the United States will be able to travel since they failed the last time out. But, things have improved and we hope to be beneficiaries of the improvement as well. Those based in the United States, if they are in the squad, will be named in the provisional team and we hope they will make it. The last time we called them, there were complications and they couldn’t travel. We hope this time around they will come and play in these key

fixtures, if they are part of the team,” said Mpandare.

Mpandare said the team will start to trickle into camp on March 22, starting with the local-based players, who Loga has already indicated will be part of the squad. The coach was impressed by a few players, at the Chan tournament in Cameroon, between January 16 and February 7.

The Warriors lost all their three Group A matches to hosts Cameroon (0-1), Burkina Faso (1-3) and Mali (0-1). This was first group, of the senior national team players, to exit a Caf tournament, without collecting, at least, a point.

But, there were positives, which Loga picked from that failed Chan mission, and he has since revealed he will include some of the players, who performed well in Cameroon.

The best performer from that squad, Carlos Mavhurume, as well as youthful midfielder Shadreck Nyahwa, Farawo Matare and Richard Hachiro are some of the players who might be included in the squad.

Zimbabwe are second in the Afcon qualifying race, on five points, five behind Algeria. Botswana are in third place, with four points, with group anchors Zambia on three points. The Warriors can qualify if they beat Botswana away and Zambia lose at home to Algeria, in the next round of fixtures, which will render the last group matches mere dead-rubbers.

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Spotlight on Africa Youth Games

- Region 5 Ministers Troika to determine fate of Youth Games



THE AFRICAN UNION SPORTS Council (Ausc) Region 5 Troika of Ministers’ meeting early next month will determine whether the Youth Games set for Maseru, Lesotho, in December will go ahead or not.

The Games were postponed by a year in December last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic that swept across member states. The decision to postpone the Games was taken by the Minister’ Troika in July last year.

The Troika is chaired by Lesotho’s Minister of Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation, Likeleli Tampane, and includes Malawian Minister of Youth and Sport Ulemu Msungama as well as Botswana Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development Tumiso Rakgare.

Following a thorough assessment of the risk matrix as guided by the Region 5 risk management framework, the ministers resolved to postpone the Games by a year to December 2021, but those dates will be further examined and a determination made. “The Troika of Ministers is

scheduled to meet by the first week of March to further assess the status in view of the Covid-19 pandemic,” said Ausc Region 5 chief executive officer Stanley Mutoya in a brief interview from his base in Botswana.

“The Games were postponed from December 2020 to December 2021. We are therefore making plans for the Games to be held. Dates are 3 to 12 December 2021 in Maseru, Lesotho. We are scheduled to have 11 Sport codes : Athletics, Basketball (including 3x3) Boxing, Football, Gymnastics, Judo, Netball, Swimming, Taekwondo, Tennis and Volleyball,” said Mutoya.

The AUSC Region 5 Youth Games are hosted every two years. Hosting by member countries is on a mandatory rotational basis in alphabetic order. The Games have been held consistently since the inaugural tournament in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2004. The Games will attract over 2 000 athletes if they go ahead.

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